

The evening sky glowed orange as Ellac walked through the streets of Nar Shadda, lost in thought as he traversed through the city, staring down at the neon reflections in the puddles on the ground. The edges of his hood shielded his face from the pouring rain that somehow managed to make the bustling streets seem almost quiet. Tranquil even. That is, until he looked back up at the people who pushed past him.

Some of them were simply on their way home after a long day, while some sought to drink their troubles away at the cantinas like the one Ellac was passing. As patrons came and went, he could hear the bassy music booming and He swore he could almost smell the Tarisian Ale fuming from inside. He knew its stench well. It was his father's drink of choice, or it used to be anyway, back when Ellac was a kid. His mind swarmed as the memories, burned into his brain, replayed in his head...

*"Boy!" his father used to shout. "get in here!"*

***When he was little, Ellac did whatever he was told. It was the only chance he had to avoid his father's drunken wrath.***

*"Yes sir?"*

*"Where were you?", his father asked, wiping the ale from his mouth with his thumb.*

*"Playing with Elaine," a little Ellac said, trying to hide the quiver in his voice.*

*"Good boy. You stay there and play with your sister. I don't want to see you out here again, is that clear?"*

*"Yes sir."*

***But as he started to get older, he began to realize that doing what he was told didn't always work.***

*"Ellac!"*

*"Yes sir?"*

*His father waved an empty bottle of Tarisian Ale in Ellac's face, barely managing to keep himself upright as he stumbled backwards. "You've been in my bottles... You've been in my bottles, haven't ya boy?" he sniffed.*

*"No sir." Ellac swallowed hard.*

*"DON'T LIE TO ME!" his father shouted.*

*"I'm not lying, I haven't been in yo-"*

*Ellac's vision suddenly flashed white as he felt his body sprawl out onto the floor. A sharp pain shot through his jaw, and tears welled up in his eyes, his senses overloaded as he tried to figure out what had just happened.*

*"That's enough, Mason!" Ellac's mother ran to his side, helping him to his hands and knees as she shouted back at his father.*

*His father stood hunched above him, his fist still clenched tight from the right cross he had just given Ellac. "Don't you ever steal from me again, boy! You hear me?! I'll kill you!" he said, stumbling back again as he threw the empty bottle into a nearby wall.*

***The more his father lashed out, the more bitter Ellac became, until that day... The day it happened.***

*Ellac came in the front door of their house, the shouts and screams filling his ears as his parents yelled at each other. His father was drunk as he had always been, but this time, something was different, and Ellac could sense it. He didn't know what it was then, but looking back, Ellac realized it was the Force within him, churning. Warning him.*

*His mother was standing between his sister and their father, protecting her from his drunken rage. His father was standing in front of Talia, but Ellac saw nothing but blackness behind his eyes.*

*"Get out of my way, Talia! She needs to learn..." his father's voice was heavy, and his breaths were inconsistent.*

*"She's a child, I won't let you hurt her anymore!" Talia cried.*

*"I said MOVE!" Mason balled his fist and swung, knocking her to the ground.*

*Talia gasped as she pushed herself back up, her face instantly bruising from the blow. Tears streamed down her face as she stood back up between Mason and Elaine. "No!"*

*Ellac saw his father reach out to grab her, but the boy's feet refused to move, frozen in fear. In one horrifying instant, Mason twisted his hands, and Talia's lifeless body dropped to the floor. Mason's breaths became audible as he growled with each one he took, his whole chest heaving in and out.*

*But for Ellac, time seemed to freeze. The whole room began to blur and fade into blackness as that churning feeling in his gut overtook his whole body. The fear he felt earlier had been completely engulfed by hatred and rage. Ellac felt his body move, but he wasn't the one in control anymore.*

*When the room came back into sight, and Ellac's body began to shut down from the sudden overload, the only thing he saw was the blurry image of his father's body lying beneath him next to his mother's, blood dripping from his nose and mouth. Elaine sat on the floor crying next to him, overwhelmed by what she had just witnessed. The weight of it almost crushing Ellac as well*

*Ellac stumbled from the room, making his way back out of the door he had come in. His body on the brink of total collapse, the adrenaline was gone, and now the extremely sudden withdrawal of energy was sending him into shock. His knees hit the stones of the path outside their house, completely numb. As he fell forward, the last thing he remembered was the sound of his head hitting the path before he blacked out.*

Over his shoulder, his ID-9 unit beeped and buzzed, interrupting Ellac's wandering mind. Shaking his head to clear the haze away, Ellac looked around, realizing that he had made it to his destination, the den of the Raging Rancors, a gang of raiders that had been attacking Imperial outposts in the area.

"Sorry. Spaced out for a second," he said, patting the droid on the head. "Let's go."

The ID-9 beeped as he clicked his pincers together.

Outside, there were two guards standing at the only door. Normally, Ellac would've tried to take them out quietly, but this was about sending a message. Even in these lawless lands, the Empire still reigned supreme.

Ellac walked straight up the main path to the door, his cloak billowing lightly in the wind and his hood covering his face.

The two guards, taking notice of the shadowy figure approaching them, trained their rifles on him. "Stop where you are!" one of them shouted.

Ellac reached to his belt, unclipping his lightsaber. The red blade hissed to life as he kept walking, bathing him in the blood-red light.

The guards reeled back for a moment before raising their blasters again. "It's the Empire... Kill him!" Both of the men fired off at the Knight, their shots being knocked away by Ellac's blade. Panic quickly set in as they scrambled back into the door yelling "Get inside, get inside!"

As he approached the entrance, Ellac dug the tip of his blade into the ground, the dirt sizzling as it disintegrated. From the other side of the door, he heard a low thump in the metal, and a smirk snuck onto his mouth. They had locked the door, but that wouldn't be enough.

Lifting his lightsaber, he shoved the blade into the wall around the door, moving it around the edge to cut a hole for himself. Finishing the final cut, the door stood free from the rest of the building, and Ellac lifted his hand, using the Force to launch the door into the building.

Dust billowed out from the building as it crashed through walls and tables, until burying itself in the bar they had at the far side of the den. Through the dust, streaks of red and blue shot out at Ellac, who dodged or deflected them as he pushed further in, reaching deeper into the Force as well, drawing strength from the earlier emotions that had welled up as he recalled his parents' deaths.

In the main room, all of the Raging Rancor members had gathered to form a defense stronghold, but not a single bolt they fired could hit him as Ellac opened himself fully to the emotions, letting them fuel his body

For the Knight, the room had begun to fade to black as his rage boiled, but after all these years, Ellac had worked to hone his anger, controlling it as a devastating weapon rather than *it* controlling *him*. The room became dim in his eyes, but not yet fully gone, as one by one he felt himself tear through the raiders with his blade, until there remained only one, the Captain of the crew, trembling on his knees before Ellac.

“What the hell are you?” he whimpered, his voice as shaky as his hands.”

Ellac looked down at the man, barely making out his face as the light had almost gone from the Knight's eyes. Deep from his chest, Ellac spoke as he raised his blade, ready to bring it down upon the Captain's head.

“I am Sith.”