

## **In space no can hear you scream**

### **Xantros**

#### **36 ABY, Ragnath, Caperion System**

Xantros opened his eyes. it was still quiet, like if it was still night. But definitely was bot. A stream of sunlight came through a window in Duro's quarters. He blinked a few times in surprise. Headquarters of Clan Scholae Palatinae were busy and buzzing with the voices of hundreds of people for most of the day. He got used to that background sound so much that he did not pay attention to it, but the lack of it was a deafening silence. It was very strange that no sound came to his ears at all. Disturbed by that fact, he decided to investigate what was the reason of the situation.

The Duros walked out of his quarters noticing the door opened and closed without making any sound. He raised his eyebrows as it used to creak each time it opened, but he continued his quest to learn more about that strange situation. Soon, he learned that the headquarters of Clan Scholae Palatianae were as busy as always with plenty of people walking through the corridors of the base. He approached one of the clerks and asked what was happening. The Human said something, but the Duros could not hear anything. He pointed with his hands to his ears and shook his head to show that he did not hear what the man just said. The clerk took out an electronic notepad from a pocket in his uniform, typed something and showed the screen to Duros.

“It is a normal day, but you definitely need to visit our medical center. Do you remember the way?” it said.

Xantros nodded and smiled to thank the clerk. He immediately walked to the medical section of the base. He immediately explained that he could not hear anything. Doctors communicated with him through electronic notepads and conducted a set of medical examinations to find the reason for him to lose his hearing. It took almost eight hours to complete the test. Finally, scanning neural pathways in his body revealed that there was no connection between his ears and his brain was somehow broken. Despite all examinations, the cause of that situation remained unknown to both doctors and Xantros himself as no event that could explain it took place within several weeks before him losing his hearing sense. Still, despite no sign of any unusual microbes that might affect his neural system, he was held in an isolation ward to avoid spreading the potential disease.

As he did not have much to do while in the isolation, Xantros spent most of the time in a meditation trance focusing on healing his body from whatever disease or accident made him lose his hearing. After three days, his meditation was interrupted by sounds of steps right outside the containment cell he was locked at. He noticed that the door opened with a dull, but still audible sound of air exchange between the cell and the decontamination passage. He looked at the Human who entered his room to deliver a meal.

“I think I would prefer eating something tastier than this slurry. And outside of this cell.”

The male nurse just shook his head to say ‘no’ and Xantros sighed.

“You can speak, I will hear you,” said the Duros.

“Would you?” asked the nurse. “Then, close your eyes and repeat after me.”

“I know, I know, you think that I might read your lips,” replied Xantros. “But, whatever, if it makes it possible for me to leave this place, I might even hear you singing a Huttese opera.”

The Human laughed and said, “Very well, then. I will start singing “*Hutt in the boots*” just for you.”

“Very well, then. I will start singing “Hutt in the boots” just for you,” repeated Xantros with a chuckle and added, “Luckily for me, I have never heard about such opera.”

“You might have not heard about it, but it does not mean it does not exist. I do not think you are an expert in Huttese culture,” spoke the man and left the containment cell.”

Half an hour later, the doctors conducted a few more medical tests to confirm that everything was fine. Then, they let Xantros return to his quarters, but recommended him to visit the medical center for hearing tests every three months to check if his hearing was still working correctly. What caused the hearing loss remained an unsolved mystery to everyone.