Where’s Geldi?

**38 ABY**

**Port Ol’Val**

**The Lucky Lekku**

Aru was enjoying a strong beverage after having lost a great amount of credits in a sabacc game. Concealed in the darker part of the Strip Club, and not really paying attention to the very sensual dancer that was making others drool, Aru finished his drink.

Tinker, his ever-faithful companion was by his side. The R2 unit beeped in a low tone, asking his master to rejoice.

“He had to be cheating”, he mumbled angrily.

“Who had?” A voice asked from above. Aru lift his head and saw a hooded figure. A large man stood at his table. The man was dressed in black clothing, except for a yellow belt with a very polished buckle.

“That guy over there!” Aru pointed across the room to an aged Ryn who clearly was enjoying his last victory at cards.

“It’s just a game”, the man said taking a seat, “what’s a few credits?”

Aru pulled out his blaster and discretely pointed it at the man.

“I don’t remember having invited you to seat with me. And two thousand credits is a great sum for me, so piss off!”

The man, unbothered by the blaster pointed at his face, reached into his pocket and laid a bag of credits on the table. Aru, already accustomed to estimate the value of a bag of credits, holstered his blaster and leaned back on his chair.

“Ten thousand Republic credits”, the man said calmly, “And five thousand more after.”

“After what?” Aru asked, clearly intrigued with what the man was going to propose.

“You see, I need to get to Tatooine as fast as possible, and I’m willing to pay for it”.

“I can see that,” the tall dark-haired human stated, “but why me? Who gave you my name?”

The large man picked up the credits bag and shook it, making a tingling metal noise.

“It’s no secret that you do transport services in Ol’Val. And your skills as a pilot have gained you a reputation.”

Before the man gave up on the deal due to his questioning, and since Aru needed the money, he accepted the contract.

“I’m gonna need your name or any type of ID,” the gray Jedi said, “As a safety measure.”

“I’d rather such details remained secret,” the man, rather suspiciously, “You see, I’m not the most legal man in the Galaxy.”

“I mean, who is, right?” Aru laughed at his own remark. “that’ll cost you an extra thousand. Republic credits only.”

“Fine! It’s a deal.” The large man quickly shook Aru’s hand and handed him the first part of the agreed payment. Weighing it in his own hands, Aru felt satisfied with the turn of events.

“Meet me in docks in half an hour,” the human said, “I’ll have everything ready by then.”

**Port Ol’Val**

**Aru’s Star Commuter 2000**

Aru entered his Star Commuter 2000. Upon closing the metallic door, he spotted a familiar face in the cockpit. Amis Jumah, his Twi’lek companion that he had rescued on one of his voyages, was reading a datapad and taking notes.

“Hey.” The Human said. She did not bother to greet him back.

“Where have you been?” She asked a bit aggressively.

“Does it matter? I got us a job.”

She finally turned to face him, her eyes depicting anger and concern. She approached him and sniffed the air around him.

“Hmpf! The Lucky Lekku.” She said with a despised tone.

“I wasn’t there for the Twi’leks if that’s what you’re wondering. The drinks there are cheaper.”

“What’s this job you got us?” She asked, ignoring his response.

“We’re taking a man to Tatooine!” Aru threw the bag of credits in one of the seats, which amazed Amis.

“So much!” She wasn’t used to see that much money together. “Who are we transporting?”

“I don’t know his name. He paid extra to keep that information classified.”

She gazed at the Human with anger.

“We don’t accept jobs from strangers. We accorded on that remember?”

“Come on Smal’lek, look at the size of that bag!”

“Don’t call me Smal’lek!” She interrupted.

“Besides, that’s just the first half. We get more after we deliver him.”

After a minute of debating the pros and cons of the contract, Amis finally agreed on the job. Together, they prepared the Star Commuter 2000 for takeoff, finishing just on time. Tinker beeped to alert his master of the arrival of the man.

Aru opened the hatch to his ship and allowed the large man inside.

“Take any seat of your liking and buckle up! This first part of the trip is tricky due to the asteroid field, but after that it should be a smooth ride.”

“A fine ship you got here,” the man then noticed Amis seated in the co-pilot seat. She had Plee, Aru’s porg, on her lap sleeping profoundly, “And who might this beautiful young lady be?”

Before Aru could say a thing, Amis turned and smiled.

“Olis. Pleasure to meet you.”

“Let’s get going. Everything’s ready.” Aru said, taking his seat.

**Hyperlane to Tatooine**

**Star Commuter 2000**

During the trip, the man kept quiet. And so did Aru and Amis. Every now and then they would cross eyes but say nothing, as it wasn’t needed between them.

Suddenly, the man’s commlink started beeping and he quickly picked it up.

“An urgent call,” he said, “I must take this. If you’ll excuse me.”

The man started speaking in Huttese with the other voice.

“What do you want?” He said angrily.

“I speak on behalf of my Master. He wants to see you immediately.”

“Well, you can tell Geldi that I’m on my way and that he needs to be patient!”

“Fool! Do not mention his name again or you’ll be in big trouble.”

“Sorry about that. Ill contact you when I arrive.”

The commlink turned off and the large man looked to his transporters with suspicion. He then returned to his normal self, having made sure that everything was alright.

“We will be jumping out of Hyperspace in a minute.” Said the gray Jedi, preparing the final stage of the voyage.

After they came out of Hyperspace, Aru safely landed on Tatooine, in an uninhabited location as per the man’s requesting. He got the second half of the agreed payment and they both went on their way.

When Aru re-entered his Star Commuter 2000, Amis quickly pulled his arm and showed him a datapad he had received from his superiors, Tali Sroka and Alaisy Tir’Eivra.

“What is it?” He asked confused.

“This man”, Amis said pointing at the file with the name Geldi, “The other man mentioned his name.”

“What did he say about him?” Aru asked, eager to know everything.

“They are to meet somewhere on Tatooine.”

As soon as she finished speaking, Aru pressed a button on his commlink, an emergency button with a direct connection to his Mistress’ commlink.

After a few seconds, Alaisy picked up.

“What is it apprentice?” She calmly said with her modulated voice.

“Mistress! I found him!” The man yelled at the commlink.

“Whoa. Calm down Aru. Who did you find?”

“I found Geldi! He’s on Tatooine!”

“That’s amazing! Good job apprentice. Send me your exact coordinates and await further instructions.”

“Immediately.”

Aru quickly sent his coordinates to his Mistress and began a scan of the area, using his ship’s radar. Any information he could gather in advance could be critical later.

“Apprentice, come in.” Alaisy’s voice was heard on the commlink.

“Yes Mistress?”

“We are sending an agent to your location to look for more information on Geldi. Meanwhile, you are to return to Port Ol’Val and we’ll discuss the next course of action once you arrive.”

“Copy that. I’m on my way. Aru out.”