

BLOOD OF ERMELIA

Written by

Dillon Deveney

A Plague of Swords

INT. YOJO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CUTSCENE: YOJO, 22, tan wood elf, long white hair, sleeps peacefully in his bed. The window is open and the curtains are still. The moon is full and bright.

YOJO (V.O.)

It was a dream like any other.

The curtains billow as black smoke creeps into the bedroom. Yojo twitches in sleep. The smoke forms into a vague humanoid shape, wearing a cloak that hides nearly all features, we'll call them PHANTOM for now.

Phantom extends its smoky arms and forms two black daggers. One red eye glows from underneath their hood. Yojo is sweating in his sleep. He twitches.

YOJO (V.O.)

I expected to wake into a world
like any other.

Phantom raises both arms and swings the daggers down. SHINK!

Yojo's eyes flare open as he throws the covers at his attacker. One of Phantom's blades cuts Yojo across the cheek.

YOJO (V.O.)

How wrong I was.

Phantom recedes to the window. Yojo leaps into the center of the room. He touches the blood dripping down his face. Confusion turns to annoyance.

YOJO

Who dares threaten House Ermelia?
Reveal yourself!

PHANTOM

Your kind is a plague upon the
world. You must all be purified.

YOJO

Your words lack substance, fiend.

Phantom raises its daggers again. Yojo rubs the blood in-between his fingertips. He raises his hand forward. Red energy, in the form of blood drops, swirls around his palm.

YOJO (CONT'D)

I shall bring forth your end!

A dripping katana appears in Yojo's hand. He grasps the blade in two hands, taking a wide battle stance. HANDS ON!

GAMEPLAY: The player will start at 90% health since they sustained damage in the cutscene.

When the player lands their first hit...

YOJO (CONT'D)

Blood for blood!

Phantom does not bleed. It will laugh menacingly and teleport to the opposite side of the room.

YOJO (CONT'D)

What sort of trick is this?

PHANTOM

No tricks. Only justice.

Following this, whenever the Phantom lands their first hit...

PHANTOM (CONT'D)

Ohhhh, yes! Bleed for me, betrayer!

YOJO

Royal blood bleeds for no one!

When Phantom uses his SHADOW STEP move for the first time...

YOJO (CONT'D)

You move with the swiftness of a spirit... how can this be?

PHANTOM

How little the Elders told you, princeling.

YOJO

You know nothing of me!

When Phantom lands his SHADOW STRIKE for the first time...

PHANTOM

Feel the sins of your ancestors course through you!

YOJO

(Pained Yelling)

When the player reaches 25% HP, their attacks will become stronger and their katana will glow an intense red...

PHANTOM

Release the rubies in your body!
You do not deserve them!

YOJO

You want my blood so badly? Fine.

The player will be prompted for a BLOODRUSH ATTACK! By holding the HEAVY ATTACK button, Yojo will form a sheath from his blood and stow his blade at his hip.

YOJO (CONT'D)

Drown in it.

The sheath will glow and Yojo will quick draw the blade, slashing a red energy sword slice at Phantom.

The attack cuts directly through Phantom, dropping his shadow aura. He has a weak point in his chest!

PHANTOM

That power... this is not what was foretold...

Upon next hit, the player has successfully damaged Phantom!

YOJO

You do bleed. Just a mortal hiding in the guise of the spirits.

PHANTOM

Wait, you do not understand --

YOJO

I understand enough, coward!

The player is prompted for a combo on the next strike, they can either rapidly press the LIGHT or HEAVY attack buttons.

YOJO (CONT'D)

(Raged yelling)

PHANTOM

(Shocked pain)

After the combo, Yojo will leap off of Phantom into the air and ready a glowing overhead slash - they are prompted to hit the HEAVY attack button. When they do - TRIGGER CUTSCENE!

CUTSCENE: Yojo slashes down his glowing blade and cuts through the phantom. It spurts blood in a vertical line across Yojo and his room.

PHANTOM (CONT'D)

You must know... the truth...

Phantom splits in half and melts into two piles of black ooze.

YOJO
House Eremlia reigns victorious for
another day.

Suddenly! The oozes pulse and move! One scurries to Yojo's window and the other towards his door. Yojo stabs his Katana into the one heading towards the window.

Looking back to the door, it's been opened and the ooze is gone!

YOJO (CONT'D)
Damnit... I cannot let it escape.

HANDS ON!

Yojo steps forward to follow the ooze but stumbles.

YOJO (CONT'D)
I have lost quite a bit of blood...
but I cannot let that stop me.

INT. EMRELIA MANOR - NIGHT

If the player uses SPRINT to move, their HP will slowly decrease - leaving behind puddles of blood.

The ooze has left a trail of black bile, making it easy for the player to follow.

Should the player attempt to travel outside of the corridors in the manor...

YOJO
I must find that creature before it
attacks anyone else...

As the player follows the trail, they have optional event to look at the portraits that decorate the hallway. They are stained with dripping black ooze.

YOJO (CONT'D)
All of my ancestors, stained with
this black substance?

YOJO (CONT'D)
Why does it hate us so?

YOJO (CONT'D)
I must seek council with The Elders
once I have ended this threat.

As the player leaves the hallway, the trail leads to an open door. It's dark, metal and looks previously locked.

YOJO (CONT'D)
The cellar? How did it manage its way into a sealed chamber?

Approaching the door, AMBIENT VOICES SFX triggers. There are lights on. The ooze trail leads down the stairs.

YOJO (CONT'D)
Those voices... The Elders? What are they doing in a forbidden chamber?

INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - NIGHT

Yojo descends the stairs. The AMBIENT VOICES SFX becomes clearer. We can hear some dialogue.

ELDERS (V.O.)
The Culling is nearly complete.

ELDERS (V.O.)
I wouldn't have guessed, HE would have been the one to make it.

ELDERS (V.O.)
In any case, the ritual grounds are ready. We can begin.

Yojo makes it to the bottom of the stairs. CUTSCENE TRIGGERS!

CUTSCENE: Yojo opens the cellar door and gasps. His eyes are filled with fear and shock.

YOJO
This cannot be...

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. SNOW PLAINS - DAY

Black.

YOJO (V.O.)
It was a nightmare like any other.

We see a man, sleeping under a pink tree, in the middle of snow-dusted plains. He wears weathered samurai armor and a straw hat. He stirs from his sleep and leans up.

YOJO (V.O.)
I expected to wake into the world I
dread.

A cold chill blows through the air. Pink petals fall from the tree. The samurai holds out his hand and catches one. He removes his straw hat to look at the petal he has caught.

We see a much older Yojo! His eyes are tired, his hair is tied into a high pony tail, he has piercings on the ridge of his right eyebrow and scars covering his left cheek.

He stands, brushing the snow off of his armor. Holding his hand forward, he blows the petal into the breeze. It floats into view of a ominous black palace, on a mountainside in the distance. Dark storm clouds surround it.

YOJO (V.O.)
How right I was.

END.