

Sacrafices

The streets of Nar Shaddaa

25 ABY

Rain poured down from the heavens, splashing heavily along the many streets of the Smugglers moon. A small boy, no older than 15, rushed through the streets carrying a basket of fruit. Quick in pursuit were three very angry looking Zabraks, from whom the child had stolen the fruit. He giggled, his feet quickly dashing and leaping over obstacles, weaving in and out of the crowded street as the Zabraks ever so slowly got swept away in the stampede.

Suckers.

The young boy ducked around a corner into an alleyway, sliding under a crooked wire fence and coming to a halt in front of a large metallic door. The rain continued to fall as the child knocked on the door in a short code. 2 knocks, 1 knock, 4 knocks. A sound of multiple locks could be heard creaking and shuffling, and with a push from the inside, the door crept open. A yellow eye peered out from behind the door, carefully eyeing who had knocked the password.

"It's just me Renna." Said the boy, barging his way into the room as he held the basket triumphantly. "And I've brought us fruit!" He turned around, and saw Renna sitting on the ground rubbing her head.

"You stole those, didn't you Kylex." said the young Pantoran, glaring at the goofy child. "I may be five years **younger** than you, but you have a lot more maturing to do." She stood up and dusted herself off as Kylex ran around in circles.

It had been a rough three years for the pair, ever since Renna had thawed the young Kylex, both of them had struggled to survive. They were barely able to buy a small apartment after stealing from a hutt crime lord, but each day was a fight against death. The small apartment had the bare necessities, a refresher, beds and a kitchen. As for Kylex, this place was a sanctuary, a safe haven to escape the nightmares that plagued his mind each night. What the young Mandalorian child had experienced many years ago still haunted him to this day, hidden behind a facade of immaturity and, smart remarks.

"Quite your whining Renna, we can actually eat now!" exclaimed Kylex with delight, grabbing a Jogan fruit out of the basket and chomping into it. The fruit exploded with the force of the bite, splattering his face and hands with the delicious taste. Renna sighed as the boy chomped and slurped the rest of the Jogan fruit up.

"That was really good!" he said, licking his fingers as Renna sat down on the floor cross-legged. She let out a sigh as she stuck her hand in the basket, retrieving an apple and biting into it. She smiled at Kylex, she was pleased to see that he was more stable than when she first found him, but he still had a long way to go. She thought back to the day she stumbled upon his cryostasis tube, back when she was only seven. The young girl had taken the boy in under her wing as almost a surrogate mother to him, retraining his mind. After all, what Kylex had been put through just for being a Force sensitive was ridiculous. Chemical torture, beatings, psychological damage, she was surprised he was able to talk.

Renna's thoughts were interrupted by a sudden knock on the door. Kylex perked up, his expression turning sour and started to hiss. The young girl signed him to be quiet as she got to her feet, quickly dashing to the kitchen and retrieving a large kitchen knife, and a DL-44 blaster pistol. She handed the blade to Kylex, who immediately dove under his bed. Renna prepared herself, aiming the blaster at the door, breathing in and out steadily. Suddenly, a red blade of plasma stabbed through the door, sliding down and severing each of the locks before retracting. A solid kick sent the door flying open, and three hooded figures entered the apartment. Without hesitation, Renna squeezed the trigger of the DL-44, sending a bolt straight at the first person. Again, the red blade appeared, redirecting the bolt back at the Pantoran, knocking the blaster out of her hand. Before she could even react, she was kicked in the stomach by the man, sending her into the wall behind her.

SMACK!

She hit the wall with a loud smack, sliding down onto the floor trying to recover from the blow.

"Well well well, looks we have found the one who stole our bosses credits." laughed the first man, placing the weapon on his belt. The two behind him joined in the laughter, removing their hoods. The first was a Human male, who had a large scar running down his face, the second was a human female, with her hair in braids. The third figure was a Rodian male, who had nothing notable about him.

"To think the slug would send Sith Assassins to deal with a thief, pathetic." said the woman, spitting on the floor in disgust. "Lets just get this over with."

"We could get more money if we sold her to some slaver." said the Rodian quietly.

"Good thunkin, we can sell her to some pervert for a lot of credits." said the male greedily, rubbing his hands. "Pass me the stun cuffs." Before the female could retrieve the cuffs, all three heard a faint growling coming from under the bed. The Rodian walked over to the bed, signaling to his comrades to be ready. He put his hand on the bedside, ready to lift the bed frame. Suddenly, he let out a scream, stumbling back from the bed clutching at his hand, each of his fingers missing. Before he could react further, Kylex rocketed out from under the bed, jumping

at the Rodian and stabbing him through the chest. He twisted the knife and pulled it out before slashing the Rodians throat. Green blood poured out of neck, drenching Kylex in the liquid.

“GYE!” yelled the female, staring at the young boy with anger. “You little bastard, you will pay for that!” She dashed at Kylex, kicking him before reaching for her lightsaber. The kick connected, but to her surprise, the boy remained unphased, flicking the knife back so the blade was held in reverse. The female fumbled for her saber, fighting with the clip before her hand fell to the ground. She let out an ear piercing scream as Kylex slashed at her repeatedly, and grabbed the lightsaber of her belt. He leapt on top of her as she fell over, gushing out blood from each of her many cuts and slashes inflicted by the boy. Kylex grinned evilly, placing the saber in the woman's mouth.

“You want to know what *death* tastes like?” he said, activating the purple blade, piercing through her head, killing her instantly. The young boy looked up from the body, staring at the man with evil intent. The man began to panic, activating his saber, he rushed Kylex and brought it down on top of him. The boy laughed, freeing the weightless blade from the woman's head and blocking the red blade, sparks of purple and red spat out everywhere as the blades ground against one another.

“I've seen how these things work, I've seen them kill people before, I'm glad they can block each other.” laughed Kylex, his eyes flashing between purple and bright yellow. The man was mortified, turning around and running towards Renna.

“Say goodbye to your girlfriend, DEMON CHILD!” he yelled, bringing his blade down with a cleaving motion towards Renna. Without thinking, Kylex threw himself in front of the lightsaber without time to block. The searing hot red blade, sliced into his right arm, just after the shoulder, cleaving it off completely.

Kylex's arm hit the floor with a thud as he collapsed in pain, clutching at the stump that was his right shoulder. He tried his best to hide his pain, tears seeped down his face as his teeth clenched tight as he resisted screaming. The man took a few steps back, and began to laugh.

“Hahaha, serves you right for killing my friends, I'll make sure to finish yo...” the noise of blaster fire silenced the man, as he fell to the floor with holes in his head. Renna dropped the blaster pistol, rushing over to Kylex. She kneeled down and placed a gentle hand on him.

“I'll get a doctor for you, wait here.” she said calmly, handing him the purple lightsaber. She turned to leave, looking back at the boy, and she smiled.