A Lab Built of Ice

Fiction by Delak Krennel

 <Electricity flash> “Hahahaha, my work is proceeding nicely soon my ultimate goals will be made known to all,” cackled Vim. He was one of one of Zhan’s lead scientists. “The force assists me in my goals and the universe will soon know my power!” <Sparks fly once more>

Elsewhere on Caina…

 Guardian Delak Krennel was sitting in the spaceport cantina taking in a quick drink of caf. Things on Caina have been hectic to say the least. The battle for the planet has been waging for what seemed like years even though it had been a few months. The planet’s harsh wintery climate was to be desired because it was cold like a sith’s brutality; however its landscape had been scarred by explosions of ships and mortars turning once pristine white into charred black. Delak took a sip of the caf and heard a ding from his holocommunicator. Switching it on he saw the image of his Master Dante glaring fiercely at him.

“Apprentice, hope I’m not interrupting anything important.”

“Nothing is more important than the work we do for our great house. What is thy bidding?” Delak asked.

“We have need of your infiltration skills for a mission of the utmost importance. We have reason to believe there is a hidden lab to the north of the spaceport hiding Vim, one of Zhan’s most trusted sith scientists. The word from any who know him is that he is performing horrific experiments in this lab which may one day hold grave trouble for the galaxy. We need for you to find this lab and discover what is going on. We would prefer if you take this scientist alive but if it is not possible then we will not be displeased. If he cannot be taken then grab his computer core and we will go from there,” Dante finished.

“It will be done as you say Master. Krennel out.”

Delak shut down his holo and took a final sip of the caf before heading out the door into the frozen tundra. The intel he had been sent showed him the main area where Vim was believed to be holed up. The area was a mountain. Thinking this was an odd place to have a secret base he decided to check here first. The trip was a good twenty minutes by speederbike. The wind was whipping hard in the face of the Corulagian if not for his training in the dark side it may have been a little rougher than it was. The mountain was about 3 kilometers high covered in snow and ice. It looked very unimpressive as far as mountains were concerned and there were no discernable places that would look like an entrance to a secret base. Stretching out through the force Delak began searching for lifeforms that he could use to determine where a base may be hidden. The force tendrils were moving and bending around rocks and ice and snow until he sensed something not natural. One of the rocks was made of durasteel covered in fiberplast and it appeared to have an electronic sliding mechanism. “Looks like a good place to start to me,” thought Delak to himself. Walking over to the rock door he found a small tracked and cleared the snow off of it. He found an electronic locking system and tried to look it over. Thinking that this might be a waste of time he ignited his lightsaber which glowed crimson red with a snap hiss. He seared the electronic lock and the door began to open. “Apparently they believed no one would ever be smart enough to locate their secret entrance. With the aid of the force Delak slid down the ladder into the enclosure silently. As he reached the bottom he looked slowly around the corners. Toward the end of one of the hallways he could hear movement, knowing his location would be made if he stayed put he decided to use force speed to run to the opposite end of the hall the entire time stretching out with his force tendrils to make sure the way was clear.

 Reaching the corner Delak found an empty room which he carefully creeped into sensing there were no alarms. Closing the door swiftly behind him he began to peer around the room trying to ascertain where he was exactly. The room was filled with beakers and chemicals and it appeared to be a side lab that hadn’t been used in a while. There were also animal cages in the far corner of the room. Delak walked over the the cages, “This must have stored some poor creature being used in these experiments. I wonder if they are trying to genetically enhance monsters with the power of the force or if they are trying to make some kind of disease that is meant to kill off living life. Either way it can’t be good.” Delak continued to poke around and came to a computer terminal that was still powered on in sleep mode. One of the scientists had been lazy and forgotten to shut it off. The computer screen flashed to life flooding the room with a very low blue light. Looking at the monitor revealed a couple of things, the animals were nerfs and they were being used to test out some kind of new strain of virus. The tests according to the notes all ended with the creatures dying horribly gruesome deaths. The second thing he noticed were the videos of the creatures going into spasms shaking as violently as a rancor grabbing at its next meal. There was yet another file labeled \*REANIMATION”. Clicking into the file there were pages and pages of notes about how Vim was trying to use the force to charge the dead corpses and to bring them back to life as force beasts. If this were indeed the fact and he were close to succeeding this would mean that the creatures would be very hard to kill because they would already be dead. “A creature like this is an abomination to the force and to life itself,” Delak thought to himself.

 Hearing someone coming he quickly copied the files onto a removable storage drive and stuffed it inside his tunic. He powered down the computer station and slipped into the shadows. The door opened and someone with a flash light looked in the room. It appeared to be a security guard doing normal rounds. He quickly glanced around the room seeing nothing out of the ordinary he turned and left the room as quickly as he had entered. Delak made his way to the door and snuck out quietly following the guard. No one else was in the hallway so Delak grabbed the guard from behind and quickly snapped his neck and dragged him back into the lab he had just left. He placed the body in a corner and took his armor off to make better use of it as a stealth tool. Quickly donning the armor and sticking his tunic into the satchel that the guard was carrying he set out on what appeared to be normal rounds of a security sweep. The guard had a keycard for another lab and a blastech E-11 blaster rifle imperial issue and a hand held scanner. Delak began a scanner sweep with the crude instrument to find out how big the base was. It seemed to only be one level which rounded like a figure eight ending at one massive lab at the middle of the path. This had to be the room where Vim was practicing his dark science. Walking down the corridors the base had seemed empty save the guard he had taken out already until he reached the end of the first hallway and peered carefully into the one room that was lit up. There were three pathetic looking scientists in the room none of which matched Vim’s last known image. They were easily dispatched so he decided to pass them by. Further up the hall was the guard room which stored all the security systems for the base which seemed to be rather outdated otherwise he would never have made it this far. The one guard was asleep with his boots up on the table and there was one other guard who was cleaning his blaster. Delak walked into the room and closed the door.

“What’s going on Dorvaan? Find any spooky characters on your rounds?” the guard said with a chuckle.

“Actually I did,” Delak smirked as he pulled out his lightsaber and quickly jabbed with the blade that was attached to the hilt. He jabbed it straight up into the bottom of the guard’s skull and then switched on the blade. The blade extended up through the top of the man’s head and quickly cauterized so there was no blood. The lightsaber activation caused the other guard to stir and Delak quickly pulled the blade out and struck out with his blade in hand cutting the man’s hand off that was reaching for his blaster then quickly spun around taking a slice at the neck. This severed the head from its host and the body fell limp to the floor. He deactivated his saber and placed it on the table and he began his sweep through the security cameras. Luckily no one heard anything or they were too busy in rooms that were filled with noise from animals being tested on. Then it was there that he found his query. Vim was shooting lightning into the corpses of dead nerfs that were lying on a stone table. It was looking as though he had not yet succeeded in reanimating these creatures. He could see that the room was empty except for Vim. They probably wanted to stay away from all that lightning that was flying through the air, and who could blame them they would be dead in seconds if they were hit. “This is where it ends Vim all of your testing will be for naught.” Delak thought to himself.

 He hit a switch on the security panel labeled secondary lab doors. As he flipped the switch he could hear all of the door locks activating. Knowing there were no more guards to contend with Delak headed down the main corridor to the lab where Vim was at work. He walked up to the double doors of the lab and they slid open as he reached them. Stepping inside the lab he was met with a blast of lightning which he dodged and rolled into a guard crouch and ignited his lightsaber with a snap hiss the crimson blade once again sprang into life. “Vim, your time playing with dead things is at an end. I am here to stop your testing and to bring you in. Do not try to flee I have closed everything off. I am your only way out.”

“So you say sith. This will be your last day among the living and then it is your corpse I will use to complete my dream,” Vim finished as he ignited his own lightsaber and launched at Delak. He quickly parried the first two blows made by Vim. He countered with an elbow to the face knocking his foe backwards. Quickly as he had been knocked backwards Vim was back on the attack swiping from top to bottom left to right meeting blade on blade. Sparks were flying left and right. At the rate they were going they could keep this up for a while. Thinking on his feet Delak was sensing around the room for anything he could use to cause a distraction just long enough to catch the foe off guard. Then he sensed it part of the ventilation system was hanging loosely from the ceiling. He pressed his own attack hitting left to right swiping and moving forward as he pushed Vim backwards with the fury of the dark side. Vim backed into the exact spot Delak had wanted him to. Using the force to grab at the ventilation duct he pulled down with the force dropping it onto the unaware enemy hitting him in the head knocking him unconscious. Switching his saber off Delak pulled the computer memory cores and found a couple of syringes full of tranquilizers that they must have been using on the animals. He injected Vim with enough tranquilizers to keep him under for hours. He picked Vim up and threw him over his shoulder and hauled him back to the security station. In the security station Delak had noticed a button labeled self-destruct. When he pushed it a timer popped up displaying five minutes to detonation. He activated it and headed for the ladder. Still carrying his prey on his shoulder he climbed to the exit and boarded his speeder while laying his enemy on the bike to keep him aboard. As Delak was making the trip back he watched his chrono waiting for the explosion of the base. It was then that he felt the massive explosion and saw as smoke and ash filled the air. The remaining scientists and their experiments were now dead with no more threat from them. He continued back to the spaceport where he communicated with Dante.

“Master, it is done. Make haste for the spaceport and claim your prize.” Delak said.

“Very good my apprentice, my teachings do not fail you nor does your power in the force. Remember this moment when you defeated your enemy and saved the galaxy from certain ruin under this mad man’s plans.”

“I will remember Master, thanks to you.”