

## **Design and Test Drive!**

Edema walked into her father's workshop, the place was full of things, one day she hoped she would get chance to at least try some of them. The walls were lined with racks of weapons of every description, from blasters to Vibro pikes; her father enjoyed his trade and was well known for making some of the finest custom weapons in the sector. Edema had a small fraction of the knowledge her father possessed, her skill at crafting was pale in comparison, but she knew enough to maintain her gear and make new armour when needed.

"Dad, do you ever plan on leaving this room and joining the rest of the Galaxy" she giggled and watched as her father turned round.

"My beautiful daughter, since I retired from the day to day goings of this place, orders have been piling up for new and custom weapons"

Rins'zler looked down at something on the bench. He picked up three small tube-like constructions each barely longer than the palm of his gloved hand. He threw the three items over to Edema who promptly caught them.

"Would you mind doing me a favour?"

Edema saw that her father wore his trademark smile, the one he wore when he had come up with something new that may have a big impact.

"The Guard have commissioned me to create a new esoteric weapon for their elite elements, they gave me free reign to create something, what do you think?"

The savant looked at the three items she had caught, they were tubular, with etched grips surrounding their form, each featured a small activator button and what appeared to be two lightsaber emitters, one on each end.

"Are these, what I think they are? Have you finally perfected a design for the weapon you have been hankering after making all these years?"

Rins'zler grinned, his scars forming unusual shapes on his face as he did so.

"My dear, you know me far too well. Yes, I have finally managed to perfect the design; it is suitable for both force users and our more unfortunate colleagues who can't use the force. I have incorporated a three second timer into the activation button. The device can be triggered by touch or by the force."

Edema shook her head,

"This is some kind of prank isn't it? How in the name of Mandalore were you able to fit the components for a saber into such a small space?"

Her father grinned even more,

"That my dear is the secret. I was able to utilise a micro power cell, and small shards of Khyber crystal to create it. I had to make the micro emitters by hand, there is nothing on the market small enough, and even Vyr couldn't find anything suitable in his stash. The result is a very short blade, and a short activation time, each blade can only stay on for around ten minutes before they will need recharging."

Edema felt the weapons; they were well balanced and had a comfortable feel. She, like her father, was fond of throwing blades, throwing sabers should be fun.

The savant bade her father farewell and made her way to one of the clan's outdoor ranges. Several of her fellow Arcona's were practicing with a variety of different weapons, just wait till they see these....if they worked. Edema activated half a dozen combat Asp droids and watched as they entered her area of the range. Walking out into the range, the Dark Jedi triggered the asp droids, their lightsabers ignited and they began to make their way towards her. She pushed the button on the first device and grabbed it with the force, hovering it around two feet away from her, she watched as two cerulean blades ignited, the plasma stopping around four inches from the handle. Edema breathed a sigh of relief, one at least worked. She used the force to ignite the other two, one worked, but the third spluttered and made a horrendous noise. She flung the offending weapon at one of the Asp droids, and in good time, for it exploded with the force of a small plasma grenade, melting the upper torso of the droid. Had she not been wearing her helmet, others may have seen the shock on her face; she was going to kill her dad.

By now others had begun to become aware of what was happening, and had gathered to watch what the Mandalorian was doing. The remaining three Asp's circled around her, the crowd murmured. The Sephi focused the force and flung one of the blades towards a droid, the blade spun the light from the plasma created a circle of deadly energy as it arced its way around the testing area. The Asp did its best to dodge and bring its saber to block the incoming projectile, but it did it no good. The blade carved through the neck of the droid shortly before it began to crackle and fizz, and then promptly exploded, melting the rest of the droid. Edema was keen to get rid of the last prototype; she sent it into a gliding arc, the colourful blade made beautiful patterns in the air as it traced its way to its prey. The first Asp was slice in half, its legs taking a moment to realise they were no longer attached to anything, the second managed to get its saber blade into position just in time, catching the blade and deflecting it away. Edema did not want to risk going near it just yet so she flicked a dozen of her conventional blades at the now distracted droid, severing its neck and optical units and forcing it to power down.

Behind her Edema heard a cheer, the crowd that had gathered to watch her test were applauding. "People, silly folk through and through" she muttered in her helmet.

The Mandalorian walked over to recover the surviving prototype. She was going to return it to her father, she wanted to beat him to a pulp for almost killing her, but she knew full well her step-mother would step in and calm her down, she always did and it frustrated the heck out of Edema that she was able to do so. Perhaps it was a good thing, if she beat her dad up, she may never get to play with all the toys he had in his store rooms. The Mandalorian smiled beneath her helmet and whistled to herself as she set off back to her father's workshop.