

GAMEPLAY

Like a true woman, you summon other people to do your dirty business for you. You don't bash your staff into your enemy. In other words, you're HR: you summon other enemies and entities to do your damage for you.



At first, this feels like a game of "Well, just summon the toughest enemies every single time." And although this is a kid's game so you could do that while burning through your health, you're given an incentive to use your brain, since your

ability to summon items or monsters at will is limited by the number of Koroks you've saved.

Weirdly, the vulnerabilities, special powers, and monster behaviors work in tandem to create natural counters. As time goes on, there will be certain monsters you'll gravitate to, but you'll likely end up finding every monster useful at least once. As such, the monsters are well thought through.

However, the real charm of the gameplay is summoning items. With this, the ability to sequence break the ever-loving-hell out of the game, and in the process have your creativity and ingenuity be rewarded without fear of killjoy game testers is unleashed. Sure, you'll probably just be spamming beds 90% of the time, but drawing a penis out of beds is what makes Echoes the nouveau 2D version of Minecraft.

THIS FUCKING PONY



Look at how adorable this pony is. I'm going to dedicate a section to him.

There's a whole plotline dedicated to saving him and getting this cute pony.

There's also a sequence of horse-racing minigames to play, the first and third ones are easy, but trust me, the second one is really hard and WILL completely emasculate you. You have to learn how to boost, item control, and steer simultaneously, and even then you won't have a millisecond left on the timer.

However, like Aguro from Shadow of the Colossus, it grows on you. You travel with it everywhere. You feel a little pain—a little sting in your heart—when you have to leave it behind.

And this is the part of the game where you realize that you're a grown man in your mid 40s playing a children's game CLEARLY meant for little girls and wonder what you're doing with your life. How much goddam estrogen are they putting in the water?!

