

Hero For A Day

The droid designated R5-K9, nicknamed Hound by a former owner, followed quietly behind his new master the strange little Sullustan Tekk Parsa as he strolled through the streets of Nar Shaddaa. Their first meeting had been somewhat fortuitous for the little automaton. It had come during the Grand Master of the Dark Brotherhood's invasion and subsequent destruction of New Tython. Tekk had been looking for some way to defend the city of Menat Ombo from half a dozen incoming TIE fighters when he stumbled upon the X-Wing Hound had been paired with in a repair bay with its engine cover off. They worked together to repair the fighters broken motivator before jetting off into the sky to engage the incoming TIE's. They managed to save the city, at least temporarily. The pair could only watch as Star Destroyers under the command of Darth Pravus laid waste to the surface of the planet killing everyone and everything not lucky enough to escape. Since then they had become almost inseparable with the little droid following the Sullustan almost everywhere despite his constant protestations.

"I haven't been here in years." said Tekk.

"Beep bloop beep dwooo?" asked the droid.

Looking back over his shoulder Tekk said "Ohh I had a little disagreement with a pair of rather unsavoury characters."

"Wooo weep wooo?" inquired Hound.

"The Niedra brothers. Pair of stupid Rodians who thought I cheated them at cards." answered Tekk.

"Wooeep?" tootled the droid.

"Of course I did but that's not the point. They didn't know I was cheating they just suspected I was. It's only cheating if you get caught." answered the Sullustan.

"Dweeep." squealed the droid.

"Oh shut up." replied Tekk.

They travelled in silence for a while until Tekk came to a dirty rough looking bar. Looking up at the faded neon sign he said "Ahhh, the Randy Ronto. This place hasn't changed a bit." Turning to Hound he said "They don't let droids in here so you'll have to wait outside." before he walked inside.

Hound pulled his central leg up into his barrel shaped body and sat quietly outside running a self diagnostic while he waited for Tekk to return. The Sullustan had been gone for nearly an hour when Hounds audio receptors picked up a commotion from within the Randy Ronto. Analysing the audio Hound managed to pick up the Sullustans voice shouting over the sounds of the bar before his voice abruptly disappeared. Throwing caution to the wind Hound rolled into the bar and began to scan the crowd with his photoreceptors catching the slightest of glimpses of his friend as his unconscious form was carried out the back by a pair of Rodians.

The droid was about to give chase when a pair of large green hands clamped down on his side and lifted him into the air. Spinning his flower pot shaped head one hundred and eighty degrees he came eye to photoreceptor with a large irritated looking Gamorrean bouncer. The giant pig man carried the droid outside and tossed him like some drunk patron scrapping some of the droids new green paint off in the process. As the droid struggled to right himself the Gamorrean snorted something quite rude. The droid made a noise reminiscent of a child blowing a raspberry before rolling away from the front of the establishment.

As he rolled through the streets of the smugglers moon he began to scan for a data port he could interface with. As the minutes ticked by he became increasingly frantic as thoughts of what awaited his friend at the Rodians hands played through his artificial brain until finally he spotted one off to the right. Rolling over he barged an R2 unit out of the way, jacked in and began slicing his way into every security camera in the area. He scanned camera after camera searching for any sign of Tekk until, forty cameras later, he caught sight of the Sullustan still unconscious and thrown over the shoulder of one of the Rodians. Switching cameras to keep the trio in view Hound followed them until they turned down an alley out of sight of any cameras. Unplugging himself from the data port Hound took off as fast as his wheels would carry him to rescue his friend.

He rolled past sentients of just about every species imaginable, many of whom had to leap out of the way of the runaway droid. He turned left and right, wending his way through the crowded Nar Shaddaa streets until he came to the dark alley where the cameras had lost sight of Tekk. The little droid rolled into the dark alley illuminated only by the flashlight built in to his his head rolling through garbage collected over who knows how long until he reached the alley's terminus. Before him was a large metal door with a keypad set into the wall beside it. Popping open a panel in the side of his body he brought forth a small arm with a grasping claw on the end. Pulling open the keypads panel the droid went to work slicing the controls open and, after a few minutes work, the door slid open silently.

Rolling inside he began to scan the hallways with his photoreceptors looking for any sign of Tekk or the two Rodians. As he rolled past a dimly lit room he heard a quiet voice cry out "Hound. Hey Hound." The little astromech stopped and backed up before rolling into the room and switching on his flashlight. As the beam passed over the face of the Sullustan the little droid squealed loudly with joy. "Would you keep it down before those Rodian morons hear you."

“Bwee Bwoo.” Hound replied.

“It’s fine just come cut me loose would you.” said Tekk.

Rolling around behind Tekk Hound shifted his photoreceptors down to the Sullustans hands which were tightly bound with a strong metal cable. The little droids body popped open once again to reveal a small circular saw and with a great deal of caution began to cut the wire. Seconds ticked by slowly as sparks flew off the saw but eventually the cable snapped and Tekk was free. And just in time too as the Niedra brothers appeared at the doorway.

“Hey!” shouted Kenka, the older of the two.

Before the pair could move Tekk raised his left hand and blasted the pair with the Force knocking them from their feet and into the wall behind them. With the Rodians taken care of, for the moment at least, Tekk began to dig around in one of the voluminous pockets of his flight suit. When he finally found what he was looking for he pulled it out and smiled before pushing a small blue button built into its side. With a snap hiss the weapon, for that was what it was, sprung to life as a brilliant copper coloured blade erupted from its end. Spinning the blade through the air in a display meant solely for the Niedra brothers he casually strolled up to them before shutting off the blade.

“Now,” he said casually “surely we can forget about any past problems between ourselves and simply let bygones be bygones. What d’ya say?” Too stunned to speak the Rodians simply nodded vigorously. “Fantastic.” said Tekk before turning to Hound and saying “Let’s go Hound.”

The astromech rolled out of the room stopping in front of the Rodian brothers. They looked at the droid confused until his small arc welder popped out of his body and shocked them each in turn before blowing a raspberry at them and leaving to follow Tekk. As he strolled out of the alley Tekk turned to his companion and said “Thanks pal.” as he gently rested a hand on the droid's head.

“Weep woop dwee doo.” replied Hound as they headed off.