**New Spanky’s Tavern**

**Taldryan Sector**

**Chyron**

Andrelious J. Mimosa-Inahj was not one of Spanky’s more regular visitors. Having three children left him with little time to himself, especially as he was also the Quaestor of the newly re-opened House Archanis. He rarely got more than a few minutes alone, so the chance to slip to the Tavern for a quick Ebla beer was very welcome indeed.

Although Taldryan’s presence in the Caelus system was relatively new, they had already begun to become the centre of discussions regarding the system’s future. People generally avoided contact with the ‘outsiders’, but more and more locals were starting to see Taldryan as a stepping stone to re-connecting with the rest of the galaxy. As a result, the area that the government had designated as the ‘Taldryan Sector’ was becoming more heavily populated. Locals were even starting to enlist in the various branches of Taldryan’s military, finally filling out the ranks that had been badly depleted after the attack on Karufr.

Andrelious was heading to the bar to order his second beer of the evening when he noticed two people sprinting into the Tavern. He recognised the female as Ceyra Ky’lien, daughter of the Caelus system’s governor, Astor Ky’lien.

“You,” Ceyra began, approaching Andrelious. “I know who you are. You were responsible for the incident on Halo Station.”

“I’m glad that you can call something of that magnitude an incident. It means you know that I’m capable of far more. Especially now that I’m away from that wimp Drake,” Andrelious answered.

“We were hoping you know where Justinios was, actually,” the male accompanying Ceyra stated.

“I’m afraid that I’ve not seen him all day. We’re not quite as omnipotent as we make out to be,” the Sith responded, regarding the man carefully. “Do I know you?”

“That’s Jiq Morvit. He’s one the AEU’s best men,” Ceyra explained quickly.

“Right. So what do you two need with Drake? Has he upset the wrong people with one of his experiments?” Andrelious quipped.

“Please try and take things seriously. Your leader’s been called into a meeting with my brother. I think that Drayen’s going to kill him,” the female answered crossly.

The Sith frowned. “Right. Then you’re definitely better off asking me for help. For all his strengths, Drake is a scientist. You need a man of action,”

“The problem, sir, is that we’ll need more than just one of you. Most of the Caelus Security Force are loyal to the new regime. They’ve already marked Lady Ky’lien and I as targets. I suspect that they’ll mark you and the rest of Taldryan as well,” Jiq said.

“No. I don’t think he’d do that. I think he’s trying to kill your leader and then take command over what’s left. He seems to think that’s how your organisation works. But I know you, Andrelious. You are a family man. I think it would take a lot more than murdering your leader to obtain your loyalty,” Ceyra commented.

“You are correct. My loyalty will always be to my family first. Taldryan took us in after an unfortunate incident elsewhere, but I will always put Kooki and the children first,” the Quaestor stated.

“Are they here on Chyron? Can the enemy get to them?” Morvit queried.

For once Andrelious was glad for his wife’s extreme paranoia. Kooki, the twins and baby Mostynn were all safe in their mountain home on Elysia. Even allies of the Mimosa-Inahj family struggled to find the home’s exact location.

“They’ll be fine. If you remember the fire that killed Kagu Shi? That was Kooki. She can handle herself,” Andrelious explained.

“I remember the fire well. Guess the investigation was wrong – we thought that one of Shi’s Lieutenants was responsible,” Jiq observed.

“Can we get moving please, gentleman? My brother won’t be discussing things with your Consul,” Ceyra interrupted.

“Very well. Tell me where the Consul is. I’ll have a team of my men meet us there. Drayen will not get away with this,” Andrelious declared, patting his silver hilted lightsaber.

Ceyra frowned. “Is that not a little too much? This problem started with the death of my father. It doesn’t need to end with the death of my brother,”

“But it’s going to end with YOUR death if you don’t act now. I will doubt that the CSF will try to capture you. Tell me. On your way here, were their blasters set to stun? I think not,” Mimosa-Inahj answered coldly.

“He’s got a point, Lady Ceyra. There’s no intention to capture either of us. We’re fighting for our lives here,” Jiq added.

“My brother asked to meet with your Consul at his residence,” Ceyra explained.

“Right. I’ll arrange for my second-in-command to rendezvous with us there,” Andrelious declared.

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Aldaric was still new to Clan Taldryan. The Chiss had been lured away from Clan Arcona with the offer of unlimited access to the Rybanloth system and its dark side nexus. The fact that Andrelious had further sweetened the offer by appointing his fellow Sith to the Aedile position only made the decision easier.

Aldaric’s datapad beeped to indicate an incoming message.

*Aldaric,*

*Gather as many of Archanis as you can and head to the attached coordinates. Our Consul is possibly in mortal danger.*

*Expect heavy fighting. Drayen Ky’lien must now be considered as hostile*

*A.J. Mimosa-Inahj*

*Supreme Commander, Archanis*

*P.S.: Do not contact Kooki. We’ll have to do this one without her*

The Chiss didn’t know his Quaestor all that well, but the short, serious nature of the message certainly conveyed a certain sense of urgency.

It was time for Archanis to shine.

*FIN*