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# WINTER IS COMING...TO THE ELDER SCROLLS ONLINE

BY [LISA MILDON \(HTTP://COFFEEHOUSEWRITERS.COM/AUTHOR/LISA-MILDON/\)](http://COFFEEHOUSEWRITERS.COM/AUTHOR/LISA-MILDON/) / JANUARY 27, 2020 / 43 / 0

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On January 16<sup>th</sup>, at their global reveal event, Bethesda Softworks and Zenimax Online Studios (ZOS) announced to a studio audience and thousands of online streamers their upcoming chapter in the wildly popular MMOG (Massively Multiplayer Online Game) *The Elder Scrolls Online* titled *Dark Heart of Skyrim*. Game Director for ZOS Matt Firor announced that ZOS decided to do another year-long adventure, much like last year's Elsweyr (<http://coffeehousewriters.com/elder-scrolls-online-elsweyr/>) chapter.

At the announcement, Pete Hines (@DCDeacon (<https://twitter.com/DCDeacon>)), senior vice president of global marketing and communications at Bethesda Softworks and Rich Lambert (@SlashLurk (<https://twitter.com/SlashLurk>)) creative director at Zenimax Online Studios discussed the details of their latest upcoming expansion for *The Elder Scrolls Online*.

## **What to Expect**



Extracted and created by Lisa Mildon.

After revealing the cinematic trailer, which featured Lyris Titanborn, Nords, and vampires in the familiar region of Skyrim, Hines and Lambert discuss the plans for the much-anticipated expansion. In *Dark Heart of Skyrim*, there will be four parts released throughout the year. The first part will be the story prologue, two parts will be dungeon DLC's (Downloadable Content), and then the story DLC. Below is the tentative schedule:

- Q1 Dungeon DLC Harrowstorm. Prologue quest. Currently being tested in PTS (Public Test Realm). To be released mid-March.
- Q2 Greymoor Chapter (for purchase). Will go live on June 2.
- Q3 and Q4 will be announced at E3. One as another dungeon DLC, Stormheart, and another as a story DLC. Both are set to tentatively release August and November 2020.

Heading to the snowy region of western Skyrim and characters will explore Solitude, Morthal, and even a vast underground area called Blackreach, which will feature vampires, werewolves, and witches. Included over the next year will be a new delve in Shadowgreen and Laborinthian, a new public dungeon.

The story of *Dark Heart of Skyrim* centers around vampires, werewolves, witches, and the mysteries of random people disappearing. Of course, Lyris Titanborn is the NPC (Non-playable character) that will lead you through the story. Other familiar NPC's will include Narsis Dren, the dastardly dark elk, Riggurt the Brash, and some members of the Ravenwatch.

## **New Skill Lines – Antiquities**



*Extracted and created by Lisa Mildon.*

Antiquities are a way of gameplay in ESO. It doesn't involve combat or questing. What it does include are two skill lines **Scrying** and **Excavate**. **Scrying** will require a device called the Antiquarian's Eye. Use it to discover where an antiquity is approximately located. Once you know that, then the second skill, **Excavate** will be used to retrieve the antiquity. Both skill lines will involve mini-games to make it interesting. These antiquities will be steeped in history and lore of Tamriel. You'll be able to travel throughout Tamriel (both older areas and new), looking for antiquities. Some of the items found will be available as home furnishings, new emotes, gear, and even PVP (Player-vs-player) weapons. You'll also find **Mythic items**, unique items that you can only wear one at a time and have distinct properties, such as increased movement speed. Antiquities is basically Indiana Jones in Tamriel.

## Vampires Revamped



*Extracted and created by Lisa Mildon.*

An exciting part of the announcement is that ZOS will overhaul the vampire skill line and animations. Lambert mentions that there will be a new ultimate skill, plus several other skills will be tweaked. The revamp will include needing to feed more to take advantage of vampire abilities and better graphic feeding animations to add realism. It was hinted that the ultimate could be something similar to the vampire lord ability from TES 5. Also, some of these new vampire abilities will be much like the necromancer ones as they will be considered a criminal act.

## Performance Addressed

With the new chapter comes some much-needed performance fixes. Players will be required to download and reinstall the entire game but will be rewarded not only with a 30GB reduction in file size, but Bethesda will give a Crimson Torchbug pet as an incentive. Along with the reduced game file size, patches will also be significantly reduced in file size as well. Both file reductions should help with faster load screen time and faster framerate.

## Collector's Edition

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zenimax Bethesda

*Extracted and created by Lisa Mildon.*

This year will include a physical collector's edition that will have a sweet looking Vampire Lord statue, collectible coins, a map, a free month of ESO Plus, and a ton of digital goodies, including a new emote pack, new mount, new pet, plus a whole lot more. Players who pre-order will get the mount now to use while awaiting the new chapter's release. Of course, there is still the digital collector's edition that gives you all the digital goodies that the physical edition includes.





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PATRICIA HARRIS on JANUARY 27, 2020

Thank you. (<http://coffeehousewriters.com/spirits-of-christmas-past/#comment-3770>)

Spirits of Christmas Past



JYODER\_INSPIRED PEN on JANUARY 27, 2020

TIME - AL

Thanks, Julie! I appreciate that. :)  
(<http://coffeehousewriters.com/time-altered-perception/#comment-3767>)

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