

EXT: LITTLE MOUNTAIN: EVERGREEN FOREST - DAY
THIRD PERSON GAMEPLAY

B.G.: the sun beats down on the Evergreen forest as the birds coo and chirp loudly from the treetops. Although it is a bright summer's day, a cool breeze blows a spray of dandelion clocks past as the view pans down onto a partially secluded glade at the top of a hillside path. The trees here wave gently in the breeze as OUR HERO emerges at the top of the path.

A BIRD stops singing as its eyes focus upon OUR HERO, who stops to take a calming breath and take in their surroundings. After a pause, they advance into the secluded glen, where they encounter EKU, reclining sleepily against a withered tree stump.

HERO (V.O.): I met him on on the hillside of Little Mountain. I hadn't even been hiking for that long, but somehow I'd wandered onto a path that was new to me. I stopped to rest for a moment, and suddenly, there he was. From that moment, I never saw anything in quite the same way again.

EKU: (brightly) Ah! There you are. Have you got a minute? I'm Eku, but you can call me...well, Eku.

HERO: (bemused) Ok, nice to meet you Eku.

EKU grins and raises both his paws in an expression of happiness. He lets out a satisfied chuckle as he rubs his back against the tree stump.

EKU: Brilliant! I've been waiting for someone to help me up from here. It was so snowy and cold when I went for my afternoon nap. I'm sure I only dozed off for a minute.

HERO: (perplexed) Snowy? It's a midsummer's day.

A puzzled look crosses EKU's face as he glances around and then up at the bright sunshine. He covers his eyes with his paws, perplexed and embarrassed.

EKU: (scratching his chin) Oh no, I've done it again! Never mind, I suppose now's as good a time as any to start a new adventure. Do you want to join me?

HERO: I don't know. What kind of adventure?

EKU offers OUR HERO his outstretched paw, a crafty smile creeping across his face. The sunshine appears to beam more brightly around the tree stump, illuminating the strange little bear OUR HERO has befriended.

EKU: Well, if you'll help me up from here, I'll be able to show you! Besides, what else are you planning to do today?

OUR HERO looks around, examining the emptiness of the secluded glade. After a pause, they take EKU's paw in their hand and pull him up and onto his feet. EKU does a long, loud stretch and then settles his weight down onto all fours with a grunt of satisfaction.

HERO (V.O): He was right, I didn't have a plan. Other than stretching my legs and getting some air, I hadn't planned any further ahead than my next meal. Maybe I should've done. In any case, it was too late. Eku had me interested, and so, our time together was set in motion.

HERO: (grinning) Feeling better?

EKU shakes his fur and grunts noisily as if he were a soaked dog trying to dry off. OUR HERO laughs, before moving to stand beside the bear at the wooded outskirts of the Evergreen Forest.

HERO: I'll take that as a yes. So, is this where we should begin? The forest?

The birds begin to chirp even more noisily as EKU looks up at OUR HERO, before nodding his head in silent confirmation.

EKU: (wistfully) This is where everything begins. Where everything ends too. The place of all connection. I stepped outside it for a moment to rest and gather my strength. Little did I know I'd been absent for so long.

HERO: Don't worry Eku. I'm sure everything will be just the way you left it. So, tell me more about this adventure of yours.

EKU: Tell you, no. Show you...that's something I can do. Are you ready? You might not be able to return to this place for some time.

HERO: Sounds a bit dramatic. I've got a compass and a map, you know.

A moment of silence hangs in the air before EKU throws his head back to roar with laughter. The sky begins to turn pink as the sun sinks slowly down into the mountains ahead of them

EKU: (chuckling) Well then, you'll be able to find your way around in no time, won't you? Come on Mapreader, let's get going before the sun sleeps.

HERO: (confused) Fine, let's go. I didn't realise it had got so late...

EKU: There's a lot of things you don't yet realise, my new friend. Come, follow me. Stay close to my side. Compass or not, there are things in this world that can lead you astray.

OUR HERO gazes towards the horizon, unsure what to make of this sudden setting of the midday sunshine.

HERO (V.O): I should have listened to him. I should've done a lot of things.

HERO: (eagerly) Don't worry, I'm ready. Let's go.

The two new companions quietly set off into the tightly-packed trees of the Evergreen Forest. The birdsong around the secluded glade grows to a crescendo as the sun moves steadily behind the mountain in the distance, plunging the forest into a dusky pink and purple light. OUR HERO and ECU fade from view as the camera focuses on the withering trees that they disappear into.