Tahiri Kanh Drakon, #14400

Lucifer Romanov, #14596

The Acolyte Lucifer begin pondering how the day would progress as he and Tahiri departed Castle Tarentum’s hanger bay into the ocean, using the underwater modified Starfighters. Lucifer: “Where shall we begin our search? Also shall we split up or stay as a combined force?” He spoke softly into the communicator as his eyes scanned their surroundings. Tahiri: “I think that our best plan of action, is to begin our search around the edges of the peninsula. You go search the northerly edge and I’ll search the southerly edge. Also, I believe we should keep radio silence until the first check point, and then check in at regular intervals.” She replied. Lucifer: “I think that is a very wise idea. I’ll contact you once I arrive at my first checkpoint on the northerly end of the peninsula.” He replied before activating the thrusters and heading to his designated point of search.

Looking after him for a moment, then engaged her thrusters and headed towards her search point. Speeding through the murky twilight of the ocean, she wondered what she would find at the peninsula and how to stay unnoticed.  *It was an honor to be assigned this mission, but how the hell am I going to stay hidden? There’s no place to hide, no place to watch unseen.* She knew that the encampment would probably be watching for any patrols, especially those that came close. She was just about to her first check point, when she saw a pod of about thirty huge mammalian creatures that came swimming into view. Then she had an idea, reaching out with the Force using Beast Control, she linked with the lead female animal, convincing the matriarch to be accepted as part of their group and to swim very close to the peninsula. As the animals turned towards the peninsula, she flew into the middle of the pod and kept pace to stay deep enough within the pod to stay hidden.

He felt something in the Force from the direction of his comrade but noticing that it was not a feeling of danger, he continued along his course. *I wonder what is going on that way but sense it does not seem that she is in danger…* His course of thought was cut off by the ships warning system as it detected unknown objects nearby that began to move. It was the Force that warned him of the first shots before the ships warning system could, allowing him to veer the ship out of the path of the incoming shoots from what he realized were automated underwater turrets, thanks to the ships scanners. The ship rocked as the next volley of shots deflected off of the deflector shield on the left wing. Hitting the emergency beacon, he turned his course towards the surface, pushing the thrusters as hard as he could. The next shots pierced through the left wings shield, causing his ship to veer towards the reef near the peninsula. Thankfully he was near enough to the surface that he was able to eject from the fighter towards the surface as the ship crashed into the peninsulas reef. Swimming to the surface he reached out to Tahiri and gave warning of the ambush, before swimming quickly to the shore and crawling slowly up to hide under the rocky shelf next to the shore, hiding as he heard voices above him. First voice: “Did you feel that tremor? Do you think they know we are here?” Feet could be heard shuffling above him before a second voice could be heard. Second voice: “I doubt they know we are here. Most like it was some big fish that got shot and hit the reef.” Hearing the footsteps recede above him, Lucifer began his slow climb up the rocky side, hoping his message got out to Tahiri.

A Force shock wave hit Tahiri so hard, she almost lost her mental link with the matriarch of the pod, but the animals also felt the wave and started to freak out. Regaining her control, she quieted the creatures and listened to the message that was sent through the Force to her. Realizing that the warning had come from Lucifer. Her ships sensors began to chime, looking down she saw the emergency beacon of Lucifer’s ship come on and then the next second all of a sudden stop transmitting. She veered the pod slightly away and slowed them down while she assessed the situation. She had two choices; either race to help her comrade, if he’s still alive, or to complete her flyby, gathering as much information as she can, before she was discovered. *What do I do, complete the mission, hoping that what has happened to be a distraction? Or abandon the mission and search for Lucifer? Do I put the needs of the many before the few, or the few before many?* Weighing her options, she took a moment and reached out with the Force to see if she could sense if Lucifer was still alive and needing attention. Feeling that Lucifer was alive and out danger for the moment, sensing that he was on the peninsula, she decided to continue and finish her objective. She told the matriarch to speed up, turning back onto her original course. Her scanners were maxed out to their full range, sensing encampment the armaments and troops within. The pod slowly swam as close to the peninsula’s coastline as possible, trying not to trigger any of the unseen weapons along the perimeter or the reef ahead. Finally, she gathered all the information she could, though there was not any new information she could gleam from her scan, other than the number of troops and the amount of weapons they had. Though she did discover the extensiveness of their entrenched underwater artillery, which apparently Lucifer had unknowing triggered before, leading to the destruction of his ship.

His muscles grew sore as he finally reached the top of the cliff, his fingers digging into the ground as he pulled himself up and over the ledge. Once he reached the cliffs top, he reached out with the Force to identify the mercenaries’ positions of their guards. Once located, he began slowly moving forward into their encampment until he heard voices coming from a nearby tent. First voice: “Sir, we have not picked up anything on radar that would have set off the turrets, do you think it was them?” Silence held for a few moments until a feminine voice broke it. Commander: “I doubt it, but to make sure it was not anything, send a squad to check it out and also lock the data discs up in you tent.” He heard the sound of someone one leaving then the sound of objects being moved around on a table. He moved closer to the tent, gathering the Force and then reaching out to touch the person’s mind, gently pushing the man to leave the tent as he forgot something he needed in his tent, making the man leave behind the date discs. Waiting a few seconds after hearing the man leave, he quickly rushed inside and quickly let his eyes register the layout before him. It only took a few seconds to notice the data pads on the table. He quickly moved to gather them up, only to finish grabbing two of them before hearing a sound behind him. Thanks to his reflexes, he dodged the blaster bolts aiming for his back as he gathered the Force throughout his body, and used it to create a sphere of darkness around the shooter before igniting his lightsaber and cutting through the tent and running straight towards the cliff he came up at, as he heard the shooter screaming for help. It was not long before running footsteps could be heard behind him, deactivating and storing his lightsaber as he stopped at the edge of the cliff and he began gathering the Force into his body again as he prepared to jump and defend himself. Commander: “Well, well, what do we have here? A mouse caught by the cats? Tell me, why you are here and I’ll make your death painless.” He just smiled and turned around as he faced his pursuers. Lucifer: “No point in talking if I die either way, is there?” He just kept smiling as he brought up his right hand and emitted bolts of Force lightning at his pursuers as he used the Force gathered in his body to amplify his leg strength and launch himself back off the cliff and towards the sea. His vision darkened as he felt a burning then icy sensation in his shoulder as blaster fire rained down at him, before he sank into the seas depths. Reaching out with the Force, he tried to call out to Tahiri as darkness over took his consciousness.

Now that she knew where the entrenched weaponry along the coast and part of the reef was, she headed toward Lucifer’s last known location. The pod still surrounding her became slightly agitated as they got closer to the reef. She could feel their fear and a sense of loss, reaching into the mind of the matriarch, *she could see and hear flashes of memories, the crying of a young calve and the groaning of an older creature.* She could sense that these creatures had already been by here. *Probably got too close to reef. The weapons must be automated to fire on anything as big as a ship. Poor creatures…* She asked the matriarch to accompany her as far as she dared too. As they got closer to the reef she could feel their anxiety, calming them to stay. They were about five hundred meters from the reef when she felt a disturbance in the Force. It was Lucifer, she reached out with Force telepathy trying to contact him. She felt his call for help, and could feel him starting to slip away, he was in the ocean. She looked at her scanner trying to find him. Finally, the scanner picked up a small object. *It has to be him*, she thought with urgency, *I do not have time to be wrong.* Knowing that the automatic weaponry could be entrenched anywhere near where he was, but she had no choice. Releasing the creatures, she engaged the thrusters and sped towards him. Her scanners and warning system lit up like an overexcited R2 unit, as she raced by the edge of the reef. Dodging the shots from the entrenched turrets, she veered to the left toward the peninsulas’ underwater cliffs, and then veering back to the right as the shots closed in on her, hitting the cliffs. As she got close to where he was, she reached out again with the Force. But feeling his life Force slipping, she reached out and pulled him towards the ship. Holding him to the right wing of the ship with the Force, she sped as fast she dared to back the way she came. Skirting a little further away from the reef than before, hoping that she was far enough away not to trigger the automated artillery, though as a safety measure she launched a couple of emergency flares to try and confuse the weapons targeting system. To her surprise the pod of mammals had not moved that far off, and some of the younger ones were milling about at the surface. She called out to the matriarch again, asking the giant creature to surface, she immediately came to help heading toward the surface. Following the creature as she broke the waves parallel to the peninsula, her craft surfaced on the side facing away from land. Setting the ships systems to stay afloat, she popped the hatch and jumped onto the right wing, letting go with the Force and catching Lucifer before he slid off. She checked for a pulse, it was weak but there. Lucifer took a gasping breath as she held him, using the Force and her voice to calm him, “It’s all right, I got you.” As his vision cleared, he started when he saw the behemoth floating beside the ship, reacting instinctively. Tahiri cried, “No! It is alright. She is helping us. She is giving us protective cover from the encampment. Do not worry, if you do not bite, she will not.” Lucifer spit out some more water and sat up, still cradling the two data discs. Realizing he still had them, gave them to Tahiri and said, “Do you think these will help?” Tahiri took the discs and replied, “Well it is good start.”