

Capis

Western Reaches

34 ABY

Laren and Abadeer looked up from their communicator, a pair of shocked looks on their faces. They'd just received a shocking report from the Quaestor of Karness Murr, Taranae Rhode, that the Inquisitorius spy, Crandl Lorne, was an agent of the Order. She hadn't given them details on how the discovery had come about, but evidently Lorne had found out his game was up and was trying to make his way to enemy lines. Abadeer and Laren were tasked with the operation to hunt down and kill Lorne, the mission was given the level of upmost importance.

Uscot gave a quiet cough, "That was certainly unexpected."

"Yes. I didn't see him as a traitor. Not someone to be fully trusted, being so connected to the Inquisitors, but not a traitor." Abadeer replied, shaking his head. He clenched his fist in frustration as the realization dawned on him just how terrible Lorne's actions had been. The gravity of what he'd done was a little overwhelming.

"Abadeer, if you're ready to go, it would be better for us to leave now and find him, rather than wait. If Lorne was able to get behind enemy lines, we would lose him. He'd take a ship and we'd never see him again." Laren stated as he began adjusting his holsters.

Abadeer nodded in response, "Let's go hunting."

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10 kilometers to Vader's Order lines

Laren and Abadeer peered through low brush to see a deserted speeder bike. They had been following the thermal trail for some distance. It was definitely Lorne's, and he hadn't left it for long. Abadeer had concluded that he would probably ditch the bike around this area to be able to sneak past the front lines of the fighting. Plagueis was pushing daily, closer and closer to the Order's base of operations. If Lorne made it to that base, it would be too late.

Taasii was a competent hunter on his planet, and with the added benefit of different technologies, he was more than capable of tracking Crandl Lorne. They two Plagueins started moving quickly, needing more speed than stealth, towards the front lines. Lorne too seemed to be only taking modest efforts to disguise his trail. The pair followed for about fifteen minutes when Abadeer realized that Lorne knew they were following him.

"He's leading us right into.." Before Taasii could finish, a loud crash came from the hillside next to them. Both aliens turned to see a crashing boulder, tumbling right towards them. Laren and Abadeer quickly dived out of the way. The trap had been set to high, and gave them adequate time to evade certain doom.

"Come closer Sith scum, and you will know death by hands." Lorne's voice came from high above them. Abadeer glared up the hill searching for his prey, teeth bared, lightsaber now drawn and ready.

"Let's take him." Laren called over, not bothering to look before heading up the hill. Abadeer didn't hesitate either, focusing his mind on the Force drawing on power to push his muscles beyond their natural ability. He began to quickly bound up the hill, each of his strides taking him two or three of Laren's. Once Abadeer was within 100 feet the blaster fire came raining down. Lorne had drawn his twin pistols and was unleashing a volley all around the pair. Laren and Taasii took cover behind trees to avoid the incoming lasers.

"Why aren't you blocking this back at him?" Laren shouted across the way, while reading his own pistol. The Togruta shook his head.

"Not my fighting style, I might block one or two, but he'd rip me to shreds." Laren let out a sigh.

"Why'd I even bring you? Well let's see if we can even things out a little bit." He ducked down around the left side of his tree and let out a quick flurry of fire up the hill. Crandl Lorne's return fire was quick to follow. The lasers were focused on Laren's position, and Abadeer didn't waste and opportunity. He pushed his focus to the max, keeping the flow to his legs going as well as letting his conscious mind meld with the Force so he could predict incoming fire.

Abadeer made quick progress up the hill before the lasers started his way again. Taasii looked up at Lorne as his perception of time seemed to almost slow. He could see where Lorne was aiming before the fire came. There were almost slight lines coming before the lasers showing Abadeer where to move. He ducked and weaved his way to cover. Trying to keep up the focus was exhausting but it was keeping him from getting killed.

"Cover me if you can!" Laren had to shout up to Abadeer. Taasii gave the go ahead sign before spinning around his cover to sprint the final stretch to Lorne. Abadeer focused on the rage and hatred he felt at the destruction of the Plagueis fleet and let all of that emotion go at Lorne in one smooth bolt. The lightning was both deafening and blinding, but Abadeer charged on behind his bolt. Lorne had predicted the attack and had taken cover but at that point Abadeer was already on top of him swinging his saber. The violet arcs hummed through the air as Taasii attempted to put a swift end to the Inquisitor traitor. Lorne was no easy prey though.

Despite being middle aged, Lorne was able to stay keep his distance from Abadeer. Not quite faster, but using the occasional blaster fire to cover a short retreat. Taasii was not letting himself get too close to the twin blasters, as he'd already drained himself considerably just making his way up the hill. He could still envision the path of the laser fire, but he was getting less and less time to be able to avoid it. Taasii lunged in for another jab, but this time Lorne stepped inside his reach instead of out of it. Lorne grappled around the Togruta's outstretched weapon arm, holding the blade in place. He began to pull his own gun forward, but Abadeer grabbed Lorne by the wrist.

"Let's end this you and I. You know you can't win." Crandl sneered. They took a short step clockwise attempting to free their arms.

“That’s never made me give up before, you’re just another obstacle to overcome. Another insect to crush beneath my heel.” Abadeer glared, no less anger showed on his face than the human’s.

Lorne paused for only a second, ceasing the constant pressure of trying to pull his arm out from his opponent’s hold, then moved his leg behind Taasii’s, pushing them both off balance to fall to the ground. Abadeer deactivated his lightsaber, knowing the dangers of having that weapon too close. He let the saber roll from his hand but finally pulled his hand from the vice like grip, to punch Lorne’s arm, causing him to lose hold of his blaster. Taasii wasn’t a total stranger to hand-to-hand combat, but grappling like this on the ground was Crandl’s speciality. He quickly had Abadeer pinned to the ground, one arm held up and behind his back, with Lorne’s knee squarely holding him down to the ground. Lorne laughed, almost sounding slightly unhinged.

“Oh Taasii, you had some promise, but you never knew when to quit. Unfortunately this is the end for you.” Taasii growled in response trying to shake the man on top of him. He felt hot durasteel pressed to the back of his head. “Good-bye Sith..” The sound of a blaster went off, blood covering Abadeer, but it was not his own. He rolled over to see Laren standing over him, blaster still outstretched, Crandl on the ground, a new hole in the back of his head oozing blood.

“Well you were useful enough I suppose,” Laren outstretched his arm to Taasii to help him up, “Even if you are a bit reckless. I guess I’ll keep you around for now.” Uscot through a wink. Abadeer rubbed his shoulder that had been used to hold him down, still sore from the blaster he’d taken to the same spot only days before.

“Let’s get this scum reported in, a complete success. You think Selika will want his head on her wall?” Abadeer snidely asked, knowing of the Wrath’s habit of killing with very little cause. Uscot chuckled.

“As long as it’s not my head.”