

"Again?" Jai'de said, disbelievingly. "This is accomplishing nothing Teylas. I'm never going to be able to do this!" These early morning training sessions were wearing thin. Teylas knew full well that there were other things she could be focusing on.

"Focus Jai'de!" said Teylas, frustrated with how easily she was giving up. "A novice could do this, and you're not even really trying."

Jai'de sighed and squared off against Teylas again. Taking a deep breath, she focused all of her energy on immobilizing her master. Looking annoyed, Teylas started tapping his foot impatiently waiting for the stasis to set in. Clearing her mind, and focusing on the task at hand, she took a deep breath and reached out for the force. Feeling it flow through her, she focused on the foot he was still impatiently tapping. Exhaling, she unleashed the power at her master, willing it to be successful.

Taken slightly aback by the amount of energy this ability still cost her, Jai'de staggered slightly and looked to her master to see if she had been successful.

"Good," Teylas said with a small smirk on his face. "Finally, able to use an ability someone with half your talent would have mastered already. Do it again."

Narrowing her eyes slightly, Jai'de tossed her hair in frustration at her master. He was always needling her with anything he perceived as weakness. As she focused on feeling the force fill her again, she sensed another pair approaching.

*"It would seem we have company coming."* Jai'de said telepathically to her master. *"Shall we give them a bit of a surprise?"*

*"It would be a shame not to."* Teylas replied, knowing full well what was about to happen.

Jai'de surrounded herself with a force cloak and blended back into a wall near the doorway, awaiting her unsuspecting victim. As Furios and his student Azmodius came through the doorway, Jai'de crouched down and swept Azmodius' feet out from underneath him. While generally known for his quick reflexes, she felt a small surge of satisfaction when the blow connected and successfully landed him on his back.

"Been drinking so early in the day, have we gentlemen?" Jai'de taunted saucily, knowing full well if he hadn't been drinking, she likely wouldn't have gotten the upper hand so easily.

"Looks like your student is having trouble keeping to his feet Furios." Teylas intoned wryly.

Furios casually leaned back against the wall and nudged his student with his foot. "Get on your feet Azmodius." He said, sighing.

Azmodius, taking another swig of vodka from the flask he kept strapped to his thigh at all times, struggled to his feet. "You almost made me spill my drink! Damn it Jai'de! We've talked about this!" He said, more concerned about the precious vodka than anything else.

*"Stop messing around Jai'de, we still have work to do."* Teylas chided telepathically.

*"Ok, ok. How about working on some sparring?"* Jai'de responded, amused.

"What do you think Furios, shall we let our students spar for practice? Do you think Azmodius can keep up right now?" Teylas asked, clearly provoking master and student.

"I think you have entirely too much confidence in your student." Furios retorted. "She's inexperienced and doesn't have half the training that Azmodius does."

“Now, now boys. Let’s put this to the test, shall we?” Jai’dé drawled brazenly. Their training should have been completed an hour ago but Teylas was insistent on pushing her harder and harder, day after day. She was getting impatient to move on to her Shadow Academy classes and return to her apartment where she was truly needed.

As the two students squared off, Furios and Teylas stepped off to the side to watch and critique them. As the two students exchanged blows, the masters entertained themselves by shouting corrections, and goading their students on.

A couple of hours later, Jai’dé emerged, from the training hall exhausted. Teylas certainly wasn’t an easy master, but at least she could be confident in her ability to take care of herself.

*Only a few more hours before a nice hot shower and some relaxation*, Jai’dé thought to herself. Dragging her feet a little, she turned and sauntered towards the Academy library. Inside the library, Jai’dé immersed herself in the ancient teachings and lore of the Brotherhood. While she preferred the rigorous training regimen that Teylas had set up for her, she couldn’t help but appreciate the knowledge she was acquiring from this side of her training.

As Jai’dé let herself into her apartment at the end of the long day, most of the exhaustion and tension drained from her body as she saw the small Chiss girl asleep on the couch. As she approached the couch with the intention of carrying her to bed, the small girl shifted and blinked up at her sleepily.

“It’s time to be off to bed with you, little one.” Jai’dé said, smiling.

“I tried to stay awake until you got home, but Teylas has been keeping you so late these days.” Jae’mi replied, pouting a little.

“He’s pushing me yes. He does it so that I can take care of us. I don’t know what I’d do if something happened to you again.” Jai’dé said, cringing slightly at a memory. “Let’s get you to bed.”

Once she had Jae’mi tucked in safely, she quietly slipped out onto the balcony to sit and reflect on the day. While these days of relative peace within the Brotherhood were tiring due to all of her training, at least this was the calm before the storm. Who knows when a new conflict could arise and put her and Jae’mi on the run again.