

Archian snapshot:

https://www.darkjedibrotherhood.com/character_sheets/16613

Startouched Researcher:

https://www.darkjedibrotherhood.com/non_player_characters/1050/1

Crystal, tricks and creatures

>Caldera Sector

Fort Blindshot

The sounds of war could be heard everywhere.

The buzz of lightsabers against each other, quick like lightning rounds of blaster shoots, the woosh of flying starships overhead and booms of explosives detonating on the battlefield.

The growl, roar, and breath of the quick beasts emerged from around, like the wave of the red bloody sea, slowly covering the green circumference of the island.

The heavy footsteps on the grass and quick heart beating was coming from Ronto's chest. Creature galloping through the field, with the Shistavanen, and another man-like shape lying across on its back - followed by rapid crystal predators.

Direction of the escape was for the nearby line of the trees. The chance to lose ambush from behind between the thick forest, and maybe to kill some of the red rampaging raptors. But this wasn't the most important thing.

Archian looked at the stretched shape of the fallen soldier behind him.

The ripped flesh at the side of the left thigh was bleeding and needed immediately to be checked. The Shista had only a chance to quickly remove the crystal tooth, before tossing the body at Ronto - but it wasn't enough.

The forest wasn't far:

10 meters — one of the raptors tried to jump at the galloping creature's back, but was too slow.

5 meters — the next couple of red lizards tried to repeat the action, extending their steps to increase the distance of the temporary flight.

1 meter — the Shistavanen grabbed a smoke grenade from inside of his robes, and with a swift move of his paw threw it behind them without even looking. He could feel the oncoming danger.

Smoke had spread, imitating a gate into woods. Archian directed his fellow pet to the right, and they started following the tree line. The predator didn't stop, but forced their bodies into the gray gas which consequently made them crash into standing branches.

Shistavanen (who knew this forest) had turned seconds later to the nearest space between plants.

After passing a few meters, he decided to stop at the nearby patch of the grassland, where some time ago the Shista had discovered the new nest of an invasive species for Selen - the Borcatu.

He made Ronto slow down, and with as quiet as possible steps, they started to emerge at the empty grass... But they didn't.

Archian spotted a human shape at the opposite side of the field, standing closely to the nest of the burrowing creature. It was wearing an Armorweave Cloak - One of the Children of Mortis!

It was holding a crystal in its hand, and stabbing with it the Borcatu, while holding it with the Force, implanting the crystal in its small body.

Archian felt anger growing in his mind - looking at the torturing of the creature, and pushing it to transform into a monster was horrible. And while the first one was squeaking in agony, the Startouched Researcher stopped another Borcatu with the move of the hand, and moved closer to repeat the procedure.

The Shistavanen hated conflict, fight, war. Everything connected to it was pointless, but he couldn't turn around from cruelty to the animal. He hesitantly glanced behind at the body of the soldier. He put a sharp claw paw on the throat of the laying corpse. Yes, corpse. There was no pulse anymore. His emotions overwhelmed him, and he harshly pushed the body off the creature's back. Another pointless death...

Archian didn't wait - he took his bow out and aimed into the direction of the nest; keeping the weapon alongside the neck of his Ronto.

The Startouched Researcher with a smile was walking closer to the immobilized creature, and laughing at the first one which was almost fully transformed to serve as a weapon. His crystal was ready for use again, and the feeling of the new, infected blood coming from the body gave him a huge pleasure. He perceived a presence of the stranger, but couldn't find out where so was still continuing his "research" and gave himself time for reaction at (probably) enemy's first move.

He made a step closer to the Borcatu. At the same time there was a shot of the arrow - but wasn't directed at him. The iron tip missed him by a few centimeters, and crushed the skull of the convulsing, already painfully misshapen creature. A few

more shivers, and it was dead. The researcher moved his eyes alongside the treeline and spotted a big Ronto walking out, with a Shistavanen riding on its back. He was aiming the next arrow at him.

Archian had to kill that creature. The Brotherhood hadn't discovered a cure for the red crystal yet, and he couldn't allow the weaponized mutant to live.

The Startouched focused on him, and that was enough to distract him from holding the second creature with the Force. But suddenly now there were two of them. Two personas wearing the cloaks - that must be an illusion!

Shistavanen decided, and let go of the arrow. It flew closer and closer, but when it reached a dark clothed human - it went straight through it.

Archian shot another arrow, but with the same effect - the researcher disappeared and showed back a few meters from his previous position. It was pointless to shoot the next one...

The Shistavanen hung back the bow and arrows across his arm, and reached for an electro chain whip. He nudged Ronto on its sides, to move faster, to reach the enemy quicker, to stop him immediately - before more damage would be done.

The creature's muscles had given more power. The target was closer and closer. Whip ready to use. Blood stream was increasing. Tendons contracting to explode with damaging power. But the opponent was only standing, staring, and waiting.

The moment of striking was almost there, a few meters, seconds, blinks of the eye. Archian was sure it would be a decapitation, the brain shutting spin of the whip, with deadly effect on the opponent. Opponent only raised his hand...

And it happened... Archian with movement of his arm curled whip - but something else had also happened. The researcher had swiftly reached for the ground and sent a small seismic wave under Ronto's and Archian's feet.

The wave disturbed the reddish Shistavanen's balance, which affected with pulling, and directing his mount to the left of the enemy.

That was the Startouched's plan from the beginning - he took his control baton, with which he hit at the breast of the Ronto.

The creature fell down, and slid further along the ground - rolling to its side and covering the rider's left leg with its own body.

Archian screamed in pain. Trying to push it off, the Shistavanen heard the movement of the bush next to him. And a shot from a laser landed millimeters from his shoulder.

HK Assassin Droid showed his body out of the shrubs like a ship coming to the harbor out of thick sea fog.

Archian through pain made the decision to reach, hanging from the fallen mount's side a riot shield. He grabbed it with his paw and sat it up between his body and laser shots.

The Researcher started to get closer with control baton ready for tortures to amplify it at the trapped body. Archian couldn't let it happen. He started to whistle loudly, and prepared his whip to defend himself.

Whistling didn't stop from Shistavanen's snout. This weird behavior wound up the attacker, who ordered intensifying of the droid's shots, when his other hand tried to pull away the shield with the Force.

Archian started to struggle. He used the riot shield as leverage, and lifted himself up as much as he could, and blindly used the whip to make some safe distance, while still whistling, and forcing to not scream from the pain.

The Human stopped, and held on to his position trying to increase the Force, and disarm the Shistavanen from his last defense; straight take his life away.

Archian felt a faster heart beat - but not his. That sign gave him more strength, hope and motivation. He took a deeper breath, and whistled out of his crying from pain, and exhausted lungs.

He quickly put the whip next to him, and slid a paw at the Rono's skin. He made a circle on it, and kept it like that.

The researcher noticed that his opponent stopped actively defending. He started slowly moving closer, step by step. Suddenly, the earth rumbled and close by, trees began shaking behind the Droid - distracting him - The Startouched stopped pulling Shistavanen's shield.

The squeak of the metal was incredibly loud. The shots had stopped. The droid's head had fallen over. And massive arms of a Jotaz, followed by a huge body came out from between the tree's wall, like a train crushing stuck cars at the railroads. That was the last destiny of the HK Droid - its parts damaged, taken apart and demolished with every part of the aggressive creature.

Archian took his chance, and quickly tapped the creature still lying over his leg. Ronto stood up, like nothing had happened before. Archian with a great struggle caught up on its body, and half hanging, half laying commanded it to run away from the battlefield. Increasing the hold of one of the paws, and mount turning, he

grabbed and threw a smoke bomb into the human still staring at other monstrosity, which showed up a moment ago.

Smoke made a thick barrier between both warriors and creatures. Archian whistled and the Jotaz with impact moved into milky color gas, and accidentally, blindly hitting the Startouched with its arm, and tackling him to the side.

The researcher looked confused into the direction of the running away Arconan warrior - Archian was feeling lucky that his training with the creatures paid off and saved his life today.