Andrelious did not know what to make of what he had just heard. With the Collective now seemingly the main threat to the continued existence of Clan Taldryan, many of his clanmates had almost completely forgotten about the Inquisitorius.

“So what are you trying to tell me, Lieutenant?” the Sith questioned.

“Agents of the Inquisitorius were caught aboard the flagship. They were sneaking around the family quarters. We couldn’t get much out of them during interrogation, just that they were trying to take the children,” Lieutenant Maham explained.

Andrelious frowned. The idea of enemy agents aboard the *Paragon* was bad news, especially after all of the effort that Taldryan had made to stay hidden.

“Which children, Lieutenant?” the Rollmaster demanded.

“I’m afraid we don’t know. With so many families travelling with us, your guess is as good as mine. We don’t *think* they’re after any particular children, though,” Maham replied.

The Sith knew that Maham had a point. Jac Cotelin’s attack on Karufr had killed the majority of the planet’s population, but dozens of survivors now travelled aboard the Taldryan fleet as little more than refugees. Families, mainly those of serving members of the Clan’s military, were almost entirely kept aboard the *Paragon* due to its large size and relative strength in combat. All in all, there were probably close to five hundred children under the age of sixteen.

“Alright. Thanks, Lieutenant. Is there a reason you’re telling me this? Kooki’s already paranoid enough and she does not need the extra stress in her condition. If she thinks someone’s after the twins, or even our unborn son, I’d…not like to think about the consequences,”

Maham shifted uncomfortably on his feet. “That’s kind of why I came myself. All of the agents that we captured implicated Mrs Mimosa-Inahj. They wouldn’t explain how, but they were all convinced that she is involved.”

Andrelious rose to his feet, pacing around his desk to regard Maham closely. He didn’t say anything, but his stare felt like it was boring its way through the Lieutenant’s skull.

“You’re not lying. These people have indeed implicated Kooki. That is most unfortunate. Looks like I need to have a word with my wife,” the Sith hissed.

**30 minutes later**

Kooki had had a busy morning. With Andrelious busy with Clan affairs, the increasingly pregnant Alderaanian was left with two hyperactive three year olds who were becoming more and more confident in their own ability to use the Force. To get them to their playgroup in one piece was often a challenge in itself, but Kooki had somehow managed it. The mother was about to take a sip of a hot beverage when Andrelious appeared.

“You’re back early,” the female stated simply.

“Something’s come up. Are you familiar with an intelligence agent called Maham?” the former Imperial questioned.

“Maham? I don’t think so. What’s going on?” Kooki countered.

“Apparently some agents of the Inquisitorius were caught aboard the *Paragon*. According to Maham, they were trying to abduct some of the children aboard the ship,” Andrelious explained.

“Right. Who do I need to kill?” the female snapped. Andrelious could already sense a wave of anger building up inside the mother of his children.

*Disgusted at the idea. As I thought. She’s clear.*

Kooki turned to her husband. “You know more. You wouldn’t have come back with this. You’d have holo-called me. What are you hiding from me?” the Alderaanian growled, glaring down at Andrelious angrily.

Andrelious was not scared of much, but he wasn’t stupid. Kooki was a keen saberist, practicing even as their unborn child continued to grow. It had been a long time since he had been able to best her in combat, and he certainly did not fancy his chances if his wife was to turn on him with a *real* lightsaber.

“Give me a chance to finish and I’ll tell you! Maham was adamant that these enemy agents said you had something to do with it. I don’t know what they’re playing at, but Maham was telling the truth. I just wanted to tell you what was said face to face,” the male said in a rather squeaky tone.

“Ah. I love when you sound like that. I know you’re never going to lie to me because you’re so scared of me,” Kooki responded a little less angrily.

“I don’t need to be scared of you to tell the truth. I’ll never lie to you because I love you,” Andrelious replied.

Kooki smirked. “It never hurts to have *two* reasons to trust what you’re saying. Surely you knew I had nothing to do with any taking of children?”

“I did, but I wanted to know why you’re being implicated. The Inquisitorius haven’t seemed to show any interest in you since we left Karufr. Especially after Saskia erased their files on us,” Andrelious added.

“If I did know anything, I’d let you know. And this Maham, whoever he is. Should I pay him a visit?” Kooki asked.

“Maham’s just a faceless spook. Why don’t we just sit down, watch one a holo, and enjoy an hour or two of peace?” Andrelious suggested.

Kooki simply nodded.

Occasionally, she had to admit, her husband had a point.

*FIN*