

3 of 8

Alaunus was rebuilt from the ashes, but now new threats threaten to tear it down again. The Riddler has the warriors trapped in a sewer system. Meanwhile, Raven has discovered an army of white ghost demons, can he uncover their secrets?

Scene 1

Outside the Warrior Academy, 23rd February 04:00 GMT

A Riddler thug stands with the sights of his rocket launcher on the Academy as the Riddler speaks in his ear

Riddler: This gun was designed so even a moron like you could handle it. Now, do you understand my instructions?
Thug: Yes, Mr Nygma
Riddler: Yes, the Riddler, you ignorant buffoon! Relay those instructions back to me
Thug: I point the rocket and the Academy and squeeze the trigger
Riddler: Then why are you just standing around? Fire!
Thug: Yes, Mr Nygma (He points the rocket at the Academy and fires but the rocket is shot down by a lightning blast before the thug is knocked out by a similar blast, Raven approaches, picking up the gun and shaking his head)

Warrior Academy

Raven approaches Rolfe and Gemma

Raven: I just encountered one of the Riddler's goons using one of these (he places the gun on the desk)
Rolfe: Proper RPG, military issue, how did the Riddler get this?
Raven: It's one of many questions that need to be answered
Rolfe: Let's start with an easy one, where are the warriors?
Raven: They didn't make it back?
Rolfe: You were supposed to be with them!
Raven: We got separated. I'm going back to look for them
Gemma: That won't be necessary. I've traced their com-links and they're back in the city. Strange thing is they don't appear to be moving, could be unconscious?
Raven: Send me the location, I'll take a look.

Raven: The Fallen

Scene 2

The City sewer lines, 06:00 GMT

The warriors begin to wake up from the unconsciousness that resulted from them falling into the sewers

Riddler: So nice of you to drop in. Now that you're finally awake, let's begin



Lock and Key

Water begins pouring into the chamber, the warriors look at the door and find keys labelled A C D E and F

Riddler: Don't worry, warriors, I'm sure you'll find the *key* to this challenge or else you'll drown and be *void* of life

With the water pouring in the warriors quickly discuss which key to insert into the lock. They devise quickly that this puzzle is based on the musical notes but no-one seems certain beyond that, the water soon reaches their ankles

Suspecting that because the sharp of the letter e is not a black key, the E key might be the answer, Jedren puts the idea forward, he claims uncertainty and the others, still lacking other ideas push him to try the key

Jedren eventually tries the key and finds that it doesn't work, the water begins to pour in faster as a result of this mistake and it's not long before it reaches their waists. With the water continuing to rise the conversations become more desperate.

With the water now causing the warriors to float above the ground, they knew they didn't have much time before the water would submerge the room. The water passes the height of the keys and they come off the hooks, sinking to the ground.

Landrek has an idea, of all the major keys only one of them has no sharps to it, that's the letter C, unsure of his answer but with the water rising higher, he has no choice but to dive for it, he gasps for air and submerges

He dives in and grabs the key before swimming over to the lock, which had also been submerged, he tries the key and to the warriors' fortune it was the correct key, the water drains, slowly bringing the warriors back to the ground and the door can finally be opened.

Riddler: Well, I guess even the biggest of idiots can get lucky

- Jedren: I felt quite disappointed that my answer was the wrong one, but it was a relief that we all survived.
- Sileb: We were almost doomed because most of us couldn't figure out a rather simple musical puzzle! Thank goodness we got the right key in the end though, it was certainly a relief when the water finally drained to the ground.
- Landrek: I am quite glad that I had the right idea about the answer, although it was a bit of a stab in the dark to say the least.
- Worbon: I panicked a lot because the water was filling up really quickly and I found it quite hard to focus, but luckily the others were able to pick another key in time.
- Yvarina: I had to kind of stand back and let the others think of the answers, as I couldn't come up with anything myself. I started to panic when we got it wrong the first time, but even then I couldn't do anything to help. I'm just so glad that my friends were able to support me.
- Armsa: I was trying to think it through but the water made me panic.
- Tregan: I felt very tense after discovering our first key was wrong, and felt pretty helpless as I had no idea about the right answer.



The Crossing

The warriors approach a stream of sewer water, there's a set of two ropes leading from one side to the other

- Riddler: I'm pretty sure you'd like to get this over with quickly, the smell in there can't be pleasant. As it happens the water is quite deadly, I'd look into why but frankly, I don't care.

After a brief discussion, Jedren volunteers to be the first to make this crossing. He plants his feet carefully on the bottom rope and holds on as he slowly shimmies his way across. Before long he finds himself on the other side.

Sileb is the next warrior to attempt the challenge. He proceeds along the rope cautiously, wobbling but maintaining balance for the trip, he soon joins Jedren at the other side and Yvarina is the next warrior to volunteer.

Yvarina steps carefully onto the ropes, grabbing the rope above to hold her steady. She makes her way across the rope and it begins to wobble, she nearly loses her balance but remains strong and joins the other warriors on the other side

Armsa is the fourth warrior to attempt to make the journey, he makes careful progress, wobbling slightly as he approaches the middle of the rope but little comes of it and he eventually makes it to the other side.

Landrek is the fifth volunteer of the remaining warriors, he steps onto the rope and begins to wobble before even starting but thanks to the encouragement of his fellow warriors he too succeeds in making it to the end.

Worbon is the next warrior to take to the rope, he shows a good level of balance on the rope, with wobbles only slight as he approaches the middle of the rope. He joins his fellow warriors on the other side.

Tregan is the last to step onto the rope. She too finds it more difficult to keep her balance. She takes a deep breath before starting and hangs onto the top rope with all her might. Before she knows it she has joined her fellow warriors, safe from the deadly waters.

- Jedren: I wasn't thinking about much at all, I was focused solely on getting to the other side.
- Tregan: I was nervous facing the crossing, but kept focused on the far side, and that helped me get across safely.
- Armsa: I knew if I failed the challenge, my life would end but if I panicked I would fall off so I kept my cool as I made the crossing
- Sileb: Honestly, I was feeling quite calm through the whole travel. Stressing out would have just added to being unstable on the rope and I just wanted to make it to the other side.
- Landrek: I just had to be careful not to over balance. It doesn't help that my sense of balance is absolutely appalling, but thanks to the support of my fellow warriors I made it safely. I can't thank them enough for that.
- Worbon: I wasn't nervous much because I'd seen the majority of the other warriors cross but this crossing was a lot harder than the previous one, because the rope wobbled quite a bit.
- Yvarina: I felt a bit scared when we faced the crossing. I knew that this could have been a big struggle for me, and I really didn't want to end up like the ones we've lost, but I made it across which made me so relieved and happy.

Scene 4

City streets, 12:00 GMT

Gemma is speaking to Raven on coms

- Gemma: Any sign of them?
- Raven: No, I've been searching for hours and I haven't seen them
- Gemma: Well, the good news is I still have 7 of their com signals. (Raven spots something, a metal box in the middle of the street)
- Raven: This isn't good

Gemma: What is it?
Raven: I don't know, but it doesn't belong here (he forces the lid open with the end of his staff, there is a video screen that begins playing footage)
Riddler: What do you call a black bird with ideas above his station? Baked in a pie!
These bombs aren't for you. (The screen goes blank)
Raven: It's a bomb
Gemma: I heard, fortunately I've deciphered the first level of the Riddler's encryption...
Oh no, Raven, there are 4 other bombs
Raven: What's the blast radius?
Gemma: I can't tell, but you'd best report it in to the authorities so they can get people away from them.
Raven: What about disarming them?
Gemma: Rolfe has the knowledge but he's meeting with a contact about where the Riddler's getting these weapons. The only other people trained to disarm the bombs are still currently missing.
Raven: Let us hope they do not stay missing for long

Scene 6

City sewers, 13:20 UTC



The door

The warriors reach a door and then the Riddler's voice projects to them

Riddler: Not so fast, warriors. I've got the entire sewer network rigged to blow and with the amount of methane down there, the whole city would go under in seconds. You want to avoid that; you'll have to answer my riddles. The lock has 5 levels, which means 5 riddles lie between you and fresh air and running water. Riddle me this: When can a human being have 5 hands and be normal? We hurt without moving. We poison without touching. We bear the truth and the lies. We are not to be judged by our size. What are we? When is 99 more than 100? I fly, yet I have no wings. I cry, yet I have no eyes. Darkness follows me; lower light I never see. What am I? And finally: when you need me, you throw me away. But when you're done with me, you take me back. What am I?

With the Riddler's trap laid out to them, the warriors discuss potential answers to his riddles, quickly they come up with answers for riddles 4-5, Jedren initially proposes 'lies' as an answer to the second riddle but as Landrek intervenes, Jedren corrects himself, saying that the answer would be 'words'

The warriors' primary concern moves to the answer to the first riddle. This confuses most of them, Jedren suggests that it might be the case when the person is wearing a watch, an idea that is backed up by his fellow warriors

With 4 of the 5 riddles prepared, only the third riddle remained for them to solve. Landrek suggests that the scenario is the case when displayed on a microwave timer. Worbon suggests the idea that might be about positions in a race, an idea Yvarina and Armsa initially back.

Sileb is less certain and asks the others whether they are sure about it being about positions in a race. Jedren speaks up in support of Landrek's answer although Landrek seems less sure about it being the correct answer

With Tregan also being neutral between the two answers, Landrek explains his answer once again and Yvarina comes to support it, Worbon too thinks it's more likely than his answer and with the other answer excluded, they agree to all of them.

"When wearing a watch" is shouted by Jedren as the answer to the first riddle, they hear the sound of a lock being opened but several remain

"Words" is shouted by Landrek and another lock is deactivated

"When displayed on a microwave" shouts Sileb, deactivating another lock

"Cloud" is the answer to the fourth riddle, given by Worbon, another lock is opened

"Anchor" Armsa shouts the answer to the final riddle, the final lock is opened and the warriors proceed.

Sileb: A very weird process that seems like a mess, but in reality we're all just taking our time to make sure we get the right answers. That third riddle was certainly tough, and I'm glad I managed to convince the others to have a second thought about their competition answer.

Landrek: Not going to lie, it was a bit of a shambles. I am glad that we did decide to have a rethink on the 3rd riddle otherwise, I think it could have ended disastrously. I'm glad that my reasoning for my answer was enough to convince the others, although both Jedren and Sileb did well in encouraging a rethink.

Worbon: I don't think we did that badly. Everyone communicated well and though it took a while we all agreed on decisions. The first four were easy enough and though the third riddle was tricky we managed it.

Yvarina: I think I was rather useless again here. The others must be getting tired of me by now. I was starting to get the answer for the first one, but then Jedren figured it out before me, and the time I spent trying to work that one out, the others had already figured out the rest.

Armsa: I couldn't contribute a lot as my fellow warriors had come up with the answers.

Tregan: The other warriors were so fast at getting the riddles, I didn't feel I helped much! but I worked out most of the answers, so would have been able to chip in if no-one else had known.

Jedren: Before realizing the answer to the first riddle, I kept thinking about someone making a clock or being strapped to a giant one - few other objects have hands.

Scene 7

Scottish coast, 15:00 GMT

Rolfe looks at his watch as a small scout craft makes a landing, outside comes S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Billy Dellik

Billy: Commander Phillips (he salutes)

Rolfe: At ease, you don't need to call me that anymore.

Billy: Yes, I heard you retired after... *It* happened

Rolfe: Can you tell me how the Riddler managed to get his hands on S.H.I.E.L.D. hardware like this? (He hands Billy the RPG)

Billy: Looks pretty standard to me

Rolfe: Look at the serial number. It's S.H.I.E.L.D. issue. How did he get it and did he get anything else?

Billy: I'll run a trace on the number (he brings up a holo-computer and begins typing in) it was part of a large package stolen 6 months ago. Large quantities of explosives, machine guns, at least 3 more of these RPGs, a couple of grenade launchers and some sentry guns. This'd be enough to arm a small army (Rolfe looks more and more horrified as the list goes on) are you ok, sir?

Rolfe: (Snapping out of it) I'm fine, thank you, that was helpful.

Billy: Do you want S.H.I.E.L.D. to recover some of the weapons?

Rolfe: It's not my call, I'll have to alert the Mayor and he'll have to decide whether to call you in

Billy: Alright then

Rolfe: Thank you for seeing me

Billy: You know it'd have been a lot easier if Alaunus had an airstrip

Rolfe: I know. (They hear a foghorn) I think that's the last ship back, I'd better go

Billy: No-one blames you for what happened, Commander

Rolfe: (Mutters as he walks off) all fool them

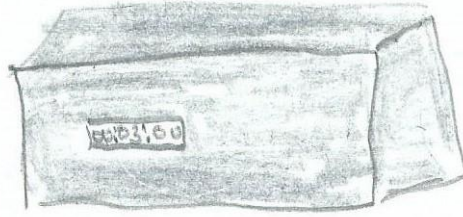
Scene 8

Alaunus, 16:00 UTC

Raven is watching the city from the skies as the warriors exit through a nearby manhole

Raven: Gemma, they were in the sewers, they're just coming out (Gemma notices something on the computer)

Gemma: Oh no! (She opens coms to everyone) listen to me carefully the bombs have been activated. There are 4 of them scattered across the city. I can guide you to them but you need to hurry, we don't know how long we have before they detonate.



Detonation

With time of the essence, the warriors split up, with Armsa and Worbon heading North, Sileb and Landrek heading west, Yvarina and Tregan heading east and Jedren heading south. Each of them receives guidance from their earpieces from people at the academy.

The warriors race towards the bomb but some aren't as fast as others as Tregan, Landrek and Worbon are both falling behind in their respective teams, thankfully the instructions they're getting are location dependant so they can all progress at their own pace.

Jedren is the first to arrive at a bomb and sets to work defusing it, he removes the cover and sees 3 wires inside, a red, a yellow and a blue one, to the side is a red collar, he grasps it from underneath with both hands, knowing that if he touches the sides he'd detonate the bomb.

Armsa, Sileb and Yvarina arrive at their respective bombs first, they begin the initial processes in defusing the bomb, although Yvarina struggles to avoid touching the sides of the collar. Jedren, Armsa and Sileb have all removed the collars and begin to pull the wires out, first the red, then the green, then the yellow.

The bombs then each unveil a digital screen with a maze, the warriors have to find a path through the digital maze to fully disarm the bomb. Jedren and Armsa take to this quickly whilst the others struggle.

Worbon arrives to help Armsa as Landrek arrives to help Sileb. Armsa and Worbon discover the pathway through the maze Worbon runs his finger across the route on the screen, the bomb is then disarmed.

Tregan arrives to help Yvarina, who is struggling most with the maze, Landrek and Sileb are the next to come up with the correct path through the maze and they manage to disarm their bomb. Jedren has come up with a path and begins to input it as Tregan has also managed to work out the correct path.

The warriors get a warning through their earpieces, the actives bombs will explode in 30 seconds, thankfully Jedren has completed the maze and disarmed his bomb. Tregan and Yvarina disarm theirs shortly afterward.

Gemma: That's all the bombs disarmed, well done warriors

Tregan: I was panicking a bit, as I know I'm not the fastest warrior and didn't want to let my team down, but I was fast doing the mazes and was able to help Yvarina which was great.

Jedren: Going alone was scary, it helped to try and not think about what was at stake.

Armsa: To put it simply. I felt scared knowing what was at stake.

Sileb: Initially I was rather unsettled, but we had the academy guiding us to the locations and we had our teammates to help out! Although... I wouldn't want to be lost to an explosion... It's a horrible way to go.

Landrek: I was determined but also slightly worried in case we had made a massive mistake. I'm grateful that Sileb made a great start on the task and then when I managed to make it, we both worked extremely effectively to get the bomb disarmed.

Worbon: I wasn't too confident about my speed and going in groups only made it harder, with so few of us. Armsa got to our bomb first and by the time he had worked it out I had arrived and was able to help deactivate it first, but I was really nervous because the others were still working on theirs and I was so anxious in case they didn't make it in time.

Yvarina: I managed to get ahead of Tregan and rushed to start disarming the bomb, knowing that I had to try and get it started, as Tregan might not have had enough time by herself. Even so, I failed to get really anywhere with it, and I don't think I actually helped much at all. I knew that there was a lot to lose if we failed this but I still couldn't seem to do anything to help.

Scene 9

Warrior Academy, 20:00 GMT

Raven returns

Raven: The warriors are taking early rest; they've been through much this day (Rolfe arrives in the room) did you get the information we required?

Rolfe: The Riddler has access to some of the latest high tech weaponry, he could power an army with, he has to be stopped.

Raven: Aye and with the demon army readying for war, I sense this journey is far from over