

DYSTOPIA

EPISODE I

Written by

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EST. NU JERU CITY SKYLINE - NIGHT

Dense sky traffic nearly obscures a bright and full Mediterranean desert moonrise. Massive pourstone buildings light up the futuristic foursquare cubed World Capital. A brand new Mercator Skydrive LS rockets through downtown CityCenter. It's sleek and fast golden hull reflecting broadcast images from the jumbotron screen of the Gannett Infocom corporate building.

EST. SKYWAY ACADEMY LIMITED - NIGHT

The Mercator speeds toward a spider-like monolithic liberal arts corporate campus that dominates smaller city blocks around it. Visible for miles, the prestigious liberal arts campus is the artistic center of the world. Serving over a half million students on campus and several million through its virtual campus portal, the school is often jokingly referred to as the mother ship by students and faculty alike.

EXT. SCUOLA HOLO CLASSROOM - LATER

The Mercator is parked outside of a Romanesque temple. GUARDIAN SOJOURNER TRUTH, a professor of religion and music, enters the courtyard of his outdoor holographic classroom located underneath the belly of the Academy.

He releases dozens of silver global security service robotic probes (the eyes and ears of the Republic) from his palm into the night air of Nu Jeru City to gather intelligence from the local population. Unknown to him, one of the tiny mustard seed-sized Seekers is of a golden color.

EST. DYSTOPIA NIGHTCLUB CORPORATION - DAY

A massive nightclub on a busy CityCenter intersection. Surface traffic and pedestrians flow past its towering portico, where ILIUM RHYTON, a stylish young Nu Jeru University coed leans against one of the pillars speaking through telephonic implants in her right thumb and pinky.

The golden-hued Seeker probe, with several extended sensors, hovers outside of the Dystopia. It buzzes unnoticed around the girl's face recording her illegal transmissions to a known separatist leader.

ILIUM RHYTON

Okay. I miss and love you too  
Father. Stay safe. Bye now. I have  
to go. I'm late for class.

The Seeker extends a transponder dish to alert the authorities before entering the Dystopia nightclub where it attaches itself to a door frame, powers down and waits.

INT. DYSTOPIA DNA DATA VAULT - LATER

A U-shaped glass and plasteel data vault with a heavy saucer-shaped security door that is swung open. Data maintenance technicians dressed in space-suit like clean room attire are inspecting the data towers. One DATA TECH stands at a keypad.

DATA TECH  
(into comlink)  
We're just about through here, sir.

CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER (O.S.)  
(over comlink)  
Roger. Copy that.

Deep underneath the nightclub, the Seeker probe taps into the security network data vault and uncovers sensitive information of a plot to overthrow the One World Republic.

INT. DYSTOPIA SECURITY COMMAND CENTER - LATER

The CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER supervises his SECURITY OPERATORS from the "boss booth" of the Dystopia Security Command Center.

SECURITY OPERATOR #1  
That's strange. There it is again.  
Are you picking this up?

SECURITY OPERATOR #2  
Negative. My readings are normal.

CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER  
What's going on?

SECURITY OPERATOR #1  
Not sure sir. It feels like a slight drain on the system. Possibly a random pulse event just below the sensor threshold.

CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER  
Can you confirm?

SECURITY OPERATOR #2  
Negative cannot confirm. I'm  
showing steady activity. No sign of  
a pre-failure indication either  
sir.

SECURITY OPERATOR #1  
There it is again. What do you  
think is causing it?

CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER  
Initiate a data stream pattern  
recognition buffer. See if we can't  
flush whatever it is into the open.

SECURITY OPERATOR #2  
DSPRB plugs instantiated sir. I'm  
beginning a scan of the system now  
for threats.

An alarm sounds and red light fills the command center.

SECURITY OPERATOR #1  
Whoa! It's slamming us sir.  
Readings are off the charts.

SECURITY OPERATOR #2  
Genotype detection confirms a  
stealth attack. It's an unknown  
family. Spy ware category.  
Quantity: one. The threat analysis  
index is at max level sir.

CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER  
Not a problem. Time to bug hunt  
boys. Whack pack and stack.

SECURITY OPERATOR #2  
I'm instantiating the destruction  
sequence.

CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER  
Status report?

SECURITY OPERATOR #1  
All security levels have been  
breached sir.

CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER  
Enter full lock down mode. Nothing  
gets in or out of here. Quarantine  
whatever it is and destroy it now.

INT. DYSTOPIA DNA DATA VAULT - MOMENTS LATER

Alarms and red flashing warning lights fill the data vault room. Technicians scramble as the heavy saucer shaped plasteel entry door begins to swing downward.

INT. DYSTOPIA SECURITY COMMAND CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

A security operator straightens up at his console at the chief security officer's approach.

SECURITY OPERATOR #1

We have destruction sequence failure sir.

SECURITY OPERATOR #2

Re-instantiating destruction plugs. It's fighting back but with all the bug juice I've already thrown at it we should be causing some damage. Probably a Seeker class probe sir judging by its resistance.

SECURITY OPERATOR #1

Isolation readings show the Seeker is leaching off of the mainframe data core, sir.

INT. DYSTOPIA DNA DATA VAULT - MOMENTS LATER

The data technicians make a run for the closing entry way.

DATA TECH

(into comlink)

Everybody out now. Scramble, on the double. Move it. Move it!

The heavy vault door slams shut. Two giant rocker arms swing into place at the bottom of each side of the vault securing the entry door in place. The few men that make it out in time watch silently as their comrades pound and press their bodies up against the transparent sides of the vault as it fills with deadly coolant gases.

The golden Seeker probe is attached to the back of one of the clean suit helmets of an escaped technician.

INT. DYSTOPIA SECURITY COMMAND CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

The alarm stops and lights return to normal.

SECURITY OPERATOR #2

Not good. I just lost all contact with the Seeker. I'm showing steady activity again. As if nothing had happened sir.

CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER

It's hibernating. I got a real problem here.

SECURITY OPERATOR #1

How's that sir?

The chief security officer looks up grimly from the console screens.

CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER

Now I'm forced to have to inform the "front office".

INT. AUDIENCE CHAMBER HALL - LATER

A brutal room with weaponry throughout and assassination precautions installed. A beautiful dark assassin, LAYLA SHANGRI and her now willing prisoner and former Guardianship leader, Rijn Falcon stand behind the low mercy railing that separates them from the four female KARRABIN GUARDIAN SPIRITS hovering above the floor of a raised dais protruding from the far wall. The Karrabin are chanting in whispered voices that reverberate in dark and unsettling musical echoes around the chamber as Layla joins them in their prayer-like incantation.

The haunting canticle ends abruptly as the chief security officer for the Dystopia enters the hall from the opposite end. He is afraid and makes his way silently past Shangri and Falcon to kneel before the steps of the dais.

The evil LORD ALCAZAR appears seated behind a rotating protective wall upon the movable dais. A fifth Karrabin hovers behind his throne and in front of a large round holo flag that descends from above.

Lord Alcazar holds out a slowly spinning earth enclawed scepter signaling the chief security officer to stand.

LORD ALCAZAR

What will you, officer? And what is thy request?

CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER  
 If I have found favor in your sight  
 and if it please my lord let my  
 life be given me at my petition for  
 the Seeker probe of the  
 Guardianship has so far eluded  
 capture and destruction.

Rijn Falcon looks on with interest at the Seeker's mention.

LORD ALCAZAR  
 I commanded you to root out and  
 destroy the Seeker and how then do  
 you still retain your integrity?

CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER  
 My men are sweep searching every  
 inch of the Dystopia and will  
 destroy the Seeker as you command  
 when we find it my lord.

LORD ALCAZAR  
 (questioning Falcon)  
 What shall we do unto the officer  
 according to law because he has not  
 performed our commandment?

RIJN FALCON  
 If it please my lord let there go a  
 new commandment from him and let it  
 be recorded among the laws that it  
 may not be altered that this  
 officer come no more before my lord  
 and let my lord give his office to  
 another who is better than him.

LORD ALCAZAR  
 This saying pleases me.

CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER  
 I will do as you wish I just need a  
 little more time my lord. My men  
 just need more time to search.

LORD ALCAZAR  
 (slicing two fingers  
 through the air)  
 I have heard enough. Consider  
 yourself hereby cut off from your  
 duties.

The dark assassin Layla Shangri's Shadow Dancer Dragon tattoo  
 appears as she garottes the chief security officer by slicing  
 his throat from behind at Lord Alcazar's direction.

LAYLA SHANGRI

What is your will my lord and  
master?

LORD ALCAZAR

It is foreseeable that a Shadow  
Dancer will be sent to recover the  
Guardianship's probe in due course.  
I am therefore sending the two of  
you in advance. Wait for her to  
arrive and when she does bring her  
and the Seeker to me.

EXT. SCUOLA HOLO CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Candles adorn the steps of a holographic Romanesque temple  
located underneath the spider-like structure of the Skyway  
Academy Ltd. Guardian Sojourner Truth and his wife SHADOW  
DANCER MAIMOS TRUTH, two members of the republic's internal  
global security service, walk between the pillars of the  
temple.

MAIMOS TRUTH

Are you sure the source of the  
separatist spy transmissions has  
been traced to a nightclub here in  
Nu Jeru?

SOJOURNER TRUTH

The Seeker probe's last  
transmission log placed it inside  
the Dystopia when we lost contact.

MAIMOS TRUTH

Could a music club have the  
capability to detect a Seeker?

SOJOURNER TRUTH

I find that possibility as  
troubling as you do, dear. It's  
long been suspected that the  
Nebuchad separatists are well  
funded and well connected.

MAIMOS TRUTH

You are worried. I know that look  
too well.

SOJOURNER TRUTH

It was only a matter of time before  
they attempted to regain a foothold  
here at the capitol.

(MORE)

SOJOURNER TRUTH (CONT'D)

This could be another embarrassment  
to the Republic.

MAIMOS TRUTH

You mean for the Guardianship?

SOJOURNER TRUTH

I am dispatching you to recover the  
probe. We have to assume the Seeker  
has been detected and has entered  
hibernation mode. Of course if that  
is true --

MAIMOS TRUTH

-- Then they know I am coming to  
retrieve it.

SOJOURNER TRUTH

I don't like this at all.

MAIMOS TRUTH

Not to worry, my love. I shall not  
be an embarrassment to the  
Guardianship or to you. I can  
certainly retrieve a missing probe  
without causing a controversy.

SOJOURNER TRUTH

That is not what I said.

MAIMOS TRUTH

It is what you meant.

SOJOURNER TRUTH

Promise me that you will be safe?  
You have to go by the book on this  
one.

MAIMOS TRUTH

I will see you soon, my love. Back  
in time to celebrate your  
appointment to the head of the  
musicology department.

As the couple embrace, her Shadow Dancer jewelry tattoo  
appears beneath her skin.

INT. DYSTOPIA SECURITY COMMAND CENTER - LATER

Shadow Dancer Mimos Truth is captured inside the Dystopia  
nightclub by the dark assassin Layla Shangri and is brought  
before Rijn Falcon, the new Dystopia chief security officer.

LAYLA SHANGRI

Here is the Shadow Dancer sent to recover her guardian's probe. I apprehended her in the security sector. She was alone. Only these items were found on her person.

Layla Shangri holds up a V4SD laser-sighted blaster gun and a leg tie with a knife.

RIJN FALCON

Good work. Stay close while I interrogate her. She is still too dangerous even now to let our guard down.

LAYLA SHANGRI

As you wish.

RIJN FALCON

Looking for something now were you?

MAIMOS TRUTH

Guardian Falcon, what an unpleasant surprise you are. That explains how the Seeker was intercepted. What is the father of global security doing working for a nightclub? Going through a rough patch?

RIJN FALCON

You are still as charming as I remember, Maimos.

MAIMOS TRUTH

So tell me how does one go from being the defender of the Republic to becoming a Nebuchad separatist?

RIJN FALCON

So that is what the Guardianship thinks this is about, the separatist uprising? I see the level of good intel has declined drastically since my departure.

MAIMOS TRUTH

A number of illegal separatist transmissions have been intercepted originating from the Dystopia.

RIJN FALCON

This is a very popular club my dear.

(MORE)

RIJN FALCON (CONT'D)

One that attracts all manner of societies discontents. Any one of our patrons could have made those transmissions while standing in line to see a show.

MAIMOS TRUTH

If as you say the transmissions originated from outside your jurisdiction you would have reported the incidents to the authorities to avoid losing your corporate status. You are too smart for that. Something else must be going on.

RIJN FALCON

(sarcastic)

So tell me exactly what is going on, Shadow Dancer?

MAIMOS TRUTH

From your reaction there is no direct separatist connection here. Something else is keeping you from alerting the authorities. What if a Seeker has uncovered something so damaging that it is worth the risk of capturing a Shadow Dancer?

Falcon holds out an ominous mechanical interrogation serpent.

RIJN FALCON

Your psionic abilities are impressive. That is why you are going to help us locate the Seeker. Or do you require a more primitive yet persuasive method to see things differently?

MAIMOS TRUTH

I will help you over my dead body!

RIJN FALCON

I was rather counting on that.

INT. AUDIENCE CHAMBER HALL - LATER

Shadow Dancer Maimos Truth is brought in chains before Lord Alcazar by the dark assassin Layla Shangri.

MAIMOS TRUTH

What is this place?