

Selenian Repair Yards

Selen, Orbit

38 ABY

Rough. Cold. Coarse. The bare durasteel hull of the *Voidbreaker*, or what was left of it, scraped against her fingers as Tali dragged her hand softly against a punctured hull panel and sighed. The old war horse, well past her prime even when they'd bought her, was in a sorry state. After the ambush by a Dawn Conclave vessel that dwarfed her in size and firepower, it had taken a small miracle of the Force to keep the Consular-class cruiser from breaking up during re-entry.

She'd been almost certain it wouldn't have survived the trip back to Dajorra among the salvage vessels, but Yumni Ha had once again outdone herself. Now what remained of the once-proud vessel lay in a docking cradle with salvage crews picking at it with disinterest. It seemed no-one had really chosen the vessel's final fate, or at least informed them. Hydrospanners lay next to plasma torches.

Pulling back from the hull plating, where the dark blue of the ship's paint had chipped away and charred under the heat of atmospheric re-entry, Tali leaned back against the railing and tried to remember when she'd first seen the ship.

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"And this is our new home! I give you the Voidbreaker!" Koliss Welcott's boisterous words echoed over the dilapidated hallway leading up to a parked Consular c70 that had seen better days. Its turrets were mismatched, its port engine cowling missing, and the sensor cluster at its back was a hodgepodge of cobbled together arrays from at least five different manufacturers.

But to the naive young Twi'lek, who knew nothing about starships, it was awe inspiring.

"Is this really ours?!" Tali squeaked, unable to hide her excitement. "It's amazing!"

"Indeed it is, lavender," Koliss chuckled. "And as the first Captain of the Voidbreaker, it will be my honor to lead you out into the void, and break the enemies of Arcona." He coughed a little at the looks his over the top delivery got him from the more senior members of the House, but the Twi'lek couldn't stop smiling from ear to ear.

"But without further ado," Koliss pressed on, turning smartly on his heels and gesturing towards the extended entry ramp. "Let us go have a tour of our new home away from home, eh? You've all got cabins and I can't wait to show you the galley."

"Vait, ve get our own rooms?!" Tali chirped, lekku twitching with excitement.

"Uh, yes. Of course you do. Where else would you stay during extended dep—!?"

His reply was cut short abruptly as the purple Twi'lek threw herself at him and wrapped her arms, and lekku, around him.

"Oh Captain, it's amazing! I've never had a room of my own!" She beamed from ear to ear.

Koliss, cheeks suddenly a shade of crimson, tugged on his collar as the lavender woman threatened to squeeze the propriety out of him.

"I am, glad, that you are so enthused. If you want, I can show you to your quarters and..." His voice trailed off under the disapproving gazes of the Qel-Droman seniors shaking their collective heads, the Human captain's cheeks burning red while the happy Twi'lek finished her affections.

"I'd love that!" Tali chirped. "Lead the way, Captain!" she giggled, grabbing his hand as the battleteam embarked to explore their new charge.

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He'd looked so handsome in his smart grey jacket and light stubble, his brown eyes always so kind. Even in the darkest of moments, he'd been there for her.

Until he wasn't.

The pang of longing still hurt, but the pain was dull and easy to bear. A melancholy sigh fled her lips and her gaze wandered, finding a patched section on the venerable vessel's starboard side, just below the turbolaser turrets. It was an older wound...

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"Easy, eeeeasy..." Leeadra Halcyon called out, the small Pantoran's voice strained as she tried to peer out through the starboard window to see where Eilen Jath was currently swiveling the Voidbreaker to.

"How far away are we?" the half-Bothan inquired, her usually erratic motions suddenly calm and collected as her eyes kept darting from display to display and both hands steady on the ship's controls.

"A hundred... Seventy-five... Fif— damn it I can't see!" Leeadra grunted, already on her tiptoes and still unable to maintain a visual on the landing pad. "Hold her steady, I just need to..." She searched around the bridge and noticed a half-empty storage bin, calling it to her with a tug through the Force. It floated effortlessly to her side and she climbed upon it for a better view.

"Fifty meters, thirty... Oh, watch out for the beam crane over there." She unhelpfully pointed in the crane's direction.

“Where?!” Eilen tore her attention away from the instruments to look at where the Pantroan was pointing, only to get a frontal view of the Captain’s round booty, bent over as she was trying to call out the distance. Eilen froze, her hands suddenly shaking as her heart began pounding in her chest, the perfect curve of the Pantoran cheeks utterly alluring.

“...fifteen... slow down... ten... five! Eilen, slow down or we’re going to—!”

CRASH!

“Erm... S-sorry?” Eilen managed, cheeks burning red while furry hands clutched her face in utter embarrassment. Leeadra merely stared back, about to snap something sharp when she noticed the lanky girl still hadn’t stopped staring at her. A slow, knowing smile crept upon her lips as she put two and two together.

“My bad,” she stated and offered a kind smile. “I’ll try to be less of a distraction next time...” she gave her a playful wink before heading out to inspect the damage.

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Tali chuckled and shook her head. It had taken Kelviin and Eilen the better part of two days patching up that particular ‘dent in the paint’, but be their current situation what it may, both the half-bothan and Pantoran had seemed to enjoy the relationship that small incident had sparked. Indeed, hers had not been the only romance the *Voidbreaker* had facilitated. Not to mention the other *ancillary activities* that the poor old warhorse had had to endure...

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“Attention! Consul on deck!” Leeadra called out as Kordath’s foot touched the Voidbreaker’s deck. Behind her, the crew snapped to attention in a way that pushed their chests out even more. Dressed in brightly colored dresses that somehow managed to be too short at both ends, offering either too much cleavage or not enough hem, and yet still somehow not clingy, the uniforms chosen for ‘Inspection Day’ were indeed designed for a purpose.

Kordath’s shit-eating grin was hardly subdued as he made his way up the ramp and towards the line of crew women, enjoying every moment of this little show made specifically for him. Clad in the same cut of dress, but hers a deep azure, Leeadra saluted the Consul and turned to her crew.

“Pree-seent, huh!”

As one, the crew pressed their chests out even more, the motion tugging the hems of their skirts ever higher up shapely thighs and threatening to slip over the curves of toned buttocks. The Ryn was starting to have the shakes, having to clasp one hand in the other behind his back as he

paced mock-thoughtfully up the line of Qel-Droma's finest while doing his best to not lick his lips or peer under inviting skirts.

Behind him, Captain Bly kept his eyes front and expression neutral, though behind that veneer of indifference was a roiling mix of disgust at having been reduced to guarding such a lech, and the red-blooded desire to join in the Consul's ogling. Tali could sense every emotion as she stood in line, next to Eilen who was blushing so hard it threatened to set her cheek fur ablaze, and Lucine Vasano who'd taken on a glassed expression of polite indifference.

"I trust you are pleased with the inspection, Consul?" Lee inquired.

"Aye," Kordath paused and nodded. "Most pleased indeed..." His gaze wandered up a purple thigh, sliding to a crimson mane, and sliding back down a shapely alabaster ankle. "All be in prime condition. Tha' much be certain!" he mused with a wide grin.

"Would you care to inspect the second squad now, sir?"

"Tha second squad? I nae knew ya had more ta inspect?"

"Right this way, sir," Leeadra stated, gesturing him through the blast doors and into the next section of corridor.

Tali continued to wait, struggling not to let the smirk tug too hard on her mouth.

"Ah hell-nae!" The shout of disgust was music to her ear-cones, the Consul returning from the way he'd come in a hurried jog. "Ya did nae have ta..."

"But sir, your offices were very specific that all of the Voidbreaker's crew take part of the inspection..." Leeadra tried, herself almost bursting into laughter.

"[AM INSPEKTOR READY!]" The synthetic voice from Kelviin's datapad announced as the Wookiee shuffled in after the fleeing Ryn, miraculously crammed into the same clingy dress that most definitely did not reach down far enough to cover everything.

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A wide smile lingered on her lips as Tali turned a piece of dark blue durasteel in her hand. So many memories. So many stories. So many good friendships and new acquaintances.

"Goodbye, old friendt," she said listfully, patting the tired war horse for one final time. "I couldt not have askedt for a better home away from home."

She pocketed the piece and turned away, nodding to the breakers as she walked past them. As the plasma torches were lit for the final voyage, she could not help but wipe away a tear.