Teenage Years

**12 ABY**

**Coruscant**

**Spaceport**

The shuttle landed abruptly in the spaceport- although timing remained as impeccable as ever. It had been a relatively peaceful night time flight. Kooki had drifted off to sleep whilst stargazing out of the window of this smaller shuttle, but the landing awoke her from her slumber. The passengers and shuttle crew disembarked. A rather groggy eighteen year old female walked amongst them. She was rather excited to have landed on Naboo. Although something didn’t feel quite right…

The amber sun began ascending into the sky creating an idyllic setting as it began to shine on the dismal grey infrastructure of the Imperial capital.

“Welcome to Coruscant, Miss….” Began a spaceport attendant, picking up the female’s luggage for her and glancing at the label.

“Mimosa!” Kooki snapped and snatched her bag.

“Hang on! Did you say Coruscant?” the rather cross female asked.

“Yes ma’am.” The attendant nodded and turned to continue to assist the new arrivals with their luggage.

Kooki was now angry, and very slightly scared. She knew that Coruscant would be swarming with Imperials. She would love nothing more than to make the entire planet explode, just like they had done to her utopian home of Alderaan. Clutching at her treasured silver monogramed star pendant, containing a tiny photo of a young Kooki with her parents and a tiny sphere of Alderaanian rock, the resentment and anger began to build.

Nearby a pile of boarding passes and other paperwork fell off a desk.

“Negativity is afoot.” Stated a female assistant to her colleague, who merely nodded back.

Part of the feisty female wanted to hold her hand around the attendant’s throat and apply pressure with her fingers. Just enough to cause discomfort and demonstrate her infuriated mentality at her current situation. Yet her battle of oxymoronic conscience made her think twice, as if she was to do so this person could be an affiliate of the large Imperial base here. With that in mind, she turned and left the spaceport.

 **12 ABY**

**Coruscant**

**City Centre**

By now Kooki had wandered into the city’s centre and was trying her best to keep her head down and keep herself to herself. But as the hours crept past, she began grabbing refreshments at food stalls in a bustling marketplace. As the day went on, the urban landscape seemed to change very little. It was the dullest place she had ever been to. The buildings were grey in the morning sun. The buildings were grey in the afternoon. And they were **still** grey as the sun was beginning to set. Kooki could just about see the skyline swirling with colours of reds, oranges, yellows and golds, as the bright orange sphere set beneath the horizon. Despite the continuing hustle and bustle regardless of the time, the Alderaanian female felt a moment of peace and stillness. Surprisingly as darkness fell and the sky spiralled with darkening hues of blues and purples, the sky became navy, the urban grey buildings almost shone silver. Yet this picturesque scene failed to remain, as soon buildings bright lights from inside began shining outwards onto the streets they were situated on. Streetlights flickered on and shone white and an artificial orange illuminated the pavements and roads. This city centre never seemed to sleep, or even remotely slow down. The marketplace and refreshment stalls had packed up and the stallholders had long gone home, and fewer people walked the streets, yet the traffic remained quite dense.

For the first time in two years, Kooki felt far away from home and quite alone. The breeze began to feel quite chilly and she began to shiver. She looked through her black rucksack, causing her beret to fall to the floor, and she managed to locate a fur lined leather jacket of the same colour and zipped it up. Her body began adjusting to the warm comfort the jacket brought about, and an unknown human female approached her whilst Kooki put her bag back onto her shoulders.

“Here you go, Miss,” the female stranger stated, whilst putting a few credits into Kooki’s headwear.

She had an unfamiliar accent and seemed to have a caring nature and was clearly concerned about Kooki’s welfare.

“You ought to go to the cantina down the block lovey. They do lovely food. The beers a good price an’ all.” She continued.

“Err… thanks,” uttered Kooki, a little unsure what else to say or do.

“C’mon honey. I’ll show you the way.” She gestured her arm out to the Alderaanian.

Kooki apprehensively linked arms with the unknown female and accompanied her.

The females were about the same height and a few months age difference and they soon began talking as if they had known each other for years. Her name was Geviwa and she was from Naboo. Kooki explained to her that that was where she was heading, when she had wound up here. It soon transpired that her new friend was an undercover spy who was gaining information on the Imperial operations.

The pair stopped just outside the cantina.

“There’s all sorts in there honey so be careful.” Geviwa hushed.

Kooki smiled.

“There. That’s better. Smiling suits you. Makes your blue eyes sparkle when you do. And your hair is… just wow!” The new female complimented, placing her hand onto Kooki’s arm and she began stroking it.

Kooki pulled her companion’s hand away from her arm and pulled her into the adjacent alleyway. The pair held each other and pulled each other in for a kiss.

They opened their eyes, almost in unison after the soft embrace they had shared and both smiled.

“Join me?” Geviwa asked.

“Come with me. Work with me. Together we can infiltrate the enemy. I leave to report back to Naboo in three days. But with the pair of us we can gain lots of information and inform the secret base of our research.” She explained.

Without a second thought, Kooki accepted the offer.

The pair shared another kiss to celebrate.

“I’ll go and fetch your necessary uniform and equipment. Will be about an hour honey. Go. Eat. I won’t be long.”

With another kiss and cuddle, Kooki headed into the cantina and Geviwa headed to her hideout to find a spare uniform for her new friend.

**12 ABY**

**Coruscant**

**Cantina**

“Yes love. What ya have?” a male Calamari asked in a thick local accent.

“Err…those spicy wings and those vegetable wedges things… Oh and an Ebla beer,” replied Kooki, a little nervously.

Her head was still spinning and her pulse still racing from the encounter outside a few moments previously.

The female sat quietly, alone amidst a bustling cantina at a small table on a high stool. Her food soon arrived and soon devoured. Sipping on her alcoholic beverage, Kooki swung her knee-high boots back and forth impatiently as she waited eagerly for Geviwa’s return.

She suddenly felt uneasy and a dark presence.

A tall hooded stranger leant close to her and whispered into her ear.

“Ever felt like you not quite belong? That's cause you be strong in the Force. Come, discover the real you. Your power knows no bounds young one."

The husky voice seemed unsettling, yet also tempting. Kooki spun round on her stool.

“Who are you?” she asked.

“My name is of no importance. I know you feel like you don’t fit in here. Or anywhere. I know you feel isolated and different.” The male kept his face concealed constantly.

Kooki was speechless and now rather pale in colour. Her cheeks had drained of the warmth she had felt only minutes before.

“S…s…sometimes I guess…” she stuttered.

“That’s because you’re special….” The male began.

His voice began to trail off and her surroundings began a hazy blur…

In Kooki’s mind she had a flashback…

***0 BBY***

***Alderaan***

***Mimosa Homestead***

*“You're 'special' Kookicake. That's all you need to know for now. I'll explain when you're older. Old enough to understand." The devoted mother explained.*

*Tabby delicately placed and fastened the silver chain around her daughter’s neck.*

*She gave her a kiss on her head and tucked her into bed for the last time for a few days.*

*Tomorrow was the biggest day of her beloved daughter’s little life so far.*

**12 ABY**

**Coruscant**

**Cantina**

“Miss…Miss… Miss… Are you okay?” the undercover Dark Jedi asked, slightly worried about the absent-looking woman next to him.

“Are you coming or not?”

“To where, sorry?” Kooki asked.

The male sighed. She hadn’t listened to a word he had been saying for the last five minutes.

“To the Brotherhood. It’s early days, but we are expanding. If you come now who knows how powerful you could become.” He explained for a second time.

Kooki was tempted. But she had just met the most amazing woman. **AND** could possibly help infiltrate and assist a secret base on Naboo take down the Imperials who’s orders destroyed her utopia.

“I’ll ask you one more time, Miss. Are you coming or not?” he asked huskily.

Kooki sighed heavily.

“Not!” she replied.

“Maybe one day…but not today. I have a **much** bigger job to do here.”

With that the hooded undercover Dark Jedi turned to leave.

“May the Force be with you!” he said, and disappeared.

Kooki could barely comprehend what had just happened. She looked up and noticed the time. Ten more minutes and she would be reunited with Geviwa. She beamed and headed to the cantina exit.

Just as she was walking out, a short male in an Imperial uniform pushed past her, unaware that her stepped on her foot.

“Oh sorry miss,” he stated quickly.

“You will be if it happens again!” Kooki retorted angrily, thinking he was out of earshot.

*Frakking rude woman. Crazy hair.* Thought the male, as he waited for a measure of brandy.

Within minutes he had downed his drink, had used the fresher and left the cantina as quick as he’d arrived. Luckily the feisty, unpleasant female was no longer in sight… thankfully. He hoped he would never have to deal with her rudeness again.

The streets were finally quiet and very little traffic. The bright streetlamps emitted light pollution, so sadly no stars were visible. The crescent moon barely provided any light and navy wispy clouds tickled it.

Kooki appeared from the alleyway and looked into the distance. A few hundred yards away she could see a familiar hint of scarlet red hair blowing in the evening breeze.

Kooki smiled and couldn’t wait to be in the loving arms of Geviwa again.

A finger pointed at the female. The two males in grey military uniform nodded at each other silently.

Geviwa spotted them and quickly hid in a nearby doorway hoping they would go into the cantina and fail to spot her.

A speeder van raced past her hiding place and luckily didn’t see her. It screeched to a halt.

Suddenly a loud thud echoed. A body fell unconscious to the stone cold pavement below. Hastily it was bundled into the back of the speeder van, closely followed by the two Imperial Officers, and sped off into the distance.

Once all clear, Geviwa emerged from the sheltered doorway and headed towards the cantina. Her slow paces became fast strides as she ran to where Kooki had been stood seconds before…

She was gone!

They had taken her…

She collapsed to the ground.

She blinked her eyelids.

Tears trickled down either side of her face.

Her voice barely a whisper…

“'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all[[1]](#footnote-1)…”

The End

(for now)

1. ‘In Memoriam A.H.H.’ Alfred Lord Tennyson (1849) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)