

Cyberscape Neo - Episode 3

by

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SCENE 1: INVASION - ANGELA, THOMAS, DANE

Three synthetic users are deep inside the expansion zone that the event takes place in - forming plans for the incursion of players to come.

ANGELA
(commanding)
Report.

THOMAS
(anxious)
The doors from Terra's Fall open shortly. Exodus content should be unlocked soon, and along with it -- hundreds of players barging through.

DANE
(panicked)
I just saw the system message... they're coming in less than 10 minutes!

THOMAS
(anxious)
We don't have much time, Angela! They'll be opening up the gates any minute now!

DANE
(panicked)
This... This is our end...! We're all going to die...! For real this time!

ANGELA
(composed, but stern)
And with a temperament like that, you have no chance of making it out of this alive.

THOMAS

(Taking a breath and
long exhale)

You're right... Dane, you're with
me. We need to get the others and
see what we can do to stall for
Sage.

ANGELA

(composed)

Thomas... can we actually trust this
person?

THOMAS

(defeated)

We have to...

(contemplating)

She may be one of the players, but
there's something about them I
can't place.

(determined)

Anyways, we can't turn down any
help offered, and she's the only
player to get in here before the
release... and doesn't want to
kill us.

(asking Angela,
resignedly)

Do you have any better options?

ANGELA

(resigned)

No...

(sighing and talking
more softly to Dane)

Watch his back, will you Dane? If
anything happens, use Mass Cloak
and run.

(sternly)

You got it?!

DANE

(trying to regain
composure after Angela's
tone changed)

Y-yes!

(MORE)

DANE (CONT'D)
(tries to sound more
courageous)
We won't go down without...
(dropping back into a
meek tone)
Running away first...

ANGELA
(sighs)
Good luck, you two...

SCENE 2: GREAT POWER COMES WITH GREAT CONSEQUENCES -
HYPERION, RAPTURE, DAXXIS, VIN, MERCHANT

HYPERION and the other players in the party are conversing in the center of Terra's Fall, awaiting the start of the event, inspecting the gear that came from the event vendors.

HYPERION
(curious and annoyed)
Rapture... what's up with this gear?

RAPTURE
(flatly)
It's tailored for the event
apparently. Can't tell you how,
but the trait has something to do
with the hunt and this so-called
Corruption.

HYPERION
(annoyed)
And we all have to wear it? With
this on, my stats will be lower
than when I was leveling...

RAPTURE

(flatly)

Then they must have tuned the difficulty for what's inside to be more accessible to players that just hit max level..

DAXXIS

(demeaning)

Just like EUVOS Soft to force balance down our throats and not let the people who worked hard for our gear be rewarded for it.

HYPERION

(smirking and reminiscing)

For once I agree with you, Dax... I have fond memories of crushing people in PVP last season.

[logging in SFX]

VIN

(excited)

Hey! Just got back from checking out the forums!

(curious)

Fortunately, the login server queue was short. They must have a separate server handling the load for this area because of the event.

(matter of factly)

Seems there's a lot of divisiveness online about that vendor gear... There are many guilds that have decided to forego wearing any of it, because they can't afford to outfit all of their members.

(sighing)

A few guilds eve broke up and formed smaller ones because of the cost, as well.

DAXXIS

(snarky)

Great... chaos. That's exactly what we need going into new content. Just hope one of these noobs doesn't ruin my shot at world firsts by lagging the entrance of the zone...

(3 second pause of awkward silence)

HYPERION

(focused and sudden)

I... smell a fight...

RAPTURE

(understanding)

Yea... I expect there will be many.

MERCHANT

(panicking)

Help! I'm under attack!

VIN

(dumbfounded at Hype's senses)

H-how?!

(suddenly stifling any retorts)

No...

(sighing)

I shouldn't even be surprised anymore...

(suddenly confused)

Actually. I *am* surprised. I don't see any enemies on the map...

RAPTURE

(quiet and calculating)

HP, SP, Level, Faction...

DAXXIS
 (confused)
 What are you on about, Rapture?

RAPTURE
 (focused)
 Hype, put on that last piece of gear! We need to move! That merchant was just forced into a duel with a player!

VIN
 (shocked)
 But... that's not possible! You can't attack NPC's!
 (checking for themselves)
 Wait... Trade, Recruit, Block? Is this the armor trait's doing? *Authority* or whatever?

DAXXIS
 (excited and bloodthirsty)
 This... is... awesome! Here I come, auction house!

VIN
 (appalled)
 No Dax! That's not who we are!
 (manipulating Daxxis)
 Plus... what would Yllia think if you *murdered* one of her *friends*?

DAXXIS
 (deflated)
 Fiiiiine...
 (miffed)
 I thought she'd be back by now... What's taking her so long? The event's about to start and we're supposed to stick around for her to find us in the crowd.

HYPERION

(impatient)

No time for that. Just sent out group invites. I'm gonna go teach that guy a lesson... Move to assist, but unless more gang up on me, don't get in my way.

RAPTURE

(tactical)

Affirmative. Vin, go engage with the other merchants so they can't get caught up in this. Dax, be ready to jump into the fray if things go awry.

VIN

(motivated)

You got it!

DAXXIS

(bothered)

Fine...

SCENE 3: STAMINA - THOMAS, EMMA, DANE

An exhausted THOMAS rushes out from the tall grass to meet with another Synthetic User he needs help from. She lays beside a clear lake and appears to not be amused, but not surprised to see him.

THOMAS

(panting three full
breaths before speaking)

There you are...

EMMA
(smug and seductive)
Still working on your stamina
skill, I see?
(soft chuckle)

THOMAS
(annoyed)
Cut the jokes, Emma. You know why
I'm here.

EMMA
(nonchalant)
Yes, yes. You wanted to know the
names of all the people leveling
combat skills amongst the
Synthetic Users... because you heard
from some
(vocalize the air
quotes)
Hacker that said the players are
going to come in and
(mockingly)
Kill us all.

THOMAS
(serious)
I wish you took this more
seriously... We don't know what's
going to happen!

EMMA
(snappy)
I know exactly what's going to
happen...
(wistful)
The players come in, see this
beautiful lake, and bask in the
sunlight beside me and the other
girls.

THOMAS

(snide)

Isn't basking in the sun too much
what got you here in the first
place?

EMMA

(annoyed and speaking in
a low voice from
remembering the past)

Unfortunately for me, no... I'd have
preferred nearly going out that
way.

THOMAS

(half-apologetically)

Look, I'm sorry, but you *know* just
how players are. If EUVOS does
have something underhanded planned
like the hacker said, we have to
do our best to protect ourselves
until we have more information.

EMMA

(considering, teasing)

I don't know... the last time a
player hung around me, he gave me
these cute earrings. It could pay
off having hundreds pour through
to lavish me with gifts.

THOMAS

(insistent)

Please Emma, we don't have much
time.

(sighs)

How 'bout this? If nothing
happens, I'll farm for that super
rare dress you always wanted...

EMMA

(smug)

Now we're talkin'...

(softer voice)

(MORE)

EMMA (CONT'D)

And... could I also have Dane
there get me something, too?

DANE

(blushing)

Uhh... yes... Of course!

THOMAS

(determined)

If that's settled... I'm sending
private messages to all the names
you give me. Can you round up all
the non-combatants and make sure
they're inside the village, deep
behind the tree-line?

EMMA

(disappointed)

Oh please... If *I* don't get to
relax, then nobody gets to,
darling.

(softer voice)

Dane, dear. Let's get to work.

DANE

(nervous)

Y-yes ma'am! I'll meet back up
with you behind the front lines,
Thomas.

THOMAS

(determined)

Be safe, Dane...

EMMA

(sly and seductive)

Oh, he'll be fine with me. I
promise.

SCENE 4: NAME-CALLING - YLLIA, INNKEEPER, THUG 1

YLLIA receives a set of the event armor through the game's mail system and continues to converse with the INNKEEPER. The chatter is cut short by an unexpected interruption.

YLLIA

(curious)

Mail from Rapture? Let's see... a full armor set? That's interesting... Must be for the upcoming event. Let's try it on and see what it looks like...

INNKEEPER

(cheery)

I would be lying if I said anything but lovely.

YLLIA

(blushing)

Th-thank you sir. I'd love to stay awhile longer, but I have to meet back up with my--

([Yllia deflects an arrow directed at the Innkeeper and the arrow impacts and rattles across the ground])

Hey! Have some respect!

(confusion and realization)

Wait... how did they attack inside of Terra's Fall outside of a duel?

(reading off options while looking back at the Innkeeper)

Trade, Recruit, Block, Duel?! That can't be possible with an NPC...

INNKEEPER

(concerned, but building up confidence, risking his life by stepping in front of Yllia to protect her)

I am no warrior, Yllia, but it would not do to have a lady such as yourself risk her life in my stead... especially when I owe you so much...

YLLIA

(courageous, standing at the ready)

As a warrior myself, it is my duty to protect our people... If your only hesitation is that of a debt to be paid, then offer me a quest to ensure your safety until you are able to open your Inn to the public. Any reward will do.

INNKEEPER

(in awe)

You are a blessing upon this world, Yllia... To you I leave my protection...

ROLAND

(half-artificial and [corrupted in post])

Quest Gained: A Blessing Upon This World.

YLLIA

(emotionally caught off guard)

That voice...?! It couldn't be...!
(navigating to the quest log, hurriedly)

Menu. Quest Log. Huh?! But I thought my quest log was full?
(speaks to herself in a low voice, getting somewhat distracted)

I filled my log so I couldn't accept any more quests while doing the event and get distracted... and have Hype yell at me... *again*.

(sighs and speaks to her guilty conscience)

I was *going* to delete one to make room, but it seems I can't even do *that* anymore...

(confused, looking at the quest log)

And how did *that* even happen?! I went over the quest limit?!

Two-hundred fifty-six out of... zero?!

THUG 1

(interrupting, punkish and trolly)

Well, would you look at that? An RP'er.

(rudely mimics throwing up)

Bluuuh! Gross. Probably just a fable-swine trying to look cute by making the only friends they can...

YLLIA

(getting pissed)

Nnnnnnnngggggggggg...

THUG 1

(trolly)

What's that? Does the lore-gorger have something to say?

YLLIA

(cold and angry)

Two words: VALKYRIE STORM!

THUG 1

(give your best Wilhelm scream as appropriate to the thug's voice.)

(MORE)

THUG 1 (CONT'D)
 Hold for at least 3
 seconds because of air
 time)

SCENE 5: A SHOW OF FORCE - HYPERION, THUG 2, MERCHANT,
 RAPTURE, VIN, DAXXIS

HYPERION shows her might by leaping to the defense of the
 MERCHANT who was attacked in the town center. Her allies
 stand by to assist.

HYPERION
 (after Thug 2 dodges her
 first swing, burying her
 massive sword into the
 street. A switch is
 flipped in her voice.
 The thrill of PVP sets
 in, deepening her voice
 and making it seem
 somewhat bloodthirsty)
 I'm glad you dodged... I'd have been
 disappointed if it was over
 already.

THUG 2
 (demoralized, stopping
 and looking around him
 in a panic)
 I was just trying to have some
 fun...

HYPERION
 (grinning and back to
 normal voice)
 So was I...
 (heaves sword with ease
 out of the street)
 Illuminate!

THUG 2
 (stunned for a short
 moment, then laughing)
 HAHAHAAAA.
 (MORE)

THUG 2 (CONT'D)

I thought you were being serious for a moment! I got worried, but then you cast a first-tier spell and...

(losing it)

Make your sword glow! That's the best!

HYPERION

(laughing in kind)

Haaaaaaahahaha. Yea! That always gets me! They look at the sword, like

(as if mocking someone
mocking her)

'Woooo, it must be enchanted to +10. I'm so scared...' And then... **AND THEN I SMASH THEIR FACE IN!**

THUG 2

(continues laughing,
then has the moment of realization)

Yea! Haha--- wait, wha--
(slammed and pinned
against a building by
Hyperion's fist to his
face, groaning)

Uuuuhhhhhh...

HYPERION

(commanding)

You there. Merchant. Come here!

MERCHANT

(rushing up, flustered)

Y-yes?

HYPERION

(commanding)

My friend here is going to trade back all of his armor, aren't they?

THUG 2
 (with a fist crushing
 his mouth)
 B-but tuh ebenth?! (But the
 event?!)

HYPERION
 (halfway back into
 bloodthirsty tone)
 Or would you rather I wait until
 you step into the new zone and
 send you all the way back to the
 capital myself..

THUG 2
 (still crushed, but
 panicked)
 Nuh! (No!) Herr! (Here!)
 (the man is stripped
 naked by making sales,
 then is let go,
 breathing heavily and
 resetting his jaw [**SFX**
of equipment being
vendored])
 You're crazy! I'm outta here!

RAPTURE
 (flat)
 Vin, Dax... we secure?

VIN
 (cheery)
 Nooo problems here! I kept trade
 windows up with every merchant at
 the same time so they'd be too
 occupied to respond to any
 requests.

DAXXIS
 (disappointed,
 complaining)
 Crowd control complete..

RAPTURE
(curious)
What crowd control can you even do
with an axe?

DAXXIS
(annoyed)
The kind where you dissuade
members of the crowd from using
their new powers to inspect the
female NPC's.

RAPTURE
(sighing)
Right... Anyways, where's Yllia? The
new zone opens in 2 minutes. She
was supposed to --

YLLIA
(same recording, but
made to sound distant)
VALKYRIE STORM!

THUG 1
(same wilhelm scream
recording, but made to
sound distant)

RAPTURE
(matter of factly)
There she is...