

If I Were: Midpoint Cutscene v2

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EXT. RURAL GALLIAN NAN-CHI VILLAGE - DAWN

GAULTIER skids across the soil, his EXTRA MECHANICAL ARMS planted in the floor.

TAM'S (Tuham) WHIZZING ENERGY BULLETS and QUANG'S (Kwang) FLYING BLADES are blocked by his second pair of arms. As the dust settles, KIEM (Keam) rushes forward, throwing a punch at Gaultier.

But VAN stops Kiem right in his tracks, frenzying the panicked villagers. In their lock against each other...

Van casts a baleful yet empty stare.

And Kiem's gaze brews with fury. But a RED LIGHT in his RIGHT EYE causes him to gasp.

One slip. It's all Van needs to send him flying back.

With haste, Quang recalls his blades to cushion Kiem's fall.

BLOODY RED LIGHT pierces the three's eyes, causing Quang's bladed wings to sag, hand clawing at his eye... Tam's grip on their gun begins to slip... and Kiem's legs snap like a twig.

KIEM
This stupid fucking eye again...!

Van wastes no time unleashing unrelenting slashes to the writhing Reapers. But instead of hearing their pained cries, her blade SCREECHES across the hard light of Quang's wings.

Underneath are Tam and Van, shielded by Quang as he trembles against Van's onslaught.

TAM
T-Tinh, wait--

Holding his ground, Quang channels energy to reinforce his wings. And when the cybernetics finally give out...

He shoves the two out of harm's way, collapsing against the attack alone as Gaultier guffaws!

KIEM
Quang!
TAM (CONT'D)
Tinh, no!

Kiem both channel energy into their weapons. But Gaultier holds a palm out, enveloping it in ORANGE FLAMES. Then, with a CLAMP of his fists, he snuffs out the Reapers' powers.

Tam pulls the trigger on their gun again, but...

KIEM (CONT'D)
Why isn't it working?!

The energy boiling beneath them catches them off-guard in a HELLISH BLAZE! While they are still reeling, Van nails the two Reapers to the ground with ease.

TAM
The energy... you...

GAULTIER
Oh, but of course!

Gaultier spreads his arms in a grandstanding gesture.

GAULTIER (CONT'D)
You poor Reapers really thought
you could stand up to me? When the
Ten Commandments weigh on your
feeble bodies like an unmoving
boulder?

Tam digs their fingers into the soil, GLARING DAGGERS at Gaultier, who is grinning ear-to-ear.

GAULTIER (CONT'D)
I'll play with you all--

Gaultier snaps a scornful glare towards Kiem's watery eyes.

GAULTIER (CONT'D)
Later. Let us first have a side
show! It is the least I deserve
after you pillaged my treasure.

KIEM
What the hell are you--

Gaultier waves his hand, summoning MECHANICAL SPIDERS. The machines TRAMPLE and TEAR the village to shreds... HUNT the cowering VILLAGERS.... all to Gaultier's delighted laughter.

A memory flashes through Kiem's eyes: his PARENTS' mangled bodies atop the spiders, the SAME LAUGHTER haunting him.

KIEM (CONT'D)
Stop. Please.

The crimson glaring in his right eye violently shakes. An energy blast hurtles towards the villagers, missing a YOUNG MAN by a hair's breadth.

KIEM (CONT'D)
I can't help them. Not when--...

Kiem, petrified, watches Gaultier loom over three CHILDREN.

Above him, Van loosens her hold, averting her gaze away from Gaultier. Behind them, Quang's eyes weakly crack open.

And out of the corner of Kiem's eyes, Tam's entire body is tense, incessantly trembling as they try to get up...

TAM

An... unmoving boulder, you say?

Tam's arm buckles, but they catch their balance with a labored breath. Kiem's eyes shift to Tam as his lips tremble.

TAM (CONT'D)

So be it-- let my efforts be like water, dripping until nothing remains of this very stone!

With a TREMENDOUS CRY, Tam shakes Van off, right eye nearly bursting at the seams. Van is soon pursued by Quang's blades again, leaving Tam open to fire at Gaultier.

Gaultier barely dodges as the children scurry away... though a CLUMSY GIRL (12) trips. He whips his head towards Tam.

GAULTIER

Impossible! The seal broke?

Though Tam's right eye is gone, a crystalline lotus flower shines in its place. Tam staggers, using their gun as a cane.

TAM

Did you really think... I'd idly watch you massacre another village?

Tam raises their gun again, aiming it at Gaultier. But again, with his PALM IN FLAMES, he snatches the energy away.

One of his mechanical hands grabs the clumsy girl by the collar. Gaultier holds a flame near her face - as the girl flails - while the other hand tauntingly beckons at Tam.

Tam grits their teeth... but falters when Gaultier brings the fire close to the little girl's face. The gems embedded in Kiem's gauntlets softly glow, breaths erratic.

GAULTIER

Go on. Stop me. You can, can't you?

Tears spring from Kiem's eyes, skin paling, body shaking. But the little girl SHRIEKS. And Gaultier laughs.

Gauntlets fully charged, Kiem BURSTS forward with a PUNCH at Gaultier, just as a lotus flower fractures Kiem's eye!

KIEM

Can you shut the hell up already?!

The force knocks Gaultier back enough for the girl to struggle free and into Kiem's arms. He promptly shoos her away before directing his turbulent gaze towards Gaultier.

GAULTIER

Elodie... what in God's name did you feed your livestock?

Gaultier readies his palms towards the two Reapers.

GAULTIER (CONT'D)

You still can't do anything against me. As long as I--!

One of Quang's blades slash at Gaultier. Van returns to Gaultier, blocking the rest as Quang and Tam approach Kiem. Tam supports Quang with one hand, keeping him on his feet.

QUANG

The Father... his power's range is small. And it takes time, so--

Quang's voice trails off into a hacking fit.

TAM

Cover us from the back, hmm?

KIEM

We'll handle the rest.

QUANG

Hah. I suppose... Alright.

In a flash, Quang's floating blades distract Gaultier and Van while Kiem and Tam prepare to attack. As Van unknowingly deflects a blade straight into Gaultier's face-
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GAULTIER

Useless! Is that the best Matheo's little grain can do?

QUANG

All-in now, you two!

On cue, Kiem's gauntlets snap into place and Tam leaps into the air, holographic glyphs emerging at their gun's barrel!

TRANSITION TO GAMEPLAY.