The Babysitter

By Aylin Sajark

Vrakit had just walked out of the kitchen when the Force was screaming at him to duck. When he jumped out of the way the whole building was shaking on its foundations and made the drink he was holding spill over him. When he looked up he heard a hissing sound, his mind raced just as fast as his heart did. He rushed to the other side of the room, but he never got there as his eyelids grew heavy and he collapsed onto the floor.

—

Slowly, Vrakit opened his eyes and blinked against the brightness of the morning sun. He rubbed his head as he sat up and glanced around. Things were all thrown around like they turned the place upside down. Then it hit him and he hurried over towards the bedroom of the children. There was a big gaping hole in one of the walls. Both kids were missing.

"Ooooh! They are going to kill me… not once but twice if they get the chance," Vrakit said as he pulled on his ears in despair. "How am I going to fix this?!"

After pacing back and forth like a mindless Porg he finally picked up the courage to contact Aylin.

"Aylin, I need your help, but please promise me you will not tell Appius or Ankira about it," the Lasat started as soon as Aylin answered the call.

"What's wrong? I'm getting all kinds of warnings from your location," his Nautolan friend inquired as she watched the map in front of her.

"That is the problem… part of it… The real problem is they kidnapped the kids."

"They what?! How?"

"They used something to knock me out…" Vrakit told her, though he felt ashamed to admit he couldn't protect them.

"Okay… okay. Let me check," the Nautolan said as her fingers raced over the keyboard to find information. "Looks like some of those crystal wise asses had a team set out to kidnap them. They took off in a small shuttle."

"Are you able to find them?"

"Uh uh, give me a moment."

He rubbed his head and sighed, trying to calm his racing mind, he had to be ready this time to get them both to safety. He closed his eyes for a moment and reached out through the Force, hoping he would find any clue of where they might be.

"Found it, they are only a few districts away from here." Aylin said, startling Vrakit from his meditation.

"Good, give me the location and I'm going to teach them some lessons," he said with as much resolve he could muster.

—

Vrakit looked up at a lone building from a safe distance. On the outside it looked in a pretty bad shape, but so were many of the other buildings around him. He wondered why they had taken them here and not some other location with better security measures. So far he hadn't seen any of the kidnappers from their hideout, but he was sure they would be in there. He now only hoped that the Force would be on his side as he had never done a rescue mission before.

Focussing his mind on the task he started to take a step onto the street and felt the Force warning him of incoming danger. Jumping out of the way just in time a red streak filled the space he was just seconds ago.

"Good way to start…" he mused at himself.

Glancing from his hiding spot he noticed something moving up at one of the windows. He frowned slightly, but then began to smirk as an idea formed into his mind.

Dashing from his hiding spot, he called the Force to his aid, making him move faster and jump higher. Which was a good thing as another shot was fired just as he exited his spot. His fingers grabbed onto the window sills with practised ease and he scaled further up to climb into one of the holes of the building.

"Ok… that was part one. Now how am I going to fight it?"

He had some lessons from Appius and Ankira in fighting, but had no idea if that would be enough to defeat the people inside the building. He didn't get much time to think as metallic steps could be heard from the hallway. He called all his courage together and unwrapped his electro-whip from his waist. Getting into a corner of the room he waited for the droid to come in, prepared to launch the table at it he was hiding behind.

Instead of the droid coming in a metallic chunk was heard and a soft beeping started. When Vrakit realised what it was, his eyes went wide and he hurried to fling the object back into the hallway through a wave of his hand. Just as it passed the door opening the explosive exploded and sent shrapnel flying everywhere. The droid was not impressed and stepped into the room with his gun firing around the room to hit every square inch of it.

Jumping from his hiding spot, he lashed out with the electro-whip. It caught around the arm of the droid sending shocks through the droid. It began to have problems with properly aiming its

weapon at Vrakit. It was however still able to yank the whip from Vrakit's hands.

"Crap…" Vrakit thought as he jumped out of the line of fire.

In a desperate attempt to finish the droid he quickly jumped at it and rammed a fist against its body that struck with extra telekinetic energy that sent the droid flying into the wall. The droid fizzled and stopped moving.

"Okay…" he said as he tried to catch his breath, "That worked."

Grabbing his whip from the droid he ventured on into the building. He hoped the kids would be alright and worried what Appius would do if they weren't. As he was searching he heard a cry that was unmistakingly from Rausu and started running.

"I'm coming!" Vrakit said as he bursted through a door.

"Just as I expected," a man in a researcher's coat said.

"Give the kids back!" the Lasat said as he held ready.

"I can't do that, they are, or at least the boy is far too interesting to give back to some monkey like you."

"Monkey?! I will show you what this monkey can do!"

The man laughed and waved a finger, "Tsk tsk, monkeys should behave, just like kids."

The voice of the man changed as the words left his mouth. The whole surroundings around Vrakit did as well, everything seemed to dissolve and swirl into nightmarish things. Vrakit looked around in slight panic, but then remembered that he often used similar tricks on his enemies and tried to fight off its effects.

The man had gotten closer to him and struck him with a baton, sending Vrakit flying over and skidding along the floor. A groan escaped from Vrakit as he tried to get up again, only feeling being held down by a telekinetic force. As he looked up he saw the researcher come closer, his baton ready to strike. Quickly, he focused his strength and broke free from his invisible hold before the baton could strike home, rolling away over the floor.

"Why you!" the man called after him.

Vrakit stuck out his tongue at him and started to sling objects at the man as he telekinetically launched them and at the same time he tried to implant illusions on the man, making the objects look like monkeys attacking him.

Sadly the effect didn't last that long on the man as he batted away the objects and advanced at Vrakit. Pulling his whip free he attacked the man with it. He was able to hit the man a few times who yelled out in pain as he struck home, but the whip then got caught on the baton and wouldn't get free anymore.

Both man and Lasat stared at each other for a moment as their weapons were caught and they were both tugging on it.

"New dance!" Vrakit suddenly exclaimed and jumped at the man who was startled by the sudden change.

Vrakit grabbed the man tightly and swung him around before letting go and hurtling him into a wall. He then walked after the man who was struggling to get up. Vrakit grabbed the man by his lapels and pulled him up. The man was sweating and struggled in his grip.

"Ack! Let go of me!

"Can't do that," Vrakit said as he narrowed his eyes, "Where are the children?"

"Not going to tell you that!" the man said with fake confidence as he tried to fling something towards Vrakit.

Vrakit instead turned around and let the item hit the man instead, knocking him out. Dropping the man, Vrakit chuckled and then started laughing as he walked away.

"I guess that is what they mean with 'knock yourself out'"

He heard another cry from the next room and quickly ran over towards it. There he found them, both Shi'Kar and Rausu locked in a bench. He wrenched open the bench and Shi'Kar flung around his neck.

"You saved us!"

"Of course I did, I would be a bad uncle if I didn't."

"Ba'vodu," Shi'Kar corrected him with a giggle as she got down.

"Let's get out of here," he said as he carefully picked up Rausu who cooed softly when he saw him.

—

Back home Vrakit quickly put them some clean clothes on and sad down with them on the couch. The three of them, being tired as they were, quickly fell asleep. Vrakit for sure wasn't going to let go of either of them until their parents got home.