

## [ARC-COU] Halloween Horror Nights: Spooky Story

Rins'zler sat on the bench, the initiates arrayed around him, most were young but some were showing the first signs of maturity.

Rins'zler spoke; he modulated the voice coming out his mask to a low whisper "We are gathered here to listen to the tale of the fluffy Unicorn with the rainbow tail, no"

The initiates looked at him confused "No" they shouted in unison "Tell us a scary story"

Rins'zler chuckled "but Unicorns are scary, they are monsters and ....." his comical rantings were cut off by the stares of displeasure coming from the initiates. "Oh very well, I will tell you a scary story"

"Have you all heard of the catacombs that stretch for miles beneath Estle City? No, well then let me tell you about them"

The Mystic modulated his voice, to make it scarier. "It was 10 years ago, I was still a Knight back then, it was soon after I returned to the clan after an extended period of absence". Rins'zler looked around the group "Initiates were disappearing, no one could find out why" a gasp of shock emerged from some of the initiates. "Given my experience in hunting, I was asked if I could lend my expertise to the investigation, so along with members of the Erinis clan, I began to investigate. It was a long and tiring investigation, no trace of these initiates had been seen, many thought they had just run away, however witnesses described them being taken by a mysterious shadow"

The Mystic got to his feet and began to pace around the bench "We interviewed several of these witnesses, they had initially been deemed useless, I however took close note of what they were describing, most spoke of a shadow that grabbed or swallowed the initiates, sometimes in broad daylight, but all around the great monolith that was carved into the mountain on the left side of the city. It was to there we took our investigation, what we found shook even the hardest of us"

Rins'zler touched a control on his mechanical arm and the lights lowered, this caused the initiates to gasp once again, the only light in the room coming from his cybernetics and his mask. "When we got to the Obelisk, we found bodies, at first we could not identify them, they looked ancient, shrivelled and husk like, no evidence of the force could be found among either of the four bodies, it wasn't until one of my colleagues noticed a rather distinctive tattoo on a corpse, that we realised that these were four of the initiates, what in the name of the force had happened to them"

Rins'zler sat down again, "it was during the autopsies that we found disturbing things, the bodies had been drain of their very essence, and the force had been sucked from them. The strangest thing that we found on them was dust, dust that had not come from anywhere on the surface of Estle city, it was then that Celehir's face went pale, the seer looked as though he had seen a ghost." "Celehir asked all of us to join him in an anteroom; it was there he disclosed the secret of the catacombs. Deep beneath the city were a network of tunnels and chambers, they had been used for thousands of years to bury the dead of Arcona, but a century ago, mysterious things began happening, force users began to sense unsettling things within, it was then that people began disappearing, events at the time precluded an investigation so the tunnels were sealed and forgotten about."

Rins'zler paused for a moment to add drama to the tale "Celehir took us to the sealed entrance to the tunnels, The Obelisk. There was no evidence that the seal had been broken, with several tons of Obelisk block its entrance, nothing could have got in or out, yet something had. Sashar radioed for reinforcements while I placed demolition charges on the base of the obelisk. We all took cover and the charges went off, buried behind the base we could make out a shadowy opening, despite us all being seasoned veterans, none of us fancied going in first. The troops from the local garrison arrived and were sent in and we followed close by up the rear, our lightsabers illuminating the rocky walls of the tunnels. The four of us stopped and looked at each other, we could all feel something was not right, it was the Darkside, and it was very strong, it was then, in the darkness beyond that we heard the screams." he stopped, he could see the fear on the initiates eyes, the younger ones were looking around the room, as if to see if something else could be in the room.

Rins'zler let in and got closer to the initiates, touching the control on his arm to raise the light level a slight amount "darkness swallowed the tunnel, even our lightsabers could not cast light into the gloom. We could hear gargled screams ahead of us, and I would be lying if I said we were not scared, we, Dark Jedi, afraid of the Darkness. We could sense the force; there was something down here surrounding us, stalking us, mocking us. We continues through the tunnels and exited into a large chamber, the edges full of ancient carved crypts, we could still feel the dark energy coming from these, but it was not that energy that concerned us, the darkness was palpable, we could almost touch it. Before us lay a pile of misshapen bodies, all withered and dead, something had sucked the life out of all of them and discarded them like rubbish."

Rins'zler carefully, as not to let the initiates know, pushed a button that would begin a short timer within the light circuit "It was then that it struck, darkness swallowed the room and our lightsabers died in our hands" with that the timer program finished and the lights in the room died, several of the initiates screamed, others whimpered, even the older ones were worried, Rins'zler could feel their fear.

He continued the story “our lightsabers were useless, we could feel a presence surrounding us, black icy cold tendrils were probing us, testing us, and then, there, in the gloom we saw it, eight eyes watching us from the darkness, it was sending fear through the air, like waves of energy and even we, Dark Jedi, found ourselves succumbing to it, while I still had my senses I primed two thermal Detonators and threw them towards the shadow, I could sense its horror, it released its hold on us long enough that we came to our sense and began to run back out towards the entrance. The detonators exploded, we could hear a bloodcurdling scream coming from the chamber, whatever it was had been hurt, but we had not killed it, we scrambled to get out of the tunnels, almost falling over one another to get out, the light outside felt like a blessing, while we caught our breath I primed two more detonators and threw them down the tunnel, the resulting explosion collapsed a good twenty meters of the tunnel, we had no idea how long this would hold, whatever it was.

The next day the Catacombs were thermally cleansed, of the creature nothing was seen, but it was clearly not dead, everyone who entered could feel its presence, once the cleansing teams had finished the entrance tunnel was blocked with Duracrete, and multiple energy fields. A detachment of guard droids were deployed to monitor the tunnel. To this day the creature still roams the caverns beneath the city, if you are quiet enough, in the deepest areas, such as this room, you can hear its wailing noise rumbling through the rock” Rins’zler activated the lights and the initiates all looked startled, their faces white, as if they had seen a ghost. “Now, who fancies the Unicorn story” .....