**The Hunt**

**By Shadow Nighthunter 11405**

**RoS Phase 1 Fiction entry**

**Objective One**

**Hyperspace**

**Entering Kessel Sector**

**Outer Rim**

**36 ABY**

Streaks of blurred light raced by the viewport as a shuttle flew through the tunnel of hyperspace travel towards the destination of the passengers. Twelve troopers from Imperium’s Scout company sat in the back, with ten of them being soldiers armed with blasters and the other two being scouts equipped with sniper rifles. They were all hand selected by Shadow herself, the Aedile sitting in silence amongst them. Her eyes were closed in meditation, the assassin preparing herself for the mission to come. When the tracking signal and instructions were shared on the AIN, the half-Sephi was quick to answer the call and decided to take on the rescue mission. A chance to face the Huntresses and even Kendra herself was something Shadow couldn’t deny herself.

“One minute till arrival.” came the pilot’s warning.

Shadow opened her golden eyes and turned her attention to the squad of men. “Ready yourselves, gentlemen. We’ve no idea what exactly is waiting for us. In and out if possible. No need to entertain the Collective.”

**Abandoned Space Station**

**Kessel Sector**

The shuttle shot out of hyperspace and approached the location indicated by the tracking device planted on Vance Kordall. Shadow had expected a planet to greet them, but instead it was an old space station drifting ever so slowly in space. No lights or any other signs of inhabitance gave life to the station, but the tracker’s active signal still resonated from there.

“Would make a good hiding spot,” the Sith said to herself as she studied the station. “No signs of a ship, so perhaps they were dropped off. Maybe hiding out for a bit or even waiting for someone to rendezvous and pick up Vance. Least we’re not too late.”

“They may see us coming,” the pilot said. “Could lose the element of surprise.”

“As much as I’d like to go in unnoticed, we will have to work with what we can. Take us in, pilot.”

“Yes, ma’am. Taking us in.”

Shadow kept her eyes on the station as they approached the docking bay. She could sense a very faint presence, somewhere in the station, and wondered if the Shikari huntresses were watching them. Whether they were or not, it didn’t bother the Aedile. She would accomplish this mission one way or another.

The shuttle eventually docked, and the soldiers did a quick run-through on their equipment before they followed the Sith into the station. The eerie darkness and creaking of old metal kept the group alert, with Shadow knowing this was the perfect environment for the huntresses to utilize to their advantage. She constantly kept reaching out into the Force as they followed the signal, not wanting the Shikari to ambush them from the shadows.

It was when they reached the end of a narrow corridor that Shadow felt that impulse to turn around. She did so and saw the violet light of an energy arrow loaded into the outline of a bow in the shadows. Wasting no time, Shadow shouted a warning to the trooper in the rear and ignited her saber ready to assist before the soldier following her told her to duck.

The sound of an energy arrow whizzing above her where her head had been was heard. She whirled around, hearing the soldiers engaging the huntress in the rear while she faced the one before her. Calling upon the Force, she launched herself at the huntress and lashed out with her lightsaber, the silver blade catching on the bow as the Kiffar did her best to defend herself against the Sith’s speed and attack.

“You’re going to be slaughtered like a rat!” the defender shouted out as she whipped out her stun baton and tried to go on the offensive.

“You speak of your own death,” Shadow countered coolly, increasing her speed as she unleashed a cyclonic attack on the huntress. Her blades sliced through the air in a downward whirlwind of silver and red before exploding with a flash from contact with the technocratic huntress’ baton. The impact of the trailing blade forced her baton arm downward, and before the huntress could react, Shadow’s silver, strong-hand blade sliced through the Kiffar’s neck.

As the head rolled away, Shadow quickly returned her attention to the other huntress, and saw a trooper down while another grappled with a scout trooper. The huntress’ amused and wicked grin didn’t last long as her eyes went wide, and she stepped away from the trooper. She shook her head and backed into the wall before her eyes met with the predatory orbs of Shadow. Fear paralyzed her in place, and she couldn’t get herself to flee as the Sith made her way past the men and with her silver lightsaber still ignited. Cold sweat trickled down the woman’s neck as she tried to find a way to break free of this affliction, impending doom causing her heart to race.

“I’ll be sure to tell Kendra farewell for you,” the Aedile said without emotion before sending her blade through the Shikari’s chest.

The Kiffar’s eyes dimmed with death, but they remained wide opened as did her mouth, her lips frozen in a silent scream of despair. The sight brought much satisfaction to the assassin, though she did not show it as she looked over at the fallen trooper. “We’ll pick him up on the way back. For now, we move forward. We’re very close, and Kendra is waiting.”

Without question, the troopers abandoned the corpse of their comrade, and followed the Sith the rest of the way at a brisk walk. They went down a few more corridors and across some cat-walks until they at last reached what looked to be the medical wing of the station. Pain and anger could be felt by the Sith, and she knew very well why Kendra chose this spot to keep her prey.

“I want you to wait here. I’m going in alone to confront Kendra. If you see Kordall return without me, I want two of you to escort him to the shuttle while the rest of you come in to assist. If neither of us make it out in twenty minutes, get out of here and inform Darth Aeternus of the situation. Do I make myself clear?”

“Yes, ma’am!” they said in unison.

“Good. Now stay put and be ready for anything. Who knows who else could be hiding here.”

With that said, Shadow went off on her own into the medical wing. She passed by several rooms loaded with medical equipment and broken medical droid assistants that were littered with blaster holes. Curiosity threatened to take the Sith’s attention as she wondered how the station came to be abandoned, but the continued flashing of the tracker signal tore her attention away. Its origin laid ahead in a room secured by two durasteel doors. Each step closer sent chills of exhilaration through Shadow, the *\*Shadow Wolf\** of Imperium ready to take on a fellow huntress.

When she reached the doors, she was greeted by a voice that reverberated throughout the area. Didn’t take a genius to know who it was. She knew Kendra was aware of her presence.

“So, you defeated the huntresses. Good for you. Do you think you’ve won, Sith filth? Far from it.”

Shadow’s eyes flashed with amusement. “I haven’t won yet, but neither have you. Let me guess, you’re waiting for more of your Collective friends to come pick up your prisoner for interrogation. If that’s the case, it means the Collective doesn’t have the information they need, so you’re still waiting for victory just as I am. Two hunters are we, and I’ll be damned if I let some Collective pet get away with my prey.”

The doors suddenly shuddered to life, a few lights turning on as they began to open. Once they had, Shadow stepped inside and saw Vance strapped in a seat wide awake. He was covered in bruises and cuts, Kendra having tried to have fun with her own little interrogation.

“Who…are you?” he asked as the Sith quickly walked to him.

“A friend from the Brotherhood. Seems a friend of yours placed a tracker on you,” she said as she quick removed his restraints. “I have a squad of men waiting for you outside of the medical wing. I need you to reach them and they’ll escort you to the shuttle while I-”

“While you’ll what, dear?”

Shadow turned and saw the Chiss standing at the doorway. “While I deal with you of course,” she answered as the *snap-hiss* of both of her sabers supported her response. “Vance, once you see an opening…get out of here.”

“That’s not happening,” Kendra countered as she grasped her electro-whip as it came to life with electricity. “First, I’ll teach you a lesson on what a real huntress is and make sure my prey doesn’t escape. Then, I’ll torture the both of you and give you over to the Collective. Two prisoners would really make my bosses happy. Then again…I could just kill you and not worry about all the effort-”

Kendra barely finished before Shadow was upon her, the Sith having had enough of Kendra’s talk. The Chiss herself barely maneuvered out of the way, diving into a roll to avoid a blade going for her chest. She scowled and flicked her wrist upward before swinging her arm inward in hopes of catching the assassin. Shadow sensed the danger and twisted out of the way with the whip nearly hitting her back. She shot out again at Kendra, wanting to fight in close quarters in hopes of keeping the Chiss from utilizing the whip without hurting herself.

Saw Shadow’s silver blade swinging for her abdomen and side-stepped to the right before flicking her wrist again. The whip sliced through the air in a brilliant arch and would’ve hit Shadow on the arm had not the Battlelord last minute twist to her right and caught the whip with her lightsaber blade. Kendra sought to yank the lightsaber free, but Shadow had a similar idea as she pulled her saber downward, forcing Kendra to stumbled forward. Seeing her change, Shadow sent her elbow into the Chiss’ face.

“You bitch!” Kendra’s rage was unleashed as she yanked back on the whip despite the pain in her cheek. Shadow’s red blade was torn from her grasp and sent flying to the other side of the room. She barely brought her silver blade up in time to defend herself from another attack. To Kendra’s disgust, a grin appeared on her opponent’s face.

“Seems your prisoner saw his chance,” she informed her. “Did your prey just slip through your fingers, witch?”

Kendra glanced over towards where Vance had been and scowled with hate when she saw he was gone. “You’ll die for this! Your brotherhood will pay!”

Angrily, the Chiss grabbed her slugthrower with her free hand in hopes of sneaking a shot towards Shadow’s exposed abdomen. The Sith had sensed it and quickly twisted out of the way again, her sliding out of the whip’s limp grasp. She summoned her other saber with the Force, activating it once more before. Kendra didn’t hesitate and fired a shot towards the half-Sephi only to feel a blaster shot burn into her shoulder. Shadow’s troopers quickly ran into the room, their blasters aimed at the huntress.

“Careful gentlemen, a cornered anooba is the most dangerous,” Shadow warned. “Vance?”

“He’s being escorted to the ship as ordered,” a scout trooper said.

“Good.” She focused on Kendra and pointed her silver blade at the woman’s throat. “It’s over. I hope you rot in hell with the rest of your band of rats.”

“Oh, it’s not over, I was prepared for this,” she said with a smirk.

Something came to life behind the squad, Kendra’s ID9 Seeker droid having been hidden in a pile up equipment. In its pincer-like hands was a smoke bomb that is immediately threw at the grew. Smoke erupted from the canister, and Kendra utilized the distraction to fire a few shots at the troopers to make a gap. She quickly ran, making her way for the station’s escape pods while holding her wounded shoulder.

Shadow scowled in anger, mad at herself to not having sensed the droid. The ID9 had disappeared with its master as well, making the Battlelord angrier. The site of four dead troopers on the floor didn’t help, but Shadow knew they didn’t have time to waste. Not sure whether Kendra would try to steal the shuttle or not, she ordered the men to double-time it back to the docking bay.

When they got there, the Sith was relieved to see that it was still intact, and that Vance had made it safely once she boarded the shuttle. She was still pissed for having lost the huntress and could only assume she had another way off the station. Her suspicions were confirmed when the pilot announced the sighting of an escape pod shooting out into space.

“Her time will come. We’ve accomplished our mission. That’s what matters.” Shadow looked over at Vance before looking at the remaining troopers. She was about to let them collect their dead, when the pilot spoke.

“Signatures coming out of hyperspace. I don’t think they’re friendly.”

“Collective Forces probably. A bit late to pick up their prize. Get us out of here, pilot. Let’s hope this was all worth it for the lives of the fallen.”

The pilot nodded in acknowledgement and carried out the Aedile’s orders as he disengaged from the docking bay and took the shuttle out. Only seconds after the enemy arrived did their shuttle disappear into hyperspace. A wounded Kendra in her escape pod fumed with hate when she saw them escape. She wasn’t going to let this go and vowed to get her revenge.

Meanwhile, with everyone settling down on the ship, Shadow looked over the soldiers that had been with her. She had never fought with troops under her command before, being the lone wolf that she was. Yet, she had respect for these men.

“I know we weren’t able to gather our comrades,” their Aedile finally spoke. “But let us focus on avenging them by bringing down the Collective scum. For Imperium! For the Empire!”

The men shouted the chant after her, their spirits fueled by the small victory and the hopes of bringing down their foe once and for all.