**Delay**

**By Dante
#2407**

Explosions were going off throughout the station as the Decimator locked onto the docking ring on the underside of the station.

“Major…. Keep us attached to the station so that we have a ride out of here. When we do make it back, we are going to be running with probably an entire army on us,” said Kell as he walked off the bridge.

The rest of the team was already waiting by the airlock: his father, Angelo Palpatine Dante, Buk Rojers, and his sister, Maria Dante.

Each was wearing different armor, but they were all armed to the teeth. Angelo, newly reappeared after his supposed death a few years before, was decked out in the beskar armor that he had been wearing since his return. The assassin amongst them, Buk, was wearing his Inquisitor gear, while Maria was decked out in a set of trooper armor.

Angelo took over and said “Mission is to delay the enemy for as long as possible.” He pulled up a map on the screen on the bulkhead and pointed to a connection of escape pods on the same level as they were connected to. “We have to maintain our defense so that as many of the station personnel can get off the platform before it is taken over or destroyed. This nexus point is where we will make our stand.”

Grimacing, Buk said “I still don’t see why we have to get involved in this. Isn’t what they have an Iron Legion for?”

Nodding, Angelo came back with “I’d have to agree, but the Empress has commanded that we help the Iron Throne.”

“Alright… I don’t like it though,” said Buk as he readied his gear. “Let’s go… I better not die on this mission…”

Kell slammed the hatch release, and the air around them immediately filled with smoke and the smell of burning wires.

As the group moved out, they immediately began taking fire. Opening up with their blasters and rifles, they began slowly making their way through the enemy soldiers until they reached the nexus point. From there, they set up a perimeter with Maria and Kell providing supporting fire with their rifles while Angelo and Buk went more in close to handle their business.

Everything was going great until the group of Hive Marines appeared.

“Target them before they can spread out!” yelled Kell as he shot a few microgenades towards the enemy forces.

Angelo nodded and moved forward as the beskar armor handled the few glancing blasts that the older man couldn’t avoid. Using his wrist blasters, he launched a couple of rockets before throwing a combination of grenades at the Marines.

Explosions filled the chamber as Angelo hurled himself down on the deck.

Body parts were all that were left as the members of Scholae moved forward to look for enemy survivors.

Buk went a bit too far down the corridor and came running back as fast as he could. “MOVE! It’s a whole platoon!”

Kell turnd and sent a micro grenade down the passageway as the team raced towards the Decimator.

“Shut the hatch!” yelled Kell as he jumped face first into the *Petitor Umbrarum*.

Angelo slammed his hand against the airlock control, and the ship shuddered as it broke free from the station. Maria and Buk were leaning back against the bulkhead just happy to be alive. “Let’s get to the bridge…” said the eldest Dante as he helped his son up. The pair embraced and then headed up a deck.

As Kell entered the bridge, Major Guili gave him the sitrep with “Disengaged and heading for the new coordinates that I just received.”

“Alright…” Kell said as he sat down in the captain’s chair. The viewscreen showed the death knell of the station before him. Explosions from the self-destruct system were like a giant fireworks display as the small craft joined dozens of others heading for the rendezvous location.