

Life debt

Augur Xantros

11518

35 ABY, Badlands, Nancora

Xantros barely managed to leave the escape pod of the freighter that he had been piloting. He noticed feel that his left leg was wounded as he saw a growing stain of blood on the suit right over his left knee. He could not put whole weight of his body on the wounded leg, so he immediately realized that he was not going to be able to run far away. And he was aware that his persecutors were coming for him as the pilot of the Z-95 Head Hunter, who had shot him down, had definitely been able to determine the approximate area of his crash landing.

There was not much that the Augur could do in such situation, but he was not going to surrender so easily. He still had some time to prepare himself for an inevitable fight. He did not have much equipment available. Apart from his personal stuff, including lightsaber, blaster pistol, a blaster rifle, two medpacs and a bacta bomb, he possessed a Performance Datapad, a canteen of water, a pack of ratio bars and flare gun with a single round. Not very much, if he had to defend himself against a group of Collective operatives, who were in perfect health, well-equipped and much more familiar with the area that Xantros could recognize as the harsh environment of Badlands.

The Duros utilized antiseptics, bandages and bacta from one of his medpacs to patch his wound and stop bleeding. He could not let anything distract him during the upcoming battle. After dealing with the bleeding, he slowly walked around the surroundings, in order to find a shelter that might keep him unnoticed by the enemies and allow him to observe them. Soon, he found a large piece of debris that might provide him with satisfactory protection. He crawled in there and waited. In the meanwhile, he ate some of the ratio bards.

However, he did not have to wait for a long time. Less than an hour later he heard loud sound of engines. The Collective operatives had to be desperate or too self-confident, if they did not bother with approaching the site quietly. Xantros looked through a crack in the debris and noticed six humans with cybernetic implants.

“Sithspawn,” cursed the Augur silently, but he did not waste any time. Despite being tired, he focused on three closest enemies and used the Force to implant a suggestion that the other three humans are going to kill them in their minds. Few seconds later, the affected soldiers turned towards their comrades and fired their blaster rifles at their targets, killing them instantly. Then, they looked confused at each other as they realized what they had done.

Xantros, exhausted with the effort of spreading the influence of his Mind Trick over multiple targets, was aware that he could pull out just one more trick like that. Thus, he decided to dominate the mind of one of the remaining operatives of the Collective and to force him to

shoot at his companions. With intense focus and effort, he managed to exert his influence over his target and he saw the nearest of the hostile troopers aiming at his ally that stood closer to him than the other and shot him in his head. The other soldier just turned around to see a blaster bolt moving towards his chest. With a short groan, he fell on his knees.

Five out of six of his enemies were dead, but Xantros was aware that he would not be able to influence the mind of the last operative of the Collective. He was simply too weak to do that. He had only one option. He aimed his E-11 Blaster Rifle at the human and killed him with a single blaster bolt shot at man's head.

Breathing heavily, the Duros felt strong relief. Certainly, he still had to reach his allies somehow and it was not going to be easy in the hostile environment of Badlands, but he was at least safe from his enemies. Or, at least he thought so.

"So, here you are," he heard a female voice that made him feel cold out of fear. "It was so easy to fool you. Much easier than I had expected."

Xantros observed as a Chiss woman with an athletic body entered the inside of the debris. She was quite attractive, but the Duros noticed that she had a long scar next to her single organic eye and that she had her other eye replaced with a cybernetic implant.

"You are right, I was foolish expecting that the Technocratic Guild would send so few of its operatives to deal with a Force user like me," replied the Augur. "Go ahead and kill me."

"Oh no, I do not want to kill you," said the woman with a seducing smile. "Not at this moment. You need to tell us more about the operations of your comrades, so that we can kill more of them."

"I will tell you nothing," replied Xantros believing in his training that he had received as a top ranked member of the Inquisitorious.

"Oh, I am sure you will, sooner or later," spoke the woman with another enticing smile. She made few steps towards the wounded Duros. "Only then, you will be allowed to die."

"Only, if you do not die first," said another female voice and two blaster shots made their way through the Chiss' chest.

"Alara!" shouted Xantros with relief and joy, when he noticed a Sephi female entering the piece of debris. "I owe you my life."

"Well, we could not allow such a valuable member of our Clan die on this cursed planet just like this, so we sent a rescue team," replied Alara with a smile. "But yes, you owe me."