

Do not look back

Augur Xantros

11518

39 ABY, outskirts of the Caelestis City, Ragnath, Caperion system

Xantros looked at Angelo Dante, his former Master. The Adept accompanied him in the Operation Sudden Death. It was a precise strike aimed at a cell of former Meraxis Empire intelligence operatives. At least, it was what the Augur told the Clan Summit, when he requested for assistance of Angelo Dante. However, he had a different goal.

„Where are these bastards?” asked the Human and looked back at where his former Apprentice should be standing, but he did not see the Duros. „Damn it! Where did you, Xantros?”

Dante made few steps from behind piles of duraplast boxes left forgotten in the abandoned warehouse after conquering the Meraxis Empire by Clan Scholae Palatinae and the Democratic Republic of Elaya. It was a perfect place for the former Meraxis operatives to store their equipment for operations against the Imperial Clan as no one was interested in the warehouse located outside the Caelestis City. Additionally, the duraplast boxes provided additional protection from most of light and medium weaponry.

Dante could vaguely sense that his former Apprentice was somewhere in the building, but he could not pinpoint Duros' exact location.

„Are you looking for me?” asked Xantros and ignited his lightsaber. „Then, you have found me. Me and your death.”

The Duros slashed his lightsaber, but Dante quickly sidestepped, dodging the attack, and quickly counterattacked, stabbing the Augur straight into the heart with his own lightsaber. The body of the dead Force Disciple instantly disappeared and left the Adept confused.

„You are indeed a dangerous fighter,” spoke Xantros and aimed his E-11 blaster rifle at Dante's head, because the Human did not wear the helmet at that moment. „Strong, skilled in use of various weapons as well as in martial arts, capable of augmenting your physical abilities far beyond natural limits.”

„And this is why you will meet your end from my hand,” replied Dante and tried to smash his enemy with a powerful telekinetic strike, but his target did not even move. „What, in the name of the For...”

„How do you feel unable to use your powers? You are not that dangerous now, are you?” asked Xantros and shot his blaster rifle, while still speaking.

Still confused with the fact that his former Apprentice temporarily disabled or heavily limited his ability to draw the power of the Force, Dante almost stood still. Despite his physical prowess, he was so shocked with his disrupted connection to the Force to react properly. He tried to jump to the left in order to avoid the blaster shot, but he was far too slow and the blaster bolt hit him in his jaw, killing him nearly instantly.

„We might have abandoned many of the ancient Sith traditions, including the Rule of Two, but I have always wanted to test my abilities in a duel against you. We have walked a bit different paths in case of developing our skills and Force powers and while I have always respected you, it turns

out that my path led me to greater power than yours,” spoke Xantros looking at the body of his dead Master.

After a moment of silence, he added, „Even though it is a waste of a vital resource of our,,I mean...my Clan, I regret nothing as it allows me to further the agenda of the Unity, because through killing you, I have proven my determination to remove an obstacle on the path to spread the Unity all over the Galaxy. Now, I see that I am able even to kill my former Master to achieve my goal.”

Xantros moved to the far corner of the warehouse and returned to Dante's body with a precisely sealed canister of rhydonium and a thermal grenade, which he had brought to the building few hours before luring his former Master into the trap. He set the grenade to explode in two minutes and quickly left the warehouse. While running away accelerated by the Force, he heard a deafening sound of explosion that devastated the abandoned building and vaporized all evidences of what had trul happened there. The Augur grinned evilly. No one and nothing would contradict his story about Dante's death.