

## Raider - Kano Tor Tydex - 10639

It was just another day for Kano as he made his way from Yuanming to Camp Kandosii to check in on the Deathwatch. The Kom'rk-class Fighter he had borrowed from the House Wren hangar was empty apart from the 4 crew members piloting the sleek Mandalorian vessel. He sat in the passenger bay looking over all the new tasks he was taking on as the new House Wren Aedile when a beeping noise inside his helmet alerted him to an incoming transmission from the highest levels of Clan Vizsla.

Kano hit a switch on the wall of the ship and a figure came to life before him. The man was instantly recognizable from in customized tactical Mandalorian armor and the Mythosaur tattoo on his forearm.

"Kano, you are invited to The Trials of Ullr. If you accept this invite your vessel will be redirected immediately and you will be dropped off at an undisclosed location for your personal trials to begin. There will be no prep time. You will respond immediately or you will be excluded from this year's trials. Do you accept?"

Kano did not hesitate to respond to the Clan Vizsla Consul.

"I'm in."

"Good." Said Declan Roark as the hologram vanished.

Before Kano could climb to his feet he felt the ship veer to the right as it changed direction. When he made his way to the cockpit of the ship he found that the door had been locked and his access was not allowed.

\*They aren't kidding about undisclosed location are they?\* Kano thought to himself as he went back to the passenger bay. He checked over the items he had on him to ensure they were in top notch order.

Not much time passed before Kano felt the ship descending and heard the scraping of branches against the hull. A quick thud and the ship came to a rest. There was silence for a moment before pressure was released and the spiral door twisted open and the ramp lowered to the ground.

Kano upholstered his custom Westar-35 known as Merciless Glory and made his way down the ramp. The Mandalorian knew he was deep in the forest from the size of the trees surrounding the ship and the various cries of random creatures echoing all around. As he stepped off of the ramp it retracted back into the ship and the door closed. The engines then roared to life and the Kom'rk-class Fighter lifted through the canopy of branches and leaves above and vanished into the sky.

“Why couldn’t they have dropped me in a hostile city? I hate the woods.” Kano said to himself as he activated his helmet’s thermal spectrum.

The Mandalorian scanned his surroundings through the T shaped visor. The forest was filled with creatures moving about their lives both hunting and being hunted. Using the thermal spectrum would bring no assistance with figuring out just what his trial would consist of, at least not at this moment.

Kano switched back to standard view and started his walk into the forest. He did not know if he was making his way out of the forest or trekking deeper into them but he knew better than to stay in one place for too long. As he walked the light began to fade into darkness. The sounds of the forest around him changed from an almost soothing song of nature to the screams and growls of the larger predators doing what they did best.

Kano continued moving through the forest for another few hours. Darkness had fully engulfed the Mandalorian’s surrounds so he had switched his vision back into the thermal spectrum. While climbing over a waist high log there was a sudden commotion not far ahead of him. Kano peered in the direction the noise was coming from and after a few seconds he caught sight of the red and orange heat signature of a human moving quickly in his direction. Not far behind the first figure was a second human moving in the same direction. Kano could not tell if they were coming to attack or if the first was running from the second.

The Mandalorian ducked down as quietly as he could behind the fallen log and waited. He listened as the two drew closer and closer. Then as they both scurried up and onto the fallen log. They both leapt down and landed just feet in front of Kano. He stood up and pointed his left vambrace at one of the men’s backs and fired a shot from the Westar in his right hand between the two.

The sudden flash of light and appearance of the bolt made the men stop in their tracks. They turned and Kano could make out that they were criminals that had been tossed into the wilds and banished as punishment. They wore makeshift clothing and carrying nothing more than crudely sharpened sticks.

“State your name and reason for being here.” Shouted Kano at the two men.

“Frak this.” Said one of the men as he turned and began to run away.

The blaster bolt left Merciless Glory and struck the man in between his shoulder blades before he could take a full step. The body buckled and fell forward onto the ground with a trail of smoke rising into the air.

“We need to run before it catches up...” The remaining criminal called out before being interrupted by a large crashing sound.

The crashing sound was coming from behind Kano and growing louder and louder by the second. When he looked over his shoulder Kano saw the thermal outline of a large creature coming towards them. Kano turned to run and saw that the man that had been standing there was already running away. He was several feet ahead of the Mandalorian.

Kano sprinted through the woods behind the criminal and kept listening to the sounds of the large creature growing closer. After several minutes of running Kano pointed his left vambrace at the man in front of him and launched his grabbling line around the man's knees. The criminal fell to the ground and began to struggle desperately with the line around his knees as Kano ran past.

The line detached from the vambrace and Kano glanced over his shoulder in time to see what he now knew was a reptilian creature pouncing onto the man. One of its large claws covered the man from his ankles to his waist. The man let out a scream as the creature's snub face clamped down and tore his upper torso in half.

Kano spun around and sent a cone of fire in the creature's direction. The woods around them lit up and Kano could see that the large creature was a Boma. The Boma snarled at the flame and jumped back as the flamethrower ignited the ground and the corpse where it had just been standing. The flames from the vambrace died out and stopped altogether after about half a minute. The flames on the ground flickered and the light danced across the Boma's face as it bared its teeth at Kano.

“Great. Just great.” Kano said out loud as he fired several blaster shots at the creature.

The shots were enough to get the creature running in his direction again. Just before the creature pounced Kano fired his jetpack to life and began to launch himself into the air. The Boma was faster than Kano anticipated and its large clawed paw struck Kano across the back. The jetpack broke loose and flew off into the forest erratically as Kano fell, hit the ground, and rolled.

As the Mandalorian began to climb to his feet the Boma swiped at him and struck him with its heavy paw. Kano's beskar armor took most of the impact but the hit still rattled him and sent him rolling across the ground. Before he could attempt to get up the creature's large paw came down on his back. The weight of the creature pinned Kano down and started to restrict his breathing.

Kano shoved his hand into a pouch on his belt and pulled out his elite shock collar. He then whipped the shock collar around his back and against the Boma's leg pressing down on him. The collar clicked into place and sent a massive charge through the creature's body. It roared in

pain and stepped back. A second jolt went through the creature and it began to chew at the collar in an attempt to remove it. As its teeth ripped the collar apart the device detonated. The small explosion tore the creature's paw from its leg and ripped part of its face away. It howled in pain as the blood dripped down its shredded jowls. Kano took aim with his Westar-35 once more and fired 4 shots into the open wound on the Boma's face. The creature collapsed to the ground.

Kano let out a sigh of relief and walked over to the dead creature. He sat down on the ground and leaned back against the large reptile to relax and catch his breath. He ran his hand along the creature's reptilious skin.

"You're gonna make a good office chair."

Kano pressed a button on his vambrace and the comms opened up with the ship he was on earlier that day.

"I am going to need an extraction. Make sure there is a tarp in the cargo bay, a big one. And tell the boys over at Camp Kandosii to fire up the grill. I got a treat."