**“Return of Dante”**

**1855 hours  
Bridge, *Petitor Umbrarum, Decimator* class warship  
Descending from orbit around the moon Ragnath  
Caperion System**

It had been many months since Dante had set foot in the territory of Scholae Palatinae. After his falling out with the Empress, he had loaded up his family and crew and headed out to Carrida II to visit his properties there. Petitor Umbrarum still had many holdings throughout the galaxy, and the board of directors hadn’t seen one of the main members of the Dante family in a number of years. Kell’s presence at the oldest locations in their portfolio had increased production and profits by 150%. His twin brother, Kyle, had stayed behind with his husband to run the different Big Daddy’s locations, and his step-mother, Leah Celeste, was set up in the Dante estate on Carrida II with the Shadowstalkers and Jumbo Ferraro.

As his Decimator landed, Kell paced the command bridge. New to his group was his half-sister, Maria Dante. She had just finished her trials with her brother as her master, and she was eager to live up to the Dante family name. The Obelisk warrior smiled a bit as he remembered his first mission with the Hammer’s Fist, and the first time he had gone out as a Knight with the Shadowstalkers of Clan Arcona.

With a slight bump announcing the landing, Maria turned in her seat and said “All ready to go, sir?”

Kell shook his head and said “Yeah…. I don’t like being recalled for nothing so this better be really important.”

Major Guile responded with “You have a transmission that just came in… It’s General Hunter, and he wants to speak with you…”

“Alright…. I’ll take it in my quarters…” Kell said as he walked off the bridge.

The crew was a bit perplexed and looked at each other. Maria said “Is this normal around here?”

Guile responded with “It’s always different around here. You’ll get used to it” and turned back to her console to check the numbers.

Buk just yawned and leaned back in his seat. “A transmission from Ric isn’t a good thing. You might want to start checking your gear.”

The newly minted Knight looked at the other members of the crew in amazement.

**1900 hours  
Kell’s Quarters  
*Peititor Umbrarum***

He plopped down on his bed and hit the comms button. “Let’s see what Ric wants…”

His old friend’s visage appeared and started off with “So… It seems that my plans have finally come together...” The Emperor’s Hammer veteran looked stern, but not as if he was about to die.

“What? You’re getting too old to have knocked up some bar maid” retorted Kell as he shed his flight suit.

“No… nothing like that. My plans for the clan…”

That got Kell’s attention. “You aren’t talking about what we were talking about one night after the Empress got rid of us?”

“Yes….” with a slight smile on his face. “There’s also something else that I’ve been working on that might interest you.”

The rest of the conversation went on for another 20 minutes.

The bridge crew heard the door open and turned to see their leader dressed in his full combat load. “Change of plans… we’re going to meet up with Ric…” He tossed the major a data pad. “Here’s our coordinates that we’re heading to. Let’s get off this rock and get started. Full briefing in 20 minutes.”

The major turned to Maria and said “See… I told you…” with a smirk and started inputting the data in the navigational computers.

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