

The fire crackled in the night, its light casting long shadows amongst the trees. The flames barely lit up the area immediately surrounding. The assembled could barely see their fellows in the dark of the forest.

“Did I ever tell you all about the Sapphire Star?” a human smiled widely as he peered across the fire, his eyes wild.

“I don’t think you ever did, Rin.” A Twi’lek sitting opposite him shifted his lekku on his shoulder. “I just really hope that it is better than the last story that you told when we were out here last time.”

“Oh don’t you worry about that. After I tell you this story you all won’t be able to look at traveling between systems the same way again.” He smiled as he made a grandiose motion. “It all started just outside the Corusca sector.”

“Captain Duron, there is a freighter just off port. It looks like a Maru troop transport. It is drifting. It looks as though they might be in trouble.”

“Let’s go and check it out then,” the Captain pointed forward to punctuate the order. “Make it so!”

As the YT-2400 approached the transport, lights traced over its surface. It didn’t appear as though anything was on at all. Even if the engines were inactive, the comms should have been on, surely. It didn’t even look like the life support was active.

“Captain, we will go an investigate the ship with your clearance.”

“Go now. If their life support had failed, they may not have but a few minutes.”

The crew threw together their gear in mere moments. The severity of the situation was lost on nobody. Duron watched as three of his men drifted out to the ship, each suited up in an EV suit and tenuously tethered by an supply line.

The trio entered the ship without incident. When the door opened, little air rushed out. That was not a good sign. Each man seemed to wait for one of the others to step in for the briefest of moments, but the smallest of the three was the first to enter.

“Captain,” the commlink crackled. “This ship looks like it hasn’t been touched in years. It looks like you would expect-” A yell was heard. “That can’t be right! You have got to be kidd-” The sound of scuffling was heard. Cries for help and inhuman growls punctuated the transmission just before all became static.

“Bring them all in! Pull the lines back!” The Captain’s voice cracked as he stood to his feet. The orders were followed without hesitation. Three lines quickly retracted toward the ship. Two lines came back, flayed on the end. The third brought with it the unmoving form of the small engineer who had first entered.

Once his body was in the ship, the Captain left the bridge to his helmsen. He rushed to the side of the engineer. The man was whispering something. The captain leaned in to hear the words. They were barely a whisper. He strained to hear the words.

“Now you all are dead too.”

It wasn’t until these words sunk in he realized that something sharp had punctured his side.

****Several Days later, on the edge of the Corusca sector****

“Sir, we just spotted a civilian freighter off the starboard side. Looks like a Corellian Engineering Corp freighter. YT-2400 class. It looks abandoned.

“You see,” Rin smiled. “Each ship which came across the ship was destined to become a ghost ship. Destined to wander the stars until another ship takes the dead crews place. Only then they can become free of their grave. Just be sure that next time you come across a ship, it isn’t a YT-2400, or that the words Sapphire Star are not emblazoned on its side.”