



# MANLY GUYS DOING MANLY THINGS

## *The punchline is machismo*

*Jump by Aehriman*

Tucked away in a small corner of your safe world there's a magical place, a temp agency for hypermasculine action video game protagonists. Turns out it's really hard for someone like Master Chief or Kratos to adjust to a nine-to-five. Led by Commander Badass, a future time-space SEAL, this organization tries to find safe jobs for the toughest of the tough.

These are their stories. Have 1,000 commander points (cp) to help you out as you stay the next decade.

## ORIGINS

**Cmndr** (free) In a distant generic space future, you were grown in a vat as a super-soldier, embodying an ideal. Retiring into the past just made sense, rents are low and quality of life is acceptable.

**Intern** (free) It's hard to get a job, and forget mowing lawns in a world with pokemon, you know what happens when you step in the tall grass? You were kicked out the door and have found a temporary home here.

**Nemesis** (free) You really, really want that kid to leave you alone. You haven't even tried to conquer his kingdom in, like, months! Maybe a year or two?

## BIO

If you want to be a man, there will never be a better time. If you want to be older or younger or experience life from the other side, don't bother us any. Only time it should matter what someone has in their pants is if you're planning on going in there.

## FRIENDS

**Old Buddies** (-100 cp) Your own band of misfits. Take as many as you like with 700 cp of their own to spend. Companions cannot take drawbacks for more points, nor Companions of their own.

**Commander Badass** (-50 cp) In a future where wars are fought with ideals and memes more than weapons, there is an arms-race to create the most badass soldiers. Commander Badass was grown in a vat to be that soldier, but turned out to be a really sensitive and well-adjusted guy too, much to the distress of his superiors.

**Jared & Mr. Fish** (-50 cp) An unmotivated gamer from a region filled with Pokemon. Pretty much shoved out the door to become a wandering adventurer like the rest of his generation, he beat up enough wild critters with his Magikarp, Mr. Fish, to evolve him into a powerful sea serpent.

**Jonesy** (-50 cp) Your average twenty-something struggling to figure out her life and how to adult.

**Ganondorf** (-50 cp) Sorcerer king of the Thief Village. Occasionally turns into a pig monster. He's pretty much done with the evil and having time-travelers or that one kid mess him up all over again. If only the kid would get the message.

**Other** (-100 cp) Want to recruit Snake? Zangrief? Mr. Bubbles? Feel free.

## PERKS

**Bran-dao** (-100 cp, free Cmndr) In the generic space future, Marlon Brando is worshiped as the epitome of manliness. Followers of the Bran-dao believe that you don't have to talk tough or put people down, just be confident and put your all into everything you do, and people will figure it out. Followers hope to eventually achieve a state of *nirv-man-a* where the entire universe quietly acknowledges your masculinity.

You are incredibly well-adjusted and not at all prone to jealousy or insecurity.

**A Watched Cheetah Never Bevels** (-100 cp, free Cmndr) It turns out the secret to successful time-travel is to just roll with it. Don't ask questions and especially don't ponder the implications of time-travel just as you hit the button. Fortunately, you have long since mastered the difficult art of not thinking about something when it would be detrimental to do so, and distracting others from memetic hazards.

**Who's Your Daddy Now?** (-200 cp, discount Cmndr) Like the Commander, Mr. Bubbles and surprisingly Kratos recently, you are an awesome parent.

**Why Aren't You Batman!** (-200 cp, discount Cmndr) You handle stress and trauma in incredibly healthy and mature ways. You aren't afraid to cry or ask for help, and certainly won't bottle up your feelings until you become a hyper-violent vigilante. Given time, you will work through all your issues in a healthy and reasonable manner.

**You Don't Take A Job Like This...**(-400 cp, discount Cmndr) You don't take up counseling for roid-raging hypermasculine types if you're afraid of getting punched in

the face a few times. You are incredibly tough and strong, able to restrain Kratos or Duke when their PTSD kicks in.

**We All Peacock In Our Own Way** (-600 cp, discount Cmndr) You have mastered the secrets of time-travel and as long as you avoid paradoxes, can use it fairly casually. Even to impress people in a coffee shop.

**High Scores** (-100 cp, free Intern) You have the skills of a pro gamer. They may not translate all that well into real-world competence, but your XBox achievements will be the envy of many.

**Slacker Instincts** (-100 cp, free Intern) You know when you can get away with not working, and the boss won't call you on it. Also when it would be better to delegate.

**Interesting Place** (-200 cp, discount Intern) Your head is the most fascinating place. Psychics and mystical corruption can't make heads or tails of it.

**Pick Up the Kids** (-200 cp, discount Intern) Something about you just seems incredibly trustworthy, so much so that within a few days of meeting you people will feel okay lending you their expensive car to pick up their kids from school.

**But There Are Pokemon In The Tall Grass!** (-400 cp, discount Intern) You have an incredibly potent luck as relates to random encounters and side-quests. When you want them, you'll be tripping over plot hooks and wild animals and bandits with more chutzpah than sense. When you want to be left alone, they seem to evaporate and you can undertake long journeys peacefully with only those encounters sent your way by the main villain/plot.

**Professor** (-600 cp, discount Intern) Turns out, the secret to Pokemon is to feed them well and shower them with affection. You are a masterful pokemon trainer and any creatures under your care grow rapidly, becoming far larger, cleverer and in all ways better than they otherwise would have. They also learn with incredible speed and fight with coordination.

**Evil Eyes** (-100 cp, free Nemesis) Gerudo, they're Gerudo eyes. But at need, you can be very intimidating without even needing to make a deadlift stance.

**Thief Village** (-100 cp, free Nemesis) Wait, you mean not everybody knows how to pick locks? Or move quietly? You grew up in the Thief Village, so it sometimes surprises you what wasn't part of people's basic education.

**Magic Knight** (-200 cp, discount Nemesis) You are well-trained in both the blade and one field of video-game magic of your choosing, equalling those who devoted over a decade to their art. This may be taken multiple times at a discount to add a new weapon and magic style.

**Troll** (-200 cp, discount Nemesis) The neat thing about all these timelines? It gets super easy to mess with that kid's head. You are a master of taunting, provoking and messing with people's heads.

**Turn Into A Pig** (-400 cp, discount Nemesis) Careful on the snacks, there. Don't you know you're supposed to turn into a giant pig *after* Link rescues the princess? You can transform into a far more powerful boss monster form. It may not be terribly flattering, but it gets the job done and can blend features from your various alt-forms while strengthening your powers considerably.

**Forger of Strength** (-600 cp, discount Nemesis) Through theft or a divine prank or the simple blessing of Din, you have become the bearer of a third of the Triforce. You are invulnerable to non magical weapons or attacks, have vastly superhuman strength, and your magic and all other personal energy pools have become bottomless.

# ITEMS

**Commander Badass Action Figure** (free all) Because wars in the generic space future are fought not with weapons but ideals and memes, you own a talking Commander Badass action figure. The gun shoots tiny guns. The tiny guns shoot deep-fried beer cans.

**Bean-Bag Animals** (-50 cp) You have a massive, refilling sack of beanie babies. Some might say they're unmanly, but what do you care?

**High Scores** (-50 cp) An Xbox classic that somehow can play all forms of video or PC games and never gets the ring of death. Perfect for bragging rights on everything from Qbert to God of War.

**Basic Income** (-50/100/200/300 cp) It can be hard to get by, and it's not entirely clear how anyone at the agency is getting paid. For 50 cp, you get the equivalent of minimum wage without having to put any work in. For 100 cp, an actual working class living wage. 200 cp for middle class, 300 to *just* scrape into the 1%.

**Babies** (-100 cp) A pack of vicious cloned raptors, who are chubby and colorful and covered in feathers. Very cuddly. Turns out the raptor classic was too skittish to be trained, and these versions are too lazy to be much use in combat. But they are beautiful and friendly.

**Pokeballs** (-200 cp) Balls for catching pokemon, and they work great on other monsters. Though before you go trying to corral Rathalos you'll probably need to weaken him through combat. Six, but each time you fill one a new one appears a week later, to let you catch 'em all.

**Portal Gun** (-200 cp) Get around like Chell with this gun which creates portals on any surface. Free boots for the fall damage. Seriously, wear the boots.

**Lair** (-300 cp) It might be an island lair with a volcano, or an underground maze beneath a city, but you have a really sweet and secure crib. It also has a mysterious button that fills your room with bubbles.

## DRAWBACKS

**Open Mouth, Insert Foot** (+100 cp) You have a positive knack for saying the worst possible things at the worst moment. Get used to apologizing a lot. No matter how much you work at it, you'll find yourself blurting out offensive things.

**Manliest Way To Be Pantsless** (+100 cp) Afraid it's all kilts and/or skirts for you this trip, no trousers, shorts, breeches, culottes, leggings and no underwear either.

**Rock Lobster** (+100 cp) You can't recall your true name, just a 12-digit alphanumeric string ending in something that will result in a mocking nickname. Not everyone uses it, and not all the time, but it will come up whenever it would aggravate you most.

**Cody...** (+200 cp) Now, a sensible person might ask when eating random food you find in the garbage has ever been good for your health. Sadly, you got most of your schooling from video games and tend to assume any food you find has healing properties, regardless of its actual condition. Have fun at the hospital.

**Nomura Syndrome** (+200 cp) You've contracted Nomura Syndrome, an experimental gene therapy meant to make men look young and super bishie their entire lives, then modified to be infectious. People have trouble taking you seriously and your face has less range of expressions than your average barbie doll.

**Canada Jumper** (+300 cp) There exists a Canadian knockoff of you. They're not a mortal enemy or anything, just really, really annoying. The sort of person who will gatecrash a

barbecue to throw down, will beat all your high scores, play the accordion all night long and routinely trash your home and/or place of business.

**That One Level** (+300 cp) Within moments of arriving in this world, a strange storm forms, lightning repeatedly strikes you, each stripping you of a perk or power, banishing items back to the Warehouse (which is now sealed shut) until you're left with the Body Mod and your purchases here, just like that time in this one game, or the other, or.. It happens a lot, okay.

**END**

GAME OVER - Time to go home and play outside for a while.

CONTINUE? - Why should your time here ever end?

NEW GAME+ - Start a new game with some carry-over bonuses from this one.

This is a computer. You can read the original comic [Here](#).