

## **Party plotting**

### **Augur Xantros**

#### **11518**

#### **39 ABY, Imperial Palace, Ragnath, Caperion system**

Xantros kept staring at the invitation that appeared on the communication consol in his quarters. It stated there was some sort of award ceremony going to be held in few hours in the throne room of the Imperial Palace. He sighed with disgust. He was aware that people needed morale boost, but holding a party was not the best idea. People needed successes and praise for their hard work so that they could that they are capable of great deeds. They had to see that they were getting better and better everyday. Parties meant nothing. They were just a waste of time. However, as the Aedile of House Empire's Chosen, He had to take part in the ceremony, despite the fact that he did not want to do that. He simply had no other choice. All leaders of the Clan were expected to attend the ceremony.

The Duros sighed again and opened the wardrobe next to his bed on the other side of the room. He found his best clothes. A long dark robe with a purple collar and purple borders of sleeves. The robe was covered with shining glitter. He did not like it as he saw it to be too expensive and too pompous, but it reminded him of the times that he was the most successful as a Krath. It was a sign of a status one could earn through passion, dedication and hard work. A little message smuggled during the ceremony that he did not want to attend. A subtle sign that he was ready to stretch the rules to get what he really wanted. A message stating that he might have abandoned old ways and philosophy, but he was still determined to do whatever he saw necessary to achieve his goal.

Few hours later, when the ceremony was about to start, Xantros entered the throne room in the Imperial Palace. He walked slowly and confidently towards his usual place behind the throne of the Empress. He looked around and smiled casually as he was well-aware that his choice of clothing attracted attention of other participants of the event. He noticed that some of the attendants, mainly veterans that remember the times of forsaken Orders, realized what he meant by wearing his Krath robes.

As the Augur assumed, the ceremony award turned out to be extremely boring. Shadow Nighthunter, the Empress and the Consul of Clan Scholae Palatinae, gifted some awards to the most outstanding members of the Imperial Clan. A Steel Cross to Reiden Karr, Sykes Jade. An Anteian Cross to Kamjin, Dakari, Ulfsark, Xendar Thendaris and Malodin. A Dark Cross to Lucyeth, Rayne, Cello, Katyusha Neige and Kah'ri Marru. Few more people only praised for their service to the Empire. Xantros continued to smile in a mysterious way as he pondered on the opportunity to get rid of Shadow and to replace her with Reiden as the new Emperor and having him deprived of any way to resign, to neglect his new duties, to commit a suicide or to free himself of his enforced position and job in any other way.

The best part of the award ceremony was definitely the informal party after the event. Free food and beverages always made the Duros tolerate events that he normally despised. After few drinks, he noticed Shadow approaching him.

„So, who is the person you want to replace me and why is it Reiden?“