

It was a cacophony of alarm bells that tore the Sullustan back to consciousness. Opening his large black eyes he saw that he was in a small room but something didn't seem quite right. It took a few moments for the cobwebs to clear from his mind before he realised he was in fact floating a few feet above what he assumed was the floor. *Or maybe it's the roof* he thought to himself. Looking around the dark room he could see four plain grey walls. With a small nudge from the Force he floated gently over to the nearest wall. Running his hand along its surface he found it was made of metal and seamless.

Slowly pulling himself along Tekk inspected the rest of the walls until his fingertips brushed across the smallest of breaks in the solid metal of the wall. He'd found the door, or at least he hoped he had. As he closed his eyes Tekk began to call on the Force, drawing it into himself, before reaching out probing the door and its mechanisms trying to open it up. Time dragged on while he tried to free himself until, with an audible click, the door slid open with a quiet hiss. Pulling himself out of the small room he found himself floating in a long hallway lit every few dozen feet by a small red emergency light.

Where the frak am I? he wondered to himself.

Then he remembered. He'd been piloting an X-Wing in the skies above Florum engaged in a vicious dogfight with TIE's loyal to Clan Plagueis when his shields had failed and he was shot down. Ejecting less than fifty meters above the dusty surface he was unable to control his descent and hit a canyon wall face first. He must have been found by Plagueis soldiers and taken into custody.

If i'm on a Plagueis ship where's the crew? Tekk thought as he pulled himself along down the dark corridor.

Having no idea where he was going Tekk wandered the quiet corridors of the ship looking for someone, anyone, to tell him just what the hell was going on. He'd been wandering for perhaps twenty minutes past empty rooms and through abandoned work stations when he stumbled upon a group of crew members, four in all, floating out of what looked like a mess hall.

As the lead crew member spotted Tekk he raised a blaster pistol and said "Halt, identify yourself."

"Relax guys, just looking for a way off this ship." Tekk replied raising his hands above his head.

Thrusting the blaster forward the man said "Answer the question."

"Calm down friend, we're all in this situation together. Maybe we should work together to fix this ship." Tekk said using the Force to influence the man's mind.

His grip on the blaster faltered for a moment before he dropped it saying "You're right, we need to work together."

"Excellent." Tekk said with a smile. "My name's Tekk, and you are?"

"I'm Tersu." he said pointing to his chest. "Behind me are Zaniah, Ores and Tokani."

"What happened to this ship?" inquired the Sullustan.

"I have no idea, we were working in the mess when the ship began to shake. There was an explosion then the artificial gravity disappeared and all the lights went out." Tersu answered.

"I don't suppose one of you knows the way to the bridge?" asked Tekk.

"It's this way." said Zaniah.

The five of them made their way slowly through the ship, down empty corridors, until they came to the door to the bridge. Tekk punched the switch to open the door and as it slid open he saw something he never expected to see. The entire bridge was gone, completely blown away and open to the vacuum of space. Or it would have been had the emergency shields not activated to prevent the ship venting its atmosphere into space. But that wouldn't have saved the bridge crew, they would have been vaporised in an instant or sucked out into space. Tekk knew which he would have preferred.

Closing the door he turned to the four surviving crew members and said "Ahhh, take me to maintenance. I can probably do something from there." Seeing the looks of shock on their faces Tekk said "It's too late for them, but we can still get through this. Now take me to maintenance."

It seemed to snap them out of their fugue as they spun around and headed back through the ship. They'd been talkative, chatting quietly between themselves as they made their way through the ship but now they didn't say a word. It didn't take too long for them to arrive at the maintenance station which thankfully was still functioning. Pulling up a damage report Tekk began to slowly read through the laundry list of systems that were either nonfunctional or on their last legs.

"Well i've got good news and bad news." Tekk said.

Coming to look over his shoulder Tersu asked "What's the good news?"

"The ships in better shape than I thought. We might actually be able to land on Florrum without blowing up." the Sullustan replied.

When he'd finished speaking Ores asked "And the bad news?"

“We’re gonna run out of air before then.” answered Tekk.

“What?!! they seemed to cry in unison.

Holding up his hands to ward off any incoming questions Tekk said “Don’t get your knickers in a twist. I know what the problem is and I can fix it. What I need you to do is get to the backup bridge and get this bucket ready for flight.”

“But we don’t know how to do that.” said Zaniah.

Rubbing his hands over his face Tekk said “Of course you don’t.” quietly to himself. “Ok, get to the bridge and strap yourselves in. I’ll go fix the life support then meet up with you.”

As the survivors headed off through the ship Tekk picked up a toolbox and began to stuff any tool he could find inside. Confident that he now had what he needed to fix the problem he left them behind as he made his way to life support. Thankfully the way was clear and he quickly arrived at his destination. Pulling a large panel off the wall he went about fixing the problem. Pulling components out, cutting wires and splicing them to other wires, at one point he even braced himself against the bulkhead and kicked the stupid thing swearing at the blasted device and its obstinance.

“Your lucky I don’t have a blaster you piece of junk.” he shouted at the device.

Tekk began to notice the beginnings of a headache as the air became too thin. He had to hurry or all this would be for nothing. A few more twists of a hydrospanner and the life support lit up like a christmas tree. As fresh air began to flood the corridors Tekk breathed deep. Releasing the hydrospanner to float silently in the lack of gravity Tekk pulled himself through the ship to the backup bridge. As he pulled himself into the small room the Plagueian survivors breathed a sigh of relief. Strapping himself into the pilot's chair Tekk began to flip switches and press buttons bringing the vessel slowly back to life.

“Ok guys hold on, this could get bumpy.” Tekk said as he slowly brought the engines to life.

The ship began to shudder slightly as it slowly began to move forward toward Florum. As they got underway the ride became smoother but the Sullustan knew it was only a matter of time before they hit Florum’s atmosphere. That’s when things would get interesting. As if on cue the ship began to shake violently.

Shouting over his shoulder Tekk screamed “Tersu I need you to tell me how the shields are holding up!!” over the racket of the ship entering the planet's atmosphere.

“Shields are at sixty percent and falling. Fifty percent....forty....thirty....twenty five.” he shouted back. A few moments later he shouted “Holding at twenty five percent.”

The shuddering slowly dissipated as they entered the atmosphere proper.

“Ok guys i’m bringing us in for a landing.” Tekk said. As he brought the ship lower to Florum’s surface he slowed the ship down as best he could and hit the button to lower the landing gear but nothing happened. Hitting it again he took a second to glance at his readouts and found the landing gear was no longer functioning. “Hang on people this is gonna be a rough one.”

Dropping the speed as much as he dared he slowly lowered the ship to the ground. It bounced twice before settling down on the sandy surface with a loud crash, sliding along the ground for several hundred meters before shuddering to a halt. Tekk quickly set about shutting systems down hoping to prevent the ship from exploding before they could get off.

When he was satisfied they weren’t all going to blow up he asked “Everyone alive?”

“Yep.” answered Tersu.

“Still here.” replied Zaniah.

Ore shouted “Damn what a rush.”

“Ohh, my head.” grumbled Tokani.

“Let’s get off this thing before it explodes.” Tekk said as he unstrapped himself.

The others followed suit and they were soon running through the halls making their way to the emergency exit. As they all arrived Tersu pulled the release handle, small explosives within the door frame exploded the door out letting the warm Florum air rush into the ship. One by one they leapt out until all five of them were standing on the sandy soil of the desert world. Turning around Tekk got his first look at the ship that had nearly been his tomb. It was a Corellian corvette, the symbol of Clan Plagueis emblazoned proudly upon its hull. Taking a closer look he noticed that all the escape pods were missing but chose not to say anything about that.

“Well thanks for your help, I need to be leaving.” said Tekk as he turned to walk away.

“Wait.” said Tersu. “What about us?”

“I’m sure your people tracked us as we entered the atmosphere, someone should be here to get you soon enough. Until then stay with the ship and watch out for pirates.” replied the Sullustan as he waved and wandered off into the desert.