Retrieving the *Magnus Kaerner.* It seems impossible, I mean how does anyone lose track of a Star Destroyer? Yet somehow in all the confusion of attacks and changes to the Clan Summit, the pride of Tarentum’s Navy decided to go to ground – quite literally in this case. Perhaps following secret orders from the days when Tarentum had a House and a presence on Yridia III, the *Magnus Kaerner* has sought refuge ON the planet. All that needs to be done is; find the ship, convince its captain that I represent Tarentum, and return the ship to full active duty.

Finding Yridia II was no problem, it was right where it was supposed to be, orbiting Yridiae. Finding a ship, even one as big as the *Magnus Kaerner* was another matter. With trees reaching as tall as 350meters, there was near complete ground cover. Unless the ship had simply crashed through the vegetation, and left a clear hole, there was not going to be any way to see the ship from orbit, and little chance of scanners picking it up either.

Only way to be sure to find it is a methodical search, so Pel set his course for The Pyramid, hoping that the missing ship headed to the former Tarentum base on the planet. Even if it hadn’t, it was as good a place as any to start the search. Finding a small break in the canopy, Pel guided the *Falchion* as low to the ground as he could get it. Thankfully the TIE Defender was not terribly large and only a few large branches needed to be shot out of the way to allow it to pass. As Pel approached The Pyramid, he saw no sign of his quarry, there would have to be an exhaustive search. Resignedly he pulled up the file on Yridia III to see what he was likely to encounter.

Few records existed of the Tarentum presence on the planet, aside from the existence of The Pyramid, so Imperial Survey reports were the most comprehensive reference available. Those indicated the presence of giant herbivores and super predators. Not wanting to run into either – the former literally, the later figuratively- Pel decided he would try to keep as high off the ground as he could. Not only would this hopefully keep him away from the native species, but it would also help him scan a larger area with each pass.

It would have been easy on a planet like Yridia II, being mostly ocean, to just plug a search pattern into the Nav Computer, but with the giant flora on Yridia III it was unsafe to let the computer drive. Pel would have to do the driving and let the computer do the search, it would be real nice if the transponder was still on, but it seemed to have been switched off so a scan for metal would be needed. At least a Star Destroyer is large enough to not be easily confused with anything else; there should be no false positives from the computer.

The notes on Yridia III mentioned terrible storms, which would likely make it difficult to hold a straight line search grid, so Pel decided to go with a spiral search, centering on The Pyramid, being the only known reference point on the planet. Hours passed, the boredom interrupted slightly a few times when the winds threatened to push the *Falchion* into an oversized tree trunk, and the one time that a climbing predator tried to take a bite of the hull. Thankfully TIEs are made of stronger stuff than flesh, and the only thing the creature got was a hurt mouth.

After searching nearly all the planet, with no sign of the vessel, a new thought came to Pel. Perhaps the vessel was adapted, as his Defender had been, to deal with water pressure – it could be hiding in the one body of water on the planet. This would eliminate the need to pierce the canopy, and provide decent protection from detection, both visual and electronic. Pel set course for the “ocean” and began sending out narrow-beam transmissions – voice only. “*Magnus Kaerner* this is the TIE Defender *Falchion*, Sith BattleLord Pel requesting you break radio silence, and return to Yridia II immediately for debriefing and new orders.”

Barely 15 minutes of repetition was rewarded with a curt “Acknowledged” followed by a huge movement of the waters below. Slowly but surely the enormous bulk of the *Magnus Kaerner* rose above the surface of the water and all the way back up to space.