

Empress Gossip

Zsoldas

Wild West

Gunslinger's Cantina

Mauro Wynter sat down and ordered a carafe of strong ale and began to sip languidly. Slowly eyeing the room he settled down and eavesdropped on the tales being spun around him. He eyed the bartender, a comely Twi'Lek women with fine reddish hued skin and winked.

The conversations led from the common spacer tales of battles, of exploits, of womanizing and of illicit scores. The general talk tended slowly towards politics and news of larger galactic conflict occurring within the Severan Principate and the ending of some hostilities in that sector of space.

However two freighter captains began to discuss events in the Cocytus System. The Umbaran captain spoke first. "I tell you a man I delivered cargo for in the Cocytus System told me the truth of it. The Empress is dead. Empress Elinicia Rei was murdered by her own people. It was a coup I swear it. Her own people replaced her with a Shadow Nighthunter. A true usurper of the highest degree."

The second captain, a Barabel barked in a very guttural and hard to decipher version of Basic. "Caannt be truuue. Why would her oooown people do suuuuch a ding? It is maddness." The Umbaran laughed and began to defend his argument. "Believe what you wish but I have the truth of it. Why else is there so little news on the matter? It is clouded in secret. Not much officially has been given on the news channels is it not?"

Wynter slouched over closer to the two to hear better the gossip. He moved ever so slowly as not to be noticed and to maintain discretion. The captains continued their dialogue. "Explaaain it zoooo me den?"

The Umbaran drank heavily from a mug of ale and sighed heavily. "Okay then, I will tell you all that I know. The Empress, for a long time, had been neglecting the politics within the Empire. Her rule saw stagnation and decay. The Empire space has been retreating for some time. There were many elements that felt betrayed by this stagnation. Many elements had ambition and sought increased power and influence. The Empress coveted her position and ruled with an iron will. However, she was no true tyrant and did not wield a strong enough position."

The Barabel now laughed heartily. "Tis deee truth of it then how wazzz it done?" The two continued to drink and idly chatter about a recent game of sabacc before starting up again. "Fine, you see it wasn't Nighthunter himself that did the deed. Elements within the Empire wanted to remove the Empress and replace her with someone more malleable. Someone that they could rule through and wield power behind the scenes. They wanted a figurehead they could control."

The Barabel scoffed, "So how wazz it done then?" The other captain laughed and finished his tale. "During a chamber meeting the Empress' guards turned against her and cut her down on her throne where she sat and simply handed the crown to Nighthunter. They gave him no choice. It was the crown or death."