

Once More, the Synthesis Project

October 2, 2021

Interior, Civil Protection Institute, broadcast room.

EMMA: "What happened!? Wasn't the Attractor destroyed?"

LUCCA, with dread: "There must... There must be another Attractor somewhere in this city."

EMMA, horrified: "What? What!? What are we gonna do?"

COMPUTER A: "Find the Attractor, and destroy them."

EMMA: "There is no tiime! We're done for!"

Lucca furrows brows intensely while looking down. He is tremendously disturbed.

EMMA, looking at a Director with disdain: "Oh, you! Of course you had other Attractors around."

DIRECTOR ROBERT: "There was only one other Attractor. But don't worry about finding her. We don't even know where she is. The grand Synthesis will go through."

EMMA: "Ugh! You play with humanity like a toy!"

DIRECTOR ROBERT: "Contrary. While the rest of you play around

in the present, we are the guardians of the future itself. Without us, humanity will only stumble into darkness, again and again..."

EMMA: "Have some patience for humanity to learn and grow!"

Lucca immediately runs outside to an unknown destination. He pushes past a celebrating crowd.

EMMA: "Luc!"

Nerezza is standing in a grass field. Lucca arrives.

NEREZZA: "Hello, agent."

LUCCA, catching a breath: "Mum."

NEREZZA: "Thank you for coming here. I was hoping you find me."

LUCCA: "Our 'rendezvous point'. Space coordinates: at the centre of the City Loop. Time coordinate: now."

NEREZZA, with nostalgia: "Dead centre inside the City Loop... Luc, we're now at where it all began."

NEREZZA: "I saw your revolution. I'm really proud of you. But your struggles are only the backdrop to this one single Project that must be completed."

LUCCA: "Mum, you abandoned your body all those years ago, to become the Great Attractor. You've worked for the Institute this whole time!"

NEREZZA: "And so have you."

LUCCA: "But you're going to turn against them right? That's the reason we're meeting here. You will help prevent the Synthesis."

NEREZZA only smiles.

NEREZZA: "What makes you say that? If I wanted to prevent the Synthesis, I would have shot myself with a magnetic beam pistol right at the beginning. The truth is, I volunteered for this position. To be the Great Attractor. I made a commitment to the Institute. The world must end this once."

LUCCA: "W..."

NEREZZA: "So what did you think you were gonna do? Kill me, and abandon me again, l i k e y o u d i d l a s t t i m e ?"

Lucca collapses on the ground. Nerezza laughs hysterically.

Interior, Institute.

DIRECTOR ROBERT, tearing up: "The Synthesis Project will finally be complete. I only saw this day in dreams. First Director too, he will be without burden."

EMMA: "Shut up! Luc is going to find the Attractor and destroy it. Your project will fail."

DIRECTOR ROBERT: "Whatever you say, miss."

EMMA: "Let me ask you one more thing."

DIRECTOR ROBERT: "Go ahead."

EMMA: "What did you do with my past? I clearly remember a different life, married and in work. Do you do this to many people? And

why?"

DIRECTOR ROBERT: "It is simply this - a delusion. A sign of insanity. And we've got notes on this - it's not uncommon among patients of the Plague. Delusions and false realities. Memories from an imaginary life. You are mentally insane. We don't care enough about individual actors enough to control you to that extent, we have no interest in your personal life."

Emma cries as she hears this. She is in anguish. A fellow computer reaches over to comfort her.

Exterior, grass field at centre of City Loop.

NEREZZA: "Really, thank you for coming here. I didn't need you to come, because soon we will all unite in a dream. But I wanted to formally see you one more time before the Synthesis. Think of it like a punishment, disgraceful son."

Lucca curls up. Nerezza walks over and takes the magnetic beam pistol out of his pocket. Lucca doesn't resist.

NEREZZA, grinning: "I win."

Lucca is still curled up.

NEREZZA, arms raised: "Directors, as promised, I've committed to and will complete your Synthesis. In exchange, you will not create another Attractor, and I get to choose the location. Right

here at my rendezvous point with Lucca, coinciding with what may
be the eternal centre of humankind!"