

Director Orson Krennic sat across from the blue-skinned Aleena awestruck. “Professor Drake I don’t think you are understanding what I am saying, this project is a weapon that will destroy entire planets.”

Justinios Drake sighed, “No Director it is you that do not understand. I do not care what you use this technology for, I want to be part of this project regardless. As I stated when this meeting began my life’s work is to advance particle physics beyond our current understanding and this Dead Sun project is on the cutting edge of physics in every form.”

“Death Star, it’s called a Death Star.” Krennic rubbed his temples and reminded himself that he would have some strong words with Galen Erso for authorizing this very peculiar alien to meet with him. “I am going to be honest with you Professor, Galen may have thought you would be a good fit on this project but our Emperor isn’t exactly a fan of non-humans.”

“Does his Excellency generally ask for DNA samples of his scientists or will a working weapon suffice?” The alien professor sat with his arms crossed and a very smug look on his face. “Listen Director, I am just going to be blunt with you. I don’t care if your Empire enslaves non-human, I don’t care that the Emperor’s evil looking enforcer is rumored to have magic powers and I really do not care if you blow up 100 planets with this weapon you are constructing. I am compelled to discover truths that no one else has yet.”

That was more than Orson Krennic could take, he simply burst out laughing at the blue alien. “I am sorry Professor Drake, you can’t seriously expect me to believe that you condone these types of behaviors?”

”Who said I condone them Director, I said that I do not care. As Galen Erso is aware my only focus is on explaining, in empirical terms, the interaction between the mystical Force,” Justinios began waving his blue reptilian hands as he uttered the previous two words, “and the rest of the physical Universe. Your project and its heart of Kyber Crystals could be the key to unlocking these mysteries for me. In a galaxy containing tens of trillions of life forms what care is it of mine if a few billion die early deaths?”

Orson Krennic found himself speechless, all he could do in that moment was lean back in his chair and process what the tiny scientist in front of him had said. Galen Erso had given the recommendation to bring this professor aboard but even Erso himself still didn’t fully support the true purpose of his own work. Despite telling the professor about the true intentions of the project, he had still not balked at the idea of working on it. Either the tiny academic was also the world’s most convincing actor or he truly was so driven by scientific discovery that he did not actually care about the destruction it might cause. Orson had read many of the papers published by Professor Drake before their meeting and the alien seemed to have not only the intellect required to contribute to the project but he also lacked the burning morality of a dead wife.

The Director slid a datapad across the table to his guest. "These are the most up to date specifications on the battlestation." He paused to see if Justinios had any reaction to the last word but noticed none. "Review those and tell me what you could add to the project, I will return to this room in..."

"No need to leave Director, there is a very simple engineering problem here," Justinios stated while poking his tiny finger at the datascreen. "It's a small thermal exhaust port, right below the main port. The shaft leads directly to the reactor system."

Director Krennic immediately got up from his chair, walked swiftly over to the professor and grabbed the datapad. He review the area Justinios was referring to for a few moments. "A precise hit will start a chain reaction..."

"Which would destroy the station," Justinios finished as the Director himself trailed off.

In mere moments Krennic's visitor found a flaw no one else on his staff had found over two decades. The Director knew what he had to do. "Congratulations Justinios Drake you are now the lead scientist on this project. Your first task is to ensure our reactor doesn't blow up just because someone accidentally sneezes on it."

"That is simple enough, bring that datapad over and we might actually be able to increase power by 1.5% at the same time." Director Orson Krennic sat down next to his new lead scientist, Professor Justinios Drake and the two spent the next seven hours going over every inch of their "Dead Sun".