

Unsteady Ground: Prelude

Unexpected Search Results.



#14505
Aylin Sajark
Zehsaa Hysh

Aylin was getting bored. She had been flying around space for a while now on a wild Bantha chase for Bale, or so Zeshaa was telling her. She shook her head for what might have been the hundredth time already. The reports were clear: Bale died in an explosion, there was no way the big guy could have survived that. Zehsaa kept pressing her that he was out there, she saw him or felt him. Another of those Space Wizard magic tricks as far as she knew.

She sighed and got up from her pilot seat. They had been flying their Class Type B Escort Shuttle for a while now, and so far nothing has happened. She was happy about that, seeing that they were trespassing in a different clan's territory, but so far the comm stayed silent. She saw Spots, her C1 Astromech Droid, standing in the corner, powered down. They had to shut him down for the time being, as it was getting restless. She kept promising herself that she would update the droid's software, so that it was less inclined to go on a murder spree if it got bored again.

"Still nothing?" she heard Zehsaa say from her cabin.

"No, everything is quiet. Are you sure we are at the correct location? I'm getting bored here," Aylin complained.

"We are close, I'm sure of it."

"You said that five times before already... Give me something I can work with."

Zehsaa stepped into the hall where Aylin was standing, looking like she had been run over by a speeder. "That's not how the Force works. I just get glimpses, they are stronger here than at the other places."

Aylin sighed and looked Zehsaa over, "You should get some serious sleep. Even if Bale is alive, he wouldn't even recognize you."

"First we find him, then there is time for rest."

"No," said Aylin, more firmly than she expected to sound, "You go to bed and sleep. I will go snooping around the holonet. If he is here, as you keep saying, then he would have left a trace doing so."

Staring at Aylin for a moment, Zehsaa nodded in compliance and stepped back into her cabin. "Yes, mom." Zehsaa finally said with a soft chuckle.

Aylin arched a brow as Zehsaa left. She didn't expect her to listen to her, seeing how stubborn she normally is. "Goodnight, Zehsaa."

With that, she left Zehsaa alone and walked over towards her datapads and the communications console. Dropping down onto the chair, she started her search for anything that might give her hints. Siky, her little pet droid, showed up shortly after she sat down, and skittered over the desk. It looked up at her and chirped a question at her.

"Oh, hi Siky," Aylin said when she heard the little droid, "I'm looking for hints about Bale, Zehsaa thinks he is here somewhere."

Siky tilted its little head and chirped again.

"I know, Siky, the reports said he died, but Zehsaa believes he is still around."

Skittering further, Siky plugged itself into the comm port and chirped, letting her know that he would help searching too.

"Thanks, Siky," Aylin said with a smile and went back to her search.

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One of the beeping datapads woke Aylin up after falling asleep, resting partially on the table. Siky let out an excited chirp as well and skittered over to the datapad.

Pushing herself into a sitting position, Aylin took the datapad from the table and yawned as she tried to focus on what was written onto the datapad. It was all encrypted with a different security code than all the other files she had found so far.

Arching a brow, she looked closer into it, "Interesting..." she muttered softly and her fingers began racing over the keyboard.

Curious, Siky crawled closer and took a peak at the datapad too. It chirped and ran back to its station and pulled up a different file, equally encrypted. Chirping loudly to pull Aylin's attention to it, it pointed towards the file.

"You found a different one, Siky? This gets even better." Downloading the file to her datapad she continued her work on decoding the files.

"Oh!?" Aylin said surprised, "They are encrypted communication signals, and they are from the Collective. Let's follow these signals and see where they are coming from Siky."

Siky chirped in acknowledgement and both of them went back to searching for more of these signals.

It didn't take them long to find more of the signals and when Aylin decoded the newest signal, she found out that it was an active cell on Chyron. The Collective was planning to attack from the inside and deliver a huge blow against the Taldryan clan. Leaning back in her chair, she wondered what she should do. She didn't know anyone in the clan, just a few names said in passing, but they were part of the Brotherhood. Sighing, she let her head roll back and stared at the ceiling.

"Any luck finding something?"

Startling, Aylin fell onto the ground in a comic display of flailing limbs and a grunt of pain. "Gah!" It earned her a soft chuckle from Zehsaa and Siky looking over the edge of the desk with a questioning chirp.

Rubbing her head, she got up, "Will you stop sneaking up on me like that?"

Zehsaa shrugged, "I'm still a hunter."

Aylin stared at her for a moment and then held out a datapad, "There is a cell of the Collective active on Chyron, they are planning on attacking Taldryan from the inside," Aylin explained.

Taking the datapad from her, Zehsaa frowned, "What has that to do with finding Bale?"

"It's the Collective! The ones who plan on murdering every Space Wizard I know. We can't let them do that."

Looking up from the datapad, Zehsaa tilted her head, "I thought you didn't trust us."

"Eh..." Aylin rubbed her head again and looked sheepishly at Zehsaa, "Well yeah... but you made me realise that not all of them are the same. Just like Eli did... But that guy Jorm, he is one of the crazy ones that I do not trust at all. Let's just say I do not like the idea of all Space Wizards being killed for what they are."

Nodding slightly, Zehsaa looked at the data again, "I guess we can take a break and help Clan Taldryan out by ending this cell you found."

Aylin smiled brightly, "Yes! We get to see something else then the insides of this ship." She skipped around Zehsaa before darting off towards the cockpit and setting course towards the moon.

~~~ Chyron~~~

The streets were crowded with people and both of them got bumped into more than a few times. Aylin was trying to read her datapad to see which way they needed to go and was getting frustrated. Zehsaa was looking around as they slowly advanced through the crowd. It had been a long time since she saw so many people together in one place. She chuckled softly as she felt Aylin's rising frustration and guided her along the crowds to a somewhat quieter place.

"Thanks..." Aylin said after a moment and looked around. "I've never seen so many people around going all kinds of directions at one place."

"I have, though this seems to be a little more crowded than the places I have been."

"The cell should be a few blocks down the road on the left, but with this many people, I don't know if it will be a good idea after all."

Zehsaa patted her on the head and grinned, "Of course it will. Who would expect a Togruta and Nautolan to knock on their door to kick butt?"

"I don't kick butt, I only make sure nothing is left afterwards."

"All the more fun for me," Zehsaa chuckled and pulled Aylin along back into the crowd towards their target.

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The building they were looking for looked just like all the others, there were no real signs that would suggest it was hiding something criminal inside.

Zehsaa stood before the door and tilted her head slightly, "Are you sure this is the place?"

Aylin nodded, "Positive, the signal is coming from here, and the coordinates in their call matches the place too."

Reaching out through the Force, Zehsaa felt several people inside the building. They were lower than the level they were on. A few of them were walking back and forth between two spots while a different group seemed to be huddled together.

"Well, there is certainly something going on in there," Zehsaa said after a moment, "Let's pay them a visit."

Nodding, Aylin went over to the security lock on the door and after a few seconds got the door open. Slowly, they both crept inside and down the flight of stairs. Below, they could hear soft

murmurs and the sound of boxes being moved. Zehsaa held up her hand, signaling Aylin to wait. Slowly, she moved further and dared a peak around the corner. It was indeed as she had sensed before, a group huddled together over a table and what looked like plans of attack and a few moving back and forth, moving crates.

Nodding slightly towards Aylin, she was ready to attack. She left her spot in a blur. The men at the table noticed her first and drew their blasters. She evaded the shots nimbly and moved her hand, upending the table, through the Force, knocking the weapons out of their hands. The men in front of the table started yelling and kept trying to shoot her. She quickly moved in and grabbed the pistol arm of one of them and used it to shoot the other before knocking it out of his hands and twisting him to the floor.

Aylin had moved down the stairs as Zehsaa moved out of sight. She had her blaster ready. Looking around the corner, she saw Zehsaa fighting with the guys at the table and two others hiding behind crates a bit further off. She flinched as a bolt hit the wall next to her and started to return fire at the men hiding behind the crates.

Zehsaa, grabbed one of the guys as he emerged from around the table and smacked him face first into the table as she pointed her blaster at the other who was trying to run from the fight. She shot him down and finished off the other as he was knocked into the table and glanced over towards Aylin and her fight with the other men, chuckling softly. Keeping an eye on Aylin, she knelt down and started gathering the information that got thrown onto the ground and searched the men for any other devices that could hold information. Anything could be useful to them now.

It took some time, but Aylin finally took out the other man and she sighed in relief. She stepped towards Zehsaa as she glanced back towards the wall she was hiding behind. It was peppered black with scorch marks from the blaster bolts missing her.

“Did you find anything?” she asked Zehsaa.

“Some maps and more data sticks with probably more information about their plans,” Zehsaa said and pointed towards the crates. “Those are explosives and weapons to be sent out to other locations in their plans.”

“They must have had planned something big, then.”

Zehsaa nodded, “I think we should get this information to Clan Taldryan.”

“What about this?” Aylin said as she motioned to the crates, “We can’t just leave it like this.”

“We can’t take it along either. Do some of your explosive tricks so they can’t directly get to it without destroying the whole building.”

Aylin grinned, “I can do that, can’t promise the whole building stays in one piece, though.”

“Aylin...” Zehsaa said with mock sternness and started to walk back towards the stairs, “Don’t destroy the building.

“Aww, you are no fun,” Aylin mocked and set to work.

Zehsaa was waiting outside the building when Aylin came back up and walked up to her.

“All set, we better get moving now.”

Both of them walked away and mingled back into the crowd. As they were walking, Zehsaa turned around suddenly. She was sure she saw Bale moving along the crowds. She started to go after him. A hand grabbed her wrist, stopping her.

“Zehsaa, we need to go this way.”

“But I saw Bale, I’m sure of it.”

“We need to go, it’s about to go off and I don’t want to be near enough to be linked to it,” said Aylin as she began to pull Zehsaa along. “We will find him some other day.”

“But...”

Reluctantly Zehsaa allowed Aylin to pull her along and followed her back to where they landed their ship.