

CRYSTAL DYNAMICS INDUSTRY TEST

by

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EXT. OUTSIDE OF CAIRO, EGYPT - DAY

A truck's tires crunch over sand. The vehicle's engine roars as it speeds up.

ABRAHAM

Hey, where's the fire, Ms. Croft?
You're making me nervous over here.

LARA CROFT

Look, I didn't agree to take you
out here so I could baby-sit you,
Abraham.

The truck jolts momentarily as it shifts into higher gear.

LARA CROFT

The faster we reach the ruins the
more daylight we're going to have
to search them.

Abraham glances sideways at Lara. Her gaze is set dead ahead.

ABRAHAM

You agreed to take me out here so I
could help you translate anything
you come across. But, if you don't
want to baby-sit me, you're more
than welcome to brush up on the
world's ancient dialects and do it
yourself.

Lara scoffs, shaking her head.

ABRAHAM

Lara, it's not like the ruins are
going anywhere. I'm serious; you
should calm down a little.

Lara sighs and presses on, refusing to slow down.

LARA CROFT

(under her breath)
Better safe than sorry...

EXT. EGYPTIAN RUINS - LATE AFTERNOON

Lara pulls up to what looks like abandoned rubble, almost indistinguishable from the landscape. The Great Pyramids of Giza are visible far off in the background.

LARA CROFT

This is it. Start looking for any
inscriptions on the pieces. I'm

going to start looking on the other side.

The pair splits up, scouring the remains of the long forgotten structure.

ABRAHAM
(calling out)
Find anything?

LARA CROFT
Not yet...

Lara brushes away some sand from a piece of the building.

LARA CROFT
Wait... Abraham come take a look at this!

Abraham rushes over to Lara and peers over her shoulder.

ABRAHAM
Hold on... What? This is Sanskrit. I didn't expect to find ancient Sanskrit writings in Egypt. And why way out here, of all places?

LARA CROFT
I told you before Abraham, there's more to what we're looking for than you think.

Abraham turns to Lara, slightly annoyed.

ABRAHAM
Well what are we looking for, Lara? Do you care to explain anything now that you've brought me out here?

Lara hesitates. She's conflicted, and it shows on her face.

LARA CROFT
I can't tell you. The more people I involve in this the more dangerous it gets. I've learned that lesson too many times over now...

Abraham lets out an indignant and exasperated breath.

LARA CROFT
What does the inscription say?

ABRAHAM
You keep acting like we're in mortal danger out here, but the

only thing killing me is the sun!
What is happening, Lara? What
aren't you telling me?

LARA CROFT

Just translate it, pl-

A gunshot cracks through the air. The bullet whizzes by,
only inches away from Abraham's head.

ABRAHAM

Holy-!

Abraham is cut off by another round of gunfire. He ducks behind the rubble.

LARA CROFT

Get down, Abraham! Don't move until
I say it's safe!

Lara draws her pistol and begins moving through the rubble, taking cover and returning suppressive fire to shield her movements. She dispatches the attackers with relative ease before returning to Abraham.

ABRAHAM

(incredulous)

What. The. Hell?! What was that all
about? Did you know they were
coming?!

LARA CROFT

I had a feeling they might.

ABRAHAM

"They" who? Who are they? Why did
they just try to kill us?!

Lara checks the horizon warily before sitting down on a rock. She takes a deep breath.

LARA CROFT

I really shouldn't have brought you
out here...

ABRAHAM

It's a little late for that now,
isn't it? Now that I've almost died
once today, I think I deserve an
explanation.

Lara sighs again.

LARA CROFT

Those men were sent from an
organization called Trinity. I
think they're trying to find
something called the Slab of
Eternity. It's an ancient relic
said to have been forged outside of
time as we know it. If Trinity get
the Slab, they'll have control of
time itself. That's why I've got to

find it first. I didn't they'd
already caught up to me...

ABRAHAM
The Slab of Eternity?

Abraham shakes his head, confused.

ABRAHAM

Why have I never heard of
it?

LARA CROFT
No one really knows where it came
from. There are only scraps - mere
morsels - of information about it.
Hunting down whatever I could find
led me here. And now Trinity is
here too.

Abraham is silent for a moment. He looks from Lara, to the
bodies, and back.

ABRAHAM
Then we better get that stone
translated. I may have almost died
today, but you also saved my life.
When I'm done we can call it even,
yeah?

Lara lets a quiet chuckle out as Abraham gets to work on
the translation.

EXT. EGYPTIAN RUINS - EVENING

ABRAHAM
Okay, Lara, come look at this. See
this line here? It says, "Under the
shade of Khufu's rest, truth is
revealed."

LARA CROFT
Khufu's rest -- that must refer to
the Great Pyramid! So it must have
something to do with the pyramid's
shadow. Does it say anything about
a time of day?

ABRAHAM
Right here. From what I can make
out, this phrase roughly translates
to "morning's light".

LARA CROFT

Okay, then we're looking for the shadow cast by the pyramid in the morning. We've got to get there before sunrise tomorrow. No doubt Trinity will be hot on our trail; we have to stay one step ahead.

EXT. THE GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA - DAWN

Abraham lies snoring in the backseat of the truck. Lara looks at him in the rear view mirror and smiles to herself. However, the moment is short lived. She quickly shakes herself back to reality and jostles Abraham awake.

LARA CROFT

The sun will be coming up soon. I figured I'd let you sleep through the night in here, just to be safe. I'm going to drop you off in Cairo now so I can get back in time to see the shadow. Things will get even uglier today, so it's best you're nowhere near here when Trinity arrives.

Abraham sits up, stretching.

ABRAHAM

No, I can't just sit around twiddling my thumbs knowing what's at stake here. I was thinking about it last night... The Slab of Eternity. Those men. Trinity. None of it seems real. But somehow, I trust you Lara. I want to help.

LARA CROFT

Abe, it's too dangerous. Trinity is ruthless. Just let me handle this, please...

Abraham puts his hand on Lara's shoulder.

ABRAHAM

If something happens to me, that's on me. Not you. Don't forget that. I'm choosing this.

Abraham scoots back into the seat to gather his gear.

ABRAHAM

Besides, I'm not entirely useless, am I? Who's going to do all the reading if I don't tag along?

Lara smiles once again, and opens the truck's door.

LARA CROFT

Fine, but stay close to me and call out if you see anything.

Lara and Abraham make their way to where the Great Pyramid's shadow is being cast. The early hour has rendered the base of the pyramid devoid of tourists. A perfect time to search the area.

ABRAHAM

So what exactly do you think we're going to find here that a million people haven't stepped on before?

LARA CROFT

I'm not sure yet...

Some time passes while Lara inspects irregularities in the landscape.

ABRAHAM

Do you really think this is just an 'X marks the spot' kind of deal? Would they actually bury a clue in the sand out here?

Lara considers this for a moment.

LARA CROFT

Hold on... 'X marks the spot'... That's it! Abe you're brilliant! Of course there's nothing buried here! The shade of Khufu's rest reveals the truth: We're supposed to go where it's pointing!

Lara pulls out a map and begins sketching furiously on it while referencing the shadow. Abraham approaches her.

ABRAHAM

There are a lot of places to search where the tip of the triangle points. Do you have any idea where we're supposed look in that direction?

LARA CROFT

(pointing at her map)

Yes, one of the maps I found before referenced an ancient structure in that area. I'd bet anything we're meant to go there next!

ABRAHAM

Okay then! Let's... Oh... No...

Abraham's gaze drifts past Lara. He's looking at several blacked out Humvees speeding their way.

ABRAHAM

Uhh, Lara?! Looks like Trinity's on its way!

Lara turns to see the vehicles kicking up dust, speeding towards her. She scrambles to gather all her belongings and starts running.

LARA CROFT

Quickly, Abraham! Get back to the truck! Run!

As the Humvees draw near, bullets start whipping past Abraham and Lara. Metal crunches as some of the rounds hit the truck. Lara slams her foot on the pedal, racing towards the city.

ABRAHAM

Go, go, go, go!

Abraham fastens his seatbelt, looking terrified.

ABRAHAM

Oh god...

LARA CROFT

Stay with me Abe! Come on, we'll make it!

Abraham glances at Lara, who looks confident and determined. He swallows his fear.

ABRAHAM

Hand me your pistol, I'm gonna try to scare 'em a little!

Lara hands her weapon over without a second thought.

LARA CROFT

Good luck!

Abraham squeezes several shots off. They don't seem to do much. He focuses in for a couple more. Suddenly, a Humvee's tire explodes into ribbons of rubber. It loses control and crashes into its neighbors.

ABRAHAM

Hell yeah! Did you see that Lara?!

Lara laughs and looks back at the wreckage.

LARA CROFT

Nice one! There's bound to be much
more where that came from!

The truck tears down the street into the city. Lara and
Abraham are well on their way to their next stop.

END.

Briefly discuss how you might convey story beats of this
scene during gameplay, using in-game narrative systems and
techniques.

Some exchanges that call for more subtle or specific
actions would be conveyed via cut scene. Action-oriented
sections would be fit for gameplay. Other interactions that
leave character actions more open-ended could be portrayed
during gameplay with dialogue triggers.