

Vampire in the Temple

Deep within the depths of Yavin's jungle moon, two individuals were hard at work performing an investigation at the behest of Brotherhood.

"Am I to understand Biduu, reports sighted there was a vampire in the jungled ruins of this planet?" Sulon asked his companion.

"Probably, even they weren't sure at all. But the rumors have become so popular that it was the talk of the Holonet." The Bothan replied to the Chiss' query.

"But that's what makes it a mystery that needs to be solved, don't you agree?" Biduu said, finishing his sentence with excitement and high optimism regarding the mission.

"Are they sure it wasn't just some rouge Anzati who went into hiding? Although they are equally just as troubling as they are mysterious."

"Well, the smugglers say they saw the suspect with dripping fangs and apparently can fly in the air. Also, he had a pair of glowing red eyes. No offense, Sulon."

"None taken Scoo Biduu. Although my eyes don't glow as much in the dark as the rest of my people do." The Chiss replied.

Sulon was very much a loner when comes to his people, the Chiss. He was one of few isolated cases of known Force sensitivity among the Chiss, which made him somewhat an outsider to his kind. He wonders if it was the cause of the physical difference.

Yet this made him an unlikely friend to his companion, the Bothan, Scoo Biduu. He was also very different among his people. Instead of being calculating, he was curious and had a positive attitude towards life. Also, he held a particularly interested in documenting the rumors, or rather the mysteries that appear on various worlds across the galaxy.

But Biduu's personality made it hard for him to find friends in the Bothans community or among rugged people. He once had a friend, the Jedi Padawan Sha'a Gi, who is also delighted in archiving anything that perked his interests. Sadly, during the early years of the Clone Wars, he was sent to assist the Republic on the planet of Hypori. Gi was killed in battle following after the operation turned into a disaster.

As it turned out, Biduu was fortunate enough to make another friend who also survived some of the most chaotic and turbulent eras of the wider galaxy.

The fourth moon of Yavin was a jungle world filled with dangerous wildlife. The Rebel Alliance inhabited the moon during the start of the great galactic civil war. But when the Empire discovered their hidden base, they had to abandon it. What became of the once occupied Massassi ruins was now a favorite hiding spot for smugglers to evade authorities and stash their illegal cargos.

Though recently, there were rumors among the smugglers of haunted experiences in the abandoned temples. People started hearing weird noises and voices from within the depths of the ancient structures. Some thought there were ghosts, or it was just the scary critters

that roam the nearby jungle forest, that is until one band of smugglers ran afoul into what they believed to be a vampire.

That was enough to send the smugglers running, and soon the rumors started to spread about the vampire. Initially, the rest of the galaxy didn't believe them. When more smugglers also encounter the same so-called vampire that now haunted Yavin, it became a piece of headliner news on the Holonet.

"Having to spend days or weeks in this jungle, anyone would feel haunted by the abandoned temples."

"Don't be so negative Sulon, Inside this temple is where the vampire was sighted. So we need to investigate and possibly find out the suspect's real identity." Biduu replied. "This will be one daunting but exciting task."

The two exchange words standing before the massive Massassi temple, the one largest among the many ancient structures.

"These Massassi temples were built by the now lost ancient Sith people, meant to glorify the ancient Sith lords." Sulon began regaling the lore behind the mysterious ancient structures like he always does when it comes to the topic of long-lost history.

"Namely Naga Sadow and Exar Kun, the most prominent and powerful Sith Lords of their respective era. Not that it matters much since all that remains are empty halls of stone."

"Hey, if we're lucky, we might even find some tasty rations left behind by the last tenet," Biduu stated his opinion, changing the topic out of the blue.

"I swear Biduu, that bottomless stomach of yours knows no bound."

"Ahhhhh!"

Their conversation came to a halt, as they then heard a scream of terror of a female coming from within the abandoned temple.

"Looks like this place doesn't appear abandoned yet. There must still be smugglers hiding inside the temple."

"So it seems, let's get moving after you, Sulon," Biduu suggested patting his colleague on the back as if encouraging the Chiss to venture first.

"Right, wait! What do you mean after me? Shouldn't you take the lead on this mission?"

"What! Me going in first?"

"Yes, it was your idea in the first place to travel to Yavin to investigate this vampire mystery, so you should take the lead in the temple." The Chiss made his point to the Bothan.

"No, you have a better eyesight in the dark, and I don't fight well when I can't see what I'm doing." The Bothan argued back.

"Ahhhhh!"

Again the terrified scream of a woman echoed from within the temple. While it is still in the middle

"Bweet-Beep-Be-Bop!" The sound of an R2 astromech droid interjected amidst their arguing.

"Yes, Ody. I understand if we will be here until nightfall if we continue arguing." Sulon replied reluctantly to the droid.

"Fine, I'll take the lead! We may as well argue all day till night for the vampire to come out into the jungle." The Chiss finally relented, preferring not to bicker all day and be done with this mystery.

The three of them entered the temple through the main front hall that had once served as a hangar for the Alliance's starfighters core. There was an eerie silence in the air, especially as they venture deeper into the darker inner hallway.

What remains in the temple that served as a military base was left littered with debris and abandoned equipment, and other non-essentials. The smugglers that moved in to set up their caches didn't bother to tidy up the place because it was unnecessary.

They've reached a point in the temple hallway where there is no visibility, there was no natural or artificial light, and the three of them are beginning to fumble around in the darkness.

"Can't see a thing. We surely could use some lighting right now."

"Why not use our lightsabers to light the way then?" Biduu suggested with optimism about the idea of using their Jedi weapons like some handy torches.

"We don't want to cut someone or something by accident," Sulon replied, rebuking the Bothan's idea, having shot it down almost immediately.

If it comes to a fight, both Sulon and Biduu could rely upon their lightsabers as they are Jedi themselves. However, neither have attained much combat experience. If Sulon were to categorize themselves bluntly, they are the bookish and technical kind of Jedi, aside from Biduu's sometimes gluttonous side of personality.

"Oh, fine!"

"Besides, this only an investigation mission-OOF!"

It was then Sulon felt he had suddenly walked into something, though it was not a wall.

"Wha-what? Uh, Ody, can you give us some light?"

"Bweep-Boop!"

The droid complied and lightens the photoreceptor from its primary eye, illuminating to reveal what was in front.

"Reeeegh!"

To their utter horror, the thing that appeared was a raggedly hooded figure hovering in midair. It made a gleefully terrifying sound as it bares its dripping fangs and a pair of glowing red eyes.

"It-it-it's the vampire!"

"Wah-wah. Wrry-wrry-nahwikoo!"

Both the Bothan and the droid began immediately running for their lives.

"Hey, you guys! Wait for me!"

A wild goose chase began, with the three companions pursued by the nightmarish vampire through the halls and corridors of the great temple. Though the three of them, droid included, were like running for their lives, none of them knew where they were heading towards as long as they could run. Making a left turn, then right, right again and again, before making another left turn going back to the previous location in the hallway, all the while still being pursued by the vampire.

They then quickly ducked into a corner hoping to hide until the vampire is gone, but their surrounding was so dim they could hardly see if the supernatural creature has passed by them or not.

"Hey, do you think it's gone now? Maybe we could head back out of the temple now." The Bothan asked, hoping the storm has passed.

"I don't know. I can barely see anything here."

Reee-eee-

"Ody, stop making so much noise back there. You're going to get us caught by that vampire, or whatever it is."

"Bweet-Beet-twoo! Bweet"

"What do you mean it wasn't you, t-then who is it making all that noise behind us?"

"REEEEGH!"

As the three companions turned around to see who it was standing behind them, only to find a familiar but unwelcoming figure ready to menace them again.

"Ahhhh! It's the vampire! Run for it!"

And again, the three sprint off while being chased by the vampire.

As the supernatural creature gave chase, Sulon drew his blaster pistol and fired a few loose shots at the vampire to slow it down. Only one managed to hit the target. To his utter

surprise, the blast of energy dissipated harmlessly on the creature's body and seem to have not affected it in any way.

"What!? Blasters have no effect on it!"

Finally, they came to a dead-end at the end of a hallway with nowhere else to run.

"We're doomed! There's nowhere else to go!" Biduu cried out in a panic.

"Don't be ridiculous! We can always fight when there is no other option left on the table."

"How are lightsabers going to work if your blaster can't even scratch that thing?" The Bothan argued back.

"Bweet-Bwip-Boot-Dwoo!"

"See, even Ody said you don't know unless you try."

"Oh, well, here goes nothing!" Biduu replied as he drew his lightsaber, igniting the blue blade and takes the Form V variant of Djem So.

As the vampire drew closer with its menacing fangs and glowing red eyes, Biduu leaps into the air and strike at the vampire with the full force of the [Falling Avalanche] technique.

"Ah, Biduu, maybe you shouldn't-"

Before Sulon could finish his warning, the overwhelming force of Biduu's strike seemingly crushed the vampire as well as the stone floor beneath him.

"Oh no, Ahhhhhh!" Biduu cried out loud as he fell into the pit.

"Biduu! Where are you?" Sulon called out to his friend as he and Ody rush over to the pit where Biduu fell through.

"I'm Here~!" Biduu replied through the echo, as it appeared he had managed to land safely somehow. Fortunately, the pit itself wasn't that deep, enough for his companions to jump down to reach him.

"Uggghhh~ That was unpleasant." The Bothan groaned as he tries to pick himself up from the rubble.

"Well, these structures are more than a millennia-old and are not as sturdy ever since the Alliance abandoned it." Sulon began. "Not to mention all the damaged caused by the Empire during their bombing assault during the war."

"Why didn't you say so earlier!?" Biduu complained to the Chiss for not warning him sooner.

"Well, had I knew you would attempt something as reckless as the falling avalanche, I may have tried to stop you sooner," Sulon replied. "But you seem to be in one piece, more so than that vampire."

"Yeah, I'm surprised that hitting it with a lightsaber worked. Where is the vampire now anyway?"

The rubble that had fallen with the collapse had almost buried the vampire's now lifeless body. However, upon closer inspection, the vampire wasn't all that it appears to be. The body itself was not of bone and flesh, but somehow it was hard cold metal.

"What's this? It's nothing more than a droid!" Sulon exclaimed upon inspecting what remains of the vampire's body.

Beneath the ragged cloth was a set of machines, the body of a medium-sized droid with the ability to hover due to built-in repulsor technologies. The glowing red eyes were, in reality, just a pair of photoreceptors.

"It even has a voice modulator that would explain the horrifying sound it made." Biduu also stated upon inspecting the body himself as well.

"To even think it was a real vampire, it's perhaps only a rouge droid."

"But why?" The Bothan asked.

"Perhaps we could find more answer through the droid's memory, Ody if you will please."

"Bweet-Boot-Twoot!"

The astromech plugged into the circuit of the now disabled vampire droid in search of any useful information.

"Bweet!"

The astromech perked up its voice upon finding something substantial. It immediately displays the information of its findings through its holoprojector. There revealed the droid's past.

"So, other smugglers built it as a means to scare away the competition to try and get the whole temple for themselves as a cache," Sulon said as he reads the displayed information before him.

"But the droid eventually gained some form of awareness and went rampant going on a rampage and driving out its maters in the process."

"So much for some mystery of a vampire on Yavin's jungle moon. The droid must have gone mad through being forced to do all that crazy haunting work." Biduu stated surly. By the end of the day, it did turn out to be another false mystery.

"Let's leave it at that, we can now report back to the brotherhood the truth behind all this."