**SBM Kz'set - House Karness Muur**

**DJB ID #13299**

**For Lorraine Korn it was the end of a bad day immediately on the heels of an even worse day. For reasons and by means as yet unknown, someone had managed to penetrate the heavy security around the R&D section of Hyperdyne Industries. More concerning though is that this person's objective had not to steal anything, but rather to take her life. The assassin, whom Corporate Security had yet to identify, escaped and remained at large. The worst part is that now a pair of bodyguards waited outside her office. That was bad enough, what was worse is that the bodyguards were droids.**

**"Is all this really necessary Teek? Those...things are rather unsettling." Korn moaned as she gathered her things and finished logging out of her computer.**

**"Corvin insisted. Besides, they're ex-commando units, BX models I believe. Quite competent, if a bit trigger happy." The middle aged Dressilian executive replied, her face contorting a bit with the last statement. Resuming his more reassuring tone he added, "You'll be safe with them."**

**Korn sighed. "Fine, send them in."**

**Teek nodded and keyed the comm panel. A moment later a pair nearly two meter tall humanoid droids painted in a dark colored urban camouflage motif strode into the Senior Vice President's comfortable yet cluttered office. Blaster carbines hung menacingly under their arms with a pistol on each hip. The droids looked around the room with a trained smoothness before focusing on Korn before the one on the right spoke in a dull, deep monotone.**

**"Your speeder is ready, mam. We should be going."**

**Korn glanced back and forth between the two droids before nodding. "Very well. Teek, see that those reports get finished and let me know when we get delivery confirmation on the latest prototypes. The transport delivering them is overdue."**

**"Yes mam." Teek answered as they turned to leave giving the droids one last nervous glance which was answered with a cold, metallic look in return.**

**The Hyperdyne Industries R&D section was a maze of corridors, laboratories, and offices. It was purposely laid out in such a manner that intruders wouldn't be able to find their way around easily. Snaking their way through the almost identical hallways took several minutes, eventually arriving at a door that led out into a narrow courtyard. As they emerged they were not greeted with a waiting speeder as expected. Instead, they were greeted by the familiar form of the company's Cheif of Security, a balding human veteran of the Vong Wars named Jevin Zan and a pair of grey uniformed guards.**

**Lorraine immediately got a look of stunned suprise. "What's the meaning of this Jevin? Is something wrong?"**

**Zan's face was emotionless, but his voice was concerned. "Very much so Ms. Korn. We just received word that the transport containing the prototype power couplings has been hijacked."**

**"What!" Lorraine shouted. "When? By who."**

**"That's what we wanted to ask you." Zan produced a datapad from the pocket of his jacket. "Communications logged this message being sent through several relays to a point in deep space between here and Fondor. The signal had your authorization codes and came from your office."**

**The executive's mouth stood agape in stunned silence. "You don't think...Zexx knows I'd never..."**

**Zan shook his head, "I have no choice mam, you'll have to come with us."**

**Before anyone could say another word, the two droids flanking Lorraine snapped up their blaster carbines and unloaded a hail of well placed blaster fire at the security guards. Before they could even grip their weapons, each had been hit with multiple shots. As the BXs trained their weapons on Zan, he shouted. "Lorraine, please, call them off."**

**The BXs said nothing and silenced Zan with a shot to the forehead.**

**"What...what's happening! Stop it! I order you, stop!" Lorraine shouted fratically to no avail. The BXs promptly grabbed her, one wrapping it's claw like hand around her mouth. A moment later, a cargo speeder raced into the courtyard, stopping right in front of them. As its rear hatched open, Lorraine could see two more of the commando droids and a lanky Verpine inside. With a shove, the executive was forced into the vehicle, landing with a thud. The last thing she saw was the Verpine grinning wickedly as a stun baton knocked her into unconsciousness.**

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**"She's coming to, sir".**

**The muffled voice of the commando droid stirred Lorraine back into the working world. Everything was still dark, but it took her a moment to realize it was because she'd been hooded. She could feel her wrists encased in metal and an attempt to sit up revealed she was strapped to something. All she could hear was the clicking of chitin against metal, probably the deck plates of a ship. A moment later, the dark was replaced by a near blinding light and the looming face of the Verpine from before, black eyes staring back at her.**

**"Good day Ms. Korn. I apologize for not introducing myself earlier. I am Kz'set, and from this day forth, you are mine."**

**Blinking her still adjusting eyes, she replied meekly. "You. You're behind this. You...you framed me. You dirty slaver scum."**

**The Verpine chuckled. "I'm no simple slaver Ms. Korn, and I've done far far more than simply frame you. You're not just a thief, but a murderer too. Selling out your own company to a bunch of Trandoshan pirates. My, that will be a scandal, won't it?"**

**Lorraine started glancing about, her predicament becoming more and more clear and her fear starting to creep on to her face. "I, I didn't kill them. They'll know I didn't kill them, you did that."**

**The Verpine's spindly fingers reached over to a nearby console. A monitor flashed to life, showing the scene that had occurred in the courtyard except instead of the droids, it was her doing the shooting. Switching the image off, the Verpine continued, a sinister buzzing in his voice.**

**"A woman as smart as you knows that people can be made to believe almost anything. All it takes is manipulating some data files, a few holo images, some voice sampling, and a network that's not as secure as you think it iszzz. Three days ago you were Corvin Zexx's most trusted associate. Tomorrow you'll be the most wanted woman in the sector. How does that make you feel."**

**The human tried to calm her breathing as sweat started beading on her forehead. "What do you want?"**

**"Simple Ms Korn." The Verpine sat down in a seat across from where she was bound. "My Lord requires your company and I intend to deliver it to him, piece by piece. I could have just killed you, but that would have been no fun. This way I get to extract every morsel of technical data and every corporate secret you have before I 'apprehend' you. Not that you'll remember any of this by the time I'm done with you, but trust me, you won't want to remember."**

**"What...who are you?" Lorraine sputtered.**

**"The Right Wing of Dread."**