Assault on SST

Cold. That’s all Aiden Lee Deshra felt in space. The cold metallic seats in which he and his comrades sat. The cold frigid feel of the vast black nothing that surrounded their ship. The cold air meant to assist in keeping the ship undetectable by their enemy’s scanners as the ship descended towards the planet Orron 3. The cold feeling that crept its way up Aiden’s spine. There was something very wrong with this plan.

Across from him, Aiden Dru sat twirling his shock batons in boredom. Lee’s previous master seemed completely unaware of his misgivings on this assignment. That or he just didn’t care. Aboard this ship Lee, along with Dru, Bobecc Varga, Omega Kira, and ten highly trained assault troopers from Clan Taldryan’s defensive division made their way towards the Sphinxian Satellite Technologies base of operations to eliminate the threat, once and for all. The newly commissioned TAL-VX-101 Ghost drop ship was said to be the Clan’s fastest drop ship, and the only one built for stealth missions.

Aiden Lee closed his eyes, concentrating on the Force around him, trying to find a comforting solace. Unfortunately it wouldn’t work. All he felt was this nagging coldness that something was not right about this mission.

“What’s the problem Lee?”

Opening his eyes, Lee noticed Dru smirking at his discomfort. For all the respects he held for his old master, sometimes he couldn’t help but shake his head at Dru’s inability to sympathize.

“Nothing master, there is no problem.”

“Lee, I told you, you’re a Knight now, heck you’re Aedile of House Dinaari. Stop with the master stuff. And I can tell somethings on your mind.”

“Sorry mast...Dru, I just have the feeling that something isn’t right here.”

“Well I hope you get over it, cause I think we’re almost there, so let’s go see our pilots.”

The two of them got up, and made their way to the cockpit of their ship. Omega was at the ship main controls, with Bobecc taking the co-pilot seat assisting when necessary. The two seemed to be in a heated discussion. Bobecc was clearly upset over the recent events that led to this mission. An attack on Taldryan by the SST had resulted in the deaths of several members of Tal’s army. Bobecc had been the one to discover that the attack was the result of a traitor in their Clan and was placed in charge of overseeing the SST’s destruction.

“Hey you two, calm down will ya.”

“Dru, shut up.” Omega responded to the Battlemaster.

“You know that was rude. All we wanted to know was if we were close or not.”

“Lee, Dru, you both remember the plan yes?” Bobecc asked the pair.

“Yes Bob, we remember.” Dru answered rolling his eyes.

“A large strike force is heading towards the SST base. They will lay siege on a vast scale, while the four of us, and a small contingency of assault troopers sneak in and take out their leader.” Lee answered level headedly.

“Good, at least the best of you understands respect.”

“Oh, I’m very respectful. I respect the destruction we’re gonna on these bastards.” Dru said smirking in a way that revealed his sharpened canines.

“Ok, we are entering the atmosphere. Hold onto something.” Omega signaled the rest of the group.

The ships outer shell began to heat up as it passed through the planets natural barriers. A special mechanical design activated cooling down the ships outer shell, keeping it cool and hidden from the SST’s scanners. Once safely through, Omega made sure all of the ships cloaking was functioning properly.

The scene that waited for them was easily explained as a fire fight. Taldryan Starfighters flew across the skies ahead launching everything they had at the enemy’s shielded base. SST ships entered the air, engaging their opponents in a battle of aerial acrobatics, and speed. Laser blasts, fired from both sides littered the air, most missing their marks. The successful shots caused the targets to burst into flaming balls of metal that dropped from the air, crashing into the ground below.

Lee watched with wide eyes as he felt the subtle shifts in the Force as the dead returned to the energy of the galaxy around him. A part of him felt sadness for all the lives lost, but this was war. And he knew that death in war was a constant that was unchangeable. The cockpit was for the most part silent as the four Force users witnessed the battle.

“Today Taldryan will be victorious. You two had better do your parts.” Bobecc announced commandingly.

“I will do what must be done for our Clan.” Lee answered, bowing his head.

The ship stayed its course, slowing down as it came closer to the drop zone. A loud beeping broke the silence in the cockpit as Omega began pressing buttons on his flight consol.

“What’s going on?” Dru asked aloud.

“This isn’t possible.” Omega responded confusedly.

“What is it Omega?” Lee asked his direct superior.

“There are four torpedoes locked onto us.”

“What! How could they have known that we were coming?” Bobecc nearly yelled, his anger rising.

“I don’t know? We dealt with the traitor, right?”

“Get the shields up, and lose those torpedoes Omega! And you two, get to your seats and strap in, it’s gonna be a bumpy ride.”

Gripping the controls tightly Omega began using evasive actions, first turning the ship before one of the torpedo’s hit home, then by spinning the ship as a second came close. Somehow the torpedoes locked onto the ship, though its heat signature was nearly nonexistent. Omega pulled back on the steering handles, causing the ship to rise high into the sky, then as two torpedo’s closed in he pushed forward as hard as he could throwing the ship into a downward drop. The two torpedoes just barely missed the ship and impacted on each other bursting into a cloud of fire.

As the ship continued dropping head first at an increasing pace, a third torpedo followed close behind. As it neared the ground, Omega pulled back hard, and the drop ship snapped around hard, causing a loud groan from the strained metal of the ships frame, and it crashed into a few trees. The third torpedo flew passed them and hit the ground. The explosion of the torpedo rocked into the bottom of the ship causing Omega’s hands to shake loose of the controls. The fourth torpedo hit its target.

The Aiden’s were nearly shook from their restraints by the force of the explosion, and the ship began spinning until it hit the ground hard. Smoke bellowed up from the crashed ship. Lee opened his eyes to see the scene around him. Dru was holding his head where a small bleeding gash had appeared. The Gray Jedi undid his restraints and shakily stood up and assisted his comrade to his feet.

“Damn, that sucked.”

“I would have to agree with you Dru.”

The two went two assist their pilots, and fellow Taldryanites again, but found them heading their way. Bobecc was rubbing his arm, and stretching his back, readjusting himself after the crash. Omega seemed relatively fine, though he had a cut on the right side of his face.

“When I find out who’s responsible for this, I swear I’m gonna…!”

“Chill out Bobecc, we have bigger issues here I think.” Dru said, cutting him off.

“He’s right Bobecc, we should go check out the damages. Aiden Lee, go check on the Troopers.” Omega ordered.

“Yes sir. I’ll be back momentarily.”

Aiden ran down a passage leading to the holding area below. Lights flickered on and off along the way due to the ships extensive damage. Arriving at the ships main troop holding area he found the room in utter disarray. The torpedo that collided with the ship had hit near this area, and much of it was in ruin. The bodies of four troopers were sprawled on the floor, fragments of the ship sticking out of their lifeless forms.

“Is anyone down here still alive?”

“Yes sir.” A voice answered.

The remaining six troopers appeared, five looking relatively uninjured, the sixth was being carried as a chunk of metal stuck out from his abdomen. Blood gushed from the wound, and the trooper grunted out in pain. Aiden motioned to the injured trooper, and the one assisting him.

“You too come with me, the rest of you gather up the dead, we should dispose of them with the upmost respect, and prepare yourselves. I don’t think this mission is over yet.”

“Yes sir.” The troopers answered with a resounding acceptance of their task.

Aiden helped the troopers by supporting the injured one on their way back to the ships upper level. Blood continued to run out of the troopers wound, and he grunted out in pain. Upon reaching the upper level, Dru, Bobecc, and Omega could be seen near an open panel of the wall. Bobecc and Omega seemed to be trying to repair something on the ship while Dru sat bad and enjoyed the duo’s failure as sparks rained out of the panel.

“Damn it, I could have sworn that was right.”

“Move aside Bobecc, I’ve got this.”

“No, Omega, you already shorted something out.”

“That was just a mistake, I know what I did wrong. Now move aside.”

Omega pushed Bobecc aside and went to touch the panel, more sparks burst out and the lights above flickered off.

“Good going there Kira, I told you to let me handle this.”

“Well it seems you two have royally screwed up this ship. Time to go then?” Dru asked with a chuckle.

The three turned to see Lee approaching with the two troopers.

“Lee report.”

“Yes Bobecc, there are four casualties down below. The other four troopers are taking care of the bodies. This trooper is seriously injured.”

Aiden and the other healthy soldier help sit the bleeding one down. His pain seemed to be getting worse as he bled heavily. Bobecc sighed in frustration of the situation and the loss of his soldiers. Dru waited, watching what the others did, then stepped forward kneeling in front of the injured soldier. Without flinching he activated his blue lightsaber and ran it through the soldier’s chest, quickly taking his life and ending his suffering.

“Dru!”

“Lee, it had to be done. Sometimes the best course of action in this case is to ease their suffering. He wasn’t going to make it much longer, and he was a liability to our mission.”

“Then maybe we should abandon this mission. They knew we were coming. We have lost the element of surprise.”

“Aiden Lee, we will continue. The SST must face justice. You will do your duty on this assignment. For your clan, you will do this.” Bobecc declared in a commanding tone.

“Do this for all of the dead Lee.” Omega added, using Lee’s heart against him.

“Yes sir. I will do as I have been commanded. For Taldryan.”

“For Taldryan.” Bobecc, and Omega agreed.

“Yeah, yeah, let’s go. I sense we have company on the way. This will be fun.” Dru said as he pulled out his stun batons.

“Dru, you and Lee will take out the intruders. We will meet up with the other troopers. This ship must be destroyed. The enemy will believe we are dead. Our advantage will be our again.” Bobecc ordered.

“It’s game time Lee.”

“I’m at your side Dru.” Lee replies pulling out his Beskad blades.

The two comrades left the ship and hid behind the surrounding trees, waiting and listening for movement. It came. Lee closed his eyes feeling out where they were. They were less than fifty feet away, and he could feel six of them. They felt like normal humanoid soldiers. Lee signaled to Dru who grinned at the prospect.

As the first soldiers crossed by their hiding spots Dru, and Lee leapt into action. Lee thrust one blade into the soldier and moved him in front of himself, using him as a shield for the blaster fire coming his way. Dru smashed a soldier across the head with the blunt end of his baton, before jamming the electrified end into his diaphragm, shocking him into unconsciousness. Blaster fire continued barreling towards them as they again hid behind the trees.

The remaining four soldiers rushed forwards, full prepared to exterminate the threat. When they crossed the tree line they were confused by the lack of Taldryanites they discovered. Lee, and Dru were nowhere to be seen. Dru and Lee fell from a high up branch towards the unsuspecting soldiers. Dru smashed his batons against two of their heads with all his strength, and with a sounding crunch, their skulls fractured, killing them. Lee fell and slashed his swords at two of the soldier necks. The durasteel blades carved through their necks like butter, removing their heads from their shoulders.

“I’m impressed Lee, didn’t think you’d do it.” Dru analyzed.

“For Taldryan, I will darken my heart. Let’s go.” Lee responded in a steeled tone of voice.

They arrived back at the ship as Bobecc, Omega, and the remaining five soldiers walked down the landing platform. Bobecc was putting away pieces of the dead trooper’s uniforms, keeping them for their families as a way of honoring their sacrifice. Nodding to Dru, and Lee the group walked towards their target. Omega pulled out a detonator and pressed the red button. Their ruined ship imploded, and burst into a flash of fire and smoke. The bodies inside were decimated upon detonation.

The group made the three mile trek to the back side of the building. The ground around them shook as Starfighter blasts impacted the building and the planet’s surface. The Force users activated their lightsabers and began to carve their own entrances in the side of the base. Entering the base, the group was surprised to see that the building for the most part looked empty.

“This is strange. I would have expected more security.” Omega mentioned out loud.

“I have a bad feeling about this.” Lee said giving his impression of the situation.

“We press on. This ends today.”

The group followed Bobecc’s lead. Three of the troopers took up the front, while the remaining two held the rear. Following the directions given by the tortured traitor the group made their way through the building with little to no trouble. They came up to a sealed door. It seemed to be locked with a detailed electronic panel. Bobecc walked up to the key pad and began trying to hack the system.

“The passwords he gave us are not working they must have changed him. I don’t know wha…hey Omega what are you doing!”

Omega pushed him out of the way and channeled the Force into his hand a small burst of lightning launched from his fingertips frying the circuits of the key pad. The door started beeping and the group heard a click. The door slowly started to rise.

“Well, that was effective.” Lee noted.

As the door raised the group became faced with a group of twenty security members with their blasters aiming right at them.

“Put your hands in the air now, Taldryan scum. This is the end of the line for you.” One of the guards spoke to the group.

Dru, Lee, and Omega shared a look before igniting their lightsabers and engaging the enemies. Lee swept through the group gracefully stepping through their lines slashing his curved hilt amethyst lightsaber through whoever stood in his way. As the guards fired at him, he rolled and dodged their blasts. His saber form was made for dueling a lightsaber user not engaging blasters. Being in this predicament caused Aiden to realize he may want to learn a more defensive saber form.

Dru deflected blaster bolts back at the ones whom fired at him. He would aim for their limbs to cause them pain, before ending their lives with his sapphire lightsaber blade. He relished in this fight, feelings of ecstasy spread throughout his body with each dead body he laid out.

Omega used his basic form to weave in-between the dangerous blasts, quickly dispatching each security guard who got in his path. His lava colored blade met there flesh and seared its way through. As Bobecc watched this he pulled out his blaster and began firing into the still standing security force. With some assistance by the troopers, the group ended their opposition with finesse and haste before hurrying on their way.

Nearing the destination the group sped up, hoping to finish this quickly. As they approached the final door two guards stepped forward blasters raised, but their trigger finger was outmatched by Bobecc’s blaster fire, hitting both in the heads. The guards dropped to the ground dead.

In the end only one guard was left alive. Handless sure, but alive. Aiden Lee approached this individual and looked into his fearful eyes. Concentrating on the Force he waved his hand in front of the guard’s eyes.

“You will tell us where the leader of this building is.”

\*“I will tell you where the leader of this building is.”

The soldier spilled his guts, and told Aiden Lee everything. Then Dru killed the man who was of no more use. Finally they had reached the end of this tirade.

“Let’s get this over with.” Bobecc commanded, happy that this situation would now be taken care of.

As the group walked through the final door they entered a large white room. In the center of the room was a half-moon desk. At balding man sat at the desk with a smile on his face. He looked straight at Bobecc.

“Bobecc Varga, Warrior of the great clan Taldryan, I presume.”

“And who might you be?” Bobecc answered.

“I might be the head of Sphinxian Satellite Technologies.”

“If that is true then you are a dead man.”

“Oh I am, of that I can assure you. But you will be going with me. All of you.” The man began to laugh.

Aiden Lee felt a shimmer in the Force and on instinct pushed Bobecc out of the way as a blaster bolt sailed through the air behind them. The bolt struck Lee in the left shoulder and the Grey Jedi dropped to the floor in pain. Bobecc snapped out of his momentary pause and blasted the hidden guard behind them. Full of fury he turned back to the bald man and pointed the blaster at him.

“You are going to pay for that!”

“Don’t worry so much, we are all going to die. You see this entire institution is rigged to blow. And it will take all of us with it.”

“You’d destroy SST and everyone in it just to kill me?” Bobecc asked appalled.

“Well, you see, SST will be fine. Our leader is safe. Oh, oops, you shouldn’t have heard that.” The bald man said sarcastically.

“You’re not…”

“Our leader no. See we have more agents in your Clan. They told us all about this little adventure of yours. And know your time has co…” The bald man’s voice ended and a blaster bolt went through his forehead. He dropped to the table dead.

Bobecc was infuriated at being tricked. He knew that they needed to get out though. Aiden Lee needed to be brought to safety.

“Get Lee, and let’s get the Hell outa here. Head to the Hangar bay.”

The group ran through the facility as their time was slowly running short. Luckily they made it to the hangar bay and eliminated the forces who would block their path. Omega found a stolen Taldryan starship and the nine group members got aboard the ship. They took off just as the building began imploding upon itself. The mission was an utter failure. They had lost many men. Aiden Lee was injured. And to top it all off they didn’t have the leader of Sphinxian Satellite Technologies in their grasp. And to put salt into the wound, another traitor was hiding in their ranks. But who?