Snapshot: https://www.darkjedibrotherhood.com/members/8968/snapshots/1138/2386

Malfrost’s ship, *The Mind’s Eye*, an old yet reliable YT-1000 freighter punctured the atmosphere of Kessel as he allowed the ships computer to do most of the flying. AIN had sent out a ping, it seemed one of their own had been captured by some Huntresses. Malfrost just happened to be the closest to the system but he already knew that more ships and members of the Brotherhood were inbound. No need for heroics here; if he could just confirm Vance’s location, that could be enough for him. Still, he felt more personally involved in this mission than some of his more recent ones. Vance was a member of Sass and as an avid user of the Academy’s vaults and library for study, he felt it was his duty to ensure that one of the ace acquirers for the group returned unharmed. It would be devastating if there was a delay in the acquiring of artifacts because of this.

He looked out of the cockpit to gaze upon the world, blasted and barren. Inhospitable was a good word for it. His faithful droid companion, I-One, an old magnaguard unit from the Clone Wars entered the cockpit area as Malfrost turned to listen to the update the droid was about to give.

“Astute Observation: Master, I’ve managed to isolate the signal to a nearby clearing next to what appears to be an abandoned mining facility. I would have to venture that this is where those vile Huntresses are hiding out.” It seemed they had stopped moving for now. Maybe they thought they were safe and hidden here in the vast wasteland of Kessel, but it seemed as if they had failed to notice the tracking device on Vance yet.

“Good, I-One, take the helm. I’ll investigate the complex and confirm if Vance is there or not. “Malfrost stood up from the pilots chair and ushered for I-One to replace him. If droids could scowl, Malfrost believed that is what I-One would be doing right now as the droid took a seat.

“Saddened Statement: What a shame, Master. If you would have let me gone, I would have been able to skin them all alive for you and brought back their skins and braids as trophies.” Malfrost couldn’t help but chuckle at his droid’s boast, it was always so sure of itself. He couldn’t help but wonder where it acquired such an attitude. Surely not from his humble and grounded Master. Surely not at all.

As they approached, the complex came into view; it was vast and decrepit with old metal builds rusting from the passage of time with entrances to what appeared to be mining tunnels. This wouldn’t be an easy search to do alone, let alone with those huntresses likely stalking the area. He considered waiting for backup, but he had to confirm that Vance and the huntresses were here, otherwise they would all just be wasting their time.

*The Mind’s Eye* moved to hover just slightly above the ground as the ramp was lowered. Malfrost quickly hopped down and motioned for I-One to circle the area until he heard from him. The freighter gave a roar in response and was soon away from the area. Silence now blanketed the area, the only noise being the wind slowing blowing through the arid wasteland, causing his cape and robes to flutter.

Malfrost decided to check the buildings first, doubting it would be that easy, as he was more than sure that the huntresses would likely make use of the mining shafts and the elaborate network that was likely dug into the planet. Sure enough, after a quick glance through the buildings, he saw no sign of them or Vance. He examined the ground near the cave entrance, hoping it could tell him something, but any evidence the huntresses might have left behind seemed to have been erased. They were good, but he had an edge, something they lacked, the Force.

Malfrost drew in a breath and closed his eyes, reaching out to try and sense all the life he possibly could around him, for as far out as he could go. Kessel was a barren rock, so that made his job easier. After a few moments, he felt it, signs of life. He couldn’t pinpoint where or how many exactly, but he knew there were people in that cave complex now, likely the people he was looking for. He quickly called I-One back and told his droid to land the ship, he was going to need his help here. I-One, for its part, sounded more than happy to get a chance to” cave in some Collective scums heads.”

Soon, he and I-One here making their way down into the cave complex. I-One used a head mounted light to light the way. Malfrost led in the front with his trustful droid bringing up his rear. This enabled Malfrost to reach out with the Force ahead of him to try and detect an ambush while I-One would be able to respond and react to anything he missed. It was a vast complex, and Malfrost made sure he was keeping a mental map made up in his mind to make sure he knew how to get out quickly if needed.

Thankfully, their quest didn’t take them too long as soon they found a makeshift hanger, with a ship parked in it. He couldn’t quite make out the model, but that alone was sign enough that they were on the right trail. As he in I-Won made their way towards the ship, Malfrost could sense the lifeforms around him moving. They still felt like they were some distance away, but that was all the more reason to move quickly.

Malfrost ordered I-One to enter the ship first, if there were any traps set then he would trigger them. That would be fine for him, Malfrost constantly had I-One uploading his data to a mainframe on *The Mind’s Eye*. Once the all clear was given, Malfrost entered the ship. Stuffed in the cargo hold was Vance, out cold. This was going to be a fun trip back out if he couldn’t wake him up. He tried slapping Vance a few times but he got no reaction from the older gentleman, he was likely out cold because of some drug or special technique those Huntresses knew. He let out a heavy sigh as he lifted Vance up onto his shoulders, carrying him in a fireman’s carry as he made sure he had a firm grip on him.

Malfrost reached out with the Force again and sighed, he could sense it…they were here. Surrounding the entrance ramp, just waiting for him to come out. He clicked a button on his commlink, that would get *The Mind’s Eye* started up and ready to go. He knew he was going to have to beat a quick retreat. Now that they were so close as well, he could tell their relative positions. It seemed at the moment, there were three of them, and only one of them were blocking his way towards the exit. He looked to I-One and nodded his head.

“Sorry buddy, but run protocol 2386 with a 25 second delay.” I-One looked back and nodded his head with understanding. It was about time for a new body anyway. I-One turned on his eletro-staff and charged out the ramp.

“Bemused Statement: Three of you against one of me? It seems you’ve brought about ten few of you than you needed, Shuttas!” I-One seemed to laugh, spinning his staff with grace to bat away the attacks of the two huntresses that assailed him with shots from their bows. He was used to fighting Jedi after all, bows and arrows were nothing to this droid! After all, the poison that normally would have made their attacks so deadly to an organic meant nothing to a body made completely of metal. Two of them closed on the droid with their stun batons, another shooting from the distance. At this sign, Malfrost took off, running out the ramp a few moments behind I-One and dashing towards where he knew the exit was.

The one shooting at I-One noticed this and quickly pulled out their stun baton as Malfrost neared them. The force user simply snarled as he let out a roar. “Out of my way!” Hold Vance to his shoulders with one arm he used his other to deliver a right hook. It wasn’t physically delivered though, rather the Huntress would feel her smacked with the Force itself, liking taking a strong haymaker directly to the face. She was floored and that was the only opening Malfrost needed, using the Force to amplify his speed to run swiftly past the floored huntress. He was already a good runner to begin with, but this boost insured that he got enough distance between him and the huntress and more importantly, him and I-One.

Not long after he had bolted past, I-One began to glow softly as he fought off the attacks of the two other huntresses and soon let out a laugh as he dropped his staff.

“Ecstatic Declaration: Oh but how I do enjoy blowing up and taking my foes with me. I don’t feel pain, but I do hope you all suffer an agonizing, painful and slow death through burning alive or asphyxiation. Have a good death!” I-One ended cheerfully before exploding in quite the brilliant fashion, likely incinerating anyone too close at the time. It was one of Malfrost’s favorite tricks, the thermal detonator in the chatty droid. Worked more often than one would think. There were some unexpected consequences though, the cave began to shake and rumble, stalactites and dirt falling from the roof. It appeared as if that explosion had trigged a cave-in…Malfrost didn’t try to think to much on that as he focused on running and getting out alive. In a way, he figured the cave in was good luck for him, any of the huntresses and their leader would be too busy trying to survive the cave in themselves to track him.

As he neared the mouth of the cave, the rumbling and shaking was starting to die down, it appeared the reverberations were worse the further in the cave he was. He figured that meant that the Huntresses would be suffering even more but that also meant that there might be another exit from the cave system somewhere close by. Which meant he couldn’t linger. He quickly boarded *The Mind’s Eye*, its engines primed and ready to go. He dropped Vance off by the ramp, nothing bothering to set him down gently anywhere as he moved to the cockpit. He wasn’t sure if the huntresses had any other ships, but he couldn’t risk being followed until he could link up with other members from the Brotherhood.

He sat in the pilot’s chair and quickly flipped all the needed switches to get the freighter in the air and bellowing through the atmosphere. He sent out a message through AIN confirming that he had Vance and requesting to rendezvous with others. He wouldn’t feel safe until there were other Brotherhood ships flying next to him, but he allowed himself a sigh of relief none the less.