

G@M3R GRIL

4/7/20

Scene 1: The Apartment

(Samantha, a 28 y/o white woman, is living with her younger brother Miles, an african american male around 20y/o. Miles is a Junior attending a local university. Miles has just come back from his day of classes to find Samantha still online, where Miles had left her that morning)

Miles

...still on the grind I see, how many hours does that make today?

Samantha

(delayed)

Hmm? Oh uh... I don't know, 8ish? Hard to keep track at this point.

Miles

Oh nice, so a light day for you then?

Samantha

(still distracted)

I guess. I was trying to get back into the swing of things. I had a nice run of a couple wins earlier-

Oh goddammit! Who on earth would push mid like that? Seriously, some people.

Miles

Hey wait a second, how are we talking? Shouldn't you be giving your team calls or something?

Samantha

You mean callouts, and I would but I muted them a bit ago. Too much immaturity.

Miles

Weren't you just telling me that hurts your team?

Samantha

Yup, but I ran into one too many man-children online.

Miles

I thought that's why you go by a dude online?

Samantha

I do, but it wasn't me. This other girl got targeted pretty hard, after she raged I muted them all. Honestly fuck that.

Miles

Damn, well good riddance.

Samantha

Yeah. Hey, how was school?

Miles

Oh the usual.

Samantha

Word.

Miles

Professor Hurley gave me an essay for Friday. But I already cranked out the rest of it. So I'm free for tonight.

Samantha

Good shit, any big plans?

Miles

Some friends are going out, but I ditched. Thought I'd stay in tonight.

Samantha

Uh huh, makes sense. My little brother, ever the party animal.

Miles

You know me. Anyways, I'll probably study or something later. You doing anything besides this tonight?

Samantha

I'll probably only play for another hour or so if you want to check on food for dinner.

Miles

Can do. Did you end up getting groceries at all this week?
(looking in the pantry)

Looks like a no on that one.

Samantha

Ah shoot that's my bad, Ramen?

Miles

Again?

Samantha

What? How are you going to get the full college experience if you don't have ramen and toast every now and again?

Miles

(Muttering)

More like every night this week?

Samantha

Pardon?

Miles

Nothing, Ramen's fine. But let's set aside some money this month for actual groceries alright?

Samantha

Uh yeah, we might be able to manage that if...

(Distracted by her game)

Oh shit that was sick, these guys are getting carried.

Miles

Sam! Is that a yes?

Samantha

Absolutely, actually I was meaning to talk to you about our budget.

Miles

Please tell me you didn't buy another controller, Sam you know we can't afford/

Samantha

/No I didn't. I uh... kinda got a job

Miles

Wait what? Really? Target's taking you back?

Samantha

Target? God no. I was messaging some dude on discord. He wanted to set up weekly lessons. I'm going to show him the ropes and get paid while doing it.

Miles

Geez that's a thing? Well hot damn, congrats I guess.

Samantha

Thanks, I'll be nice to have regular income again. Not bad money either, \$100 a session.

Miles

Woah actually? Between that and my work-study, we just might catch back up on rent.

Samantha

That would be nice, looks like Esatem might just bail us out.

Miles

Well it's good to see that game paying off for ya.

Samantha

Why thank you, I'm glad I haven't royally wasted the last 7 years of my life.

Miles

No, no way you wasted them. You've taken this game really far. No way mom would have seen it coming.

Samantha

Definitely not. That godforsaken woman? If I had to sit through one more mother-daughter bonding session I'd puke. Not my problem she's disappointed with me. I'm a grown ass adult. It's my life now.

Miles

She doesn't hate you, she's just... well you know mom. I mean, she likes to do things her way.

Samantha

Yeah, anyways let's not talk about her. The past happened and nothing's changed.

Miles

But- Okay fine.

Samantha

(Turning back to her game)

And besides, she made it clear she doesn't want me around anymore. You can go cozy up to her anytime you like but I/

Miles

/I thought you said we were dropping it?

Samantha

So I did, and we are. Change of topic, how was your day at school?

Miles

You already asked me that, when I first walked in.

Samantha

Ah shoot, my B. Must've been distracted
(waiting)

So it was good?

Miles

Yeah, no complaints here. Just a normal day.

Samantha

For sure, that's pretty nice. Hopefully the profs don't give you too much work for this weekend-

Miles

I've already done it, like I said earlier.

Samantha

Oh... okay.

(Pausing from her game)

I think that's it for me today. I'm gonna call it

Miles

Oh, shoot really? Do you think we could like... hang?

Samantha

Hang?

Miles

Yeah, like play a board game or pop in a movie? We haven't done that since we were kids. I'll make popcorn

Samantha

We're out.

Miles

I won't make popcorn

Samantha

But uh, maybe not tonight? I'm not blowing you off, just a bit busy with some things. Rain check?

Miles

Oh, yeah sure. No rush.

Samantha

Awesome, I knew you'd get it.

Scene 2: Total Warning

(Samantha's Avatar S@M, an adult African American man in his early 30s, stands in an online lobby talking to JNZ, a white male about 25 y/o. They're meeting in an online lobby inside the game Total Warning.)

S@M

And then I said, "Who would push mid like that, what are you, 12?"

(Some forced laughter)

Anyways, that's the worst round I've played in a while.

JNZ

Wow, Satem you're insane! Sounds like you carry most games, don't you?

S@M

What can I say? When I'm good, I'm good

JNZ

Crazy, and how often are you in here grinding? I tried looking up your account but you had privated the info.

S@M

Yeah that's for personal space, can't just have anyone poking into my business. But I've been grinding competitively for what? 8 years now?

JNZ

Yo same, well pretty much anyways. That's crazy, how are you so much better than me? I'm sticking in just as much time!

S@M

Well that's 8 years of roughly 10 hour days. However many hundreds of thousands of hours that is. On top of that, it's also about practicing effectively. Breaking bad habits to make better ones.

JNZ

Maybe if I could get paired with some actually good teammates, then I'd be able to play to my potential. Man I had this one game the other day, I had to 1v3 their whole team. I snuck up on the first guy, got him with a headshot. Then the other guy ran out of ammo so he was easy pickings.

S@M

And the third?

JNZ

He... well... The connection got real bad and he beat me in the 1v1. Honest to god, nothing I could do.

S@M

...Right

JNZ

But it was sick, those other two didn't see anything coming. 'Betcha that's top level play right there.

S@M

For sure. Anyways was there anything you wanted to go over in particular while you're paying me to coach you.

JNZ

Like, how do I get better? Okay thats a dumb question, but you know what I mean.

S@M

Like I said earlier, effective practice is really important. Make sure you're using good fundamentals every time, even if the game seems lost. When it comes down to the high pressure scenarios even pros are subject to cracking under the pressure.

JNZ

Yeah yeah, I know that, but how does that lead to me winning?

S@M

Well, by playing more collected and prepared, the correct options will start coming naturally in the heat of the moment. Suddenly split second decisions become natural and easy to pull off.

(thinks for a moment)

More specifically I'd say you hang back too much, you need to support your team more. From what I've seen you're trying to play teams as three 1v1s going on at once.

JNZ

I mean isn't it? I'll take out my guy and the others should do the same

S@M

Except that your team is your greatest ally, playing off one another and supporting each other's weaknesses

JNZ

Everyone here sucks though, even IRL my regular 3v3s team has trouble pulling their weight.

S@M

How often do you guys play together though? It can be difficult for mid level players to adapt to each other

JNZ

I mean just once a week, but those guys suck! If I had better friends, we'd be winning the tourney all the time I swear.

S@M

Right, have you considered that you blame them too much?

JNZ

No no trust me, they're actually that bad.

S@M

If you say so, also I was meaning to ask, what's the talent like at this local. You could just be running into decent enough players.

JNZ

It's the Milwaukee area scene so nothing too crazy... Oh that's in Wisconsin by the way.

S@M

I know, closer to Waukesha or Racine?

JNZ

Oh shit, you know the area? Closer to Waukesha just off of 94. It's called Beyond the Ark. You been to Wisco?

S@M

I'm familiar with the area, I didn't know that it had too good of a scene though.

JNZ

Well just saying, we have some real solid competition, even a pro like you might get some decent practice.

S@M

When's the next one?

JNZ

There's one this Saturday, so you've got like half a week. I'll message you the event page later. I heard there might even be a pot bonus, \$200 to 1st place.

S@M

Really? I might be around actually.

JNZ

Yoooo, swing through. Show us weaklings how a pro does it.

S@M

Maybe

JNZ

So are you from the area? How often do you come down here? Yo we should meet up and grind IRL!

(S@M glares at JNZ)

JNZ

Oh right, personal space and whatnot, but the offer still stands. I'm down to play whenever, just hit me up.

S@M

Yeah, sure.

JNZ

I mean it, I really appreciate you taking the time to teach some scrub good gameplay. You're alright Satum.

S@M

It's Esatem, but you're welcome. Shall we get back online and play a few more

JNZ

Hells yeah, you queuing?

S@M

Yeah, I got it. Make sure that you're listening for callouts this round okay? I don't want to see you trying to run solo.

JNZ

You got it boss, no running away with it. Your perfect squadron member reporting for duty.

S@M

I'm serious, you've got to take each round seriously. Otherwise what's the point?

JNZ

Okay, okay, you got it.

(The scene changes from the lobby area to an online arena. A woodsy area where S@M and JNZ each select their class and pick up different prop guns.)

S@M

(Glancing into the distance, apparently going through the other teams roster)

Now they've got two Heavies and one Rusher. They're going to want to corner us in Alcove, we're going to have to push hard left and cut them off.

JNZ

Yo who's the third on our team?

(louder as if into a mic)

DUDE, CAN YOU HEAR US?

S@M

He's muted, not going to be hearing much from him this game except the default prompts. But he should still be able to listen at least.

(The phrase "You got this" appears in chat)

JNZ

Oh great, more deadweight.

S@M

Shut up, the round is starting.

(JNZ and S@M take their places far upstage and pose as if starting a race. A countdown starts 3...2...1...GO!)

Alright, Important at the start is to gather resources. Establish your presence just before mid so you'll be in a better position to take over the center after...

JNZ, where are you going?

(JNZ has immediately runs to center stage)

JNZ

What? You said rush center??

S@M

I most definitely did not, we won't push mid unless someone on there team is stupid enough to claim it early.

JNZ

Well jokes on them, I've already got it under control. I-

(JNZ falls to the ground limply. He has just been killed by enemy fire)

Oh goddammit, freaking campers.

(JNZ runs offstage to respawn)

S@M

Serves you right? Now are you going to listen, or is the rest of this session going to be me watching you die?

JNZ

(sighs)

Alright then, lead on.

(S@M quickly walks stage left with his gun raised, and appears to fire at something)

S@M

Thank you, now since they just took center they only need two more bases to win right? So the next place they'd go is?

(JNZ reappears onstage)

JNZ

Well either side usually

S@M

Correct, and granted that I just took out two of them creeping left. The likely place they'll try next is.

JNZ

(Finally getting it)

Right to castle, I'm on it.

S@M

Good, now this time when you're guarding a base make sure to not run in like a target okay? Take cover and close in on the approach. They can't shoot through terrain so use that.

JNZ

Got it... Wait I see one!

(JNZ, following S@M's advice, fires offstage and takes out one of the enemies. The words "Gooooo Team!" appear in chat)

Uh, yeah Go Team.

S@M

Solid, now start claiming before more of 'em show up. I'm going to flank their spawn.
(S@M disappears into the back of the stage. S@M continues to talk from afar)

JNZ

Woohoo lets go, Dang we've got momentum.

S@M

See what you get for just stopping and actually thinking for a second. Now how much armor have you got left?

JNZ

A little over half

S@M

Perfect, that should be enough to do a clean sweep back though mid. Join up with our friend Chatty Cathy over there and see if you can't push through.

(An "I'm on it" can be seen in chat)

JNZ

Let's do it, time to go kick some ass!

S@M

Alright they're coming, two on the left, one straight to mid.

JNZ

I see them... Oh shit, their heavy's coming.... I got 'em!

(JNZ runs around for a little bit then returns fire, taking the round. The words "You Win" are seen)

S@M

(running back to center stage)

Yo good shit, well done using the terrain

JNZ

Thanks, man that was really solid. Normally I lose those so often. Thanks for the help... Hey wait where were you in that last fight?

S@M

(Smiling deviously)

Camping on the hill across the map watching through my scope. I wanted to see if you could pull it off.

JNZ

You... Huh, well thanks I guess

(The players put away their guns and are returned to the lobby area from before)

S@M

You're quite welcome. Now next time are you going to rush in blindly and then brag to someone about losing a 1v3

JNZ

No sir.

S@M

Good, honestly the only way you'll get better is by good, intentional practice. Learn from your mistakes and improve using them.

JNZ

Okay, yeah that kinda makes sense.

S@M

Alright good, now unfortunately I have to dip, but same time next week?

JNZ

Sounds good to me, and I'll paypal you in just a bit, I want to try a few more games on my own.

S@M

Well good luck and kick some ass.

(S@M logs off. JNZ disappears offstage and Samantha can be seen behind S@M on her computer)

S@M & Samantha

Voice changer off!

(S@M leaves)

Samantha

Not bad for a day's work.

(Typing on her keyboard)

Be-yond the Ark. Wau-ke-shaw. Enter

Scene 3: Beyond the Ark

(Samantha has gone to Beyond the Ark, a local gaming cafe. She is competing in the evening's tournament anonymously and is already in Winners Quarters)

Samantha

... you uh... you playing here?

(Gestures to the set up)

Johnny

Yes sir, I mean well um... Ma'am? Regardless, yes. My match was called, just waiting on my opponent.

Samantha

Ah nice, the T.O just called Johnny, that you?

Johnny

Huh, Travis is using my real name now huh? But yeah that's me. Are you here with someone? Waiting on your boyfriend's set?

Samantha

Hardly, I'm your round three opponent. We'll be fighting.

Johnny

Oh? Oh! That's great, ya know honestly there aren't enough women coming out and playing games, so good for you.

Samantha

Uh, thanks I guess.

Johnny

Well you're very welcome, it's good to see girls... I mean women, taking an interest in "Total Warning"

(gestures around the room)

There's a lot of testosterone in here if ya know what I'm saying.

Samantha

Oh is there, I hadn't noticed

Johnny

(continuing anyways)

Oh pardon my manners, what's your tag? The T.O. had said it earlier but I wasn't paying attention.

(clarifying)

Your tag is the name you go by in bracket, the nickname or whatever you gave the Tournament Organizer.

Samantha

I know what a tag is dude, and it's... I'm going by Antha today.

Johnny

Well Antha, nice to meetcha. That mean something? I'll bet its a reference to a gaming franchise or something

Samantha

Not really, just what I'm using today.

Johnny

No I'm pretty sure it is, can't quite remember the game it's from though.

Samantha

It's not but whatever. What's your tag anyway?

Johnny

Eh, it's just my initials, I couldn't think of anything better when I started and its stuck through the years. My tag's JNZ.

Samantha

Nothing wrong with that, lots of people go by their names-
(As if just hearing him)

Wait, did you say JNZ?

Johnny

The one and only, I'm a regular here. Been coming for years. I used to win this thing before the talent arrived. Been hard to find the motivation lately.

Samantha

Well good for you. I mean that sucks but uh. Huh, nice to meet you.

Johnny

(Confused)

Nice to meet you too? Are you okay, like do I need to call someone?

Samantha

What? Yeah I'm fine. Just didn't expect you/

Johnny

No one ever does, but that's Johnny for ya. Here to kick ass and chew gum and I'm all out of ass.

Samantha

Wow that was, just wrong.

(Pause)

So uh we should probably start our match or the TO's going to get pissed.

Johnny

Eh Travis can wait, He's a buddy of mine. He doesn't mind.

Samantha

Still it's not fair to the other players. We're going to delay the tournament if we don't start soon.

Johnny

I mean it only matters if you make it to the end of the bracket. And I mean you don't need to worry about/

Samantha

Umm.. are you serious?

Johnny

What? Come on, hardly anyone makes it through to the end, much less a-
(Stopping himself short)

Hey I know, after our match maybe we could find a station and play some friendlies, I could show you a thing or two.

Samantha

Oh because there's no way I could ever beat any of these big strong man in a fucking video game?

Johnny

Hey that's not... look I've put a lot of my life into this game. Like A Lot. I even buy coaching from pros, okay? And even I will drop to these try hards that come in and sweep each week. I didn't mean...

Samantha

To be an ass and assume I've never touched a controller. Nice job you're doing quite well.

Johnny

Hey now, no need to get aggressive. We're out here to play the game and have a good time, you don't need to blow up on me.

Samantha

Uh huh, so after I kick your ass, how many of your friends are you going to bitch to about how your hand slipped or that you let me win or that you'd been playing off because it's cold outside.

Johnny

Wow now you're presuming you'll win? I guess that makes us even.

Samantha

It's not a competition dude, seriously you don't think I see this shit every single time-
(sigh)
ya know what, it's not even worth it. Let's just play the game already. I'm tired of this. Can we just play the game?

Johnny

No, you can't just flip out on someone for no reason I mean...
(Johnny sits and thinks for a moment)
Wait, like how good are you?

Samantha

(looks this man in the eyes)
I haven't dropped a single game all tournament and I won't by the end of this thing.

Johnny

Damn that's a lot of confidence for a first timer, you know everyone thinks they're top dog until they come to one of these things. I'm sure you were the best in your friend group back home but this is different. These people play a lot, everyday.

Samantha

(chuckles)
Do they now?

Johnny

Okay fine, insult the lot of us. But I got news for ya lady, you have to get through me to get to them. And I got just coached by the great Satem, and he's been upping my game like crazy.

Samantha

You don't even know how funny that is, I'm sure Esatem will do wonders for you. Now, I'd like to go home some time this year, so can we stop holding up the tournament.

Johnny

Fine I guess, damn now I really want to win. I was going to hold back on you but not anymore.

Samantha

Oh sure, hold back on the woman, she couldn't possibly play a video game. How do you think I got this far? Did all my opponents DQ and give me the win? No, I played the game, kicked their asses, and watched each of them complain to their buddies about all the reasons they lost to a girl. And do you know what, not a single one of 'em even considered the fact that I might just be that good. And you probably won't either.

Johnny

Now look who's assuming they're going to win, you haven't even seen me play.

Samantha

Oh you'd be surprised.

Johnny

What's that supposed to mean? Were you watching me earlier?

Samantha

What? No. Forget I said anything.

Johnny

Oh believe me, I'd like to.

Samantha

Good, so glad I've this to deal with.

Johnny

I don't know what you're on about.

Samantha

Screw this, can we just start our match already?.

Johnny

Fine by me, I don't know why you're getting so upset

Samantha

I'm so freaking done

Johnny

Oh I know what's going on, you're just looking for attention aren't you. Oh I'm a female gamer I'm so cool. I got lucky and beat a few scrubs and I'm so tough.

Samantha

What the- Why would you think-

Johnny

Honestly you need to chill, not everyone wants to ask you out and get with you. That's crazy

Samantha

You literally were trying to-

Johnny

Nobody cares!

Samantha

I'm just here to play the-

Johnny

Yeah well, why don't you find another game to play?

Scene 4: Connections

(After the tournament has ended with Samantha taking first place at Beyond the Ark. She sits at home with her brother recalling the event)

Miles

What the actual fuck? No way dudes actually act like that? I don't believe it.

Samantha

Yeah well it happens. Kicked his ass though, freaking trash.

Miles

Good, I'm glad he got put in his place. Glad you'll never have to deal with the likes of him again.

Samantha

What do you mean?

Miles

Well you're, you're not thinking of going back to one of those? I thought that was why you had quit going to tournaments in the first place?

Samantha

Well I uh... yeah it sucks but that's real money right there. Look at this
(Samantha pulls out \$200 in crumpled \$5 bills)

Miles

Dang that's not bad at all, and like we need it but Sam. That sounds lame as hell. Like did you have any fun.

Samantha

Oh and did you enjoy all of your last shift mopping floors or taking out trash? It's the same thing.

(Suddenly amused)

I'll go there and take out the trash each week. The drive's not bad at all.

Miles

They're really every week? A few hundred extra each week and we'd be set Sam.

Samantha

Yeah that would be nice, except this was one of their bigger brackets. They only have these once a month.

Miles

Oh. Like that'll help, but you need a job Sam. The landlord called yesterday, we owe a lot.

Samantha

Geez, um this should cover some but, How much was she asking for.

Miles

All the months we've missed, or at least proof that we can pay and I don't make enough. I'm already maxing out my hours. Is there any way you can get a job? We need something sis or we're getting kicked out.

Samantha

Okay calm down, it's not like she hasn't done this before. But, I can keep doing the lessons with that Johnny guy. That's something at least.

Miles

Okay well good, I'll talk to her tomorrow and see if I can get that to work.

Samantha

Good, glad that's taken care of. Now if you'll excuse me I'm going to go back to being unhelpful in the corner.

Miles

Sam I didn't mean that. You've got your own thing going on

Samantha

Don't forget that this is my apartment bro. You came to live with me remember?

Miles

Yeah but, let's face it. The landlord didn't like you very much, something about a messy place or sass about rent.

Samantha

Maybe, but we can't all be neat freaks like you okay? Some of us are just incompitant.

Miles

Oh please, you're being too hard on yourself.

Samantha

I'm really not. Success just isn't my shtick. I'll be cleaning out wifi and bar tournaments till I'm gray and old. Making a quick buck once or twice a month. But you, you're actually going to make it somewhere after college. You already have that internship lined up for the summer right?

Miles

Oh come on, it's not that big a deal. Besides I kind of need it or I'll never get another job in my field. Anyway you're starting to sound like mom.

(doing a bad impersonation of her mom)

"Miles, you're going to go so much farther than your father and I ever did.. Blah de Blah blah."

(returning to her regular voice)

Can y'all chill please?

Samantha

They're just proud of you. After fucking up with their first kid they needed some good news.

Miles

Seriously Sam cut that out, they did not fuck up with you. They love you.

Samantha

Yeah, definitely been feeling the love lately. What did mom say last Thanksgiving, Would you please just get out? Yeah, very caring.

Miles

Wait is that why you haven't been back since/

Samantha

/Yeah it is... So here I'll sit, playing my games and wasting my life.

Miles

Have you spoken to her since?

Samantha

Dad called me on my birthday, I think. He's fine enough. He at least sees that I'm trying.

Miles

Mom asked about you, when I called her.

Samantha

(Ignoring her brother)

Thinking about it, dad sent me cash too. He's alright.

Miles

Sam, cut it out. You should give her a chance, she was asking about...

Samantha

It doesn't matter Miles. Nothings changed, I certainly haven't. I wake up, I play Total Warning, I go to bed. Nothing I do or care about will appease that woman. I love you bro, but seriously just drop it.

Miles

Just hear me out...

Samantha

I said drop it!

(An awkward silence)

Miles

....okay fine. nevermind.

Samantha

Good. You can stick with 'em all you like. They've been yours for a while now. I'm happy with my lot.

Miles

Who would that be?

Samantha

What do you mean?

Miles

Who's all included in 'your lot'?

Samantha

Oh, uh, I don't know. I've got some online friends, and uh...

Miles

Me?

Samantha

You? Yeah of course you, what? Come on we're siblings through and through. I know things were weird when I left, but we're good now. My wildly successful brother and his no life sister. What a pair we make.

Miles

What is your deal with this success kick? Aren't you happy with your gaming career?

Samantha

If you can call it that. It's going nowhere.

Miles

But you just won the tournament?

Samantha

Yeah against a but of low level wannabes and a few half decent try-hards. I feel so stuck. The only thing I've ever been good at is Total Warning. And I'm damn good, I could be the best. But I don't know, what am I without it? A college flunkee with half a philosophy degree?

Miles

Geez, Sam are you okay?

Samantha

Yeah... Its fine, don't worry about it. Sorry to dump this all stuff on you.

Miles

Hey no, its okay. That what brothers are for, right?

Samantha

Right

Miles

So what are you going to do?

Samantha

Keep plucking away I guess. Stay on the grind, keep on trying.

Miles

I suppose that's all any of us can do. But we can do it together?

Samantha

Together?

Miles

Yeah, I'll keep doing my thing, studying and grinding schoolwork and you can keep building your gaming repertoire.

Samantha

Yeah like that'll work.

Miles

And why not? I'm serious sis, we can be in this together.

Samantha

You're not even listening.

Miles

Try me.

Samantha

Ugh, I'm good enough at the game. I've been good at the game! What if its not worth it.

Miles

Well it's your life right?

Samantha

Yeah, right.

Miles

Whatever we do, I'm here for ya sis.

Samantha

(Laughs)

Yeah thanks.

Miles

And Sam.

Samantha

What?

Miles

Don't give up okay, I know some people suck. But not everyone's like that.

Samantha

Not everyone, just enough of 'em.

Scene 5: One's Resolve

(Early the next Morning, Samantha and Miles sitting in their apartment in the morning ready to start the day.)

Miles

Thank god for Sundays, honestly. Got all my work done yesterday. Nice to have the whole day to relax

Samantha

Speak for yourself, I've got to meet up with that Johnny dude in like an hour.

Miles

Oh shoot you ready for all of... that?

Samantha

Probably not, ugh. But it'll be fine. What are you up to?

Miles

Oh nothing much, planned out for a lazy day. Hey so you don't have much until that lesson yeah?

Samantha

I guess

Miles

Were you going to play at all beforehand?

Samantha

I don't know, maybe? Why do you ask?

Miles

Well, I'm realizing I've never taken the time and played it myself. Guess I always just left it to you. But would you want to play with me? Hop on for a few games?

Samantha

Are you serious?

Miles

Absolutely, despite living together we don't just hang out nearly enough.

Samantha

I don't know Miles, that might not be such a good idea.

Miles

Oh come on it'll be fun.

Samantha

No, I don't think it will be.

Miles

Come on Sam, please for me? And beside you owe me, you flaked on me earlier this week. I'm invoking my raincheck.

Samantha

Okay fine, but does it have to be Total Warning. I'll play monopoly with you or whatever.

Miles

First and foremost, we don't have nearly enough time for Monopoly. Secondly why are you so against your own game.

Samantha

Well why are you so for it?

Miles

How about my sister sticks all her time into it and it just occurred to me I have no idea what it even looks like.

Samantha

It's just

Miles

Just what?

Samantha

(taking a breathe to prepare herself)

Look Miles, you've never seen my avatar before have you?

Miles

The coveted Es-At-Em I know it's a dude and you have that voice changer thing on your computer..

Samantha

Well yeah but you see, in Total Warning you get to customize your avatar and well Esatem is...

Miles

Sam why would I care that your avatar is a dude? Use your voicey thing if it really makes you feel better.

Samantha

No Miles

(sigh)

Well you'll see.

Miles

How ominous, now drama queen help me get started.

(Samantha helps Miles on his computer and then the stage goes dark, when the light comes back, Miles and his new avatar Kilometer, which is him in a different outfit, is standing alone on stage in the lobby Area. S@M then enters)

Kilometer

Wow hi, and how are you doing good sir?

S@M

Miles chill, its me, Sam.

Kilometer

Woah wait what? That's what you look like in here?

S@M

Well... yeah, this is my avatar. I like yours, the likeness is uncanny. And the name?

Kilometer

Get it, I was Miles, but now I'm Kilometer! But back up a sec. Are we going to talk about uh, your aesthetic.

S@M

Nope, I don't think we should.

Kilometer

Sam, not that I particularly care but why is your avatar black?

S@M

It wasn't to be insensitive or anything. Like I'm not disrespecting anyone.

Kilometer

Okay sure, but why then

S@M

Oh. Uh so like, I made this account like a while ago. Like a really long time ago.

Kilometer

Okay

S@M

And, this was right around the time I was flunking my first class freshman year, Mom was pissed at me every freaking day. Talking about how I was going to waste my life in a Mcdonalds drive through or something like that.

Kilometer

I do remember that. Sorry where is this going?

S@M

Well you just always freaking got it. You did good no matter what. I hated you for that. Always one upping me at every turn.

Kilometer

Ouch, is this tough love?

S@M

No, I dunno, it just got stuck If I couldn't beat you. Why not be you? Coming online and getting to play a different part. I like being this. When I'm S@M I get to be better than Samantha ever was.

Kilometer

I don't know about all that, Samantha's pretty cool in my book.

S@M

Samantha is a piece of shit who can't seem to get anything right. Esatem is powerful, he's confident, he kicks ass. Why he-

(JNZ logs on)

JNZ

Yo Satem, how's it hanging? I saw you left your lobby open and thought I'd pop in and-

(notices Kilometer)

Oh sorry didn't know you had company. Whats up my man, how's it going buddy.

Kilometer

I'm doing good, buddy. Why are you?

S@M

JNZ you ass, not the time? Get out of this party.

JNZ

Yo what? I'm sorry Satem did I offend you? I just thought I'd see if you wanted to start earlier, seeing as you're online and all. You know for the lesson, that I'm paying you for.

S@M

Yes I know, I know. Now if you'll please leave I have to-

Kilometer

No no it's all good. I can leave. I've seen what I wanted to.

S@M

Mile- uh I mean Kilometer. Don't be like that. It's fine, JNZ can wait.

Kilometer

Yeah but I'm all good. I'll be seeing ya Esatem

JNZ

Well Kilo, its been real. Cya man.

Kilometer

Yeah uh I guess.

(To S@M)

Cya Sis.

(Kilometer/Miles leaves)

JNZ

What on earth was that about? Weird kid.

S@M

Why are you hear JNZ?

JNZ

I told ya, I saw you online and I wanted to start early, I've got to get better and fast.

S@M

Because you lost hard at Beyond the Ark?

JNZ

You heard? Yeah I mean technically I lose every week, but this was different. This one bitchy girl came in and showed me up. No clue how she did it. But now I'm motivated as hell.

S@M

Sounds like you're the one bitching about a better player. You lost, suck it up.

JNZ

Yeah but like, she wasn't even that good. I've never seen someone get so lucky in a match before.

S@M

You know she won the whole tournament right?

JNZ

What the- ? Seriously? I couldn't stay I had to uh, leave early. She really won it all, like beat good players?

S@M

It's almost like she's really talented

JNZ

But it was her first tournament

S@M

Geez hold the L, She beat you

JNZ

But I-

S@M

You lost dude. Not my fault you couldn't cut it.

JNZ

Ouch, where the hell is this coming from. You're supposed to be telling me how to win. You're supposed to be teaching me, not this fourth grade trash talk.

S@M

Yeah well, fine you're right. My apologies. Let's just get back on track. You ready Johnny?

JNZ

I guess but- wait did you just call me Johnny?

S@M

I uh meant JNZ, sorry Johnny's my friend's name.

JNZ

Yeah no, Johnny's my name. How could you know that? Wait, the tournament... that girl... Antha?

S@M

What are you on about?

JNZ

Wait this makes too much sense, you did come to Beyond the Ark, your that chick Antha? No wonder I lost, what chance did I have against a pro?

S@M

Well none with that attitude.

JNZ

So you admit it!

S@M

What does it matter, I could've been that girl. Or I could be some middle aged dude borrowing his mom's wifi. It's all perspective.

JNZ

Why wouldn't you have said anything though?

S@M

No clue what you're talking about.

JNZ

But why didn't you say anything, I wouldn't have trashed talked ya if I knew you were. Well you.

S@M

Oh cause that's better? That you'd've been a dickhead to any other woman but oh I'm a top player so I'm okay? It can't be that polarizing. That sucks.

JNZ

I wasn't that mean, come on you're exaggerating it. Besides it's hardly fair, there's like two girls that go to those tournaments. Most of them are just dating someone attending and got dragged along. This is just how things are, might as well accept it.

S@M

Well that's ass if you ask me.

JNZ

I didn't but thanks.

S@M

Like why does it matter at all. Who hurt you that you have to shit on some random ass woman for playing the game you claim to care about? Does your pride or ego really matter that much to you?

JNZ

So it was you?

S@M

Jesus Johnny

(Samantha appears onstage at her computer, yelling into her headset now doing all the talking. S@M is silent but still miming the actions to accompany the words)

S@M and Samantha

Voice Changer off

Samantha

Of course it was me

JNZ

Well hello there, how's it uh going?

Samantha

You ass, get out of my lobby, out of my face. And out of my game.

JNZ

You can't just tell me to do that? Its a free country, well I guess game. But whatever, the point stands.

S@M

It is not isn't it

What does that m-

JNZ

(The words "JNZ has been kicked from the lobby"
appear in chat)

Phew, now that felt good.

Samantha

(Pause)

Oh god Miles...

(Both S@M and Samantha leave on opposite sides
of the stage. Fade to Black.)

- THE END -