Andrelious had studied the intelligence dossier several times, making sure that he had planned for every likely scenario. He had already decided that meeting the mysterious Kagu Shi simply wasn’t an option. He had little respect for common criminals, in spite of his own rather gruesome kill count, and he also lacked the subtle touch required to recruit the man without resorting to violence.

The Taldryan Rollmaster had a much better idea. He had hand-picked a small team of operatives, mostly from the Clan’s army, to help him abduct Kagu Shi and forcibly escort him to Taldryan’s HQ. Andrelious had already informed Justinios that Kagu Shi was his problem once the mission was complete; he cared little about the Aleena’s own methods.

**Overlooking Kagu Shi’s facility**

Andrelious’ team had already assembled by the time that the Sith arrived. Its leader, an officer called Captain Sram, greeted Andrelious with a smart salute.

“You needn’t be so formal today, Captain. Remember that this mission isn’t on record,” Andrelious stated.

“Should you really be carrying *those*?” Sram queried, pointing at the two lightsaber hilts attached to the Rollmaster’s belt.

“The standing orders only state that we’re not to be *CAUGHT* using the Force. If nobody survives, nobody will know what happened,” the Sith replied coldly.

“He’s right, boss. That’s where I come in,” a female soldier carrying a flamethrower announced. “Once the target’s out, I’m burning the thing to the ground.

“Just one more question. We don’t have any information on Kagu Shi aside from his name. How do we know who to go for?” Sram asked.

“We know that he was an Imperial scientist. Not only do I know the type, but that means he’ll in his sixties at least. The best idea will be just to subdue anyone who looks old enough. Having more prisoners may come in useful,” Andrelious explained.

“Alright. So we’ve all analysed the dossier. I think your idea to just storm the main entrance is our best plan. I know that you’re not a fan of sneaking around,” the Captain declared.

“This isn’t a military facility. They won’t be able to handle a frontal assault. We don’t *need* to worry about doing anything fancy here,” the Rollmaster added.

“You may well be right. We’ve already scouted the main entrance. There’s a pair of Gamorreans armed with vibro-axes. As the intel reports suggest, it’s likely they’re set up to defend against other groups of criminals,” Sram continued.

Andrelious grinned.

“That’s why I had a sniper positioned nearby. The rest of you, take your positions. It’s recruitment time!”

**-x-**

Andrelious and his team approached the main entrance of Kagu Shi’s facility fairly cautiously, but without making any attempt to hide their intent. As soon as the two Gamorrean guards spotted the approaching group, they raised their vibro-axes ready to fight, but the pair were quickly taken out of action by well-aimed shots from a sniper rifle.

“That went as well as we could have hoped for, but don’t expect things to remain so easy. Kagu Shi may be a criminal, but he’s not daft. He’ll have people that know how to fight. Just be ready for anything!” Andrelious warned.

With the Gamorreans eliminated, the Taldryanites were able to secure the area around the main entrance without further trouble. Sram, spotting a security camera watching over the entrance, quickly shot the device with his blaster.

“They’ll know we’re here, now. Saves us blowing the doors open!” Andrelious declared, hoping that Sram had destroyed the camera before their numbers could be counted.

The group barely had time to catch their breath before the large double doors swung open. A trio of Rodians stepped out, each carrying a blaster pistol. They didn’t seem to be expecting a large fight, but Andrelious was not taking any chances.

“You’re outnumbered and outgunned. Stand aside and you won’t get hurt,” the Sith ordered.

The Rodians looked around at the Taldryanite soldiers, as if considering the situation, before throwing their weapons away and saying something in their own language.

“Get yourselves out of here. We don’t want to see you back here,” Sram added.

“As expected. Shi’s surrounded himself with petty thugs and hired guns. Any sign of a real threat and their self-centred roots are quickly exposed,” Andrelious stated.

“Right. Everybody fall in!” Sram commanded.

**-x-**

The Taldryan team filed into the building, each brandishing their favourite weapon. Andrelious kept hold of his E-11; he wasn’t entirely convinced that the planetary authorities were not watching through holocam.

The way ahead was a long, fairly narrow corridor with multiple side-doors. Sram cursed under his breath.

“Ok. We’ll have to proceed carefully. Without enough width we won’t have numbers on our side,” the Captain explained.

“So it’s a good job we’re relying on our skill, isn’t it, Captain?” Andrelious answered with a smirk.

One of the side-doors burst open, allowing several defenders of various species to enter the corridor. They quickly fired their blasters at the Taldryanites, who, aside from their leader, needed a few moments to react to the surprise attack. The fire fight was over fairly quickly, but one of the Taldryan soldiers, a young Zabrak, had taken a blaster bolt square in the chest.

“Medic!” Sram yelled, but his facial expression suggested he already knew that the Zabrak was dead.

“Let’s proceed. Carefully. They’ll keep trying that trick and try to whittle our numbers down!” Andrelious ordered.

Sure enough, another group entered through one of the doors. This time, the Taldryanites were expecting the move and easily cut down the arriving criminals. Andrelious, spotting that a Duros bringing up the rear was wounded but alive, raised his hand to order his men to stop attacking.

“Ugh. I hate watching this,” Sram whispered to one of the soldiers, already knowing what his superior was planning.

“Then look away!” Andrelious hissed, approaching the injured Duros.

**-x-**

With the dark side of the Force having ‘convinced’ the Duros to betray the location of Kagu Shi, Andrelious and his team proceeded through the facility with a great deal more haste. The occasional ambush did little to slow them down; armed thugs were never going to be much of a match against professional soldiers and their Sith leader.

Eventually the team came into a large room filled with various types of science equipment, large boxes, and piles of documents. Unlike the rest of the facility, the people inside did not appear to be criminals, but instead wore white coats and masks. Towards the middle of the room, a fairly tall Human was staring at a monitor. He was surrounded by four heavily armed bodyguards; Andrelious suspected they’d be the only tough fight he’d have.

“Right. Shi’s the shifty looking one reading from that display. Deal with the rest of them. No-one’s leaving this room alive,” Mimosa-Inahj commanded.

“Some of them might be unarmed. Do we really need to start shooting civilians?” Sram questioned.

“They’re breaking the law. Nobody will miss this scum,” Andrelious replied, glad that Kooki wasn’t around to hear him. He knew his wife wouldn’t like the idea of killing anyone with a family at home, regardless of their background.

“He’s got a point. There’s nothing good about what these people do,” one of the soldiers added as she readied herself to attack.

Sram knew there was no point in arguing, even as Andrelious armed himself with his lightsaber and started indiscriminately slashing his way through anyone unfortunate enough to find themselves in the Sith’s path. He was making a beeline for Shi and his guards, who were notably panicked by the presence of a ‘Jedi weapon’.

As it turned out, quite a few of the so-called scientists were armed with small but still deadly ‘holdout’ blasters, as though they had always been expecting the attack. They fought the soldiers as best they could, even managing to down a couple, but the superior skill and equipment of the Taldryanites soon ensured that the room was pacified without too much trouble.

Andrelious rounded on Kagu Shi, the crimson blade of his lightsaber bisecting the first three bodyguards.

“It took me years to build this. And you, Jedi bastard, have destroyed it all in minutes!” Shi roared, reaching into his lab coat.

“Someone stun him!” the Rollmaster yelled, furious that he’d been mistaken for a Jedi. The last bodyguard approached with a vibro-blade, but Andrelious attacked with a wave of Force lightning, knocking the man to the floor in a fit of pain. Meanwhile, blue rings of energy collided with Sram, sending him sprawling. As he fell, he dropped a small detonator.

Finishing off the last of Sram’s men, Andrelious regarded the detonator.

“Looks like he was quite happy to destroy his own work if things went wrong. Sram, get a bag on his head. I don’t want him seeing where we’re taking him. We’re done here,”

­**-x-**

As Sram escorted Kagu Shi away, with the scientist cursing and swearing under the bag, Andrelious smirked as he watched a flamethrower begin to burn Shi’s empire away.

*Mission complete, Drake. You’re welcome.*