

Improvised chaos

Augur Xantros

11518

39 ABY, Imperial Academy construction site, Caelestis City, Ragnath, Caperion System

„You want to tell me that you have acted on unverified information provided by an unknown source?” asked Shadow Nighthunter. Her voice was seemingly calm, but her squinted eyes piercing her Duros interlocutor suggested that she was just a one step away from going berserk.

Xantros looked around, grinned politely and answered, „I have my own sources of information that have proven to me that they are more than trustworthy.”

The Augur would never admit that he had actually acted on information delivered from an unknown source, the identity of which he could not determine. He was well-known for being prepared for any potential scenario and preference to act accordingly to previously devised plan. Trusting news coming from a clandestine source without conducting a thorough fact-checking was not in his style.

„You have your *own* sources of information that you have not shared about with me and the Intel Division?” continued the Empress.

„Of course, I have. I used to be a Krath, right?” replied the Duros. „Also, as one of the Palpatines I need to be prepared for various situations.”

The Sephi nodded, but she still seemed not convinced.

„Finally, would like me to ignore the intel I had received?” asked Xantros. He looked around and grinned, showing the battlefield. It was full of maimed bodies that lacked legs, arms or heads. Some were cut in two halves. Some others had blaster wounds in different areas. „This would not be possible, if I decided to check it before acting?”

„You never cease to amaze me, Xantros,” spoke the Sephi and shook her head.

„I do my best, Empress” replied the Duros and smiled politely. „However, I am afraid that you slightly exaggerate my abilities. I have merely created an opportunity to get rid of these terrorists. In fact, most of the job was done by you and your guards.”

„Well, you might be right, but you cannot deny that you are excellent in causing chaos as for an order-loving person,” complimented him Shadow Nighthunter.

The Augur nodded, accepting the compliment as it was simply a fact. The kidnappers were too numerous to be eliminated by just one person like him. He was a deadly assassin and a skilled spy, but he lacked abilities that were necessary to be an effective soldier taking part in large scale battles. Still, he had means to help his friends and allies even in such situations. Thanks to the warning he had received, he made it to the construction site of a new wing of the Imperial Academy right on time as Shadow and her guards were surrounded by kidnappers just a moment earlier. While he assessed that attacking them directly would probably result in someone killing the Empress anyway, he found a way to distract the enemy group from its target. He was close enough to influence the mind of a Human who looked like a leader of the group. The man had a surprisingly weak will and could not refuse Xantros' mental orders.

As the result, the group leader started arguing with his deputy and finally killed him with a blaster

shot from a very close distance. Then, he started shooting at other kidnappers. Seeing this, Shadow and her guards, who had not been disarmed yet, attacked the hostiles. The Duros remained on his place and shot few people from the distance, but when some of the kidnappers tried to run away in his direction, he detached his lightsaber from a belt, activated it and performed an interesting performance of *danse macabre*.

Thanks to the intervention of the Augur, seventeen kidnappers were killed and five more were arrested. They would probably get sentenced to death for kidnapping attempt of the Empress, assuming they would actually make it through interrogations as it was necessary to determine, if it was only an isolated incident or if there was some power behind it.