

Chosen Prompt: (2) *Earn the trust of the Okami — The Okami clan has always been loyal to the Empress, provided she kept out of their affairs. However, given their impressive martial skills they could become a major threat if their loyalty ever waivers. You are to prove yourselves to the Okami and earn their trust and respect, most likely through some feat of strength or by surviving the harsh environment of Kaerls. Your ultimate goal is to determine the Okami clan's true loyalties and what, if anything, they can tell us about visitors to the kyber caves. Perhaps Sunrider is grasping at straws. Perhaps Arcturus found his lightsaber outside the system, and the Okami are unflinchingly loyal and honest. Or perhaps your characters will find that not all is as it seems.*

Snapshots

Lynnyaria Meraudstar:

<https://www.darkjedibrotherhood.com/members/13458/snapshots/3346/5840>

Aura Ta'var: <https://www.darkjedibrotherhood.com/members/10388/snapshots/2023/5841>

NOT DEAD YET...

Night time

Kaerls

39 ABY

The frozen tundra of Kaerls were a beautiful sight to behold. The natural rock outcroppings and geothermal vents broke up the landscape and reflected the light in color patterns on the ground. The night sky was always clear and lights would often play across it if you were far enough north. It was a gorgeous world to behold and worth a visit any time of the year, granted the Okami let you.

A bitter wind swept across the landscape, swirling around the outcroppings and sweeping around small bits of ice. A pitched tent stood out against the landscape, its fabric pulled ever so slightly by the wind until it reformed its original shape. A lone light could be seen from within on this very cold night, casting an idyllic glow around it. The voices inside it were less so.

“It’s sooo cold,” complained Aura. “It’s your fault we’re here.”

“Are you going to bring this up the entire time?” asked Lynnyaria

“Yes, so you know how displeased I am. I can’t believe you spoke for us. I would never have picked this.”

“In all fairness, this seemed like the easiest option,” said the Sephi defensively.

“Well if it’s so easy, go out and get us some more fresh drinking water. We’ll need to drink

something soon again.”

“What, I did it last time. It’s your turn.”

“No, it’s not. You still owe for that time you pretended to take a nap so you wouldn’t have to. Now move before I contemplate chucking you out of the tent,” said the Zeltron grumpily.

“Kriffing—” said Lynn but she went quiet at the look her companion was giving her.

The Sephi gave a dramatic sigh and reluctantly opened up the tent, revealing a duo of sleeping bags laid on the floor. One of them was the High Councillor Aurora Ta’var, who was curled up in her sleeping bag as tightly as possible. Only the tuft of her bright blue hair was visible, which was a good thing since her companion was currently giving her the finger. Lynnyaria Meraudstar, a member of Sunrider, zipped back up the tent and went to grab some more ice to melt. As she wrapped her arms around her torso and leaned into the wind, she couldn’t help but look back on what had gotten them into this mess in the first place...

Earlier that day...

Lynnyaria and her Zeltron Consul stood before the Okami counsel. They were visitors to their home and the group did not seem all too excited to see a pair of Force Users in their midst. The Sephi stood with her hood off of her head, fire colored hair and bronzed skin on full display as her helmet sat under her arm, as an ultimatum was given to the pair.

“You have chosen not to leave us in kind, so now you have a choice to make amongst yourselves, you may spar with our Champion, a fight to the death in the old ways, or you can prove yourselves in the harsh tundras,” spoke the Elder.

Blade had read over the Sephi’s dossier before the mission and knew she could more than handle herself in the fight; however, she could see the wheels in the young Sephi’s head turning as she wore a certain look upon her face. Before the Zeltron could speak the Sephi chirped. “Should not be that hard, I will see you in the morning!” As she spoke she spun around on a heel meandering towards the door with a hand raised calling back to the Zeltron. “Come on Aurora, how hard could it possibly be?~”

Lynn shook herself back to reality, catching herself staring out into space. Pulling her cloak around herself tighter she grumbled beneath her helmet. “Stupid.. Stupid.. Eugh.. Should have just sucked it up and fought the besom, but why.. WHY in the HELL did I think this was going to be more effortless than that? What in the HELL was I thinking?! Know like.. Next to nothing about survival.” Upon collecting the water she closed her eyes for a brief moment to collect herself before returning to the tent, climbing back in and zipping it up, curling up with her knees to her chest wrapped tightly in her cloak.

The next morning came all too soon. The Zeltron woke up with a groan and refused to leave her sleeping bag, the top of her hair still the only thing anyone could see. She checked the chrono on her advanced comlink, the slight light of it showing well past early morning.

That's a first, she thought, unsure if she should be concerned or not.

The painful grumble in her stomach did worry her though. The two had not found anything to eat since they had arrived. At least they had water but you still needed calories. Resigned, the Zeltron unzipped her bag, sat up, and shivered. She opened their tent a bit to see a bright, cold, sunny day. Aura shook Lynn to wake her up.

“What...”

“Time to get up. The sun's already out. We must have slept through dawn.”

A groan was all that came back in return.

“Do you think we should be concerned we slept so long? They cover any of that when you attempted space scouts?”

“I don't know. They just focused on what berries to eat. Totally useful on a frozen wasteland.”

The pair shared a terse chuckle and then looked sadly at their pitiful excuse for a fire. The only piece of technology they had been granted. The ability to melt water and maybe a bit of heat. A pile of cold dead rocks and wood Lynn had found somewhere laid abandoned.

“I mean I could try to start a real fire again,” offered the Sephi.

“We'd just be wasting daylight. We spent a whole day rubbing sticks and stones and nothing. Let's go find some of those mythical ice berries or something,” said Aura as she went outside.

The Zeltron had everything she needed on her person and thankfully the Okami had allowed her to keep her basic gear and lightsaber. But they had long run out of her field rations and there were no animals to be found nearby. Her lightsaber was useful only as a flashlight and you couldn't eat that. Lynnyaria stood up next to her with a determined look on her face.

“Today I am getting some food no matter what. See you back here before the sun sets okay?”

“Yeah, make sure you grab some ice to melt on the way home,” said Aura back.

The Sephi waved her assent and then the pair went off their separate ways, staying in comlink distance. Several hours later they were both walking home with ice chunks in hand, having both met up a bit earlier, and were startled to see what looked like random dug out holes. Each hole was under a geothermal vent. On closer examination it was clear that someone had planted crops near it and that the vents weren't dangerous. A few spare leaves were in a few of them but

they were otherwise picked clean. The Zeltron held it up for Lynn.

“Can we eat it?”

The Sephi examined it and smacked her own forehead. “Yes. It’s Kale.”

Her pointed ear twitched as she heard the sound of snow being crushed underfoot and twigs snapping, quickly she grabbed her lightsaber and spun around on one heel just a moment from hitting the activator switch before she stood down seeing the Okami Elders. Breathing a sigh of relief she glanced over to Blade. “Look, our neighbors.-” Before she could finish her sentence the leader spoke out. “You two.. Are not good at this.” He paused, “Though I would be lying if I said that despite failing our test, you had not earned our respect, anyone else would have given up and gone home far before now.”

Lynnyaria chuckled, “Well you see, I am not normal.”

“Clearly.” Remarked Aurora.

“Nevertheless, we had spoken of the information you had requested and decided that you have earned it through your willingness to die for it.” The leader said with a solemn nod. “Arcturus did reside with us, though this you already knew or else we doubt you would have come here seeking information about him, though he betrayed our trust. We did not want to admit that we had been made fools of, so we handled the situation ourselves. We denied him access to the kyber caves so he went against our wishes with members of our fold. A sad situation but was handled according to the Okami’s laws.” He said, taking a breath, “But that is all of the information we have for you I am afraid, hopefully it helps.” The man stated before the group slowly turned to leave. Once they were out of earshot, the Sephi turned to Aurora. “Think they are telling us the truth? Or just trying to get rid of us.”

“If they are telling the truth, we have bigger problems to deal with than we thought,” the Zeltron remarked.

Turning back to the group the Sephi rubbed at her cheek in thought before calling out to the group, “Mayhaps you could be so kind as to inform me where our man went after he raided the Kyber caves?”

One of the Mandalorians murmured something beneath his breath derogatorily towards her but was swiftly silenced by the group leader who nodded his head. The three returned to the Odanites. “The last we heard he and the exiles ventured north ninety degrees, other than that I could not really tell you if they continued on to find a way off world or if they stopped. We sent a small scouting party along after him but they did not return which complicated things to say the least. I am sorry that I cannot be of more help.”

“Those exiles, were those your fellow Mandalorians?” asked Aura.

Lynnyaria shook her head and spoke before the Elders had the chance, “Those who turn their back on their clan do not deserve the right to call themselves Mandalorian.” This seemed to somewhat please the group before them.

“They used to be of our clan, yes.” The leader stated swiftly, there was a veiled hurt in his voice on the topic.

Rubbing her face and exhaling a sigh, Lynnyaria turned slowly and walked away, clearly deep in thought. Aurora thanked the group with her traditional Jedi bow and joined her companion, curious as to what was going through the teenager’s mind.