

Mushroom Monarch

by
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INT. LIVING ROOM

Two friends sit in front of a television playing Mario Kart. Old fast food bags and cups are strewn about along with a couple of beers (optional) and general clutter. Their attention is focused as they mash buttons and lean into turns.

LEFT

Ah you cheap BASTARD!

RIGHT

WHAT?

LEFT

Why the hell do you have to use the lightning bolt every time I go for a jump?

RIGHT

Strategy. Something you might want to look into since I'm straight spanking you 9 wins to 3 thus far.

LEFT

9 to 4, actually.

They play a little more, and LEFT muddles over a thought in his head.

LEFT

It really is a violent place when you think about it...

RIGHT

What is?

LEFT

The Mushroom Kingdom.

RIGHT

You need to lay off the sauce my friend.

LEFT

No really!

(beat)

It's a complete dictatorship, and to make matters worse it's a plumber at the reins.

RIGHT

Wrong. It's a video game, and what's more is it's a beloved character franchise that is decades old. Good clean family fun and all that.

LEFT

(pauses game and looks at RIGHT)

You simple brainwashed little man. Do you ever read between the lines? Or do you just let other people think for you too?

RIGHT

(unpauses game)

What I think is that I'm going to lap your over-thinking ass.

LEFT jumps up and plays standing, now more focused and ferocious.

LEFT

Then I'll beat you in Kart AND blow your mind. Mario's world is a war-torn dictatorship state, where the warrior king kills at will and in the most violent fashion. Crushing helpless, sometimes armless creatures who usually don't mean any harm. He's all hopped up on mushrooms, thinks he's 7 feet tall and is tearassing around the land setting fire to flora and fauna alike.

RIGHT

(concerned his friend might be losing it...again)

Eeeasy there buddy... Want me to get your tinfoil hat? I wouldn't want the CIA to get ahold of your juicy theory.

LEFT

Bite me, bloodfart. I'm getting to a point here. I'm dropping pearls on you and you're settling for day old oysters.

RIGHT

I'd prefer if you dropped the rent money instead

LEFT completely ignores him and continues.

LEFT

And through all this, what does he collect? Big-ass gold coins. Even in the Mushroom Kingdom the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. He's not helping the economy or spreading the wealth. He's going on a killing spree to save his helpless damsel-in-distress stereotype of a girlfriend and raking in the dough by breaking open brickwork.

RIGHT

Oh and I suppose Bowser is some kind of noble revolutionary type who is seeking to re-establish his people's status in the kingdom by kidnapping Peach and hurling fire at the Serial-killer-plumber-cum-dictator?

LEFT

A good run-on sentence and thought, sir. I think you're getting it now.

RIGHT

So I have just one other question.

LEFT

Shoot.

RIGHT

With all the time you spent cooking up this theory and playing Mario Kart...

LEFT nods along in quiet admission

RIGHT

...how much of that time could have been spent getting a JOB?

LEFT

I HAVE a job.

RIGHT looks at left, mouth agape

RIGHT
You're KIDDING!

LEFT
Got it today. It's in the education
field.

RIGHT
And the job is....

We see the game screen as LEFT narrowly beats RIGHT and
claims 1st place. LEFT slams down the remote football-style
and yells

LEFT
SCHOOLING YOUR SORRY ASS!

LEFT does an odd victory dance and is far too pleased with
himself. RIGHT shakes his head and walks out of the room,
muttering something about "interference." LEFT calms down and
picks up the controller again, calling back to RIGHT

LEFT
Down for some Super Smash
Brothers?!

END.