

Reload Last Save?

by

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CHARACTERS

N00B	He's learning. Just graduated from "Easy" to "Normal" difficulty.
PC	Player Character. N00B's idealized vision of himself. A badass hero ready to kick some names and take some ass.
NPC/NUÑEZ	Non-Player Character. A battle-weary warrior with a big heart underneath the grit.

SETTING

N00B's bedroom & the world of the game N00B is playing.

TIME

The present in N00B's bedroom & many different save files in the game N00B is playing.

AT RISE

(We are in N00B's bedroom. HE'S clearly a gamer, but he's not slovenly. He sits in a gaming chair, wields an Xbox controller, and is deep in concentration while playing a game. His TV is on the 4th wall, and we hear the sounds of a raging battle and 4K/HDR TV lights flicker across his face. n00b is in the zone, and finally HE is victorious. HE breathes a sigh of relief and speaks.)

N00B

Fuuuuuuck yeah, bitch. Suck it, orc battalion.

(PC and NPC enter from opposite sides and stand where N00B is between them. They are characters in the world of the game, and they face the 4th wall as they speak. They are what n00b sees on the screen.)

NPC

(Takin' the piss)

Hey! Holy shit, you made it.

(The game pauses to introduce dialogue options to the player, and there's a sound effect to indicate this.)

N00B

Oooohhhh... Dialogue options... What to say, what to say...

(N00B flips through the choices, and there's a sound effect to indicate each new choice.)

PC

(he-man)

Hah, they didn't stand a chance.

(flip; shell-shocked)

I need to sit down a minute.

(flip; takin' the piss)

PC (Continued)

Yeah, no thanks to you.

(flip; roid rage)

I shat down their throats, all of 'em!

(N00B laughs and makes his choice.

Sound effect accompanies his decision.)

PC

I shat down their throats, all of 'em!

NPC

... Wow. Maybe you did die out there and a goblin took your body.

("Oh shit!" look spreads across N00B's face. HE presses a few buttons and:)

VOICE FROM GAME

Reloading last save.

(We transition quickly back to NPC's first line.)

NPC

Hey! Holy shit you made it.

(N00B cycles through the dialogue options quickly.)

PC

Hah, they di--

(flip)

I nee--

(flip)

Yeah, no--

(flip)

I shat--

(N00B makes his choice, "selection" sound effect plays again.)

Yeah, no thanks to you.

NPC

(Amused)

Oh, is that how it is? I'll take you down right now.

(Dialogue options again, N00B flips through them.)

PC

(backing down)

Okay, okay, okay! Truce!

(flip)

How 'bout you go down on me instead?

(flip)

Think fast! (PC punches the air w/ sound effect)

(flip)

Promise?

(N00B considers the options and makes his choice)

PC

Promise?

NPC

(Kinda flirty maybe?)

As a matter of fact I will, and first I'm gonna drink you under the table. Watering Hole, 20 minutes. If you're late, I'm starting without you.

(N00B pauses game [pause sound] and PC and NPC exit. N00B is absolutely delighted, and just can't hide it. He gets up and paces around a bit, like he's nervous to continue with the game. It's almost like the butterflies you'd get before going on a real date. Has he... ever been on one before?)

(N00B settles in again. He takes a sip of his Baja Blast Mountain Dew and unpauses the game. PC and NPC enter again, go to their places.)

PC

Two minutes early! Eat that, Nuñez!

NPC

Hey, lookit you! Didn't need a send a rescue unit after you or anything. First round's on me.

(More dialogue options, N00B cycles through them again.)

PC

(a la Gaston from *Beauty & the Beast*)

Oh no, I insist.

(flip; genuinely touched)

Hey, thanks!

(flip; grossed out)

Ew, no.

(flip; matter of fact)

Eh, just a water.

(N00B thinks a second and chooses)

PC

Oh no, I insist.

NPC

Too late. Cut the machismo shit. Your balls are shrinking by the minute.

(N00B looks a bit crestfallen. The game continues)

NPC

So, the big hero of Grafton Field. The Savior of St. Joseph's Cloister. Tell me, what's the next honorific for our local boy who's made good?

(Dialogue options again)

PC

Friend to some, bigger dick than all.

(flip)

Friend to the animals, and their lover, too... Wait--

(flip)

Eh, who needs 'em?

(flip)

Call me whatever ya want, just don't call me late for dinner (PC does "finger guns")

(N00B doesn't love any of these choices, but he's gotta pick one. He takes a sip of Mt Dew. He thinks.)

Then, a countdown starts--the game is about to pick for him. In a panic, he makes a choice.)

PC

Friend to the animals, and their lover, too... Wait--

NPC

(doubled-over laughing)

Wow! Alright, maybe I need to cut you off already! You dumbass. Ya know, I think that's a perfect cap on your legacy, you filthy animal, you.

(NPC makes motion of ruffling PC's hair. PC reacts, has some dialogue options again.)

PC

(embarrassed teen)

Mooooom!

(flip)

Aw shucks, Bettie Sue!

(flip)

Alright, alright, that's enough.

(flip)

Hey hey hey, I spent hours on this!

(N00B chooses)

PC

Aw shucks, Bettie Sue!

NPC

Does this mean we're gonna go steady?

(N00B can barely contain his excitement. Is HE gonna get the girl? Dialogue choices again.)

PC

(James Dean)

Try to cage me, and I'll break free. Remember, I'm a wild animal, baby.

(flip)

Promise?

(flip)

Ummm...

(flip)

Oh. Oh, I think I may have given you the wrong impression...

(N00B chooses)

PC

Try to cage me, and I'll break free. Remember, I'm a wild animal, baby.

NPC

And ya smell like one too! Listen, um... We really might've been wiped out without you. Sneaking into their lair like that and planting the bomb. We didn't stand a chance against the orcs at full power... And you went on what was basically a suicide mission. I mean, why risk it all for us?

(Dialogue options. N00B is really careful about his choice here.)

PC

Aw, c'mon. Anyone would of done that. Anyone worth their salt, anyway.

(flip)

Well, what can I say? You are very hard to say "no" to.

(flip)

I'll be honest, I had vengeance on my mind and I had to resolve it. That's the truth.

(flip)

(PC goes to speak, but says nothing)

(N00B chooses)

PC

Well, what can I say? You're very hard to say "no" to.

NPC

(A tiny smile)

... No matter why you did it, the people I love are alive thanks to you. I won't forget that.

(NPC gives PC a giant hug out toward audience. PC receives the hug out toward the audience.)

PC

(Seems pained, but happy)

Yeah, now you owe me one. I'll see ya round, Nuñez.

(NPC exits; PC is still there. N00B is dumbfounded. Where'd the romance go? HE reloads an earlier save file. NPC re-enters and speaks)

NPC

So, the big hero of Grafton Field. The Savior of St. Joseph's Cloister. Tell me, what's the next honorific for our local boy whose made good?

(Dialogue options)

PC

Friend to--

(flip)

Friend to--

(flip; selection made)

Eh, who needs 'em?

NPC

Well, clearly you've been amassing them for a while. What'sa matter, compensating for something?

(Dialogue options)

PC

... Wait, what have you heard?

(flip)

That lake was full of frost mermaids!

(flip)

Oof, then I'm gonna need like six more...

(flip)

Well, if you'll excuse me, I'll be off to buy a very big truck.

(N00B chooses)

PC

Well, if you'll excuse me, I'll be off to buy a very big truck.

NPC

Oh, get bent ya fuckin' dweeb. You know your reputation precedes you.

(N00B thinks he might be on the right track! Dialogue options again)

PC

Really? Do you think that's true?

(flip)

There's good reason for that.

(flip)

Ahhh...(sheepishly kicks up dust with one foot)

(flip)

Reputations ain't shit until you back 'em up in person.

(N00B chooses)

PC

There's good reason for that.

NPC

... Well, I can't deny that you're a lifesaver. Come through these parts again, you've always got a cot and three hots waitin' for ya.

(NPC starts to leave)

PC

Hey Nuñez!

(PC and NPC exchange an elaborate secret handshake that leads into a bro hug.)

(N00B is frustrated. HE pushes buttons furiously)

VOICE FROM GAME

Reloading archived save.

(NPC and PC are back on in a flash)

NPC

And you went on what was basically a suicide mission. I mean, why risk it all for us?

(N00B chooses)

PC

Aw, c'mon. Anyone would of done that. Anyone worth their salt, anyway.

NPC

Nah, see that's where you're wrong. You're special. And I don't just say that... (NPC is getting emotional... SHE really doesn't show this side of herself to people) Aw, fuck you man. (Beat) You're not like the others. You keep your word. You know how rare that is?

(Dialogue options)

PC

Really, I'm just one guy.

(flip; being a doof)

Takes one to know ooonnnnnneeeee.

(flip)

You are... Unlike anyone I've ever met.

(flip)

C'mon, don't cry. (Goes in for a kiss)

(flip)

Welp, see ya!

(N00B thinks really hard about this one. HE does not want to say the wrong thing. He takes a deep breath, and makes his choice.)

PC

You are... Unlike anyone I've ever met.

(NPC embraces PC and PC receives it)

NPC

I'm gonna miss you, friend. Best fuckin' friend I've ever had.

(N00B is heartbroken. He reloads his archived save so quickly.)

NPC

You're not like the others. You keep your word. You know how rare that is?

PC

(N00B has made the dialogue choice)

Takes one to know oooonnnneeee.

NPC

You fuckin' doof! ("Punches" PC in the arm) C'mon, I'll race ya back!

(N00B reloads the same save file again)

NPC

You know how rare that is?

PC

Really, I'm just one guy.

NPC

Would you stop it with the deflecting? Seriously, you're... A hero. Cannot believe I just used that word. Thought those didn't exist. (SHE turns to go, turns back, gives PC a hug, then leaves)

(N00B reloads the save again)

NPC

You know how rare that is?

PC

Aw c'mon. Don't cry. (Wipes NPC's tears away, goes in for a kiss)

NPC

(stopping him)

Oh. Oh no, I'm sorry, I... I love you. (SHE squeezes PC's hand, exits)

(N00B reloads again)

NPC

You know how rare that is?

PC

Welp, see ya!

(A stunned NPC draws a pistol, shoots PC in the head. GAME OVER lighting and sound)

N00B

(N00B takes out his iPhone) Hey Siri (Siri sound) look up "How to romance Nuñez in *Nightwatch Part II*."

(Sound, search results are in. N00B scrolls through... and through some more... and through some more... and has truly exhausted the search.)

N00B

(Into his iPhone) Hey Siri (Siri sound) look up "Is *Nightwatch Part III* in development?"

END