

WS Stalker
Raider-II class Corvette
Lyra System

The rhythmic vibrations from the ship's engine travelled through the nearby decks of the ship, as the Warhost corvette made its way through the void. One of the many ships owned by Naga Sadow that had translocated to the Lyra system, the *Stalker* was commanded by an experienced Lieutenant and Sanguinius Tsucyra Entar trusted the man implicitly.

In return, the Lieutenant and his men trusted the Augur, having served under him during his time as Consul of Naga Sadow. His reign as Consul had long since ended, the Entar having resigned in favour of his former Proconsul, Bentre Kain'tre Stahoes.

The trust formed between the Sadow and the men and women of the Warhost was such that they believed him when he told them that he was the Consul's eyes and ears on their ship. Instead, he was here for his own reasons. This was the opportunity for members of Naga Sadow to take their revenge on their fellow members of the Brotherhood who had obeyed the will of the Dark Council to arrive in the Lyra system and give the Severian Principate their support.

Sanguinius did not trust many of the Sadowans, the mercurial nature of the Sith always led one or two of them to have ideas above their station and betray those close to them when they believed it was to their benefit. He was determined to nip any attempts in the bud before they endangered the clan's efforts to attain allies and support to regain the Orian System from the clutches of The Collective.

The *Stalker* was monitoring communication channels across the Warhost ships, the Raider-II corvette having been converted to have an electronic warfare suite. It did have a negative effect on the power draw from the engine, thus explaining the rhythmic thrumming.

One of the technicians manning the suite noted an anomaly, flagging it for the attention of his senior, who inspected it. A signal had been received on the Carrack-class *Defiant* which had originated from the Plagueian fleet that inhabited Lyra space near the Warhost fleet.

It was unusual for a non-Sadowan communique to go to a ship that wasn't the flagship, the ISD-II *Perdition*. Sanguinius' attention was caught by the senior technician, as he and the Lieutenant were quickly briefed on the anomaly.

Sanguinius grinned as his mind whirred through the possibilities. The *Defiant* would most likely disengage from the main Warhost fleet as they moved further into the system. It was flagged and sent to the *Perdition* for the attention of the Consul and Proconsul, with his name signed to it. In addition, copies of the message was sent to his fellow Sons of Sadow, Locke Sonjie and Malik. Together, they would deal with the *Defiant's* defiance.

The vengeance that would most likely occur against Scholae Palatinae was a vengeance that had not been ordered by the Overlord, Bentre Stahoes. Thus, it would be dealt with before it started.

Making his orders known to the Lieutenant, the ship's crew continued to monitor the communications as the Raider-II moved closer to *Defiant*, followed by *Spectre* and *Implacable*, as new orders came into the two DP-20 corvettes from the *Perdition*

Order was absolute as the challenge to the *Defiant* was made, the cruiser's engines flared momentarily, pushing the Carrack faster forward. In response, the two DP-20 corvettes and the *Stalker* targeted the engines, disabling the ship.

Sanguinius smiled as he surveyed the work of the Warhost navy, ensuring that the word of the Overlord was law.

Clan Naga Sadow brooked no dissent from their members. Their motto 'Conquest was their destiny, they would not fail' was one embraced by many of the clan. Those that compromised the mission would be punished and enlightened by the Sons and Daughters of Sadow, intent on maintaining the discipline that would enable the clan to regain their rightful place amongst the stars.