

Cyberscape Neo: Exodus Episode 2

by

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SCENE 1: THE GREAT HUNT - ROLAND, MYRA, YLLIA, DAXXIS,  
RAPTURE, VIN, HYPERION

Over 100 players are collected in Terra's Fall for the expansion pre-release announcements. ROLAND and MYRA are standing at the center of a large crowd of top-level players. Hushed whispers are stalled once ROLAND, now an Admin, starts speaking.

ROLAND

(rehearsed,  
half-artificial)

Thank you -- everyone who gathered here in Terra's Fall -- to the Grand Premier of Exodus.

MYRA

(rehearsed and cheery)

Today there will be a Grand Hunt to celebrate the beginning of a new age.

YLLIA

(excited and struggling  
against the crowd)

Wow... a special event? And is that a new admin? I can hardly see them with all these people here... but they look familiar...

DAXXIS

(matter of factly)

Of course there'd be an event, Yll. (pronounced ill) I didn't get the expansion for no reason... This better be worth it...

RAPTURE

(flat and sarcastic)

Maybe get out of your parents' basement, Dax, and get a job. Then maybe you'll stop expecting the world from the games you play.

VIN

(laughing almost  
uncontrollably)

Hahahahahahaha. Sick burn Rapture!

(excited)

This is going to be so much fun!

DAXXIS

(annoyed)

There's nothing wrong with living  
with your parents when they are  
billionaires!

RAPTURE

(cold)

People who became billionaires by  
betraying their old business  
partner and now--

DAXXIS

(caught off guard)

Shut it, Rapture!

YLLIA

(innocently curious)

Really? They would do that? That's  
terrible...

DAXXIS

(conflict between pride  
and guilt)

It's - It's more complicated than  
that!

VIN

(light-hearted)

Wow... someone watches the news too  
much...

HYPERION

(commanding but calm)

Quiet down everyone. Yllia, Vin...  
Whatever this event is about, I  
want to be prepared. No staring at  
lore and falling behind this time.

YLLIA AND VIN

(moping)

Yes, Hyperion...

ROLAND

(rehearsed,  
half-artificial)

Your mission will be to find and  
eliminate the

(starts to fumble words,  
groan in pain, then in  
normal voice again)

The... mission... the... what?  
Eliminate... huh?

MYRA

(stepping in front of  
Roland to interject,  
artificial)

Your mission will be to find and eliminate the guardians of corruption and determine the corruption's point of origin. We will soon grant you entrance to this new zone in which the guardians lurk, but know that if you are defeated or leave the zone for any reason, you will be unable to enter again and promptly be teleported back to their last spawn point.

(rehearsed, cheery)

The hunt will begin in 30 minutes. Good luck. In the meantime, feel free to enjoy the festivities!

**[A slight pause after Myra stops speaking, a sound similar to the log-in noise plays to signify ROLAND AND MYRA teleport back to The Hub.]**

The crowd starts to disperse with murmurs of excitement and wonder. Hyperion turns to the party.

HYPERION

(vocalizing thoughts to  
their party, serious)

30 minutes... that's not much time.  
And... who are these guardians we  
have to hunt?

(commanding, as if  
asking for ideas)

Rapture?

RAPTURE

(analytical)

It's in the new zone, so it's most  
likely something brand new to the  
expansion.

DAXXIS

(in retaliation for  
earlier)

Thanks Captain Obvious...

RAPTURE

(ignoring Daxxis)

Oddly enough, Hype, you're better  
off with Yllia and Vin answering  
that...

VIN  
 (surprised and snapping  
 back from being  
 distracted)  
 Huh? What?

YLLIA  
 (surprised)  
 Really?

HYPERION  
 (confused)  
 What you do mean, Rapture?

RAPTURE  
 (flat)  
 We've been given 30 minutes to...  
 enjoy the festivities? For once I  
 think the lore might be where our  
 answer is.

HYPERION  
 (sighing)  
 Ignore what I said then, I guess.  
 Spread out and see what you can  
 find. Meet back up here when the  
 crowd forms by the zone entrance

RAPTURE  
 (flat)  
 You got it.

VIN  
 (excited)  
**[Cracks knuckles and runs away  
 towards the vendors, having the  
 voice fade over distance]**  
 Yea! Those NPC's haven't seen the  
 last of me!

YLLIA  
 (contemplative and  
 disappointed)  
 Hmm... I couldn't actually see that  
 new admin up close before they  
 left.

DAXXIS  
 (trolling)  
 What's wrong Yllia? That broken  
 admin bothering you? Just goes to  
 show the wasted budget they put  
 into this game...

YLLIA  
 (worried)  
 He seemed to be glitched or bugged  
 or... *in pain*? It might have  
 something to do with the  
 corruption...

DAXXIS  
 (dismissive)  
 A broken game is a broken game.  
 Might as well just find out if  
 there's other bugs that can  
 actually be abused. I'll be OP in  
 no time!

YLLIA  
 (determined)  
 Whatever this corruption is... I'm  
 going to find out what it is!

DAXXIS  
 (contemplative)  
 Hmm... saving an admin does seem  
 like it'd be worth a hefty reward,  
 huh?

SCENE 2: AUTHORITY - SHOPKEEPERS, SHOPPING PLAYERS, VIN,  
 RAPTURE

**[Sounds of various weights of steps on cobblestone  
 throughout scene. Muffled negotiations of people chatting  
 with others are in the background.]**

Many players are trafficking the cobblestone streets here  
 where there are NPC Shopkeepers hawking their wares for the  
 event. The NPC's have small vendor enclosures that line the  
 sidewalks of the wide path, but the characters crowd around  
 these specific Shopkeepers.

SHOPKEEPER 1  
 (rehearsed, bold)  
 Welcome! You look like you could  
 use some new equipment!

SHOPKEEPER 2  
 (rehearsed, soft)  
 How about some consumables?

SHOPKEEPER 3  
(rehearsed, older and  
weathered)  
I've got all the accessories you'd  
need!

SHOPPING PLAYER 1  
(upset)  
Wait... what's up with this?! This  
equipment's stats suck, but it  
costs more Lon than most high end  
gear on the market!

SHOPPING PLAYER 2  
(reassuring)  
It's just equipment for those who  
just hit max level and need basic  
gear. They must be inflating gold  
drops in earlier zones or  
something...

SHOPPING PLAYER 3  
(curious)  
I'm not so sure... what's this trait  
on the armor? 'Authority'? It  
doesn't have a tooltip or  
anything...

SHOPPING PLAYER 4  
(trolling)  
Sounds just like EUVOS Soft to ask  
everyone to dump all the money  
they got, just to use the latest  
product.

SHOPPING PLAYER 5  
(stubborn)  
Not gonna replace *this* gear. Spent  
months farming this. Doesn't  
matter what the effect is. I'm  
sure what I'm wearing is still  
better in the end.

VIN  
(overwhelmed, sighing)  
We're going to need a lot of  
money...

RAPTURE  
(flat)  
Noted.

VIN  
(startled)  
Agh! Where'd you come from?

RAPTURE

(flat)

Where else would you expect me to be?

(scanning inventory)

Three... four... five pieces. Alright... here's your set.

VIN

(stunned)

Wait... where'd all this money come from?!

(accusing and mock  
disappointed)

You been talking to those Lon sellers?

RAPTURE

(amused)

You know that super-rare cosmetic dress we found last week?

(teasing)

The one you said you wanted to wear on cosplay Thursdays?

VIN

(whimpers, accusingly)

That one I said I'd pay you 200,000 Lon for?

RAPTURE

(amused)

Apparently... someone wanted it much more than you did.

VIN

(upset and shocked)

What?!

RAPTURE

(amused)

Twenty times as much as you did.

VIN

(stunned)

That would be...

(doing math)

Umm....

(shocked)

I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN THAT MUCH LON BEFORE! That must have taken months of farming!

RAPTURE

(slyly deflecting)  
 Yea, I'll never understand people  
 who devote that much time to games  
 like these. It's not like you can  
 just live in the game 24/7...

VIN

(lost in fantasy)  
 Yea... That would be awesome...  
 (semi-serious)  
 Next dress is mine though.

RAPTURE

(amused)  
 We'll see...

VIN

(annoyed)  
 Mmmm...

Scene 3: Greasing Palms - Yllia, Adventurer, Innkeeper,  
 Daxxis

YLLIA comes across a dispute between an angry ADVENTURER  
 and a troubled INNKEEPER outside of a modest standard-sized  
 inn with a blocked front door.

YLLIA

(interested)  
 What's all of the commotion?

ADVENTURER

(angered)  
 You've got to be kidding me!  
 (storms off)

INNKEEPER

(rehearsed, greeting  
 YLLIA)  
 Hello there, adventurer! I'm sorry  
 to say, but my Inn won't be ready  
 until after the event has passed.

YLLIA

(genuine concern,  
 talking to the NPC like  
 it was a person)  
 Does this have something to do  
 with the corruption?

INNKEEPER

(unsure)

Well, I don't know about that --

DAXXIS

(disappointed)

What he means to say is that after buying this expansion and getting all the way here... if we die in the event, we have to spawn in the capital and are forced to run back here on our own! Impossible!

YLLIA

(worried)

But is there anything we can do to help, sir? There seems to be something worrying you...

INNKEEPER

(unsure)

I don't know if I can say...

DAXXIS

(impatient)

You're wasting your time with this--

YLLIA

(determined, powerful,  
interrupting)

Dax. Let me handle this. *We* don't have much time, and *you* are wasting *mine*!

DAXXIS

(distracted)

Yll... I...

(regains composure  
somewhat, remorseful)

Right... I'll meet back up with Hype.

**[Daxxis solemnly walks back towards the center of town.]**

YLLIA

(takes a deep breath and  
regains composure with a  
kind smile)

I understand this event must be putting a lot of pressure on you.

INNKEEPER

(worried)

Yes, miss. I was told to move from the capital and set up an Inn here, but I can't make a living if I'm not allowed to do business until the Event is over. I need to send Lon back to my wife and kids or else they'll starve.

YLLIA

(genuine concern)

Let me see how I can help...

(thinking)

Hmm... what are you allowed to accept money for?

INNKEEPER

(curious)

I... don't understand.

YLLIA

(devious)

Have you ever... charged for information before?

INNKEEPER

(confused)

I used to ask for 20 Lon for directions to the Travel Master. Why?

YLLIA

(reminiscing)

Ahh, that brings me back. You were from the starting area... You probably don't remember me since there's millions of us out there...

INNKEEPER

(cheery)

Of course I remember you Yllia. You had a quite odd choice of attire... or rather... lack thereof back then.

(curious)

But what does that have to do with my old job?

YLLIA

(embarrassed)

Well first of all, here's 20 Lon for you to promise never to repeat that ever again. And here's 5100 Lon for your family.

INNKEEPER

(stunned)

But... I can't accept this much  
money...

YLLIA

(sighing)

Not all at once... I want you to  
tell me everything you know about  
that new admin... two-hundred  
fifty-five times... And make it  
quick. The event is about to  
start...