# Code Lyoko

## Episode 82: “Distant Memory”

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##### Ext. Chalet – Day (Flashback, illustrated)

A young Aelita rolls a large ball of snow out the front of a chalet in the mountains, surrounded by pine trees. She’s laughing. Her parents are watching nearby.

Young Aelita

Look at my giant snowball, Mummy!

Anthea

Stay near the house, darling!

Hopper

Well done, my angel!

Aelita laughs louder and looks up at her parents. Anthea smiles and laughs back. A wolf howls.

Young Aelita

Huh?

Aelita looks up and sees a wolf a few metres away from her. It growls.

Young Aelita (scared)

Mummy! Daddy!

Aelita turns around and sees two men in black suits and sunglasses.

Young Aelita (scared)

Noooo!

Aelita and her mother reach out for each other as Anthea is pulled away through a sea of ghostly faces of men in black. There are tears in Anthea’s eyes.

Anthea (terrified)

Aelita! Aelita…!

Aelita runs through the snow, tears falling from her eyes.

Young Aelita (breathless, scared, crying)

MUMMY! MUMMY! NOOOOOO!

Anthea stares at Aelita through the back windscreen of a vehicle, eyes wide.

Anthea (terrified)

Aelita…!

Aelita chases after the vehicle.

Young Aelita (breathless, scared, crying)

MUUUMMYYYY!

The car tears away through the snow. Many wolves howl. Aelita continues to chase after the car.

Young Aelita (breathless, scared, crying)

Mummy! Mummy!

Aelita collapses.

Young Aelita (breathless, scared, crying)

Mummy!

The car is long gone. Aelita sits up, still crying. We see the eyes of a wolf and hear it growling. Snow falls. Everything eventually fades to black, leaving only the falling snow visible.

##### Int. Aelita’s Room – Day

Aelita has just woken up, tears running down her face. She wipes them away with her sheet and looks up at the ceiling.

##### Ext. Gates – Day

The gang walk towards the gates. Jeremie and Odd have baggage with them and Yumi and Ulrich have their bags.

Yumi

What? You’re still having nightmares?

Aelita

Well yeah, they keep coming back every now and then, and what’s more, they’re always the same! But don’t worry, Jeremie, I’m used to them!

Jeremie

No, Aelita. It’s not your nightmares I’m worried about.

Aelita

I told you that it’s no big deal. Yumi won’t be far for the holidays, and I’m staying here to keep an eye on XANA, so there’s no need to worry!

Jeremie

I don’t care about XANA. I just don’t like leaving you here all alone. I’m gonna tell my dad I’m staying here.

Aelita

No you’re not! You should spend the holidays with your families. For me, it’s…it’s not the same thing…

Yumi frowns at Aelita in concern.

Ulrich

At holiday time, my dad gets more stressed out than ever. Which makes my mum hysterical! I think I’d rather stay here.

They stop walking.

Odd

Yeah, me too. My sisters drive me nuts. Last year, they locked me in the bathroom all night just because they thought it was funny…

Yumi

They did? But… That’s even worse than my kid brother! I thought they were older than you, Odd!

Odd shrugs.

Odd

They are! And they’re a lot bigger than me, too. That’s my problem…

The others laugh.

Aelita

Hey, Ulrich! Isn’t that your dad’s car over there?

They look over at the road and see Ulrich’s mother waving at them from a car. His father is standing next to the driver’s door.

Ulrich

Well, the show must go on… See you soon, everybody.

Odd high-fives Ulrich.

Odd

May the Force be with you!

Ulrich puts his hand on Jeremie’s shoulder.

Jeremie

See ya!

Ulrich starts walking away.

Yumi

It’s not all that long.

Aelita

Try and have some fun!

Ulrich crosses the road as another car pulls up by the gates.

Jeremie

There’s my father.

Jeremie picks up his suitcase.

Jeremie

Aelita, are you sure that you…?

Aelita

Go on now, hurry up. I won’t be all alone. I’ve got Kiwi for company!

Jeremie

Ok. Goodbye for now!

Jeremie waves and starts walking to the car. Odd takes a few steps before stopping.

Odd

Uh, speaking of Kiwi, don’t feed him any cheese at all. It gives him gas. And that’s more powerful than your energy fields!

Aelita laughs as Odd walks away.

Aelita (laughing)

Thanks for the tip!

Jeremie waves as he walks to the car. Odd waves as well.

Jeremie

Hi, Dad!

Odd

So long!

Ulrich’s dad drives them away. Once Jeremie and his father are in their car, they leave as well.

##### Int. Stern Car – Day

There’s silence among the family members. Ulrich’s father looks at Ulrich in the rear view mirror.

Mr. Stern

I see you’re still hanging around with that gang of good-for-nothings.

Ulrich

And I see you forgot your happy pill again.

Mrs. Stern (scolding)

Ulrich!

Ulrich raises an eyebrow.

##### Int. Belpois Car – Day

Michel

Your friends seem very nice, Jeremie!

Jeremie

Uh… Yeah, I really like them a lot! They’re my good buddies.

Michel nods approvingly.

Michel

That girl with the pink hair – is that Aelita? The one you’re always talking about? She’s very pretty. And I get the impression she likes you!

Jeremie smiles and blushes.

##### Ext. Gates – Day

Yumi

I’d better go. I promised my mum I’d help her clean up.

Aelita waves goodbye.

Aelita

Ok, yeah. See you, Yumi!

Aelita turns to leave but she stops when Yumi speaks again.

Yumi

Aelita, are you sure you don’t want to spend the holidays with us? I’ll call my parents and tell them!

Aelita

No, I’d just be in the way. And besides, I could use a little time alone.

Yumi nods. Aelita smiles.

Yumi

Well… (holds up phone) If you need anything, you know my number.

Aelita

Ok! Have a nice holiday.

Yumi leaves.

##### Ext. Quad – Day

Aelita walks across the quad and enters the dormitory.

##### Int. Aelita’s Room – Day

Kiwi is asleep on the bed when Aelita enters. She smiles, giggles and rubs his belly. Kiwi opens his eyes. Aelita picks up Mister Pück, who still hasn’t been mended since he was torn by Sissi in “Mister Pück.”

##### Int. Chalet – Day (Flashback, illustrated)

Hopper and Anthea watch happily as young Aelita unwraps the first present of Christmas morning. Behind them is a pine tree decorated with ribbons and baubles, and there are many more presents underneath it waiting to be opened. Aelita has unwrapped a present to find Mister Pück inside.

Young Aelita

Oh he’s so cute, I love him! What should I call him?

Aelita takes the doll out of the box.

Hopper

How about “Mister Pück?” It’s the name of an elf.

Anthea

Do you like it?

Aelita and Anthea share a hug.

Young Aelita

Oh, yes! Thank you, Mummy!

##### Int. Aelita’s Room – Day

Aelita rubs Mister Pück’s face before sighing and letting the doll hang off the bed.

##### Int. Belpois Car – Day

Michel whistles while driving. The tune he’s whistling is “Brindisi,” also known as “The Drinking Song,” from the opera La traviata. Jeremie looks thoughtfully out the window.

Michel

You’re very quiet, son! Is anything wrong?

Jeremie

Uh no, i-it’s nothing. I was just thinking of something else…

Michel

Ah.

Michel smiles.

##### Int. Stern Car – Day

The car is stuck in a traffic jam. The cars around them are beeping loudly and incessantly. Ulrich is looking out the window and his mother is reading a fashion magazine.

Mr. Stern (angry)

You’ve disappointed me again, as usual, Ulrich. I thought after the talk we had last month that you would try at least to make some kind of effort!

A young girl in the car next to them makes funny faces at Ulrich. Ulrich smiles.

Mr. Stern (angry)

Instead, there’s been no improvement at all. Plus, all those unexcused absences.

Ulrich laughs at the girl in the other car.

Mr. Stern (quiet anger)

And you find that amusing…

Ulrich sighs.

##### Int. Aelita’s Room – Day

Aelita is reading on her bed. Her computer screen lights up and a sound clip starts playing: Beethoven’s “Ah ! Vous dirais-je Maman,” like her father used to play on the piano. Aelita looks up from her book.

Aelita

Hm?

Aelita walks over to the computer and frowns at the screen.

##### Int. Chalet – Day (Flashback)

Hopper plays the same tune on the piano. He looks at the camera.

##### Int. Aelita’s Room – Day

The music continues playing.

Aelita

Huh?

A chat window opens, showing Aelita’s virtual avatar as the user and a photo of Hopper as the person on the other end. Aelita presses a key, closing the media player window, and looks at the screen with concern.

Hopper (IM)

Aelita?

Aelita

Daddy?

Aelita sits down and starts typing.

Aelita

Where are you?

Aelita sends her message and receives another in return.

Aelita (reading)

“Expecting you here on Lyoko?” You’re not on the network?

She sends her new message, but her computer suddenly makes a fizzling noise and the screen freezes, turning pink and glitchy. Aelita presses a key twice but it does nothing.

Aelita

Oh, rats! It bugged up.

Aelita swivels around in the chair and clicks her fingers. She exits the room, leaving Kiwi asleep on her bed.

##### Int. Ishiyama Living Room – Day

Takeho is reading the newspaper at the table.

Akiko

Yumi? Could you please give me a hand in here?

Yumi sits down at the table and starts dialling a number on her phone.

Yumi

Soon as I’m finished calling my friend!

Akiko steps into the doorway and bangs her broom on the floor for emphasis.

Akiko (annoyed)

Your phone call can wait. I need you to help me right now. If not, I’ll never finish all the housework in time!

Yumi

But Mum, you’ve got a whole week to do it!

Akiko (annoyed)

Yes, and as usual, your father’s not going to lift a finger, so a week may not be enough!

Takeho looks over the top of his newspaper.

Takeho

Huh? What did I do this time?

Yumi groans, stands up and goes to join her mother.

##### Int. Lab – Day

Aelita arrives in the lift and walks over to the computer. The chat window with Hopper is already open on the screen.

Aelita (reading)

“There isn’t much time…”

She types a response.

Aelita

Not much time for what? (reading) “Here are the co-ordinates.”

A map window opens.

Aelita (reading, surprised)

“See you in a minute, my dear!”

##### Int. Scanner Room – Day (Flashback)

Although it’s a flashback, Aelita is in her current clothing. She and Hopper stand in a scanner each.

Hopper

See you in a minute, my dear.

The scanners close.

##### Int. Lab – Day [Alternating with Scanner Room]

Aelita opens her eyes and exhales. She sets up a delayed virtualisation and runs to the ladder.

Aelita climbs backwards down the ladder, lands gracefully on the floor with her arms out wide and runs to a scanner. The doors close and she is scanned.

##### Ice Sector, Lyoko

Aelita is virtualised. She lands and looks around. Finally she spots a yellow dome not far away from her, similar to the simulation bubble XANA created in “Ghost Channel.”

Aelita

What’s that thing? …A simulation bubble?

Aelita runs up to the bubble and cautiously sticks her arm inside, followed by her whole body.

##### Simulation Bubble – Ext. Chalet – Day

Eyes closed and hands out in front of her, Aelita walks through an invisible wall into the snowy landscape. Startled, she falls onto her knees. She looks up and finds the chalet where she grew up. Smoke is rising from the chimney.

Aelita

How can this be?!

Aelita walks towards the building.

##### Simulation Bubble – Int. Chalet – Day

Aelita is now in the living room. The familiar piano tune is playing. Hopper suddenly stops playing and turns around to see Aelita.

Aelita

Daddy?

Hopper

Aelita.

Hopper holds his arms out to welcome Aelita into a hug. She runs straight into his arms.

Hopper

We’ve so much catching up to do. And there’s so little time.

Aelita cries, tears streaming down her cheeks.

Aelita (crying)

I thought you were lost on the network!

Aelita sobs.

Hopper

Lost? No, dear. When XANA destroyed Lyoko, I managed to escape. I have information to give you.

Hopper pulls away.

Hopper

But first, I wanted so much to hold you in my arms.

Aelita

But how did you-

Hopper

I had to create this simulation bubble so that I could finally…

Aelita (emotional)

This is fantastic! Everything is just the same!

Hopper

Yes. The bubble will allow us to do many things, my dear. Like spending an evening together at last!

##### Int. Yumi’s Room – Day

Yumi walks into her room, phone to her ear.

Yumi

Aelita, come on! Pick up, will you?

With a battle cry, Hiroki suddenly lunges out from behind a cabinet and looks ready to fight Yumi using martial arts. Yumi flinches.

Yumi

Hey, what are you doing in here? Get out!

Hiroki

Calling Ulrich?

Yumi

Mind your own business! Do I ask you about Milly Solovieff?

Hiroki frowns and blushes. He growls and runs out of the room, closing the door behind him. Yumi dials another number and leans on the cabinet.

Yumi

Hello, Jeremie?

##### Int. Belpois Car – Day

Jeremie

…For how long of a time? …Her phone battery might be dead, that’s all. Think you can go over there and check it out? ...Keep me posted, ok?

Jeremie hangs up.

Jeremie

Uh…Dad? Um…I forgot my laptop back at the dorm, and I um…

Michel does a U-turn.

Michel

I get the idea, Jeremie. Your laptop wouldn’t have pink hair by any chance, would it?

Jeremie

Huh?

Michel

You know, I can understand that. I was in love once, too!

Jeremie (surprised)

You were? With who?

Michel

Who else? With your mother!

##### Int. Stern Car – Day

The car is still stuck in heavy traffic and isn’t going anywhere.

Mr. Stern (angry)

Oh, this traffic’s horrible!

He beeps the horn. Ulrich’s mother flicks through her magazine.

Mrs. Stern

Getting all tense won’t get us there any faster, dear.

Ulrich’s phone rings and he answers.

Ulrich

That you, Jeremie? (quiet) …You sure? …You’re right. Something must be up. …Ok. I’ll let him know and we’ll meet you-know-where. Anything is more fun than this.

Ulrich hangs up, puts his bag over his shoulder, takes his seatbelt off and opens the car door. His parents look back at him in shock. He gets out of the car.

Mr. Stern (annoyed)

Ulrich! Where are you going?

Ulrich

To get a little air! And to stretch my legs. Besides, I’ll get there faster if I walk. See ya!

Ulrich closes the door. His parents keep staring in shock.

##### Ext. Town – Day

Ulrich walks between the stopped cars and gets onto the footpath. Once there, he starts running, phone to his ear.

Ulrich

Odd! Aelita’s not answering her phone. Meet us at the factory.

##### Int. Airport – Day

Odd is about to get his luggage checked at the x-ray machine. He puts his bag down on the floor.

Odd

Ok! Be right there as soon as I tell my parents!

Odd hangs up and dials another number.

Customs officer 1

Well, are you flying today or not?

Odd

Just a second! (to the phone) Hello, Adele? It’s Odd! …Uh-huh! Oh! Sorry, Pauline. Hey, listen. You think you could ask Elisabeth to tell Marie to say to Louise that she should let Mum and Dad know, I missed my flight.

The two customs officers look at Odd in surprise.

Odd

Huh? …What do you mean, “tell them myself?” Hello?

Odd frowns and hangs up. One of the customs officers frowns as well. Odd picks up his bag.

Odd

Ok, change of plan. Nothing like sibling loyalty!

Odd walks away.

##### Int. Aelita’s Room – Day

There’s a knock on the door. Hearing no response, Yumi enters.

Yumi

Aelita?

She closes the door behind her and walks over to the computer, where the screen is still frozen.

Yumi (reading)

“Expecting you here on Lyoko?”

Yumi’s eyes widen.

##### Simulation Bubble – Int. Chalet – Day

Hopper is on the couch and Aelita in a chair, looking pensive.

Hopper

No, as long as XANA hasn’t been defeated, I can’t rematerialise myself. But you, however, should be able to free your young friend! What was his name, again?

Aelita

William.

Hopper

Yes, of course.

Hopper leans back against the couch.

Hopper

I’m going to send a program to Jeremie via the Supercomputer. By the way, how’s your fight against XANA progressing?

Aelita

We’re hunting him down on the network, thanks to our virtual ship, the Skidbladnir!

Hopper

…The Skidbladnir? (chuckles) What a strange name.

Aelita

But you know that name! It’s in the book of Viking legends that you used to read to me before I went to sleep!

Hopper

Yes, of course! The Skidbladnir. How could I forget?

Aelita frowns.

##### Ext. Gates – Day

Michel stops the car right outside the gates. Jeremie gets out and runs onto the grounds.

Jeremie

Thanks, Dad!

##### Ext. Park – Day

Jeremie stops running when he sees Yumi run across the path in front of him.

Jeremie

Yumi!

Yumi stops.

Yumi (breathless)

Huh? Hurry, Jeremie! Aelita virtualised herself onto Lyoko!

Jeremie

What? But why did she do that?!

Yumi (grave)

Her father asked her to.

Jeremie raises an eyebrow.

##### Simulation Bubble – Int. Chalet – Day

Aelita frowns at Hopper and then looks away.

Hopper

Is something wrong, my precious?

Aelita

Why’d you ask me to come to Lyoko, Daddy?

Hopper

Because I wanted to see you! It’s been such a long time.

Aelita

It’s dangerous! XANA could attack at any time!

Hopper

Not as long as I’m with you.

Aelita frowns again.

Aelita

You know…when I said that everything here was the same as I remembered it, I meant it!

Hopper

I’m glad you like it. I wanted you to feel as if it was your home. Our home.

Aelita

It’s true – everything’s here, nothing’s missing. Except for one little thing…

Hopper

Oh, really? What’s that?

Aelita

My mother.

Hopper slowly turns to look at Aelita. She smiles, as though plotting a trap.

Hopper

But… You remember, dear! Your mother disappeared.

Aelita stands up.

Aelita

Yes, and I want to see her again more than anything else in the world, and you know that! You’ve always known! And since you’re a perfectionist, you’d have recreated her here in the simulation bubble. That is…

Aelita points at Hopper and starts backing away.

Aelita

…unless you weren’t really my father!

Hopper

Aelita!

Aelita keeps backing away. She holds out a hand as though to ward Hopper off.

Aelita

Stay away from me, XANA!

Hopper’s image starts flickering slightly. He frowns. Still keeping an eye on him, Aelita opens a door and tries to leave, but her eyes widen when she sees what’s on the other side of the door. Aelita cries out and backs into the room, XANA-William holding onto her wrist and grinning. The eye of XANA flickers in his eyes.

XANA-William

Hello, Aelita.

##### Int. Lab – Day

Yumi and Jeremie arrive in the lift.

Jeremie

Something’s fishy.

Jeremie walks over to the chair.

Yumi

Hm… What if it *was* Hopper who contacted Aelita?

Jeremie

XANA’s pulled this on us before; I don’t think Hopper would risk this with his own daughter.

Jeremie brings up a map.

Jeremie

Aelita is somewhere in the Ice Sector. (surprised) Huh? In a simulation bubble?

Yumi

She’s in a what?

Jeremie

A copy of the real world. A sort of ghost channel. Aelita’s fallen into a trap. Get ready, you’re going in right now.

Smiling, Yumi hits the button to close the door.

##### Simulation Bubble – Int. Chalet – Day

Aelita struggles against XANA-William’s grip.

XANA-William

Better give up, Aelita. You can’t beat me.

Aelita

That’s what you think!

Aelita pulls her hand free and runs to the door.

XANA-William

What are you waiting for? Go after her!

The false Hopper frowns and its image flickers.

##### Int. Scanner Room – Day [Alternating with Lab]

Jeremie

Transfer, Yumi. Scanner, Yumi. Virtualisation!

##### Ice Sector, Lyoko

Yumi is virtualised some distance from the bubble.

Yumi

Jeremie, I didn’t land inside the bubble!

Jeremie

I know, I can’t virtualise you directly inside of it. You’ll have to find your own way in!

Yumi starts running.

Yumi

Any idea how?

Jeremie

Uh, not really! But if you ask me, XANA’s probably screening his guests!

A laser flies past Yumi. She immediately gets her fans out and stops running so she can block more lasers.

Yumi

For sure. He even left a couple of bouncers at the door.

There are two Tarantulas firing at her. Yumi blocks more of their lasers and then flips behind a cluster of rock.

##### Simulation Bubble – Ext. Chalet – Day

Aelita looks behind her as she runs through the snow. The false Hopper pursues her. As it runs, its image flickers and distorts, morphing into a black spectral form and then becoming a black wolf. XANA-William laughs as he runs behind the wolf.

##### Ice Sector, Lyoko

Yumi runs out from the other side of the rock cluster she’s hiding behind, stops and throws her fans. One of the Tarantulas shoots a fan away and ducks to avoid the other, then resumes fire. Yumi catches each fan individually and then gets shot backwards by a laser.

##### Int. Lab – Day

Jeremie

Be careful, Yumi! That’s twenty life points you just lost.

The lift door opens, revealing Odd and Ulrich.

Jeremie

Perfect timing, you two. Head straight for the scanner room. Yumi and Aelita are in big trouble.

Ulrich

Sure, but how about a little rundown?

Jeremie

I’ll fill you in later. Now get going.

Ulrich

Huh?

Odd gives a wide smile and presses the button to close the door.

##### Ice Sector, Lyoko

Yumi runs and flips back behind the cluster of rocks, avoiding more lasers. The Tarantulas stop firing, waiting for her to appear again.

##### Simulation Bubble – Ext. Chalet – Day

The wolf catches up to Aelita and jumps in front of her, forcing her to stop. They stare into each other’s eyes. XANA-William reaches them.

XANA-William

Impossible to escape!

Aelita backs away as the two enemies draw closer to her.

XANA-William

This bubble is your prison.

##### Ice Sector, Lyoko

Jeremie

Virtualisation!

Odd and Ulrich are virtualised. They land in between the Tarantulas and the rocks and immediately get into the fight. The Tarantulas open fire and Ulrich blocks their lasers with his sabres. Odd returns fire. Odd then runs on all fours and gets behind the rocks. Ulrich glances behind him.

Ulrich

Supersprint!

Ulrich Supersprints to join the others behind the rocks.

Yumi

Good to see you again. How was your vacation?

Ulrich sheathes his sabres.

Ulrich

Short. Good to be back, though! Where’s Aelita?

Yumi points at the simulation bubble.

Yumi

Somewhere inside that bubble thing.

Odd

She’s always gotta be different, doesn’t she?

Odd runs out from behind the rock and aims.

Odd

Laser arrow!

He fires one arrow. It hits and destroys a Tarantula.

##### Simulation Bubble – Ext. Chalet – Day

XANA-William laughs and makes an ugly grin.

XANA-William

Give up, Aelita!

Aelita backs up into the invisible wall of the bubble.

Aelita

Alright…

Aelita smiles. XANA-William pats the head of the snarling wolf.

Aelita

You win, William.

Aelita gets down on her knees, closes her eyes and places her hands on the wall of the bubble. XANA-William looks at her in confusion. Her song of creation is heard. There’s a flash of light. The invisible wall ripples and the snow is kicked up into the air.

XANA-William

NOOO!

##### Ice Sector, Lyoko

The simulation bubble shatters, leaving Aelita kneeling in the Ice Sector. She bows her head and then looks around. There’s nothing in front of her. Behind her are XANA-William and a Blok, which must have been acting as Hopper and then the wolf. XANA-William summons his sword and shakes his head.

XANA-William

It doesn’t matter. You lose no matter what, Aelita.

Aelita

Not yet.

Aelita forms an energy field.

##### Ice Sector, Lyoko [Alternating with Lab]

Ulrich Supersprints up to the last Tarantula, dodging fire, and jumps onto its head.

Ulrich

Impact!

He stabs his sabres into its eye and jumps off before it explodes.

Jeremie watches the map.

Jeremie

Huh?

Ulrich returns to Odd and Yumi. Odd is backing away, aiming at something, but he lowers his arm.

Jeremie

The simulation bubble’s disappeared. Go and help Aelita! Step on it!

Odd

Ok, Einstein. Can you call us some taxis?

Jeremie programs the vehicles.

Jeremie

Coming up!

The three vehicles appear near the friends. Odd and Ulrich jump on and take off. Yumi is shot and devirtualised while running to the Overwing.

Ulrich

A Blok…

##### Int. Scanner Room – Day

Yumi appears in the scanner.

Yumi

What was it, Jeremie?

Jeremie

A Blok.

Yumi looks like she’s mentally kicking herself.

##### Ice Sector, Lyoko

The Blok chases after Odd and Ulrich, firing at them.

Odd

Guess we’d better un-Blok the situation!

Ulrich

The first priority is getting Aelita back.

Ulrich accelerates.

Odd

Here we go!

Odd accelerates.

##### Ice Sector, Lyoko [Alternating with Lab]

XANA-William and the Blok have backed Aelita up to the edge of the platform. They hear Ulrich and Odd approaching.

XANA-William

Manta!

The Black Manta flies up from underneath the platform. XANA-William points at the two boys.

XANA-William

Attack!

The Manta flies towards Ulrich and Odd.

Ulrich

Flying Manta! Watch out!

Odd and Ulrich weave to dodge the Manta’s lasers.

Aelita smiles and waves her hand over her bracelet, summoning her wings. She flies up while XANA-William still has his back turned, but the Blok shoots her down. XANA-William turns back to Aelita.

XANA-William

You wanna leave? Be my guest.

XANA-William forms smoke in his hand and levitates Aelita off the edge of the platform in a cloud of smoke.

Aelita (scared)

Help! Help!

Ulrich and Odd drive past, still being chased by the Manta.

Jeremie

Aelita! No!

Ulrich

She’s too far away, Jeremie. Better bring her in.

Ulrich ducks and narrowly avoids a laser.

Jeremie (stressed)

I don’t believe it…!

XANA-William swings his arm downwards, throwing Aelita towards the Digital Sea. She screams as she falls. She plunges into the water.

Ulrich stops the Overbike and sees the column of light erupt from the Digital Sea.

Ulrich

Nooo!

He drives off.

Jeremie (stressed)

Oh, no! This can’t be happening. Not Aelita!

Yumi arrives in the lift and steps out into the lab.

Jeremie

Yumi, Aelita’s gone!

There’s a stunned silence.

With a long battle cry, Ulrich unsheathes his sabre and drives straight towards XANA-William and the Blok. Odd looks furious.

Odd

Ok, Romeo, this is really going to cost you!

Odd follows Ulrich towards the enemies. The Black Manta pursues them both, still shooting at them. Ulrich crouches on the Overbike and then jumps up into the air to throw his sabre. XANA-William blocks it. The Overbike keeps driving straight towards him.

XANA-William

Supersmoke!

XANA-William turns to smoke and avoids the vehicle. Ulrich lands and catches his sabre. XANA-William returns to human form and ignores the two boys, walking back towards the edge of the platform instead. Ulrich sheathes his katana.

Ulrich

What’s he doing now? Looks like he’s waiting for something…

Jeremie (subdued)

I don’t know… Without Aelita, it’s all over.

XANA-William and the Blok both stand right next to the edge.

Jeremie rubs his head. He looks up in surprise when there’s a sudden beep.

Odd stops the Overboard.

Odd

Einstein! Something weird is happening!

XANA-William is still looking expectantly at the Digital Sea.

Jeremie

Yeah, hang on. I think I get the picture…

A blue-and-pink sphere of light emerges from the Digital Sea. Ulrich runs up to the edge of the platform.

Ulrich

Huh?

XANA-William raises his arms (and sword) up high.

XANA-William

Victory!

The sphere starts floating upwards.

Yumi

Hey, what is that thing?

On the map, the sphere appears as a large, white sphere.

Jeremie

It’s what I thought. I was right…

The sphere flies up above the level of the platform, right in front of XANA-William and the two Bloks. The monsters charge their lasers.

XANA-William

Fire!

The Bloks start firing at the sphere, forcing it backwards with every hit.

Ulrich

Jeremie, XANA’s trying to destroy a kind of brightly-lit bubble! What do we do?!

Jeremie

Protect it! That bubble is…Franz Hopper.

The sphere floats down to rest on top of another platform.

Ulrich unsheathes his sabres.

Ulrich

I’ll handle William.

Odd boxes the air.

Odd

Ok. Then I’ll go and do a number on that Blok!

Odd swoops by the enemies, shoots and destroys a Blok. Ulrich runs towards XANA-William, but the enemy spots him.

XANA-William

Supersmoke.

XANA-William goes between Ulrich’s legs and regains human form behind him. They engage in their usual form of sword combat, swinging, blocking and then locking their blades together and pushing against one another.

The remaining Blok keeps shooting at Hopper. The sphere makes its way across the platform and deposits Aelita on the ground.

Yumi

It looks like he dropped something off…

Jeremie

You’re right, he did! It was Aelita!

The Blok takes a quick look at Ulrich and XANA-William, still locked in battle, before turning and shooting at Hopper again. The sphere has picked up speed, but is still hammered by the Blok’s lasers. Aelita sits up and holds her head.

Aelita

Daddy?

Aelita sees the sphere, the Blok’s lasers and the Black Manta flying overhead. She stands up and reaches out for her father in concern.

Odd

Laser arrow!

Odd flips over the Manta, shooting its eye as he goes over it. He lands back on the Overboard and the monster explodes. Aelita smiles gratefully at Odd.

Odd

It’s great to see you again, Princess!

Odd flies towards the remaining monster. Hopper is shot again, this time brushing slightly against the ground and creating a white glow. He slows down considerably.

A window on Jeremie’s screen shows Hopper’s sphere and a pink energy bar.

Jeremie (stressed)

Hopper’s losing energy! Take out that Blok. And make it snappy, too!

Odd

We’re doing all we can, Einstein!

Odd flies past the Blok. It turns its attention to him and fires after him.

Ulrich jumps over one of XANA-William’s sword swings and lunges to attack, but XANA-William hits and devirtualises him. XANA-William then turns his attention to the sky and smirks, watching Odd flying around the Blok and shooting at it. XANA-William swings his sword and throws an energy wave at Odd while his back is to XANA-William, knocking him off the Overboard and devirtualising him. The Blok goes back to shooting at Hopper.

Aelita

Energy field.

Aelita throws an energy field at the Blok and misses. The Blok shoots an ice beam back at her, freezing her leg in place. Aelita whacks the ice, to no avail. The Blok goes back to shooting at Hopper.

XANA-William

Supersmoke.

XANA-William turns to smoke and flies across the gap to the other platform.

On Jeremie’s screen, Hopper’s energy continues to drop.

Jeremie

It’s all over…

Hopper unsteadily makes it to the edge of the platform. XANA-William arrives, too. Aelita reaches out to her father.

Aelita

Daddy, you have to get away. Hurry!

Aelita throws an energy field at XANA-William, knocking him to his knees. Hopper falls off the edge and drops into the Digital Sea. XANA-William throws an energy wave at Aelita, devirtualising her while she’s still stuck in the ice. He then plants his sword in the ground in front of him.

XANA-William

NOOO!

##### Int. Scanner Room – Day

The scanner opens to reveal Aelita, sitting on the floor and rubbing her eyes.

Aelita

Hi.

Odd and Ulrich are leaning on her scanner, looking down at her.

Odd

Saying you gave us a scare is an understatement, Princess.

Ulrich nods.

Ulrich

I know someone who’s gonna be really happy to see you. Let’s go.

Odd

I hope this time he gives us the rundown he promised us, because I don’t know *what’s* going on!

Odd and Ulrich take a wrist each and help Aelita to her feet.

##### Int. Aelita’s Room – Day

The gang have met in Aelita’s room with their things. Aelita, Jeremie and Odd are on the bed, and Kiwi is asleep on Odd’s chest. Yumi and Ulrich are sitting on the floor opposite the others.

Jeremie

It’s pretty obvious!

Odd

There he goes again…

Jeremie

You see, when Lyoko was destroyed, Hopper wasn’t spread out over the network. He managed to escape.

Yumi

He disappeared on purpose! Is that it?

Jeremie

That’s right! To get away from XANA! Which is why he’s constantly trying to throw Aelita into the Digital Sea all the time! He knows that’s the only thing that could get Hopper to come out of hiding.

Ulrich

In order to destroy him!

Aelita

As long as my father’s alive, I feel he’ll always be a big threat to XANA…

Jeremie

And our friend XANA knows it!

Odd

Well…before we blow XANA away for good, why don’t we give each other our presents, huh?

Odd sits up, moving Kiwi so that he’s resting on the bed.

Ulrich

We said we’d wait ‘til after vacation…

Odd gets a large stack of gift-wrapped boxes out of his bag.

Odd

Yeah, I know. Here Einstein, this one’s for you.

Odd gives a gift to Jeremie.

Odd

Since XANA made us come back earlier than expected, why wait, right?

Odd hands gifts to Yumi and Ulrich. Jeremie looks unimpressed as he squeaks a rubber duck.

Jeremie

That’s cool, Odd! Thanks a lot! But…um… (flat) …what am I supposed to do with it?

Aelita checks out her new fork with a spoon on the other end.

Odd

Anything at all! That’s what makes it fun, don’t you think?

Odd starts unwrapping a gift.

Odd (to Ulrich and Yumi)

You’re not opening your presents?

Ulrich

No. In Japan, you never open a present in front of the person who gave it to you.

Ulrich looks at Yumi out of the corner of his eye and blushes. Yumi smiles and winks at him. Jeremie is now holding a large book, and Aelita is wearing a fluffy, pink scarf and matching mittens.

Aelita

Thank you, Jeremie!

Jeremie

And that isn’t all, Aelita! Tonight, you’re coming home with me! My parents want you to stay for the holidays.

Aelita

But I don’t want to bother them…

Jeremie

It’s no bother at all! They’re the ones who insisted! I’ll give you my room, and I’ll sleep in the living room. We’ve got a really comfortable couch!

Aelita

What about XANA?

Jeremie

You know, I’m sure that XANA could use a vacation, too!

Jeremie laughs. Yumi and Ulrich smile at each other.

Jeremie

What’cha thinking about?

Aelita

About my father. When he saved me, even in his virtual form…I could feel his presence. Like he was holding me in his arms…

Aelita closes her eyes. The sunlight shines through the window.