Alexander DelGotto’s Freighter, *Blood Tiger*

Naga Sadow space

 Alex was awoken by the steady beep of the comlink. He rolled over to look at the small digital display next to his bed. The tone signified that the transmission was coded. When Alex touched the screen he saw the crest for Clan Naga Sadow’s Rollmaster on the display. As Alex started to get up he tried to think why the Tasha’Vel would be contacting him. He just returned to Sadow space after leaving to find someone. As Alex swung his legs off the bed the lights came on and Darby was standing there. He was holding a robe and tray and was just inside the door.

 “Sir I would have silenced the alert tone, but noticed it was a coded transmission and kn..…” Alex cut the droid off, “It’s fine Darby, I needed to get up anyways.” Alex took the coffee off the tray and headed to the refresher. As he took a sip from the mug he thought it was going to be a long day. After showering and getting dress Alex walked to the comlink and started the message. I was a set of coordinates on Ryloth with the mark of The Black Guard under it. Alex walked to the cockpit to enter the coordinates for Ryloth in the navigation computer and activated the hyperdrive. As he looked out the front view port the stars became a blur of lines. Alex had several hours before he was to arrive at Ryloth, time to meditate and try to figure out why Tasha’Vel was summoning him. As he walked to the meditation room he looked at his right forearm. As he did he thought of when he first became a Black Guard and was assigned to Methyas Pepoi L’eonhart. As he did the force tattoo on his arm began to glow. Maybe this has something to do with Methyas.

The steady beep of the navigation computer alerted Alex that he was almost there. He walked to his quarters on the ship to retrieve his lightsaber. He decided that he would wear his robes instead of any armor, mainly due to the Naga Sadow sigil on the chest and cloak. If this was about clan business, then he was going to be dressed for it. Alex approached the location and noticed it was one of the many large masa’s in the area. He landed at the Blood Tiger on the top of the masa and all he found was Tasha’Vel. She looked a little older, otherwise no different than when she was a Journeyman when Alex left the clan.

 “You got the message. Good the clan needs you again.” She started to walk to the edge of the masa top they were on. She pointed to flat area about 5 km from were hey were standing. “I left a little something in that camp site. I need to know if you still have what it takes to serve the Clan. “She turned and walked back to Alex’s ship. “You will know it when you find it. And I will wait here till you get back.” With that the ramp raised and Alex was left standing alone. Alex shrugged and started to look for a way down to start the long walk into the desert.

 It seemed like he would never make it to the camp. When he was a short distance away he found 2 humans patrolling in the area. The had on light armor and carried blaster pistols and vibrodaggers. From the look of them they were often in fights. There was some blaster scorch marks and dents in various places on the armor. One of the humans looked like he may have had a cybernetic arm. Alex waited until they passed and decided to follow them to see if they were part of the camp. As they turned a corner the pair meet with possibly a third bandit. This one was better kept then the other two, did not carry himself any better. The third bandit was a Rodian that had a severe limp. The two humans waited for a few minutes before the turned to walk back the way then came. This is when Alex made his move. With a burst of speed, he closed the distance between then and landed a crushing blow to the one on his right staggering him. As he followed through the punch he crouched and extended his right leg in a sweeping motion knocking the bandit to the ground. As he continued the motion he stood and grabbed the dazed bandit with both hand hands. As he pulled him to the ground he brought up his right knee striking the bandit in the face. Alex could hear and feel the bones in the bandit face break as blood erupted from his nose and mouth. There was a muffled cry of pain as he fell to the ground. The other bandit was starting to get up. Alex extended his left leg toward the standing bandit, who dodged backwards and landed on his back. The blow missing by millimeters, as the bandit rolled away. To his side to try and get up Alex stepped forward to get his balance. The bandit rolled a few more times and was able to stand. Facing Alex, he drew the blaster pistol, as he was bringing it up Alex reached out with the Force and pulled it from his hand. The bandit had a look of disbelief as Alex tossed it to the side. “Do you see a gun on me,” Alex said as he turned in a tight circle. The bandit looked at his friend who was sill lying on the ground hold his bleeding face and making muffled little grunts. He sneered at Alex as he pulled the vibrodagger and lunged. Alex stepped to the side and grabbed the bandit at the wrist and elbow. He stepped into the bandit and applied pressure in opposite directions at the wrist and elbow. The bandit let out a scream and the bones in his fore arm snapped, causing the hand to lose strength dropping the vibrodagger. Alex continued the movement of the step and dropped to one knee cause the bandit to fall over Alex. As the bandit landed on his back Alex continued the fluid movement down and drove an elbow into the nose of the second bandit. There was a loud crunch of bone as blood poured out of his nose. Alex followed up the first elbow with 3 more at which point the bandit was unconscious. Alex stood and walked over the first bandit where he checked to see if he was still alive. He was so Alex started to walk in the direction that the Rodian went. As he did he thought Tasha’Vel did not say he need to kill the bandits, just get the item.

 As Alex walked toward the camp he had a sudden feeling of dread. Before he realized it, he was hit in the chest by a blaster bolt. As the bolt hit him, had his saber in his hand and ignited. Alex deflected the second and third bolt as he looked to see where they were coming from. Alex seen the Rodian crouched on a small outcropping looking like he was going to fire again. Alex sprinted forward deflecting the next volley of shots. He was not directing the bolts in any one direction, just keeping them off him. As he closed the gap he jumped up to the outcropping the Rodian was hiding in. Alex extended his hand and the Rodian dropped his blaster and clutched his throat. Alex watched as the life slowly drained away from the Rodian, his eyes becoming less and less focused. As the body went limp and lifeless Ales simply used the Force to toss him to the side. As if he was discarding a piece of trash. Alex deactivated his lightsaber and continued toward the camp. When Alex was bout 200 meters from the camp Alex came across a Twi’lek leaning against a large bolder. “You really think you are going to get the token Tasha’Vel left for you. She is paying enough I would risk being killed to stop you.” Alex stopped and looked at the Twi’lek, “You mean you did not steal it, she gave it to you.” The Twi’lek nodded and added, “She is paying enough that I do not mind if I lose a few of them taking you out.” As he turned 4 more bandits came rushing at Alex. They were armed with different size vibroblades. There was 1 Wookie, 1 Gamorrean, and 2 Klatooian’s. Alex was sure there would be more coming and wanted to end this fight quick. The two Klatooian’s rushed Alex with their blades held over their heads. They planned on using brute force and hoped to overwhelm him. Alex waited till the last moment to react, stepping to his left, He brought the hilt of his lightsaber up at an angle with the blade extended toward the ground. As he blocked the closest attackers blow he powered through it and struck him in the chest. The lightsaber easily cut through the light chest piece of the first Klatooian and into his chest. As Alex continued to move to the left, he rotated his hips to the right and changed the angle of the blade striking the Klatooian across the lower back. The first Klatooian dropped his blade and fell to the ground. Alex stepped to the right and took a defensive position to guard against attack from the Klatooian that was left. As he did this the Gamorrean lifted his viroaxe and started to charge. Alex extended his left at which point Force Lightning erupted from his fingers striking the Gamorrean. Alex slowly walked toward him as he fell and continues the attack of the lighting. AS he did the second Klatooian rushed Alex from the side. As he did so Alex forked the Force lightning and hit the standing Klatooian with it. Alex continued to unleash the lighting on the two attackers. That is when he heard the Wookie roar. Alex turned to see it standing tall, claws out grabbing at its neck. Alex seen a flashing light in the front of the Wookie’s throat. It looked like he was pulling on some kind of collar. Alex stopped the onslaught on the two bandits he was fighting realizing that they were dead. He approached the Wookie and started to hear a slow beeping noise. The closer Alex got the louder and faster the beeping got. As he approached the Wookie fell to his knees, and the roar turned to more of a howl of pain. Alex struck quickly with a hard and fast downward strike. As he did the Wookie fell to the ground, the beeping stopped. Alex turned to walk to the camp, after a few steps he heard a low howl from the Wookie. As he turned the Wookie was shaking his head no and saying some. Unfortunately for Alex he did not understand anything the Wookie was trying to tell him. Alex pointed down the path and the Wookie nodded yes and made what Alex thought was and explosion gesture. Alex stopped and looked puzzled at the Wookie. Alex had heard of the Wookie life dept but did not understand it at all. As he turned to walk away the Wookie said something else and was holding its hand in a stop gesture. Alex could really use a translator right now and thought the next time he had a chance it might be a good idea to get one. Slowly the Wookie got up and started to walk down the path in front of Alex. As they approached the camp the Wookie stopped and pointed at some small cervices. There Alex could see the small laser emitter for the explosives. The Wookie the gestured for Alex to follow. They walk toward a large boulder that was blocking the path, and as they got there the Wookie turn toward the camp and walked into the boulder. As Alex approach the same spot that is when he was able to see the hole that was cut into the boulder. Unless you knew about it you would walk that way because there was no way to see it. As the two of them walked into the camp the Twi’lek waked out of one the buildings. “I see you let are little slave free, pity I was hoping you would have killed it. I think I bought the only Wookie that is unable to fight, or perhaps unwilling.” As he spoke he walked to the center of the camp. He was holding strange looking blade, it almost glowed. Alex could tell the it was not a vibroblade. The Wookie roared and started to move toward the Twi’lek, and Alex Shouted “NO! He is mine.” The Twi’lek moved with skill and grace, he had training in the use of the blade. Alex was not concerned with the skill of the Twi’lek, and more with what was in the hands of the Twi’lek. He had to know that the lightsaber would cut right through the metal blade and he could not parry his attacks. And that if Alex parried his the bladed would be destroyed as well. Alex took his defensive stance, he was waiting to see if the blade was a ruse and there were going to be shots fired at him. The Twi’lek engaged and as Alex parried the blow, there was sparks coming from the blade. Alex stepped back keeping his guard up and looked at the blade. It was undamaged, the Twi’lek grinned and waved the blade around in a circle. “I found this baby in an old grave, not sure what it is or made off. But I did notice that it cut other metals like a hot knife through butter.” As he talked the Twi’lek continued to move in a slow circle to the right. Alex struck stepped toward the Twi’lek and came down with and overhead blow, as it was parried he redirected his attack to strike from right to left at his head. The Twi’lek was able to get the blade in the way but he staggered back from Alex. The Twi’lek made an awkward attack as he lost his balance hoping to keep Alex at a distance. Alex changed to a one-handed grip easily parring the weak blow and return strike the passed through the defensive attempt of the Twi’lek and striking on the upper arm. Only the tip of Alex’s saber struck the arm, leaving a nice wound, but nothing that would stop him from using the arm. This is when Alex realized that the Twi’lek relied on the ability of the blade and not on skill. As Alex continued to land blows he was only using the tip of the saber to cause painful, but not debilitating wound. Alex placed them on the legs, arms, chest and back. With each blow the Twi’lek seemed to get more and more angry. After several of these blows he seemed to scream into the air “why are you not stopping this?” It was as if he was expecting Tasha’Vel to stop the fight at some point. The Twi’lek was having trouble holding the blade and Alex reached out and pulled it from his hands. As he gripped the blade he could feel the perfect balance of the blade and see that it was forged by a great craftsman. There was righting on the blade, some kind of leather was wrapped around the grip. There seemed to be something in the base of the pommel. The cross piece was rather plain and was in place for function. As Alex was looking at the blade he heard the Twi’lek yell in pain. As Alex looked up he seen that the Wookie had stomped on his leg. He laid there with the leg at a very odd angle. “Now where is the item I am looking for,” as Alex finished the Wookie said something that made Alex realize he really needs a translator. The Wookie was pointing at a small shed like building as he is walking into the largest building in the compound. When he walked in Alex seen it right away. It was a metal disk about 30 cm cross. It was black with a bright red symbol of the Black Guard. As Ales picked it up and started to walk out he heard to Twi’lek pleading for the Wookie to not do something. As Alex looked over he seen the Wookie place a collar on the Twi’lek and start to walk in the direction that they came from. As the Wookie walk past him, Alex could hear the collar start to slowly beep in a very hushed tone. As Alex stared to follow the Wookie he just smiled. He had missed this. He was going to have to thank Tasha’Vel when he got back to the ship.

 It was night by the time Alex made it back to his ship. As he walked in he seen the noticed Darby had made dinner and had a change of clothes laid out for him. For all the nagging the droid seemed to do it was nice to have around. After cleaning up and changing Alex found Tasha’Vel sitting at the table waiting on Alex. “So, do you have anything for me?” She held out her hand as if she knew the answer to the question. “Yea,” Alex handed her he disk, “And why did you use slavers?” Alex was sure he knew the answer to the question. She would have known that of all the members of the underworld, Alex hatted slavers the most. “I knew you would not hesitate. Besides it was fun to watch you work again,” Tasha’Vel took a sip of Corellian Ale. “Well I did feel good to work out the kinks. But why was the Leader of this group yelling for you to stop the fight.” Tasha’Vel just smiled, it was the type of smile that said maybe I will tell you later. “Thanks for the drink Alex and keep in touch.” Tasha’Vel slowly got up and walked out of the dinning are. Alex heard the exit ramp lower and raise. He turned to the R2 droid sitting in the corner. Zee get us off this planet and back to Sadow space.” Alex got up and slowly walked back to his cabin.