

Face Off



By Aylin Sajark

Option 2: STOP THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

“Are you sure he is hiding here somewhere, Aylin?” Ankira asked through her comm.

“Yes, I’m sure. I saw him on the security system. He seemed more crazy than a Space Wizard is supposed to be.” There was a moment of silence before she continued again. “Are you sure you want to go in alone?”

Ankira let out a chuckle, “Don’t worry about me, I have had my share of fights with various Jetii and Darjetii. You don’t need to worry about me.”

“If you say so,” came a hesitant reply from Aylin. She began to wonder who was the more crazy one in this fight, Ankira or Evant. For now, all she could do is keep an eye to the events that would fold out in the coming minutes. Taking a glance at her datapad a smile formed on her lips, her request had been answered, Ankira might not agree, but she felt they needed a backup plan.

-*Deep Tunnels*-

Ankira was moving down the seemingly endless tunnels that connected the Academy to the Dark Ascent. They had seen how Evant had fallen into the hands of the Collective and was now working for them. He was helping them get into the Dark Ascent. The mission had been simple, take him out with any means needed. Ankira knew it wouldn’t be as easy as the mission made it look like. After all it was a Jetii she was going to fight, but it would prove her worth and hoped that it would mean more contracts for her.

The sounds of footsteps pulled her from her thoughts. She quickly looked around to try and find the source of the steps. It didn’t take long as a small squad of Collective soldiers showed up at the end of the hallway. Quickly diving out of sight she hid behind one of the reinforcement arches and waited with her weapons drawn.

The group advanced slowly, she waited till they were just past her hiding spot and attacked. The first two didn’t even have a chance to register what was happening. The remaining soldiers opened fire at her. She kept moving, going around them and returning fire at them. Trying their best, they weren’t able to land a hit on Ankira and soon after they were all taken care of by her blasters.

“Guess I’m going in the right direction if they are walking here,” Ankira said to herself.

She heard some chatter come over the comms of the soldiers, it sounded as if they found another target to fight with.

“Someone else is crazy enough to enter the tunnels as well?”

Picking up the comm she listened some more. They were getting hit hard by the other person, someone in white armour and a big cannon. Slowly it dawned on her.

“Zentru’la... What is he doing here?” Keying her comm she contacted Aylin. “Hey, why is Zentru’la here?”

“I figured you would want the fight alone, so he is keeping the cannon fodder of you back, but you should hurry, it is getting busy down there.”

“It would have been nice if you had informed me sooner... Aylin.”

“You know now,” Aylin said happily. Ankira could hear her typing. “But seriously, get moving.”

“Alright, I’m going,” Ankira answered as she began to run through the tunnels.

Ankira quickly advanced through the tunnels. Along the way she found a few more points of resistance, but they were taking care off quickly. Finally she came to a wider area. The area looked as if it was some kind of underground storage. There were stacks of containers and silos on the sides of the ‘road’ that ran down the middle to the otherside of the room and into a new set of tunnels on the other side.

Slowly she stepped into the room, keeping her Westars at the ready as she glanced around. She was sure he would be here somewhere as most Darjetii liked to fight in larger spaces than what the tunnels provided. As she stepped further she heard another set of footsteps and turned towards the sound. There he was. Evant was standing between two rows of crates and stared coldly at her.

“So they send a Mandalorian to do the dirty job? How pathetic.” Evant said as he moved his hands forward, sending the crates on either side of him flying at Ankira.

Quickly vaulting over them she let a barrage of shots fly at Evant. The snap-hiss told her that he had ignited his saber and swatted a few of her shots aside.

“You got to do better if you want to beat me,” he laughed at her before running full speed at her and swinging his blade at her.

Diving out of the way she shot at him again as she rolled to a stop. He followed after her, easily evading her shots and swung his blade at her again. She kept out of reach each time he tried to

hit her. Needing distance she used the repulsor just as he did an high arced attack and blasted him back, knocking the saber out of his hand.

Landing with a grunt, Evant picked himself up and threw his hands forward again, sending two crates flying at her. She dived out of the way of the first crate, but the second one hit her against her side, making her lose one of her blasters.

Narrowing her eyes she turned towards him just in time to see him charge at her again. Using her jet boots for extra speed she charged at him too. They both ended in a crash against each other, Ankira having landed a hit on his gut and Evant against her chest. Both of them grunted from the impact and stumbled back.

Gasping for air Ankira watched Evant and pointed her blaster at him but struggled to pull the trigger.

"What is wrong, little Mando?" Evant uttered as he held his gut.

"Nothing," hissed Ankira and moved her other arm forward and shot her grabbing hook at him, snagging his legs. Feeling the hold on her other hand wane she pulled hard, knocking him over and fired at him. Evant rolled out of the way and tugged on the cord, making her step forward. Tugging back on the line, she pulled Evant across the floor who was trying to get the line from his ankles. Shooting at him again, Evant pushed her back with a trust of his open hand, sending her flying back into a crate.

As Evant got up, he called his lightsaber back to him and advanced towards Ankira. Grunting she got back up and aimed her blaster at him. An eerie grin appeared on Evant's face as he held his saber ready. In the blink of an eye they were at each other again, Evant attacking with his saber and Ankira evading the blade and shooting at him as she moved out of range. Evant kept following after each evasion, trying to cut her up.

Using her jet boots, she created a bigger distance between them, landing on one of the crates. Evant jumped easily after her and swung at her again. Vaulting over him she unleashed a gout of fire at him from her vambrace. Using his cloak to catch most of the fire he tossed it aside when she was done. Running towards her second blaster, she dived for it and with a roll picked it up and fired with both of them at him. Evant swatted the bolts away with his saber as he advanced at her again.

She had to find a way to end this fight soon else it would be finished for her. Grabbing her frag grenade she got on the move again, she needed distance and not enough time for him to react to the grenade. Evant was quick to follow her, vaulting onto crates as easily as she did. Jumping up high into the air she tossed the activated grenade down and fired another salvo of shots at him, hoping it would give the grenade time to explode before it got noticed. Evant tried to push

the grenade away but was too late to push it out of reach and got hit by fragments of the grenade. Ankira wasn't safe from the blast either and both of them got riddled by the fragments.

Panting Ankira landed on the ground and turned to watch Evant, his clothes were now full of cuts and turning red at various places. Feeling the trickle of blood on her own body she hissed. This had to end now, but he might just be too strong for her after all.

Evant saw her struggle and let out a laugh, "I enjoyed this warm up, but this is where it will end, Mando."

"I'm not done yet, Darjetii," Ankira answered as she aimed her Westars at him again.

"You know that won't help, but humour me again."

Ankira opened fire at him again and Evant slapped away the bolts again and got closer to her. It didn't take long before they were in hand to hand distance again and Evant swung his saber down. Ankira caught it with her small shield from her vambrace, holding the blade away and shooting him. Evant was quick enough to grab her wrist and push the weapon away. Giving a quick kick in the jingles, she freed herself and struck him on the back of his head as he doubled over. Grunting loudly, Evant landed on his knees, but Force pushed her back just as she wanted to finish him off.

"Close," Evant said between pants as he slowly got up again.

Ankira landed a bit away from him and quickly rolled back to her feet, then she spotted the white armour of Zentru'la.

"Then it becomes time... to finish it now," Ankira said as she tried to catch her breath.

She pointed her blasters at him again and so did Zentru'la aim his heavy blaster at him. Evant shook his head and stood ready. Both of them unleashed salvos of plasma at Evant. He jumped out of the way and flung a crate towards Zentru'la. This gave Ankira the chance to fire her poisoned darts at Evant. Two of the three darts hit him in his back and released their poison into his body.

It didn't take long for the poison to take effect and Evant was getting trouble to move and coordinate his attacks. Taking advantage of his weakened state, both Ankira and Zentru'la shot him again, this time hitting him all over. Evant let out a scream of pain as he wasn't able to evade or block the bolts and collapsed, dying within seconds.

Letting out a sigh of relief Ankira panted heavily as she watched the still form of Evant.

"Looks like I got here just in time," Zentru'la noted.

“Just in time is early enough,” said Ankira as she picked up Evant’s lightsaber. “Had fun in the tunnels?”

Zentru’la chuckled and nodded, “They were a nice warmup. We should be going if we want to help the others on the surface.”

Ankira nodded and both of them walked back through the tunnels.