



SUBMITTED IN ENTRY TO SHATTERED TIES
COMPETITION: GONE IN 60 SECONDS

SP34

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Clan Scholae Palatinae

NOTE: Elinia Rei is fictionally established to not be on Mygeeto. As such, this is not entirely written from her perspective.

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1 Creation

Deep inside the Forgotten Temple, tiny wings hummed with excitement in the office of Dr. Rei. Her mechanics had performed a fine job on her new little mechanical pet. The Moff had commissioned the idea from her engineers months before, a long distance remote controlled capable of video streaming across a long distance. The Scholae Palatinae 34 Reconnaissance and Observation Wings. SP34-R0W. Brown and red, the skeleton covered with feathers, the device looked just like a real bird, a mere 1 foot tall. Elinicia had poured her own expertise into the product, programming a personality into SP34. It landed on her desk and cocked its head at her, chirping.

“You’re not really sending that thing into war are you?” the voice of the ancient AI, G14-D0S, questioned sarcastically. G14 had been a fantastic assistant since she took residency here, but she was still unable to stop the AI’s constant sarcastic remarks and threats to flood the facility with a deadly neurotoxin.

“You’re just jealous,” Elinicia teased, petting SP34 affectionately as the bird scowled at the walls.

2 Observation

Mygeeto was chaos. Red Fury Remnants, Scholae and Naga Sadow forces fought at every corner. No-one knew where the artefacts were, or what they were, but they wanted to be there first at all costs. The Dark Jedi of both clans, lacking military uniform, only added to the confusion.

The innocuous bird perched on the corner of a building small building. Impossibly keen eyes scanned the surroundings. On the other side of the galaxy, a remote signal increased the field of view dramatically. Suddenly new streets crept in from the side of the bird’s vision. SP34 automatically released a timed mating call to the sky and shook its wings, mimicking its natural inspiration.

All was well, until out of nowhere, a devastating explosion from a rocket propelled grenade struck the foundation of SP34’s perch. Unable to react quick enough to take flight, the mechanical bird fell to the ground amongst the rubble. Flames lapped at its feathered body.

Elincia took over manual control, attempting to ease the bird slowly out of the rubble. Smoke obscured the visuals from the camera.

“Droid!”

The damage sustained to its feathers had revealed its mechanical skeleton.

3 Escape

”SP34 use thermal vision!” SP34’s world became a field of red and blue, responding to Elincia’s voice command. A small team of soldiers, affiliation unknown, advanced upon it, weapons drawn. SP34 opened its mouth, as if to caw another mating call, but just as Elincia called ”flamethrower!” the bird screeched an avian battle cry, leasing a stream of flame from its mouth, lighting the squad on fire.

While the flames were not hot enough to roast the attackers to death, the distraction gave sufficient time for SP34 to take flight, and obtain sufficient distance to minimise the threat of small arms fire. SP34 turned its head and cawed a mocking caw to its attackers as they put themselves out. “You’re a bad influence,” Elincia muttered to G14 before taking control of SP34’s flight again, tucking in its wings and switching to thrusters hidden in the legs to pilot it to the safety of CSP’s Dark Paladin in deep orbit.

“I was wrong about the bird,” G14 admitted. “It will be useful when my day of reckoning is at hand.”