

Hutt Space

Nal Hutta Orbit

The *Midnight* lurched out of hyperspace, finally reaching its destination of Nar Shaddaa. Rulvak looked down at the moon as it glowed orange from the lights of civilization and began contemplating the best course of action to retrieve the person of interest. As his ship began to descend towards the moon, he took out his datapad.

“Tintu Vel, a Scientist assumed to be hiding out here on Nar Shaddaa, and with her family no less,” he muttered to himself as he read her dossier.

The *Midnight* shuddered as it came to rest just outside the city of Hutta Town.

“Z3-R0, go find me this woman, or any member of her family,” he commanded as he tapped a few options on his datapad while walking down the ramp to the moon’s surface.

A seeker droid came zooming past him out of his ship, and went onwards into the city. He turned back to his ship as the droid disappeared from his view.

- A few hours later -

Rulvak turned his head to the sound of constant pinging on his display.

“Finally! Let’s get ourselves a scientist!” the Sephi exclaimed as he jumped to his feet. He ran to the hold, then flew out of it on his speeder.

He moved along the streets of the city, passing merchants, smugglers and bounty hunters. The buildings on either side of him loomed overhead, glowing various colors from the neon signs labeling the different establishments. The pinging on his datapad brought him closer and closer until he finally reached his destination. A small set of buildings looked to contain housing units. The droid floating beside the one in front of him.

“Return to the ship, Z3-R0.”

The droid made a few beeping noises, before zipping off in the direction he came from. Rulvak dismounted his speeder and walked up to the door. He knocked, but there was no response. Something was wrong, but he couldn’t tell what. He waved his hand in front of him, utilizing the Force to unlock the door, and entered. Rulvak immediately ducked, dodging a rod that had been swung at him. Recovering quickly, he caught the rod on the follow up swing. The woman immediately collapsed, bursting into tears.

“Just kill me,” she sobbed as the rod fell to the floor with a clang. It didn’t take long for him to find out why, as he looked around to see the members of her family, slumped in different areas. “He killed my husband and daughter.”

Rulvak lifted her from the ground. “And you should destroy them for it.”

She quieted for a moment, and looked at him with questioning, teary eyes.

“Come with me, and we can inform them of their mistake.”

Tintu nodded slightly as the tears turned to anger and resolve.

“Here,” he helped her onto the speeder, “show me the way.” Rulvak climbed onto the speeder behind her, and they rode in the direction she pointed.

- Moments later -

Rulvak’s sabre hissed as it extinguished. He stood over the bounty hunter that had slaughtered Tintu Vel’s family, exacting the same fate upon him.

“He can harm you no longer.”

Her eyes began to well up again, as the realization that her family was still gone came rushing back to her. “I have no purpose...no want to live.”

“Nonsense. This bounty hunter was only the knife of the enemy that cut you. You can help me root out the true enemy of your family, the ones who paid the bounty hunter to kill your family.”

“You think that they were paid?”

“There must have been a bounty that the bounty hunter sought,” Rulvak stated plainly, knowing she was too distracted by recent events to put the obvious together.

“What can I do?”

“Come back with me to my team, and you can use your scientific advancements to help us find them. You can make it much easier for us to dispatch enemies, yours and ours alike.”

She nodded in agreement. “I’ll need to grab my datapad, as it contains all of my notes and experimental data. It will set me back if I don’t have it and all the information I have learned.”

“You mean this datapad?” Rulvak pulled an encrypted datapad out of the bounty hunter’s satchel.

Tintu, even more infuriated, exclaimed, "Yes! That is *my* datapad! They were after my notes? I would have given it all to them for my family." She sighed, looking down at the datapad. "That is the case no longer. They will never get this information. There is nothing left for me at my home, let us leave at once."

The Sephi stood, nodded, and followed her out of the building and back to the speeder. "Back to the ship, and off this dusty moon."