

Taldryan

I'd like to introduce myself, again



Augur Rian Taldrya
#10701

Dramatis Personae

Rian Taldrya; Student at the Durjes Military Academy (human-mirialan male)
Arden Brent; Instructor at the Durjes Military Academy (human male)
Brannis Durjes; Director of the Durjes Military Academy (human male)
Riccs Kazaj; Student at the Durjes Military Academy (human male)
Zoe Danal; Student at the Durjes Military Academy (zeltron male)
Kara Zallow; Student at the Durjes Military Academy (human female)
Colonel Hariot; First Order Officer (human male)
Captain Nawera; First Order Officer (human male)
Vodo Biask Taldrya; Consul of Taldryan (twi'lek male)
Shaz'air Rathden; Quaestor of House Ektrosis of Taldryan (miraluka male)

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A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. ...

As a Student

Durjes Military Academy Concordia 31 ABY

Rian's head ached in turmoil as he opened his eyes, his senses momentarily overwhelmed by the light falling into his bedroom. Man what was that stuff Riccs has brought along to the party yesterday.

"Haven't you heard me? I said roll call in thirty minutes." came the voice off his uncle from below the staircase. "It might be your last week, but you still have to partake."

"I'll be up in a minute." Indeed it was his last week at the academy and then, well he hasn't really decided upon what would he do then, maybe he could ask his uncle if he could sign up as a trainee instructor at the academy. Rubbing his eyes, he walked over to the refresher to splash some water into his face before get into his training gear and go down to get some breakfast before the roll call and his last training day began.

Grabbing a sandwich and a cup of water, he took a seat opposite of his uncle on the kitchen counter. "Mornin' Arden."

"Good morning, Rian, everything good?" came the reply when Arden looked up and saw the mess that was the young mirialan's hair.

"Yeah," Rian answered, refusing to tell him about the recent party he took part."

"Today's your final trial, are you excited?"

"Not really, you have been a good teacher."

"I see, you got the charming side from your mother, by the way, have you asked Kara yet?"

"No... I mean... What?"

"Come on boy, do you think I don't see how you look at her? Everybody does." Arden said, taking a sip from the murky liquid in the mug offered to him by their C1-series droid. "Thanks Civer. Rian you have to ask her, or someone else will ask her before you do."

"I have to leave now, morning excercises you know." Rian was almost at the door rescuing him from the unwanted spin the conversation has taken.

"Alright, see you outside then." Arden not really accepting his Rian's wish to avoid this topic. "And Rian, don't forget to ask her."

With his hasty leave he was one of the first on the parade ground, his thoughts somersaulting now not only on the nightmare and its meaning but on the words from his uncle as well. He was kicked from his thoughts when his friends arrived. Clad in a similar training suit Kara was first to arrive at him while Riccs and his girlfriend Zoe trailed her at an arms length. They hugged each other for greeting and then Kara removed a streak of her auburn hair that refrained to stick behind her ear.

"What?" she asked Rian who then caught himself having watched her all the time.

"Ignore him Kara." Riccs joked while snapping his fingers in front of Rians face. "See, he is just daydreaming. "Come on big boy, it's time, the roll call starts."

Unlike the usual daily routine with its group drills and training classes after the daily roll call, the finals were free to prepare themselves for their final test on the afternoon on their own. While the girls left off to prepare their gear the boys stayed on the parade ground for a couple of sparring matches until around lunchtime when the air was split by the roaring sound of multiple vessels descending toward the academy's landing pad. Like everyone else on the parade ground Riccs and Rian stopped in their tracks and gazed up into the sky.

"You know that type of ship Rian?"

"No, must be a new one."

"Whatcha think, shall we take a look at it?"

"Why not, at least it will spare you another loss in a sparring match."

"In your dreams."

"Wow, now that is what I call a nice ship." Riccs called out when they arrived at the landing pad looking at the dark-colored, sleek bodied shuttle that now could be easily identified to be part of the First Order as the boarding ramp was now guarded by a bunch of stormtroopers standing by.

"Of course you guys had to be here. Boys always looking after the toys of others." It was Zoe and Kara catching up with their friends.

"The director has called the finals for an extra roll-call in the lobby before our final test, we have to be there in five minutes, come on."

When they arrived at the lobby the booming sound of an unknown voice gloryfying the efforts of the First Order and their thrive to restore the peace brought to the galaxy by the Empire.

"...To bring back the peace the galaxy is in so much need off, we are in need of men and women who support our cause. Men and women who were trained in leading others into battle, men and women like you." The First Order officer made a dramatic pause letting his gaze wander over the faces of the cadets that were about to graduate at the academy. "Back in the days of the glorious Empire, the academy here on Concordia has brought up some of the finest officers it had to offer and as of today the First Order is proud to offer every Graduate of this academy to fill up the ranks of officers of the First Order."

All around them the cadets began to whispering to one and another either considering to join the Order or to refuse the offer and possibly getting branded as traitors.

"With you at our side we will be able to crush the Republic and their Resistance to bring back the peace and order we were missing for so long."

"You mean peace through brutal repression, and order through control over any live in the galaxy. Arden made a step toward the black clad officer before turning over to the director of the Academy.

"Brannis, have you already forgotten what they did to our people after the Clone Wars? Are you really willing to let this happen again?"

"Your director has already made his choice." Came the reply from the Officer. "And obviously it was a better one than yours. Take this man into custody. Director Durjes, you will state an example on this man, he will fall to the Will of the First Order as will the Republic and their Resistance."

Nooo! Rian watched in awe the things unfolding before him, though he stood at the edge of the group of finals he was still several meters away when an unbearable anger rose up within him and before he could realize what he was doing he or how he did it at all, he was upon the stormtroopers taking a hold of the man who has raised him ever since the death of his parents in one simple lunge, taking out the evenly surprised stormtroopers.

Colonel Hariot was the first to regain his composure. "He's a Jedi, take him too." Within the blink of an eye Arden and Rian were surrounded by the remainder of the stormtroopers, facing the working ends of their blasters towards them. Guarded by the stormtroopers they were taken to the academy's detention area. Neither Arden nor Rian saying a single word on their way even when the director of the academy entered the detention area shortly after they were left on their own to excuse himself, feeling himself forced to make the decision he had made for the sake of the students on the academy they remained silent.

As a Traitor

Finally after what felt hours it was Arden spoke up to the younger man, who looked at the force field that sealed them inside their cell with empty eyes. "Rian, I am sorry. I knew that this day would come one day. I mean there were always signs that you have the same connection to the Force as your parents had and still I always hoped this day would never come where you discover it to this point." There was somewhat remorse in his voice.

"Wait, you say my parents have been Jedi, but you always told me he was a migrated bounty hunter and that he died with mom fighting the First Order, and what do you mean by *you have known it all the time*?" The eyes now focused on the man who has raised him.

"I'm sorry Rian to have lied to you for so long, it was just you were so young when all this happened. You must know that after the fall of the Empire Luke Skywalker began training a new generation of Jedi. But one of his students betrayed them and slaughtered all others, including your parents when they set out to aid their comrades. But before they left you, I promised your mother, my sister to protect you." Meeting the gaze of his nephew, he continued. "Believe me it was hard for me to leave all this a secret, but it was all for your protection, as was me ignoring your attempts to hide your true nature.

"So you really knew about it for all the time, but why haven't you told me all this earlier?"

"I wanted to, but I feared they would come for you before you are ready and ultimately this fear has cost you everything."

After Arden and Rian have been taken away to the detention area to receive the punishment they deserved under the believe of the First Order, Director Durjes ended the roll call and all students were sent to the dormitories with their final tests being delayed until the next day. Within their room, Kara spoke up to Riccs and Zoe. "We can't let this happen, we must do something."

"Don't be a fool, Kara." Zoe tried to stop her roommate from running head first into a pile of Gundark dung. "We can't do anything, Kara. They are the First Order, we can't fight them."

"Zoe's right, I mean, no one fights the First Order, not even the director."

"But do you want to let Arden and Rian die? As this is what this scumbag of First Order officer meant by saying he wants to set an example with Arden and now with Rian too."

"Of course I know that they will kill them and surely I don't want them to die," Riccs said sighing. "but what do you think we should do, throw our lives away too?"

"No, I mean yes, but not without a proper plan."

"And you already got one?" Zoe asked.

"Not now, but with your help."

"This is so much going to get messed up." Riccs said as ducked back behind the corner leading into the corridor that led into the detention area. The doors were now guarded by two stormtroopers standing by with their rifles at the ready.

"Think positive Riccs." Kara said. Beside the girls were Civer now equipped with a platter and cloche. "Just make sure to give us back up in case things get messed up. Ok Civer, let's go." As they expected they were stopped by the pair of stormtroopers guarding the door. "Stop, this is a restricted area, state your business."

"The Director has sent us to bring the prisoners something to eat."

"We haven't been informed by the Colonel about that."

"Well, this order has come straight from the director, after all they were part of the academy.

"They are traitors, nothing else. They deserve no special treatment."

"Alright, alright, if you want to play it down that way we will go, but we will tell the director you have prohibited us from fulfilling a straight order, he will then talk to your Colonel and guess whom your Colonel will then talk to, or... you could show a sign of good will and inspect the food so we everyone can fulfill their orders."

For a moment the stormtroopers exchanged gazes during which the girls took a step backward,

preparing for what ever might happen next, then one of them said. "Ok, show us the food."

Beeping *Civer* rolled forward into the reach of the stormtrooper who agreed to inspect what might be under the cloche. But instead of something to eat he found himself facing a flash-bang. "What is thi..."

The flash-bang detonated, knocking out the first stormtrooper and before the second one could react *Civer* zapped him unconscious with his electroshock prod.

"What was that?"

"I don't know. From the sound of it..." Arden stopped mid-sentence when the door slid open and Zoe armed with a stormtrooper rifle burst into the room, followed by Kara, evenly armed and Riccs and *Civer* dragging the unconscious stormtroopers into the detention area. Once the doors were shut again, *Civer* rolled over to an access point and started to unlock their cell.

"What the hell are you doing?" Rian shouted.

"What do you think we are doing? We are rescuing you." Zoe said, a hint of sarcasm in her voice. "Unless you prefer to stay here waiting for your execution."

"No, we are not." Arden said. "Good, job, now what's your next move? We need to get off the planet."

The girls looked at one and another blankly. "We haven't thought that far, all we thought off was to get away from the academy. "

"Just getting off the academy won't stop the First Order from catching us." Arden explained.

"But how shall we get off the planet? We don't have a ship."

"No we don't, but we can borrow Brannis ship."

"Borrow? Don't you mean steal?" Rian said grapping one of the unconscious troopers from the ground.

"It's the least he can do for us after betraying us. Rian, Riccs, get the stormtoopers over into the holding cell. Ok, here's the plan, Kara, Riccs and Zoe, you three take *Civer* and prepare the ship, you will need him to hack its controls. Rian, you come with me, we gotta get something from our rooms before we can leave the academy."

Though it wasn't late enough for the curfew, the corridors were quite empty as Arden and Rian made their way to the dormitories. Since Arden was one of the instructors of the Academy the rooms occupied by them were located on the opposite part of the dormitories. Once they reached them, Arden carefully locked the door, sealing it with a security code before turning over to a hidden compartment in the lowest drawer of nearby cupboard. "Rian, come over here." he said entering the code needed to unlock the transparisteel window that saved a set of blasters as well as a single wooden box from anyone outside.

"And what about me?" Rian asked when he saw Arden sheating both of the blasters to his belt.

"You? You take this." Came the reply as he handed him the now opened box, within an image of his parents holding Rian as an infant as well as a set of cylindrical objects of varying length and a small datastick. "These are the lightsabers of your parents. The weapons of a Jedi. Take them, I am sure they wanted you to get them when the time has come.

Rian took the lightsabers in his hands, weighing them in his hands before chosing the slightly larger hilt to remain in his hand while sheating the other one on his belt. "And what about the datastick?" Take it, you will need it more than you expect, it contains a list of every system where there have been recorded signs of Force users since the fall of the Empire." A final look around and Arden added. "Ok, let's go, by now the others should have hacked Brannis's ship."

With Arden leading the way, bypassing most of the more frequently used corridors they made it almost to the hangar building located at the northern edge of the academy before spotting the stormtroopers on duty who guarded the First Order ships. Slipping past them wouldn't be that much of a difficulty. But someone being on guard that close to the hangar bay would surely attract

their attention and thus cause the First Order to request aerial support from their capital ship.

The stormtroopers who guarded the Colonel's shuttle didn't expect to see something happen on their shift, the local students were already forced to stay in their rooms for the night and otherwise than their relief they expected no one else to be around the shuttle for the next hours. Instead, they were met by two locals lurking toward them from the shadows, none of them inclined to engage the stormtroopers in a casual conversation. When Rian threw himself into the first one the other trooper reacted quickly, aiming for the mirialan, only to be sent to the ground by a well placed shot from Arden's blaster into the trooper's back. "Well, not the most honorable way to die but it's serving the cause."

"Yeah, still I would be really grateful not to be the bait next time." came the younger one's reply after he took out the first trooper.

Arden shrugged. "Let's hurry, there will surely be someone missing them soon and by that time I would prefer to..." Neither of them noticed the trooper donning a highly reflective armor with its black and red-fringed cape draped distinctively around his left side holding a menacing electrified close-quarters weapon coming down behind them from out the belly of the shuttle.

Surprising the two men, the trooper in the gleaming armor knocking down Arden with a heavy blow from his weapon before focussing on Rian. With nothing else on his disposal to defend himself he drew one of the lightsabers from his belt. Fixing eyes with the trooper, he activated it.

As a Fugitive

The Ravenous Hunter, Brannis Durjes ship, was easy to identify. A rarely seen Corellian VCX-100 freighter with red-and-black markings stood unguarded in the hangar. Taking the lead Kara made a run for the cockpit once the boarding ramp was down. Hitting a panel as she brushed through the corridors the boarding ramp behind them rose and sealed. Though the freighter's internal layout was heavily customized it revealed itself as straightforward making it easy to find the cockpit right above the boarding ramp. Throwing herself into the pilot's seat, her fingers began to fly over the controls, running through the necessary pre-flight sequence when she saw two men engaged in a fierce combat outside the hangar, one encased in a reflective armor and the other one fending him off with some kind of a light-rod. Her heart made a bump as she realized who one of the persons was she was just watching. "Rian." She whispered.

"Riccs, Rian's gonna need our help, get your ass to the gunner's position below, we will close in fast and low." Kara shouted behind at her friends as she manipulated the vessel's controls.

The trooper in the gleaming armor was big, and despite his hulking appearance very agile. Wouldn't it be for the lethal potential of the lightsaber, the fight would have surely turned the opposite right after the beginning. Though this didn't stop him from delivering one heavy blow after another at Rian when a violent explosion sent earth and small rocks around them flying, almost knocking them off as well. Turning to search the source of the explosion they faced the Ravenous Hunter hovering some ten meters away from them in the air, its open boarding ramp reminding Rian of the open gullet of a fish and in its midst stood Zoe, aiming at the trooper with her stolen blaster-rifle. "Come on!"

She didn't have to repeat the message. Rian burst into a run while Zoe covered his retreat with blaster fire off her own. One final jump and he was aboard the freighter. Realizing he really made it he saw Riccs slamming his fist into the panel that shut and sealed the boarding ramp.

"Colonel Hariot, I take full responsibility for th- "

"Of course you do Director. But tell me how could these two traitors not only escape your prison but also steal one of your starships."

"There weren't only two traitors Colonel." A voice came from behind. The trooper wearing the reflective armor entered the room, dragging the unconscious form of Arden behind him. "And not all of them escaped."

"Captain Nawera, finally someone with someone who is able to get a job done."

"My men were more than capable enough to get a job done, but as your Captain just told you, they got some help. But this doesn't matter as they all will be in the First Orders custody soon enough."

"How so?"

"The ship got a secret tracking device, its programmed to send us the ships position once they leave hyperspace."

"For your sake and that of your students I hope you are right. You will report immediately to us when this happens, until then, I will assign Captain Nawera to your Academy."

"As you wish Colonel." The Director agreed with grinded teeth.

Feeling her heart lighting with Rian aboard, Kara accelerated the ship upwards into the night sky of Concordia before setting the autopilot to engage hyperspace at a random direction once they were clear of the atmosphere. Only then she allowed herself to get out of the pilot's seat in search for Rian.

She found him along Riccs, Zoe and Civer sitting in the ship's lounge, still breathing heavily. "You okay Rian? Where is Arden?"

Rian slightly shook his head. "He's dead Kara, Arden is dead. The trooper in that reflective armor killed him right in front of me."

"But you are alive." Riccs sought to cheer him up. "By the way, that was one hell of a fight. Where did you get that lightsaber and how did you learn to use it?"

Rian didn't answer, instead Kara did. "Riccs, Zoe, can you go and check if anyone has followed us?"

Taking the hint, Zoe grabbed her boyfriend by the arm, dragging him toward the cockpit to do as they were asked. The moment they were gone, Kara took the seat next to Rian, hugging him.

"Too bad, by the looks of it, we won't be having our graduation prom. A shame since you should have seen my dress for it, you would have liked it." Kara said the first unimportant thing coming to her mind after several minutes of silence.

"I would have loved to see it, but I missed to ask you anyways."

"Yes, you didn't."

A faint smile ran over their faces.

"Couldn't find any tracking devices Capt'n." Riccs interrupted them. "Any other instructions?"

"I don't know, Rian, do you have an idea where to go from now on."

Rian hesitated before remembering the datastick Arden gave him along the lightsabers of his parents. "Arden gave me this." He said showing the stick to the others. "He told me that it contains a map where every system has been mapped where there have been events recorded that suggest the presence of Jedi ever since the fall of the Empire."

"But I think the Jedi have been extinct a decade or so after that Skywalker-guy tried to establish a new Order."

"That's what they taught us, but maybe there were still some survivors, maybe we should search for them."

"Much better of a plan than traveling around haphazardly through the Galaxy. Let's see whatcha got?"

They put the stick into a socket on the pilot's console, watching the unfolding list of systems on a

nearby screen.

"Any of this calling a name for you Rian?" Zoe asked.

"How could it. Never heard of any of those. Wait, what about this." He pointed at a certain system. What's this one about? Kr'tal?"

Opening the file, Zoe read aloud: "Kr'tal, former imperial outpost now in civil hands. Not much of an Intel that Arden had collected. But its located closest to the hyperspace lane we are already on."

"Ok, then let's give it a try."

END

Rian Taldrya

#10701

Son of Taldrya