

FOR WHOM THE BELL HOPS

Dialogue Exercise

Written by

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Based on characters from:

Hellblade franchise by Ninja Theory

Far Cry 3: Blood Dragon by Ubisoft

Borderlands franchise by Gearbox

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

CLOSE ON SENUA (from *Hellblade: Senua's Sacrifice*), a grizzled Celtic warrior covered in crackled body paint. For some reason, she is in an errantly contemporary elevator.

Senua paces frantically and argues with SPIRITS in her head.

SENUA (V.O.)
What is this new hell you have
driven me to, Spirit?

SPIRIT (V.O.)
She fears what she does not know.
If only she could unravel her years
of mistakes and regret. Alas she
will not, she cannot, she --

SENUA
(screaming aloud)
BEGONE FROM ME!

We CUT WIDE to see that she is not alone in the elevator.

With Senua, but standing as far away from her as possible, is SERGEANT REX "POWER" COLT (from *Far Cry 3: Blood Dragon*), an 80's-looking cybernetic soldier. Beside him is a clunky robot called CLAPTRAP (from the *Borderlands* games.)

They watch Senua with concern, more for themselves than her.

CLAPTRAP
Awwwwwwkwaaard.

With a BING, a button on the CONTROL PANEL lights up, and the elevator lurches to a stop.

REX
Everybody down!

Senua draws GRAMR, her sword of legend. Claptrap stops, drops, and rolls. With a retro "PSHEW!" Rex fires a blast from KILLSTAR, his arm-mounted laser cannon.

The CONTROL PANEL explodes with sparks.

REX (CONT'D)
Damnit! Reflexes too sharp. Need to
get back to HQ for an adjustment.

CLAPTRAP
I'll say! You're wound tighter than
an Alpha Skag's chili hole. And
almost as explosive!

Senua looks around, pads over to Rex and watches Claptrap as he rolls around on the ground.

SENUA

What is the metal vessel doing?

CLAPTRAP

Vessel! I like that! I like YOU, Little Miss Braveheart! Vessel makes me sound like a Maliwan gunship. "Buy from the Maliwan corporation, and you too can --"

REX

Less talk, more fix, robit.

CLAPTRAP

Oh! May I stop stopping, dropping, and rolling now?

Rex aims Killstar at Claptrap.

REX

(to Senua)

I hate him.

She looks between the two. Steps back, not trusting either.

Claptrap noisily clanks and clambers onto his one-wheeled foot and rolls over to the elevator CONTROL PANEL.

CLAPTRAP

Yuh-oh, Bumbledore! You destroyed the elevator's central mechanism with your premature e-blastulation.

REX

Gotta get outta here. Humanity is screwed without me.

CLAPTRAP

No can doodle. Looks like we're stuck here..

CLOSE ON Claptrap as he slowly turns to face Rex and Senua.

CLAPTRAP (CONT'D)

(reverb-y)

FOREVER...

CLOSE ON Senua as the CAMERA trembles. She grips her head.

SPIRIT #1 (V.O.)
 Forever. Lost, frozen in time,
 plummeting into the earth's womb.

SPIRIT #2 (V.O.)
 Or is she halfway to *Tir na nóg*,
 soaring up to the Tree of Heaven?
 Dillon awaits her there.

Senua unstraps a bundle from her belt and peers into it.

SENUA
 (fragile voice)
 Dillon? Can you hear me, my love?

Claptrap rolls over to peer in, too. He flails away in alarm.

CLAPTRAP
 AHHHHHHHHHH! AHHHHHHHHHHH!

Senua is startled. She fumbles, stashes away the bundle.

CLAPTRAP (CONT'D)
 HEAD! Crazy Train here has a sacked-
 up severed head! To-go style!

SENUA
 Silence, Vessel! Or I shall be your
 silence!

Senua stalks toward Claptrap, Gramr poised viciously.

CLAPTRAP
 See, Rex! SEE!? The Headhugger's
 threatening me. Good thing I don't
 have a noggin for you to nab, fall
 desperately in love with, wear like
 a fanny pack, then eerily talk to
 in front of strangers, lady.

REX
 (annoyed)
 A woman's head in a sack is her own
 business! Focus on the mission.

Senua stands beside Rex, now in solidarity.

SENUA
 I also hate him.

REX
 Copy that.

CLAPTRAP
I'm, uh... right here.

Rex checks the CONTROL PANEL, held with PHILLIPS head screws.

REX
Hacking into the mainframe.

CLAPTRAP
This'll be fascinating! Like watching Coco the gorilla try to build a complete sentence with letter blocks.

Senua barely refrains from skewering the little bot.

Rex's cyborg arm produces a screwdriver but --

REX
Son of a bitch! Wrong interface.

Claptrap inches over and sees that Rex only has a STANDARD screwdriver attachment on his cyborg arm, not a PHILLIPS.

CLAPTRAP
Is that -- did you just --
BWAAAAAAHAAAAHAAAAHAAAA!

Claptrap falls on the ground in an explosion of laughter. For a moment, it looks like Rex's feelings are hurt. But the flicker of vulnerability is replaced with ironclad fury.

CLAPTRAP (CONT'D)
The Eighties -- HAHA! -- were so --
STINKIN' -- CUTE! **BWAHAHAHA!**

CLOSE ON - SENUA'S EYES as she assesses Claptrap as a target.

SENUA'S POV shows Claptrap flailing around in SLOW-MOTION. She FOCUSES on his arm, which has a series of attachments.

With a fierce WARCRY, she lops off Claptrap's arm!

Claptrap freezes. Stops laughing. Looks at his waggly stub.

REX
Thank Christ you shut it up. My auditory sensors are fried.

Senua tosses Claptrap's limb to Rex. He sorts through the arm attachments, finds a Phillips head screwdriver, and undoes the screws on the CONTROL PANEL.

He pops off the cover, fiddles with wires and...

BING! The elevator door opens!

REX (CONT'D)
Home free.

Rex is about to toss the arm to Claptrap. Senua halts him.

SENUA
Keep the trophy. Absorb the power
of your enemy.

REX
All yours, sister. Rex travels
light.

He marches out of the elevator. Senua slips Claptrap's arm into her belt. She stares intensely at Claptrap as she follows after Rex.

CLAPTRAP
Wait! Severed head of lover... my
severed arm... Is this, like, a
horny pagan love ritual type-of-a-
deal? Does this mean YOU LOVE ME!?

He bounces back to his one-wheeled foot in exaltation.

CLAPTRAP (CONT'D)
I accept! OF COURSE, I'll marry
you! I knew we were soul mates from
the very first moment we met, my
blood-guzzling valkyrie.

BING! The elevator doors start to shut.

CLAPTRAP (CONT'D)
Take me to your mating lair of
rancid furs and pubic lice, my
love! I will see you in VALHALLA!!!

The elevator doors close. Claptrap pauses. Then relaxes.

CLAPTRAP (CONT'D)
<CONTENTED SIGH>

A compartment opens in his belly. He pulls out a little red cap with golden cording and pops it on his head.

CLAPTRAP (CONT'D)
The life of a bellhop!

He hits a button. WHISTLES as the elevator descends.

WIPE TO BLACK.