

“So tell us, why did your mission fail?”

The voice of my Master rang throughout the room. Sweat began to roll down my neck as the memories of my failure flashed through out my mind. The mission was supposed to be easy. A group of fellow Neophytes, including myself, and my friend Raynor Haine, were supposed to discover pertinent information regarding several recent attacks by the Corporate Sector Authority, on the planet Orion III. Everything started out fine, until our informant, Ren Eindel, sold us out.

“This mission was greatly important to our clan’s victory over our enemies. So tell me Neophyte, what happened.

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“We need to keep running.”

Raynor Haine led me, and the rest of our group away from the blaster fire. We had been tricked and now are in a fight for our lives.

“Raynor, we need to get back to the ships. Clan Taldryan must be told of this treachery.”

“I know, let’s just try to get there in one peace.”

“And how do the two of you expect us to do this?”

Calo Dorvin, one of the others, walked forward with a scowl on his face.

“When this mission was assigned to us, I told you that I should have been in charge. We wouldn’t be in this mess.”

“How do you figure?” Raynor asked him.

“I had a feeling that Ren was going to sell us out.”

“Then why didn’t you say anything?”

Kaida Gisk, the only female member of the team made her presence known. Her brother Elias stood behind her silently.

I could tell that a fight would break out if nothing was done, and I didn’t want to risk the enemy finding them like this.

“We need to keep our wits about us. In-fighting will only lead to our own destruction.”

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“So you’re saying that you tried to hold the team together. Did you succeed?”

I shook my head.

“Why not?”

“We made it through the forest towards the ships. But along the way we encountered trouble. Any chance our team had of staying together ended then.”

“Explain.”

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“How far away do you think we are Raynor?”

“Roughly two miles Kaida.”

“Well lets pick up the pace then!”

“Calo we will go at a pace that we all can keep up with.”

Calo looked at the rest of the group with disdain.

“This clan will not survive with weakling like yourselves around.”

I stepped forward and faced Calo with a look of fierce determination.

“Clan Taldryan accepted us all, and you will follow the clan’s decision Calo.”

Calo turned his back to the rest of the group. His hand grazed over the blaster on his side.

“Clan Taldryan is a weak group of mongrels. They are lucky that they even made it as far as they have.”

“Curb your tongue!” Raynor angrily warned. “I will allow no one to speak ill of our clan.”

Calo turned around, blaster in hand and fired at Raynor’s chest. Raynor, not expecting the attack, could not move quickly enough to evade the blast and felt the searing of his skin as the laser pierced his heart.

“Taldryan is no clan of mine.”

The rest of the group looked on in shock as Raynor fell to the ground, his breathing seized.

“The Corporate Sector Authority will prevail.”

Calo turned and left as I ran to Raynor’s side. I checked my friends pulse, and it was stilled.

“Calo....what did you do?” Kaida asked, with Elias by her side.

“What he was ordered to do.”

The three of us turned around as the voice filled our silence. We seemed to be surrounded.

“Calo Dorvin has been our eyes and ears in clan Taldryan, and he has led you, their new recruits to us. We will give you one chance. Join us or die like your pathetic friend.”

This man’s words rang through my head. I joined the brotherhood because I believed it to be a true group who would stand by each other. Calo had betrayed our trust. I felt the anger flow through my body. I hated the traitor. Rage seemed to pour from my heart. And then I remembered what I was taught. I needed to control my emotions. Anger was powerful, as powerful a tool as what the Jedi believed was love.

“What say you?”

I felt the force run throughout my body.

“Never.”

As the soldiers surrounding us took aim I felt the force explode from all around me and knocked them off of their feet. I grabbed Kiada’s hand and Elias followed as we ran passed the fallen soldiers.

“Where are we going?”

“We need to get to the ships. Clan Taldryan must hear of Calo.”

“We will follow your lead...for now.” Elias finally spoke up.

As we found ourselves less than a mile from the ship, I heard a noise from beside me. A soldier leapt through the trees and attempted to stab his vibroblade in my direction. Kaida pushed me out of the way and the sound of torn flesh rang out.

Elias screamed as he saw her slump to the ground, the sword buried in her gut. He took out his own blade and quickly beheaded the soldier.

“Elias....I....I’m sorry.”

“No. This was her decision.” He said to me his voice teetering on the edge of breaking. “Get to the ship. I will slow them down.”

“What?”

“I will not leave my sister here alone. So go. The mission must be completed. That is all that matters.”

I held my head to the ground before obeying Elias’s last request.

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“So Cado betrayed us?”

“Yes.”

My master looked angry, angrier than I have ever seen him.

“And what became of our traitorous Cado?”

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I broke from the trees and saw the ship. With a hope filled heart I ran towards it. As I neared the platform I felt the force pulse in my mind, warning me. I dropped to the ground as blaster fire sailed over my head.

“I can’t believe you are still alive.”

“Cado.”

My voice was filled with contempt as the murderer walked towards me blaster in hand. I stood up and grasped the handles of the vibrorapiers strapped to my waist.

“What do you plan on doing with those? I could shoot you dead, before you ever had a chance.”

“We’ll see.”

As Cado fired I rolled out of the way and ran towards him, his reflexes seemed dull and I could see the tension in his face. He was tired. Everything today seemed to have drained him. As he continued to fire, the force led me through the blasts and I slashed the first blade at his hand, severing it from his arm. Cado let out a scream of pain as he bled.

“Please.....please...don’t kill me. I only did what I thought was right. The clan doesn’t care about us. Why would a Sith want to help you, a Gray, get more powerful. You’re a threat to them.”

“Traitors like you deserve death. An eye for an eye, a life for a life.”

I raised the blades to his throat.

“I am no threat to my clan. They have given me a home, and a new direction. And I will fight for them with every breath. Unlike you.”

With a quick slash, I removed his head from his shoulders. Looking at the red on my blades I walked to the ship, and used the autopilot to get myself back home. Back to clan Taldryan.

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“So he is dead?”

“Yes Master Dru.”

“That is good Aiden.”

Aiden Dru, my master, walked over to me with a smile on his face.

“I didn’t think that you had it in you.”

“For Raynor, I did.”

Aiden Dru placed his hand on my shoulder.

“Well done my apprentice. Now Aiden Lee. Let us see what can be done about our contact Ren, about his disloyalty.”

“Yes my Master.”