

Surface of Dandoran- 0400 hours

Malfrost slowly opened his eyes as a gently breeze blew through the woods in which he was currently encamped; his hazel eyes gazed down at his watch on his left wrist, it was just about time to start.

“HK, boot up.” Malfrost commanded his droid gruffly as he peered at the dirt road leading out of the main Principate encampment in the region; there were dozen or so scattered outposts and weapons dumps in the sector that lit up the night sky like searchlights. As he turned around his droid companion had roused itself from its sleep mode.

“Statement: Howdy, partner! All combat functions are rooting, tooting and ready to go! Let’s go met out some justice to these vagabonds!” The HK remarked in an upbeat and excited tone, twirling its two slug throwers around its robotic digits with calculated perfection before holstering them as the young voice user simply chuckled, “You’ll have your chance, buddy. We have to wait a bit longer.” He calmed the droid as he moved two of his fingers to his right ear and tapped an earpiece, “Kay, this is Mal. What’s your status?”

Descending from the high atmosphere was a TIE-Interceptor, its twin-ion engines humming as the young woman inside tinkers and flicked around with some of the instrumentation in the cockpit to finetune the machine for in atmosphere flight, “This is Kay, just now entering the lower atmosphere. This transponder we got from the Revenants is working like a charm; I’m showing up as friendly on the local IFF network, they won’t know what hit them.” Kay’s tone was absolutely brimming with joy and excitement, there were very few things in life she enjoyed more than blowing shit up that belonged to oppressive authority figures.

Malfrost smirked as he gazed back out at the encampment and nodded to his HK unit, “Alright, I’m moving towards the ambush position, I’ll let you now when I’m in position and you can begin your attack runs.” Malfrost began to move at a crisp jogging pace as his HK followed behind, he heard a cheery reply of,” Kay kay!” on his earpiece before it went silent. It was a simple plan but simple was often best in these sorts of situations; Kay would attack several the outposts and arms dumps in the region in her TIE and the destruction would cause their target, Kalee Reeche to leave the safety of the main encampment to assess the damage. It would be during this trip from the main encampment to the outpost that Malfrost would strike and capture her.

“All this trouble better be worth the credits they are paying.” Malfrost scoffed as after a few minutes of running he had settled into his ambush location atop a tree near a fork in the road that led to one of the outposts; his HK unit hid between some trees, his black paint making it easy for him to blend in with the darkness of the night around them. Malfrost brought his fingers to his ear and singled to Kay that he was in position.

“Roger dodger! I’ll be starting my attack run in just a moment. Make sure you are positioned somewhere where you can see the beautiful firework show I’m about to put on.” Kay chimed as she crackled her knuckles and gripped the controls firmly, “Alright, Pixy...lets do this!”

Kay pushed the throttle as far as it could go as the ion engines of the TIE roared to life and she descended from a group down onto a nearby outpost. She flicked a few switches and her HUD locked onto the main barracks; a pull of the trigger and a missile soared into the building, resulting in a large explosion. She buzzed the ground as her laser cannons fired into parked vehicles and storage buildings as fires began to spread and alarms rang out not just in that outpost but in all the outposts in the sector, a cacophony of loud, wailing sirens filling the night air.

“That’s the first outpost hit! I’m moving onto the next one, Mal! Keep an eye out, our target should be in route!” Kay laughed as she pushed the throttle to move onto the next target. Malfrost silently nodded his head and gazed down the path leading towards the base as he gazed at his watch, he imagined it would likely take a few minutes to organize a response and then about five or six to move down the path in a command speeder.

Sure enough, about eight minutes after the initial attack with Kay now hitting her third outpost a column of three command speeders were rolling down the path towards the first outpost. Malfrost looked to HK and nodded his head as he moved to the edge of the branch, he stood on balancing himself perfectly and then, as the first speeder began to pass over, he let himself fall as he ignited his lightsaber.

As he landed, he skewered the driver of the first command speeder through the skull with his saber; he pulled his saber out and rapidly honed his reflexes and reaction speed with the Force; he jumped over to the next speeder a few yards away, landing on the windshield before decapitating the driver with his saber. He quickly gazed at the driver and passenger of the third speeder and noted that neither were the target; a quick flick of the wrist and he had thrown his lightsaber in a perfect arc to decapitate the driver and passenger before the hilt of the saber soared back into his right hand as he tightened his grip and hopped off the windshield and onto solid ground as he gazed at the carnage.

The survivors of the attack were stumbling out in confusion, but they seemed to quickly regain their cohesion as someone was barking orders with a natural aura of leadership; Malfrost gazed with his hazel eyes through the dark and spotted that it was Kalee, “Target spotted, I’m engaging.” Malfrost stated to himself and HK as HK moved to engage as well, twirling his slug throwers before aiming carefully and fired four times, two from each gun and dropping two of the bodyguards without much effort; Kalee began to back away as she and the remaining trooper fired their E-11 rifle at the approaching specter of death by Malfrost was able to deflect the bolts away harmlessly before bisecting the trooper in front of him with a single upward diagonal swing of his saber.

“You...you’re a Jedi! Out for revenge, are you? I thought that wasn’t your style. Besides, I’m no Imperial!” Kalee spat as she fired a round of her slugthrower at him but her aim was wildly off and the shot impacted onto a tree a few feet behind him. “Sorry, but I’m no Jedi. I’m a merc and the Revenant hired me to bring you in.”

Those words, spoken so calmly by her assailant caused Kalee to pale and narrow her eyes in anger at Malfrost, “You....you’re a monster! No, worst than a monster if you are working for

those slavers for credits! I'd rather die than be a slave again! You'll never take me in!" Kalee turned her pistol on herself, but Malfrost quickly interceded.

Using the Force Malfrost had closed the distance between them in the blink of an eye; he had unignited his lightsaber and tossed the hilt into the air. His hands moved fast; two swift punches into the solar plexus staggered Kalee and as she stumbled back from the strikes her body lurched forward slightly which allowed Malfrost to deliver a swift elbow strike to her face to stun her and then quickly moved to break her arm with a swift twist before slamming her to the ground. This series of actions all happened in the span of a few seconds and Malfrost effortlessly caught the hilt of his saber and strapped it to his side as he moved to kick the pistol away from the fallen Kalee.

"Be thankful I'm working for the NICE pirate then." Malfrost emphasized as he moved to tap his earpiece to signal to command that he had captured the target, a transport would be able to slip in undetected without too much trouble given all the trouble Kay was giving them, most of the fighters had been scrambled to intercept her and he was sure she'd be able to keep them busy while they exfiltrated the area. He gazed up at the night sky and let out a sigh as his HK approached him.

"Exclamation, I do believe that was a fine tooting ambush there, partner! We've cut the head off the snake here and we're bringing justice to the land and the people!" He pumped his robotic fist and the area, and he could not help but chuckle. Was this really the right thing? He had recognized that look in Kalee's eyes when he mentioned the Revenant; it was one pure, unmitigated terror. Who knows what kind of life she had lived prior to joining the Principate but was clear it wasn't a good one; was handing her over to the Revenant really the right call, even if the credits were good? He had to believe that groups could change, just like people and he saw the good the Expansionists were doing, he just had to believe they would treat her decently while she was held captive.

"Justice, right...we'll see about that, HK. We'll see." Malfrost chimed as the breeze turned into a gale as the transport ship touched down nearby, mission accomplished, for now at least.