**The Cost of Spilled Milk**

**Kenath Zoron 13820**

**12 years ago**

Zoron stormed out of the mess hall, drops of liquid falling away in a steady stream. *Stupid little smurf-looking moron!* Zoron looked back over his shoulder and saw the Chiss who had “accidentally” poured his drink onto Zoron laughing with his friends. *He’s going to regret that. One day, I will ruin him.*

**Present day**

Zoron sat in his office, smiling to himself. He had been plotting since that day, 12 years ago, to get his revenge and now the time had come. He was firmly allied to the serving Deputy Grand Master as well as a number of past Grand Masters. He could finally act with impunity on that arrogant Chiss who had embarrassed him when he was still a young Journeyman.

Reaching across to his comms, he summoned the captain of Darkfire team 9. The young soldier entered a few minutes later and snapped to attention.

“Captain Ruondo. I have a mission for you and your team that is of great importance. It requires the utmost secrecy.” Zoron paused as the special forces Captain nodded his understanding. “You will be tasked with a reconnaissance mission to Sator, ostensibly to research opportunities for Taldryan to expand to the planet. However, I have arranged for a researcher to join you as well.”

“Sir? A civilian on a recon mission? That’ll get someone killed.”

Zoron grinned. “That’s exactly the plan, Captain. This researcher has far outlived his usefulness to the Clan and the Brotherhood. Once on the ground, you will simply escort him into the wilderness and then your team will “get separated” from him. All reports filed will indicate such. Any questions?”

Zoron knew that Captain Ruondo was no stranger to Brotherhood politics and understood what was being asked of him.

“No sir, I understand and will comply.” The Captain saluted and left.

**3 days later**

Zoron’s comms beeped and he accepted the notification. It was from Captain Ruondo. It was a copy of his after-action report. Zoron scanned until he found the relevant portion of the report.

 *CASUALTIES:*

*KIA – Civilian researcher Orm’cha’nadao was lost during the initial scouting mission when he became separated from the team. An extensive search was performed, but he was not located as it appeared he had forgotten to wear his locator beacon as protocol would dictate. Once all supplies were exhausted, Darkfire 9 withdrew and returned to Taldryan space. It is not suggested that an additional search team be sent as it is extremely unlikely that the civilian survived the night based on the number of hostile lifeforms. Armoured Darkfire troops suffered numerous injuries as detailed below.*

Zoron stopped reading and laughed. Finally. That blue-skinned moron had paid for his insolence and nothing could trace back to Zoron.