

A Devilish Deal
Raiju Kang (4024)

The deal had been simple. Yet, what had been asked of Warren turned out to be quite the opposite. Yet, somehow he had managed.

Given twenty-four hours, a strange sensory device, and the promise of a home with a fixed roof and three standard meals a day; Warren had been asked to weasel his way into the grand spaceport of Caelestis City and map its interior. His best guess was the humanoid was another smuggler attempting to dodge the soldiers of the Meraxis Empire, which Warren was okay with.

The eleven year old had been living on the streets of the city for the past two years; a fate not of his own choosing, of course. When his parents had been taken away, he had tried to live with his uncle; however, one's ass could only take so much abuse. He had slept in the filth of the city since, and dreamed of getting away. Despite the risks of smuggling, working as a cabin-boy on a freighter seemed much better than his current arrangement.

Perhaps he could even convince the humanoid to train him as a pilot, if he proved himself - already he had managed to go above and beyond with the theft of the spaceport blueprints. That had to count for something, right? He had even told the creature where the best meeting place would be for a private exchange - a small little cove behind the high tier of waterfalls that rained down from the spaceport before pooling together and falling as one gigantic waterfall into the crescent bay that Caelestis City looked upon.

The thunderous sound of the waterfalls was deafening to the senses, yet Warren was still able to focus on his descent down the cliff. His small stature being a benefit here just as it had been in the tight ducts of the spaceport. When he finally made it to the cove, he had the chance to rest while he waited on the humanoid.

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In all his life, the Nautolan had never seen a city so beautiful. He had traversed the galaxy, set foot on perhaps hundreds of worlds, and was quite familiar with the ocean world of Glee Anselm. Yet, Caelestis City had a natural beauty to it that was simply marvelous. It was tragic that it was all a facade.

Built as a city of contemporary architecture with a high society that valued art and culture, the reality is it that was rose garden built on a manure pile. Those special few that the Marexis Empire favoured were held above a city full of people suppressed beneath the Empire's heel. It was a situation the Nautolan, Raiju Kang, was used to rebelling against. Now he was helping switch out one tyrant for another.

Descending down the makeshift trail that lead beneath a trio of waterfalls, Raiju took one last look up to the spaceport that was built over them. It reminded him of the Royal Naboo Hangers, a place that arguably helped start the Empire he now

served. It hasn't taken long for him to clear the cascading waters but a hurried voice caught his attention.

"You made it!" Warren shouted as he leapt up from the rock he had been waiting upon. The excited child quickly cleared the cove's rocky terrain, and before Raiju could come to the end of the trail, he was met by a datapad thrust towards him. Over the Nautolan's shoulder, not more than a meter, the thunderous roar of the waterfall warned of the dangers of their location.

"You were able to get what we needed?" Raiju responded, taking the datapad from the kid.

"Yeah!" Warren proclaimed excitedly, "I also got into-"

"You even got the entire blueprints?" The Nautolan eyed the children, pausing his search through the datapad.

"Yeah! That's what I was about to say. I got into -"

Warren was quickly cut off as Raiju pulled a bryar pistol from its holster. Before the child could get in another word, the Nautolan quickly pulled the trigger of his weapon. The howl of his weapon echoed off the walls of the cove and was quickly followed by the wail of the child as he collapsed to the ground. A swift kick from the Nautolan drilled into the child's head and ceased noise; just before the child's body toppled into the stream of the waterfall and vanished into the cascading waters below.