

# NEXUS REUNION

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# PLANETSIDE

## ACT I

### SCENE I

#### BRIEFING

*[Ryder, Liam and Cora joins Captain Dunn on the Hyperion bridge as the Hyperion prepares to dock at the Nexus.]*

CAPTAIN DUNN:

Ryder, good to see you on your feet. We're at the Nexus. It's the forward hub for the entire Andromeda Initiative. The asari, salarian, and turian arks should be there, too.

*[The Hyperion is flying toward the Nexus, which can be seen from afar.]*

RYDER:

Let's hope they've had better luck.

LANI:

Starting our approach now.

LIAM:

It's almost as big as the Citadel back home.

LANI:

Nexus control, this is Ark Hyperion requesting docking clearance.

*[The Nexus can be seen from up close. The Hyperion seems incredibly small compared to it.]*

LANI:

Captain, I'm only getting their automated approach channel, not a live person.

CAPTAIN DUNN:

Well, like it or not, we're here. Take us in.

*[They all watch as the Hyperion docks. The Nexus appears to be under construction, with large parts of it not built.]*

CORA:

Construction should've been finished by now.

LIAM:  
Could be worse...

RYDER:  
How? Habitat 7's a bust, we might've started a war with the first aliens we met, and our Pathfinder's dead. *This better be rock bottom.*

LANI:  
Green across the board. Docking initiated.

*[The Hyperion finishes docking.]*

CAPTAIN DUNN:  
All right. I got us here. Good luck, Pathfinder.

*[Ryder, Cora, and Liam leave the Bridge.]*

CORA:  
You going to be okay, Ryder?

RYDER:  
The Captain just called me "Pathfinder." This is really happening.

LIAM:  
Just take a deep breath.

RYDER:  
I still can't believe Dad's dead. This should've been his moment.

CORA:  
But now it's yours. You just need to decide what you're going to do with it.

RYDER:  
Where do I start? I'm just not sure I'm ready.

LIAM:  
We weren't ready to fall out of the sky on Habitat 7. But we survived that.

RYDER:  
Right. So, always keep a jump-jet handy.

*[Ryder, Cora, and Liam walk away from the bridge. Two crew members are talking in front of a console.]*

CREW 1:  
I need engineering to secure all connections from the ark to the Nexus.

CREW 2:  
What's the priority?

CREW 1:  
Start running power and data links first. Then move to secondary comm traffic.

CREW 2:  
Got it. I'll follow up with their engineers later.

*[They reach the next room.]*

CREW 1:  
Captain wants to see a full duty roster.

CREW 2:  
I just updated the charts.

CREW 1:  
She'll want to see crew reassignments first. Start with non-essential personnel.

*[They're close to the tram. A man is addressing crew members outside. Ryder pauses to listen.]*

CREW 1:  
Okay folks, this is what we've been waiting for. Let your teams know that docking procedures are now in effect. We've got 20,000 colonists still asleep, and we'll need somewhere to put them when the alarm clock goes off. As soon as we get clearance from the Nexus, we'll be following status revival protocols. We want to avoid any log jams, so it's vital your teams coordinate with each other and keep people moving. Any questions so far?

CREW 2:  
How do we handle deaths that occurred in transit?

CREW 1:  
Right. It's an unfortunate fact that not everyone will have survived the voyage. We've already got scattered reports of medical problems from that dark energy cloud we hit. If somebody didn't make it, check with the medical officer. We'll see about notifying their next of kin. I'm hoping it's a rare exception. Also, try to keep it quiet. Andromeda is all about new beginnings, not holding funerals.

*[Ryder, Liam, and Cora board the tram.]*

## SCENE II

### Entering the Nexus

*[The tram is on its way to the Nexus.]*

RYDER (VOICE-OVER):  
It'll be nice to see some friendly faces this time.

CORA (VOICE-OVER):  
The Nexus runs a support crew. Just enough to finish building the station and provide safe harbor for the arks.

*[Inside the tram, Cora and Liam are on either side of the tram's door. Cora is using her omni-tool.]*

RYDER:  
Means we can start waking our people up.

LIAM:  
They built a bar, right? Gotta have champagne for the welcome party.

RYDER:  
You're expecting one?

LIAM:  
After what we've been through, I could use a buzz.

RYDER:  
We all could.

LIAM:  
Yeah. Rough ride so far.

CORA:  
We'll bounce back. Real food and a shower are just ahead.

*[The tram stops and the door opens to the Nexus' Common Area.]*

CORA:  
Here we are.

*[They step out of the tram and enter the Common Area. It's dark and appears empty.]*

LIAM:  
Uh... I don't see any champagne.

RYDER:

Where is everybody? Well, this can't be right.

CORA:

It's like everything's on standby.

LIAM:

If it's a surprise party, they're doing an awfully good job of it.

*[Plants are in the middle of the area in a sublevel platform. In front of them is Avina, an asari-looking VI emitting a faint blue light.]*

RYDER:

Plants are still alive.

CORA:

We could see what the VI has to say.

*[Ryder activates Avina.]*

AVINA:

Welcome to the Nexus, gateway to Andromeda. I'm Avina, a virtual intelligence designed to assist you with immigration.

LIAM:

Can you tell us where the welcome party is hiding?

AVINA:

I'm sorry. My code is limited to information and simple interaction simulations. Please select from the following pre-programmed responses.

*RYDER - Investigate dialogues options:*

***-Immigration***

*-Andromeda Galaxy*

*-The Nexus*

*-Living arrangements*

*-Current year*

RYDER:

How does the immigration process work?

AVINA:

We ask that you submit to a brief medical exam to ensure your health and well-being after making such a long journey. Once you've been cleared, our colonization experts will assist you in finding your new home. Please be mindful of the queue: thousands of eager colonists like you are waiting to begin their new life in Andromeda!

LIAM:

Uh... where? Place is deserted.

*RYDER - Investigate dialogues options:*

*-Immigration*

**-Andromeda Galaxy**

*-The Nexus*

*-Living arrangements*

*-Current year*

RYDER:

What can you tell me about the Andromeda Galaxy?

AVINA:

Here in Andromeda, you are over two million-light years away from the Milky Way Galaxy. This is the furthest any lifeform has ever traveled outside our home system, making you a brave pioneer, indeed. The Nexus itself is located in a region known as the Heleus Cluster. Here, you and thousands of your fellow colonists will fulfill your dreams of settling a new home. Fortune awaits!

*RYDER - Investigate dialogues options:*

*-Immigration*

*-Andromeda Galaxy*

**-The Nexus**

*-Living arrangements*

*-Current year*

RYDER:

What is the Nexus?

AVINA:

The Nexus serves as the central hub for the Andromeda Initiative's colonization efforts. It is the first destination for all colonists upon their arrival in the new galaxy. Please enjoy the many venues the Nexus has to offer. As the station expands, it will one day serve as the seat of government for Milky Way colonists. Providing a safe, stable and prosperous environment is our primary goal.

CORA:

Not from the looks of it.

*RYDER - Investigate dialogues options:*

*-Immigration*

*-Andromeda Galaxy*

*-The Nexus*

**-Living arrangements**

*-Current year*

RYDER:  
Where do colonists live?

AVINA:  
Once you've cleared immigration, our helpful staff will assist you in choosing the homeworld of your dreams. Will it be the tropical paradise of Habitat 7? The gentle rolling hills of Habitat 3? Or perhaps the mysterious twilight world of Habitat 5? Whichever you choose, rest assured our Pathfinders have carefully vetted all colony worlds to ensure your security and prosperity.

RYDER:  
Oh, boy.

LIAM:  
Habitat 7? That's where we landed. She's way out of date.

*RYDER - Investigate dialogues options:*

- Immigration*
- Andromeda Galaxy*
- The Nexus*
- Living arrangements*
- Current year***

RYDER:  
What year is it?

AVINA:  
The current year is 2819. After spending 600 years in stasis, it's normal to feel disoriented or confused upon arrival. Our helpful medical staff can assist with any physical or psychological aftereffects you may be experiencing.

CORA:  
Well, she's got the date right, at least.

RYDER:  
So where is everyone?

*[Ryder logs off.]*

RYDER:  
That's all.

AVINA:  
It has been my pleasure. Please see one of our helpful immigration staff for further assistance. And welcome to our new home in Andromeda, where the brightest star is you!  
Current wait time for immigration processing is: UNKNOWN ERROR.



CORA:  
Right. That was helpful.

*[Ryder, Cora and Liam stare at the area.]*

CORA:  
It's like they didn't finish building it.

LIAM:  
Hello?

RYDER:  
This place should be packed with people.

*[They walk down to reach the sub-platform. That's when they see a Nexus construction worker.]*

LIAM:  
There's a guy. Maybe he's got champagne.

CORA:  
Let's talk to that worker.

*[They walk over to him.]*

RYDER:  
Hi, there.

*[The construction worker gets up and turns around.]*

RYDER:  
We're from Ark Hyperion. And wondering where everybody went...?

*[The construction worker looks shocked. He opens his mouth but no sounds come out. Ryder and Liam look at each other.]*

LIAM:  
Did he hear you?

WORKER:  
Did you say an "ark"?

*RYDER - dialogues options:*  
*CASUAL -Is that a problem?*  
***PROFESSIONAL -I did.***

RYDER:  
Yeah, we just got in.

CORA:

And for what it's worth, your VI over there could use an update.

WORKER:

But... we thought you were all dead!

*[Cora looks shocked.]*

CORA:

What?

WORKER:

Or captured. Or lost in dark space, or... But you're here. You have no idea how much this means.

KANDROS:

I don't believe it...

*[Kandros, a turian, walks toward them.]*

KANDROS:

I'm Tiran Kandros. I lead our militia on the Nexus.

*[Ryder and Kandros shake hands.]*

RYDER:

I'm Scott Ryder. This is Cora Harper and Liam Kosta, part of the Pathfinder team.

KANDROS:

I'm sorry for the confusion. Our sensors told us an ark had arrived, but Heleus is notorious for scrambling equipment. We thought you were just another malfunction.

*RYDER - dialogues options:  
EMOTIONAL -We're definitely here.  
LOGICAL -Why is that?*

RYDER:

But aren't you expecting us?

KANDROS:

You're the first ark we've seen. After a year of waiting and no sign of the others, we shuttered this area and stopped looking.

LIAM:

You've been stranded for a whole year?

KANDROS:  
Longer. I'll fill you in on the way to Ops Center.

### SCENE III

## Going to Nexus Operations

*[Kandros walks toward the tram. The Pathfinder team follows him.]*

KANDROS:  
Everything that could go wrong with our plan, has. We arrived fourteen months ago. Right away we hit a band of dark energy that knocked us off course.

RYDER:  
We're familiar with it.

KANDROS:  
Then you'll know why we call it the "Scourge." We lost whole sections of the station. A lot of people died. No power, no food... the chaos went on for months. It finally led to armed rebellion. When order was restored, the insurgents were banished. "Exiles," we call them.

CORA:  
Are things back to normal?

KANDROS:  
Not even close. But you're here now, so maybe the worst is over. Ryder, we should get to the tram. A lot of people will want to see you.

*[Ryder, Liam, Cora, and Kandros use the tram to reach Nexus Operations.]*

CORA:  
No word from other Pathfinders?

KANDROS:  
No word from anyone, period.

LIAM:  
Any threats from the locals?

KANDROS:  
So far, we've stayed hidden. We're in no shape to deal with an attack.

RYDER:  
We had a first contact situation on Habitat 7. Whole thing went south. They tried to kill us.

KANDROS:

That wasn't first contact—we know about them. Those aliens are going to be a real problem.

CORA:

This day just keeps getting better.

KANDROS:

We're here.

## ACT II

### SCENE I

#### Meeting the Nexus Leadership

*[Ryder, Liam, Cora, and Kandros exit the tram. Liam walks ahead.]*

LIAM:

You guys go ahead. I'll check out the security situation.

*[Kandros leads Cora and Ryder to the left. They walk up a ramp the next floor.]*

KANDROS:

You should know our command structure has been fractured. Some of us are filling in for leaders who died.

*[Two crew members rush past them.]*

CREW 1:

Is it true?

CREW 2:

They said drop everything and report for duty.

*[They keep walking.]*

KANDROS:

... and no one was expecting an ark to finally show up.

*[On the bridge, which can be reached by walking up some stairs, several crew members are standing in front of consoles.]*

CREW:  
Docking procedures are green across the board.

CREW 2:  
Stand by to merge Hyperion power into the grid.

*[As Kandros leads Cora and Ryder to the bridge, everyone stops working and stares. Three figures are seen closer than the others: a female human, a male salarian, and a female krogan. The male salarian walks toward them, watched by the human and the krogan.]*

DIRECTOR TANN:  
The crew of the Hyperion...

KANDROS:  
Good luck.

*[Kandros pats Ryder on the shoulder and leaves. Director Tann is now facing Ryder and Cora.]*

DIRECTOR TANN:  
I'm Jarun Tann, Director of the Initiative. You have no idea how much your arrival means to us.

*[As he talks, the human woman who had been standing with Tann joins him.]*

*RYDER - dialogues options:  
EMOTIONAL -It means more to us.  
**LOGICAL -We're here to assist.***

RYDER:  
We've heard about what happened, and we're ready to help.

ADDISON:  
We could use any supplies you have—food, water—we're short on everything.

DIRECTOR TANN:  
This is Foster Addison. She oversees Colonial Affairs.

*[Tann looks at them, a bit surprised.]*

DIRECTOR TANN:  
Where's the Pathfinder?

RYDER:  
You're looking at him.

DIRECTOR TANN:  
You're not Alec Ryder.

RYDER:  
My father's dead. He made me his successor.

*[Ryder looks sad. Addison looks sad as well.]*

ADDISON:  
Alec... is dead?

*[Ryder lowers his eyes.]*

ADDISON:  
Please understand: the entire Initiative is at risk.

*[She directs the entire group to look at a screen full of data.]*

ADDISON:  
None of the golden worlds have panned out. They're a bust. And there's been no word from the other arks.

CORA:  
What happened to them?

DIRECTOR TANN:  
Unknown. Our supplies are nearly depleted. Rationing bought us some time, but even that's running out.

ADDISON:  
We need to find more resources. But that takes people, and we can't wake them up—

RYDER:  
—until they have somewhere to live. A golden world.

ADDISON:  
Now more than ever, we *need* a Pathfinder.

DIRECTOR TANN:  
It now falls to you, Ryder. Are you up to the task?

*RYDER - dialogues options:*  
*EMOTIONAL -I am.*  
**LOGICAL -My father thought so.**  
*CASUAL -Let's hope so.*  
*PROFESSIONAL -You don't have a choice.*

RYDER:  
My father believed I am. If you trusted him with the job, you'll have to trust his judgment.

ADDISON:

Your father won't be around to fix things if you fail.

KESH:

That's no way to treat a guest.

*[The female krogan from before joins the group.]*

RYDER:

My father believed I am. If you trusted him with the job, you'll have to trust his judgment.

ADDISON:

Your father won't be around to fix things if you fail.

KESH:

I'm Nakmor Kesh, superintendent of this station. I hope they haven't scared you off already.

ADDISON:

It's nothing personal. But now isn't the time for on-the-job training.

KESH:

At least the Pathfinder here seems willing to try. We could use a fresh perspective.

*[Addison and Kesh face each other.]*

ADDISON:

You've heard my concerns. I'll leave you to it.

*[Addison brushes past Kesh who looks at her leaving.]*

DIRECTOR TANN:

We're all feeling the pressure. Let's have a private word in my office, Ryder. We'll discuss giving you a scout ship. I'm happy to work out the details with your associate?

*[Tann points to Cora and leaves. Cora gives Ryder a pointed look before joining Tann. Kesh and Ryder are now alone.]*

KESH:

Welcome to the Nexus.

*RYDER - dialogues options:*

**EMOTIONAL -Thanks for helping.**

*LOGICAL -It's a mess.*

RYDER:

Thank you for standing up for me there.

KESH:

Hope's in short supply here. What little we can find should have a chance to bloom.

*[A crew member interrupts them.]*

CREW:

Ma'am, the Hyperion's core is now online.

*[Kesh looks at Ryder.]*

KESH:

Let me show you something.

*[Kesh leads Ryder to the bridge's central console.]*

KESH:

An hour ago, that was all dark. But with the power from your ship—you're keeping the lights on. You have my vote.

*[As she talks, lights appear on the bridge through the large windows which are no longer covered. It illuminates Ryder's face, who watches, pensive. After a second, he turns to Kesh.]*

RYDER:

And when the power runs out?

KESH:

You'd best go talk to Director Tann. Make sure that doesn't happen.

*[She leaves, still talking to Ryder.]*

KESH:

And don't be shy—come see me when you have a chance.

*[The windows of the bridge are fully uncovered. Through them, Ryder can see the rest of the Nexus, still under construction. He's at the center of the bridge, facing away.]*

**-> [Additional scenes I](#)**

## SCENE II

### Talking to Tann

*[Ryder heads to Tann's office. Cora is there talking to Tann. Both are watching data from a console in front of them.]*



CORA:

...This is the planet where we landed, Habitat 7. It wasn't even close to livable.

DIRECTOR TANN:

That's been true of every world we've found.

*[Tann notices Ryder, who stands in front of the console on the opposite side from Tann and Cora.]*

DIRECTOR TANN:

Ryder—we were discussing your next expedition.

*RYDER - dialogues options:*

*CASUAL -About time.*

***PROFESSIONAL -You trust me now?***

RYDER:

I thought I didn't measure up as Pathfinder.

DIRECTOR TANN:

Director Addison keeps her own counsel, I keep mine.

RYDER:

And when you disagree?

DIRECTOR TANN:

I oversee the entire Initiative, and I've decided to give you a chance to prove yourself. To that end, the Scourge dealt us a serious blow. Whatever it is, our scientists theorize it's not natural.

CORA:

An artificial energy cloud?

DIRECTOR TANN:

It wasn't here when we left the Milky Way. Yet it rendered all the golden worlds unlivable. Then there's the aliens you ran into—"the kett." They're obsessed with alien structures we've found scattered around the cluster. They'll do anything to prevent others from accessing them. It seems murder isn't exclusive to the Milky Way.

*[Tann touches the console.]*

DIRECTOR TANN:

And now the challenge is to settle a world in spite of all that. This one here—"Eos."

*[A projection of Eos appears above the console.]*

RYDER:

How?

DIRECTOR TANN:

You need to increase the viability of the planet so we can establish an outpost. Then we can bring more colonists out of stasis. The more colonists we have, the more resources we can gather to support the Nexus. Everything depends on it. There are six worlds we hope to settle.

RYDER:

Okay... but you said every planet you found is unlivable. So, how do I...

DIRECTOR TANN:

A good Pathfinder would relish the challenge of solving it.

CORA:

Right. I think I should... go check on things.

*[Cora leaves Tann's office.]*

RYDER:

And if I fail, I guess it's no sweat off your back, right? You'll just look for another Pathfinder?

DIRECTOR TANN:

Placing bets on people is part of my job. Some of them pay off. Others...

*RYDER - dialogues options:*

*CASUAL -Don't play games with me.*

**PROFESSIONAL -Just point the way.**

RYDER:

Just point me to my ship, and I'll be out of here.

DIRECTOR TANN:

They're prepping it now, in the docking bay. The coordinates for Eos will be in the computer. And when you have a moment, we should discuss the missing arks.

RYDER:

I was wondering about tha—

*[Ryder hears a piercing noise, which makes him grunt in discomfort.]*

DIRECTOR TANN:

Something wrong?

SAM (PRIVATE):

Ryder, please see me in SAM Node on the Hyperion. Your implant needs attention, and we need to discuss a confidential matter.

*[Ryder listens to SAM without saying anything, then raises his hand in reply to Tann.]*

RYDER:  
No... I'm fine.

-> [Additional scenes II](#)