SBL Kz'set DiPlagia
#13299

<<ACC Ravager - Communications Center>>

The screens of the comm room, instead of being filled with data on incoming and outgoing communications signals, were covered in what to an untrained eye would be a random string of characters. To the person sitting in front of the screens the strings were far from random. In middle of the swirl of data was a singular Verpine, seemingly absorbing the glow of the monitors like some sort of odd, chitin coated plant. While most of this wouldn't make sense to anyone else, to him it was the key towards reclaiming what had been taken from the clan. While others thought of men and ships and guns, Kz'set was thinking of something else entirely.

In order to succeed in whatever plan that would be launched they would need not only intelligence but an ace in the hole. Drax and his forces had done something technological to capture the fleet and neutralize the droids protecting the ships.Every report from those who had escaped had confirmed that. If they were to have any chance of succeeding in retaking the fleet and Anchorage, they had to not only figure out what Drax had done and protect against it but also find a way to do something similar. They were already facing long odds, something had to be done to help level them.

"So there you are." A familiar voice broke Kz'set's concentration for a split second. The Verpine was so absorbed in the code that he didn't even look up.

"I thought it would be Teylas that would interrupt me." Kz'set said in reply. "What business do you have down here Mr. Karn."

The Ettian smirked slightly. "Oh, Teylas is looking for you, I just found you first. Heard you were down here in a sea of data and figured you might need a hand with, um, what exactly are you doing." Arden glanced at a screen and poked up at an eyebrow. "Or I should ask *where* are you doing."

Kz'set still didn't look up but instead pointed at one of the monitors with a spindly finger. Knowing Arden was both a trained slicer and a former member of law enforcement, Kz'set figured he'd recognize the encryption routines and data signatures of the Holonet routing system. Arden took a moment to glance at the screen and was taken aback slightly.

"You're slicing the Anchorage, aren't you? And you're bouncing it off of an Alliance comm hub, a dozen corporate servers, and the data cores half of our fleet. Clever."

"I thought so." Kz'set answered. "I need data from the fleet as well,specifically what they've done to our droid control signals that I thought I secured even beyond what I figured you did."

"How do you know I hardened the droid control signals?" Arden asked.

Kz'set clicked his mandibles a bit before answering. "Corporate Sector protection algorithms are incredibly easy to spot, hence why they had to be hardened. I also got rid of them on the Anchorage, before you mention it."

Arden scoffed at the comment. "So you used Verpine ones. Let me guess, the old computers on the station crashed on a repeated basis for a month afterwards. Heck, even new systems wonder what you bugs are thinking when you encrypt something."

"Only two weeks." Kz'set replied. "But it appears someone else has been in our systems, someone really good that was familiar with both Sith and Verpine system architecture."

Arden looked at a line of code and got a surprised look on his face. "More than that, it's almost if whoever designed this knew who would be attacking the system."

"Indeed." Kz'set replied. "Which narrows the list to precisely one person known to be working with the One Sith. Synin Torin."

"Your old master?" Arden asked in reply. Before Kz'set could react to Arden having such difficult to obtain knowledge, the human continued. "Yes, I know about him. I've been digging into Drax and his associates and their associates. He sounds like quite a piece of work."

Kz'set finally took his eyes off the screen and glanced at Arden. "You have no idea. Synin is both a genius and quite insane, not to mention a sadistic bastard. These lines of code, it's almost as if he's mocking me. I don't think he's found out I'm in the system, but we don't have a lot of time before he does. I've never been able to crack his codes before and I'm not having much luck now."

Arden looked Kz'set square in the eye and then back at the monitors before removing his gloves and sitting down at the terminal next to the Verpine. "He might have known you were coming, but he probably has no idea I would be. Squeeze the data you need out of the fleet. I'll deal with Synin."

Kz'set didn't say anything for a couple seconds and then eventually said what he was thinking. "Why are you helping us anyway? I thought you got run out of the unit, something about treason and the like"

Arden took a deep breath before answering. "Because this is personal. Drax hasn't just stolen from you, he's stolen from me. I owe him a shot to the head for that."

"Three-point-eight-three centimeters below the left eye I'd imagine?" Kz'set asked.

"Something like that, now lets get to work."

<<ACC Ravager- Combat Information Center>>
<<Two hours later>>

Teylas was sitting in the commander's seat of the Ravager's CIC pouring over a pile of datapads and other reports. He seemed thoroughly bored with it all and barely noticed when one more got thrown onto the pile.

"What's that, another logistics report. Or, wait, a food requisition for me to sign." Teylas asked with a yawn, not looking up.

"Na, only a full breakdown of how Drax compromised our computer systems, how to protect the Ravager against a similar attack, how to turn their droid control signal against them, oh and Drax's personal diary for the last two weeks."

Teylas looked up to see Kz'set grinning in a way he'd never seen the Verpine grin before. The Anzat's face said all that needed saying, but his voice also chimed in.

"How did you kriffing get all this? Don't tell me you..."

"Sliced the Anchorage?" Kz'set interjected. "Like a lightsaber through a Hutt's flabby flanks. Karn was a great help as well."

Teylas narrowed his gaze at the Verpine "Karn? What was that piece of bantha fodder doing on my ship anyway? I thought I told him to stay with his mercs until we asked for them."

"Relax Ramar, if I'd wanted to shoot you, I would have. Besides, last I checked it wasn't your ship, it was Kz'set's." Arden said strolling out from just behind Kz'set. "By the way, there's something else on there you might be interested in."

Teylas switched his glare to Arden. "Aside from a ship and a few hundred mercs, what could you have that I'd possibly be interested in."

Arden shrugged. "You'll see. I'll give you a clue, it's something that you should have been interested in but I've been doing all the legwork on. And this time, I get the kill."