

THE FACE OF THE ENEMY

By Aura Ta'var(10388) and Lynnyaria Meraudstar(13458)



Characters Used:

Lynn <https://www.darkjedibrotherhood.com/members/13458/snapshots/4578/7769>

Aura <https://www.darkjedibrotherhood.com/members/10388/snapshots/4493/7605>

#3

NPC that's being replicated:

https://www.darkjedibrotherhood.com/non_player_characters/1035/snapshots/4506/7618

Jedi Praxeum Grounds

Kiast

40 ABY

A powder-blue female Twi'lek wearing casual mountain clothing indigenous to the local ware was perched in a crevasse of the mountainside, protected from the cold wind by the hard rock surrounding her and the valuable hood that came with the standard Jedi Praxeum school outfit. The moon was high above her, illuminating an eerily glow over the Or'ena mountain range below her. Her bright blue eyes were hidden in the shadows of that great celestial being, allowing her to watch the Odan-Urr defense forces unit below her try their best to hunt her down. The Twi'lek simply stared at them, unmoving as the wind moved by.

"Anyone see her?" comm'd the group leader.

A dead silence hung heavy on the night's air until finally his comlink came to life. *No, sir* could be heard from it. The group trudged forward with an audible sigh.

Una Karawn watched the search party below emotionless and unmoving as they walked on into the night. Her task was complete. Nothing more needed to be done tonight, at least for now.

Jedi Council Chambers

Aura Ta'var sat patiently as the search party relayed the night's adventures. She was secretly glad her meditation poof had a back on it. The group leader's tale was going on for a while. Una Karawn, a woman who had sabotaged their defenses several times already, was still at large. Odan-Urr was lucky they were fixable. Finally, the man concluded with a dejected look that gave her the answer she needed.

"So she is still at large. Any signs of her activity?" the Jedi asked.

"We found a trail leading up high into the mountains but it ran cold by nightfall. Your Jedi padawans didn't sense anything," he said almost accusingly.

Aura ignored the slight. "It seems so. Most strange. Has she been willing to engage your party at all yet?"

"Yes, a few times actually. She is very quick."

Aura thought for a moment while she stared at the man's blaster. It looked like it was fired recently. "Can I see your gun?"

The party leader looked surprised but willingly passed it over. The Jedi brushed her hand against the handle and reached out to the Force. Images flooded her mind of the night's hunt as

he fired at a phantom in the mountain's forests. The padawans had their sabers lit but couldn't quite keep up. The images focused on the top of the mountain peak as they spent the rest of the night wandering around. Aura handed the gun back to the man and sighed.

"I'll look into this personally. Use your unit to guard our defenses. Thank you for the information so far. Dismissed," she said with a nod.

The man saluted her and walked out of the chambers. Aura thought for a moment, her brow furrowing as she pondered her next action. She was going to need some help. She turned to her secretary droid.

"R7, send a message to Lynnyaria to meet me at these coordinates. Tell her to be ready to hunt," she said as she inserted a data rod into the droid.

Aura stood up and looked out the window at the surrounding mountains, her arms folded across her torso as she looked at the fugitive's last known location. *Soon...*

Lynnyaria's Personal Quarters

Kiast

The Sephi lay on her bed clad in a high-cut crop top and a pair of shorts as she entertained herself with her Datapad, the young Mandalorian had found herself here most nights since her return to Odan Urr controlled space; music played loudly in her quarters, loud enough to drown out any and all noise in the room proper, her attention was only dragged to the intruding droid upon the moment her music was interrupted. Sitting up in bed the girl tilted her head bearing an annoyed expression on her face as she looked at the unit, "Okay, either you're the droid butler that I didn't order but thought about a few times, or someone has sent you in here to screw with me."

The droid looked at the ember-haired Sephi and extended its hand outward handing her the datastick, Lynnyaria seemed somewhat hesitant at first but eventually took the object and plugged it into her datapad, her amber hues scanning over the scrolling information before she unplugged the data stick and snapped it in two; quickly she hopped up out of her bed and began to get ready; but before this she glared at the droid snapping her eyes towards the door, getting the memo R7 left her quarters closing the door. "If it's not one thing, it's a droid trying to peep on me while I am changing." The Sephi muttered to herself as she began to lock her armor on and threw on her cloak; picking up her helmet Lynnyaria began to move through the room stopping as she nearly passed a mirror, there was a slight look of dread in her gaze before she closed her eyes, "Let's do this Mom." She said pulling her helmet on and locking it in place.

Forests of Jedi Praxeum Grounds

It did not take her long to reach the coordinates mentioned in Aura's Message.

Upon her arrival she met with the Zeltron, her helmet modulating her voice, "I would ask what

we are hunting; however I have an idea.” The Sephi commented, there was a certain heartbroken sensation buried beneath her usual tone, one that could be picked up by the Zeltron if she listened intently enough to her friend’s words. “I just need to know what the plan is and what we are looking at for options for engaging the target upon location.” Lynnyaria stood by, making sure to keep her wits about her as she awaited the Zeltron’s response. “And if I were not as mature as I am.. I would be making some kind of snide comment regarding the reason I left briefly and comparing it to this exact situation; however, you and I know that such behavior is quite beneath both my morals and my station.” she added on, there was a visible discomfort about the Mandalorian whilst she spoke the words, despite their prior engagement on the matter, it still seemed to fester in the back of her mind, perhaps not of her own volition.

A hand remained ready near her utility belt which the hilt of her lightsaber remained firmly fastened to, “Not that I am trying to bring up any hurt feelings, or attempting to guilt trip you.. I guess that I am just attempting to make small talk to keep my mind occupied, and am failing at both spectacularly.

Aura smiled ever so slightly and patted the mando’s shoulder pauldron in what she hoped was a comforting motion.

“You got the full details of this mission this time. No worries. Now, how about we go get this done and over with so we can have a drink at the cantina later. I have the day off from watching the kids,” she offered as she took her hand off the armor and pulled her robes closer to her body, the wind causing them to billow a bit.

Lynn paused for a moment, unsure of what to say.

“True, you got me the full mission details this time. I just wish we were hunting someone else,” she found herself saying as she scanned the treeline through her helmet, looking for any visible tracks that showed up on her hud.

Aura chose not to pry any further, for the moment. “You see anything to get us started?”

“Not yet. This all looks natural. You have anything or should we wander the forest?” she asked with just a bit of sass and good humor.

Aura reached out to the Force as she put her hand to the ground in what could have been a footprint. Images of the hunting party came back to her. She had seen these before. The Jedi moved to the surrounding trees, sensing nothing out of the ordinary until finally, she touched one near the rock cliff on their left. She saw images of a Twi’lek running through the treeline and scaling the rock wall in front of her. Aura opened her eyes and saw the divots in the stone that no foot alone could make. The Zeltron wouldn’t put it past Una to be prepared but these just felt odd. She didn’t know how but the Force told her something was off.

“Aura? You still there?” asked Lynn.

“Maybe,” she finally replied. “I think our target fled up this cliff, using these divots. But these are recent. Humans can’t make these marks.”

The Mandalorian stood by Aura’s side and investigated herself. “Maybe they were already there?” she shrugged, though she scanned it nonetheless.

“Let’s head up there and check it out. I think she likes the high ground,” said Aura as she gathered the Force into her legs and then shot upward, arcing towards the top of the cliff.

On the way there, she spotted a crevasse and landed there instead. Aura put her hand on the ground and reached out to the Force again. Images of Una watching silently from below replayed back in her mind, a little faded with time but still enough there to do a positive id. Aura looked below to see the Sephi slowing climbing up using the handhelds so nicely left behind.

“Una was definitely here. She just watched them as the hunting party just walked below here. Maybe there are tracks up here we can use,” said Aura.

The Mandalorian rolled her eyes and eventually heaved her way up to the top of the cliff, joining Aura. The pair helped each other up to the top and then the Sephi could finally catch her breath. As if a reward, her visor lit up and marked several tracks going further north. Her HUD showed a system of caves nearby stuck into the mountain, barely noticeable unless closeup or you knew it was there.

Lynnyaria pointed out the tracks, “Seems she went that way.” The Sephi mentioned with a motion of her gloved hand, “There seems to be a cave system; however, I don’t think my scanners can really map it beyond the entrance.” She stated with a slight sigh as she moved off from her knee. The Pair walked for a short distance towards the cave system before the young Mandalorian spoke up, “I.. Said what I did because before all of this happened, I had fallen for Una.” stated the Sephi, “Since the moment I met her I just felt this draw that I could not really explain, and now to be tracking her.. I just.. Hate it, you know?” Lynnyaria finally exhaled the latter part of her statement as the pair continued on, but by now the Sephi had fallen silent on the topic, perhaps she felt that she had said too much on the matter?

Reaching the Cave entrance Lynnyaria extended her arm to stop Aura, her head slowly turning as she swept with her scanner, “I am not getting too much; however the tracks do lead to this cave, there are no disturbances around it so this has to be the only way she could have gone.” The Mandalorian said, “But when we find her.. I want answers, then you can take her away once I am satisfied.. That is all that I ask of you.” She concluded before dropping her arm back down to her side before slowly and carefully making her way into the cave System.

Aura seemed to ponder upon what words she should say in response to the girl’s admission of feelings towards Una, it was a side that Lynnyaria had never really shown before, usually she was somewhat curt and snarky as well as entirely focused upon the task at hand; however, this was the first show of vulnerability that she had expressed in the Zeltron’s presence, despite the

time they had spent together deep in the woods during their survival training for another mission, and such situations had to be taken care of in a relatively careful and meticulous fashion as if the wrong card was played, she may never show such a side again.

Lynnyaria's eyes seemed to dart around as her head remind on a swivel until finally they came into a big empty chamber in the cave system, perched upon a rock sat the Twi'lek, and her eyes seemed to be locked on the Mandalorian.

"I was wondering if you would ever show up," Una remarked as the Sephi came into full view.

The Mandalorian unclipped her lightsaber from her belt, though did not yet ignite the blade, a heavy silence fell upon the trio, the only sound was that of the Sephi's boots against the stone underfoot carrying her a few feet closer. "You know why I am here Una.. I want answers.. Was this some kind of sick game to you?" She questioned with a tilt of her head, her helmet hiding the hurt expression plastered upon her face, "Am I some kind of entertainment for you?" Another silence fell upon the three before the Twi'lek found her feed and hopped down off the rock formation she had been perched atop of; a look of shock drawn upon her face, "Why would you ever think that?" She asked, feigning a certain level of sincerity, "I would hope that you'd not think so low of me."

Aura stared at Una as she reached out to the Force, hoping to get a glimpse into what had led her so astray, but felt nothing. The Jedi looked perplexed, feeling no presence in the Force at all. The Twi'lek looked real, sounded real, and kinda acted real...

"Not very like you to be so serious. The Una Karawn I've heard of loves to create entertainment nor would she care so much what we think," replied Aura.

The Twi'lek shifted her gaze to the Jedi Master and smiled. "But Master Jedi, don't you like the new me?"

"If it was really you," replied the Zeltron. Not taking her eyes off the Twi'lek, she added "Lynn, this isn't Una. I don't know what it is, but it's not Una. Let's take it out."

The moment Aura spoke those words she was already rushing forward, her saber activating with a *snap-hiss*, and swinging her saber in a downward slash. Una rolled to her right, the sound strangely metallic for an organic crushed against rock, already reaching for a grenade off her belt. The Zeltron held her hand still for a moment, the Twi'lek grunting in effort. Una's other hand reached for another grenade but Aura stopped that one as well for now.

"Hurry up, can't hold this all day," called the Jedi Master as her voice echoed around the cave.

Lynn was already running up to her, shocking boxing gloves ready to go and already swinging. The Mandalorian swung through the air, aiming straight for Una's chest. The Twi'lek back stepped out of the way and squared up. Lynn followed her relentlessly throwing punch after punch. Aura turned her saber off and gathered the Force in her fist as she swung through the air

several meters away from Una, who was slowly driven towards her. The invisible cross-punch pushed her forward into Lynn's punch. Crackles of energy went off the shock gloves made contact with Una's forearms.

The pair traded blows for what might have felt to be hours, though in reality it was only but a few minutes before the Mandalorian skidded back; glaring at the Twi'lek she thought back on Aura's words, if this truly was all just a hoax, why was she still holding back? The Sephi slowly rose up from one knee and grabbed her cloak ripping it off in one fluid motion, as the object blocked her from view she used the force to shroud herself and as the armor weave cloak fell to the ground silence seemed to fill the chamber.

Una stood motionless until an unhinged modulated giggle seemed to echo from across the chamber behind her, "What we had was never real was it?" the Sephi's voice seemed to call out bouncing off of the walls of the chamber making it ever harder to pinpoint her exact location, "It's a real shame.. But, why don't you show me the real you?" Suddenly the Twi'lek's back arched as the air crackled with electricity, a distortion showing behind the imposter before she was thrown stumbling forward into the nearby cave wall, another telling clang sounding as the holographic disguise flickered for a moment.

Lynnyaria's force cloak dropped and she sprinted towards the Twi'lek, her fist slamming into the wall where Una's head had been but a moment before, a punch contacting the Mandalorian's gut which sent her back a few feet, though rather than rushing back in the Mandalorian seemed to throw herself over Aura as a faint beeping began to grow louder, the Twi'lek looked down at her grenade belt seeing the objects beginning to glow brightly as lights around them flashed red, a mechanical scream echoed through the cave system followed by a jarring explosion which seemed to blast a small crater into the wall and floor of the chamber showering the pair with debris; upon the room falling quiet the ferocious roar of tremors began and the Sephi moved to pull Aura to her feet before the pair escaped the collapsing chamber which buried any remnants of the droid.

Outside of the cave system, Lynnyaria stood in a thick silence as she stared out over the forests, her helmet hiding the solemn expression painted across her face; Aura looked back at the cave thinking about what she could possibly say, but when she turned her head back the Mandalorian was gone.