

“Fishing” at the Lake

What am I doing? I'm sitting on a boat, doing some fishing in the middle of a freshwater lake. But seriously, I've taken on a job to hunt for a dangerous monster that has been terrorizing the livelihood of several nearby villages.

It all started a few weeks ago. Trouble has emerged in this area with several dangerous attacks by a monster. This large lake is the only source of drinking water for the people living on this land. Due to the lack of technological infrastructures, the villagers come to this lake to fetch clean water and carry it back to the settlement via hover transport. However, some ferocious monster has moved into this lake, claiming it as its territory. Now it attacks anything and anyone that comes near the lake.

For a monster, it's rather clever. Since smaller animals and other sentient beings on this land depend on this lake for water, it's hunting them like desperate prey trying to survive, and if they are not careful, lingering too long near this lake, they will end up food.

No one saw the beast's actual appearance. The few survivor accounts saw several ravenous tentacles lunged out of the water from below to grab anyone unfortunate enough to be caught and dragged them into, never to be seen again. For all they know, it's a squid monster of some sort.

"It's been an entire two hours, and still nothing has shown up."

I complained as I grew more impatient with my lack of progress in the hunt. I promised to see this hunt to the finish. It would be disrespectful to the villages if I turned up empty-handed and could not solve the source of their troubles.

This lack of progress is making me feel uneasy and frustrated at the same time. With nothing else to do, I pulled up the fishing line and attached a new bait onto the hook before casting it into the water.

"Row, row, row your boat-" I started humming a song lightly to cure my frustration. "Gently down the stream. When you see a Nos monster, don't forget to scream~."

Warrrrgh~!

"Finally, you showed up." That sudden, horrifying cry from beneath the water alerted me to danger as I drew my weapons. Although, I felt my stomach had sunk a bit, barely ready to confront what was to come.

Waves water rosed violently, tossing the boat off its balance. Whatever's beneath these once tranquil waters is dark and dangerous, but above all, it's sinisterly hungry.

Thrash~!

Several crimson, ravenous tentacles rosed out of water surrounding the boat, lunging straight at me.

"Damn fiends!"

Raising my blaster and firing at the closest enemy on my left, the bolt stunned and wounded it as it recoiled from the burning plasma.

Fssssh!

Another two lunged at me with terrifying speed, but with a precise swing of my lightsaber, they were cut down to size before they could grab my neck.

Fwoosh!

"Urgh!"

I barely had time to react as another three swung at me from my right. Twisting my arm and body, I managed to repel the attackers with my lightsaber while I continued to fire my blaster to keep them away. Fighting on unbalanced footing makes it more difficult with the boat being violently tossed side to side.

The situation has somehow reached an awkward stalemate with the monster's appendages unable to grab its prey, as I kept them at bay with

my weapons. But then again, so long as it remains beneath the water's surface, I won't be able to kill the beast.

Waorrrrgh~!

Cra-Cra-Crack!

"What! the boat!"

The situation seemed to take a turn for the worse as I heard sounds of splintering wood beneath my feet. The monster's trying to surface out of the water and tear the boat apart!

"That's it, time to bol- Whoa!"

Before I could make my escape, a tentacle struck me. It grabbed my leg then another one reached for my arms, firmly holding them tight until eventually I was wrapped by several of them.

In the next moment, I was plunged deep into the depths of the lake. I finally saw the true face of the monster.

"This thing is no squid." I could see a maw of razor-sharp teeth inside a wide-open circular mouth just beneath a crimson-colored hide. "That thing is a wild Rathtar!"

That was the least of my worries as water began to seep through my armor. At this rate, I will die drowning before being devoured in the maw of the beast.

"Dammit!" Choking out my words, I desperately tried reaching for the switch on the right gauntlet. "A-almost there. Done!"

A beep sounded off in the helmet in sync with the jetpack's activation. With enough force, the thrusters propelled my entire body to the surface. Unfortunately, pulling the Rathtar along with me as I make for landfall.

"Argh!" As we crashed upon landing, the beast finally lost its hold on me. "Co-cough! Cough! Cough!" If the stories of how Boba Fett survived and escaped the Scarllac on Tatooine were true, then I now think I sympathize with how he felt going through the ordeal of almost being eaten alive.

Woarrrrgh!

However, the battle is yet to be over. The beast then curls itself into a sphere, rolling itself using the locomotion of its body to charge at me at full force.

"I much prefer if you were a Diagona worm." Muttering as I aimed my left gauntlet at the raging beast. "So that I could make a pie out of you

after I get paid!" And fire a repulsor dart as soon as it got close enough a distance.

When the projectile came close to contact with the Rathtar, it released a durasteel net. The beast in its sphere form made it easier to capture it in the net. It somehow stopped it in its tracks as it started to fall sideways.

And now, to finish the job. With a powerful thrust of the lightsaber, I struck the beast before it could break itself free from its bindings and escape to cause more havoc.

Ra-aargh~!

It gave one last dying cry before its life finally faded away. With the beast dead, at last, I could get this off my hand and relieve the villagers of their woes.

However, I have a suspicion that the Rathtar didn't come here alone naturally by itself. Either someone brought it here to this lake by accident or that the beast hitched a ride from one of the spacer's starships while it was still a hatchling.