

"SS MESSENGER"

Written by

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As ABE approaches the exit of the underground caves at the end of game level MONSAIC_P3...

God rays of sunlight shine through the earths crust above (in a divine way) to spotlight the sad scene below.

Bathed in beams of sunlight... the wounded MESSENGER lay helpless and dying- fearing he has failed in his desperate mission.

Abe's shadow approaches creeping over the wounded and dying MESSENGER. As the shadow approaches the face of the messenger...

MESSENGER reacts in fear, feebly attempting to scurry away. He struggles to oush under his backside a Wrapped Object - attempting to hide it from the figure approaching.

He looks up to see a blurry silhouetted Abe - whom he fails to recognize.

Abe kneels down - reaching his hand upon the MESSENGER's frightened face. The compassionate touch first confuses, then brings a calming effect to the MESSENGER.

On ABE as his eyes dart around at the wounds in attempt to understand the condition of the dying MESSENGER. It isn't good.

Angles on MESSENGER's wounds bleeding out. The chest pulsing from shallow panic'd breathing. The skin growing pale from loss of blood as the eyes begin to lose their gloss. A jumpsuit reveals the logo of the company the MESSENGER escaped from - Necrum Mining Co.

ABE knows the strange MESSENGER is dying. His eyes reveal his compassionate heart.

He kneels down closer to the MESSENGER, still gently holding the frail face in his hand.

MESSENGER reaches up to place a hand on Abe's face. **His thumb feeling Abe's stitches.**

MESSENGER
(stutters and gasps in
amazement)
A-A-Abe?

The dying MESSENGER struggles a smile of relief.

MESSENGER (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
A-Abe.

On ABE, stunned and confused that the MESSENGER seems to know him.

ABE, slightly pointing to himself.

ABE
You... know me?

The MESSENGER hesitates blankly for an uncomfortable beat, then laughs through his coughs...

MESSENGER
(struggling, but humored)
Abe...(long pause)... soon the
whole... (cough) the whole odd
world will know you (wheezes)

On Abe, now doubly confused. When suddenly...

SPLOOOT!

ABE flinches as a blood spurts - a few drops hit his face.

Though thoroughly confused, the blood re-focuses ABE on the desperate situation... oen he is sadly unprepared to fix.

ABE studies the body and spies the blood oozing out beneath the fingers of the MESSENGER from the bullet wound at his side.

ABE
(ashamed at being useless)
I'm sorry... I... I don't know
how... to help you.

The MESSENGER's eyes grow focused as they suddenly, desperately widen. His hand, still holding ABE's face, suddenly reaches behind ABE's neck pulling ABE by the neck with surprising strength, startling ABE as he pulls his face close to the MESSENGERS.

MESSENGER
But... you can! You can... help us
all!

Quick cut to Abe still confused, but now its getting weirder.

MESSENGER (CONT'D)

I thought... I failed. <cries> I
thought... I'd never reach... you.

MESSENGER struggles with the urgency of what he has to say as he fights delirium, but he must communicate more crucial info in his few remaining breaths.

MESSENGER (CONT'D)
 But you came!! <coughs> Abe. And
 you... you found... <amazed> ... **me**
 <fading>.

It's as though the MESSENGER has met his guardian angel. Relaxing into the bliss of it. MESSENGER's grip relaxes slightly around ABE's neck. His eyes growing more pale & less glossy. His breathing slowing. He's dying.

ABE
 (broken cries)
 I'm so sorry, I...I can't save you.

MESSENGER hears ABE's words, regains his mission - and last bit of strength.

Snapping back from death he yanks ABE's head closer. Whispering his last words.

MESSENGER
 (struggles to get
 something tucked under
 his side)
 But... but... you can. You can
 save them **all**.

MESSENGER (CONT'D)
 (drifting)
 But, the others. Dying.
 <desperate focus> Already dying!!

ABE
 Who?

MESSENGER
 FOLLOWERS! Your FOLLOWERS!! They
 don't know. <lost> None of you
 know... And

ABE
 Know what?

MESSENGER
 (increasingly desperate)
 You need to know... you need to
 find... find THE KEEPER.

In his final moments of desperation, MESSENGER struggles to pull out the Wrapped Object he tried to stuff/hide between his back and the ground under his side.

MESSENGER (CONT'D)
 You must... must... find... THE
 KEEPER.

ABE tries to tell him to stop moving, to stop struggling, but its too late.

But MESSENGER dies before he gets the wrapping free.

On ABE fading into a 1000 mile defeated stare -lost.

Finally Abe returns to the present and looks to where the MESSENGER was reaching.

Angle on the Amulet still tucked partially under MESSENGER'S side.

On ABE as he stares puzzled, then reaches for the Wrapped Object and pulls it free.

ABE holds the Wrapped Object up, looking at the intricately scribed leather wrapping (it's a map), then he lowers it, and unwraps it.

On Abe's face as he unwraps the Amulet before him (Amulet NOT visible).

As he sees whatever is within that we can't...

At first he's mesmerized, then his breath leaves him as the Amulet glows within his hands and illuminates his face (**But we never see the Amulet itself**) When suddenly, gunfire in the distance...

Ka-KaKa-KaKaKa!

Abe's attention is snapped back to his previous mission.

ABE
 (remembering)
 The others!

ABE quickly wraps the object, tucking it into his backpack.

He reaches down and touches the side of the dead MESSENGER'S face one last time.

On ABE, his face lost at the loss. But then...

KaKaKa-KaKa!

Another round of Gunfire sets ABE about his way - up and out into the light of the cave exit above.

GAMEPLAY CINE: ABE crawls out of the hole... to find himself at the beginning of the GORGE LEVEL.

GAMEPLAY BEGIN: The Gorge - defend the FOLLOWERS from FLYING SLIGS.