

## **An unexpected visitor**

### **Xantros**

#### **41 ABY, Triumvirate Offices, Sirmium, Yuris System**

Xantros looked at a Chiss female with blue skin and red eyes and smiled politely. He was aware of the power of compliments, insults and words in general, but he was not a diplomat himself. He preferred his actions speak for himself. And that was why he was sitting in front of his interlocutor, Lieutenant Colonel Jacinta Ni'Eriia. She was the Triumvir of Words and she oversaw diplomacy of the Severian Principate. And she did not like the Dark Brotherhood so she was not willing to make the Principate enter any sort of cooperation with it.

„I am equally surprised to find myself in your room,” spoke the Duros, still looking at the Chiss.  
„However, it is one of these rare situations, when I see the necessity to support my enemies.”

„So, you are not a member of the Dark Brotherhood?” asked Jacinta.

„I used to be, but I no longer am,” answered Xantros.

„Why?” continued the official of the Severian Principate.

„I believe it is a matter too personal to share with you. Let's just say that I was used by my direct superiors to further their own agenda and I do not like being used by other people against my own will,” explained the Force Adept.

„And you say we, the Severian Principate, become more supportive to the Dark Brotherhood?” inquired the Lieutenant Colonel. It sounded like an interrogation, but the Duros realized that there was more behind that question.

„Yes, you need to trust them in this case,” replied Xantros. „They need you, but also you need them.”

„Over my dead body,” spoke Jacinta angrily and hit a desk she was sitting at with her fist.

„I am pretty much sure this could be easily arranged,” replied the Force Adept and grinned evilly. „I could kill you before you would even realize what was happening and I could easily leave this place unnoticed by anyone. The Severian Principate might replace you with someone more open-minded. I am sure that the Dark Brotherhood would be happy with such outcome and they might welcome me back in their ranks.”

Jacinta's face turned pale. It was an obvious and simple threat, nothing subtle, but she knew that her interlocutor was right. She knew his dossier and was well aware of his abilities...at least, to some extent. He would be able to depose her without a real effort and run away without getting punished for his crime. However, she quickly realized that he did not want to kill her as he had a different goal, which was to convince her to support the Dark Brotherhood. She was aware the he was aware that killing her might be a double-edge sword. It might lead to choosing someone more friendly towards the Dark Brotherhood, but it was not so sure. It was equally probable that her assassination attempt might strain the relationships between both factions even more.

„You would not kill me,” simply stated the Triumvir of Words. „It would be too risky for your...companions.”

„You are correct, indeed,” replied Xantros. „Still, assistance of the Dark Brotherhood would be very helpful in furthering the agenda of the Severian Principate.”

„And you think your Brotherhood would not manipulate or betray us?” asked the Chiss and simpered.

Xantros sighed, not disturbed by her smile, and explained, „Of course, they are manipulative and might betray the Principate. However, it does not seem that they have a reason to do so. As mentioned before, they need you as much as you need them. After the war against the Collective and the Children of Mortis they still might leave you alone or even maintain the alliance with you, if they find you useful.”

„Your words have no meaning as you do not speak on the Brotherhood's behalf,” replied the Lieutenant Colonel. „And I would not believe my own eyes even if the Grand Master of the Dark Brotherhood would stab himself with his lightsaber in front of me.”

„You do not have to believe me,” spoke Xantros, took out a datapad and moved it on the desk's surface towards Jacinta. „Despite my strong aversion towards the Brotherhood, I still have some useful contacts there. We joined our efforts to provide you data about some spies among high ranked members of the government of the Severian Principate. If this is not enough to earn your trust, I do not know what could.”

„Depends on the value of the data,” said the Chiss. „We need to confirm, if this data is correct.”

„I do not expect you to act differently,” replied the Duros. „But once you learn that this data is true, make sure that your own prejudices will not affect the best interest of the Severian Principate.”

„We shall see.”

The Force Adept nodded and stood up. He vanished into thin air right in front of Jacinta and left her office, with the door opening seemingly on its own being the last sign of his presence there.