

MYTHIC QUEST

Episode E105.5

"Flora"

Written by

Elizabeth Kelmenson

Full Spec Script

12/9/23

INT. MQ STUDIOS - HALLWAY - DAY

DAVID struts down the hallway into work with a bit more pep in his step than usual.

INT. MQ STUDIOS - BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

David enters the bullpen. Everyone is busy working at their desks. There's not much conversation going on today. Everyone's exhausted.

DAVID

Hey, everyone, can I have your attention for a minute?

The staff members begrudgingly halt what they are doing and look up. All eyes are on him.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I wanted to take a moment to congratulate you all on the amazing work you've done to launch our latest expansion - Dragonfire Conquest. Big thank you to everyone for working late last night in our final push before the release. I personally think it might be our best addition to the game yet. Give yourselves a round of applause. You deserve it.

There is an awkward beat as David is the only one clapping. After a moment, he continues.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I get it, everyone's tired. I hear you. Personally, I think you all deserve the day off.

The workers perk up. With no hesitation, they start packing up their belongings and preparing to head home.

DAVID (CONT'D)

-But I can't do that. So we're gonna have to work really hard to power through and stay focused today.

They stop in their tracks, accompanied by a chorus of groans and grumbles. Inexplicably, one employee was already packed up and halfway out the door. He slowly retreats and takes off his coat and hat.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You know, I've been reading this book about business management, and it says that one of the keys to success is to celebrate your achievements and remember your purpose. Why do we do all this? Day to day, you may just be fixing bugs and going to meetings. But you are all building something incredible here - a game that brings joy to millions of people.

A quick beat.

DAVID (CONT'D)

So, as a little treat, let's start off the day with a peek at how much fun our customers are having playing Dragonfire Conquest.

David clicks a button on his pointer device. A popular stream is cast up on the big screen for the office to watch.

STREAMER #1

Hey, guys, welcome back to my channel. As you all know, I've been looking forward to playing Dragonfire Conquest since the day it was announced. I love MQ. I love dragons. It's a match made in heaven. And after playing it all night, I have to say...

The streamer pauses for dramatic effect. David looks very confident, maybe even a bit smug.

STREAMER #1 (CONT'D)

Mythic Quest: Dragonfire Conquest is the worst thing to ever happen to gaming. And I'm not talking about the Dragon. The Dragon is fine. The Dragon is cool. No, I'm talking about this abomination of a character that they call "Fiora". Fiora is supposed to be our guide and companion for the first quest. But she's not a guide. She's not a companion. She's a nightmare. Just look at her. She's a straight up brute, built like an ox.

(MORE)

STREAMER #1 (CONT'D)

She looks like she belongs in a bodybuilding competition, not in a fantasy game. I don't know what MQ was thinking.

David laughs nervously, the smug look wiped from his face. He fumbles with the pointer device trying to switch to a different streamer.

DAVID

Wow...wow. Well, that guy clearly has some deep seated rage. I feel bad for him, actually. I really hope he works that out in therapy.

The screen switches to STREAMER #2, who is speaking passionately to his viewers.

STREAMER #2

We can't let MQ get away with this. This Fiora character's muscles are literally assaulting my eyeballs. I'm gonna have to sue them to cover my medical bills. Maybe we can make it a class action? Let me know in the chat if you wanna hop on that.

David's optimism has turned to full blown panic as he switches to STREAMER #3. The game is paused on a cutscene where the player is in a conversation with Fiora. Streamer #3 is covering his eyes and looking away from the screen like he is in pain.

STREAMER #3

(distraught, in tears)

Chat, I can't do this. I'm not strong enough.

Streamer #3 takes a deep breath and opens his eyes to look back at the screen. He unpauses the game and the cutscene continues. The in-game camera angle switches to focus in on Fiora.

STREAMER #3 (CONT'D)

Oh my god, is that a vein on her bicep.

Streamer #3 grabs a bucket from below the desk and immediately pukes.

Before David can turn off the stream, he is interrupted by an incoming call from SUE. He picks up and we can immediately hear Sue's hysteria. In the background, the stream continues playing with Streamer #3 retching violently.

David holds the phone away from his ear and closes his eyes. We can only assume Sue is telling him about the thousands of customer complaints coming in by the second.

David only listens for a few seconds before he's heard enough. He hangs up the phone.

They have absolutely bombed.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES: MYTHIC QUEST

INT. MQ STUDIOS - BRAD'S OFFICE - DAY

BRAD sits at his desk, peacefully browsing on his computer in silence. David bursts through the door, accidentally knocking over a large stack of binders and files in his frenzy.

DAVID

Brad! Thank God you're here!

Brad looks up with a glare. David pauses momentarily to glance at the pile of papers he has toppled over, then shrugs it off. Brad turns back to his computer.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Everything is falling apart today.
My cortisol levels are going
through the roof and we all know
what that means - now my body's
going to store more weight around
my midsection. I don't even know if
I'm cut out for this. Me? An
executive producer? What was I
thinking. Mom was right. I
should've just gone into
accounting. I wonder if it's too
late to go back to school for that.
Do you think I could get in?

Brad cuts him off, seemingly uninterested in hearing about David's feelings. He doesn't even look up from his computer screen.

BRAD

And how does this concern me?

David quickly remembers why he came in here in the first place.

DAVID

Ah, yes! Well, to make matters worse, we went over budget on Dragonfire Conquest. So you're going to have to find some more funding.

BRAD

(sarcastically)

Your wish is my command.

Brad's sarcasm goes over David's head. He puts his hand on Brad's shoulder and looks like he might tear up.

DAVID

I knew I could count on you.

David turns and awkwardly steps over the pile of papers he spilled on his way out.

INT. MQ STUDIOS - CW'S OFFICE - DAY

DANA puts the last finishing touches on her streaming setup - adjusting the camera and ring light. She is full of energy and excitement.

She presses the button to go live and begins talking to the camera.

DANA

Hi everyone! My name is Dana, welcome to my very first stream! Today, I'm going to be playing my favorite game: Mythic Quest. But I'm gonna spice it up a little for y'all. For this stream, I'm going to be making friends with random players. Let's get started!

INT. MQ STUDIOS - BREAK ROOM - DAY

Brad walks into the break room and sees BRENDA sitting at a small table, crying and eating a box of Girl Scout cookies. Brenda looks up at Brad.

BRENDA

This is embarrassing. Caught crying in the break room. Sorry, today has been the worst...

Brad approaches and pulls out a chair at the table.

BRAD
(nonchalantly)
That's too bad. Do you mind if
I...?

Brad extends his hand as if to comfort her, but instead reaches for the box of cookies. He takes closer look at the About Us section on the back of the box. The heading reads "Girl Scouts in STEM Initiative".

INT. MQ STUDIOS - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

David paces back and forth at the head of conference table. POPPY and IAN are seated and focused on him.

POPPY
So you're telling me, our entire expansion is a flop because one NPC has a toned physique?

DAVID
Well they're describing her as more of a she-Hulk.

POPPY
Well I for one think that this is outrageous.

IAN
Oh, absolutely. Despicable.

DAVID
Glad we're all on the same page.

POPPY
So, we all agree that this can't be tolerated.

IAN
Definitely. This Fiora character has insulted our loyal fans.

POPPY
Wait what?

IAN
But it should be an easy fix, right? We remove this beast of a woman and bring in a little eye candy for the boys.

David perks up and starts whooping.

DAVID

Oh yeah! Bring in the eye candy!

POPPY

No, no, no! This is all wrong. We can't just appease these people. What they're asking for is ridiculous. Not every female character has to look like an Instagram model. Women don't exist to be ogled.

IAN

Woah, woah, woah. Don't take it so personally, Pop. We're just trying to look at this objectively.

Poppy turns to David.

POPPY

David. Don't you think that we have an obligation to stand up to sexism?

DAVID

That sounds reasonable to me.

IAN

Look, no one is a greater champion of women's rights than me.

Poppy rolls her eyes.

IAN (CONT'D)

But this is a video game studio. We make Mythic Quest for the players, and if they don't like it, we're not doing our job. And sure, maybe they're sexist pigs, but they're our sexist pigs.

DAVID

Also very true.

Poppy throws her hands up in frustration.

POPPY

I don't even see what's wrong with her! She looks perfectly normal to me. I based her character model off Brenda from Marketing.

Ian and David exchange a knowing look.

IAN

Come on, Pop. This level of musculature could never be achieved naturally by a woman.

Ian pulls up his sleeve and pops out a bicep.

IAN (CONT'D)

See this? It took years for me to achieve the ideal male physique. Hours in the gym chiseling away like Michelangelo sculpting the statue of David.

DAVID

Come to think of it, Fiora does make me feel a bit emasculated.

IAN

Exactly! And who's looking out for guys like David? Pathetic, scrawny, meek little men. They certainly can't protect themselves.

David nods in agreement.

POPPY

Or. Hear me out. Instead of catering to the fragile male ego, we stand up to it. We have a chance here to inspire young women to be whoever they want to be. Show all kinds of body types on screen, not just those that are conventionally attractive.

DAVID

You know that's true, Poppy. If one little buff girl sees Fiora and feels comfortable in her own skin, I think we've done our job.

IAN

How many little buff girls are playing our game to begin with? 80% of our players are young males. So I guess you're okay with losing out on their money then, David?

DAVID

Oh I don't know about that.

POPPY

Well, you're going to have to choose, David. What's it going to be?

Poppy and Ian turn to David, putting him in the hot seat. Feeling the pressure, he breaks into a sweat, and nervously dabs at his forehead with his sleeve.

DAVID

Um, well, uh, there are many factors to consider and um, you've both made, well, some very valid points, and yeah, you know, you're both great people, great friends...of mine, of me, and I'd love to continue that, uh, friendship, if at all possible, and I think, for sure, that is the strength of this, uh, company. Our friendship.

Poppy and Ian look at each other, absolutely dumbfounded.

POPPY

What are you talking about?

IAN

Are we friends? I've always thought of you as more of a subordinate.

Ian turns to Poppy.

IAN (CONT'D)

Do you think of him as a friend?

POPPY

Not really, no. He's not really friendship material, is he?

Ian shakes his head. David looks offended.

POPPY (CONT'D)

-But you make a great coworker. Very professional...pal!

Ian abruptly interjects, pounding his fists on the table to steer the conversation back on track.

IAN

We need a decision, David!

David nervously looks back and forth between Poppy and Ian.

DAVID

Right, decision! Yes... well you know what they say, sometimes the best manager is one who does not manage at all. So I'm going to stay out of this one, and wait to see what you two come up with.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - DAY

Brad sits across the table from a Girl Scouts representative.

BRAD

Thanks for taking the time to meet with me. I can see a great partnership in our future.

GIRL SCOUTS REP

I think you might have the wrong idea. Our initiative is focused on encouraging young girls to pursue careers in STEM.

BRAD

And Mythic Quest is perfect for that! Our Lead Engineer is actually a woman.

GIRL SCOUTS REP

Oh that's great. Do you have a lot of female engineers working there?

BRAD

Tons of them. There's Poppy, Michelle...just to name a couple.

The Girl Scouts representative looks interested.

BRAD (CONT'D)

What do you think about co-branding with us? I put together a little concept for a Mythic Quest cookie.

Brad slides over a binder containing his mock-up. The Girl Scouts representative looks it over for a minute.

GIRL SCOUTS REP

Interesting. I can talk it over with the rest of my team.

INT. SOUND STAGE - DAY

A rather bodacious model (blonde, bombshell) stands in the middle of the soundstage. She is wearing a mo-cap suit that highlights her curvy figure.

INT. SOUND STAGE - CONTROL ROOM - INTERCUT

Ian gestures to a voluptuous character model render on screen. A handful of male programmers, as well as his assistant JO, stand around him watching intently.

Ian speaks over the intercom to the model.

IAN

Can you turn around and give us a little twerk?

He zooms into the render of her butt jiggling on screen.

IAN (CONT'D)

This is what it's all about. This is the kind of content that grabs the player's attention.

PROGRAMMER

(nodding in agreement)

I'm certainly feeling galvanized.

But that's not all. Ian has the perfect weapon for his new character. He sends Jo into the sound stage to bring the model a prop broom.

IAN

Now you're going to sweep the floor...and then just bash the dummy.

She does.

IAN (CONT'D)

Sweep...

IAN (CONT'D)

Now, bash!

IAN (CONT'D)

It's close but not quite what I'm looking for. Can you do it again but make it sexy?

INT. SOUND STAGE - INTERCUT

The model does the attack motion again, with a sultry sway in her hips. After hitting the enemy, she acts ditsy and innocent, saying "Oops!"

IAN

Perfect!

INT. MQ STUDIOS - CW'S OFFICE - LATER

Dana begins venturing out into the Mythic Quest universe and encounters a couple random players. She greets them excitedly.

DANA

Do you guys wanna join up for a quest?

RANDOM PLAYER #1

(male voice)

I've got a quest for you. How about you get back in the kitchen and make me a sandwich.

Random Player #1 and his friend erupt into loud, obnoxious laughter. They clearly think they're hilarious.

Dana is thrown off her rhythm. She feels embarrassed that her viewers just saw that, but she tries to remain upbeat and play it cool. She mutes them and walks away.

DANA

Okayyyyy. We're just going to move past that and find someone new to play with.

The next player she runs into sounds a bit more friendly.

RANDOM PLAYER #2

Hey, what's up bro?

DANA

Hey!

There is a pause as the player realizes she is a woman. The camera zooms in for a dramatic close-up on the player's in-game character's face. The expression is blank and vaguely threatening.

RANDOM PLAYER #2

Shut up, fat cow.

DANA
(taken aback)
What?! You can't even see me. How
do you know I'm fat?

RANDOM PLAYER #2
Oh, so you are fat. I knew it.

DANA
(defensively)
No, I'm not fat! I'm a perfectly
normal weight.

RANDOM PLAYER #2
No you're not. I can hear it in
your voice.

Dana, now feeling self-conscious about her voice, briefly
attempts to make it sound higher and more feminine as she
responds.

DANA
There's nothing wrong-

She cuts herself off.

DANA (CONT'D)
What am I doing, I don't have to
prove myself to you!

Dana mutes the player and puts her controller down.
Frustrated, she clicks a button on her keyboard. The stream
cuts and switches to a screen that says "Be Right Back."

INT. MQ STUDIOS - PROGRAMMER'S ROOM - DAY

Poppy walks into the Programmer's Room to find the engineers
gathered around Michelle's monitor. She excitedly tries to
join in on the fun.

POPPY
What are we all looking at?

MICHELLE
Just Ian's new character, THALIA.

On screen, Thalia does her sweep attack. The programmers
cheer, but Poppy is irritated.

POPPY
How did he even get this done so
quickly?

MICHELLE

He came in here and made us stop
all our work for the day and code
his character instead.

POPPY

So you all answer to Ian now? Just
skipping right over the chain of
command?

MICHELLE

Yeah, well, either he tells us to
do it, or he tells you to tell us
to do it. What's the difference?

Poppy lets out a sardonic laugh.

POPPY

Well, you all better get ready for
another work session, because I've
got a job for you.

MICHELLE

Ooooh. About that. Ian kind of has
us on standby. He said he's gonna
be doing a lot of noodling today.

Poppy is red with anger.

POPPY

Fine! I'll just do it myself.

INT. MQ STUDIOS - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

In the conference room, Poppy and Ian are bickering about
their respective characters. David watches them quietly.

IAN

I could live with a burly woman
being in the game, but this is
where I draw the line.

POPPY

Oh, stop being dramatic.

IAN

And it wasn't dramatic to go
shoving your whole "body
positivity" thing down people's
throats?

Ian turns his computer screen towards Poppy and David. On
screen, we see Fiora.

Her automated dialogue includes things like "Who needs armor when you have abs of steel?" and "I don't need a man to save me."

POPPY

They may not like it, but it's something they needed to hear.

IAN

The gamers don't want body positivity. They want body *negativity*. They want to shame women more, so they'll all look more like Thalia.

POPPY

So you went ahead and added in a tradwife for them. Fantastic.

David steps in to defuse the tense situation.

DAVID

When I was in couple's therapy with my wife-

IAN

Ex-wife.

DAVID

Our therapist told us to try something called role reversal. You try to argue from your partner's side, so you can see things from their perspective.

POPPY

(sarcastically)

Ooh, so I get to play the misogynist!

DAVID

For example, my wife absolutely hated how I'd cower in fear and avoid eye contact when she was pointing out all my flaws.

DAVID (CONT'D)

So for our role reversal, I'd say "DAVID! STAND UP STRAIGHT AND LOOK ME IN THE EYES WHEN I'M TALKING TO YOU. DON'T BE SUCH A NANCY."

Poppy and Ian look concerned.

POPPY

Jesus...

IAN

And yet he still hasn't fixed that eye contact problem.

DAVID

Ian, you're going work on Fiora now. Make some changes, try to carry out Poppy's vision. Poppy, you work on Thalia.

INT. MQ STUDIOS - BRAD'S OFFICE - LATER

David knocks on Brad's door and steps into his office.

DAVID

How's my favorite money-maker doing?

BRAD

Yeah...I think I found a new sponsor for us.

Just then, Brad gets a message and his phone pings.

DAVID

Ooooh, is that them?

Brad glances at his phone.

BRAD

No, it's actually one of my spies.

DAVID

You have spies?

BRAD

Yeah, I've sort of amassed a network of double agents stationed at various companies throughout the gaming industry. They act as my eyes and ears, reporting back with vital intel.

DAVID

Can't they get into legal trouble for that?

BRAD

It's either that or I break their legs.

David laughs loudly and does finger guns as he backs out of the office. It's unclear if Brad is joking.

Brad's phone pings again. He picks up his phone to see the messages:

*"Just saw that Girl Scouts rep
talking to my boss. Overhead that
they're looking to partner with us
instead."*

*"He said something about a
controversy going on at MQ?"*

INT. MQ STUDIOS - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Poppy, Ian, and David are back in the conference room.

DAVID

Alright, let's see what you guys
came up with. Who wants to go
first.

POPPY

I can-

Poppy starts to reach for the remote, but Ian snatches it out of her hand.

IAN

Me! I'll go.

Ian pulls up a demo of his new and improved Fiora on the big screen. Half her head is shaved and the rest is dyed blue.

IAN (CONT'D)

Behold, Fiora 2.0. Now equipped
with the raw power needed to break
through the glass ceiling.

On screen, Fiora rotates and we can see her bulging muscles.

Fiora whistles and a group of NPCs assemble behind her. She shouts "Down with the patriarchy!" as they all march together.

IAN (CONT'D)

She even has a special Finishing
Move to obliterate her enemies -
the Late-Term Abortion.

Fiora pulls out a large vacuum and sucks up an enemy. Then, she empties the bloody contents into a yellow and black plastic bag marked: Biohazard.

IAN (CONT'D)
Let's see if Thalia can beat that!

Ian tosses the remote to Poppy. She leans back in her chair, crosses her arms, and nods her head.

POPPY
Oh, there is no "Thalia" anymore.
She's called *BIMBOLINA* now.

Poppy switches the screen to her presentation.

POPPY (CONT'D)
Since the gamer boys can't handle
seeing a woman on screen that they
don't want to sleep with...

Poppy flips through a series of very scientific and detailed charts and figures.

POPPY (CONT'D)
I've increased boob radius by
30%...

Next slide.

POPPY (CONT'D)
Calculated the optimal hip-to-waist
ratio...

Next slide. We see a close-up of Bimbolina's face with geometric lines overlayed.

POPPY (CONT'D)
And maximized facial symmetry to
make Bimbolina the hottest woman to
ever exist in a video game.

David nods in approval. Ian notices.

IAN
(under his breath)
She's nothing special.

David shushes Ian.

POPPY
And good luck "aborting" Bimbolina.
I've given her a signature Defense
Maneuver that I'm *quite* proud of.

Poppy presses a button and a cut scene begins playing. Bimbolina is looking in the mirror, doing her makeup and humming a tune.

She takes her eyes off the mirror briefly.

In the mirror, we see a giant ogre come into view behind her, wielding a gatling gun.

Bimbolina looks back up. There's an ominous pause as she locks eyes with the ogre.

The ogre opens fire.

Bimbolina quickly bends forward, pushing out her ample rump. Rapid-fire bullets strike her butt cheeks and bounce off like they're made of soft rubber.

Haptic feedback on Poppy's controller rumbles in sync with the bullets colliding.

POPPY (CONT'D)
Ladies and gentlemen, I present to
you: The 'Tock Block.

David and Ian are speechless.

EXT. MYTHIC QUEST GAME - EVENING

On screen, we see a character standing outside a log cabin holding a sign that says "Welcome - Free Feast Inside." A couple of other characters walk in.

We cut to the inside of the cabin. There is a large banquet with many people milling about, chatting, and dining.

Cut back to the character outside. She closes the door and locks it. She lights a match and sets the cabin ablaze. We hear the cheerful laughter of the characters inside turn to panicked shouting, then screams.

INT. MYTHIC STUDIOS - IAN'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Jo sits at a computer playing Mythic Quest. She lets out a chuckle.

Brad walks in.

BRAD
How experienced are you in
destroying your enemies?

JO

Well, the last time someone got on my nerves, I systematically changed out all the photos she had in her house with ones I digitally altered. Nothing too obvious; changing an arm position here, removing a tree there. Basic psychological warfare. She ended up checking herself into a mental hospital for delusional thoughts. It was the only way I could get my mom off my back.

Brad is impressed by her cold-heartedness.

BRAD

Psychopathic. I like it.

JO

I try my best.

BRAD

Think you're ready to take down some bigger game?

Jo closes her computer and turns to Brad.

JO

Mama's always hungry for some fresh meat.

BRAD

Good. There's this rival game studio that's getting in my way. I need to make them disappear. Any ideas?

Jo ponders it for a moment, her brow furrowing in contemplation. Then, her lips curl into a smile.

JO

At this scale, it's not about force. We start by planting the seed of dissent in the masses. We lurk in the shadows, fanning the flames of discontent until we have a riot on our hands, and they're angry enough to tear this company apart limb from limb. Oh, it's going to be grand!

She laughs maniacally, rubbing her hands together as if she holds the strings of fate.

BRAD

Let's get to work.

Jo opens her computer back up and Brad takes a seat next to her.

INT. MYTHIC STUDIOS - CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

DAVID

So, the players aren't thrilled with our latest updates.

POPPY

Shocker.

DAVID

That's okay, because we're going to bring it back with a compromise. Let's try to find a middle ground.

POPPY

I've got an idea. How about we revert all these ridiculous changes and go back to the original Fiora?

DAVID

Not exactly a middle ground, but okay. Ian?

IAN

Throughout history, men and women have always been at odds. But what is the one thing that has brought them together? Romance. I say we bridge the gap between the two sides of this issue by making Fiora and Bimbolina gay for each other.

POPPY

What-

David speaks over Poppy.

DAVID

Ian, you're on fire right now. That's what I call a compromise! Who doesn't love a good lesbian?

POPPY

It doesn't even make any sense.

IAN

Well Poppy, compromising means everyone has to give a little. And I feel like I'm the only one giving in this relationship right now.

DAVID

You can learn a thing or two from him, Poppy. I want to see active lesbians in the next hour.

INT. MQ STUDIOS - CW'S OFFICE - LATER

Dana makes one last attempt to talk to a random player in the game, but she's lost her optimism.

DANA

Hey...

RANDOM PLAYER #3

Wow, who hurt you?

DANA

It's that obvious? The last few guys I ran into were jerks.

RANDOM PLAYER #3

Guys on this game can be pretty awful.

DANA

You seem nice at least.

RANDOM PLAYER #3

If I hear a cute girl on the mic I'm on my best behavior.

DANA

Haha, well you're the first friend I've made.

RANDOM PLAYER #3

Damn, you're really gonna friendzone me like that? I thought we had something.

Dana laughs it off.

DANA

So, do you want to do a quest together?

RANDOM PLAYER #3

How can I focus on the game when I
have a pretty lady right in front
of me?

DANA

Look, I'm just trying to make some
friends and play the game. Sorry if
I gave you the wrong idea.

RANDOM PLAYER #3

(suddenly angry)

Whatever. I didn't like you anyway.

RANDOM PLAYER #3 (CONT'D)

(under his breath)

Fat cow.

Dana is utterly defeated.

INT. GAME TESTING ROOM - SAME TIME

RACHEL has been watching Dana's stream the entire time.

She sees how frustrated Dana is, and her heart aches for her.
She decides to find a way to cheer her up.

INT. MYTHIC STUDIOS - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

David, Poppy, and Ian sit around the conference table. Ian
looks very pleased with himself.

DAVID

You're probably wondering why I
called this emergency meeting.
Well, it's not great news.

IAN

What, did Poppy go rogue again?

Poppy sighs.

DAVID

Do you hear that low rumbling
sound?

IAN

Yeah, why?

DAVID

That's the protesters outside,
pounding on the walls and letting
out an endless stream of unbridled
rage.

POPPY

Oh god, I thought that was just
construction.

Poppy runs over to the window.

DAVID

It seems like making Fiora and
Bimbolina fall in love with each
other has united the angriest
people from both sides in their
hatred of Mythic Quest.

IAN

Are the lesbians not beloved in
this country anymore?

DAVID

Even the lesbians are mad.

POPPY

Oh my god, that guy has a grappling
hook.

Poppy locks the window and walks back to the table.

POPPY (CONT'D)

Ian, why don't you go out there and
hit them with one of your famous
compromises?

DAVID

Enough bickering. We're all going
to put our heads together, and no
one goes home until this is
resolved. I'll get the coffee.

David leaves the room.

POPPY

If we're going to be stuck in this
room for hours, we need to start
actually talking to each other.

IAN

I've been talking all day.

POPPY

Yeah, but you haven't been listening. You talk about how great of a team we are, and yet you went behind my back to my engineers. I care about this game just as much as you. If you had come to me first, I would've helped you.

IAN

You say you care about the game, but you went off on your own and jeopardized what we've built just to make a point.

POPPY

Yeah, you're right. I just feel like I've been coming into this office day after day shouting my ideas into the void. I went about it the wrong way, but is it really so horrible of me to want to be heard just once?

There is a pause for a moment.

IAN

No, it's not.

POPPY

I created Fiora. I worked hard on that and I liked how she turned out. You undermined that just to appease some angry guys on the internet.

IAN

I'm not proud of how I added Thalia to the game. I think the backlash scared me. This company, this game, it's my life's work. And when fans don't like the game, I feel like they don't like me. I couldn't handle that.

POPPY

And I almost destroyed everything you've worked for.

IAN

Everything we've worked for.

David walks into the room carrying a tray of coffee.

DAVID

Who's ready to get to work?

IAN

Poppy?

A quick beat.

POPPY

Let's do this.

INT. GAME TESTING ROOM - LATER

Rachel enters the game to become Dana's first friend. She nervously hesitates before turning on the voice modifier.

RACHEL

H-hey, wanna do a quest together?

DANA

I don't know. I haven't exactly had the best luck with random players today.

RACHEL

Oh, I get that.

DANA

Does something about my avatar scream "take your psychological issues out on me," because I'm starting to feel like an emotional punching bag. I'm about ready to delete the game.

Rachel laughs, restoring Dana's confidence a bit.

RACHEL

Yeah, I think I'd quit too if that happened to me. This is actually my first time speaking over voice chat. I'm a little nervous, I don't know if you can tell.

DANA

Just a little. I'm kind of nervous too, though. This is my first time streaming. And based on how it's going, I'm not sure I'm even cut out for it.

RACHEL

Really? Well you made me laugh. I'm sure the viewers are going to love you.

DANA

You're just saying that.

RACHEL

No, I mean it! What's your stream handle, by the way? I want to check it out.

DANA

It's Wyld_D. But you have to promise not to judge.

Rachel subscribes to Dana's stream. The notification pops up and Dana's face lights up.

DANA (CONT'D)

Oh my god, no way! Thank you so much!

RACHEL

Of course. Just remember me when you get famous.

Dana laughs.

DANA

You remind me of this girl I work with.

RACHEL

Uh oh. I hope that's a good thing.

DANA

Yeah, she's sweet too.

Rachel smiles and blushes.

INT. MYTHIC STUDIOS - CONFERENCE ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Ian, David, and Poppy have been working tirelessly for hours. Their clothes are disheveled, hair unkempt. They are gathered around a white board covered with scrawled writing.

DAVID

Alright, let's run through it one more time.

IAN

We roll back all the crazy changes
we made today. Bring back original
Fiora.

POPPY

But now she's more toned, less
buff.

IAN

She looks like she can open her own
jar of pickles.

POPPY

And she has a badass backstory.

IAN

Like that girl from *Fast and
Furious*.

DAVID

Or the pilot in *Avatar*.

POPPY

She's a woman with hobbies,
interests, a personality.

IAN

She doesn't exist for anyone but
herself. And not everyone is going
to love her.

Poppy looks over to Ian.

POPPY

But the important people do.

DAVID

That's it. We've got it.

INT. MYTHIC STUDIOS - HALLWAY - LATE NIGHT

They walk out of the conference room looking ragged from the
night's work, but feeling accomplished. They're high-fiving,
whooping, and cheering.

INT. MYTHIC STUDIOS - BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

BRAD

What are you guys so cheery about?

DAVID

Oh, nothing much. Just defused a major controversy to save the company.

BRAD

That woman thing? The internet has moved on. The protesters, on the other hand, have moved just down the street. They're storming Popstar Games right now. I heard they're taking hostages.

POPPY

But everyone was so riled up about this? What happened?

BRAD

Jo and I bought a bunch of Russian Twitter bots to manufacture some outrage.

DAVID

Wow, thanks Brad. You were looking out for this whole time.

BRAD

I didn't do it for you. I was just making money. But it seems like you guys worked really hard on whatever you came up with, so good job I guess.

There is a pause. Poppy, David, and Ian make eye contact with a crazed look in their eyes.

BRAD (CONT'D)

But anyway, check out our new sponsor.

A troop of Girl Scouts walk into the bullpen with trolleys full of cookies and hand them out to the staff.

END OF SHOW