

“G4 lock down that stabiliz..”

His head swimming and dazed Korvyn awoke knowing that he had crashed. He remembered trying to navigate but gravitational readings were everywhere. He wasn't a bad pilot by any means but when gravity shifted so fast there was no way to compensate it. Climbing from the cockpit of his V-Wing, he knew he must be in one of those gorges he saw from above. It was massive both in width and height. Climbing out would be next to impossible and his ship wasn't going anywhere at the moment. Calling out to his astromech unit, G4, Korvyn got no reply and walked around to find an empty space where the droid had been.

“Where could he be?” Granted Korvyn had had the droid about as long as the ship but it didn't seem like he would have wandered off. Being ejected from the Astromech Bay during the crash didn't seem right either since the droid was magnetically locked in during flight. His head swam again as he tried to locate the droid's tracks to see which direction it had gone. No tracks could be seen in the dust and dirt that made up the floor of the ravine. Something very strange was happening and Korvyn couldn't figure out what it was.

Knowing that his distress beacon would not work this far underground and his comm unit would be equally useless he grabbed his gear from the storage compartment and set off to find a way out of this pit. This far down some light did trickle in from above but everything seemed to be cast in a dull grey haze with a limited sight distance. Not wanting to be caught off guard Korvyn turned his glow rod on and attached it to his tunic. The haze seemed to be some kind of mist that swirled away from his light. It was one more odd thing he noticed somehow all of this was connecting but he still couldn't make out the bigger picture.

He walked it seemed like for hours, the force it seems was somehow suppressed in this cave. The mission briefing stated that this had happened to the scout teams. But somehow Korvyn didn't believe it until now. He tried to reach out to the force to guide his directions but he felt the force muted. It was still there but somehow struggled to reach him. He would go this one alone it seemed.

As he rounded the next corner of the twisting ravine, corpses lay scattered on the ground. Hundreds of them and the ravine narrowed down into an underground cave. It was as if this was more of a path leading to the cave than a ravine. Korvyn picked his way through the bodies. Some looked as though they had been there for centuries. Others still had flesh rotting off the bones. Strange he thought to himself that there were no carrion of insects feasting on the remains. Pieces of armor and clothing were spread throughout the open space. A faint light appeared as he got closer to the entrance of the cave. The light appeared to dance and sparkle and become brighter. Whatever or whoever was inside was heading towards him. Korvyn retrieved his lightsaber from his belt but did not ignite it.

A figure that was once a woman emerged from the cave. Crystals grew out of its body in odd

ways the stomach seemed hollow with crystals growing inward. A grotesque form of both flesh and blood and strangely glowing crystals. The creature was surprisingly fast for its obvious malformations. Korvyn stood in the center of the open area resolute in his stance as the creature got closer. Barely 20 yards apart the creature stopped and Korvyn felt the voice in his head almost before he heard it.

“Sent to meet the Mother.” the voice of the being echoed through his head.

“Who, or what are you?” Korvyn replied out loud.

“I was life, now I am death.”

Barely able to get his lightsaber ignited and up the creature lashed out with a crystalline hand. The saber was able to deflect the blow but didn't even leave a mark on the hand. And 'the mother' didn't even flinch at contact with a blade that normally would have severed the hand in two. More blows came and Korvyn was put on the defensive. The being was incredibly fast as Korvyn could barely keep up. Corpses and armor were trampled under the beast's feet and Korvyn did his best to remain on his footing.

The creature slowed its onslaught as it realized sheer power was not going to win the day. Korvyn took this opportunity to go on an onslaught of his own. His green blade was a flurry of hammering strikes. He repeatedly tried to hit the areas that looked more flesh than crystal. The crystalline monstrosity was forced to take a couple of steps back and eventually let out a loud bellow as Korvyn struck flesh near its left shoulder. It was a grazing wound but a painful one nonetheless.

Not wasting time Korvyn struck out again and with each landed blow the creature seemed to weaken just a little. The creature was extremely powerful but seemed to run out of energy fast. It has slowed significantly since the first initial attack and was now defending itself more than attacking. As the creature did so Korvyn could feel the force coming back to him. It was as if this 'mother' could suppress or even suck the Force out of people.

“Leave now or I will destroy you,” Korvyn said.

“The mother serves the father.” the voice rang in his head. “The mother can not fail again.”

Again, thought Korvyn, that is how this creature came into existence. The pattern was taking shape in his head. This is what failure meant, this is what the brotherhood was truly facing. A world where failure to meet the Children's whims meant you were turned into... these things. Korvyn deactivated his lightsaber. The puzzle had taken shape and was solved. Just as the creature used all its might to attack Korvyn he awoke.

The leader of Clan Vizsla was shaking the Jedi. He had been knocked out during the crash into the surface of the Shattered Plains. G4 sent out the distress signal. Even in his masked state, it

was easy to tell that he was visibly shaken.

“Slow down, that was a hard crash,” Korvis stated. “We got a medic coming.”

“It wasn’t the crash. It was a vision, a vision of what is to come if we fail.” The force usually spoke in whispers but this time it was as vivid as if it was real. Perhaps part of it is. “And do not go into those crevasses. There are monsters lurking there.”