

**The Force, Always Present**  
**Or**  
**The Saga of Mauro Wynter**

Commander Mauro Wynter has always had a complicated relationship with the Force. He has experienced it firsthand countless times in his life, yet has never fully embraced it. Fear, however, cannot be misconstrued with ignorance of the wonders and horrors the Force can bring.

Wynter was orphaned by the age of twelve, yet he became a skilled treasure hunter scouring the wastelands of Raxus Prime before learning of his heritage and seeking vengeance for his family off-world. The young Human quickly made a name for himself specializing in finding and trading Sith artifacts and ancient Force-sensitive relics throughout the Mid-Rim.

While looting priceless items from the Tomb of Marka Ragnos on Korriban, the events of the Tenth Great Jedi War overtook Wynter. Detained by forces loyal to the Dark Council, he was taken to Antei and interrogated. Released to the custody of the Shadow Academy, Mauro Wynter quickly scoured all available texts and manuscripts his rank would allow. Rapidly rising through the ranks of the Shadow Academy, Wynter began acquiring a personal collection of tomes and artifacts.

While still not accepting his Force potential, he became Professor of History in the Shadow Academy. Wynter was even approached by agents of the Inquisitorius and offered admittance to the order. He accepted, seeking further knowledge. It was during this tenure that he fought on the side of the oppressors during the destruction of New Tython. This traumatic event forced Wynter to flee rethink his outlook on the Force and question if he should continue to turn his back on his potential.

Yet, let us start in the beginning. Mauro Wynter was born under the ominous and bleak spires of the industrial wasteland of Raxus Prime. The once booming and prosperous metropolis world was far past its prime millennia ago, and the recent resurgence of the world due to the exploits of the Confederacy of Independent Systems had given way to near lawlessness under lax control by the nascent Tion Hegemony and the Imperial overlords.

In 6 ABY Wynter was born to Commander Calus Wynter and a local female named Talindra Djo. The senior Wynter had come to Raxus Prime nearly a lifetime prior as a young mercenary of the Separatist militia forces that had gallantly defended the world from the Galactic Republic and her clone armies. It is often speculated, and widely known, that Talindra Djo was a Nightsister with Dark Side aptitudes who may have trained young Wynter, but this is as yet unknown and unverified.

By the time of Wynter's birth, Calus had gained command of the nascent and growing community of ex-patriots who could never return to their homes. Clandestine communications had been established from within the backwater of the Tion Hegemony to the Mid-Rim, but the people on Raxus Prime were a broken and exploited people. Fenn's mother left for parts unknown and a brighter future in 12 ABY. This abandonment of the loving and caring woman, so different from the manipulative and sardonic locals to which Mauro grew around was a devastating blow. It is also widely speculated that his mother was driven off, due to her clandestine training of her young son and his nascent Force powers. This has been purged from official records.

Calus Wynter, by 16 ABY, had all but neglected his son with the dual misery of holding together the fractious veterans on Raxus Prime and the personal tragedy of losing his one and only love. It was in this year that the senior Wynter decided to gamble his people on a return to their homes. Allying his few remaining aged veterans and the cream of the next generation of soldiers with local pirates and criminal operatives, Calus prepared for war. Mauro was not truly alone and his dark traits began to appear.

Wynter's solitary and neglected upbringing had a deep impact on the inquisitive and naturally outgoing Human. Without an outlet for his budding social needs or companionship, he turned to reading and study of all the trash heaps of history that is Raxus Prime. During this period, the men under Calus Wynter and local criminal elements boarded transports and readied makeshift warships and prepared to raid Umbara. Wynter did not wish his father goodbye, and no words passed between the two men. Only a sad look crossed both their brows. In later years Wynter would understand his father lost the ability to care for anyone once his mother left. It is said that this shutting off of feelings shattered Wynter's connection to the Force and explains his withdrawal from its touch, but many think this is misleading and simplistic.

Word finally came two years later in 18 ABY, the mission had been a spectacular defeat. The pirates and veterans had been betrayed by Black Sun and turned over to the Empire. Recordings of the executions and heads were transported back to Raxus Prime as a grim reminder. Wynter did not shed a tear for his father, in truth he was happy to have shed the last remnant of his past and his familial bonds.

The loss of both parents drastically altered the budding Human in many ways, however. With all hope for the future stolen for the remaining women, elderly, and children of the diaspora on Raxus Prime, Wynter became extroverted to a degree. Publicly he acted as a caring and ponderous youth who fostered a sense of community. Secretly, he sent younger children and his peers on dangerous scavenger hunts and pick pocketing missions to gather more intelligence and data on a myriad of subjects that Wynter could find. This sense of disdain for others and the cheapness of life has given many to conclude he was touched by evil and has always been connected to the Dark Side, despite not showing it openly.

Late in 18 ABY a culminating point was reached. With all love and feelings of betrayal and loss all but shunted inside, Wynter garnered what would be his defining drive for the future. Scouring Count Dooku's former headquarters a small cache of documents were discovered, as well as a holocron belonging to a long dead Sith adherent from Korriban. How, a seemingly Force insensitive was able to activate a holocron has led many to believe Wynter had always been training in secret.

The potent mixture of the final loss of all familial ties, a crumbling community on a long dead and poisonous world forgotten by all, Wynter found a purpose. Outright military intervention and a coup had already failed and cost the life of his father. No, Wynter had his own path that would take decades to put into fruition. At age 12, Wynter knew he must learn as much information as he could. He would find a way to make such a mark on the galaxy. And to do it, he would have to find all the holocrons and ancient treasure and lure on Raxus Prime, the Tion Hegemony, and within the Mid-Rim.

Wynter's later adolescence and early manhood was a period of intense dedication to the craft of treasure hunting and excavation of ancient Sith and Jedi locations spread out amongst the far

flung expanse of the Mid Rim. Leaving the decaying diaspora community on Raxus Prime as a stow away on a scrap freighter, the greater galaxy became available to him.

The first stop was on Ossus, not far from the environs of the Tion Hegemony. Ossus awarded Wynter a rich hunting ground, here he spent years pursuing Jedi artifacts and learning much from the old library world. He made a small fortune on selling these trinkets as oddities to the occasional tourist and spacer that braved the Imperial control to conduct research here. Eventually, he became a locally renowned historian on the traditions of Ossus. Yet, his time here would not end happily.

His exploits had attracted the notice of the Imperial overlords. In the aftermath of the Great Jedi Purge and the rise of the Empire, few could study the Jedi without strict scrutiny and the danger of being abducted and questioned. Hot on his heels, Imperial agents were closing in and the window of escaping an Imperial jail cell was diminishing for Wynter. He was forced to turn over his entire fortune to bribe his persecutors and seek passage on a mining vessel in the employ of pirates to the ancient Sith colony of Malachor V.

Now in his early twenties, penniless, and with only the clothes on his back and no way of communicating with his remaining friends on Raxus Prime, Wynter determined to make the best of it on the backwater of Malachor V near the Outer Rim. Far from the heart of the ancient Sith Empire, Malachor V held many secrets for the scholar to discover. The hulking asteroid field that remained of Malachor V was an odd choice for Wynter, as it required great skill in salvage work and deep space mining to find any treasures or relics of note. He plied his trade, and assisted the pirates who stalked the system waiting for any wayward traveler or Imperial survey team that was unlucky enough to trespass in this foreboding system.

Wynter found several artifacts in the debris field, many he turned over to his pirate brethren. However, he was able to piece together a star chart to the Deep Core. Wynter successfully stole a shuttle from the pirates and slipped out of the Malachor System undetected. Much has been speculated about these events. How could such luck in treasure hunting and finding such artifacts simply occur? Was he indeed a baseline non Force user or a strongly gifted individual?

The successful hijacking of a pirate shuttle and the waypoints to Korriban provided Wynter with a sense of accomplishment that would come to a jarring conclusion almost immediately upon reaching Korriban. Entering the system, a myriad flotilla of hostile fighters, capital ships, and landing craft were descending on the Sith citadel world. Taking evasive maneuvers in a slow shuttle proved nearly useless, and Wynter resorted to trying to force a landing on Korriban. Relying on his resourcefulness, for a time he was able to evade the hostile creatures and unknown legions of Force users that had waged war on Korriban. Near the Tomb of Ajunta Pall Wynter sought refuge and for a time was able to hide in the ruins and subsist off of the local flora and fauna he could track and kill. Hunting by night and learning the ancient Sith culture and history by day the first few weeks on Korriban passed uneventfully.

Finally, near the end of this first month on Korriban, he was spotted by Force users and was cornered within the tomb. Armed with a blaster for a short time Wynter held his attackers at bay. However, the robed assailants easily incapacitated Wynter. He awoke at a base command center surrounded by soldiers, mercenaries, and Dark Jedi. Questioned and tortured mercilessly, in short order Wynter found himself onboard another shuttle departing for space unknown. It was perhaps the darkest moment of the wily and cold man's life.

Yet, in this defeat another success rose from the ashes like the proverbial phoenix. The Dark Jedi who had taken him belonged to Iron Throne, and were sending him to begin his training deep within the heart of the Dark Brotherhood hegemonic holdings, the Shadow Academy.

Wynter arrived on Lyspair fully intent on learning all he could, dedicating himself to researching the massive assortment of scrolls tomes. Months of intense study and learning occurred at a feverish pace where Wynter's acumen grew. Soon, his focus and dedication to the pursuit of knowledge gained attention of the sitting Headmaster. Wynter took on the mantle of Professor of Assistants responsible for teaching many of the classes of lore within the Dark Brotherhood. Teaching such a wide range of classes allowed Wynter to meet and befriend many members of the Dark Brotherhood and rapidly rose up the ranks and attained graduate maxima cum laude attainment. During his time as a Professor, Wynter was heralded for his ability to proctor the most examinations in the most rapid time of all his peers. It was with the Shadow Academy where Wynter first got his name known to the greater membership of the Dark Brotherhood. Here, truly, is where the speculation of his Force abilities grew to be beyond reproach, many taking for granted that Mauro was indeed a Dark Jedi.

Wynter's work within the Shadow Academy and his contacts made as a Professor alerted him to further discrepancies and irregularities within certain members of Clan Scholae Palatinae. He kept note of these contacts and the nefarious activities he was alerted to. Not knowing whom to trust, the Human kept his silence while pursuing further intelligence and knowledge within the halls of the Shadow Academy and the avenues and palaces of Antei where the power politics between the Dark Council and the various Consuls were waged.

In time, Wynter's path crossed that of Lucyeth of Scholae Palatinae. A Grand Inquisitor in his own right, Lucyeth was aware of the corruption that had pervaded the Cocytus System and informed the Human that the Emperor Xen'Mordin Vismorsus-Palpatine himself was looking for discrete aid to tackle such forces arrayed against his dominion. Wynter was initiated into the Inquisitorius and taught the secrets of the order that would aid him in the coming clandestine war waging across the Cocytus System.

Many missions were arranged for the Human to train as a pilot and an intelligence operative. These skills would prove instrumental in the coming assassination missions that, along with an extensive body of work, would see Wynter enter the highest echelon of the Inquisitorius. Wynter departed Antei for the cold landscape of Caina.

These missions, and many other classified projects, gained Wynter high regard within the Inquisitorius and attained the rank of Grand Inquisitor. In order to continue his career and search for access to more information and ancient artifacts, Wynter begrudgingly accepted an offer to join Clan Scholae Palatinae. He would continue the clandestine work of the Inquisitorius and further his piloting training and martial prowess. Again, the question becomes how could someone who was not supremely powerful in the Force rise to such a heralded rank?

Once Wynter arrived on Judecca, he quickly found a willing master in Koryn Thraagus. With access to the library complex within the Imperial Winter Palace, Wynter's knowledge of the past and arcane arts grew. Flushed with a new sense of belonging and greater devotion to the organization, Wynter accepted the mantle of Aedile and assisted Kell Dante for a time in establishing House Imperium. Feeling that he was neglecting his studies and research, Wynter resigned his position some time later once a new generation of highly skilled Dark and Gray

Jedi took over the mantle of leadership. Wynter was coaxed out of semi-retirement by Delak Krennel to serve as sergeant of battleteam Shadow Guard. It was during this time that the events of the Eleventh Great Jedi War occurred, and Wynter fought against the Resistance. Seeing the destruction and genocide he decided to change his ways and switched sides to Clan Odan-Urr.

The genesis of Wynter's operations within Odan-Urr began with the destruction of New Tython during the Eleventh Great Jedi War. Odan-Urr's failure to stop the calamity and protect the Harakoan race shook the organization to its core. The need for a dedicated defense force to ensure the same fate did not befall the denizens of the Kiasat System became acute due to the unexpected victory over the forces of The Collective in the Twelfth Great Jedi War. With new recruits, prosperity, and prestige the secrecy and security of Odan-Urr's territory has never faced greater peril. It was this singular event, the destruction of an entire world and species, that woke Wynter to the Force. He finally, after a lifetime crucible of denials and hidden truths, accepted his role within the Force. It is said he simply is awaiting the time to announce openly what has always been true, that he is indeed a supremely skilled and powerful Jedi.