

## Cruiser *Raddus*

"Admiral Holdo, you are under arrest for treason." Poe Dameron's and his fellow pilots all quickly turned and drew their side arms on the Admiral and her command staff. But as the plan was finally put into action, doubt crept into the Captain's mind. He tried to shake it away but it ate away at the bravado that had led him down this path in the first place. He holstered his weapon.

"Wait, stand down," Poe said quietly to his co-conspirators, who didn't heed his order immediately. "Stand down! Put those away," he said more forcefully walking down the line his friends had made. "Admiral Holdo I don't know what came over me but I have realized how reckless and, let's be honest, stupid this action is."

Holdo remained as calm as she had before the mutiny attempt, a picture of both command and grace. She said nothing as Poe appealed to the other mutineers to now give up the plan he sold them on in the first place.

"General Organa trust Admiral Holdo, Princess Leia Organa. How ridiculous to think that we somehow know more than the woman who has given her entire adult life to the betterment of the galaxy. I do not understand what the Admiral is up to but if there is one thing we can trust it is the General." With that, the final few blasters made their way back into their holsters and Admiral Holdo spoke again.

"What do I do with you now Captain?" None on the Admiral's staff drew a weapon, subconsciously picking up on her calmness. "We have one shot at escaping this and I can't wait around for you to have another lapse in judgement. How can I trust you?"

Poe's eyes widened, not just because he was backed into a corner but also because his thoughts drifted to Finn and the maintenance tech. Petunia he thought her name was. When he fully realized the extent of his own foolishness it was like a kick in the gut. Here he was questioning the loyalty of a woman who had fought the Empire and yet he sent someone who just days ago was a First Order Stormtrooper on a long-shot mission with a glorified plumber.

"I can only start building your trust in me again by admitting to everything. With my blessing, Finn took BB-8 along with uh... one of our techs to find a master codebreaker so they could sneak onto Snoke's ship and deactivate the hyperspace tracking." The plan sounded even stupider to Poe when he said it aloud to himself.

The Admiral walked directly over to Poe and clasp him on the shoulder. "I understand the fire that burns inside of you, it is why after everything I have seen and done I still fight. But Poe, you need to learn to control it, not let it control you."

Poe shrunk, ashamed and embarrassed. The woman he had thought to arrest for treason a moment ago had just shown him what true leadership was. All he could say in response was, "I submit to whatever judgement you pass."

"This will be the last we speak of this incident, we have a plan to finalize."

Crait – Former Rebel Base

"Scanners indicate that all of our ships have been destroyed but the First Order fleet has left the system." A cheer went up in the chamber deep within the mountains of Crait as Lieutenant Cronnix delivered the update. Scores of Resistance troopers, pilots, commanders and support staff had survived the First Order trap.

General Organa, feeling her first bit of relief since Takodana, walked over to the girl Rey. The poor thing had seen and done much over a very short period of time but Leia knew more would be asked of her sooner than later. She sat on a stack of crates and Chewie, sensing it was time to find another task, wandered over to what little equipment was recovered from the Resistance fleet.

"He wouldn't come, would he?" Leia said while Rey refused eye contact.

Rey shook her head to indicate that no, Luke Skywalker had refused their summons.

"Vice Admiral Holdo can take command for a while and try to rouse some of our allies in the Outer Rim. The story of us slipping right through their fingers should be legend in no time. You and I are going back to Ahct To."

"There is no point, General. Luke not only refused his father's lightsaber but has cut himself off from the Force." Rey was tired from her confrontation with Kylo Ren and looked sad despite both her own escape and that of the Resistance.

"That man can cut himself off from whatever he would like, he's coming back to Crait with me if I have to knock him over the head and drag him here myself."