

Ready Player One

By Ernest Cline

Concept descriptions

Location: Wade's Hideout (pg 34-35)

The van's rear doors had no windows, so I was hunched over in total darkness for a second, until my fingers found the old power strip I'd duct-taped to the ceiling. I flipped it on, and an old desk lamp flooded the tiny space with light.

The crumpled green roof of a compact car covered the crushed opening where the windshield had been, but the damage to the van's front end didn't extend beyond the cab. The rest of the interior remained intact. Someone had removed all of the car's seat (probably to use as furniture), leaving a small "room" about four feet wide, foot feet high, and five feet long.

This was my hideout.

I'd covered the walls, floors and ceiling with Styrofoam egg cartons and pieces of carpeting in an effort to soundproof the van as much as possible. Several cardboard boxes of busted laptops and computer parts sat in the corner, next to a rack of old car batteries and a modified exercise bike I'd rigged as a charger. The only furniture was a folding lawn chair.

Acererak the Demi-Lich (page 78-79)

It was a large square chamber with a high ceiling, filled with dozens of massive stone columns. A huge dais stood at the far end of the room, atop which rested an obsidian throne inlaid with silver and ivory skulls.

The demi-lich Acererak was sitting on it, glaring down at me silently. A dusty gold crown glinted on his withered head. He appeared exactly as he did on the cover of the original Tomb of Horrors module.

I walked across the chamber to the foot of the dais. From here I could see the lich more clearly. His teeth were two rows of pointed cut diamonds arrayed in a lipless grin, and a large ruby was set in each of his eye sockets.

Art3miss (page 87)

She wore a suit of scaled gunmetal-blue armor that looked more sci-fi than fantasy. Twin blaster pistols were slung low on her hips in quick-draw holsters, and there was a long, curved elvish sword in a scabbard across her back. She wore fingerless Road Warrior-style racing gloves and a pair of classic Ray-Ban shades. Overall, she seemed to be going for a sort of mid-80's post apocalyptic cyberpunk girl-next-door look. And it was working for me, in a big way. In a word: hot.