

STAR WARS

DARKNESS RISING

5-01: HISTORY & REBIRTH

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With the identities of their enemies revealed, the Udras are sent to the Narthis Sector where their ancestor Cal first encountered the Founding Families. However, upon their arrival they find that there is more in this sector to threaten them...

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1.

The *Swift Exit* was immediately scanned as it came out of hyperspace. With two heavily inhabited planets in the system there was a lot of traffic between them and controlling and monitoring all of this required a great deal of effort on behalf of the authorities of both worlds.

"For those of you who didn't feel that we've just dropped out of hyperspace." Tylo Kurrast, the *Swift Exit*'s owner said into the intercom and moments later his two regular passengers Jedi Knight Jayk Udra and the teenager who was both his padawan and daughter Brae came into the cockpit and sat down.

"Have they contacted us?" Jayk said.

"Not yet. We're still beyond the control range of either planet but we have been scanned by an orbital control platform from that planet over there." Tylo answered and he pointed through the cockpit canopy at where one of the system's two inhabited worlds was located.

"That's Crassis Major, capital world of the Narthis Sector." a voice said from beneath Brae's cloak and she took out a crystalline cube and held it up, at which point the holographic image of an older man in Jedi robes appeared in the cockpit.

"It's not any more Cal." Brae said, "Now it's Kast Primus and it's the capital world of the Hyronymous Sector."

"I bet that nerf herder's feeling smug from beyond the grave." Cal said.

"Who?" Brae asked.

"Hyronymous Kast. Just because he managed to displace the Founding Families as the chief social power in the sector and got himself elected senator he gets everything renamed after himself."

"So everything had different names when you last visited here then?" Tylo said and the hologram of Cal Udra nodded.

"Yes. Even after the Founding Families fell the planets named after them as well as the sector itself kept their original names." Cal said.

"Take us to Kast Primus." Jayk said, "We need to speak to the authorities there."

"Laying in a course now. We should be there in about twenty minutes." Tylo replied, nodding as he turned the ship towards the nearby planet and it began to accelerate.

"Attention freighter, identify yourself." a voice said over the communication system as the *Swift Exit* got to within the gravity well of the planet and Jayk reached to respond.

"This is the vessel *Swift Exit* out of Coruscant operating under the authority of the Jedi Order requesting permission to land." he said and there was a brief pause as the vessel's authorisation was double checked.

As a Jedi vessel the *Swift Exit* could count on priority clearance as well as being able to land at official locations and the response from Kast Primus came from a different individual to the original flight controller.

"*Swift Exit* this is Kast Primus Defence Command. Please follow beacon trill herf xesh to the Eleven Thirty-eighth Attack Wing base."

"Copy that defence command, we're on our way down." Jayk said before shutting off the communication system.

Locking onto the beacon, Tylo flew the *Swift Exit* into the planet's atmosphere and down through the cloud layer. It was at this point that the urban sprawl of the planet's capital city came into view.

"Is this how you remember it Cal?" Brae asked but the hologram of Cal appeared to frown.

"The images I have stored differ from this a great deal." he said.

"Yeah well I guess a planet can change a lot in more than three and a half thousand years." Tylo commented,

"The beacon is taking us down there." he added, pointing to a wide, flat structure. The upper surface of this was clearly marked with landing zones while elevator platforms could be used to move personnel and equipment down into the building with all activity monitored from a single control tower that rose up from the centre while defensive gun batteries could be seen around the edges of the landing zone.

"Looks like they take their defences seriously." Brae said.

"*Swift Exit* this is tower eleven thirty-eight we are illuminating a landing zone for you now." the voice of another controller announced over the communication system and at the same time a ring of lights around one of the landing areas began to flash, guiding Tylo towards it.

"I see it control. ETA two minutes. Gear down." he said as he angled the *Swift Exit* in to land among the military craft present.

As soon as they touched down Tylo and the Udras made their way down the access ramp as a lightweight utility speeder was heading towards them carrying a lone woman in a defence force uniform and she brought the vehicle to a halt close by before disembarking and saluting Jayk.

"Lieutenant Lise Tayer. Welcome to Kast Primus." she said.

"Jedi Jayk Udra and this is-" Jayk began.

"I'm sorry, did you say Udra?" the woman interrupted.

"You know the name?" Jayk asked.

"Everyone who grows up here knows it sir. How a jedi called Udra helped Hyronymous Kast liberate the sector."

"Hear that Cal?" Tylo said even though Brae had the holocron hidden beneath her cloak again, "You helped."

"Captain we are here on an official investigation." Jayk said, "We need to speak to someone in civilian law enforcement. Someone with full clearance to open records to us. I'm afraid I can't tell you why."

"Of course. The Ministry of Justice is probably your best bet. They have an office dedicated to liaising with the Sector Rangers there. If they can't find what you need then I doubt anyone can." Lieutenant Tayer said.

"And we will need transport." Jayk added.

"That I can handle. Captain Jurren instructed me to provide whatever resources you needed. Within reason of course." Lise answered, "Please get aboard and come with me."

Getting into the speeder, the female officer drove the Udras and Tylo to one of the large elevator platforms and activated it by remote control. This caused the platform to sink down into the structure and as it descended they saw that the level immediately below the rooftop landing area was one vast hangar that contained several squadrons of starfighters as well as various atmospheric patrol craft as well. The platform continued to descend though until it reached a smaller garage level at the base of the structure where numerous speeders of types that varied from single person bikes to armoured troop carriers were lined up. Lieutenant Tayer drove along one of these rows until she came to a group of unmarked and fully enclosed landspeeders and she brought her vehicle to a halt.

"Here we go. You can take one of these. Each one includes a comlink and a full navigational suite to get you wherever you want to go. You can search by address or building function." she said.

"Thank you lieutenant. This should do nicely." Jayk said as he got out of the utility speeder.

"Are keys in it?" Tylo asked.

"They should be." the lieutenant replied and Tylo smiled as he got into the driver's seat and then held them up.

"Okay everyone get in." he said.

"How come you get to drive?" Brae asked.

"Because that's my job isn't it?" Tylo replied, "Move the pair of you around the galaxy until we find Thal N'Krey."

"He does have a point Brae." Jayk added as they got into the speeder as well and when Tylo started the engine Cal's voice spoke up as well.

"Just take it from me," he said, "whatever you do, don't lose this speeder. Just don't."

Tylo set the speeder's navigation system to take them to the Ministry of Justice, located close to the heart of the city. On the other hand the base of the Eleven Thirty-eighth Attack Wing was just outside the city limits to avoid the crowded urban airspace and the route recommended by the navigation system instructed Tylo to circle around the city to approach from a different direction and this took them through a residential area.

"Looks like there are some wealthy people around here." Tylo said, "I wouldn't mind living in a place like this."

"If you moved in next door I think the people who live around here would move out." Brae commented, smirking.

"Or maybe they'd be round at my place for the non-stop parties." Tylo replied.

"Tylo stop." Jayk said.

"Why? I'm just joking around." Tylo protested.

"No I mean stop the speeder now." Jayk told him and Tylo brought the speeder to a rapid halt.

"What's wrong?" Brae asked.

"Look over there Brae, at the building with the statues in front of it." Jayk said and he pointed to one of the mansions that had a row of three statues in front of it, each of which stood about five metres tall and depicted humans, "Don't you recognise the man positioned between the two women?"

"Is that Cal?" Brae said as she and Jayk both got out of the speeder, followed by Tylo.

"It certainly looks like the images I've seen of him as a younger man." Jayk said.

"The woman to the right is his sister, Lara her name was. I recognise her from the recording he played." Tylo added as the group walked up to the fence and looked through to study the statues standing in the centre of the well kept lawn more closely.

"I wonder who the other woman is then?" Brae said.

"Hold me up." Cal's voice said from beneath her robes and she took out the holocron so that the device's sensors could scan the statues.

"So who is it? Or who was it?" Tylo asked.

"My wife." Cal answered, "The planning of those statues was just getting underway when the real me stopped inputting new data."

"You mean when he died?" Tylo said.

"Yes, when I – when he died." Cal said before a woman's voice called out.

"Jayk?"

Turning around Jayk, Brae and Tylo saw a woman who looked to be in her early to mid thirties standing beside the large house beyond the lawn and the statues.

"I am Jayk Udra. Have we met?" Jayk responded.

"Watch it kid. I've got a bad feeling about this." Tylo whispered to Brae, "You may be about to find out you're not an only child."

"No we haven't met. "The woman replied, walking across the lawn to stand just beyond the fence, smiling at him, "Gods, you're the spitting image of him."

"Of who?" Jayk asked.

"Grandfather. Mom and dad named you after him. Come on around, I'll open the gate for you." the woman said.

Surprise.

"Mom and dad?" Brae commented, sensing the same reaction from Jayk as she had had herself.

"Oh right we haven't been introduced. Jayk I'm Yisan. I'm your sister." the woman said.

"We really-" Jayk began, knowing that for a jedi to have contact with their family went directly against the code but Tylo intervened.

"We really could do with your help. Thanks." he interrupted.

"I'll go open the gate for you. Just come right up to the house." Yisan said and she turned around and began to walk back towards the building beyond the statues.

2.

"Tylo what are you doing?" Jayk asked, staring at the former smuggler.

"Getting us local knowledge." Tylo replied, "If your family has lived here for, how long?"

"About three and three quarter millennia." Cal said.

"That long. Then they must know what's happened during that time and whether these Founding Families are still around." Tylo pointed out and Jayk frowned.

"You're putting me in a very difficult position Tylo. However, your idea does have merit. I suggest you fetch the speeder and meet us in there." Jayk replied.

Returning to the speeder Tylo drove it to the front entrance to the house, a large mansion that was spread out over a wide area and also had large grounds all around it.

"Jayk come on in, everyone else is in the lounge. We're having a bit of a family gathering. It's lucky you arrived today." Yisan told Jayk from just inside the front door.

"The will of the Force?" Tylo said, grinning and Jayk glared at him momentarily before following the woman who claimed to be his sister into the house.

Inside the trio found themselves in a large hallway that had every wall covered in portraits of people dressed in jedi robes.

"Are all these Udras who served as jedi?" Tylo asked.

"From the time of the first Cal Udra right up to the Ruusan Reformation. After that we never heard from those who were taken by the Jedi Order." Yisan said before she smiled again and added, "You're the first one to come back." then she walked to an open doorway and spoke to the people on the other side, "We have another guest everyone. You won't believe who's come home to us."

As Jayk stood behind Yisan he saw that the room beyond the doorway was a large dining area and that there were perhaps twenty people all sat around the table, varying in age from a pair of children who looked to be under ten standard years of age up to an elderly woman sat in a repulsor chair and as they all turned to look at him he sensed that the reaction from most was the same as his had been to finding out that Yisan was his sister.

Surprise.

"It can't be." a man who looked older than Jayk exclaimed when he saw him.

"It is Garan, it's our Jayk." the woman of a similar age sat beside him added and they both got up to approach Jayk, the woman embracing him.

"Jayk, do you remember us?" the man referred to as Garan asked, "Virana is your mother and I am your father."

"You're a jedi." one of the younger children said, "Can I have a go of your laser sword? I want to be a jedi too."

"Be quiet Luke." Yisan told the child.

"Sit down Jayk. You and your friends." the elderly woman at the head of the table said, "I'll have the droids bring you food while you introduce them and tell us what brings you here."

"Well I'm not one to turn down free food." Tylo said as he quickly located an empty chair and sat down, "I take that you're in charge around here." and the woman laughed.

"This is a family, not a cult." she said. "My name is Daress Cospire. I'm Jayk's paternal grandmother."

"Not Udra?" Tylo commented.

"No, the name Udra is no longer used by the family generally, only those of us that become jedi." Daress explained.

"Captain Kurrast is my pilot. He owns the ship that brought us here." Jayk said as he too sat down and then he looked at Brae and added, "And Brae is my-" then he hesitated.

"Your padawan?" Yisan asked.

"Yes but also-" Jayk began before a young woman who looked about the same age as Brae interrupted him."

"She's his kid." she said, "Blonde hair. Blue eyes. She's one of us even if she is a little short for a member of the family. What happened Uncle Jayk? Did the Jedi Order kick you out for daring to find a woman to-"

"Jayan!" Yisan snapped, "Jayk I'm sorry but my daughter is not a fan of the Jedi Order."

"How many members of our family have they stolen over the years?" Jayan asked.

"The Jedi Order does not steal children. It trains them to control their powers." Jayk said.

"Trust me kid, I've seen what happens when kids with the ability to manipulate the Force don't get properly trained and it's not pretty." Tylo added.

"Is that why you're here then? To take away someone's child?" Jayan said.

"Jayan if you can't be civil then just leave." Yisan snapped at her.

"Fine by me." Jayan muttered and she began to get up.

"Wow you're even more annoying than my sister." Cal said, his voice coming from beneath Brae's robes and the others at the table looked at her.

"What was that?" the man sat at the far end of the table from Daress said, "I'm Mikal by the way, Jayk's cousin."

"Oh that's just Cal." Brae said, producing the holocron and placing it on the table at which point Cal's hologram appeared to the surprise of the others present.

"Take a seat young lady." he said to Jayan, "You should respect your elders and I'm the eldest one here by about thirty six centuries."

Startled at the sudden appearance of Cal, who she instantly recognised, Jayan sat down again with her mouth gaping.

"Why don't you tell us what brings you back to the Hyronymous Sector Jayk?" Garan suggested.

"We're just here looking for information." Jayk said.

"What sort of information?" Daress asked.

"We need to know about the Founding Families." Jayk said.

"I would have thought that Cal would be able to tell you more about them than us." Yisan replied.

"Oh I know what they were like when the original me was alive but my knowledge is somewhat out of date." Cal said.

"We have uncovered information that suggests at least one of the Founding Families is still active." Jayk added, "Have you seen any evidence of this?"

"The descendants of some of the Founding Families do still live in the sector of course, they weren't all wiped out after all." Daress said, "But I wouldn't exactly call them 'active', at least not in the way they tried to manipulate events when Cal was alive. Now they're no different to the rest of us and they don't advertise who they're descended from."

"I definitely heard someone referred to as 'Drud'." Tylo said between mouthfuls of the food a serving droid had placed in front of him.

"Is that about that stupid sculpture?" Jayan said.

"Sculpture?" Brae said when she heard this, instantly connecting the idea of any artwork to the missing Thal N'Krey.

"Somebody broke into an art gallery a couple of months back and stole a mysterious sculpture." the man at the end of the table told her, "Jayk I must ask you about my sister, Xellia. She was taken to be a jedi as well about thirty years ago."

"The Jedi Order does not normally assign members of the same family to serve together. They prefer to avoid the possibility that they could become attached." Jayk replied.

"What about you and her?" Jayan pointed out.

"Brae's power makes her a special case." Jayk said.

"Plus the council told him she was his niece rather than his daughter. He had to find that out for himself." Tylo added before he looked at Mikal and asked, "What made this sculpture so mysterious exactly?"

"For starters no-one knows who made it." Virana answered.

"It was just a lump of cast carbonite." Jayan muttered.

"Agents of the Drud family have been stealing artwork." Brae said.

"Why would they do that?" Yisan asked.

"We are also hunting for a missing artist who used genuine Sith artefacts as the inspiration for his work, some of which were illegal. When he disappeared a number of these artefacts got mixed up with his work and is now being sold as his art." Brae said.

"So this sculpture could be one of those artefacts?" Daress asked.

"It's certainly possible." Jayk said, "Where was it stolen from?"

The stolen sculpture still appeared in the gallery guide that Jayk picked up when they arrived but in the weeks since it was stolen the gallery it had been displayed in had replaced it with a different piece of work, a painting that depicted a woman wearing battle armour and carrying an ancient blaster of some kind.

"Looks like someone forgot to update their datapads." Tylo commented, "Although this piece certainly has its merits."

"I thought you preferred your art to be of the erotic kind Tylo." Brae said and he smiled.

"Yes but this woman does look like she likes to get her hands dirty and look at the clasps on that armour." he said.

"What about the clasps?" Brae asked.

"Designed so it comes off easily." Tylo said and Brae groaned.

"Perhaps I should ask a member of staff about the stolen sculpture." Jayk suggested and he waved to a nearby curator.

"Yes sir?" the man asked when he walked over to the group, "Do you have a question about this piece? I understand that it's not in the guide yet but-"

"Actually we're interested in what was here prior to this statue." Jayk interrupted, "My name is Jayk Udra, Jedi knight." he added, moving his cloak aside to expose his lightsaber.

"A Jedi? I didn't think that a stolen sculpture was a matter for the Jedi Order." the curator said

"Normally it isn't. But the stolen piece could be more significant than you realise. What can you tell me about it?" Jayk asked.

"Not much more than was in the guide I'm afraid Master Jedi. The creator is unknown although the dating of the carbonite it was made from puts it at between three and a half and four thousand years old. The name 'A Master and Apprentice' is just a name that was assigned to it for display purposes, as far as we know it didn't have a title but it did seem to depict a Jedi knight and his Padawan learner."

"That age range would put it right among the era that the Sith were active. Maybe they created it." Brae suggested.

"I assure you that the gallery would never knowingly display-" the curator began but Jayk held up his hand for the man to stop.

"We are not accusing you of concealing a prohibited item. However, we do need to make sure that it poses no danger to the public. If it does then we will track it down and take it back to Coruscant with us." he said.

"Of course. How may I help?"

"For starters how about a better picture than the one on this datapad." Tylo said, "It's not very detailed."

"I don't think it's meant to be." Brae said.

"Correct. It is just a guide so detail in images was not considered important. However, the gallery does maintain full holographic scans of every item we own for insurance purposes." the curator said.

"Then we'd like to see the scan of the stolen piece." Jayk told the curator and the man nodded.

"Of course. Please come this way." he said.

The curator led Jayk, Brae and Tylo into a storage area where more pieces of artwork were lined up on shelves and inside display cases, waiting to be placed in public view when their turn came. He then took them to a computer console that was attached to a holographic projector platform and he used this to call up an image of the stolen sculpture.

The basic shape of the sculpture was rectangular and relatively thin compared to its height and width. On one side of this though the carbonite material was extended outwards in the shape of a man and an obviously younger woman embracing one another. Both wore robes that were of the style that most Jedi had worn for thousands of years but beyond that there was nothing to show that either were supposed to be Jedi. If the younger woman was supposed to have a Padawan's braid then it was not visible on the sculpture.

"It is believed that the two figures were carved from a soft material that was easy to work with but lacked durability." the curator explained, "The process of carbon freezing then protected it."

"What can you tell me about the theft?" Jayk asked the curator.

"Very little I'm afraid." the man replied.

"As much as you can please." Jayk said.

"Well the police never identified a point of entry so the assumption is that the thieves came in during opening hours and concealed themselves somewhere in the building before emerging at night and attacking the guard before stealing the sculpture."

"A guard was attacked?" Brae commented, "Was he seriously hurt?"

"He was murdered. The thieves strangled him." the curator said, "It was so pointless, he wasn't even armed. The strange thing is though that we only found out that he had been strangled some time later. When the police arrived they couldn't tell how the guard had been killed. It was only when an autopsy was carried out that the cause of death was identified. There wasn't a mark on him."

"A telekinetic kill." Brae said, looking at Jayk and he nodded.

"Teron Sharr." Tylo said, frowning, "I guess that means this thing was important."

"I think we should send a copy of this back to Coruscant for Professor Hebro to examine. If it is an innocent piece of art then he ought to know something about it." Jayk said, referring to the art expert from the University of Coruscant who advised them from time to time, "Brae, we'll need Cal to download the data."

"Yes Master." Brae replied as she took Cal's holocron from beneath her cloak and set it down on the top of the computer console, at which point Cal's hologram materialised with a stern expression.

"Is this seriously the sculpture that was taken?" he asked.

"Yes, why?" Jayk responded and Cal's hologram turned towards the curator.

"Where did it come from? Exactly, I need to know." he said.

"Something's got him spooked." Tylo commented.

"Cal what's wrong?" Brae asked.

"What's wrong is that I don't think this was a piece of art at all. It was two people frozen in carbonite for thousands of years. Now where did it come from? Was it found in the Karn system or whatever it's called

now?" Cal said.

"Wait, do you know these two?" Tylo said, pointing at the hologram of the block of carbonite.

"Yes Cal knew them both. They were jedi when he first arrived here. Or at least the young woman was. She was a senior padawan called Keana Vreyes. The man is Hargood Nollar, a former jedi knight." Cal explained. "Former?" Brae said and Cal's hologram nodded.

"When the Sith made one of their attempts to overthrow the Republic Hargood's entire family were killed and it drove him mad. He gave into his darkest urges and killed all of those responsible. The Jedi Order imprisoned him but tried to reform him. Sometimes they even let him out whenever they needed something doing that did not require any diplomacy." he said.

"So he was their pet killer. How enlightened." Tylo said.

"He was always supposed to be under the supervision of another jedi knight." Cal added.

"I take he escaped somehow." Jayk said.

"He was set loose by Keana. Her master, my superior in the order was killed by another fallen jedi called Kyle Jenner and Keana hoped that Hargood would be strong enough to stop him. They fought him aboard a mining platform in the Karn system and neither Hargood nor Keana were heard from again." Cal said.

"A mining platform? It wasn't equipped for carbon freezing by any chance was it?" Brae said and Cal smiled.

"As a matter of fact it was." he said.

"So Kyle Jenner froze them and disposed of the block somehow. Then it gets found and mistaken for a piece of art that Teron finds out about and he decides to steal it." Brae said.

"I'm not sure that he would." Cal said, "If he did then he's in for one hell of a surprise."

"Why's that?" Tylo asked.

"Because Hargood Nollar hates the Sith." Brae said.

"Exactly." Cal replied, "He'd attack Teron as soon as he was able to."

"The guard that was murdered." Jayk said, looking at the curator again, "Where was his body found?"

"In the hall where the sculpture, err the carbonite block was on display." the man replied.

"Then I have a very bad feeling about this." Jayk said.

"You meant that the carbonite wasn't stolen?" Brae asked.

"Stolen yes, but not until after its occupants had been thawed out. I suspect that the guard accidentally triggered the thawing cycle and released both Hargood and Keana. Then Hargood killed him before they made their escape."

"Taking the empty carbonite block to cover their tracks." Brae added.

"What about hibernation sickness?" Tylo asked.

"Hargood was a powerful jedi, well onto his way to becoming a master before his fall." Cal said, "With his power he could have overcome hibernation sickness to kill the guard easily. After that he and Keana would only need somewhere to hide for a day or so before they would recover fully."

"And what then?" Tylo said.

"Then who knows the mind of a pair of dark jedi who've been imprisoned for thousands of years?" Cal said.

"I think it's time we paid a visit to the Ministry of Justice." Jayk said, "The planetary authorities need to know what's been unleashed on this planet."

3.

It was late in the day when the Udras and Tylo finally arrived at Kast Primus' Ministry of Justice and many of the workers there were leaving for the day. However, Jayk was not about to let the limitations of office hours stand in his way.

"My name is Jedi Knight Jayk Udra. I need to speak to the minister." he told the woman behind the reception desk in the ministry's main lobby.

"That's Udra as in Cal Udra the jedi knight who saved your sector." Tylo commented but the receptionist was unimpressed by this.

"I'm afraid you'll have to make an appointment. She is about to leave." she replied.

"The minister needs to know that we are here now." Jayk said, waving his hand in front of the woman.

"The minister needs to know that you are here now." she repeated, reaching for the desktop mounted intercom, "Minister there are three people here to see you from the Jedi Order."

"Tell the minister that we are on our way up to her office." Jayk added.

"They are on their way up to see you know ma'am." the receptionist added as the Udras and Tylo headed for the nearest turbolift cluster, entering one of the cars.

"You forgot to ask what floor he's on." Tylo pointed out.

"The top floor. It's always the top floor." Jayk said, pressing the button for the building's uppermost floor.

When the doors slid open again there was a smartly dressed twi'lek standing outside waiting for them.

"Master jedi I'm afraid that the minister is about to-" he began.

"You will take us to the minister now." Jayk said, suing the Force to impress the instruction on the twi'lek as he stepped from the turbolift.

"I will take you to the minister now." the twi'lek replied, beckoning for the Udras and Tylo to follow him. Then he turned around and began to walk down the hallway.

The twi'lek led them to a large office located on the outer corner of the Ministry of Justice building so that two of its walls could be entirely transparent, creating windows that overlooked the capital city. Standing beside the large ornate desk was a grey haired woman who scowled at the jedi as they entered her office.

Anger.

"What is the meaning of this?" the minister said as she closed her case and the two guards present in the room, ready to escort her out of the building both stepped between her and the jedi.

"I'd sit down if I were you minister." Tylo said, "Oh and get your guards to stand aside while they still have the choice."

"How dare you?" the minister said angrily.

"Minister you have a pair of fallen jedi on the loose on this planet. They've already killed one man that we know of and they will probably kill again." Jayk said and the minister's eyes widened as she considered the damage that a pair of renegade Force users could inflict if left unchecked.

"Take a seat please." she said, indicating the pair of seats in front of her desk.

"Don't mind if I do." Tylo commented as he quickly sat down on one, smirking at Brae who was then left without a chair when Jayk sat down on the other. However, she just smiled back at him for a moment before she extended an arm towards another chair located at the back of the office and used the Force to pull it across the room towards her before she too sat down.

"Minister this object, believed to be a sculpture vanished from an art gallery here in the city several weeks ago." Jayk said, holding out his datapad for her to see a copy of an image of the block of carbonite, "In fact this wasn't a piece of art at all."

"You're saying that those are two real people frozen in carbonite? For how long?" the minister asked.

"About three thousand seven hundred and fifty years. Give or take fifty. Pre-mandalorian war anyway." Tylo answered.

"How can you be so sure? If the Jedi Order knew this then why-" the minister began.

"The Jedi Order was not aware of the existence of this object." Jayk interrupted,

"It was only when they were recognised by, err, by our adviser that we knew they were real people." Brae added.

"Your adviser? Who is this being?" the minister said.

"Show her Brae." Jayk said and Brae placed Cal's holocron on the desk in front of her, prompting his hologram to materialised.

"Good evening minister. My name is Cal Udra. I knew Hargood Nollar and Keana Vreyes." he said.

"Cal Udra? But Cal Udra died thousands of years ago." the minister said.

"Cal is the guardian of the holocron created by the original Cal Udra during his lifetime." Jayk explained to

her.

"He's basically the most advanced AI you can imagine. Like overlaying a real human being onto a supercomputer." Tylo added and the minister seemed to understand this more.

"Ah, so this version of Cal Udra knows everything that the real Cal Udra knew?" she said.

"I know everything my creator wanted me to know. I am also capable of storing fresh information I am exposed to. The storage capacity of a holocron is almost limitless." Cal said, "So take it from me when I tell you that Hargood Nollar is a very dangerous man to have running around your planet."

"What do you need from me to find him?" the minister asked.

"Access to your crime reports database." Jayk said, "Specifically reports relating to violent crimes that cannot be fully explained by the police but that may suggest to us the use of the Force."

"Thefts as well." Cal added, "Hargood and Keana aren't going to have currency so they'll need to steal to get what they want, at least at first."

"Of course, I'll see to it that you have whatever access you need." the minister replied, "I'll give you my direct comm address as well. If you need anything else then I don't want you having to go through layers of bureaucracy to reach me." she added and Tylo grinned and glanced at the minister's twi'lek assistant standing in the corner of the office.

An operations room in the basement of the Ministry of Justice enabled Jayk and Brae to review crime reports from across the sector. To begin with though they concentrated on just the capital city of Kast Primus, reasoning that Hargood and Keana were likely to remain close to where they were revived after their three thousand year hibernation. While they were searching for signs of activity by either of the fallen Jedi, Cal was occupied by sifting through the feeds from the hundreds of public security cameras from around the city in the hope that one of their targets may have been caught on camera somewhere. Tylo on the other hand just sat back and waited, browsing the public computer network service from an unused terminal.

"There must be thousands of unsolved crimes in the city since Hargood and Keana escaped." Brae commented.

"Yes, it appears that the police have a lot on their hands." Jayk added, "A lot of the unsolved crimes appear gang related though. You'll notice that there are specific parts of the city where assaults are more common. I expect that if we cross referenced these with the anti-gang task force then these would be places where rival gangs' areas of control intersect. Much of the lack of progress is likely to be because victims and witnesses are unwilling to talk to the police."

"You know taking out a few gang members would be a good cover for someone up to no good." Tylo commented, "Obviously they couldn't be the sort of person that was afraid of a dozen or so thugs with blasters."

"You mean like a Jedi?" Brae said.

"Well you two certainly know how to handle yourselves." Tylo replied.

"Hargood Nollar was one of the finest swordsmen I'd ever met." Cal said, "Assuming he still has a lightsaber then even twenty or more poorly trained gang members would probably not concern him."

"And if he doesn't still have his lightsaber?" Brae asked.

"Well we know he can just choke people to death with the Force. Can he do that thing where you blast lightning from your fingers? I bet that would go through a few gang members in a hurry." Tylo said.

"There's a report here about four bodies being found in an abandoned speeder." Brae said, "All four were on the gang task force's list of known gang members."

"What's the case reference?" Jayk asked.

"Trill herf xesh one-one-three-eight." Brae told him and he quickly called up the report on his own terminal.

"The bodies were dismembered and burned, preventing a detailed examination and no exact cause of death has been determined for any of them." Jayk said, reading from the report, "Brae we're going to need the identities of the four victims. Tylo you're driving again."

"Where to?" Tylo said.

"To where the bodies were found. The locals may not talk to the police but I'm sure that Brae and I can be more persuasive." Jayk told him.

4.

The area where the brutal killing of four gang members had taken place was located surprisingly close to a far more affluent area of the city, the dividing line appearing to be a bridge across a river that had several security cameras mounted on it that would be capable of capturing clear images of pedestrians or vehicles crossing in either direction. On one side of the river were numerous well maintained homes including an exclusive estate that was walled off even from its law-abiding neighbours as well as an old cemetery that provided an area of greenery among the more built up surroundings. Across the water though the surroundings were far different, with densely packed buildings that looked far more run down. Many of them had windows that were boarded up and walls marked with spray paint. With the sun having set by this time the differences between the two areas were made all the more apparent by the relative lack of functional street lighting in the area that the trio were now approaching.

"What a difference a hundred metres makes." Tylo commented as he drove over the bridge from the affluent and safe side of the river to the more run down and crime-ridden one where the only reliable light now appeared to from the speeder's own headlights.

"According to the report the bodies were found just up ahead. Stop there." Jayk said.

"Okay but I don't think we should be leaving the speeder in a place like this." Tylo said.

"Agreed." Cal's voice said from beneath Brae's cloak, "Take it from me that losing a speeder is something that the military don't forget. Even if it isn't even your fault."

"Then you stay with the speeder regardless Tylo." Jayk said and Tylo nodded as he pulled over to the side of the road.

"Here we are. Though I don't see any of the locals around for you to talk to. Maybe we should come back during the hours of daylight." he said.

"Oh there are people around alright." Brae commented as she opened the speeder's door, "I can sense them."

Jayk took out his datapad as he got out of the speeder, calling up images taken by the police when they responded to the discovery of the bodies. The vehicle in which the bodies had been found had long since been removed and all that remained of the crime scene now were the fading paint markings that the police had sprayed at places they considered worth recording.

"I'm going to take a look around." Brae said and Jayk nodded.

"Don't stray too far." he said.

"And watch your step out here kid. I've been in places like this before and they aren't places that a nice young girl such as yourself should go alone."

"I think I can handle myself even if this is a wretched hive of scum and villainy Tylo." Brae replied.

"Hey it's not you I'm worried about kid. It's just that the scum and the villains won't know what they're getting into." Tylo said, smiling at her.

Brae began by walking back towards the bridge across the river and as she did so she sensed the approach of a number of beings, none of whom appeared to be displaying any strong emotions she could pick up on. However, she was not sure whether this was a good thing or bad thing. If they were approaching her with some criminal intent then their being so calm about it was a worrying characteristic.

"Hey princess." a voice said from the shadows and Brae turned to see a young man standing at the end of a narrow alleyway. Visible just behind him was an open doorway and Brae suspected that he had just emerged from there.

"I'm not royalty." Brae said to him and he grinned.

"Take a look around yourself princess. No-one around here dresses as fancy as you. That makes you a princess. So are you looking to buy?" he said.

"To buy? To buy what?" Brae asked.

"Don't get coy with me princess. We both know you're here to buy. That's the only reason any of you rich kids come over to this side of the river. So what are you looking for and how much of it do you want? Is it simple giggledust or are you after some booster blue?"

"I'm not here to buy spice." Brae said and the man frowned.

"Then stop wasting my time princess and get out of here." he said.

"I'm looking for information." Brae said, "Perhaps you can help."

"Or perhaps you can just hand over your wallet." a female voice said from behind Brae as more beings emerged from the shadows.

"See what happens when you rich kids come over to our side of the river acting all superior?" the spice dealer said but Brae refused to be intimidated.

"I want to know about the bodies found burned in a speeder. Who killed them?" she said, glancing behind her as the other gang members closed in and surrounded her.

"I said hand over your wallet. Jewellery too." the young woman behind Brae said sternly, "In fact those are some fancy clothes you're wearing. Hand them over too. You can give the guys watching those cameras on the bridge a thrill as you walk back across without a stitch on."

"I don't think so." Brae said calmly, her hand sliding under her cloak.

"What, do you have a blaster under there princess? Well so do we." the spice dealer said and as he said this most of the gang now surrounding Brae produced blasters. There was no uniformity to the weapons they carried with some being larger than others and some looking brand new while others were obviously much older or obsolete.

Brae responded to this by spinning around and in the process delivering a kick to the stomach of the spice dealer that caused him to simply gasp as all the breath was forced from his body and he was left unable to even cry out and his blaster fell from his hand. Before any of the other gang members could react to this Brae drew her lightsaber and there was a 'snap-hiss' as its blade extended. Then she grabbed the woman who had threatened her by the wrist, pulling her closer while forcing the muzzle of the blaster she held away from her before wrapping a foot around the woman's legs to trip her. The woman cried out in pain as she fell, landing on her back with Brae still holding her arm upwards, twisting it to force her to drop her blaster before the tip of Brae's lightsaber blade was placed right in front of the prone woman's face.

Surprise.

Fear.

Panic.

"Now who wants to bet on whether they're fast enough to aim and shoot before I decapitate this nerf herder and then turn around to slice the hand from one of you at random?" Brae said, staring down at the woman on the ground and all of a sudden there was an acrid smell as she lost control of her bodily functions.

"Brae!" Jayk's voice called out and Brae and the other gang members turned their heads to see Jayk rushing towards them out of the darkness with his lightsaber glowing brightly. Behind the outline of Tylo was also just about visible

"It's them!" the spice dealer cried out, "Run!" and then in unison the members of the gang that were not pinned to the ground and lying in a patch of their own bodily waste fled without firing a shot.

"Brae are you hurt?" Jayk asked as he ran up to her but she shook her head.

"I'm fine dad." she replied, "Although after I turned down the offer to buy some spice this deluded laser brain thought it would be a good idea to try and threaten a jedi at point blank range. She thought she could take my wallet and clothes." she added, looking back down at the woman at her feet.

"Please don't kill me. I'll do anything you ask." she said and Jayk crouched down beside her and studied her closely.

"Not so enjoyable being on the receiving end of a beating is it?" Tylo commented, "If it were up to me I'd either put a blaster bolt in your head right now or send you off without your clothes and see what happens to you."

"Fortunately it is not up to you Tylo." Jayk said, "Revenge is not the jedi way."

"Poodoo. I've seen what you've done." the woman on the ground said, "Everyone knows you killed our people."

"Your people? You mean the ones found in the repulsortruck?" Jayk asked, "The ones who were burned?"

"Of course." the woman said, "Are you brain dead or have you murdered so many people you don't remember them?"

"And this coming from someone who threatened to kill me." Brae commented.

"Can we hurry this up?" Tylo asked, "Remember Cal warned us not to leave the speeder unattended and frankly this rancor cow stinks like an open sewer. Frankly I think we'd be doing her a favour if we did steal her clothes. I doubt she'll ever be wearing those pants again."

"It wasn't us that killed your people but we are here to find those that did. What can you tell me about them?" Jayk asked.

"But if it wasn't you then how did they know about the crystals?" the woman said and Jayk and Brae looked at one another.

"Crystals? What crystals?" Brae asked.

"The kyber crystals used for the spice buy." the woman said.

"Kyber crystals? You mean the things used in-"

"Jedi lightsabers." Jayk interrupted, "Hargood and Keana either lost their lightsabers or the crystals were damaged during their hibernation and now they are making more."

"And that's when the real fun begins." Tylo added.

"Did you see the attack?" Jayk asked.

"Of course. A dozen of us came running when Guthro and D'Den screamed but then we saw Jollas and

Frean killed by lightning and we pulled back.” the woman said, “I stayed just long enough to watch them torch the bodies and take the crystals and go.”

“What sort of speeder did they have?” Tylo asked.

“Speeder? They didn't have a speeder, they left on foot.” the woman said and Jayk and Brae looked at one another before looking around.

“What's wrong?” Tylo said.

“They left on foot. They would not have abandoned their vehicle so they must be operating within walking distance.” Jayk said.

“They headed back over the bridge. Where we don't go because of the cameras.” the woman added.

“So Hargood isn't worried about being caught on camera.” Tylo commented.

“Why would he be?” Cal's voice added, “He doesn't realise that anyone even knows he is alive.”

“Perhaps I should check the cameras again.” Cal suggested, “Now we have a general location I can focus on a much smaller number of cameras.”

“Who the hell said that?” the woman on the ground said.

“My guardian angel.” Brae replied, grinning. Then she looked at Jayk and added, “Are we done now? Tylo's right about this nerf herder stinking.”

“I think so. The police can deal with her.” Jayk said, “Tylo go and get the speeder. We'll meet you on the other side of the river and contact the police from there.”

5.

The police loaded the woman into the back of a speeder, muttering about having to clean the vehicle after she had been in it while Jayk explained to them what had happened and arranging to liaise with them for the prosecution. Then as the speeder drove away he turned towards Brae, seeing her standing silently staring ahead of her.

"Is something troubling you Brae?" he asked.

"Yeah kid, you've not said a word all the time we've been here." Tylo added from beside their speeder.

"It the cemetery." Brae replied, "I can sense something from inside. I don't know what though. I can't explain it." Brae replied.

"Would a dark jedi hide out in a graveyard?" Tylo said, "I mean it seems like something out of a horror movie but-"

"Even fallen jedi have standards Tylo. Unless his mind was damaged by his hibernation I doubt that lurking among the dead is high on Hargood's list of things to do." Jayk commented.

"Unless there's something in there that he wants." Tylo pointed out.

"I don't think it comes from the Dark Side." Brae said, "But I have to know what it is." and all of a sudden she walked up to the nearby gateway into the cemetery and entered.

"Brae wait for me." Jayk said as he rushed to catch up with her and then Tylo sighed.

"Stang. No way I am being the one who stays outside the graveyard only to have something sinister happen to him." and he rushed after the two jedi as they made their way through the cemetery, searching for the source of the disturbance.

"Tylo I don't think you need your blaster drawn." Jayk commented when he noticed that the former smuggler was clutching his blaster pistol in his hands.

"You won't be saying that when Sith zombies start jumping out at us." Tylo said. Then as he glanced at one of the nearby graves he added, "Some of these are ancient."

"I think they all are." Jayk said, "Thousands of years in most cases. This cemetery was probably filled a long time ago."

"It still looks well looked after. The locals must think this place is pretty special." Tylo suggested.

"Or cursed." Jayk said, smiling at Tylo and he frowned back at him before Brae came to a sudden stop.

"It's around here, I sure of it." she said.

"There is nothing here Brae." Jayk replied, "Are you certain about your feelings?"

"Positive dad. I can't explain it though, it's really creepy. What's that saying? As if someone just walked over my grave." she said.

"I'm trying to think of a worse place to make that comment." Tylo said.

"Actually I think it is highly appropriate. But it is not your grave Brae." Jayk said as he read the markings on a nearby grave stone, "Beloved husband. Beloved father, grandfather and great grandfather."

"Who?" Tylo asked as he turned around to read the name on the gravestone, "Oh you have got to be kidding me."

"What's wrong?" Brae asked as she also turned around to read the name on the gravestone, "It's Cal." she added in disbelief.

"What?" Cal's voice said from beneath her cloak and she took out the holocron, prompting the appearance of his hologram, "So this is where I ended up." he said.

"How can you be so calm when we're looking at your grave?" Tylo said.

"We all knew that Cal died thousands of years ago." Jayk pointed out.

"Maybe so but no-one should look at their own gravestone." Tylo said.

"Technically that isn't my gravestone. I'm not the real Cal Udra after all." Cal reminded him.

"Oh this really is creepy." Tylo said, "Hey, how come you didn't tell us that your grave was here?"

"Because I didn't know." Cal said, "All my knowledge from the time of my creation is what the original Cal Udra chose to place inside me."

"These graves beside yours Cal." Brae said, "Beloved Wife. Beloved Sister."

"We must have been placed here together. Either our bodies or our ashes. I know that I outlived my wife by a number of years and my sister by several decades but information about their funerals wasn't something that was considered important enough to know."

"Hey is it just me or does this particular set of graves look in better condition than the others around here? Cleaner I mean?" Tylo said suddenly, looking around to inspect some of the other gravestones in the cemetery.

"Tylo's right." Brae added and Tylo frowned.

"No need to sound so surprised kid." he said.

"The graveyard is obviously tended but these three stones appear to have been-" Brae began before she and Jayk both sensed a disturbance in the Force and spun around to face it, drawing their lightsabers as they felt the coldness of the Dark Side.

Ahead of them they saw a young woman who had been making her way through the cemetery and she came to an abrupt halt when she saw the two jedi looking at her. At the same time Cal focused his sensors on her and recognised her immediately.

"It's Keana." he exclaimed.

"Keana Vreyes." Jayk called out.

Fear.

Keana turned on the spot and broke into a run, retreating away from the jedi as fast as she could.

"So much for being easy. After her?" Tylo said.

"After her." Jayk responded and all three of them began to run, Brae pausing only to put Cal's holocron away before she followed as well.

Thousands of years of hibernation had not reduced Keana's level of fitness and she was able to keep ahead of her pursuers as she raced out of the cemetery and with a wave of her hand she slammed the gate shut behind her. Only a simple latch held it shut but Jayk was unable to visualise this well enough to open it again using the Force alone. He was unwilling to spend the time needed to stop to open the gate though and so instead as he approached the edge of the cemetery he leapt up into the air and used the Force to enhance his leap, taking him to the top of the wall around this section of the cemetery then immediately jumping back down to the ground on the other side.

Brae copied this, vaulting to the top of the wall before jumping back down while Tylo had no choice but to manually open the gate before exiting the cemetery. When he emerged onto the street though he found the two jedi still standing on the pavement just outside while there was no sign of Keana.

"Where did she go?" he asked.

"That is what we are trying to determine." Jayk replied. "Keana was able to make good use of the few seconds lead she had on us."

"We're trying to see if we can sense her presence through the Force but she's calm enough to not be giving off any strong emotion." Brae added.

"What about over there?" Tylo suggested, pointing towards the wall that surrounded the neighbouring gated community. The pair of you got over the cemetery wall like it was knee high. Couldn't she have got over that the same way before either of you were in a position to see her?"

"If she's using that as an escape route then-" Brae began.

"Actually I was thinking that she and Hargood could be holed up in there somewhere." Tylo interrupted.

"I'll bet houses in there are expensive. Where could Hargood have got the money for one from?" Brae said.

"Who says he paid for one? Maybe the existing owner got an offer they couldn't refuse." Tylo replied.

"I have a very bad feeling about this. If Hargood has taken up residence within that community then he may be familiar with the area and prepared for us." Jayk said.

"Plus there must be about five hundred homes in there. It'll take ages to search them all." Brae added.

"Five hundred? I doubt there are even a hundred different houses in there kid." Tylo said, "People who will pay to live isolated from the lower rungs of society also pay for big houses."

"We should check with local real estate agents." Jayk added, "Hargood may have been able to manipulate one of them into providing him with a residence. The Dark Side would open many doors to him."

"Quite literally in this case hey?" Tylo commented and Brae sighed.

All property transfers for the gated community were handled by a single real estate firm, a branch of the company that maintained the private streets and grounds within the walled area and this meant that a small office was maintained just beside one of the entrance points to the community, manned by two living staff along with a number of labour and service droids.

"My name is Jedi Knight Jayk Udra." Jayk told the startled office manager.

"How may I help you master jedi?" he asked.

"I need to know if any of the properties has changed occupants within the last two months." Jayk said.

"Err, I'm afraid our customer files are considered private." the manager replied.

"We don't need precise details. Just addresses, dates that new occupants moved in a rough description. We suspect that two fugitives may be residing within your community. A young woman and an older man." Jayk said.

Confusion.

Both Jayk and Brae sensed the strange reaction to Jayk's statement and Jayk looked closely at the officer manager.

"Is something wrong?" he asked.

"No, no it's just that I've got something at the back of my mind but I can't quite remember what." the manager said.

"Same here." his assistant added.

"A compulsion?" Brae suggested, looking at Jayk and her father nodded back at her.

"That seems likely." he replied.

"A what?" Tylo said.

"Hargood and Keana manipulated their minds to prevent them from answering our questions." Jayk told him.

"I guess that's an answer in itself." Tylo responded and Jayk nodded.

"Have you arranged any new occupancies in the last two months?" he asked the manager.

"No. We have had a few queries about-" the man said before he hesitated and frowned, "I'm sorry I don't remember what we were asked." He said before looking at his assistant and adding, "Do you?"

"Tell me, how many properties are currently available?" Jayk asked and the manager quickly answered without even needing to check his datapad.

"Seven. Two rental and five properties for sale." he said.

"And how many were there the day after the last change of occupancy you can recall?" Jayk added.

"Why seven of course." the manager said.

"Check for me please." Jayk told him.

"This is ridiculous. There have been seven properties available since-" the manager said as he called up his records on his datapad but he stopped speaking suddenly when he saw the summary from just over two months previously, "Eight." he said, "We had another rental property available."

"So Hargood convinced them to hand over the security codes and take it off the list and then put the whammy on them to stop them remembering anything about it." Tylo said, smiling.

"And because it was a rental property rather than a purchase the authorities didn't need to be told about a change of ownership." Brae added.

"We're going to need the precise address of that other residence." Jayk told the manager.

Tylo drove the landspeeder down the street without either Jayk or Brae aboard. The presence of either jedi risked creating a disturbance in the Force that either Hargood or Keana would be able to sense. On the other hand although they may notice the landspeeder passing the house that the Udras suspected was being used by the fallen jedi as their hideout they would not be able to sense anything about Tylo that was different from any of their neighbours.

"All these houses look alike." Tylo said into the speeder's active comlink, "It's like someone's growing them all in test tubes like clones. I suppose that helps our targets blend in though."

"Do they at least have numbers on them?" Brae asked.

"Yes, thankfully. If they didn't then I would have had no way of figuring out which house I'm supposed to be looking at. Speaking of which, here it is now." Tylo said.

"Don't go past too slowly or you may raise their suspicions." Jayk told him.

"Or too quickly either. You need to get a good look through the windows." Brae added.

"I'll drive casual." Tylo said, looking out of the window of the speeder as he passed by the house.

Both the building and the garden in front of it looked the same as every other building along the street but there were still some subtle differences that Tylo could pick out even while driving past at the controls of the landspeeder. Although he could see only a limited amount through the ground floor windows Tylo could see that the interiors of the other houses had all been personalised by their respective occupants. On the other hand what he saw through the windows of the house Hargood and Keana were thought to be using still appeared to be using the basic decoration that the management company used. A light and movement from an upper window suggested that the house was indeed occupied though Tylo could not identify the individual "I'd have been better doing a flyby in the *Swift Exit*." he muttered.

"What was that Tylo? I didn't quite get it." Jayk asked.

"I said we should have just used the *Swift Exit*. One quick flyover and we could scan the house from the air." Tylo said.

"That would mean going all the way back to the airbase. If Hargood and Keana have decided to abandon this-" Jayk started to explain before Tylo interrupted him.

"I see someone." he said as the figure in the upstairs window came closer and Tylo quickly raised a recording rod to take a picture before driving on.

Turning the next corner, Tylo accelerated and drove the speeder back to the office where Jayk and Brae were waiting for him so that they could have Cal study the image.

"Here you go. Taken about five minutes ago." Tylo said.

"Thanks. What do you make of this Cal?" Brae responded, taking the recording rod from Tylo and connecting it to Cal's holocron.

"I take it you mean the most recent image taken?" Cal said, "Not the previous set of a pair of ladies who

appear to be very flexible in both a physical and moral sense.”

“Stang Tylo.” Brae muttered.

“Look kid what I do in my spare time is none of your business, okay?” Tylo replied.

“Unless it violates your parole.” Jayk pointed out.

“I feel violated just thinking about what he does.” Brae added.

“Perhaps we should stick to the task at hand. Cal can you identify the figure in the photograph?” Jayk said.

“Easily. It's Hargood alright.” Cal replied, “He's still got the same hair style he had when I knew him. Keana can't be far away.”

“So do we tell the locals?” Tylo asked but Jayk shook his head.

“No. They may insist on sending in a tactical unit and that would put them at risk. Brae and I will deal with this. You may feel free to sit it out if you wish.” he said and Tylo shrugged.

“Well this one isn't really my fight. Someone has to tell the locals what's going on if you both get killed, right?” he said, “Good luck though and may the Force be with you and so on.”

6.

"So are we really just going to walk up to the front door and knock?" Brae asked as she and Jayk walked towards the house where Hargood and Keana were living.

"We won't walk all the way there and we won't knock." Jayk replied.

"So what is the plan master?"

"I need you to tell me as soon as you sense Hargood or Keana through the Force."

"Why?"

"Because that is when we start running. I want to close the gap as quickly as possible."

"Then why not bring the speeder?"

"If Hargood is as strong as Cal has suggested then being inside the speeder would make us a single large target. This way he can't take us both out with one strike." Jayk pointed out, "He and Keana may suspect that we will be hunting for them and have prepared traps so we won't go in through the front door either. I'll make us a new entrance instead. Once inside we stay together. Alone Hargood and Keana could ambush us from different directions and I'd rather have that advantage for ourselves."

"Very good master. About sensing Hargood or Keana though." Brae said.

"What about it?"

"Well unless someone else around here is strong in the Dark Side then I can sense one of them now.

Hargood probably."

"Then let's go." Jayk replied, drawing his lightsaber as he broke into a run.

The two jedi sprinted along the pavement towards the house Hargood and Keana were in and as they drew closer Jayk reached out his free hand and waved it, using the Force to create a telekinetic blast that was strong enough to pick several stones up from the ground and hurl them at the front of the house. These all struck one of the large front windows on the lower floor and smashed it, the whole thing breaking into hundreds of pieces and leaving a gaping hole that Jayk and Brae then both charged towards, leaping into the air to pass through the hole and land inside the house.

Looking round the Udras saw that they had entered a lounge furnished with basic seating but lacking any other furniture or consumer goods such as a video screen. To one side a doorway led into the hall while towards the back of the room there was a larger archway that led to another adjoining room in which a large table with various pieces of electronic equipment and tools on was visible.

"How nice of you to drop in." a calm sounding voice said from the adjoining room towards the back of the house and Hargood Nollar stepped into view, joined a second later by Keana Vreyes, "But would you mind explaining why the Jedi Order is breaking into our home?"

"Hargood Nollar in the name of the Jedi Order you are under arrest." Jayk said, holding his lightsaber where it was visible but not igniting it yet while Brae stood beside him.

"Under arrest? For what? Since Keana and I were revived we've been looking into this new galaxy. The Jedi Order of which we were a part no longer exists. Your code doesn't apply to either of us any longer." Hargood said.

"We don't want to be jedi." Keana added, "We just want to be left alone to live in peace."

"By killing and stealing?" Brae asked.

"The charges are murder and theft by deception." Jayk said, "You will be taken back to Coruscant where the Jedi Order will decide your fate.

"I think not." Hargood replied, "You see we've been busy." And he slid a lightsaber from beneath the robes he wore. Keana copied this and all four Force users activated their weapons with a rapid succession of 'snap-hiss' sounds before charging at one another.

"They'll be fine won't they?" Tylo said as he sat in the landspeeder parked outside the management office.

"Possibly." Cal responded, his holocron having been left with Tylo for safe keeping and his hologram appeared to.

"That doesn't exactly fill me with confidence." Tylo commented.

"Hargood Nollar was an expert swordsman. The first time I met him he cut his way through a powerful force to get us inside our target pretty much single handed. Despite hoping to redeem him, Master Ben Karas recognised Hargood's power and made good use of it. I think that was how Hargood was able to seduce Keana to the Dark Side. Keana was Master Karas' padawan and she was ready to take the tests to be made a full jedi knight." Cal explained.

"So more experienced than Brae then?" Tylo asked.

"Much more." Cal answered and Tylo sighed as he started the engine of the landspeeder.

"I've got a very bad feeling about this." he said.

Hargood blocked Jayk's first strike one handed, his newly constructed lightsaber resisting Jayk's own well tested weapon. Meanwhile he thrust out his other hand towards Brae, intending to use the Force to simply hurl her against the wall behind her but she sensed the attack right before he unleashed it and dived out of the way, landing right in front of Keana and blocking her path as she ran to support Hargood against Jayk.

"Impressive." Hargood said to Jayk while their lightsaber blades were locked together. Then he suddenly pulled back, hoping to overbalance Jayk but the jedi knight reacted in kind and held his lightsaber pointing straight ahead, preventing Hargood from lunging at him without impaling himself on the blade.

While Hargood was retreating Keana went on the attack instead, snarling as she swung her lightsaber back and forth rapidly and forcing Brae to parry every assault while leaving her no time to carry out her own. Having to use her lightsaber purely defensively, Brae still found another means of attack though and she waited for the right moment to strike. Watching for an attack from Keana that appeared aimed for her head or neck the already short statured Brae suddenly ducked rather than parried and as she did so she kicked out with one leg and struck Keana just below one of her knees. This took Keana by surprise and she cried out in pain as she collapsed but she was still able to bring her lightsaber up to knock Brae's aside as she moved in for another attack.

At the same time Hargood launched into another attack on Jayk, this time doing so from a distance by pointing a hand at the jedi and unleashing a blast of Force lightning that Jayk parried by pulling his lightsaber closer to him and holding it across his chest. Hargood kept up the flow of lightning and Jayk had to back away, holding the lightsaber further away from him to avoid the growing storm splashing onto him. Hargood followed, grinning as he advanced and Jayk was pushed further back towards the window at the front of the house.

Across the room Brae had continued to strike at Keana but the other padawan proved herself capable of defending herself until she found an alternate means of striking back and she used the Force to set the broken glass from the window into motion. Rather than hurling it away though she lifted them from the floor and then pulled them towards her and Brae. Brae saw Keana raise her hand to focus her power and then sensed the use of the Force. Turning around she expected to find a single object hurtling towards her that she could try to deflect or destroy with her lightsaber but instead she found a cloud of sharp fragments flying towards her and all she could do was try and throw her self out of their path. This was only partially successful though and she was showered with dozens of the smaller fragments that cut through her clothing into her flesh. Fortunately none of the pieces of glass hit her eyes or penetrated deeply enough to sever arteries or cause disabling injury. After striking Brae the fragments carried on towards Keana but she was able to duck and allow them to fly above her before she leapt back to her feet and charged at Brae. Rather than attack with her lightsaber though she punched Brae in the stomach, knocking the breath from her and causing her to drop her lightsaber. The blow distracted Brae long enough for Keana to be able to channel enough power to pick up Brae herself and hurl her across the room and back out of the window, striking her head on the frame as she flew out into the garden and she landed unconscious on the front lawn.

"Perhaps she is not as strong as I thought." Hargood told Jayk.

"Maybe not. But you'll find I'm full of surprises." Jayk responded and he reached out and used the Force to summon Brae's dropped lightsaber to his own grasp, igniting it and while still using his own to block the lightning Hargood was firing at him he lunged forwards and struck out with Brae's weapon. His attack took Hargood by surprise and although Hargood ceased his attack to try and evade Jayk's strike he was not quite fast enough and he gasped as the blade cut into his arm.

Jayk then went on the offensive, striking at Hargood with both lightsabers one after another and forcing Hargood to retreat instead as he struggled to defend himself. Keana considered rushing to join Hargood but then another idea struck her and she ran towards the window, leaping out onto the lawn and rushing up to where she grabbed hold of Brae by the hair and lifted her head off the ground to put her lightsaber against her throat.

"Jedi!" she yelled, "You lose."

Jayk immediately broke off his assault on Hargood and leapt back through the destroyed window, landing on the lawn with a lightsaber in each hand but he halted when Keana moved her own weapon closer to Brae's throat. However, it was at that moment that Tylo arrived in the landspeeder, bringing it to a rapid halt at the side of the road before leaping out with his blaster in his hand.

"Let her go!" he shouted out, taking aim at Keana.

"And who are you?" Hargood asked as he climbed through the broken window.

"Tylo Kurrast. Greatest smuggler in the galaxy." Tylo responded and Hargood smiled.

"Is that supposed to impress me?" he said.

"Arrogant as always Hargood." Cal's voice said from within the landspeeder and all of a sudden his hologram appeared beside the vehicle, projected through the open door. However, this was not the image of the older

Cal that Tylo and the Udras were used to, instead Cal's image was that from his younger years when he had first been assigned to what was then called the Narthis Sector. It was exactly how he had looked when he knew Hargood and Keana.

"A hologram of Cal Udra? Is that supposed to fool us into thinking he's alive?" Keana asked, "We found his grave. I've visited it often."

"A crude trick. Cal Udra is long dead." Hargood added.

"Of course I'm dead. I died thousands of years ago." Cal said, "I just thought a familiar face would stand a better chance of ending this before your apprentice tries to decapitate one of my descendants."

"Your descendants?" Hargood said.

"Yes, Brae and Jayk here are both Udras." Cal said, "The original Cal created me."

"A holocron." Hargood commented.

"That's a lie. We checked, the Udras are gone." Keana said.

"The name is gone. Our family and tradition of service still continue." Jayk said just before Brae let out a groan as she began to regain consciousness only to find Keana's lightsaber at her neck and she gasped.

"Make a move and it will be your last." Keana told her.

"Stay calm Brae." Jayk said.

"Is that Cal?" she commented when she saw the younger hologram beside the speeder.

"I'm trying to persuade Hargood and Keana to give up." Cal said.

"Submit to the Jedi Order? Never." Hargood said, "Although I will thank you for the gift of the landspeeder.

Now Keana and I will take it, along with the padawan to ensure that we aren't followed. Once we're far enough away we'll let her go. That imitation of Cal should be able to confirm that my word is good. Did I ever lie to Cal, hologram?"

"Not that I am aware of." Cal responded.

"We can't just let them go." Tylo said.

"No we can't. Hargood you and Keana will surrender." Jayk replied.

"Never!" Keana snapped and she pointed her lightsaber towards Jayk as she shouted at him. In doing so though she took the weapon away from Brae and Tylo saw his chance.

Danger.

Hargood sensed what was coming even though Keana did not and he tried to warn her.

"Keana." he shouted but it was too late and Tylo fired his weapon, a single shot hitting Keana in the chest and killing her instantly.

Rage.

"No!" Hargood screamed as he watched her die and he unleashed a storm of lightning towards Tylo. The energy struck him and he was thrown back against the side of the landspeeder. Hargood could not maintain the attack though as he sensed Jayk charge towards him and he turned to parry the strike from his lightsaber as Jayk brought it down towards him. However, this was simply a ploy to trick Hargood into bringing his weapon upwards and leaving himself vulnerable to an attack from below, enabling Jayk to thrust Brae's lightsaber up under the fallen jedi's ribs.

Hargood's eye widened and he stared directly at Jayk.

"Thank Cal for doing what I could not." he gasped before he too collapsed.

"What did he say?" Brae asked as she picked herself up off the ground.

"He asked me to thank Cal. For doing what he said he could not." Jayk answered.

"What's that supposed to mean?" Brae said.

"The man responsible for Hargood and Keana being frozen in carbonite." Cal said, "Hargood failed to kill him. I didn't."

"I'm fine by the way." Tylo said as he too got back to his feet, somewhat disorientated by being struck by the Force lightning, "So what now?"

"Now we take the bodies of Hargood and Keana back to Coruscant and tell the Jedi Order that the mystery of what happened to them has finally been solved. I think the local authorities can handle any outstanding issues. We can also let them know that if the Founding Families are returning to their old ways then they are not based here." Jayk answered.

"So we just leave? You weren't even thinking about dropping in on your family to say 'goodbye'? You may not get another chance to meet them." Tylo said.

"I doubt the Jedi Order would like that. We weren't supposed to meet with them in the first place." Brae pointed out.

"Even though it was the Jedi Order that sent us to the sector?" Tylo reminded her.

"Brae is correct. Although we were invited to return to the Cospire residence it would be improper for Brae or myself to accept." Jayk said before he smiled and added, "However, should you be unable to pass up the offer of a free meal and accept your invitation Tylo then it would be unwise for me and Brae to let you go alone."