

FOR THE LITTLE MOMENTS

By Aura Ta'var

Aboard "What A Catch"

Depths of Mon Cal

39 ABY

Blue oceans grew darker and darker as one descended in the water world's oceans' depths. As one slipped through the surface, loud water fowl and mon calamari gave way to colorful fish, small sharks, and the ever-present Quarren. The further one went, the darker the seas got until friendly squids were welcome company and glowing fish of all shapes and sizes roamed. At some point neither Quarren nor Mon Calamari bothered you and only the sea life surrounded you. It was silent, quiet and tranquil.

That was until, a YT-2000 joined the ecosystem for a week. Perched amidst an underwater stream that circulated around the planet Mon Cal deep underwater, the "What A Catch" moved along with the flow of water. From outside appearances, all was tranquil and this was just a giant metal ugly fish that woke up now and again to move this way or that. Any fish who dared to swim near the unknown knew otherwise, the sound waves carried on the currents.

"No, give that back to mommy!"

"Mom, she took my lightsaber again!"

"WHAT? You know she likes lightsabers. You just got one and you are already losing it. That is your life."

"OH REALLY I THOUGHT IT WAS YOUR COMLINK, HOW ABOUT YOU TALK TO THAT INSTEAD? THAT'S RIGHT, YOU CAN'T FIND IT."

"EXCUSE ME?! Stop sassing and get your lightsaber back before your sister cuts our ship in half."

"Ladies, ladies. Be nice to each other. You'll wake the boys."

A two year old Zeltron with dark blue hair and pink skin ran gleefully through the halls of the YT-2000, small lightsaber in hand as her older sister, aged 11, chased her around. Well it was true she could totally take the 2 year old out, she doubted her mother would approve of such extreme measures and there was no glory in taking out a 2 year old. Besides, that required violence and Zoe hated violence. Had she nicked her mom's comlink and fed it to the fishes? Yes. But that wasn't violent. That was merely proving a point.

Her little sister Jade bobbed before and giggled delightfully, trying to press the ignition switch

over and over again. Zoe breathed a sigh of relief that she had installed a safety trigger in it, but that wasn't foolproof. She had seen her sister activate it once before and gotten in deep trouble for it. *Never fair...*, she thought.

Teikhos saw the incoming storm, and stepped back into the hatchway, carrying the twin boys named Cade and Hylon. The wind flew past them as the two young Zeltron ran by haphazardly. The twins didn't seem to mind, in fact one of them was currently chewing on his father's hair as a force of habit. The other was sleeping contently.

"Hey you two, be careful!" he called after them. "You know your mom is coming, right?"

Aura Ta'var sighed as she heard all of the commotion, peering up from the cockpit at the tranquil waters above. This vacation had been her idea and it sounded great on paper. Until her kids had too much energy and were confined in one space. For all the life she could sense just outside her hull, there always seemed to be just as much inside her ship. Getting up to her feet, she walked towards her two quarreling children, ready for the flash of dark blue hair on small legs to whip around the corner.

One, Two, Three, Four,... she counted down to herself as the footsteps grew louder and louder.

A few heartbeats later, the toddler ran around the corner only to find the lightsaber from her hand yanked forcefully from it, the metal cylinder that held her focus cleanly coming back to her mother's hand. Jade smiled and tried to take off, only to find herself lifted in the air. The little girl eyed her mother's lightsaber and reached towards it, squirming in the air until she found herself hanging upside down near the height of her mother's head.

"Mine!"

"No. We don't steal mommy's lightsaber or Zoe's lightsaber or Daddy's lightsaber," said Aura trying to reason with her 2 year old.

"Mine!" cried out Jade as she started to kick at the air in frustration.

"No," replied Aura as she floated over Zoe's lightsaber back at her. "You have the Force, use it next time," said Aura exasperatedly.

"But I got in trouble last time for using it!" said Zoe indignantly.

"Sometimes you need to," replied Aura, while Zoe rolled her eyes and went back to her room.

Aura sighed and held her toddler in place with the Force until she settled down. A few minutes passed until the young girl was bored and simply hung there, looking back at her mom with a smile as she waved her hands about.

"Can't stay mad at you, can I?" said Aura as she couldn't help but smile. "Alright, little one, let's

tire you out.”

Zoe laid next to her wolf Sasha as she played loud music, sulking and chatting with her friends at the Academy about how unfair life was. Aura stopped by her daughter’s room and smiled knowingly, sampling the energy in the room with the Force. “Hey Zoe, could I borrow Sasha?” Her daughter pretended not to hear her. “Okay, thanks. Remember we are hanging out as a family in about an hour,” she said as she lured Sasha over with a piece of meat.

The dog-wolf took it gladly and eyed the floating toddler quizzically. Aura took one of the training sabers off her belt and took out its crystal, sealing the chassis shut on the now defunct small saber. While Sasha ate the offering, Aura tied the training saber to his collar, making a show of it to Jade nearby. Once she was done, she set Jade on the ground and let the chaos commence. Her young daughter immediately ran after the pooch, who took off to avoid the young girl’s grasp. Zoe rolled her eyes and went back to chatting with her friends and Aura couldn’t help but want to call her a hypocrite but didn’t.

An hour of non-stop energy passed and finally all the Ta’var gathered for a family dinner together, where they ate to their heart’s content, some still subdued from earlier events. After dinner, the family all met in the cockpit and sat in the chairs next to each other. Aura sat next her daughter Zoe while the rest of family looked up in awe at the fish above them. Jade was already closing her eyes and she laid across her father’s chest next to her brothers. The hair chewing was finally over with. Teikhos was about to doze off as well.

“I’m sorry I yelled at you earlier,” said Aura quietly. “Want to meditate together and see what animals we can find?”

“Yeah, whatever,” said Zoe half-heartedly but still accepting her mother’s offer to lean next to her. The war was far from over. Zoe snickered as her dog Sasha slinked in and hid under the console, finally free from her younger sister.

Aura pulled her daughter in a loving embrace as the two of them reached out to the Force all around them, soaking in the rich streams of life outside their ship. For once today, the inside of the ship was quiet and outside was loud. As the light swirled around them, through them, and in them, the two Zeltron breathed it all in and said sorry in ways words could never convey. This unspoken moment was enough to remind both of them just how lucky they were.