

In fifteen minutes I will kill someone dear to me.

Omega Kira comes from around the bar and hands me two glasses. He leans across me and reaches for the two remaining glasses. Dropping the shot glass into the mug he raises his arm in toast.

“Correllian whiskey and Thurist stout,” he answers to my raised eyebrows.

Grinning I follow suit and then meet the unnamed toast. Neither of us have to give a reason. For the past twenty minutes we sat, drinking in almost silence; ignoring the explosions shaking the windows, the dead bodies of the shock troopers laying on the floor, the end of life as we knew it. As Jac Cotelin’s personal task force laid waste to the planet Karufr, Omega and I just drank in Spanky’s Bar, following the assault through the Force. Watching Jac’s justice.

“I’m not sure if we are drinking to their health or for luck,” Omega said, slamming the mug down on the bar. I can feel it too. Howie and Halc are no longer on planet. Whether that is a good thing or a bad, who can say?

Fourteen

The holo feed behind the bar buzzes and an image of my former apprentice appears. Catmatui tells us that all essential Taldryan history files have been downloaded, ion charges are set on all major data flows, and concussion charges have been placed on all major columns. When she walks out those doors and descends the great steps the columns will blow, causing several tons of marble to block off the lower levels of the Library of Lears. When the two sets of charges go, only one person will hold the history of Taldryan. I tell her to get her team to safety and cut off the feed.

Twelve

I get up and straighten out a stool knocked over in the previous conflict. Going behind the bar I pour fresh glasses of Ruvian red wine. Handing a glass over to Omega I say in response to his raised eyebrow: “To the old guard. Also, your cut off after this.”

“Awe, c’mon Raist,” Omega says as he waves to the fires raging in the distance, behind the windows. “With all this going on your still going to be so secretive.”

I only clink his glass to mine then take a small sip. My lip is so swollen that half of the sip drains down the front of my chin. The red of the wine just looks like a fresher version of the dried blood streaking from my hairline.

“Want me to at least watch the door?” he asked sheepishly as he swirled his wine, smelled it and downed it one swig. My only response is to hand him a bottle of Haidoral brandy nod to the door.

With Omega gone from the bar I stand there in the silence. The shelling of the city had ceased. Cotelin’s invasion of Karufr would begin soon. Actions needed to be done quickly. In under an hour more than the advanced shock troopers would be ascending on this bar’s location. Pulling on the dusty handle of Jawa Beer I heard the click. Raising the newly appeared trap door behind the bar I pulled it up and ascended the stairs with my wine glass. Sometimes the best held secrets are kept in the most obvious of places.

Nine

Moving through the sets of security doors I follow each security prompt. The final door slides open and I walk into a small room. A tiny room in fact, but one I know the Justicar would kill for. There is not much to see; a sabaac table, a few of Keiridagh’s personal trophies won over the expanse of his career, a Tie Corpse flight jacket with a name plate marked Keridagh with “Yacks” scribbled over the name, a few photographs and a small terminal.

Eight

Reaching over I grab a photograph and study it, attempting to sip my wine. My head is now buzzing from the alcohol as I remember the image: the Cantor family before they were close. Mav Telaris, Keridagh and myself being greeted by a former Grand Master to the clan Taldryan after their own clan had fallen to obscurity. Aquillas. I was too immature to notice the bond between those two and Jac then. Only my arm made it into the image, but the memory was there.

A tear falls down my face and over my swollen lip. I don't know what cause that tear, It could have been the memories of the names flooding back to me; Blitzkreig, Kaine, Alanna,. It could have been the thought of realizing that Im loosing my "home" a third time. It could be the realization that I could no longer feel the ebb of Keridagh's anger in the Force, his presence gone to my touch.

Slowly I drink my wine.

Five

Smashing the frame I slide the photo in my pocket. Removing the flight jacket from the case I drape it over my shoulder. Just in case. Tapping the sabaac table with my fingers I ante up to the terminal. Going through its security of hand prints, retinal and dna scans I make my requests. A small object is ejected. Small in size but enough shit that would blow the Justicar's mind on the actions Taldryan and the Sons of Taldrya have done to preserve the clan. Cradling the information protectively I place it into the pocket of my robes.

Four

I pointlessly deleted files. Jac would have them recovered. Some files incriminating, some as a pointless trail. Then I planted the two ion grenades with a timer. Setting the terminals self destruct and writing "Screw Jac" on the sabaac table I headed for the door.

Two

Upon returning to the bar I grabbed a random bottle and placed it in the pocket of Yack's jacket. Looking back I scammed the bar one last time. And with that I withdrew my light saber and walked out the door to join Omega Kira.

One

"Get what you needed?" he asks as we start to walk. I only nod.

Heading out to find to our destination, our way off planet, Omega pulls out a small device. Neither of us look back to watch. He thumbs a trigger and explosives we had placed earlier in the hour go off. As we found our way through the streets of the city our way was lighted by the newly lit fires from Spanky's, as well as the Library of Lears in the distance and the city itself. Neither of us looked towards the direction of the Great Temple.

Drop ships litter the sky marking the final push of the invasion. The bellies of the ships or illuminated by the glow of the burning city. There is an almost beauty to the moment but it is ignored by both of us. As Karufr falls around so does Taldryan.

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Raistline Majere