

Striking a deal

Augur Xantros

11518

Unknown year, a primitive planet in a Galaxy close, close away

Xantros looked around and smiled politely. Surrounded by soldiers aiming some sort of primitive slughthrowers at him, he continued to smile politely. He was not a diplomat, but he was a skilled assassin and a powerful Force user. He hoped to make good use of that.

„Who is in charge here?” asked the Augur calmly.

„I am Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Sandurs,” answered a man in a field military uniform with insignias corresponding to his rank. „You speak our language? How?”

„Actually, YOU speak MY language,” replied the Duros, though he was not sure how it was possible they spoke the same language. „It is not important, I have an offer for you.”

„I do not think you are in a position to make any offers or demands,” commented the military commander of the human army.

„Let me disagree, Brigadier General,” spoke the Augur. „I have the abilities and information that the military forces of your country might use to make it even stronger.”

„I am a Lieutenant Colonel...” started the human.

„I am pretty much sure that your role in allowing me to talk to your political leader will make you a Brigadier General in no time,” lied Xantros. He was pretty much sure that his appearance would cause more troubles than benefits, but he focused his mind and distorted man's thoughts to make him more promotion hungry.

„You might be right,” replied Sandurs. „I will arrange a meeting with our president, but I must have something to prove your resourcefulness to our country.”

„Do you have a holo camera?” asked the Force Disciple.

„What?”

„Ah, I forgot that you are so...young in comparison to my race,” explained Xantros. „Do you have any recording device here?”

„It can be arranged,” agreed the Lieutenant Colonel.

Few minutes later, the Duros started his show. He juggled few stones without touching them. He stopped some stones and bullets with the Force Barrier and jumped two meters in the air from where he stood. He smiled proudly seeing that it impressed people watching him. He was sure that his show convinced the troopers to arrange a meeting with the president of the country, so he decided to keep some tricks for future – either to impress the president or to get himself out of prison in sake the humans wanted keep him in custody.

„How about transporting my ship to a safe location?” asked Xantros. „It is heavily damaged and useless to people on your level of technological development, but I do not want anyone I cannot

trust to put their hands on it.”

„Agreed, it will be safe in one of us bases,” answered the Lieutenant Colonel, unaware that the Duros set the Gozanti-class Imperial Freighter's communication system to broadcast a wide-range distress signal. If anyone was to come save the alien, they would be able to locate it along Augur's position.

It took several hours to reach the base called by the soldiers Area 51. It was where his ship was going to be stored. Soon after, also the president arrived there to meet the alien being. The leader of the country was an older man with gray hair and blue eyes. The man seemed to be genuinely interested in his abilities. To make even a greater impression, Xantros created a sphere of darkness between him and the human. He saw that the president was shocked with the Augur's abilities.

„You said something about an offer for us,” stuttered the president.

„Yes, I do not want to stay here forever. My home is somewhere else,” started the Duros.

„I can clearly see that,” replied the human.

„However, in exchange for protection of me and my ship, food and clothes, I am willing to provide you with an opportunity to study and to reverse-engineer my pistol,” spoke the Force Disciple, but seeing that it did not convince his human interlocutor, he promised one more thing. „As you can see, I have displayed impressive powers.”

„They were indeed impressive,” replied the president.

„While it will require some extra effort, I am willing to look for people of your kind, who may have a gift similar to mine, and to teach them all I know.”

It was definitely a tempting vision. The country with an army of ultimate soldiers like that would definitely become even more important in the global politics. It was not always possible or recommended to nuke a target area, but inhumanly strong and fast soldiers protected by their own shields of some sort might tip the balance of any conflict with precise strikes that would result in death of key leaders of hostile factions, intercepting top secret blueprints or sabotaging targets crucial for sustaining economy.

„Fine, I need to discuss the details with key politics of my country, but your offer seems to be honest and beneficial for us,” spoke the president, unaware that he was manipulated by Xantros all the time. „I will arrange that you will be allowed to move around the base freely and when we sign the agreement, you will be granted a more comfortable place to live at.”

The Duros nodded. He could not expect anything more in his situation. Locals were quite primitive and they would be unable to repair the malfunctioning hyperdrive of the freighter. Unfortunately, the other pilot, who was also a mechanic, got killed in the crash. And it could take few months or even years, before anyone would find him, if he was lucky to be found at all.