

## Reek

---

To Darrio, this was *much* better than those damn wampas. Not only was there only one reek instead of a pack, but he was here with Ellisyn and Sulla. He didn't have to worry about Appius being in his ear. So what if his erosion in the wampa cave nearly caused an avalanche? It dealt with the problem, didn't it?

Alas, Appius rarely ever saw it Darrio's way. At least this wasn't Elysia. He'd seen quite enough of that snow-forsaken moon to last him a good while.

It was rare he got to bring Sulla out with him. She was, assuming the records were correct, about to turn three years old soon. She always wanted to come with them whenever they did their night-time crime-fighting, but bringing a toddler to the scum-ridden cesspit slums of Kasiya was like bringing a rubber knife to a blaster fight. She'd be an instant target, and he'd be more focused on her, worrying about her safety rather than the task at hand.

This, on the other hand? A reek that had escaped a farmer's clutches in the Karufr Highlands? That was so mind-numbingly simple even he couldn't believe how easy this was going to be. When Sulla asked, he was more than happy to let her come along.

Ellisyn entwined her hand with his. "I'm surprised you let her come along. You don't usually since... well... you know..."

Darrio squeezed her hand. "I know, I know. There's no-one out here, and any threat would meet the end of my blaster."

"Or my fist."

"Or your fist, yeah," Darrio smirked beneath his helmet.

The hills were alive with the sight of green everywhere. The Karufr Highlands was such a contrast to the metropolis of Kasiya that Darrio briefly wondered if they were still on the same moon. The air was fresh. Birds tweeted in the air, and Sulla ran on ahead without a care in the world.

It was nice.

Darrio wished they could do it more often.

A foul smell perpetrated the area and Sulla gasped when she clasped her eyes on the reek. For the most part, they were gene, domesticated creatures. It seemed to look at them for a moment before going back to feeding on the grass beneath it.

Darrio grabbed his blaster, setting it to stun mode. "Alright, let's get this over with..."

Sulla saw what he was doing, and grabbed hold of the bottom of his shirt, tugging it. He looked down and saw her shake her head.

Darrio raised a brow. "What's up, kid?"

Sulla smiled at him, turned around, and carefully walked towards the creature. It towered over the little girl, but she stood in front of it, fear in her eyes, but steely resolve holding her in place.

Darrio was an influence on her. Whether good or bad was about to be seen.

"Sulla!" Ellisyn panicked, and was about to run to her when Darrio grabbed her arm.

"Let her do it."

He encouraged Sulla, though he kept his spare arm on his blaster just in case.

Sulla reached out to the beast, and to both Ellisyn and Darrio's surprise, it lowered its head to her.

Ellisyn tilted her head. "Huh.. "

"Looks like she's a natural with beasts," Darrio gave Sulla a thumbs up.

Neither were aware that the Force was in play, courtesy of Sulla who had yet to grasp her power. Though, that is a story for another time...