

Apocalypse

Orchard was full of mature, red and yellow apples. The sweet scent was spreading into the nostrils.

Tajga's paws grabbed the next fruit and put it carefully into the wooden basket carried at the back of Stomps the Ronto.

From tree to tree, from branch to branch, followed by sound of the apples munched on by her companion and helper, Tajga was picking apple after apple, and following the footsteps of the Happabore which was scratching its side at every passed tree causing fruits to fall.

The fresh air, physical training, and practice of the focus on target - that was the tasks which were described by Archian for her.

Her guardian wasn't here, but also wasn't far. He was focusing on making a new scarecrow in the close by field, and later to set up ground for other fruit bushes. Also this was a good time for him to take Askel out of the camp and make a small field trip.

The wind wasn't strong but enough to move branches with the warm wavy movement.

This was an almost perfect opportunity to pick up some apples without spending much energy.

The sun was warm, and Tajga smiled from the heat reaching her skin by the short white and brown fur.

One apple.

Second apple.

Third apple.

Each of the fallen fruits were in line, like someone was planning beforehand for Tajga to find them.

She didn't care about it - fruit was a fruit, and she was looking forward to jams and cakes made from them.

The green ceiling above her made everything felt like the inside of the sauna, so she didn't expect anything to disturb her until she would send a message through her comlink to Archian who was supposed to pick her up.

Happi opened his jaws and swallowed a bunch of the apples which had fallen from the brush at the same time.

She positioned herself in the middle of the alley leaving Stomps and Happabore each side to disturb the trees with their bodies. She showed the signal with her paw, and with full synchronization moved forward.

The plan worked, and smaller basket which Tajga was wearing at her back was almost full.

Wooosh... Branches above her moved with high speed with movement clearly going ahead.

The apples bombarded her from above, hitting her head and causing Stomps to make a complaint sound, and Happi was of course happy from all of it because he swallowed another bunch of fallen apples.

Wooooosh... This time Tajga had enough time to notice two lines following each other and crossing each trajectory.

Also something at the ground level was running through the bushes, but Stomps and Happi didn't react to it at all.

Next wave of the heavy, fresh apples had fallen and Tajga decided to hide under the Stomps.

Immediately after, three apples kicked at her from the line. This made additional bruises on her forearms and shoulders.

Now one of the line had stroke the green ceiling and small droid came down, stopped above her, dropping the ten apples straight at the Stomps and Tajga's head.

That didn't last long as Porg in the beskar helmet hit the droid and took it down on the ground.

Immediately after that Klatooine Paddy Frog jumped out from bushes, kicking an apple in front of it, and with following a fruit reached Tajga, and kicked it inside of her now at the ground harvesting basket.

The strange kind of laughing sound came out from the bush where the not bothered at all Happi was munching on the all fallen apples.

The small black fur Shistavanen walked out from the bush with a controller in his paws, which she recognised as remote to the droid.

"Why are you here?" Annoyed Tajga asked him with paws.

"I got bored, Archain permitted me to join you." Aksel explained with his paws movement.

"Thank you?" After signing she looked around at the mass red "graveyard" of the collapsed apples at the ground, and Porg flying away to the direction where she just heard the familiar Porg screaming.

"But you shouldn't sneak out at me like this." She added.

"Apologies" He signed back, and it was visible that he was close to crying.

Tajga had to think quickly.

"Come one. Nose up. If you help me today to finish work on these apples, we can go to the corn maze tomorrow, and have fun there". She showed him, blinked and smiled.

Aksel jumped happily into air, and immediately started to collect fruit with help of the droid and Klatooine Paddy Frog which was kicking all apples into his direction now.