



Serenity Meets Antenora

Written by Aedile Mystic Alara Deathbane (Dossier #12681)

"Where am I?" Alara growled at the man in the duster jacket and crimson red shirt. He was stepping down a set of cargo bay stairs, rubbing his hands together in a very pensive fashion.

"I just said. You're on the Serenity. My ship. We found you and your ship, or what's left of it, on a desert planet..." The man responded. He studied the half-Sephi's reaction carefully and waited for the girl to make her move. Alara's brow furrowed downwards as she tried to remember what happened. Was she hunting somebody? Probably. How the hell did she crash her ship?

"I hope you don't mind that I scavenged for parts that were left over from the debris. You have such interesting technology. The hydraulics in the bucket of bolts were being wasted out there!" An extremely feminine voice called from the balcony above as a chestnut-haired human peeked her head over to smile at Alara. She lifted her arm carefully over the balcony's edge to wave a hello. Alara said nothing, but instead attempted to get up but was held back from the gasp of pain her own chest suddenly breathed. Her entire right side ached horribly. A hand instinctively fell on her hip to check for blood.

"No you don't appear to have punctured anything thankfully. It seems however that you definitely broke a rib. Take it easy, miss. That won't heal too quickly." A almost-black haired man came down another set of stairs from Alara's left, and aided her in getting up. Sure enough, a sharp pain reverberated through Alara's body which came out as a yell. With a huff and puff, the two managed to get up the balcony where the odd group led her through a series of halls until they came into what appeared to be a medical bay. Its setting was white and clean looking while sanitizing product smells floated in the air.

"Lay down on the cot here. I'll give you something for the pain." The brown-haired and blue vested man pushed away some equipment on a nearby shelf and flicked a needle point with the nail of his middle finger. The other two characters came into the room and moved to be at Alara's left side of the cot.

"Now Miss, sorry to pester ya when you're getting treated, but we need to know what you were doing at that desert planet. We seem to be in newer territory here. Not sure where we are in the galaxy. Any information you give us should help some." The bushy haired man looked at her with caring eyes. Alara's brow softened into its normal status as she sighed.

"Yes, I understand. I was on business for the Empire. I'm an Imperial Aedile." Alara spoke half-honestly. She was actually on business for her assassin guild Tacitus Athanasius, but she couldn't tell these strangers that.

"The Empire? That doesn't sound too much like the Alliance. We must be really far out in outer space, Captain." the girl grasped the male's elbow.

“Yes Kaylee, I believe you’re right. That means we can trust this one, for now at least. There war in these parts?” the captain looked over to Alara interrogatively.

“Yes, our Emperor has well, corrupted the Cocytus System. We are looking for the last accomplice of his that gotten away. I was enroute to searching the desert planet, Antenora, when my shuttle must have crashed on the surface.” Alara spoke sternly. “You didn’t see any clues or anything as to what happened when you found me?”

“Not much, other than it looking like someone got to your ship first. If you’re looking for a criminal, I’m surprised you weren’t dragged out before we found you.” the girl named Kaylee responded.

Alara attempted to sit up, but failed and let out a grunt instead. The doctor finally turned around and stuck the needle into Alara’s right inner elbow. He continued the conversation as he administered the drug: “You should rest as much as possible. Not like you were going anywhere for a while anyway. We can try to get you home if it’s nearby this planet.”

“Yes I’m just a few planets over.” Alara acknowledged, watching the needle carefully. “Where are my things? I should let my leaders know I failed in my mission and I’m safe.”

“We didn’t see a pad of any sorts in your things when we found you...” Kaylee frowned, trying to recall the details.

“What?!” Alara jolted, almost breaking the needle in her arm. “YOOWW!”

“Easy! Almost done. Give me some more time here.” the doctor gently pushed Alara’s shoulder backwards.

“I grabbed it, Kaylee.” The captain pulled the datapad from his jacket pocket. “Had to learn some information about ya, you see.”

“Mal! That’s not nice, why didn’t you wait til she woke up?” Kaylee raised her voice at her leader.

“No, I can’t say I blame him, Kaylee. I would have done the same. It’s best to know about your new cargo before they know too much about you.” Alara smirked up at the captain. He smiled back and offered his hand to shake.

“Name’s Malcom Reynolds. I’m captain of the Serenity. Here’s Kaylee, my mechanic, and Dr. Simon. Welcome aboard. Stay as long as ya like, but don’t take anything. Don’t tell anyone nuthin ‘bout us either. We are quiet and keep to ourselves.”

“Understood,” Alara took Malcom’s hand, “I’m Aedile Mystic Alara Deathbane. Pleasure to make your acquaintance. Thanks for the rescue mission.”

A beautiful figure suddenly appeared at the door and draped itself around the threshold casually. She was robed in beautiful shades of red right down to the lipstick on her lips. Her flittering brown eyes looked from the Mystic to the captain.

"A Sephi. Interesting. We must be pretty far out in the universe."

"You know my kind?" Alara's pointed ears perked upwards.

The lady seemed to be ignoring the Marauder, and turned towards Kaylee and Mal. "Malcom, have we decided if she is to be trusted?"

"Aye. I don't think she means us any harm. We have her weaponry anyway. Anara, did Wash figure out what that cylinder was?" Malcolm turned from Alara's side and straightened his form, as if trying to impress the woman. Alara could see why. Her beauty was exceptionally obvious to everyone.

"No, but I did." Anara replied. She pulled Alara's lightsaber from behind her back and ignited the bright yellow plasma. Kaylee gasped and instantly squealed in delight.

"Is that a laser!? Wow!! It's beautiful! Where did you get that?!" Kaylee observed the lightsaber carefully, and then turned back to the half-Sephi's side.

"She's a Dark Jedi. That's why she has one. It's their choice of weapon. I also found among her things an energy bow, a few vibrodaggers, and smoke bombs. This girl was on a mission. A dangerous one." Anara's eyes flicked suspiciously back towards Alara.

"We know that, Anara. She told us before you came here. She was on a mission to search for an enemy accomplice to their Empire. But what do you mean by a dark Jedi? I thought they were legends. What makes a Jedi dark anyway?" Malcolm looked at each woman with a confused set of eyes.

"If my memory serves, Dark Jedi do not serve any particular side of the Force. That means she's not fighting for the greater good or for the greater...bad. Dark Jedi are ruthless creatures. They only serve themselves and causes they admire." Dr. Simon started bandaging up Alara's arm.

"And you're sure you can trust her?" Anara spoke with almost a growl under her breath.

"I just want to contact my leaders and tell them the enemy has escaped. My home is completely destroyed because of his wrong doings. I can hurt you, which you all know. However I do not wish to unless you give me a reason. I just want to help my clan's cause. They need me." Alara spoke very openly, nodding serious amber eyes toward everyone in the room.

"I believe ya, kid." Malcolm nodded to Anara. "Grab her datapad. She needs to contact her people." Anara let out a huff and left the room. This caused the captain to shake his head. He turned back to Alara to speak. "How do we get to your planet from here?"

"I'd have to see out the bridge. I'd know my planet upon seeing it." Alara attempted to rise, but the doctor to her right stopped her once again.

"Wait, let me grab you a crutch at least." Simon spun to the corner of the room to a nearby cabinet and pulled a crutch from behind the door. He handed it to Alara who reluctantly obliged. She got up from her cot and awaited lead from the captain.

"Right this way," Malcolm nodded. He headed out the door and gestured for Alara to follow him. Behind the Marauder followed Anara, Simon, and Kaylee.

"You're so pretty. I just wanted you to know that," Kaylee giggled to Alara.

"Thank you. I appreciate it." Alara let out half a smirk on her face as she continued to trudge down the hallway awkwardly. They came to the end of the hall where a small flight of stairs led to the cockpit. A blonde haired man sat in the pilot's seat, and a darker woman leaned over the controls from his right. Both turned at the sound of Alara's annoying crutch wacking against the floor.

"Ah! She's alive and awake. Good to hear." the darker woman smiled down from the cockpit.

"Yes Zoe, all is well. She just has a broken rib." Malcolm responded. He climbed up the set of stairs to join the two above. Once he reached the top, he offered his hand to Alara in assistance. She smiled up at him and took his hand, lifting upwards despite the pain in her rib.

"The name's Wash. This is my wife Zoe. Where to, lass?" the blonde-haired man smiled up at the Mystic.

Alara stared out the large window for a moment before deciding upon her answer. "It's the first planet to our left. The blue-green one. That's Judecca. I need to get to the big city on its surface."

"Easy enough then," Wash nodded and began shifting the steering wheel towards the left. The ship obeyed his command and spun around slowly but surely. Once in the right angle, Wash used his left hand to push on another lever, causing the ship to speed up. They got around halfway back to the planet when suddenly a stream of light flashed across the galaxy. A small rocket-shaped emergency shuttle flew past the screen as Fallax's last remaining accomplice waved evilishly at the crew before flashing away again.

"Aeshi Yamamura!" Alara growled. "I need that datapad, NOW!"

Malcolm quickly pulled the datapad out of his pocket as requested and placed it in Alara's already waiting hand. Alara's fingers feverishly clicked against the screen until she called up a hologram of Lexiconus Qor.

"Lex! I found Aeshi! Sending you my coordinates now. He's in a rocket type emergency shuttle headed towards Caina!" Alara continued to feverishly press buttons.

"We will send you some back up, Aedile. Thank you for your information. Where are you? That doesn't look like your cockpit." Lexiconus observed, his hologram spinning around to look at the other faces. Every single human in the room was in shock at the technology before them.

"This is sooo cool!!" Kaylee squealed once again, shaking with glee. Anara hushed her tones and walked closer to the datapad.

"Hello, Lexiconus. It's been a while." Anara smiled at the figure in the hologram. Lexiconus' figure suddenly straightened, much like Malcom's did a few moments ago in the medical bay.

"...Hello Anara. It has been. I suppose my fellow Imperial is on the Serenity, then?" Lexiconus responded seriously.

"That she is. Lexiconus you didn't arrange a new meeting for us both. Did I not suffice?" Anara questioned concerningly.

"No! No... It was fine." Lexiconus...blushed? "It was more than fine. I've just been busy, ya know. Being Quaestor and all. Sorry I didn't call you. If you come close enough to the atmosphere, we will give you coordinates to land your ship. Feel free to stay as long as you like."

"By the way," Alara interrupted what strange conversation was happening before her, "My ship crashed. I have a feeling Aeshi had something to do with it. Its remains are on Antenora. I'm fine, but I broke a rib."

"Glad to hear you're safe. Sorry about the ship and the rib though. Get home safe. We will take care of the rest. Jorm will be happy to see you. We've sent Katyusha and Derek off to catch Aeshi. See you soon." Lexiconus Qor's hologram disappeared as the pixels folded back into the screen.

"On it now." Wash called over his shoulder.

The Serenity drew closer and closer to the atmosphere. As it landed on the remains of Caina, Jorm, Lexiconus, Shadow, and her twins drew close to the landing pad. As the crew left the

cockpit and headed to the cargo bay, a darker skinned elderly male with white fro-like hair appeared from around the corner. He was in the middle of yawning with arms stretched wide out into the air. After he was finished he hummed a bit and followed the group.

“Already landed? That was a quick trip! Who’s the pointy-eared miss, Mal?”

“Sorry, Preacher. We had to take a detour. Found this lady on a desert planet and now we are bringing her home.

Alara smiled at the clergyman but was stopped rather abruptly by a hand clenched around her right wrist.

“Hello Deathbane... Funny. She has conquered death but now she’s death’s friend! She slaughters her enemies all in the end.” a greasy-haired teenager giggled by her side as he walked alongside Alara, still clenching her wrist.

“Wha? How did you...” Alara began to speak, but Simon emerged from the back of the group and pulled the strange girl away.

“River! Be nice! This girl just wants to get home.” Simon scolded the teenager who was still laughing fiendishly.

“She’s Ignus Manus. Ignus Manus! Fire hand! Fiireee haanndddd.” River sounded out slowly to the group as she was pulled away by the doctor. Alara shook her head in surprise and continued on towards the cargo bay.

With the click of a button by Mal’s hand, the cargo bay doors were opened, revealing Alara’s colleagues on the other side.

“There she is!” Jorm grinned his sheepish smile. “Good to see you in one piece, Gorgeous!”

“Hello, you,” Alara said slightly seductively. She walked up to her beloved Kiffar and began nibbling on his ear, which he responded to with chuckles of joy.

“Remember when I addressed you the same way, Lexiconus?” Anara took a step towards the Quarren Quaestor and stroked one of his chin-tacles. He froze in shock, unsure of what to do with himself.

“Uhh... We can discuss this later, Anara! Business first! We have to repay your captain for his kindness.” Lexiconus motioned at Shadow who was holding a bag of coin and various pieces of weaponry. Shadow nodded and handed the satchel to the captain, stepping up the ramp.

“Thank you for returning my sister in one piece, humans.” Shadow bowed her head courteously.

“Not a trouble, she was mighty fine company.” Malcolm took the satchel with thanks and nodded to Kaylee. Kaylee hopped back into the cargo bay for a brief moment and returned swiftly with Alara’s inventory in a box.

“Here’s her things! It was nice to meet you, Alara!” Kaylee gave the box to Shadow, smiled briefly at Alara, and hopped back in place behind her captain.

“I suppose this is goodbye for now. I hope we meet again, Miss Deathbane.” the Captain offered his hand to shake. Alara obliged, leaving Jorm’s side for but a moment.

“Yes I hope so too. Feel free to visit anytime you like. Especially once Judecca is back on its feet,” the Marauder responded.

“Let’s get you to the medical bay then, Alara.” Lexiconus motioned to Jorm. Jorm nodded and picked up the half-Sephi in his arms.

Alara’s giggle reminded her to ask a question as the crew walked back to the cargo bay of the Serenity. “Hey Lex, how did you know Anara? What work does she do anyway?”

“I could answer if you wish,” Anara’s voice called from behind. Apparently she decided she needed to stay behind for a bit while the rest of the crew waved goodbye.

“Uhhh... no that’s okay thanks! No need! Now let’s go back to your shuttle to discuss this, Anara.” Lexiconus suddenly hurried back to her side and grasped his hands in his tentacles as he pulled her towards the Serenity.

Jorm and Alara each let out a hearty laugh and headed back towards Scholae Palatinae’s main headquarters, or rather what was left of it, accompanied by Shadow as well.

I still wonder what happened on Antenora that caused my ship to crash... I guess I will never know, Alara thought to herself after the laughter had ceased.

“IGNUS MANUS! Watch your fury! Your life will flash like a flurry!” River called from the ship. Alara gasped at the sounds and shuddered in Jorm’s arms.

“Ignus Manus? What’s that?” Jorm looked behind him at the teenager for a moment.

“I’ll, explain the details later. For some reason the Force started to call me that.” Alara mentioned briefly.

“Ookkayy then. To the medical bay! Then onwards for rum!” Jorm picked up his pace a little and began to tickle the she-Marauder in his arms.

“Jooorm!!” Alara cried out between laughs, “Watch the rib!”

~End~

