“You’re saying that you knew that Morgath had a tracker on her person?” Andrelious questioned.

“Yes. I just wasn’t sure if she was enough of an asset that the Collective would risk an attack. Now we know that she is,” Justinios responded matter of factly.

Andrelious’ face fell. “Let’s get this straight. You knew there was a chance of an attack. Yet you brought me here. Me and two of my *children*,” he snapped, gesturing over at Poppy and Etty, who were finishing the last of their lunch.

“I told you to come here. I didn’t expect you to bring them. This is a military briefing. Not a creche!” the Aleena answered crossly.

“I’ll let *you* be the one to tell Kooki that when we get out of here,” the Sith stated. Justinios had seen enough of the Alderaanian to know that the Collective attackers weren’t going to be his toughest mission.

“Right now we need to deal with the attack, sir,” Helen Beck interrupted.

“Alright. Here’s what we’re going to do. Buuk, Beck, you’re both military. You’re coming with me. Drake, you stay here with my daughters. Whatever you do with them, make sure you don’t let them out of this room,” Andrelious ordered.

“Aren’t I your sup-“ Justinios began.

“You want to go out there and die? I didn’t think so. We’ll deal with this,” the Sith answered.

**-x-**

“I don’t think Drake took too well to being given orders like that,” Sorqa Buuk observed as he positioned himself ready to intercept the Collective attack.

“It’s not going to matter. He’s endangered my children. When we’re away from here, I’m not having anything more to do with the SRI,” Andrelious explained.

“We’re all in position down here. The Collective will likely blow their way in through the front door, then work their way up the emergency stairwell. I’ve disabled all the turbolifts, so they’ll have their way up,” Beck’s voice declared through Andrelious’ comlink.

“I don’t know if that’s going to be enough. I’ve heard the Collective are extremely fierce fighters,” Buuk said.

“They only need to hold them off for a bit. Beck has her orders. And as for us, we’re not likely to see any action at all,” Mimosa-Inahj stated.

The Weequay stared quizzically at Andrelious. “You’re pretty confident. Helen and I aren’t even sure if we’ve got fully trained men or if the Consul just gave us a bunch of rookies,”

“That won’t matter,” the Seeker said, moving across the room to a large control panel.

“Be careful with that, sir. Those control the containment area. If we shut that down, we’ll have a dozen Wampas to deal with as well,” Buuk warned.

“Beck. Pull your men back. Plan white is active!” Andrelious shouted into his comlink as he started to disable the containment fields.

“First rule of leadership, Buuk. Never do your own dirty work,” the Seeker declared, a wry smile forming upon his lips.

**-x-**

“Plan white was a complete success. The Collective were expecting a straight fight. Even all of their fancy tech didn’t help them against a group of enraged Wampas,” Helen Beck began.

“But they still managed to kill all of them! That’s months of research potential lost!” Justinios complained.

“Always about the research with you! Did we lose any men?” Andrelious asked.

“Two men didn’t get away in time. The Wampas got them, too,” Beck stated. “And two more were wounded when the last few Collective survivors got through. In military terms, that’s easily an acceptable number of losses.”

Mimosa-Inahj nodded, but Justinios still looked annoyed.

“We really need to talk about your methods,” the Aleena said.

“Talk all you want. But I’ve had enough of wasting my time with all of this science. I was never suited for the job that you and Rian asked me to do. I’m going to leave you to run the SRI how *you* want, Justinios. I’ve been talking to Rian. I’m needed elsewhere. For a new opportunity. Something that’s a little more military based,” Andrelious explained. “Oh, and Kooki and a few others will be coming with me. So you’re safe from having to tell her how close to our daughters were to the enemy today,”

Justinios sighed.

*Perhaps without the Mimosa-Inahj family, I can get some work done.*