

\*Lyra 3K-a, Ordu Aspecta Temple\*

\*37ABY\*

The place stunk. Ages old and with a layer of dust coating everything, it wasn't the greatest place Taranae had ever visited. She knew her target was nearby, but she would have a problem locating her. Renowned for her ability to not be seen, Sencara was the best in her field. A sniper by trade, she had been assigned as a target due to her deadliness towards members of the Clan. And now here stood one of her hunting grounds. Taranae noticed scuff marks in the dust, caused by researchers trying to uncover the mysteries of the temple, but Sencara was nowhere to be found. All Taranae had was a description but according to her reputation, you would never see her. Then it was too late.

The pillars in the room were grand in stature, most of the tops were corroded and never reached the heights of the roof, leaving flat tops where any sniper could conceal themselves. Taranae spun quickly, her senses screaming as she dove to one side. A shot ricocheted inches from her head and buried itself in the wall a foot away. She dashed to the nearest pillar and hugged it, her back covered by the huge stone object as she gingerly peered out from behind. Looking around the walls, she saw kyber shards embedded within. They gave off a faint glow and as she watched, a group near the roof seemed to glow more brightly than the others. Searching her memory, she remembered that these particular shards seemed to resonate to the presence of a living being. She smiled. Now she knew where her attacker was hiding.

Drawing on the power around her, she began a quick dash between the pillars, from one to another as she worked her way towards the sniper's position. Every now and then a small puff of duracrete would blow out of the pillars where a shot had just missed her. As she reached the vantage point, she realised that Sencara must be on top. There was no other way she could move from there without being seen. She concentrated and leapt up the side of the column, placing her feet onto it as she went, propelling herself upwards. As she reached the top, she landed in a crouch with her hand on the floor steadying her. Sencara stood in front of her with a blaster pistol drawn.

Sencara didn't look as confident as Taranae thought she would. Obviously she was more at home with long range weaponry.

"This is where it ends, I'm afraid." she said. "I was contracted to kill you and in a moment that will be complete."

"You don't seem that confident about it." answered Taranae. " Never taken on a force user?"

The raider didn't wait and let loose a volley of shots at the sith. Taranae spun as her teras kasi training came into play/ As she did so, she unclipped her saberstaff in mid air and ignited it. As she landed, she continued the spin, bringing the weapon around in an arc of death that no-one

could have dodged in the space available atop the pillar. The staff bit into Sencara's side and she screamed as she dropped her weapon and fell backwards over the edge of the pillar.

Taranae switched off and holstered her saberstaff. She stepped to the edge and looked down. Where there should have been a body, there was nothing but dust. It seemed that she and her enemy would meet again in the future. Now, she just had to get down from here...