

Pursuit

Kessel sector

Hyperspace

Rulvak just wanted out of that room, at all costs. It was just too crowded, too loud, too...social. He had jumped at the chance to go on a mission, *any* mission, to get away from everyone. The moment he got the tracker feed uploaded to his data pad, he bolted. Now Rulvak sits on his ship, hurtling through space at faster-than-light speeds, on his way toward the little blinking light on his data pad. It had given him plenty of time to think about the situation, and how much this mission would require an increased amount of resources to complete. Surely some of the others would join him in time, but he had to be cautious until then.

The ship lurched forward and shuttered as the engines spooled down as it dropped out of hyperspace. Before he could rise to his feet, all the lights darkened, all noises ceased, and he had entered Blackout. His flight droid had automatically put them into stealth once they were in open space, as directed. Now he could only hope that they wouldn't be scanned for.

I have to play this safe until the help arrives.

He knew there was no way he would win an engagement in space with his shuttle. The Sephi glanced at his data pad, then back out the cockpit window, looking for any signs of trouble. A few moments passed, and he decided to proceed towards the blip.

"Take us that way." he pointed briefly for the droid to set the course. Not heading directly towards the blip now, but keeping him on a path to maintain visual once achieved.

After some time, he finally caught a glimpse of a ship. The tracker seemed to correspond with where the ship was located, but Rulvak felt like something was off. They were just adrift, unmoving.

"How far were the other Arconans behind us before we went dark?" Rulvak whispered to the navigation droid. He didn't need to whisper, but for some reason the ambiance of the ship almost dictated him to.

“They hadn’t crossed into the Kessel sector yet, sir.” the droid said, coming across in a series of boops, beeps, and whistles.

“Damn. This could be more troublesome than it seems. Let’s see if we can get a closer look. Keep us quiet.”

The droid turned back and the ship began to move towards the stray ship. The intel suggested that Kendra Icasta herself was aboard, along with a few of her Shikari Huntresses. That would be much more than Rulvak could deal with solo, especially on a ship he was unfamiliar with in the middle of space. Vance Kordall was the mission, and the mission must be completed.

The ship continued to creep forward, ever so slightly. More and more detail of the ship became apparent. There were no signs of battle or damage, yet here they were.

“Whoa, whoa, whoa...stop.” Rulvak muttered quietly.

The ship ceased its forward momentum, sitting dead still. Rulvak spotted another ship as it exited hyperspace, moving directly towards Kendra’s ship.

“There is no chance now. We must wait for our reinforcements. If those are friendlies of Icasta, we would not survive.”

The ship continued until it reached Vance’s prison. It docked, and it seemed as if all hope was lost. Unless the other Arconans got there soon, this would be a failed mission.

Rulvak began his silent wait, like so many times before, but with less hope for the outcome than usual. He sat, contemplating the multiple outcomes of the ordeal. Movement. He looked up, seeing both of the ships begin moving in offset directions, then proceed into hyperspace. Quickly, he glanced down at the tracker, the blip was moving again. There was no doubt that it was no longer with Vance on board. Rulvak was sure that the other ship was likely taking him someplace for security. If he proceeded to follow the other ship, he would be detected, resulting in a death he had no control over; however he could also follow the blip of the initial ship. The Sephi looked down, the blip continued to move away from his position, but he knew that this option was the wrong one.

“Start everything back up, track the second ship as far out as you can. We’re going to wait for the Arconans. There is no other choice.” The sadness was clear in Rulvak’s voice as he spoke to the droid.

-To be continued-