

Fire and Water on Sepros

By Locke Sonjie

War Room

Strike Cruiser Crucible

High Orbit Over Sepros

"We've been asked to find the source of the contaminated water," Locke said. He gestured to a map of Sepros. "We think there might be a spring or well up river from the main areas affected. This is fairly dense jungle, but there is an automated water processing station up that way. I've been informed that we haven't had a signal coming out of it for weeks, if not months, but when scouts went out to check it seemed normal, so they just didn't replace the part."

"That doesn't seem very smart," Val said, crossing her arms. "Shouldn't the Sith Empire keep this stuff up to date?"

"Well, you'd think," Locke answered, "but this is run by the local government, which is technically civilian."

Anya chimed in from where she was leaning against a wall by the door. "I wouldn't want to be the poor sap responsible for that. These Sith seem a *bit* unforgiving."

"Right," Locke agreed. "Hopefully nothing like this ever happens on Tarthos, but we do have that bandit problem we need to solve eventually. Anyway, I'm sending you two in. Anya, I want you to hold back and support Val. Val, see if you can figure out where the poison is and eliminate any threats."

"Is that all?" Val asked.

"Prisoners would be nice," Locke added.

"I'll try."

"Oh and Anya?" Locke said.

"Eh?"

"Please try not to cause any major conflagrations. The wookies probably would not appreciate it."

Jungle

Sepros

[Exact Coordinates Classified]

Val crept toward the water processing station. So far, she hadn't seen anything dangerous beyond the usual critters of the jungle. There were just a couple of huge circular water containers with some small buildings next to it. She spotted movement outside those buildings.

"Sloppy!" she muttered, drawing her blaster.

Watching from a safe distance and at a reasonable elevation, Anya had her DLT-19 rifle bipod deployed and trained on the water facility, although she frequently swept the area looking for other targets. She watched Val's slim shadow approach the plant, and observed as the other woman discharged her blaster twice. Then Val entered the building and Anya got a message on her comlink. "There's some kind of device connected to the tanks, I'll need a few minutes to disable it."

Noticing some movement in the forest, Anya responded. "Got company, will hold off."

She turned her rifle slightly and depressed the trigger. A short burst killed one would be assailant and alerted the others. Anya swung the weapon over and through the sonic scope saw movement behind a tree. She blasted the tree for a few seconds, pulverizing the trunk and dropping the target behind it.

By this point, her enemies had realized they had a second adversary, and were now firing at her location. Anya shimmied back and stood up, heaving her grenade launcher over her shoulder and firing it into the air. There was a **do-do-do** sound as 3 micro incendiary grenades launched in quick succession, then the sound of air rushing forward as they hit the ground a ways in front of her and ignited the dense foliage, causing a screen for her to elude her enemies.

Anya slung the weapon back over her shoulder, and did the same with her DLT-19, almost comically taking her time. She slowly walked forward, trusting her armor to keep her safe from the heat, although she avoided actually walking through the flames. She didn't like fire *that* much.

She fired her arm cannon as she approached, circling around until she was in the water processing station and firing out from it. Wherever she saw shots coming her way, she used the readout inside her armor's helmet to locate targets. The shots gradually died down.

"How are we doing?" she asked.

"Shutting down the station, now," Val said.

"That bad?"

"Well, that fire you started is about to reach it, I guess the people in charge wouldn't be happy if instead of poison there was soot in their water."

"True. Let's get out of here then."

When they were several hundred meters from the water processing station - which was now completely overrun by the fire - there was a loud 'boom' from it and the station collapsed on itself.

"What in the Sith hell?" Val exclaimed.

"Grenade," Anya replied calmly. "I figured we wouldn't want them to get it running again."

Later...

"Are you serious?!" Locke complained, gesturing to a flashing readout showing the extent of the wildfire on Sepros now. "What did I say?!"

"I thought it was fun!" Val replied gleefully.

"At least I have one fan," Anya said wryly. "I was taking a lot of fire. You know how it is."

"She think everything is fun," Locke retorted, indicating Val,. "she'd think Macron's alchemy is fun, or watching Koji feed people to his pets. Her opinion doesn't count."

"Heyy..." Val started.

"Well, I'll try," Anya said. "I'll send the wookiees some kind of gift I guess."

"As if that will matter," Locke rolled his eyes.

"Oh I know," Val jumped in. "I've heard they have these things now that are just like trees, except they're algae and stuff in water. They could sprinkle some of those around, and probably even make them fire proof!"

With a sigh, Locke sat down at his desk and began trying to decide how he was going to explain this to Tasha...

END