

The Gift of Life Day

Central Cloister Sky Breach Base Daleem

Mauro Wynter sat next to Major Silvia Tanos. The two were busy studying the displays in front of them, monitoring the progress of the simulation above Daleem. Wynter punched in a few commands on his display, and the training craft changed to the visage of B-wing Starfighters. The pair had made a silent pact to not celebrate Life Day, as the memory of the destruction of New Tython was too bitter. Likewise, they had both lost people dear to them during the previous year.

“Silvia, we have a full schedule today, but I know it has been a long year for you. I wanted to thank you for being here by my side training Tython Squadron.” Wynter stated, the formality of his voice belying his true meaning.

Major Tanos nodded slowly and eyed Mauro coyly. “Indeed. But, you have been with me each step of the way. Plus, on this day most of all it is better to busy ourselves with work so we can forget.”

Commander Wynter perked up, ready to give his deliver his surprise. “Silvia, you are a true friend and I wouldn’t be here without you.” Major Tanos nodded in approval. Mauro chuckled softly to himself. “Look, I sort of got you a little token of my appreciation.” He reached under the desk and removed a box.

He handed the box to his female counterpart slowly, signifying the somber nature of the gift. She opened it carefully, removing the wrapping paper and bow. Her nimble fingers lifted the cover from a small wooden box, revealing a silver necklace with several charms dangling off from it. She smiled slightly, then from ear to ear.

“Commander, this is the most beautiful gift I have ever received...it means the world to me. Thank you.” Mauro now smiled, and returned to monitoring the screen as his pilots performed several more maneuvers. Minutes passed in silence until Major Tanos tapped Mauro on the shoulder. He turned to look at her as she fumbled for words.

She kept her gaze on Wynter as she slowly reached inside her officer’s tunic. “Truth be told, Mauro, you mean the world to me too. If I may return the compliment, I saw this and thought of you.” She finished pulling out a tiny metallic box.

Wynter sat silently, taken aback by the kindness and open nature of the usually reserved Zabrak. He took the box from her and thumbed the opening lever. The top sprung open to reveal a signet ring made from platinum. The signet was in the image of a planet, a swirl of shifting greens and blues. “Is this what I think it is?” he asked.

Tanos nodded vigorously. “That’s New Tython before the sundering. You can see the continents and the oceans, everything like it was.” Without thinking, Wynter reached across the

console and hugged Tanos, holding her close for a brief second. "Thank you, words cannot express what this means to me. Happy Life Day Silvia, happy Life Day."