

Wally

Undisclosed Location
Tatooine
39 ABY

A figure in dark robes saw in the corner of a dank subterranean cell. Their hood was drawn tight as they reclined on the bench with a knee pulled up to their chest to serve as a rest for his elbow.

A guard paced past the translucent containment field and came to a stop. The guardsman tapped the translucent red barrier with the nozzle of his blaster rifle, eliciting a bright light paired with a cautionary zap.

"Hey! How ya doin'? Can we get you anything?" The guard laughed at his own weak joke.

The dark figure stood slowly, and then walked over towards the containment field to face the guard.

The figure deliberately pulled back his hood to reveal a crown of thirteen horns seated above facial tattoos that peaked in three points above his eyes. One was a familiar deep brow, while the other was a milky white.

"I am going to get out of here, and when I do, I am going to kill you, and every other 'Sarlacc in this place."

-=[V]=-

Voidbreaker II
Port Ol'val Docks
Dajorra System

"Zig...Ziggy...Zig? Hey, listen!" a bright, cheerful voice assaulted the speakers of the Voidbreaker Captain's terminal.

"Yes, Sera?" Zig Kaliska replied, her forehead resting in the palm of one of her hands as she nursed an obvious hangover. Her hair was tousled and in disarray. On the desk beside her, a personal datapad was left open to a message log. Even at a quick glance, it was clear to see that it was a one sided conversation, with the bubbles all clustered on the right hand side of the screen. Next to it, an empty bottle of liquor was

"So, I got a ping about something...something...50 shades of Voidbreaker. What is it, and should I read it?"

"Oh maker, no..." Zig's eyes shot open, going wide enough to stretch comically against her lupine features. "Sera No. Just...please delete...ignore that...how did you?"

"Oh, it just showed up in my notifications. So I did what you told me to do and clicked the pop-up, and it brought me to this. I gave it my password and now I see: 'Zuza Lottson stood with her hands against the wall and her back towards the Captain...'

"SERA I SAID DELETE IT NOW!" Zig snapped, her mind racing through the slog of her hazed memory and budding headache. Oh god. Had she somehow sent the fanfiction she had been writing to the Voidbreaker mailer distro? Sera was still on it.

Zigs fingers flashed across her terminal's keypad, pointed nails clicking loudly. Her eyes darted left and right until she isolated the communication thread and quickly accessed the holonet server and deleted what she could.

Of course, anyone that had received it would still have it cached locally. Zig swallowed a lump in her throat and started to mutter to herself.

"Okay, okay...hey, uh, Zig?" Sera's voice continued, her face framed way too close to her camera. "I have another notification here. Can you take a look?"

The damage already done, Zig figured the least she could do now was try to act normal and play it off. "Yeah, let's see, forward it here."

Zig opened the forwarded comm and blinked twice. Encrypted. "Huh, this is odd..." she started to run the coded transmission through one of her local translation apps, but was not able to get it to open.

A message popped up on the side of her screen.

~Check it again.~

Zig double clicked, tapped a few keys, and sure enough, the encrypted file was open.

~You’d given me a list of keywords to keep an eye on galactic chatter. Hope this helps. -Ace~

The Captain scrolled through the logs of the report. There were images of dead bodies. Limbs removed and left discarded. The logo for a criminal organization she did not recognize, but a description flagged it as “Crimson Sarlaccs”. Key words were flagged: Force user. Sith.

Zabrak. Thirteen horns. One arm.

15:59

Lastly, a hazy picture had been captured from a security feed. It showed a hooded figure in a containment field cell. Pinching to zoom in and enhance the image, however, Zig could see horns and a face that would be hard to forget. It was the face of the person who had given her a place on this ship. The one who had welcomed her, and given her a new family and palace to belong.

“Zig? What is it?” Sera asked.

“...Karran,” Zig breathed.

- =V = -

Hangar Bay
Operational Staging

The Voidbreaker II began preparations to depart from the Port Ol’val Docks. All members received a quick briefing that could be summarized as such:

- All hands report for active duty.
- Target destination: Tatooine, pack for desert climate
- Target group: “Crimson Sarlacc”
- Possible Lead: Karran Val’teo

Zig adjusted the shoulder plate to her beskar armor. She had taken a shower, redid her hair and tied it back into a high-bun. Her helmet with the pointed Zygerrian ear-inserts was tucked under her arm. Her eyes were focused, determined, and wore fresh eyeliner around her naturally dark accented eyeline like warpaint.

She waited for the rest of the crew, and any other members of Clan Arcona, that had volunteered to help. The first to have arrived, of course, was a welcome sight.

“Always good to be back,” Sera Kaern said with a bright smile that thawed away a little bit of the Captain’s slowly darkening heart.

To start things off, lets all gather in the hangar. I'll give this a day or so, and then we will start the mission.

- Rules:
- If you're interested in taking part, please DM me your characters snapshots.
 - Please try to stick to 1-2 characters at most. I'm solo DMing this.

Wally pinned [this message](#)

KB

17:22

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

thump...thump...thump

Armored boots echoed, offset by the sound of the pommel of a massive purge hammer tapping on the deck, a towering figure in chrome plated armor approaching.

Strong glanced between the pair already there, and grimaced inside his helmet.

"I understand we have a lead on the AWOL former captain? I intend to assist in his recovery."

A

17:23

Attifer

----- A lead.

His pulse thudded hard in his chest, under the black ink and scars, the layers of armor and wrapped cloth like folded flower petals of his robes. He took another slow breath to steady it.

Karran had asked for trust and time, asked to earn that trust back, to earn forgiveness. Karran had given him that sealed bottle of whiskey and knelt on his knees on his doorstep, both of them speaking quietly and the door closed, Ruka between it and Karran, a shield to the kids and to Cora.

And Ruka...had said okay. Had given it time. Even when Karran disappeared on his hunt and left Sera -- oh, *Serami* -- abandoned and questioning and staring at the stars when she didn't think anyone was looking, lonely in her new position if power and having been left by someone who was supposed to stay *again*. He'd been angry about that. Sera at least had deserved more information than either of them were given. But he'd still waited. He'd refused any questioning of where the Zabrak had gone and ignored the pull of their MasterApprentice bond that lingered, distant, in the back of his mind. He'd focused on Qyreia and Sera and Eilen and his family, on his mission with the Lotus and the Clan and the wars.

And when the visions had come, the dreams, he swallowed those too. They were harder. They shuddered and whispered, some singing, some screaming. They smelt of dry mold and felt like betrayal and revelation. He saw Karran in them, and another burned man, and he woke up with his face throbbing where his own sperm-donor had hit him once.

He told Cora about them, but he still waited, because he'd promised he'd be here when Karran came back, and because Karran had said not to follow, and no meant no, and-And he couldn't have found him, anyway.

But a lead? And the whole of his crew going off after him? If Ruka couldn't stop that, then he was damned well going to go along.

So, he stepped up the ramps after a massive chrome Chiss and into the hangar, spotting the Zygrerrian captain who sang her heartbreak out and his little sister bound in blood and ink and pinky-promises and tried to smile for her at least. His many crystal blades rattled softly with his steps.

"Yo, *ra'tueria*. And, ay, uh...Captain Kaliska? Strong."

AL

17:27

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

Aru appeared from behind the enormous Chiss

"I heard we have a lead on the horny bastard that crashed the previous ship?" He was smoking some expensive tabac "I'm here to make sure we find him."

He then noticed Ruka was already here and immediately dropped his **tough** act.

"KaKa! You're here too? We're gonna have so much fun on this trip!"

Meanwhile, Sage followed behind Aru and, opposite to his brother, he decided Strong was in his way.

"The Boss doesn't take alternate routes. I suggest you move blue boy."

Lars Hoeksema removed Lars Hoeksema

A

17:29

Attifer

"That's not my name, don't call me anything, it's not a trip, it isn't fun," Ruka recited in a deadpan, his weak attempt at a smile dissolving.

ZL

17:32

Zuza Lottson

Hurried steps accompanied the growing noise in the hangar bay. Zuza had little idea of who they were rescuing, but the actual serious tone of the briefing note had led to a quick arming. The Human's loyalties weren't the strongest in terms of crew, but for the call of helping of her friends, she was right there.

Right behind Sage, giving the Zeltron a nudge and a bright genuine smile to distract him from pissing off the Quaestor's.. interest? Eh.
Strong was a cool dude, and this wasn't the time for that. And hey, friend!

"This way looks better big guy. Come on."

AL
17:42
Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]
"Chibi. I find myself aboard this ship more than often these days."

He followed her lead to somewhere less crowded. His mighty presence was always melted by the Human's pure being.
KB

17:47
Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)
Strong stood stoically where he'd stopped, waiting.

ZL
17:53
Zuza Lottson
"Well it is a very nice ship."

With Sage following her, she had taken his hand in hers. The size difference was as always comical. Zuza heldback a soft giggle, instead landing her gaze on the helmeted Zig.

"Here to help out the captain today though. Not as fun as the party last time."

Thankfully, last time was long enough ago that the wound on her arm was no longer thickly bandaged. It was still in a light covering, but other than a direct hit it wouldn't tear open again. Hopefully.

AL
17:56
Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]
"well i only came because Aru said I would be able to punch someone!" The large Zeltron laughed intensely. "He said a particular Sandal was in need of some discipline..."

Sage then lowered his usual booming voice down to a soft whisper

"But since you being here makes it better I guess..."

R(
18:05
Rhylance (Arc Con)
Young Eleceos made his way aboard the ship. This was his first time working with the Voidbreaker 2, but he'd heard wonderful things about the ship from Rein. Ashyrith was at his side, as he could always count on her to be. The Cythraul protected her pup at all times.

A
18:07
Archian
Archian walked to hangar quietly with his medic backpack ready to use. Bow was also ready in his hand, and at his forearm could be seen a small replica of his bow, which Shistavanen quickly hidden in one of the pockets.

Red nodded quickly to all presented and by looking at Zig said " Hello beautiful, I am ready to give my scalpel for good use".

ZL
18:08
Zuza Lottson

"Maybe not a Sandal, but there'll be plenty of people to deal with. Unless this is meant to be another quiet operation..." Zuza hummed, and then shrugged.

She looked up, surprised for a moment and smiling up at Sage with bright eyes, "I like you being here as well. You're a good friend." She had also lowered her voice a tad, in lieu with the "Boss".

O{
18:28
Orion (Sera)[Gal AED]
(Will jump in when I get a chance. No idea if tonight or next week.)
A
18:28
Attifer
Ruka retreated slightly as more people gathered so as to not be in the way, stepping slightly aside behind Sera and towards the wall, so that he could observe everyone. His eyes flicked keenly over arms and armor, over Strong, Sage, Archian and his bow, Zuza -- no cast under her sleeve this time, good -- the vaguely familiar Miraluka and his cythraul -- Cora would have been happy -- and critically at Aru to try and gauge sobriety. Snatches of conversation from the Zeltron and Human reached his ear, though Zuza lowered her voice eventually.

W
18:38
Wally

(it's okay, I'm having Sera following Zig, and we'll need you later on for feels)
Wally invited Kaled Atros
KA
20:17
Kaled Atros
Ahhh one more chat for me to be lost in xD
W
20:17
Wally
(it's okay, this is just for the RP, no dice rolls.)
KA
20:18
Kaled Atros
(ohhh got it o7 ill keep that in mind)
S
22:02
SongBird
Doon's heavy footfalls echoed through the hangar, making his presence known to the others. He stands in the entranceway, filling it out nicely as he adjusts his armor. Straps need pulling, clips need fastening, armor plates need to be clicked into place. He seems to be finishing up the donning of his hefty metal suit while casting his eye around the gathering.

He examines the captain and the rest of the group, knowing some of the people here much better than others. Once he was satisfied with his properly adjusted armor, he began to make his way towards the group. His metal boots clank against the ground until he stood at a sort of attention a few feet away from Zig. The 'briefing' was hardly enough information for him, not enough for anyone to make a plan of at least. Then again he wasn't the one making plans, which was still something Doon needed to adjust to. Nevertheless, he stood ready and silent at a respectful distance, his golden eye glancing to the actual shot caller every now and then.

MC
22:06
Mune Cinteroph

Mune strode into the hangar, their ears nervously back as they took in the sight of the gathering crew. Many of the faces were still new to them, though they refused to let nerves deter them from joining in on the mission. Caleb had even encouraged them, though the Togorian remaining Mune had followed up that encouragement to be careful and not get themselves hurt. The Shistavanen glanced about the gathering and, seeing Ruka, immediately approached the Mirialan. Without Caleb, they gravitated towards the first person they felt comfortable being near... lucky Ruka?

The Shistavanen wore their Inquisitorius armour of all things; their cloak draped over an arm for now, so his lightsabers in their holsters just above his tail showed. Their sapphire blade rested in a spine sheath and a sith dagger in its thigh holster; they were well-armed, and they saw so were many of the others. It would be their first operation with their new clanmates.

‘Control your nerves...’ they reminded themselves.

Mune came to stand beside the Mirialan, offering a bit of a sheepish grin, “Ruka, you are looking better than last we shared company.”

They spoke to Ruka but, their eyes were scanning the group, studying faces, getting a feel for the energy that permeated the space. They also tried to pick out Doon and perhaps Sully from the chatting ensemble of people. Mune finally noticed their friend in their heavy-looking armour, a little more comfortable seeing someone they knew decently well. Their attention shifted back to Ruka and added warmly, “How fares Cora and the family?”

A
22:28
Attifer

"Yo, Mune, hey. I'm feeling better," Ruka replied a little wryly, shifting a little to relax his stance towards Mune when he'd been letting himself stay tense, eyeing Sulvir and mentally adding him to the mission's roster, wondering if he'd try to attack anybody for using their powers on an *operation*. "Helps being able to like, walk. Stand. *Anything*. Cor and the kids are okay. He's helping with some other stuff right now, usually does that more than the combat. Is Caleb coming or...?"

MC
23:24
Mune Cinteroph
Mune's gave their tail a light swish, laughter filling their eyes, "No, he did not feel it was necessary to play my protector on this one. Though. He did give me a stern warning to not get myself into any unnecessary trouble. He has a mission of his own he had to leave for."

They left it at that. "I am glad Cora and the young ones are well, I do look forward to meeting everyone some time. Let us keep your injuries to a minimum this time, and I will do my best to not give Caleb a reason to be angry with me."

A
23:36
Attifer
"Yeah, ay, let's not worry em. I'll look out for you too same as the rest, and maybe you can for me," Ruka agreed.

W
23:37
Wally

Zig shifted from foot to foot as she took in the members of Voidbreaker, Arcona and their allies. She smiled at the red furred Shistaven. "I was hoping we'd have at least one person good with a medpac along. We've been collecting Weapons Officers like Pocket Monsters," Zig replied.

23:42

"Ruka," Zig spoke calmly without raising her voice over the din of gathering folk. She kept a firm grip on her helmet at her hip and took a few careful steps towards him.

"We're going to bring him back," she spoke with as much resolve as she could muster, meeting the Mirilan's violet eyes.

A
23:47
Attifer

The conviction coming from the Zygrerrian woman stalled the Mirialan slightly. He hadn't known she cared so much about Karran, but that was probably his own fault for being unaware of Karran's friends amongst his crew. He nodded to Zig, flashing a short, tight smile he hoped wasn't too ugly.

"Yeah, ay. We are. Good."

W

23:56

Wally

Zig could not read minds or sense things through the Force. But she knew people, and so she read Rukas stance and reaction.

"He took me into his crew without even knowing me. Even though Marick arranged it, he still treated me like I'd signed on as a regular merc. Let me work. Gave me a place to call home. Haven't really had one of those."

She looked around at the ship, and the gathered Arconans. She smiled. "And regardless of if he's being a thick-skulled hornhead, he's one of ours. He would go looking for any of us.

"And lastly, out on the Rim? Drifters have a sayin': If a friend asks for help, ya help 'em."

She shrugged lightly to sell her point. It was that simple as that to her. She turned and ran over a few more notes on her datapad while she waited for the stragglers.

14 August 2021

Wally invited Corvo

T

02:41

Techsketch

Eilen breathed deep. Too many feelings were flowing through her, tugging and pulling at her train of thought. If she could just silence herself and focus, she'd be fine. Surely.

Come on, girl. Mission's waiting. You've got this.

Karran was counting on them. That wasn't something Eilen had expected to hear anytime soon. She'd worried for him, as well as for Sera and Ruka for losing him. It had been hard to keep up hope, but Sera had managed that much, and now they had a lead. Just would have been nice if it was a simple pick-up run without any trouble. As it stood, it sounded like he needed help, and Eilen sure as hell hoped she could offer a hand in it.

Though, an admittedly selfish part of her wished she'd at least had a quiet moment with Sera just to say hi, before jumping back into the action. It was proving difficult to shut out the voice at the back of her mind seeding anxious ideas through her thoughts — as if Eilen wasn't already under enough emotional duress, lately.

You're making it plain as day, she complained to herself. Come on, focus. Focus...

"Oh, hey!"

Eilen winced at the sound of Sully's loud voice behind her. The fact that someone could even sneak up on her like that was telling. That made it even worse. She resisted the urge to pull at her hair and forced a grin to meet his.

"H-hey there."

Sully tilted his head. "You looking at something?"

Eilen blinked. It occurred to her that she'd been facing a door for a while. "Uh... N-no, just... you know. Building up anticipation and stuff, eheh."

"Ah... Well, if you insist, but I think they said they were waiting. I'm already a little late."

"Oh, uh. Yeah." *Damn it.* She picked up her foot without thinking, leaned forward without planning, and somehow began walking. Another minute or hour would have been nice. "Onward, then!"

The entrance into the briefing space unveiled a plethora of faces, mainly crew, mostly friends, all competent wizards and warriors. She knew she was one of them, but she needed a moment to convince herself it was true. She'd been doing so well with that until Dandoran, too.

Eilen's heart thumped an extra hard beat when she saw Sera again, and she had to fight the urge to run up and tackle her. Stars, she'd missed her. Gulping down her feelings for the moment, Eilen smiled sheepishly and waved.

Sully made no such effort to contain himself and hurried past her. "Sera!" He ran right up, arms wide, and dropped to a knee to grab the short Zabrak in his hefty arms. "It's so good to see you again!"

As they had their moment, Eilen rubbed her neck and slipped around the others toward the comforting presence of Ruka.

It was good that so many were prepared to help bring Karran home, and she wasn't going to back out while she could help. She just hoped she could hold it together for one more mission, after everything in the prior weeks.

KB
06:20
Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

Strong glanced around the group and was happy for his helmet, hiding his sour look. He understood where they were coming from, he did, he understood the camaraderie and what not. He thumped forward till he stood before Zig, reaching up to lower the modulator on his helm.

"Captain Zig," he said lowly, "I understand your desire to inspire those on this mission, but perhaps avoid being too hasty on proclamations of returning the erstwhile Val'teo. His disappearance was questionable, and his rhetoric prior to it...while supportive of those under his command...was often anti-authority in nature. Do not disregard the possibility that he may have been chafing under the leadership of the Clan and simply...," he hesitated, "left," he said, finally.

A
06:39
Archian

Archian looked at Strong, and after that glanced back at Captian Zig. He have never heard about Val'teo, and he didn't want to know. It was better to have a clear mind, and no opinion in case, if situation went into wrong direction.

He backed up a bit from group and looked at rest of Shistavanens, who joined the mission. They looked self-motivated and confident to take on every task, which they could meet.

Red turned his head and quickly measured Aru. He was more than ready, and his eyes has show determination to finish the job. Zuza was also ready, and Archian noted the mentioned her father at Tatooine, that could complicate things... but as he knew Zuza, she always found a way out, even if that means a few injuries.

Archian made a few steps forward to Ruka and quietly said, that no one could notice. " Do you need any medical checks before we go? " He didn't want anyone to found out how much he respected Ruka.

A
08:39
Attifer

While he'd been considering Zig's explanation, feeling the heartache of it, and glad to see Eilen, worrying for her like always, like he couldn't turn off, Ruka looked over at the second Shistavanen's approach. He was starting to feel a little small, surrounded by the taller furred folk with Mune too.

"I'm okay, Archian, thanks," the Mirialan said quietly back, not sure if he was being checked on out of pity or because the last the crew had seen him, he'd been in full leg casts. Even then, when his bones were still broken, they'd been better than shattered; he was damned lucky Force healing and medicine around here were so accessible. "Little sore but I can fight, I'll watch out for you guys. Promise."

Even as he spoke, he angled his body towards Eilen, idly reaching out an arm in silent greeting and fitting his palm to the back of her neck, scratching lightly to ground them both.

ZL
08:45
Zuza Lottson

Zuza still gently held onto the hand of Sage, half ensuring he stayed with her and half having forgotten her hand was occupied. With more people entering the room, and conversations sparking, the importance of this mission to a large portion of the crew was quickly becoming clear.

She'd never met Karran. But if he was this important to Zig, and clearly Eilen from her nervous stature entering the room, Ruka, and so many others, then she was making the right decision beyond just being a member of the crew. Letting out a soft sigh, she checked her

gear.

Rifle was on her back, straps secure. Lightsaber on her right hip, vibrosword on the left. Checking over her armour took a few extra moments, ensuring that it was sitting right on her joints. It was energy resistant, but that made it more clunky. Zuza almost regretted it for a moment before remembering her first mission and the scar burned into her thigh.

Definitely worth it.

No big injuries today. She'd learned a lot through the war, there was no need. And hey, if she got out uninjured, a surprise visit to dad would be on the cards.

AL

08:56

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

"We're going to Tatooine heh?" Sage boomed, excited. "That was my first Pit! I crushed a lot of skulls

there." Aru shared the enthusiasm. He remembered the day they had met on the cantina.

"It's gonna be good going back to that place. I wonder if their 'happy Aru hour' is still in place"

The Human then remembered his promise towards the Mirialan that would certainly be watching

him "Not that I'm interested of course."

He then turned towards Zuza, her silhouette rather diminished when next to Sage.

"Hey Zu, so now that you're a full fledged knight and you've been to war. What lightsaber style do ya prefer? Are you more contained, or all out bonkers like broccoli over there?"

"Heh," Sage laughed, "Broccoli..."

ZL

09:19

Zuza Lottson

Zuza looked at Aru, smiling up at him. She was used to being around people a lot taller than her at this point.

"Well, I just use it like I use my sword really, so I guess a bit looser. Stab 'em where I can stab them. It's cuts better obviously but I'm more comfortable with the sword. The weight makes a big difference and I don't have the Force helping me out with the saber."

AL

09:22

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

"Well, as long as you're by my side, nothing will touch you, i assure you." The Human said in a cocky tone, puffing from his cigar

ZL

09:27

Zuza Lottson

Zuza chuckled, rolling her eyes but genuinely amused, "We'll see how it goes down. I fight better in the thick of it funnily enough." She patted the hilt of her vibrosword.

AL

09:28

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

"That's why I like you!" Sage yelled. "I also feel at home in the middle of the storm!"

W

09:50

Wally

Zig squared up to the towering Chiss. Without the pain of thinking about it, getting so close to Alaisy and being around her had more or less got her comfortable looking up at tall, towering things that should scare her. She also knew Strong well enough to know he was just trying to help in his own manner by managing expectations.

"True," she replied quietly. Her eyes flicked down to her own feet, searching for the right words. Then, she looked back up at him and steeled her nerves as best she could. "He might not even want our help at all. But even if we need to drag him back here with his thick head bouncing along the ground...we're a team and we will get him. Once he's here you two can grunt at each other and discuss decorum while Sully and I make some popcorn."

She flashed him a toothy, quick smile she must have picked up from Sera.

KB

09:51

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

"Oh. Do not mistake me. I am fully willing to drag him back regardless of his wishes," stated Strong, his tone flat.

W

09:53

Wally

"I knew we could count on ya'" Zig nodded as she patted him on the armored hip.

The Captain padded back towards the other, her tailored beskar clinking lightly.

ZL

10:07

Zuza Lottson

Zuza grinned up at him, taking her hand from his and raising it for a fist bump

T[

10:32

Tali Sroka [HQD QUA]

To say her feelings on the matter of the erstwhile Captain were *conflicted* was a grave understatement. Karran had been a solid and seemingly dependable leader of House Qel-Droma's most prized asset—until he suddenly hadn't. What madness had driven the Zabrak into taking such drastic action eluded her, and on some level she suspected it tied back to the traumatizing loss of their first vessel, but she was starting to get sick and tired of people simply walking off without a word.

The old and tattered all-weather cloak, her first acquisition as a free person, hung over armored shoulders of battleworn blue as Tali made her way to the muster. Her presence was not required, perhaps not even expected, but she'd be damned to let Sera find—or lose—him on her own.

As she took in the number and caliber of people arrayed to partake in this retrieval mission, she could not help the tugging of a smile at her lips. Be it out of friendship or duty that they'd come, it was clear the Zabrak still meant much to many, and she was sure they would find him—and bring him back home.

KB

10:42

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

The Chiss sighed inside his helmet at Zig's response, noting that the captain seemed determined to delude herself. He glanced over at movement and straightened back up at the appearance of the Qel-Droma Quaestor, turning fully to face the Twi'lek and offering a bow as greeting, head low.

K{

11:11

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

The door to the hangar *hissed* open to reveal the Twi'lek Mandalorian. Her helmet was tucked under her right arm with her left hand resting on the Westar slung at her thigh. The Mandalorian armor sported a fresh coat of paint, now various shades of tans and browns to match the new environment they would be landing in.

"Oi Ziggy! Thought you might need some demo work done, so I grabbed my kit."

KA

11:17

Kaled Atros

Kaled walked slowly through the hangar, taking every step as carefully as he could. His astromech droid was taking a front, informing young Miraluka that his clansmen were not that far ahead.

There was no response.

In his mind, he was still back there. Behind Garganta Casino Hotel. Back in that alleyway with Marick, Wyn and Aayala. The sound of the blaster bolts being deflected by a lightsaber blades was still ringing in his ears.

He could still hear Marick yelling at him to get out of the way and protect himself from the enemies attacks.

Miraluka could still remember the silhouette of a person in front of him. The man was constantly gaining the upper hand, but with one twist and a twerl it was all over. And then he sensed it. The smell of the burning fabric and flesh and his blade entering the mans abdomen.

The aura of the man slowly begun to fade as he slowly fell on the ground.

Focus!

Kaled was shaken up by his droid that was whistling and beeping in front of him.

The noise that he heard before was now gone, and once again he was back in the present. Miraluka reached out to tuch the feather that was once tied up in his hair, only to realize that it wasn't there anymore.

"Sorry...R3. What were you saying?" Miraluka said weakly.

"Beep, WooWoo Eeee. Beep,beep.[Hunter, we have arrived to location. The clan's men are in front]" said a little droid, who seemed excited for the task at hand.

"Ahhh...Well that's good. Let's try and behave ourselves."

Not really knowing who would be present, Kaled mustered some form of strength to give his best smile, so not to draw too much attention on to himself.

M

11:48

Maxine

Silently frustrated with the repetitive tedium of the *Voidbreaker II*'s, Urie had been looking forward—with an almost frenzied anticipation— to the upcoming expedition out onto the sand-blasted, barren deserts of Tatooine. A dull planet, if not for its marginally interesting history, and it's wildly exciting megafauna, it would make for a nice change from the unrepentant restriction aboard the starship – courtesy of a certain general staff officer that had decided to take her up on a spur-of-the-moment challenge.

Closing up her data terminal, Urie sighed and, packing away her tools—and various weapons—pushed off the desk and strode down and out of the clinic, making her way over to the hangar. *'Perhaps,'* the Arkanian thought to herself idly. *'This should be an ideal opportunity to assess the various skill levels of my comrades-in-arms?'*

Shrugging to herself, she turned a corner and walked into a large antechamber that served, adequately, as the __Minstrel-class's comfortably sized flight deck; currently occupied by a diasporic collection of various aliens, near-Humans and assorted half-breeds. Keeping a distance, loitering about the edges of the room, Urie perused her colleagues like one might items at the bazaar: every one an interesting new... curiosity.

E

12:20

Edema (Sophie)

A sinister black shape floated off the port side, barely visible against the blackness of space, its presence only revealed by the lights that had been deliberately illuminated on its hull, they did nothing however to make the vessel look any less concerning. The ship floated in the blackness, visible from the landing bay of the Voidbreaker II, the Nightfall Prism, the home of Edema Ru'h-Kalinor. Sat on the bridge, linked into the Voidbreaker IIs Holo and com systems sat Edema and her cousin Jor'ana along with their faithful droids. They watched the team as they gathered in the bay, waiting for the Boss to tell them the mission.

ZL

12:25

Zuza Lottson

Nathan, sitting in his usual stressed manner in the communications and security room of the Voidbreaker II, kept the link between the two ships, ensuring that the audio input to the Nightfall Prism was Zig's comms, and the output the same. Unless requested otherwise.

He was glad he'd been told to stay behind and man the technical side of the VB. Stressed as he was, it was better to be here than on the frontline of a mission.

W

12:28

Wally

"Oi, Lara, just try not to blow anyone up," Zig replied. "I don't know how your knock-off beskar would hold up," she teased lightly.

Her Captains sense tingled, so she grabbed her comm. "NATHAN!" she yelled into the microphone.

ZL

12:32

Zuza Lottson

Nathan jumped violently, but poking the comm in his ear after a moment and responding with a weirdly high pitched voice for the young man “Y-yes? Hello. What do you need?”

He leant back in his seat, other hand on his heart and willing it to calm down.

W

12:36

Wally

Zig grinned as she imagined his reaction exactly as it transpired. "Prep the ship for take off. Also do a quick scan on the hyperdrive and check the camera's for a skulking robo-Kaleesh"

E

12:38

Edema (Sophie)

Edema headed down from the bridge into the main bay, Jor was already there fiddling with her rifle and the sights, both of them wanted to make sure everything was perfect for this mission, the last time they were on that dustball they call tatooine, well it was messy.

A

12:38

Attifer

Assuming broccoli was meant to refer to him, since it was Aru speaking, which meant it was an insult, and it was a joke about him being green, which was completely original and *he'd never heard before ever*, Ruka merely rolled his eyes and otherwise ignored Law's yammering. He could tell the Aedile was sober, so that was enough not to make an issue of him -- for now. If either one of them deserved more attention, it was the relative unknown of Sage, who made Eilen uncomfortable but seemed best friends with Law -- a mark against his character, surely -- and mentioned crushing skulls happily. Another violent, murderous, self-centered danger, probably.

He recalled the Arkanian woman from the pool party where Kaled had been upset over his scars. Each new face went into his mental file, and he tried to adjust to what the mission might look like.

"Yo, Kaled," he called instead to the hesitating Miraluka, trying to give him a place to go, much like Eilen and Mune and Archian, apparently. "Good to see you."

T

12:40

Techsketch

The violent jump gave Eiro a small secondhand fright as he stepped in. He'd come in to help; he hadn't expected to see *that* fellow again.

"...Uhm—" *Right, never got his name.* "...Hey, you alright there?"

ZL

12:47
Zuza Lottson
"Yes ma'am." Nathan clicked off the comm, and then jumped again as the stranger from a small while ago stood in the doorway. He slowly pushed a button to begin the ignition process, and awkwardly looked away after a moment. It had been nice silence before, he didn't mind seeing him again.

"Yeah, I'm alright uh..." *We didn't talk what his name-* "The Captain surprised me."

Nate paused awkwardly again, glancing back over to him, and weakly smiled.

KA

12:51
Kaled Atros

Miraluka jumped at the sound of Mirilan's voice.

"Master Ruka. It is nice to hear your voice again." He waved at Ruka, giving him a warm smile, but there was something else writin on his face.
Regret.

Miraluka was ashamed that he wasn't able to keep his promise that was made on a shooting range.
Kaled made his way closer to Ruka, extending his hand in front of him for a shake.

"Sorry that I wasn't able to call. I hope you were doing well?"

K{

13:03
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"Don't try to vaunt your stolen steel over me *aruetti. Beskar naol daer vaird*. Armor doesn't make the warrior."

L'ara checked her satchel, blaster, and jetpack. Finding everything to be in order, she slid her helmet on, feeding her Lekku through the cutouts until it rested comfortably.

"Just be happy you have someone with beskar in their heart to watch your back."

W

13:07
Wally

"Is that why you like watching my back?" Zig retorted with a quick smile as she slid her helmet over her head, her pointed ears wiggling into the modified slots and her visage dissapearing behind the visor.

AL

13:07
Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]
"Yes!" Aru yelled from a distance

T

13:08
Techsketch
Eilen leaned away from Aru and glared slightly, muttering to herself. Though, given the *thing* that Zig had recently sent to the crew, she admittedly was trying not to picture anything.

W

13:13
Wally
Zig made a "tch" noise from behind her visor. With a quick motion, she drew her hydrospanner, drew a quick ad-hoc bead on her Aedile, and threw the hyrdospanner like a throwing knife at the Human.

Aru's reflexes were not quick enough, so instead of going over his head, it hit him in the cheek with a soft metallic **thunk**.

A

13:13

Attifer

Ruka followed Eilen's glare with one of his own, irritation already building to have her recoiling from him.

"...goddamn franger," he muttered, before turning to Kaled and taking the Miraluka's hand. "Hey, ay, don't gotta say sorry or nothing. I'm okay. Better than I been. You?"

T

13:14

Techsketch

"...Nice toss!" Sully chimed a few feet away.

M

13:17

Maxine

Humming to herself, Uries decided to take a step closer to the random collection of—dubiously—sapient life-forms.

"Ah yes, there it is." The Arkanian dug at the Twi'lek deliberately. "The archetypal Mandalorian self-assuredness."

K(

13:19

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

Nearly as fast as Zig drew and threw the hydrospanner, L'ara's Westar-35 was out of it's holster and pointed at the Human... until she considered what Jax would say about drawing her weapon on a superior officer and holstered it with a twirl.

"Watch your mouth space wizard! My trigger finger gets itchy before a mission."

She returned her attention to Zig and offered an angled nod that could be interpreted as a wink.

A

13:20

Attifer

With guns being twirled and hydrospanners -- even rightfully -- and insults and stereotypes being thrown around, Ruka was beginning to wonder if the mission would even make it to touchdown.

He felt a migraine coming on.

ZL

13:20

Zuza Lottson

The Voidbreaker's engines whirred to life as the ignition process fulfilled.

T

13:21

Techsketch

Eiro grinned back and stepped up to the consoles next to him. He hadn't actually worked at the helm of a ship this large in a while, but generally a vessel of this class required more than a crew of one.

"...Mind if I sit? I think I can help. Could stand to have work, too."

13:23

Eilen's attention shifted to Ruka. She gently tugged at the fabric of his cloak, gesturing he step away, just a bit.

KA

13:25

Kaled Atros

"Well...." He stopped to ponder on the response.

If he tells the truth maybe Mirilan won't see him as a friend anymore. But on the other hand, was it really a good idea to lie to a person that was like his brother?

"It was...an adventure for sure. Met some people, there were some old ones...You know?" Miraluka tilted his head still trying to look somewhat cheerful.

ZL

13:26

Zuza Lottson

Nathan nodded, shifting aside and gesturing toward another chair, "Sure. I'm better at security and repairs than driving."

He did know what he was doing, but ships like this tended to do better with multiple people working the helm. There were already a crew, but him being pseudo in charge, it was nice having a fellow quiet person.

A

13:32

Attifer

Ruka regarded Kaled, his hesitation and vague response, and figured there was something the Miraluka wasn't saying or didn't want to talk about. It wasn't his business to pry though, and Kaled was here and safe, for the moment, so that was enough. He tried to smile, remembered the other wouldn't see, and felt a little dumb for the effort. "Yeah...I gotcha. Past and people in your life can be... Rough. If you need anything, at, like, you can always ask, okay? Here for you. You ain't alone." He squeezed the Miraluka's shoulder once, and then, feeling tugging on his cloak, added. "Gimmi a sec."

Ruka stepped slightly away from the sub-group, following Eilen just a bit to the side and tilting his intact ear up towards her face, asking softly, "What's up, *arrarmia*?"

AL

13:32

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

Noticing the characteristic engine noise revving at max power, Aru stepped away from Ruka and into the middle of the hangar.

Cough

"Listen up Voidbreaker! We are leaving to find that horned bastard! So get ready to set off in 2!"

T

13:33

Techsketch

Her ears flickered as she whispered. "...N-nothing. You just... clearly need some space from that."

A

13:34

Attifer

"If he steps too far out of line, I'm benching him," Ruka muttered back. "But yeah. Thanks."

ZL

13:35

Zuza Lottson

Zuza looked over at Aru "Uh, that's Zig's job dude. Her ship."

She looked amused

KA

13:36

Kaled Atros

Kaled raised his head in confusion.

He wasn't sure in the beginning, but now Kaled was certain.

"Master? Master Aru Is that you over there?"

E

13:36

Edema (Sophie)

KayCee shouted down from the bridge "looks like they are getting ready to leave ma'am, do you wana come up to the bridge?"

Edema put down the weapon she was cleaning and made her way up to the bridge

W

13:36

Wally

"Belay that, Voidbreaker helm," Zig sighed into her comm.

AL

13:37

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

"Belay that belaying! We are running late! I got a date and I need to make it in time"

W

13:37

Wally

"Belay the Aedile's...belaying, Nathan. Double-check systems," Zig grit her teeth. "And prep for launch."

T

13:38

Techsketch

Eilen facepalmed.

Hearing the chatter over the radio at the helm, Eiro sighed and took a seat next to Nathan. This could only get worse, he figured.

S

13:38

SongBird

Doons eye narrowed as he watched the hydrospanner toss. He watched the captain carefully, intending to Evaluate their skill in leading. So far, he hasn't had much to go off of. His ear flicks, sensing the hum of the ship's engines. His Paws move to his hips and back, Giving his gear a quick patdown check. Gear pack, explosive tape, med pack. Check. His claw rakes along the handle of his Vibrocleave, insuring it was secured to his back. Then his hip pack, the personal shield emitter was pre charged and ready. His paw lingers on his other hip, tracing the hilt of the saber Kathka made him. It's yet to be lit in a combat scenario, and though he's practiced with it, He's is hesitant to fully trust it.

Finally his attention Returned to the others, Aru's shouting and the small talk that others shared. Observing would give him plenty of information, knowing who might have each others back in a combat was important. Knowing who to put in the same squad and who to avoid sticking together in combat scenarios was vital. The thought of who here, if any, would have his vaguely passed through his mind but didn't linger.

ZL

13:38

Zuza Lottson

Nathan initiated the double checks.

E

13:39

Edema (Sophie)

KayCee yelled down to Edema "scratch that ma'am, looks like it was a false alarm... Oh you're here ma'am", "it's OK KayCee, I'm here now, may as well hang around for a while"

A

13:56

Archian

Archian looked at all weapons and tools, which as well could be used in the deadly way.
He tried to stayed calm, so He took a very deep breath, and after that opened his medipack to check if he has everything, just in case if he needs to return to his chamber to grab something quickly.

Scalpel was there, the same as two stim kit and the couple of bacta bombs as well. He did not know why but he took also game dice w, which were placed next to two thermal detonators and smoke bomb.
He sighted, and after his routine calmed down and closed his eyes just before take off of the Voidbreaker II.

W

14:10

Wally

Without much further fanfare, the *Voidbreaker II* departed from the Port Ol'val docks. The jump to hyperspace was pleasantly uneventful. The gathered crew for what had been title "*Operation: Horn in a Haystack*" - a collaborative effort by Sera and Zig that was somehow greenlit by Marick, more than likely because the Battleteam Leader was distracted with his toddler and working remotely on the logistics of the mission.

Further details of the breifing were shared in depth. For anyone that was unsure, Zig filled them in on who Karran Val'teo was, how he had left, and the logistics of going after him. This also covered going to a desert planet, and what that meant for rations, and how to pack, for the climate, as a chunk of the Voidbreaker team was 'walkin' talkin' carpets' (said with love).

Conversations eventually shifted to seeing who or if anyone knew anything about a criminal organization called "**The Crimson Sarlaacs**".

AL

14:11

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

"I've heard of them," the Aedile stated.

"I probably owe them money. Can't quite recall. But either way. They are the real deal."

E

14:12

Edema (Sophie)

The Nightfall Prism launched into hyperspace, Edema and her cousin finalising everything, their hyperdrive was a grade faster than the VB, so they would arrive before.

ZL

14:13

Zuza Lottson

"Yeah, actually. Heard of 'em back through my mercenary work but my dad mentioned seeing them around on Tatooine. He started avoiding that area afterwards, they ain't nice, that's for sure." Zuza piped up, frowning

W

14:13

Wally

"Of course you do," Zig grumbled.

AL

14:14

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

The Zeltron was clearly conflicted at hearing the name.

He thought hard and harder and even harder until he gave up in anger.

"Kark it all! I can't think without my milk!"

W

14:14

Wally

Zig tilted her helmeted head slightly. "Your Dad? You never mentioned anything about your parents before..." Zig gently probed.

E

14:15

Edema (Sophie)

Edema transmitted all the info she could find in the clan database to the VB

A

14:16

Attifer

Ruka's head turned at that. He hadn't realized Zuza did mercenary work, or that the dad she'd talked about being loving and great and close to would've run with gangs. In his experience, those two things didn't mix.

His eyes narrowed slightly of their own accord at the Human, wary, reevaluating. He'd need to pay more attention. Especially if she was gonna hang around the kids. At least Eilen, he knew, had left that life behind...

ZL

14:17

Zuza Lottson

"Well he lives down there, retired for a good few years now. One of the residential units nearer to the hub so he ain't in the sticks, nor where these guys are." She shrugged, "Do we know where they are? I could point the region out he saw them in, but nothin' specific. Could call my dad to ask if you want."

14:23

A lightbulb dinged in Zuza's mind, a note for later.

T

14:27

Techsketch

Eilen's ears flickered at the name. It rang a bell, though a faint one. Her eyes darted about as she tried to recall something.

Baro's voice echoed in her head. *"...No, I'm not gonna kriff with the Crimson Sarlaacs. You don't want to end up on Pund Ekker's list. That Besalisk is something else..."*

She sighed. At least that was something. "I heard— er, someone, talk about that group before. I know they're led by a Besalisk named Pund Ekker. We, uh... avoided them, so— sorry, I don't know much else."

A

14:28

Attifer

Ruka snuck his hand to hers and squeezed, knowing who *someone* of the we probably was, and the still fresh wound there.

E

14:29

Edema (Sophie)

Several hours passed and the ship dropped out of hyperspace, they knew they would have a while to wait so they hung around in the outer edge of the system

W

14:49

Wally

Zig nodded along to the shared notes and continued exchange of data. "We'll be landing at a remote outpost to get our footing. There's an old junker out that way I know that should at least not shoo us away on sight. Strap in." 14:56

--

W

15:18

Wally

Tatooine

The *Voidbreaker II* was hardly auspicious entering Tatooine space. The Minstrel-class space yacht was all too familiar to the desert world. The *Voidbreaker II* settled into a landing pad, where a series of pit droids scrambled and tripped about one another. The Voidbreakers ramp extended and the blastdoor hissed open. Zig took point, with the rest of the Voidbreakers and allies falling into step behind her. The Zygerrian's boots clinked as they came to a stop at the foot of the ramp, looking around with appreciation at the small little outcropping.

A smaller starfighter was docked and being worked on in a private repair ring. Suply crates piled with scraps, scavenged junk, and parts of droids, ships, and other delights spread around here and there. A moisture pump worked in a small refiner, and tool storage sheds were aplenty. The twin-suns were out and beaming brightly, ignorant to the denziens below that had grown accustomed to the dry heat.

A woman wearing a simple, dusty looking cloak approached the Captain. While humanoid, her skin was scaleless but repitllian. That was doubly apparently when you took in her eyes, or at least one of them, that were ovular and completely pupilless and glowed yellow. One eye seemed to have scarred skin sewn over it like an organic eye patch. She hunched slightly, and held a datapad in one hand. She squinted, but held her ground despite the cadre of fifteen armed...folk showing up at her seemingly place of business and home.

"HARK. WHO GOES THERE? GOT ANY JUNK?" 15:20

Zig slowly removed her helmet and then held up her hands. "Hey, Vikky, it's me," Zig said with an earnest smile. The alien woman squinted sketpically with one eye. "Me who?"

"Me, Zig. Your....favorite...Junk Yard Rat," she said, realizing that now the entirety of her team would know one of her nicknames she had intentionally ommited from her past.
15:27

"Junk Yard...Zig....OH. MY LITTLE JUNK YARD RAT. YOU'VE COME TO VISIT ME EHEHE!" the strange woman exclaimed excitedly. She stepped forward and took Zig's hand and shook it once, then shuffled back a step. "Oh my, and you brought friends, and...is that a **brand new** Minstrel-class yacht!?"

Zig smiled and nodded. "Yep, somehow ended up captaining it, to. Long story I can fill you on later. I also brought you a crate of some parts I figured you'd be able to find a use for..."

The woman lit up at that, and let out a raspy laugh. "ah-ha-ha! My girl you know me well. I'll have the 'Pitty's take it, but who else do we have here?"

"Well...um, this is my crew," Zig awkwardly gestured towards the gathered Voidbreakers and allies. "We just need a place to dock while we head into town and try to find out some information. We'll stay out of your hair otherwise."

The alien woman nodded as she started to slowly assess the group.

T

15:30

Techsketch

Sully waved a large hand overhead with a grin while Eilen blinked and looked around. This place would have been a perfect machinist's getaway. K{

15:30

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara shifted a bit at the woman's gaze. She'd spent too much of her life being 'assessed', it was at this moment she was thankful for the helmet that hid her face. She did her best to stand straight and rested one hand on her blaster and the other on her satchel of toys.

ZL

15:31

Zuza Lottson

Zuza was only a few steps behind Zig. Her light armour wasn't too heavy, and being so small the heat didn't hit her quite so hard. And she loved it anyway.

She had practically jumped off of the ship, happily landing on the sandy ground, resisting a snort of amusement at the nickname but otherwise happy to be back on familiar sand.

S

15:40

SongBird

Doon followed late, standing halfway on the ramp and peering out into the hot air. Heat. Not something he nor his heavy armored liked. His ear flickered in annoyance as his gaze fell upon the captain and the woman she spoke to. Another one eyed person, plenty of them around recently it felt. At least to Doon, Who such a thing would stand out to. He chuffs as he continues walking down the ramp, claws hooked on the belt part of his armor. While the others talk, he took this time to keep an eye out and take in the surroundings.

KA

15:42

Kaled Atros

Kaled slowly made his way off of the ship.

R3 decided to stay on the ship after a long argument with young Miraluka.

Kaled didn't mind, but the realization that Miraluka would need to rely on others made him a bit uneasy. He didn't want to burden anyone.

When his feet touched the sad, he felt a shiver go down his spine.

"Tatooine...Well this brings back memories." Young Arcanist talked to the open air.

He slowly made his way to the group up ahead, carefully listening others and waiting for some form of orders for further action.

AL

15:46

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

"Junk Yard Rat?" Aru laughed harder than he thought.

"Ziggy Zig that's a new one. I like it."

W

15:48

Wally

The corner of Zig's eye might have twitched, but she kept her face carefully netural, tuning out the Aedile's comment entirely.

AL

15:53

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

Sage stepped out and stood higher than most of the crew.

Upon closer inspection of the alien lady he claimed as loud as he could.

"Yup, that's a woman! Took me a while to realize."

W

15:58

Wally

Zig exhaled slowly. "Very perceptive, Sage, thank you," she added dryly.

The Zygerrian turned to address the gathered party. "Members of Clan Arcona- from the Dajorra System- I would like to introduce you to *Invikk'ta Iltay*, a member of the Arcona species, and one of the best Scavengers in this part of the galaxy, and someone who got me interested in old tech and mechanics in the first place. Of course, I just call her Vikky"

AL

16:04

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

Sage looked visibly confused at Zig's introduction

"Say what? Isn't Arcona the Clan? Or is the Clan for this woman? What is an Arcona?"

T

16:05

Techsketch

Eilen breathed deep, then slowly covered her face. "Oh no..."

KA

16:09

Kaled Atros

Kaled took a deep sigh and walked a bit forward directly to the landing ramp.

"Please take my deepest apologies for this ma'am. He means well."

R{

16:20

Rhylance (Arc Con)

Ele waited patiently, his hand upon Ashyriths head. The young Miraluka had a fondness for his Clan mates quirks. But this mission was important. He only hoped they could get the information they needed.

A

16:20

Attifer

Ruka just. Sighed. And sweated stoically as the sun and heat started to bake him in his armor. Like working in the Midds' Vents all over again, except this time he wasn't scouring carbon with a work crew, they weren't liable to fall and break limbs or end up in atmosphere or get flashburned alive *or* poisoned.

His eyes clocked over to Aru and Sage, and his head pulsed.

Actually, that sounded better by the minute.

Gently, he reached out and turned Kaled around by one hand touching his shoulder, adding his own, "Ay, ma'am, sorry. Thanks for your help. You got a impressive shop here. Ain't seen some of these parts no where since I was little."

It was true, the junker's repair ring was something to behold, and the part of him that had always liked machines and their quiet and the simple task and sense to taking things apart or putting them together when they didn't judge you or anything else was humming a little to look through all the crates, especially in the solitude of a place like Tatooine.

KA

16:25

Kaled Atros

Kaled felt a bit confused for a second.

He leaned over Mirilan's shoulder.

"Why are we turning our back's? Isn't that impolite?" He asked with a whisper.

A

16:32

Attifer

"We're facing her now, bud," Ruka whispered back.

W

16:32

Wally

"Thank you kindly, young man," Vikky said as she bowed to the polite Mirilan. She seemed to eye the Miraluka with a slightly tilted head and an air of confusion. It was apparenety she was more comfortable with droids and parts than organic beings.

Zig pinched the bridge of her nose slightly. "We'll have time to catch up later, but I trust we can leave the ship under your care?"

The Zygerrian turned and called out over her shoulder. "Hey Sull, could you please go and grab the crate I set aside with the spare parts we collected last week?"

T

16:40

Techsketch

"Oh, yeah! I got it." The togorian turned on something far larger than a dime and waded through everyone with no amount of grace to fetch the thing.

KA

16:42

Kaled Atros

Kaled suddenly started to blush.

"Oh...thank you...again.. and sorry."

W

16:44

Wally

Zig turned to address the cadre of Arconans, her back to Vikk the Arconan. "Alright, the town just over that way," she gestured, "is small but has all the necceities. Locals live and work out of here, don't get a lot of customers. I want everyone to split up into groups and see what they can find out- if anything- if anyone has seen any signs of Val'teo, or know anything about the Crimson Sarlaacs." 16:45

"We meet back here at the ship in 1 hour, understood?"

AL

16:46

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

"Where's the local cantina?" Aru immediately asked, completely ignoring Zig's instructions.

"Oh," Sage added, "is there a fighting pit nearby?"

W

16:47

Wally

Zig didn't answer, and busied herself by looking at the rest of the large gathered crew. She couldnt think of another way to not draw too much attention to the group- they were already going to stick out like sore thumbs.

T

16:49

Techsketch

Sully lumbered back with the crate in question hoisted atop his shoulder.

"...You know... I think I should do this more often," he thought aloud as he brought it down the ramp. With one great heave, he hauled it off himself and let it down to the ground easily, just in front of this Vikky lady. He exhaled hard, then grinned down at her. "Hi there."

W

16:50

Wally

The Arconan woman smiled through her scaleless, repitllian skin. Her eyes seemed alien, but they were bright and attentive, especialy the one not hidden behind scarred skin. "What a nice strong lad," she thanked. "Been looking for someone your type for quite a few cycles..." she added mysteriously.

T

16:52

Techsketch

"Oh, really? Well, I'm always happy to help." He extended his normal hand. "Commander Sulith Bekett, at your service, where I can be."

ZL

16:53

Zuza Lottson

"Guuys." Zuza sighed toward Aru and Sage, giggling softly before looking toward the captain and seeing the concerned look in her eyes.

She stepped towards her, "Hey, Zig. You alright? I know there's quite a few of us, but we can make it work with wherever we're off to next."

W

16:54

Wally

She seemed to glance slyly over at Zig, who narrowed her eyes warningly.

"Well, it's just you know, these old bones make it a bit tough for some of the larger parts we get dumped off here. Would you be a dear and help me sort the ones you brought in with the some of the other piles?"

When Sully looked over at Zig, curious, the Zygerrian nodded but then shrugged. It would be up to him to decide, but there was nothing malcioius in the request that she could discern.

16:55

"I trust you all. Let's just split up to look for clues, and hopefully we can get a lead. We don't have time to potentially bust Aru out of a local jail that barely holds one person."

T

16:57

Techsketch

After a wordless affirmation from Zig, Sully turned back to Vikky and shrugged with a grin. "I've worked a few yards like this before.

Different kind of work, probably, but yeah. Point the way."

R{

17:00

Rhylance (Arc Con)

"Does anyone have anything with Karran's scent? Perhaps Ashyrith can track that way. Maybe I'll be able to pick something up." Ele asked the group, trying to be helpful to the crew.

AL

17:02

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

Aru, not getting any response, shrugged it off and went off on his own trying to find the local cantina.

He was followed by his brother who was excited to find a fighting pit.

"Just like old days heh?" Sage said.

"Indeed. Exactly like old days. Only try not to kill too much of the locals this time."

And they both laughed as they went

ZL

17:08

Zuza Lottson

Zuza had heard mention of the fighting pit. And then saw Sage heading off with Aru. She hesitated, before hopping over, having a quick conversation with the pair before stepping back with a watchful Sage a step behind her.

The mercenary hadn't much need for protection, but dragging Sage out of a fighting pit was worth asking for a hand when going around.

A

17:19

Attifer

Ruka frowned slightly at Eleceos' question -- and harder at Aru and Sage traipsing off with Zuza -- but shook his head. "I didn't think to bring anything really, been keeping up his home and all his stuff but it's all cleaned... Doubt anything would have smell anymore. Could try to meditate? Track our bond. Or just look around and ask folks." He shrugged slightly, tense. "Not that I'd have ever been answering questions if people knocked on my door back on Kiast, but..."

17:27

Seeing as the group was splitting up, the Mirialan decided to add, calling after the others, "Ay, ay! Nobody go alone! Take at least someone else with you, three is better!" Belatedly, he realized that sounded like an order or something, which he was in no position to give, parental habits or no. He cringed slightly and looked to Zig. "Uh. Sorry?"

T

17:47

Techsketch

With the awkward social disaster fading away, Eilen relaxed a little more. She felt a little exposed with her hair held back in a bandana and generally less coverage from the clothing she'd donned, but for once, she was letting the weather dictate that over anything else. Nothing was more annoying than a full body's worth of sweat-drenched clothing, and letting her fur mostly loose in a sleeveless shirt and shorts felt like the way to go. And in spite of her nerves, she had a chance to do something she hadn't practiced in years. If she could just focus on the job at hand, this could work out fine. Totally fine.

Okay, think. Eilen focused inward momentarily, recalling everything she knew about Karran — mainly secondhand knowledge from Sera, but it was something. As she thought on what she had of the man's history, an idea struck, popping her eyes open with a flick of her ears.

"...Hey, so, uh... I think I'm... actually going to ask people about the wildlife around here. I have a thought."

Eilen looked around to see if anyone might join her, though another idea struck. She hurried inside the Voidbreaker's hangar and quickly returned with her swoop. She wasn't planning any sort of joy ride, but perhaps it could come in handy to find the right people for the right questions.

"I've... got a second seat," she said openly with a shy grin, glancing between faces.

A

17:55

Attifer

As Doon began to move off, on his own, *no*, Ruka turned to watch Eilen, still touching Kaled's arm like a guide, gauging and having a suspicion that she would be thinking of Karran's dragon too. His first instinct was to stick with her-- and he wondered if this was the time to deliberately battle it. They were in unknown hostile territory, so it seemed insane to him, but...

Do better for her, dammit.

"Ay, alright, *arrarrmia*. Pretty sure you'll be great here. I trust you." His hand tightened on Kaled, briefly, before letting go. "Maybe you two can both go together? Kal is good with animals I think."

That said, he called to Doon, "Ay. Oi! Sulvir! Hold up!"

KA

18:00

Kaled Atros

"I am? Well I just well prefer the company of animals. So I guess I am?" Kaled started talking nervously.

Miraluka was not feeling so excited as the rest of the group was. For some reason his feet felt like they were glued at one place. But this was mission and he was not going to let Ruka and the rest of his friends down.

"I...well im up for it...just "point" me in the right direction...Heheh..hehe..."

A

18:08

Attifer

"You got this, Kal, I know you do. Both of you," Ruka assured, noting Doon hadn't heard him or was ignoring him and continued on his own. Well, kriff. Who was he supposed to chase down? Kriffing Law, or Sulvir?

At least one of his problems was answered by the Twi'lek in full Mandalorian armor as green as he was, patting her blasters again and all but bouncing. She hadn't seemed eager to be in the junk yard earlier. "I'ma go keep an eye on A-Aru! Make sure that *di'kuta* don't harass anybody. Lots of girls like me in places like this, and all."

T

18:13

Techsketch

Though he wouldn't see it, Eilen's grin widened slightly for him, and she offered her hand. "Here," she said, leading him toward the back seat of her swoop. Once he was settled, she climbed in front of him and got settled. A moment of discomfort briefly fled over

her, but she pushed it away easily. Kaled seemed like a sweet guy, and if he was gonna help her, she was gonna try and keep this smooth for him, too.

She exhaled briefly, then straightened herself and piped up. "Alrighty! Welcome aboard Eilen Air! Keep your feet on the stilts and your hands on something secure, and this should be a smooth ride."

The swoop kicked off at a moderate speed and flew out the hangar, ready for them to hit the town.

A

18:19

Attifer

The sand whipped up, the rush generated by the swoop engine they'd built barely hotter than the air around them already, and Ruka watched them go, sighing softly. He turned to crane his neck and look off after those already gone again, then glanced to Eleceos and his cythraul. Those things, he'd gathered, were really smart and loyal and only picked the best people -- the one had liked Cora, and belonged to that healer Miraluka, and there was Tyris, who seemed...competent. and Eleceos had made a good point about Karran's stuff.

He seemed smart.

Definitely smarter than that Zeltron meathead.

"Hey, Eleceos...right? Maybe you can go after Zuza and the other big guy? I seen her fight beside one of those wolves once too, in Estle, she should be good."

ZL

18:24

Zuza Lottson

Zuza hadn't taken Sage far, still easily within sight, but with at least with audio privacy from the rest of the crew. She was still somehow bouncing on the sand. It was enjoyable, the way the ground shifted. Harder to cross, but it was far from the most difficult terrain she had ever traversed. Snow was... not a friend to the short.

She shook away the thought of less pleasant environments and dragged out her comms device, flicking through it before beginning the contact with her father's link. It was at the top of the list, well, underneath Zig's fiction of herself and Zuza.

As the comm began ringing, Zu giggled at the thought, twirling on the spot and bouncing on her toes as she waited, muttering after a minute "*Come on Dad.*"

It finally clicked, and she got excited for a moment before the answer-message played:

"Hi there! You reached Gwaine Lottson but he ain't here. If you got a message, leave it here with who you are. If this is Zuza, just call back later hun."

BEEP

"Dad. It's Zuza. Enjoy working out how to delete this again." She was only half joking with that before continuing, "We're looking for some folk, if ya get this today call me back yeah? Otherwise, don't worry. Love ya." She ended the call, pouting for a moment before pocketing the comm and looking up at Sage, "Looks like we gotta do this the old fashioned way."

"Fighting?"

"...The other old fashioned way. Talking." And with that, she started to lead the way towards the shops.

KA

18:25

Kaled Atros

At first he felt a bit worried.

Mostly because this was his second time riding a swoop bike. Eilen did get him by surprise but she seemed nice enough to help him relax.

And it definitely worked.

The air on his face seemed nice. But Kaled still held onto Eilen just in case.

"Thank you for boarding me on the...ahhh Eilen Air? Captain? Sorry... it's just.. I'll try not to be a burden."

T

18:34
Techsketch

That was an all too familiar sentiment. She didn't exactly have a perfect response for that, but... "I am *entirely* confident that you won't be, eheh." She thought on it a little more, trying to find a way to prove it. "...Besides, you're a... *warrior-type*, right? Cause I'm sure not... Could use the help if we get in trouble, you know?"

KA
18:41
Kaled Atros

"Warrior-type? Well Master Aru did thought me a few things. I mostly avoid fighting...B-but don't worry! I'll do my best. If anything happens I will get your back? Guard you with my life? No..."

He didn't know how exactly to end his sentence. Kaled was trying to find a better word but it just slipped his mind.

"You know what I mean right?"

T
18:42
Techsketch

Eilen offered a shy grin. Though he couldn't see it, she hoped he'd sense it. "Yeah, I do."

R(
18:44
Rhylance (Arc Con)

Eleceos turned towards Ruka's voice. The Mirialan was in a varied state of emotion. Growing concern, agitation towards his current predicament, increasing anxiety over a forced state of leadership. Eleceos frowned slightly and walked towards him. He placed a hand on Ruka's shoulder. The Miraluka attempted to calm his companions mind from the negative feelings.

"Worry not, my friend. You need not take all of this on yourself. We will complete this mission, and you we will do so because of your strength, and guidance. You could never fail us, and I will not fail you. Stand strong."

Ele gave a reassuring smile, before turning to make his way towards the destination given to him.

A
18:54
Attifer

Ruka blinked. And. Stared.

He was aware of Eleceos walking away, smiling, his dog following. A couple of the team still milling about. Naggingly, knew he needed to go after Sulvir and make sure even the asshole wasn't alone here. But it all got a little distant for a... second...second...?

When had the black gotten fuzzy at the edges of his eyes. He rubbed at them, and his hand was shaking, shaking, and the high sound in his ears was his own tight breathing. Vaguely, distantly, his thoughts pinged in circles that spiraled down down down, catching on words like *strength* and *guidance* and *never fail us*, conjuring an image of Zig, angry and condemning, despite that he hadn't gotten to talk to her or even look at her in a few minutes, jilted to imagine Qyreia looking just as disappointed and angry, and then-- and then any of the people he'd just sent off hurt. Eilen hurt. Kaled twisted up in a crash. Zuza and El and and and--

He wasn't a leader he didn't deserve this why was Ele saying that why did they listen why no what no what if what if failed-- what if failed-his fault hurt his fault his--

Ruka sucked in a breath, stumbling, found himself on one knee. He dug gloved fingers into the sand and tried to breathe, making himself count. In, one two three four. Hold. Out, one two three four. Karran was here somewhere. There was too much to do. Too important. He couldn't be feeling this now. *Get ahold of yourself. Get up. Do it for them.*

The Mirialan pushed himself back to his feet and choked out, "I'm going after Sulvir," to whoever would listen or hear and then made his legs move for the junk yard entrance, northward where he'd last seen Doon, one step after the other marching on.

S
19:22
SongBird

Doon had given his armor and gear one more pat down before turning his back on the loud grouping of semi bickering, semi planning Crewmates. He adjusts the Strap keeping his pack as he starts away from the group, heavy boots thudding in the dry packed sand. A few meters away a voice calls for him, causing his ear to twitch and him to stop walking. He rumbles under his breath, hesitant to react to it as he wasn't quite sure what they wanted.

After a beat he glances over his left shoulder to the group. He didn't immediately recognize the voice, and seeing most people were talking with each other again, he didn't pay much mind to the callout. He huffs and turns back around, continuing his walk. This heat isn't something Doon want's to stick around in, and getting distracted by some name calling was far from what was going to keep him outside. He flexes his claws, feeling the shock glove flex with it. He was prepared for anything, a talk, a fight, and his least favorite, nothing.

However this mission ends up going, Doon wouldn't be of much use melting in his armor. His eye picks out a decently sized building and he marches onwards, intent on being useful somehow, even if it's inside an air conditioned room.

W
19:38
Wally
While everyone had dispersed, Zig tapped into the comms.

~**"Also, don't forget, I gave each of you a wrist-fan. It's solar powered and has a backup battery, but they should be able to remain powered while you're out there. It's not much, but it can help with air flow. ^_^". She had made them herself, having anticipated the trip.**~

A
19:55
Attifer
Hearing the ping of his comm somewhat drew Ruka's attention, but only slightly. He barely skimmed the message, reminded of the fan he'd stuck in his pack thinking Cora would like it. He was mostly focusing on the task at hand, which included following Doon.

Luckily for him, the man must have paused earlier, because he wasn't too far out of sight-- being a huge kriffing black wolf about taller than most of the doorways helped, squat sandstone buildings and metal boxes and tents making up the town.

"Sulvir," Ruka called again as he hurried to catch up. Doon seemed really intent on the larger open building for some reason. "You see something? Let's stick together. Better everyone has someone at their back, ay?"
MC

20:04
Mune Cinteroph
Mune disembarked into a wall of dry heat. How they had somehow managed to imagine it would be anything different was beyond them, but there it was... sickeningly... warm... disgusting heat. Mune felt it like an itch under their fur, thick as all that thick fluff was, even that which they kept neatly trimmed. It was inevitable that their tongue lolled, and they began to pant, no matter how they tried to cease the natural reaction to the heat. Their ears lay back against their head and they just barely managed to fight the urge to start scratching at the numerous itchy spots. Sucking up their discomfort, they stepped into the sand and joined the rest of the crew, and only just catching the sight of Ruka walking off somewhere.

They frowned some and turned their attention back to the others they were nearest to, trying to decide if they should follow or... make more friends? They hesitantly watched the others then, turning, hurried after Ruka, following his scent into town and catching up rather quickly, though, even the light jog had made them pant more heavily. Gods this heat!

They eyed Ruka as they caught up, coming to walk at the man's side. "Sorry, not sure how comfortable I am with the others yet... I... hope you do not mind my tagging along?" What they kept to themselves was a slight concern for their friend.

A
20:06
Attifer

"Mune," Ruka said, internally berating himself for forgetting to check on the Shistavanen before he'd run off after the other. And for the panic at all. And for everything before it. *Kriff. Focus. Do it for them.* "You're fine, ay ay, don't mind none nothing. Can always stick with me if you wanna. Just want us all to have back-up." He pointed at Doon.

ZL

20:09
Zuza Lottson

Zuza had began leading Sage towards the town, but spotted an incoming figure and paused their movement.

She waved as his got within easy earshot with a slight grin, not having heard Ruka's call about pairing up "Ya joining us or going for a wander alone?"

R{

20:13
Rhylance (Arc Con)
"Strength in numbers, right?" Ele responded with a smile. He held out his hand and introduced himself.

"Hi, I'm Eleceos Araave, and this here is Ashyrith."

T

20:15
Techsketch

A leisurely flight toward the outskirts of town yielded its first opportunities as Eilen spotted a watering hole. Several creatures and desertdwellers were gathered around, many of whom looked to be travelers or even had vehicles nearby.

"That could do," she said aloud for Kaled, just before turning and gunning it toward them.

As her swoop came to a stop nearby, she hoisted a leg off and helped Kaled disembark as well. Now, it was just a matter of who the heck to try first.

"Lots of animals, here," Eilen whispered to Kaled, though she was fairly certain he could hear and likely smell that much.

Not fully sure how best to start, she cleared her throat and prepared herself to speak aloud. *Oh boy.* "...Hey," she said at a normal volume, already disappointed in herself when it was barely audible over the other ambient noises. She sighed, hesitated, then tried again with what started to become an open shout. "Hey, uh... I'm trying to get some help with directions. Uh... anyone got a minute?"

W

20:17
Wally

Ruka, Doon, and Mune can see before they enter: the building seems to be home to a range of small-stall vendors. A marketplace. One vendor sold beverages, one had small arms, another had hunting tools and survival equipment. They seem to be manned by locals of different species.

MC
20:27
Mune Cinteroph

Mune gave the Mirialin a sidelong glance, then nodded some, “Thank you, I appreciate it. I had not meant to make you worry, I am sure I would have fared fine amongst the others, I just have not really gotten to know them well enough to get comfortable.” They grinned sheepishly, “As childish as that sounds.” *Or pathetic*, they thought with some annoyance at themselves.

The white-furred Shistavanen took in the scents of the marketplace, their eyes scanning the scene within the building. The scents of any marketplace were always so delightful, so varied and complex. The scent made them forget about their panting for a moment before they remembered to tuck their tongue back into their maw and swallow back the urge for just a moment. “Markets are splendid sources of information, perhaps we may garner some intel from the vendors here. Perhaps even a clue we could use to track our quarry.” They tried to pitch their voice high enough to grab Doon’s attention and draw it back to them.

S

20:41
SongBird
Doon hadn't responded initially to Ruka, though he did at least give him a look. His nose twitches when Mune approaches and starts talking. Neither of them were wrong, sticking together wouldn't be a terrible idea but it wasn't exactly what Doon had in mind nor was it what he was used to. His golden eye roams the market stalls, taking in what this place has to offer. More

importantly he watched the people running the stalls, looking for anything particular or suspicious. Always on alert it seemed, he was not going to let anything slip past him if he could help it.

In response to Mune, Doon nods and speaks in his much deeper, growly voice. "Keep your eyes open. I don't like small towns like this. Anyone can be in contact with people we don't want knowing we are here. We shouldn't tell anyone we are apart of Arcona or Qel-Droma. Those names could be compromised. If you think you can find something by talking then go for it, just don't be dumb." He speaks low, just enough for them to hear. Already slipping back into his careful leadership role with the other two that decided to follow him.

ZL
20:43
Zuza Lottson

"Zuza Lottson! The big guy is Sage, or "The Boss"." She giggled a little, but shook his hand before continuing on, "Numbers are always good. We were gonna go wander through town, maybe hit up a shop and ask if anyone or anythin' suspicious has been going on. Seems a good start."

A
20:47
Attifer

Ruka's thick brows furrowed as his shoulders tensed ever so slightly.

"Not exactly our first job, I'm not dumb and neither is Mune," the Mirialan muttered, resisting the urge to cross his arms. They didn't know each other. "I grew up in a city, but it's got a similar feeling. Can tell looking these people see a lot of crime and kriff and probably ain't wanna be bothered or get in trouble." He sighed. "Talking to people isn't my strong suit. I'll just look cranky. Or one of you could say I'm a guard or something. Ay?"
20:55

One or two of the handful of people present actually bothered to glance over. Eilen more drew the attention of a curious blurg, which sniffed and butted at her swoop like it was something to challenge.

"Shikki! Off. Off!" snapped its apparent herder, a weather-beaten Human of indiscriminate descent who could have passed for a piece of animated leatherwork. They glared a bit at Eilen and Kaled, retreating to their cart.

"You got anything to trade?" asked another voice, this one coming from down lower. A magenta Aleena pushed back a pair of googles, wiping sand and mud on pants as he approached from next to one water trough. "If you want directions."

T
21:08
Techsketch

Eilen recoiled from the glare of that first person. *Rude...* Their little creature just wanted to say hi, it seemed.

The second person at least seemed helpful. Maybe. It was just gonna be one of *those* exchanges.

"Uh, not too much," she said, thinking. "I'm pretty resourceful, though," she added with a grin. "...Um, well— I guess I should, uh, specify. I'm trying to get a scoop on where to find, like... *big* desert beasts. Like... sarlaccs, and krayt dragons. It's... for a thing, eheh..." She tapped her fingertips. "...Any chance you know much about things like that? I'd be glad to trade, if you do."

MC
21:38
Mune Cinteroph

Mune smiled some, they knew well enough that what Doon said was out of a sense of protectiveness. Neither of them really needed any sort of protection or heads up to be careful, though, the thought, Mune felt, was appreciated. They made sure to give Ruka a reassuring smile, trying to let him know that it was fine with a glance. “Blending in would probably be easier if we were not armoured up and armed as if we were ready for a battle... but, yes, caution is not a bad idea.”

A

21:47

Attifer

Ruka's face pinched, looking down at his own armaments and theirs.

"Yeah...ay. Well." He mouth twisted. A lead on Karran was worth anything. His fingers went to the sheathes on his belt, and he unclasped the one that held his emerald dagger, offering up in the flat of his hand between the three of them, the huddle of their bodies -- or at least, the Shistavanens' larger ones -- serving well enough to hide it from view. "One of you could barter with this. Or any of my blades. They're all pure crystal," he said *very* quietly. "Less suspicious if we're selling stuff?" 21:51

The little Aleena's face conveyed that they didn't care at all about the flimsy excuse or whatever sex thing a *thing* with sarlaccs or dragons was. It was just business. He waved his three-fingered hand at Eilen and turned to move back towards his own animals, two banthas laden with packs. A slim, comparatively short for the species Togorian was tending the second, and another Human lounged against the trough.

The Togorian looked over. "They got cred?"

"Got something, they says." The Aleena turned to peer at them. "Just about the beasts? Got lots of trackers. Know all the spots. Great footprints. Whatever. Trade you that and some eyes for your friend. Got good ideas. Took 'em off a Chiss, real shiny."

He made a set of large red marbles appear from a pouch somewhere, the kind that could either have been decorative or maybe fit in an eye socket, if one was determined.

T

21:57

Techsketch

Eilen's ears flickered. "Yeah! That all sounds like it could help for sure! Uh, what can I getcha for all that stuff? ...Well, minus the marbles, actually." She tried not to cringe at the thought of putting those in Kaled's face.

A

22:07

Attifer

"Marbles? I got marbles. Don't know why you'd want marbles for eyes though. You hear this womp rat? Eesh."

The totally not marbles disappeared with a flick of stubby fingers and the Aleena went climbing over the saddlebags in a series of quick hops and jumps. The Togorian helped him up as if used to that. The Human just fiddled with a blaster, as if cleaning it, but he was watching them and the other denizens closely while he chewed on something he kept spitting.

"You want your footprints? Scales? Hides? I got teeth, need teeth? Be better than eyes, put these in your head, see how many people mess with you then." He held up a pair of tusks that were about half of him. All sorts of junk just kept appearing. He sniffled, wiped at his nose, squinted.

"Directions, directions..."

"Maps," the Togorian offered. "Got a few droid databanks with maps. Unless you're looking to *see* dragons." She gave a slow blink that might have been a wink if it weren't for a scar over one eye that dragged it half-closed. Her claw draw a slow, sensual line from hip to bodice where she fished out a packet of golden powder. "No trades, only coin, unless you wanna swap that swoop."

T

22:18

Techsketch

Eilen blinked hard, suddenly distracted from the distractingly spazzy Aleena. Whatever weird powder the lady had fished out was a hell of a no-go, but the way she moved— *Oh no, she's hot...*

She realized she was staring and quickly snapped her posture back upright, ears and tail and all. "C-CREDITS... I can definitely do that.

Yeah. Uhh. Just, directions on their own would be good, yeah... A droid brain would... do, I think." At least fur hid blushing, mostly.

She squinted at some of the Aleena's trinkets. "...Unless... unless any of those come from a krayt dragon," she said, gesturing to his numerous baubles. Perhaps Eleceos's creature could pull a scent from one of those. "Could pay for both, if so."

S

22:20
SongBird
Doon’s golden eye falls on the offered blade. He takes it into his large paw, making sure it didn’t look too suspicious to anyone around.
“You want to actually sell this? Could fetch a decent price for info.” He raises and powers the paw a few inches, inspecting its weight.
Walking around questioning would be fairly suspicious. But so is standing around looking at someone’s hand. His snout wrinkles as he glances around, seeing if there isn’t a blade dealer. His gaze then returns to the other two. “I can talk if neither of you want to. Bargaining isn’t uncommon for my trade.”

R{
22:20
Rhy lance (Arc Con)
Ele nodded to the excited female before turning towards the rest of the small town. He couldn't see as normal folks could. But the Force held its own secrets to decipher.

Reaching out with his mind, the young Miraluka could sense the masses of the small Tatooine settlement. He felt their tiredness, their wariness. Greed pervade their thought as seeds of distrust were sown deep in their hearts. It wouldn't be easy to seek out their help.
These people were broken. Shells of the living. Such darkness lay in the hearts of the people.
Ele couldn't help but be affected. He couldn't cry, but he felt their pain. Their suffering. Ashyrith nuzzled up to his leg. She could tell his mood had worsened.

"Ash, I wish I could help these pour souls. They need light in their lives. There's so much darkness here. What can I do against so much fear? So much hate?"

A
22:24
Attifer

"A krayt? Sure do! Here here, here," the Aleena sniffed again, seemed to stare at the powder the Togorian was tucking back away, flicked a fat tongue out of his dry snout. Coughed and went back to digging. "I tolds you, got directions, got scales and claws and teeth and tusks and bones, got a, what's it called, the two dicks and pooper--"

"Cloaeca," the scruffy Human with the gun spoke up from the ground. He looked up. "What? S'scientific."
"Got that! Or they goop. Great for spicing things up. So's the spice. But if you wanna some of this..."

The Togorian made a whiffing sound like a sigh. "Ten-krill for directions. Say another ten for two of whatever you want of all that."
22:26

"Don't really *wanna* sell it, but no thing is worth more than Karran." Ruka shrugged. "Go ahead. If we can get info for it without getting killed for flashing something like that."

MC
22:30
Mune Cinteroph
Mune was not sure how they felt about Ruka offering up one of his weapons just to barter for information but... it made sense considering where they were. The white-furred Shistavanen adjusted their cloak to keep their own weapons well concealed, and armour. They tried to look harmless compared to the other two which... was not really difficult considering how short Mune was. If trouble were to break out, Mune remained alert, letting Doon do the talking but ready to support as necessary.

T
22:50
Techsketch

Eilen's held tension eased. *Hey, that's actually not too bad, for out here...*

She tapped her fingers together again. "...Yeah, okay, I can do that. Just... gonna need a minute to go back to town, unless you're cool with a digital transfer."

A
22:52
Attifer

"Coin only," repeated the Togorian.

The magenta Aleena hopped down the bantha's leg. "Better hurry up, yeah, yeah! If we're gone then we're gone, not waiting on you or your marbles."

T
22:53
Techsketch
She winced. "IIII will be right back!" Without pausing, Eilen pulled Kaled onto her swoop again and shot back off toward their docking space.

23:05
It wasn't long before Eilen's swoop pulled back into the heap of half-built machinery surrounding the Voidbreaker. She slowed with no shortage of apologies to Kaled for racing, then disembarked with her head darting all around.

"Ziiig?" she called openly.

W
23:06
Wally
"Eileeen?" Zig chirped back, folding her arms across her chest and tilting her head.

S
23:06
SongBird
Doon turns on his heel and paces towards the stall with hanging blades, the Emerald one clutched carefully in his claw. He takes up the front of the stall, then sets his heavy bracers down on the counter and leans down towards the stall owner. His golden eye examines the stall owner for a few moments, sizing them up before releasing a growl and speaking. "Looking for barter. I've got things to sell, things that you wouldn't find bleached out in the desert or hanging from a stall."

T
23:10
Techsketch

Ears flickering, her whole body whipped around. "Zig!" She hurried right up to the captain.

"Hey, right, sorry, I uh, I—" Eilen stopped herself and inhaled. "...I think I have a lead, but I need credits, like physical credits for it. And they're acting like they're gonna be leaving soon, so like, I don't wanna miss the chance or try anything shady in a place this small or..
Guh, sorry— You don't... happen to have any credits on board, do you?" She grinned sheepishly.

A
23:18
Attifer

Ruka followed along with Mune and did his best to look somewhere around intimidating but probably closer to like he didn't want to be there, which according to most people, was just his face. He stood behind Doon to the right and kept his eyes and head on a swivel around the market.

W
23:18
Wally
Zig narrowed her eyes from behind her visor. "I have an emergency fund Marick set aside for repairs and refueling in a pinch," she replied. "Strange that anyone out here wouldn't want to trade and go for credits- credits don't keep you alive out here."

23:19
Zig thought about it a bit. "Alright, we can use the reserve fund, but I'm coming with you to meet these 'traders'. Deal?"

T
23:22

Techsketch

Eilen sighed, but walked with Zig. "Yeah, I— I know, it's fishy and weird, and... they... even had some kind of drugs to offer. I dunno what to make of them. I just wanted to, you know, get some credits on hand and at least have that when I look over what they're offering, all that..."

She sighed. "Please do. I'm not... well..." *Mentally or emotionally stable right now?* "...I don't want to screw this up."

W

23:53

Wally

The shopkeeper, a hardy-looking female Lasat with her lavender-hued hair styled into a slitted, flat nose, seemed unphased by the towering Shistaven. She narrowed her limestone-with-darkiris eyes at the scarred mercenary putting his weight on her counter. Then she looked him up and down, like she was appraising a painting on display. "The only thing bleached about my wars is the blood I had to clean off of the unlucky sods who thought they could try and steal them from me," she let out a big belly laugh, head back. "Ah-hah-hah. But sure, darlin', why don't you show me what you think you got that's worth any value to Ventra Beleni," she finished.

"Oh, and don't lean on my counter, sweet-stuff, thank ya kindly now." 15 August 2021

W

00:05

Wally

Zig was quiet as she let Eilen follow her onto the ship, and towards the cargo hold. There was a hidden compartment that the two of them had helped installed that could go undetected on a scan. Inside, was a case with emergency survival gear and other essentials like extra batteries, tools, and of course credits to pay for emergency repairs. The Captain grabbed a Camtono that housed a resere of credit chits. She put it into a carrying puch and tied it shut and moved out of the compartment, closed and sealed it, and rejoined Eilen.

The two were alone, with the rest of the crew elsewhere. A rare thing even for two people who had spent hours working on mechanics and repairs together in silence or just while sharing music. As she went to hand Eilen the bag, she intentionally stepped to carefully but deftly pin the lean hybrid back up against the wall, her armored figure not quite pressing into her, but making it clear that if Eilen tried to slip past her, she'd be in for a grapple of some kind.

Zig removed her helmet, a few strands of hair falling in front of her eyes and face. She ignored them, leaned so that her face was near Eilens, and met her eyes.

"Eilen," she said quietly, but firmly. There were probably better ways to do have done this. More subtle, smart, clever ways. But, this was all Zig knew how to do right now. Direct.

"I'm going to help you through this, *togehter*. But you have to remember. We all make mistakes, and other people tend to suffer for them. You can't let that rule you or your actions though. You are someone who gives everything of herself to others. And if and when they don't, in turn, return that kindness, it's their loss and not yours. Believe in yourself, because I believe and trust you."

She handed the pouch of credits to her friend and pulled back to a slightly less stiffling proximity. She smiled. "And just like someone very important to me once told me: 'it's okay not to be okay'. P-promise," she finished before retreating back into her helmet and grabbing Kaylee, her own Flare-S swoop, so that she could accompany Eilen on her task.

T

00:11

Techsketch

The moment had caught Eilen off-guard. She wasn't ready for it by any means, but... by the time Zig was finished, she felt a lump in her throat. Eilen sniffed hard and wiped a blur out of her eye, then focused all her energy on trying to reassume a straight face.

"...Th-thanks. Yeah, uh... thanks."

She gave herself a minute of breathing deep for composure before stepping back out of the ship.

S

00:18
SongBird

Doon returned the appraising look, his golden eye burning across the Lasat for any markings or symbols that might hint towards any allegiance. As they talk his ear twitches, sensitive to her words and the light threat woven into what she says. He raises his braces off the counter but keeps his palms down on the counter, placed protectively on either side of the emerald blade. He carefully scans her reaction as he speaks. "Custom made. Pure. What can you offer?" He relents the counter space to her, accustomed to the push and pull of negations. His constant snarl was still in place, but he made sure to appear non aggressive and focused. He relied on the other two to watch over him for anyone trying to peek into their dealing.

E
04:47
Edema (Sophie)

The shuttle dropped into the atmosphere, KayCee locking into the teams transponders, he turned to look at Edema "where do you want dropping off ma'am?", Edema looked at him and then out the viewport "just get us into the atmosphere and give us some passes over the team, we will drop where we are most needed, then you can keep on standby if we need support or dust off". KayCee gave a droid approximation of a salute and set course for the teams General location.

A
05:32
Archian

Tatooine was just a big desert, and desert by definition was opposite to full of brightness and the life jungle.

Straight away after landing, and getting out of the ship Red could feel hot, even that he was wearing his novice robes, which in this environment made him look a bit silly as their were leaves and green lines all over it for jungle camouflage... Archian put a paw over his face. " I am an idiot...".

Shistavanen was already panting and breathing heavily, but the air-conditioning provided by Zig worked excellent, and gave him some comfort... excluding sticky fur and sand in the places, where even Scurrier would not jumped into...

After Zig's introduction to Arconian lady Archian noded politely as greeting to her, and immediately got ready to walked away. He stopped when he heard an order to stick in small groups. Most of the crew, including other Shistavanens were already proceeding with looking for traces, but he as first thing wanted to be sure that he can move quickly between each of the group in case of medical emergency.

Archian looked around for a while. Tents, small buildings and one big structure to which Ruka and rest walked to. Also he already spotted a few Banthas munching at the straw, and at the front of the medium size tent laying down in the shed - which couldn't cover it fully- a big alone scally Ronto. He didn't see any Dewbacks, which would be a perfect as a transport, not only for his body, but also for his riot shield to hang it next to him. He was actively still looking around for any creature that could be helpful...

A
05:47
Archian

Archian had noticed a lone wild Cu-Pa which was followed by couple of Eopies, mother and its kid at outskirts of the village. He quickly moved there, and when he passed last tent a few Galoomps has showned up.

He decided to take a chance and tried to get closer to the lone Cu-Pa and tamed to ride it.

KA
11:57
Kaled Atros

Kaled was sitting silently in his seat listening to Elien and to understand her better.

Her interaction with the unknown figure left him a bit confused. Miraluka was however even more confused when Elien decided to race back to the ship. When she left back to the ship, Kaled was left to wonder. Was he supposed to speak up? Help her in some way, shape or form?

Before he could drown himself with all of the questions that were coming up in his mind, Miraluka sensed Eilen's presence once again.

"I hope....well that there was no problem? Not really sure what the whole situation was about, but I hope that you are doing ok now." Miraluka said with a smile. His cybernetic arm holding on to the beads that were dangling from his hilt.

AL

12:47

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

Arriving at the cantina, the dim light, the alcohol smell, the smoke infested ceiling. Everything called for the Aedile to get drunk, ignore the mission and just go to town on a betting spree.

But no. He did not. Instead he asked f or information on a Zabrak with an ugly face.

"We ain't seen no one like that on these parts. Unless..." The Rodian said.

Aru knew the drill. Play a game of cards and get what you want if you win.

"Fine let's play." He said, starting the pot with a handful of credits he had "borrowed" from Tali's office.

After a few rounds however, the Aedile was left dumbfounded and creditless.

Somehow the Rodian had out cheated his cheating, making the Human lose money he didn't have to begin with.

Aru left the cantina ashamed of his failure. He hoped Tali wouldn't miss the few thousand credits he had used

ZL

13:23

Zuza Lottson

Zuza had turned to look towards Eleceos as he spoke, but decided against responding as she realised the comment had been towards his.. dog? Pup?

Eh.

They were on the outskirts of the town when her comm began beeping, and she came to a sudden halt to drag it out of her pocket, an excited grin on her face at seeing it was indeed a call-back.

“Hi dad!”

“Heya Zuza.” He yawned, his voice sounding oddly thick but amused “What did I say about leaving messages on this thing, took me a week last time.”

Zu giggled, “I’ll talk you through it this time. But anyway, I’m on a.. task. Could do with picking your brain cause I’m on Tatooine.”

“Oh! Are you visiting?” He sounded a little more awake. “I’ve got a lady here so you-“

“No no no. Not today. Uh.” Zu paused for a moment, processing the lady comment before continuing as normal, lowering her voice slightly. “Just a call. What do you know about the Crimson Sarlacc.”

“Uh.. they’re on Tatooine. That was.. a good while ago I saw ‘em hun. They’re pretty nasty folk, are you dealing with them?” He sounded worried immediately, and she could practically see the frown.

“Uh. Yeah, they might have one of ours. There’s over a dozen of us, don’t worry Dad. You sure you don’t know

anything?” ““Fraid not bubble. Good luck, and give me a call when you’re done. Okay?” “Okay. Love ya.” Zuza sighed

softly.

“Love you too”

Click

Zuza pocketed the device, giving a glance to the two men, “Right, looks like outside info isn’t a thing. Definitely gotta ask the towns folk.

Come on lads!” And she led the way through.

W

13:37

Wally

Kaled had politely excused himself with a bow and stepped off, looking in the direction from which his comrade had gone. He of course couldn't see, in the conventional sense, but he stretched out his awareness across the desert landscape and idly tried to identify the different shapes in his awareness and give them names. Marick had said that his vision wasn't a curse, or a handicap, but a gift- he just needed to learn to better harness it. So the Elder Arcanist had started to give him mental exercises for times such as these.

Hill. Rockcropping. Small-creature burrowing to get away from the sun...

His ears attuned the sound of a speeder bike, which translated then to him sensing the approaching people. Zig came first, with Eilen not immediately beside her. The Beskar-clad Zygerrian slid her Flare-S swoop into a stop and flipped down the kickstand and then slowly dismounted. She padded over to Kaled. "Hey Kaled, those the guys trying to barter with us?" she asked quietly.

KA

13:51

Kaled Atros

----- Kaled bowed slightly.

"Master Zi-I mean Zig. It's good to be with you once again."

He slowly stepped down from his seat somewhat clumsily. Miraluka was still getting used to the shape and the size of the bike.

"Honestly I'm not really sure what they want. So I would say yes? I didn't really listen in on the conversation. I'm trying to be polite."

E

14:04

Edema (Sophie)

Clouds of dust kicked up as the Nightfall Prism flew over the area, still awaiting orders, for now she provided air cover and long range scanning for the teams on the ground.

W

14:24

Wally

The Cu-Pa snorted and seemed to begrudgingly grant the red Shistaven the privledge of riding it.

14:26

"Ey! You!" a seedly looking Weequay plodded out the cantina door, calling after the departing Aru. "Where da ya' think yer goin, fella?

You owe me five-hunderd-credits!"

14:34

Ventra's limestone eyes sparked a bit as she studied the emerald dagger. "A kriss molding...with this kind of material...that's some craftsmanship for sure..." Her shoulders shifted, a bit predatory as she grabbed a mangifying lense and studied the sacramental weapon closer. "Alright, maybe you do know your stuff. I'll tell ya what I know, and I'll throw in this here Kyuzo Petar for your troubles. This one here was used by Dryden Vos himself, so you're getting yourself a steal, darlin'. What do you ya say?" 14:38

"Okay, that's good," Zig moved to keep her shoulder turned towards the traders, but her helmet's HUD kept a bead on their position. She lowered her voice to a whisper.

"Just talk with me a bit here like we're discussing things. You can glance over at them, nod, and pretend like we're in deep discussion."

She cast a glance back over the traders, then continued to whisper. "So, where's your Twi'lek friend?"

14:45

Inside the Cantina, while one of the patrons exited after the random stranger seemingly tried to get away without paying, the bartender on call was a young Togruta woman who looked way too young to be behind the counter in the first place. However, the scar across her cheek and the way she moved about to attend to the very small group of patrons showed that she knew her

business, and knew what she was doing. She leaned over towards the faux-beskar clad Mandalorian Twi'lek and offered a friendly, practiced smile. "You're new in town, what can I do ya for?" she asked L'ara.

K(
14:52
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

The Twi'lek leaned against the bar to mirror the Togruta, "Oh, I'm just passing through on business with some...colleagues." her eyes glanced over to the Human losing his shirt at the Sabacc table. "Unfortunately, we've run a little dry on leads. Maybe you can help?"

AL
14:53
Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

Law turned to face the one who was making such claims against his person.

"I'm sorry good sir, but I don't think we've met before." He said. "After all, this is the first time I come to Tatooine..."
A

14:53
Attifer

Ruka leaned closer and whispered into Doon's mauled ear, figuring the Shistavanen would not be receptive to a telepathic attempt, *We're being watched. Stall opposite. And something else. Going to go look."*

MC
14:54
Mune Cinteroph
Mune was watching the merchant closely, uncertain whether she were being honest or not... the Shista moved in closer to the much larger Doon which did nothing for how smol Mune appeared. They honestly could not offer any advice, not usually one for bartering... still unsure how they felt about Ruka sacrificing the weapon to get information.

W
14:56
Wally

The Togruta looked the Twi'lek up and down, her smile never leaving her face. "Help? Help how?" she shrugged. "I can tell you all about the Wienkin's moisture farm having a problem with desert vermin the other week. Got into one of the power couplers and *bzzt*. Not much else going on 'round here, though..." she idly wiped her hands with a bar rag.

ZL
14:59
Zuza Lottson

Entering the village with the two lads a step behind her, Zuza hadn't expected to see Aru so quickly in trouble outside the Cantina, speaking to an aggravated person from within.

She started walking over with a smile, but internally cringing. This might cost a few credits..
W

14:59
Wally

"Don't play sly with me!" the Weequay sneered. "You said if I lent you five-hundred-credits, you'd double it and then pay me back once you got started. Even did that clever little trick with the card and knowing which one was mine, but you still lost! And now, you owe me!" he held out his hand expectantly.

A droid floated up beside him and beeped antagonistically. It was a ID10 Seeker Droid, old and rusted but still functional.
KA

15:00

Kaled Atros

Kaled nodded his head. Trying to pretend that he was having a normal conversation with Zig.
But after she mentioned Aayala his face showed a hint of sadness.

"Sh...she is well... probably. We didn't see each other after or mission with Master Marick.." Miraluka said in a low voice.

He could feel a small pressure rising in his chest. But after that mission both of them were under so much pressure.

"She...she is probably doing ok without me. But how are you? Have you been doing well?"

K(
15:00
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"We're tracking a gang, heard they operated in this area. Call themselves the Crimson Sarlaccs?" L'ara dipped a hand into a pouch and withdrew 30 credits and slid them across the bar. "I'd consider it a personal favor if you could give me some directions, and I always help my friends."

W
15:05
Wally
The Togruta seemed to tense visibly at the mention of the Crimson Sarlaccs. Her lips pressed into a thin line, her smile disappearing. It came back quickly, but it was clear to see the question had made her uncomfortable. She glanced down at the credits, bit her lip, and suddenly looked again too young to be working a bar by herself. She glanced around, eyes searching, but made no motion to go for the credits.

15:05

Zig frowned beneath her helmet. "What do you mean you haven't seen her? What happened? Are...you okay..?"

S
15:07
SongBird

Doon's lip curls to reveal more of their sharp white teeth. "Now Why would a junk trader have something like that? I want info. Clean. I'm not going to let you sweeten the deal with a blade if the info you have is sour." His eye burns into hers, paws on the counter slowly closing into fists next to the emerald blade. Doon doesn't know whether the blade really belonged to anyone special, but he did know that freebies weren't ever free. He wasn't there to waste time, and she seemed to be the type to try to take advantage of an off worlder like him.

AL
15:08
Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

Law waved his hand in front of the smaller weequay

"You're the one who owes me money pal, remember?"

The alien was phased for a few moments, wondering if that was the case in fact, but the stupid smirk on the Human's face quickly brought him back to the facts.

"No!" He claimed. "I'm sure of it! You owe me credits! And I want them now!"

The droid floated closer to the Aedile's back, limiting his path to escape

K(
15:10
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

The Mandalorian's hands slowly moved up to remove her helmet and set it on the bar, "Pretty please? Help a girl out. From what I hear, they don't make life easy around here, and they've got a friend of mine locked up. Be interesting if they just...disappeared." She let another 20 credits drop to punctuate her final word as her black eyelashes fluttered, contrasting against her green skin.

KA
15:10
Kaled Atros

Miraluka sight and shrugged his shoulders.

"I...I don't know. We were in a fight. She acted like she always do. Fath- Marick... told me to give her some time to calm down."
ZL

15:14
Zuza Lottson
As the droid closed in on Aru Zuza moved forwards, hurrying her step. She really hoped Sage didn't start just yet. They'd see how reasonable this person is.

"Hey hey, my friends a bit slow at the minute. On the recovery yknow? Addiction can be awful." She called out to the angered gambler, putting on a smile, although looking a little frustrated. It wasn't entirely feigned. "How much does he owe this time? We only took our eyes off him for a minute."
A

15:16
Attifer

While Doon did his growly bargaining thing, warning given, Ruka moved carefully back and made for where he'd seen that flicker of movement, walking quickly but not much else, knowing better at least than to just plain run after someone here and draw attention. He didn't want to lose whatever it was, but he didn't want to be noticed either. With an idle flick of his eye and a telekinetic shove, one of the crates of goods at the stall of the vendor who'd been watching their little deal toppled, making plenty of noise and sending the contents rattling.

W
15:42
Wally

The bartender bit her lip as she took in the Twi'lek revealed beneath the helmet. She flushed faintly and did another glance to make sure no one was paying too keenly attention to the bar. It seemed that a commotion outside had drawn attention, so the only patron at the bar was actually asleep with their head next to their bowl of half-finished food.

"I um," she fidgeted a bit with the bar rag in her hands. "Oh-okay. I might know something if, if...well. How about you come help me bring in a fresh keg for the tap here. I could use an extra hand and Wayne won't be back until this afternoon so it's just me here by myself tending things. W-what's your name?"
K{

15:44
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

The Twi'lek picked up the helmet and winked as she moved to follow the Togruta, "L'ara. L'ara Erinos. And you are?"

W
15:45
Wally
"Kay'tee," she replied quickly, hiding her flush. She slipped out from behind the bar. "It's right back 'ere, if you don't mind helpin'"
15:48

The Weequay seemed to lose a bit of his huffing and puffing. His aggression seemed to dissipate at the warm freckled smile of the friendly looking woman. "Ah...yeah, I know how that can be. My pa' was always heavy on the bottle...changes a person ya know." He sighed, and recalled his droid. "The 500 hundred he borrowed and immediately lost would be nice to get back if in it not so much trouble," he asked. 15:50

Ventra got the impression that the grizzled Mercanry was not just hot air, and his scars were definitely not for show. She knew his type, though, and wasn't going to soil her birches over a gnarly merc trying to tell her what was what.

"Look darlin, I was just trying to add some equivalent value, and this here is the best blade I got. I can tell you what I know, but you gotta be a bit more specific, eh?"

K(
15:53
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"No trouble at all...Kay'tee."

W
15:59
Wally

"Oh no, oh no no no!" a diminutive Noghri swore in a gravelly voice. From the shadows where he had been moving inventory, he scrambled to try and set things back into place. "Master will not be pleased if he comes back to see this. Must fix," he murmured to himself, glancing around trying to find what could have caused the disturbance.

ZL
16:00
Zuza Lottson

"I'm sorry to hear that, we've been lucky that Ari here came off. Took us a while but.." Zuza came up to stand beside Aru, reaching up to gently pat him on the shoulder.

"Well. Anyway. I can cover the cost, in hand or do you have a digital transfer?" She asked, moving forward with her hands in her pockets.
"Thank ya for being reasonable on this, not everyone's so kind about it."

W
16:01
Wally

The Togruat smiled and lead L'ara into the back room where there was indeed a fresh keg waiting to be had. it was quiet in the backroom, so she took a step back and looked down at the ground shyly. "I...know that they've come through these parts before. Last time they came through, Joseline went with them. Didn't even bother to say goodbye, but the next morning she was just up and gone, no word. She only lived with her foster family, and they had no inkling of a note either."

She bit her lip and seemed to be looking around nervously. "I'm sorry I don't know much more..."

A
16:02
Attifer

Instantly feeling like the worst kind of asshole, and realizing the movement he'd seen hadn't been threatening, Ruka swore to himself and hurried over, slowing a few feet away so as to not startle. He crouched down and started to help pick things up. "Hey, ay, you need a hand? I got you."

W
16:03
Wally

"Mighty kind of you, little lady," the Weequay responded. "Don't have one of them fancy digital thinga-ma-jigs, so hard creds would be best. And just make sure he keeps getting the help he needs, ya 'ken?"

AL
16:04
Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]
Aru drooled a bit as to add emphasis to Zuza's claims

W
16:04

Wally

"N-no! DONT TOUCH ANYTHING," the Noghri hissed and gingerly tried to wave the Mirilan off. "If he comes back and something isn't as it's supposed to be, he'll skin me I tell ya." He managed to calm himself a bit. "I'd just keep to your own business, sir, don't mind lil' old Jenaris here."

S

16:05
SongBird

Doon glances over his shoulder to the commotion behind him, only giving it a moments notice to identify any threat. Having found none he leans down towards the Lasat and lets out another soft growl. "Crimson Sarlaccs. What do you know?" He speaks softly, keeping his intense glare locked with hers. Whatever the commotion was could be handled by Ruka and Mune, it served a decent distraction to name drop the purpose of his visit.

A

16:06
Attifer

Ruka lifted his hands, palms up, to show her wouldn't touch.

"Jenaris... I can help. Just tell me where to put things, don't want you getting in trouble with your boss, ay? We can clean up faster."

W

16:09
Wally

Ventra seemed to notice the commotion and calmly managed to check her periphreal. "The Sarlacc's, eh? All I can tell ya, from the last time they passed through here, their base of oeprations can't be too far off. Aint no one found their base or anything like that, but they come through here regularly so it should be at least in this part of the desert, probably just beyond the half-abandoned rebel base just south of here."

She made to grab the Emerald Dagger, leaving the knuckler weapon by Doon's paw. "Now, if you'll excuse me...I'm going to keep this in back so no one tries to quick-swipe something this fine..."

16:11

"NO. Please, just leave, he will know if someone else touches it. He has ways...knows things, just from touching...don't want to anger him...." Jenaris rambled, again trying to shoo the Mirilan away.

A

16:14
Attifer

That sounded familiar. Ruka tensed, wondering. Diy knew things just from touching them, her psychometry. But he'd meet other Users who could do it too, like...his whole body cringed...like Bleu. Was this guy's boss a Force User? Was he hurting him? "Okay, okay, I won't touch, sorry, look, I'm not touching anything, he won't know." He kept his hands up. "Can... Can I help you at all? Maybe buy something? So he won't be mad at you? I don't want anybody to be mad at you, Jenaris. Don't want you getting...hurt?"

ZL

16:15
Zuza Lottson

Zuza nodded and patted herself down, shoulders relaxing in relief as she felt her purse. She usually kept creds on her, and had double checked for today knowing where they were going. And thrown a few more in, though she hadn't expected to pay off a gambling debt.

She pulled the purse up so she could see into it in her pocket still and drew out the creds. Pushing the purse back into the pocket a lot lighter, she closed the gap so they weren't flashing around that many creds and handed them to the Weequay. "There ya go. And yeah, we'll be doing our best. Got plenty of folk back home as well. Just our turn today." She chuckled, thinking for a moment.

"Could I bother you for a bit more time? We're looking into something, as I'm sure you know. I'd be happy to pay hard credits for anything you know." Her smile dropped slightly, remembering the mission at hand. They needed to find their lost Zabrak..

K(

16:16

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"Any idea where they make their base? A nearby city or town, maybe? If you don't know, do you know who might? I promise to leave your name out of it."

L'ara put a reassuring hand on the Togruta's shoulder. He lavender eyes were unblinking in their sincerity.

S

16:17

SongBird

His heavy paw sets down on the blade as she grabs it. He presses it against the counter with a half growl and his left ear tilting back against his head. "Half abandoned? What, are there still rebels? And all that was hardly worth this blade. A handful of credits, at best." His glare doesn't waver, he wasn't going to give up this blade for some measly info. Traditional credit 'Donations' were more fitting.

W

16:17

Wally

"It's none of your business, sir. Master Benton takes care of me just fine, he just is particular about how the inventory is kept and stored and displayed. I don't question him, so please, just leave me be unless you're looking to buy something? We have trinkets and plating and pieces straight from the Jawa's, everything from rare gearwinds and auxillary couplers from Clone-Wars era ships!"

A

16:20

Attifer

The sudden sales pitch had the Mirialan floundering, but he made note of the name. Benton. Maybe someone with psychometry. He glanced back at Doon and Mune, who seemed to be-- well, maybe fighting the lady over the dagger, kriff.

"Uh...sure... We can buy something. Just let me get my...friends. We were trying to sell a blade over there. Dunno if they're getting a good deal though."

W

16:21

Wally

She narrowed her eyes at the Shistaven. "Like I said, it *was* a rebel base but aint no rebels here in years. But they left and so us locals take from the store-caches, and scavenge what supplies we can. The turrets are operational, and some scanners, but we don't much pay them no mind. Like I said, any base the Sarlacc's have would hava to be south of that, because there aint nothing to the west or east but more sand dunes. If you do go south, I'd watch out for the sand-pits as they don't show up on any of that fancy sensor gear. Anything else I can fill ya' in for?"

She met Doons eye unblinkingly.

16:22

"Fine, fine," Jenaris exclaimed and went back to making sure everything in the stall was in its proper place.

16:23

"Hard credits, ya say? Why don't you come on in and we can have a talk 'ere over a cold drink, eh?" The Weequay gestured towards the Cantina.

A

16:24

Attifer

Ruka stood back up and, frowning, moved back over to Doon and Mune, trying to see if things were going badly or not.

AL

16:26

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

"Do they have any milk?" Sage rushed. "I'm thirsty as a baby bantha and there's not a single damn drop of milk in this karking planet"

He was sweating more than he should due to his stubbornness by refusing to take his jacket off

W

16:29

Wally

"I...I told you what I know," she blushed, quivering a bit as her eyes took in the Twi'lek's body language and was distracted, seemingly, by the curve of her jaw and lips.

A shadow crossed over the Togruta's face, but L'ara was too focused on the woman and the information that she failed to react in time.

She felt the cold barrel of a blaster pistol nuzzle against the back of her neck just between her lekku.

"Alright, that's far enough," a steady voice drawled. Stepping from the shadows of the backroom, a tall, well built Togrtua man spoke. "We don't need no one brining that kind of business to our little shop. You're gunna answer a few questions and maybe we send you on your way."

Kay'tee bit her lip and seemed apologetic as she couldn't meet L'ara's eyes. "I...sorry, this is W'ayne, my brother."

16:31

"I'm sure Kay'tee got something for your tastes...sir," he seemed to take in the Zeltrons unusual size and bulk. The Weequay lead them into the cantina and found them a table.

S

16:32

SongBird

He holds the gaze, a deep rumbling noise coming from beneath his armor centered in his chest. "You'll get Credits. The info is vague, but a start. I don't plan to cheat you, I would appreciate it if you didn't try to cheat me." He spoke slowly, honestly. He was going to pay for the info, but the price of this blade was too much for what was offered.

W

16:34

Wally

"That weren't part of the deal. At best I can throw in a vibro-axe, and a restored riot-shield, but a few credits is different than an elegant weapon such as this. It aint no vague detail, if you want to meet the Sarlaccs, just stomp around south of the base at the south part of town and I'm sure you'll hit one of them. They come in here every so often like they own the place, so you could also post up here. You want their holo-number or something? Good luck."

ZL

16:37

Zuza Lottson

"Sounds great, thank you." She looked back towards Sage and chuckled warmly before following the Weequay in.

Realising they didn't have the man's name, she piped up "Names Zu by the way. Yourself?"

MC

16:39

Mune Cinteroph

Mune moved a little more into sight of the merchant, offering a sweet smile as they spoke, "My friend is not mistaken... the information you offer is not even in the same galactic neighbourhood as the dagger..."

Mune switched to Shistavanen, "What is the plan then, Doon? She is not beyond causing a scene if you continue to press."

K(

16:40

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"Now look W'ayne, I don't know if you ever crossed a Mandalorian before, but I'm gonna give you one chance to put the blaster down. That's more than most of my brethren would give you. Kay'tee and I were just having a civil conversation about the troubles here in the area."

L'ara looked at Kay'tee, "This isn't your fault sweetie. You're just trying to be helpful, and that's what I appreciate about ya."

W

16:40

Wally

"Names Marteen," the Weequay exclaimed. "I don't see Miss Kay'tee, but just give her a sec and I'm sure she'll be by to take our orders. "Where you folks come from, Miss Zu?"

A

16:41

Attifer

Ruka didn't like the way this was going, Doon growling at the woman or Mune adding in, especially when the dagger was his to give up. "Ay, look-- we said you could have it, and *you can have it*," he emphasized to the other two. "Doesn't matter how much it's worth or not, any info is *something*. Ma'am, just, one more thing then we'll kriff off, please? Are there any Kiffar around here? Or in the Sarlaccs?"

W

16:42

Wally

Ventra showed a bit of her teeth as she began to take back her possessions. "I don't know what else you're looking for then. I have what I have here in inventory willing to trade-"

"Kiffar?" she tilted her head, seemingly confused at being asked so randomly. "Yeah, Benton is one o' them. Got the face tatoos and everything. Weird fellow, but he minds his stall, I mind mine, and *usually* we don't run into no trobule," she stared daggers at the two Shistavens.

R(

16:42

Rhylance (Arc Con)

Eleceos and Ashyrith followed his companions into the establishment. The Miraluka was impressed by Zuza's handling of the situation. As non violent as he normally was, Ele was tempted to smack Aru in the back of the head, but that might have been a result of feeding off the negative emotions in the town around him.

T[

16:44

Tali Sroka [HQD QUA]

"I'm sure things are going well, Strong," Tali mused out loud, having resisted the urge to micromanage the mission for once and instead rely on the competencies and professionalism of her subordinates. At least the ambient temperature was agreeable.

A

16:46

Attifer

"Is Benton with the gang?" he asked, reaching out and nudging Doon's paw off the dagger so he could push it towards her, mildly surprised by how soft said paw was. He'd expected nothing but muscle and scars and sharp bits.

W

16:46

Wally

The large Togruta spit off to the side and then ground it into the dusty floor with his boot heel. "Mandalroians, bunch of degens far as I'm concerned," W'ayne grumbled. "And you don't tell me to put my blaster down in my own establishment and place of business when you come stormin in here offering credits to my sister here like some cheap wench. Now, if you tell me who you are and why you're here, maybe we can all have a nice regular conversation. Pitter patter," he explained, taking a careful step back but keeping the blaster trained on the Twi'lek.

Kay'tee, meanwhile sighed. "Yeah, I know, but you don't get how folks from out of town can be around here, and you don't just go 'askin' about the Crimson Sarlaccs unless you got some kind of beef with them. And we don't want none of that trouble."

The younger Togruta moved to stand beside her brother. "I'm going to...go tend to the bar, and leave you two to it."

16:48

"Benton, a Sarlacc!? HAH," she chuckled dismissivley. "That would be a hoot." and then quickly becamse serious as she eyed the Mirilan's hand on the dagger, now very skeptical and starting to retreat a bit into her stall.

16:49

"Ah. Yeah, girls can be like that sometimes, can't they?" Zig replied with genuine empathy in her tone. "I'm sure if you just give her time, she'll come around...."

Zig was glad for her armor and helmet as she felt a slight pain weigh down her smile and spirit. Time...alone...no, there was no time for that now.

"Hopefully Eilen gets here soon..."

K{

16:50

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"Who am I? L'ara Erinos, Foundling of Jax Erinos. Why am I here? We got a tip that the Sarlaccs are holding a colleague of mine, we're looking to bust him out. But the longer we're here and the more we learn about them, I'm thinking we'd be doing this world and it's two suns a favor by putting each and every one of them in the sand. Do you disagree?"

A

16:50

Attifer

"Okay, well, just wondering. That other shopkeeper seemed scared of him," Ruka said, wincing to see her moving back. He let go of the dagger and left it there for her. "All yours. Don't sharpen it with anything cheap, it'll cut the whetstones. Gotta use a bit of durasteel."

ZL

16:50

Zuza Lottson

"All sorts of places. Personally I'm from the stars, too much to see in the galaxy to stay in one place." Zuza responded, looking around and seeing it was quiet. Made sense considering how early it was still.

W

16:51

Wally

Ventra slowly took the dagger, like it was a newborn baby handed over to her for care. Her eyes sparkled as she studied it, and held it and tested the weight. "Beautiful...", she left the kyzo petar on the counter for the group to take if they so wished. 16:52

Kay'tee, the Togruta bartender, came out of the back room and padded over to the table. "Marteen, looks like you found us some new friends. What can I do the group of you for?" she said with a smile.

16:57

W'ayne seemed to take these words in as he stared down the Twi'lek. He seemed to be chewing on her words to verify their validity. "Can confirm," he said slowly. "The Sarlaccs are degens' if ever there were ones. You're not looking to start a fight here, just looking for a friend that's got themself in trouble?"

He slowly lowered the blaster. "Well, if a friend asks for help, you help them, is what we always say around here. Problem is...we don't got anywhere near the arms-power to go after em', even if they did take Joselin away the other week." He kept his stance sturdy and squared up to the Twi'lek. "Allegedly," he added.

MC

17:00

Mune Cinteroph

Mune stepped away, feeling in the way at that moment and... it was Ruka's dagger after all. They did place a hand on Doon's arm as if to let him know with a touch to just leave it to Ruka. Information was still information after all, whether they felt it was worth the dagger or not in their opinions. It did give them some direction and it was better than a scene, and drawing further attention to themselves.

"Sorry for my friend and I, we thank you for your patience in this exchange," they offered a bit of a sheepish grin to Ventra. They decided it was probably time to step away, and drew Doon with them. away from the booth.

K{

17:02

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

Slowly, L'ara's natural voice subconsciously began affecting the twang of W'ayne's.

"Well, bud, that's why we're here. Youse ain't got the arms, but sure as a bantha makes milk, we got plenty."

She slowly showed her open right hand and moved to open the satchel to reveal a demolitionist's toy box of explosives inside.

"Now you seem well-liked and well-known. Everyone likes the hand that pours their drinks. If you or someone you know can point us in there direction, we'll be out of your hair and deep in there's like a tick on a Lothwolf." She offered her right hand to the Togruta. "Deal?"

W

17:03

Wally

The Togruta narrowed his eyes at the Twi'lek. He took a step forward. "How do I know I can trust you? How 'bout we see how tough you really are, and if you can show me that, we'll see if we can help you and yours out?"

KA

17:03

Kaled Atros

"Me too..." Kaled nodded his head in confirmation.

"I'm not that exited to be in the sun the whole day. Where are you from Zig? Galaxy seems like a big place. You probably seen a lot of it."

He tried to change the subject to something more cheerful. Miraluka liked when people told him stories of the places and planets.

W

17:05

Wally

"I'm from..." Zig hesitated. Somehow, it wasn't a question she was used to being asked so directly. "Zygerria originaly, but I don't remember much of it. Moved around too much around the Outer Rim, so just kind of learned to adapt to everything and whoever would put up with me until it was time to move on. Never really had a home, though."

K{

17:09

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

The Twi'lek sized up the Togruta. Could she take him? Probably not. Could she hold out long enough to prove the point? ...maybe

She nodded her head once, "Deal. Out front?"

ZL

17:17
Zuza Lottson

"Pint of milk for the big guy, glass of water, glass of Tatooines storm for myself and whatever my other friend wants." She threw Ele a smile and leant on the counter.

KA

17:18
Kaled Atros

"Zygerria? Can't say I heard of it. But I understand what you are trying to say." He gave Zig a small smile.

Thinking back on it now, it felt less painful then before. 'What could it be?' he wondered.

"I don't know where I'm from. Sometimes I get some "flashes" in my memory but nothing much to go on. If I had to say we're I'm from I'd actually sat from here." Miraluka gestured to te open space around him.

"I'm told that I have a bit pale complexion, so I can understand people's confusion. Hehe." Kaled smiled.

R{

17:23
Rhylance (Arc Con)

"Water for me as well. Perhaps some for my companion here?" He asked motioning towards Ashyrith who panted slightly from the heat.

S

17:32
SongBird

Doon's teeth grit, lip still curled into a snarl as Mune drags him away. He rumbles in Shistavanen under his breath, not liking that he had to give up such a nice blade for questionable info. Still, he allows Mune to lead him away from the market.

A

17:35
Attifer

Ruka followed Mune and Doon, casting a last glance backwards at the Noghiri and the Lasaat and around the market. He didn't let his eyes linger on the dagger, and they didn't really need to; sure, he'd bled for it, and it had been his, but not a lot of things ever had, and he was more use to not having stuff than not. His family, his brother and sister, his *kids*, had always come first. And that included Karran.

Where are you, little brother? he thought, listening to Doon growling and trying not to worry overmuch.

W

17:38
Wally

W'ayne stared the Twi'lek down a bit longer, but not in a leering or lecherous manner. It was the hardened stare of a farmer and small business owner defending his turf.

"You got guys, I'll give you that. Come have seat back out by the bar and we'll see if we can work something out."

17:40

"Comin right up," Kay'tee said with a smile. She made her way back over to the bar, glancing towards the back room with a bit of concern.

She hoped the nice woman was going to be okay. W'ayne could be a lot...

K{

17:41
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"Pitter patter, let's get at 'er. I do prefer talking business over drinks rather than blasters. I'll open a tab."

MC

17:42

Mune Cinteroph

It was only when they finally arrived back outside the market that Mune stopped tugging on Doon and turned around. "Oh stop the growling, we got what we wanted, and, the dagger was Ruka's. As soon as he said he was good with the info, we were done."

Mune glanced towards Ruka, their tail swished lightly under his cloak. "We are happy with the information I hope?"

The smaller Shista eyed the Mirialan. Admittedly, they knew absolutely nothing about the man they were on Tatooine to save. All Mune knew was that the man was important to them and so, having joined their family, the Shista would do everything in their power to aid them. "We will be successful, Ruka," they said softly.

ZL

17:42

Zuza Lottson

"Thank ya very much!" Zuza grinned, giving a thumbs up before looking back to Marteen, asking curiously, "You work here as well or?"

W

17:42

Wally

W'ayne lead L'ara out and bumped into Kay'tee. They exhanged a few words in the Togruta tongue, and seemed to sync up.

"Your friends are at the table over there, get a seat and we'll be over to talk shop in a jiffy." 17:43

The older Weequay laughed. "Hah! If by keeping the place afloat by being here erry' day, sure, work.'

ZL

17:45

Zuza Lottson

Zuza chuckled, tucking her hair behind her ear. She rubbed the sand that had infiltrated her hair and transferred onto her pants. "A fine career I'm sure. I'm guessing it's not always this quiet, seems too nice of a place for it to not get noisy"

K{

17:46

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara nodded and adjusted the helmet under her arm before moving to rejoin her crew.

A

17:49

Attifer

"...yeah. I hope so. Thanks, Mune." He shrugged slightly, shifting again in the direct sunlight. Sweat ran freely down his back in rivulets under his armor. "Anything would've been good enough, and ay, we said we'd trade it. Wouldn'ta been right to not do it, nevermind harass the lady. I didn't catch what exactly you guys heard, though. What's our lead?"

A

17:55

Archian

Archian patted Cu-Pa slowly at its face and nostrils. Moved without any radical movements down to the creatures neck and back. He made some small belly rubs to it and with smooth move get at the top of it.

Cu-Pa made a few unsure moves in opposite directions before starting to listen the direction. Archian putted top of his robe at under animals neck and used it to steer it.

He jumped off and happily made a bit more sensitive scratching to his new friend. In the middle time small Scurrier runed into Reds leg.

W

18:02

Wally

Kay'tee managed to get everyone their drinks, setting them on the table with practiced memory. She then took a ceramic, desert-hued bowl and set it on the floor and filled it with some tap water. She smiled as she slid it near the giant wolf, suprisingly un-phased by its presense. Togruta were hunters at hearts, so they recongized a fellow Apex, it would seem.

Kay'tee smiled at L'ara, trying to make it seem appolgoetic. She set a drink down for the Twi'lek and offered a slight curstey before moving off to attend to the rest of the bar.

W'ayne, the stocky Togruta, took a seat with the group of Arconans. He nodded to the Weequay.

"Marteen, how'are'ya'now," he asked.

"Good'n'you?" Marteen replied.

"Oh, not so bad," W'ayne finished the practiced routine greeting. "Mind if I talk to our new friends a bit? See Kay'tee at the bar and she'll fix you up something fresh."

"Mighty kind of you, W'ayne. That's what I 'preciates about you." Marteen tipped an imaginart hat then patted Zuza on the shoulder.

"Thank you for your company miss, and good luck with your friend..." he glanced over at Aru, then went to make his way over to the bar.

MC

18:02

Mune Cinteroph

Mune of course filled Ruka in on everything that was discussed, it was not much but it was something or at least some direction for which they could follow. "We got crumbs, we just need to follow them now and see if they lead us anywhere," he grinned toothily. Shistas did do a good toothy grin.

The grin shifted to a smile as they eyed Doon, as if trying to smooth his fur after all that growling, "Remember, information is still information, so, good job." Egos... such fragile things.

"If it were more reliable, perhaps I'd try meditating on what we've learned to try and get more direction but... I assume we are in a situation where time is of the essence?" they directed to Ruka again.

A

18:03

Archian

Archian quickly caught small long ear creature, hold it for a while in the paw till it calm down.

When he opened it back small thing was looking at him with dozy sight.

Archian putted it inside of bottom of his ropes, where it fall all sleep with extra warm of his body.

"Sleep small buddy" Archian said and jumped back at Cu-Pa, which started to it desert grass.

Shistavanen directed it into town center gate to look for his crewmates.

A

18:06

Attifer

"Hard to say. He's been gone this long, no idea how long these gangers have had him...we could try meditating together?" He shifted again, less confident of his visions than of simpler, physical things. "Maybe find the others first though. See what they found."

MC

18:10

Mune Cinteroph

Mune nodded and flashed that reassuring and sweet smile to Ruka, "We'll find him, I promise you that. Do not let it gnaw away at you...

We will all keep each other safe too. Got that? No throwing yourself into danger either."

They led the way back to the rest of the group, agreeing fully that they had to share what they found and find out what information the rest had gathered in the time they had been separated.

ZL

18:10

Zuza Lottson

“Thank you.” Zuza responded to Marteen, before looking at the Togruta with curiosity.

And spotted L'ara.

This should be interesting.

K{

18:16

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara flashed a wink and a smile at Kay'tee as if to say that there were no hard feelings. With a sigh, she leaned back in her seat to survey the rest of the table.

A

18:22

Attifer

Ruka didn't respond to that particular sentiment, since he knew he'd break any such promise pretty quickly. Instead he just walked along with the other two Shistavanens, Mune angling in the direction where his senses told him most of the crew -- and in general a large mass of people -- were. Sadly, that building seemed to be the locale cantina, whose hanging, graffitied, sun-bleached sign proclaimed it *The Dripping Cloaeca*.

The Mirialan hated it with a passion already, and only moreso once he caught scent of the smell of more sweat and, worst of all, booze as they got closer. His head instantly pounded. He grit his teeth to bear it, sharp like a knife lodged through his skull. Stepping inside wasn't much cooler, since nowhere here seemed to have air conditioning -- maybe he'd offer to fix a unit, Ashla and Bogan, why -- but it was sheltered from the sun, dim. And their teammates were gathering around a table, somehow without any blood or screaming when Aru was present. Maybe he should be giving them more credit.

MC

18:28

Mune Cinteroph

Mune had to stop and take a slow centering breath before entering themself. The scents assailed them, making their nose wrinkle some and fur prickle. They sneezed and huffed, eyes adjusting, they glanced about the space. "I may perish of heat stroke before we get anywhere, Ruka, this is just gross. And that name... who lost a bet?"

They peered about them. So many bodies, the dimness, the heat... all of it was working to make him a bit antsy. They took another breath and got away from the entrance. *Focus on the task.*

K{

18:34

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara threw back the drink, draining it before tapping the shot glass on the table twice and sliding it to the center of the table

R{

19:05

Rhylance (Arc Con)

Ele slowly drank his water and pat Ashyrith as she too drank. He still felt wary about the earlier emotions, but he knew there wasn't much he could do. For now he merely listened as those around him talked.

Ashyrith stopped drinking and looked up at her pup, the hairs of her mane sticking up as she whined slightly in concern. Eleceos felt the headache appear, a sensation that hadn't affected him in some time. His hands began to shake as pain wracked his body, his head throwing back with a silent scream.

Visions of possible futures flashed within his mind. Fights between his Clan mates and others with a symbol that resembled the Crimson Sarlaac. The sound of running water filled his ears. The roaring filled his mindseye. The smell of iron, blood spilled upon the ground.

Tears flow, hearts alight, a storm of emotions. A Trandosahan wielding a large halberd pike with a dull cred crimson scar across his face.

He was lost in his visions as Ashrith tried desperately to calm him.

ZL

19:12

Zuza Lottson

Zuza hadn't initially noticed the shaking in her compatriot, however the sudden movement backwards was an immediate alert.

The Human shifted to her feet, moving over to Eleceos with immediate concern, putting an arm around the male's back to prevent him falling and hurting himself. She didn't block the way for the Cynth... doggo, seeing him trying to calm his master. "Ele? Ele, come on, wake up." She had no idea what this was, and looked round to the other's with *mild* panic.

A

19:23

Attifer

As they stepped further into the cantina, Ruka took everything in like it was second nature to do, sights, sounds, scents; people and postures and all the details that made for danger or welcome or worry. A still sober-looking Aru was close to Sage, who was chugging milk as if life depended on it. L'ara had her helmet off, and a drink in hand, her gaze flickering occasionally to the Togrutan girl bartending who kept looking back; the large male Togruta was watching them too, between dealing with his other patrons. There weren't more than ten townspeople here, nobody alone, nobody with obvious gang tattoos or scars or weapons or even a mean look. Just seemed like the lunch crowd come in from work trying to avoid the heat. While Mune tensed up and trembled, nose and muzzle twitching beside him, Doon seemed fine, though all of them were visibly affected by the heat. Except Zuza. Zuza seemed almost relaxed, sipping her drink...

And then there was Eleceos, mouth tipped back in a silent rictus, like he said as in pain, his dog whining in his lap, and Zuza was getting up and pleading to him.

Ruka was across the room in a surge, crouching down next to Eleceos and Zuza at the outer edge of the table, briefly assessing whether or not he should move closer. Was it heat stroke? Something else? Something in the Force? The kid was projecting distress, tangible, screams and dripping water he could almost taste so close. That he wasn't responding to Zuza wasn't promising.

"Careful, Zuza," he found himself instructing, almost on autopilot. Like when Leda or Noga had terrible fevers. When Mama had gotten alcohol poisoning for who knew what time. Like when Cora comforted him when he screamed himself awake from visions of drowning, always drowning. "Eleceos. Can you hear us? You're not there. Wherever you are, whatever you feel, you're not there. You're here. Listen to my voice, ay. Listen. You feel your seat under you? Press into it. It's under you, it's a chair, hold on to that. Your hand is in your..." What was the dog's name? Kriff frack damn. "...her fur, yeah? And Zuza is here. You're in a cantina. You're not hurt. Listen. Breathe for me. Breathe for me, okay? In. One, two, three four. Out. One, two, three, four. Look, hey, even Aru knows this one. Breathe with us. You're here. Right here."

MC

19:32

Mune Cinteroph

Mune approached the group, their eyes on Eleceos, watching but staying out of the way as Zuza and Ruka tried to get through the Miraluka. They recognized well enough what it was for someone to be experiencing visions, never had they seen it so... violent? *Why is the experience so violent for him?* Mune wondered to themself, concern making them forget the sense of claustrophobia in the space, replaced instead by worry for a young man they had yet to even meet.

"Does the Force always visit visions so violently upon him?" they asked, voice small, not sure what to do or say to help.

A

19:53

Attifer

"Dunno," Ruka said, eyes still fixed on Eleceos but generally answering. "Haven't really met him. Mine can be...bad." He shook his head, glanced briefly aside, noted the water glass in front of the Miraluka. "Ay, Mune, see if the bartender will give us a towel. Wanna put something cool on his neck and head."

ZL

19:55

Zuza Lottson

"This is For- Oh that.. is better than what I thought it was, okay." Zuza looked... mildly more relieved, but continued ensuring that Ele didn't throw himself out of his chair or something.

MC

19:59
Mune Cinteroph
Mune nodded and hurried away without hesitation. Anything to help. They hurried away and when they returned a few moments later they had a cool towel in paw. They handed it to Ruka and awaited further instruction.

S

20:01
SongBird
Doon stands near the door, watching the others drink and try to help. His eye however was focused on the twisted form of Ele. It was Unnatural. Haunting. Doon didn't like it. He quietly snarls to himself, ear flickering to attention as he watches, not sure what exactly is going to happen.

R{

20:02
Rhylance (Arc Con)
Ele shook as he tried to block out the visions. Things were fading slightly, but he still couldn't center himself. A voice began to ring out around him.

"you're not there"

He tried to focus on that sound, whoever it was.

"You're here. Listen to my voice."

He followed the sound and the visions began to clear.

"Breathe. In, one, two, three, four. Out, one, two, three, four."

His breath started to regulate, the pain began to leave his body.

Eleceos allowed the Voice to lead him back. His "vision" returned to him. He could "see" the outlines of those around him. He could feel the cold sweat dripping into his wrappings. Ashyrith kicked at his hands to calm him. His body stopped shaking, and the pain dulled to a tingling sensation that filled his body. His neck muscles relaxed and he could freely move his head again.

Continuing to breathe, the young Miraluka waited to he was sobered before speaking.

"I...I apologize if I scared anyone...I didn't mean to cause any issues in this mission."

ZL

20:05
Zuza Lottson

Zuza waited until his muscles relaxed before withdrawing her arm, taking a small step back, "You couldn't help it, no need to apologise.
Are you okay? That... looked like you was in hell."

Her brow was still furrowed, but let Ruka take lead mostly. He seemed to know what he was doing, and.. was a damn sight more comforting of a presence. Parents tended to though.

MC

20:19
Mune Cinteroph
Mune moved away to rejoin Doon by the entrance, they were still shaky after the scene they just witnessed but.... the boy seemed to be coming out of it. They patted Doon lightly on the arm as if to remind him to tone down the snarl and calm himself. It was also a way for Mune to calm their own nerves. Taking a breath, they got on their comm to the shift to fill them in on everything that has gone on... the information Ruka, Doon and they had gathered; the fact that there was something going on in the cantene with the Miraluka (though they admittedly did not know Ele's name themselves.) They gave a full report of what they knew.

They needed the distraction.

A

20:25
Attifer

"Don't gotta say sorry, Eleceos. Just keep taking good breaths like that. You're doing great," Ruka encouraged. "I got a cold cloth here, I'm gonna touch your face and stuff. Yeah? Three, two, one..." He used the towel Mune had fetched to dab at the Miraluka's cheeks and forehead, pressing at the back of his stiff neck. Eleceos' skin was pretty hot, despite how pale stricken he looked. "Take a few more good breaths and we'll get you some more water, yeah? Zuza did real good helping you out, you've got some good friends, ay. Glad you stick together. Your cythraul here too. Sorry I don't know her name. My husband, Cora, he loves animals. He'd probably be loving on her right now. Uh. If it's a her. Keep breathing, good job."

R{

20:47

Rhylance (Arc Con)

Ele felt the cool towel touch his skin. He was appreciative of the caring individuals who helped him. He felt like a burden, a hindrance to his team. How weak was he to be so taken over by these visions.

And the things he saw. He wasn't sure if he should warn his companions or not. Messing with the future was dangerous. Things didn't always happen as you might expect from the visions. Truthfully the young man was lost on what to do.

A

20:52

Attifer

Gauging that Eleceos was calming down some, Ruka lowered his tone and asked, "Were you seeing something? My visions aren't usually of stuff that's close, you know? It feels like they're never helpful. But I try to think about them. Cause...I don't know if you were there for Celeste, or Atolli. If you know about them. But I kept having visions of drowning before Celeste, and then...yeah. So, whatever you saw...I'm sorry it hurt. And I hope you're okay. You're not alone."

MC

20:58

Mune Cinteroph

Mune watched from by the door, finishing their report, making eye contact with the younger boy even as they ended communication. They drew on the Force with a moment's focus and brushed Eleceos' mind, a gentle touch that held reassurance, trying to comfort. They too understood just what the visions could be like. The knowledge they held, the confusion. With that sense of comforting, they also communicated a simple message, it had admittedly been some time since they exercises their grasp of Telepathy. ZL

21:01

Zuza Lottson

Zuza stood by, smiling slightly at the comment Ruka made, despite the internal conflict it drew. It was kind, but she really hadn't done anything to justify it, although now was far from the time to be causing a fuss over that. Instead she just continued to watch with the same concern, giving the rest of the cantina a glance and making sure no one was paying too much attention.

People saw weird stuff out here, she wasn't expecting it, but the less attention they drew here the better.

T

21:33

Techsketch

With her face straightened and her composure regained, Eilen finally reached Zig and Kaled again.

"Hey guys... Sorry for the wait. Just... needed a moment." She exhaled and nodded to herself, ears lifting. "Ready when you are."

R{

21:47

Rhylance (Arc Con)

Ele focused on the here and now. He needed to be centered. He needed to be clear. But worry filled him. Worry of what he experienced.

A fight was coming. Death was imminent, and he didn't know from friend or foe.

The Mirialan had asked him to share what he saw, but he didn't know if he should. Predicting the future was dangerous. The consequences could be severe. And the he heard the voice in his mind.

"Tell no one what you saw"

His head snapped forward and his sight met that of a figure that he'd familiarized himself with from the Voidbreaker. He couldn't recall the figures name, but he knew it was a Shistavanen. So he should keep his visions to himself?

But then fear entered his heart. What if the knowledge would save his friends? These people had helped him through his experience. They deserved to know what he knew. So he took a breath and explained his visions to Ruka and the others.

MC

21:54

Mune Cinteroph

Mune frowned. Ultimately, it was the choice of the one who had seen the vision whether to share or not but... there were just too many questions. Those questions crowded for attention in their head right then but, they did not matter, the knowledge was already shared and there was no taking it back, for better or worse, the others knew. They thought back to their own harsh lessons from their teachers regarding the gift the visions represented and sighed. They hoped very much that the choice Ele made was the correct one... Outwardly, they took a breath, centered themselves and moved forward to rejoin the group.

All we can do is ensure we protect one another... they thought to themselves.

A

22:19

Attifer

As he listened, Ruka's frown deepened, and he carefully squeezed one of Eleceos' hands, the one his dog wasn't licking at -- eugh -- and made his tone as gentle as possible.

"I'm sorry you had to feel any of that, Eleceos. It's kriffing awful. But we're here, so...we'll make it stop. The hurting. Gangs are never any good, but we're here now, and we can do something, so we gotta, ay? We're gonna. We'll get Karran and anybody else in trouble and we'll stop all those tears as best we can, okay? It won't be perfect, can't be, can't undo the hurt and there'll probably be more we can't save, we're gonna lose some. But we can *try*. Ay, alright?" He glanced around to the others. "Even if it's just me, I'll go, promise. Kinda got a feeling it's not though."

ZL

22:20

Zuza Lottson

Zuza nodded firmly in agreement with Ruka, her expression having hardened slightly. No one here was dying today. Only the ones who'd caused harm to them.

She didn't have to add but that show of solidarity and certainty that they would achieve what they intended to today. 16 August 2021

E

10:15

Edema (Sophie)

The Nightfall Prism skimmed over the desert leaving a cloud of dust in its wake, it headed for the entrance of the town. As it got closer the ramp lowered and two figures could be made out through the dust, the shuttles repulsor drives kicked up billowing clouds of sand as it settled to a halt and the two figures jumped down, the shuttle then raised the ramp and ascending back up into a holding pattern.

The sight of two heavily armed and armoured individuals walking through the towns entrance, after making such a display, defiantly turned heads, the lightsabers carried by the pair equally got people talking. It didn't surprise the pair that they could pick up hushed whispers on their helmet systems, to be fair this was what they wanted.

Edema brought up her wrist device and a Holo appeared of the captain.

"nice of you to join us, get down to the cantina, the rest of the team are there waiting. Try not to make too much of a mess on your way, the others have caused enough incidents as it is". Edema could see and sense the exasperation in the transmission. She looked at her cousin and shrugged "To the Cantina then it would seem"

Jor'ana nodded, and the pair headed towards the cantina through the dusty dregs of the town.

W

11:43

Wally

W'ayne studied the strange group of outsiders with a stern, stoic visage. "...kay," he murmured.

The door slid open to the cantina and in walked two armored strangers. As he looked towards the door to see two new outsiders entering,

"Hoping these ones are with you. Anyone else we're missing, or should we share what we know?"

A

11:53

Attifer

Ruka wasn't sure it was his place to speak, so he stayed by Eleceos, crouching on the floor. His attention was on the Togruta and the team though, occasionally clocking back to the door.

ZL

11:56

Zuza Lottson

Zuza glanced around, surprised to see Edema had landed already, before deciding to speak up for the group, recalling Zig, Kaled and Eilen going off on speeders. She stayed standing, turning to face W'ayne and smiling a little sheepishly.

"Yeah they're with us. Think this is about everyone now. Few others but they went away from town."

W

12:06

Wally

"Alright then. Here's what we know. The Crimson Sarlaccs come through every so often. Usually any damage can be kept minimal by keeping a low profile. One of them once tried to pick up Kay'tee, but we had a discussion out back and they haven't tried similar again." He smirked a bit, but then it faded, the white patterns on his red-hued face wrinkling a bit. "Not directly, at least. One of our servers, girl named Joseline, suddenly went missing the day after a night a few of them stayed in town. No note, no nothing, and she hasn't called back to her foster parents she was living with here, the Bentons."

W'ayne tightned his first, knuckles making a faint creaking noise. "We know they're hole up somewhere south of here. We're a long way from Mos Eisley or Toshi Station, so this part of the planet doesn't get the same foot-traffic, if you catch my meaning. So, we know they are able to get to town from a speeder, not ship. Other than that...there's only a few of us here and keeping each other supported is the best we can do."

E

12:35

Edema (Sophie)

E and J sat at the bar and ordered a drink, the barkeep looking bemused at the two helmeted individuals as he served them, only to see a straw slide from their helmets into the waiting glass. Their helmet systems picked up the conversation with the team so E sent flash traffic to KayCee for sensor information of the local area, perhaps the ship could pick up some clues.

KB

14:59

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

Strong stood quietly, his helmet under one arm as he stared at the ever reaching sands.

"Bleak," he murmured, feeling the warmth even under the shadow of the yacht.

ZL

15:03

Zuza Lottson

Zuza leaned back against the table, slipping an arm behind her to grab her glass and sipping it as he spoke with a frown. They'd kidnapped people from all over it seemed.

"We'll bring Joseline back if we can find her. What's she look like? If nothin' else it'd be closure on if she got caught or if she ran off. And South... Anything we should worry about in that direction? Other than the Sarlaccs, Tatooine ain't the safest usually once you're out of the main hubs. Any local information would be beyond useful."

A

15:07

Attifer

The mention of the hostage brought Ruka's attention in sharply. He noted the name of the Bentons again and nodded at Zuza's proclamation, adding, "I swear to you, Joseline or anyone else they've taken, we'll free. Can you tell me what she looks like? One of the merchants told us there was an abandoned rebel outpost down south there, so maybe they're using that?"

E

15:39

Edema (Sophie)

Her holocom pinged and KayCee appeared in miniature on the display.

"ma'am, the sensors have picked up something you may find of interest"

Edema switched it to her HUD and pinged Zig, her coms now secured.

As far as others could see, she was just sat there, but everything was on her helmet display.

"Zig, sending you my shuttles sensor data on an encrypted line, not sure we want to share this over open coms, I will leave you to have a look.... Go ahead KayCee, the line is secure"

The droid could see both Edema and Zig over the holonet

"I scanned the area as far as the sensors could without doing anything direct which may tip off our target. The sensors picked up an area beyond the south exit of Mos Kenny, fairly close actually, there is a small outpost. The strange thing is the sensors detected a subterranean feature beneath the settlement, however it appears to be shielded against passive scanning, I did not want to do any more direct scans"

The data showed up on both Edema's visor and on Zig's display

Edema scanned it and looked at Zig.

"I will share the info with the team, but given the new data I think we should be careful, places like this, the walls have ears"

She spins round and hops off the stool, her cousin following her and they head over to the team to brief them on the info.

A

15:40

Attifer

Meanwhile, Zig and Kaled, having been rejoined by Eilen, headed on the speeders back towards where they'd left the merchants and their animals. They passed Archian riding a CuPa with his robe top off and used as a makeshift reins, which raised some brows, but he seemed to be enjoying himself, so that was okay. The two arrived back at the water troughs, where a towns person or two had left, including the traveler with the blurgs, but the ones with the banthas were still there, and the magenta Aleena jumped when he saw them.

"Hey, hey hey, come back with some cred, yeah, we got bones for you, bones and scales and teeths, got the spookey too. You two both got fur, it's good for fur, yeah? Make shiny."

The Togorian female eyed them. The Human with the blaster was cleaning a second. The female slid closer to Kaled as he clumsily but carefully dismounted from behind Eilen, having not succeeded with Eilen before.

She purred, "Hey, no-eyes, you want to see color for the first time? I can give you something good for this."

15:51

The Aleena, meanwhile, seemed to get distracted by Zig. His bloodshot, blown eyes fixed on her armor as he sniffed again. It was so *shiny*.

"Hey hey, you wanna trade that? How much polish you use anyway to make steels that shiny shine? We got polish, need some more, shine even better, shiny and chrome. Polish and bones and eyes for your friend. Thirty thousand! Great deal."

W

15:55

Wally

Zig channeled her inner Karran, and in tradition passed down from the former Captain, just stared down the Aleena and grunted. Wally removed Corvo

S

16:32

SongBird

Doon's snout curls slightly as he takes a few steps towards the bar. They're here for a rescue mission, making promises outside of it was never a good idea. Especially when they don't even know if this woman still lived. His mouth cracks open, and he takes a breath to speak.

Then his golden eye falls on Zuza, watching her talk. After a few moments his shoulders sagged with a long exhale. This wasn't the time, or the people, to put an argument like that against. Rescuing anyone they could was the right thing to do, even if it's just a try. His mouth shuts and his eye closes while his claw traces the Hilt of his saber That's strapped to his hip.

KA

17:03

Kaled Atros

Kaled fell silent. He was a bit caught off guard when Togorian offered him a chance to see 'colors'. Whatever that implied.

Miraluka shook his head, politely declining the offer just in case.

He reached out with the Force, trying to get the general emotions of the people around him. Just so he could determine who might cause trouble.

You can never be too safe.

For a moment, everything around him felt silent, but also alive. Miraluka could feel everyone. Even the people who were a bit further away from his group. Kaled could feel a desperation of the people around. The life on this planet made them crude. It is a hard way to live, one he remembers very well.

He could feel the shit of emotions coming from the cantina. People's worries and discussions. Some trying to relax and others, who just wanted to escape the madness of their daily life.

Strong was there to, somewhere. He could feel his boredom.

I wonder....Is he doing well?

His senses returned quickly to Zig. Her protectiveness over them was burning like fire on the open nights air. Miraluka was in first concerned, but also he felt glad.

He suddenly felt an itch in the back of his head.

This feeling. It was a bit unknown to him but he was sure it came from Aleena. Something was very odd about him but there was nothing else he could go on.

Togorian on the other hand was different. He felt like a predator, eyeing down his prey. Miraluka could feel his greed but also patients for something. It seems she felt comfortable for Aleena to talk to them.

The human on the other hand seemed calm. Focused. His mind felt like a breeze in the forest on Vulpus. But there was a storm coming.

Kaled could feel that he was being cautious. The Human saw them as a threat, but he was still being relaxed.

Kaled could also feel the existence of the poor Bathas. They were thirsty but also they yearned for a contact.

But there was also Eilen. Miraluka could sense that she didn't feel well. The nervousness was getting the better of her but she still kept it together.

How can you be so strong? I want to help you but....how?

If he was in that position, Miraluka would cave in under it. Kaled was fascinated and yet he still wondered.

"Sorry..." Young Arcanist finally spoken up.

"I'm not interested in...Ahhh, colors? My friend here actually asked you about something earlier and I was wondering if we can... Reenter the negotiations again?" He tilted his head, giving the group awkward smile.

"Sorry. I hope I'm using the right terminology here. Also Banthas... they seem lovely... your's? I kinda like animals. Much more calming. Easy to understand. I'm I mumbling? Sorry! Just wanted to make sure we are...all good... Yeah..." Miraluka straightened himself up feeling a bit embarrassed. He pulled back his hair and cleared his throat.

"So...yeah...The arrangements. Sorry Zig."

A

17:09

Attifer

The Togorian regarded Kaled with a sniff, somewhat unimpressed, but also mildly charmed by the babbling. She didn't usually meet ones so endearing that lasted very long. Most died or hardened. Or made for very easy customers. A shame. But there were still credits to be made.

"Of course," she said. "You wanted the krayt parts and information. Fifteen thousand each, I believe is reasonable...seeing as you all seem to be more of a means than you first presented yourselves as." Her golden eyes went pointedly to Zig, and to the camtono held, and to Eilen, narrowing. "Meeb, get those bones."

"I got em, hey!" The Aleena bounced around the saddlebags, chucking down various slabs and parts that seemed to indeed be bones of various shapes and size, marked by saw teeth or various tool cuttings on different edges. Evidently they'd come from something very large to be broken up like this for a manageable transport. "What else, what else? Good to trade? And you wanna directions? Stories?"

KA

17:23

Kaled Atros

Fifteen thousand... Each!?

Kaled's brow's lifted up at the amount that Togorian was offering.
This was the time that if Miraluka was able to blink he would do so many times over.

"Yes! Ahhh, stories! Directions. That would be excellent. Thank you very much. Well they need directions. I'm just blind. I get lost often.
Not that often! Just happens I misplaced a person for a ramp....Heheh...hehe." Kaled started lagging awkwardly. His face still being red.

He carefully leaned over to Zig just so that she could hear him whisper.
"Do we really have that much money??? I never even heard someone paying that much for anything."

T[

17:28

Tali Sroka [HQD QUA]

"I hope they've managedt to uncover some information about the Crimson Sarlaccs. I doubt our presence wouldt have helpedt any. Just like on Dandoran, our arrival rarely means anyting goodt for the locals andt I think they can feel it. Especially among the more veteran of us," Tali murmured as the desert air whipped the hem of her cloak.

W

17:28

Wally

Zig had a hand to the side of her helmet and nodded to herself. "Excellent work, Edema. That information is helpful. We'll regroup shortly on the Voidbreaker. Stand by."

17:31

W'ayne shook his head. "The base below town is abandoned. It just has supplies we ration out and take from. Sarlacc's, of course, do as well, but they haven't tried to stop us from taking our own so long as we don't get in their way. You would need to leave town, south, cross the sand pits, and see about making it towards one of the other outposts. It's not like any of us can go scouting, even if there are a few retired mercs that hang around. Not really flush with resources, as you can see." He gestrued vauguley to the cantina.

"Joseline is hard to miss. Falleen girl, pretty, sharp witted, but a bit insecure. Raven hair, purple eyes like this one here," he politely gestured at Ruka. "Always wanted to find her birth parents, but was treated well with her fosters."

ZL

17:32

Zuza Lottson

Zuza nodded, and decided to ask an important question, "What are the sand pits like, exactly? Doesn't ring a bell as Krayt territory so I'm guessing something else is out there."

W

17:34

Wally

"Heh. You go walkin', then all of a sudden, you're sinkin in. It aint no slow thing, mind you. You just yeehaw right down. Big reason we avoid them all together and just take the long way-around."

A
17:34
Attifer

Ruka winced at the idea of fighting anything that lived in a sand pit. The thick bands of scar tissue he'd gotten from the sand-panther on Arx ached. Still, he focused on the idea of Karran and this Joseline and possibly others waiting beyond them.

"We might be able to just fly over," he muttered. "Avoiding it is best."

ZL
17:35
Zuza Lottson

She grimaced, but nodded, "Good to know."

K(
17:37
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"Do the Sarlaccs have anti-aircraft support? Don't really like the idea of being a duck in the air." L'ara leaned forward a bit, her mind now on planning now that they had a direction

A
17:40
Attifer
"I guess if they've been raiding a rebel base, they could have anything..." the Mirialan bemoaned.

T
17:41
Techsketch
Eilen telepathically whispered to Zig a discomforted feeling. *That wasn't the original deal.*

K(
17:42
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"If they do, we could send in a small team on speeders to take 'em out before we fly in the rest. Which happens to be my specialty."

ZL
17:43
Zuza Lottson

"I have a speeder, just need folk who are good at shooting on the move and aren't driving. Or can drive but not shoot, I dunno." Zuza shrugged a little sheepishly. She was far from a tactician.

A
17:44
Attifer

"Get me in range of anything and I can probably take it down," Ruka murmured grimly.

W
17:45
Wally

Zig stepped forward, folding her arms across her chest. "You said ten-thousand a pop. That's what I have here, and will give." When there seemed to be an air of hesitation, she continued, looking around at what supplies were on hand. "You're looking for credits, but what you really need is a new capacitor for your auxillary couplers. The irrigation system you're using is rusted and needs to be replaced, and you have more loose piping than is probably safe. You might think this armor makes me flush with credits, but I

earned and bled for this armor. It is my hands and my craftsmanship that molded it. If you think for one second i'm going to pay an inflated rate, guess again. I was taught to spot a sour deal by ol Vikky herself."

She took a step forward and handed over the credits. "Ten-kay, each just like you asked. And you tell us if you've seen a Zabrak with a missing arm come through these parts. Deal?"

KB

17:45

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

Strong glanced over at the Twi'lek and gave her a smile that was touched with remorse.

"I am sorry I did not get there sooner," he said quietly, before looking back out at the sands. "At least when they need us here, we will be within range to assist."

He shifted in place, from foot to foot, "It is quite warm," he stated, realizing how lame it sounded to comment on the heat of a desert world.

A

17:50

Attifer

The Togroian's ears perked at that, and the Human with the blasters actually looked up fully, setting down his weapon.

"You're a friend of Vikky's?" he asked, speaking for the first time, while the Togorian rumbled in her chest.

"Huh...alright, I can appreciate a fellow scavenger woman beating me out. And that you'd still pay." Her ears flicked. "Meeb, give 'em all the bones, not just them four. The krayt ones, not the bantha." She shrugged. "One of ours died two months back. Couldn't keep her watered. If you really got a cred we can use for a capacitor we'd be glad. As for the Zabrak..."

"Got these them bones from a dead krayt killed by a one-armed hornhead, so they says," the Aleena laughed, snorting. "Yeah, yeah, hey, saw a hornhead, one arm, didn't want no marbles for his bum eye neither, crazy man, see, rumor's he ripped out the dragon heart and then turned into one from eatin' see it ticker, burned Mos Draga to the ground!"

T

17:53

Techsketch

Eilen's ears flickered up as she listened. It was a hell of a lot more than she expected to get.

"That dead krayt, we need to know *where* you found it."

W

17:54

Wally

Zig took the wrapped bones and swallowed a lump in her throat.

Karran....

He had been here. He was still alive. At least, he had been...

T[

17:57

Tali Sroka [HQD QUA]

"It is, and don't blame yourself. Maybe for once, ve didn't directly cause a var. Just meddledt in it. Hopefully ve can leave this planet peacefully, but I doubt it's going to happen. Tattooine is... A troubledt worltdt," she sighed.

A

17:57

Attifer

"Long ways out from here. I'd say outside Mos Draga, but it's gone," the Togorian said. "Probably got an old map here somewhere. Meeb!

Maps?"

KA

17:57

Kaled Atros

Kaled was in disbelief after hearing the story to the vary end.

Eat the what?! And do..ha?

In his head he tried understand the situation, but to no success.

"You should....give some water to those Bhantas....and a hug... Just saying... Just shake their fur..."

KB

17:57

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

He raised an eyebrow at her phrasing, "Do you, ahem, feel something? So far as I can tell this is simply the backest of backwaters...without the water."

A

17:58

Attifer

The Human on the ground huffed. "Pet 'em if you want to, kid."

T[

18:00

Tali Sroka [HQD QUA]

She gave a melancholy nod.

"Many bad things have happenedt on this planet. Some hopeful things too. These people don't deserve the importance, they wouldt just prefer being left alone." She shook her head. "May you live in interesting times. I heardt that as a curse once. I bet it originatedt from here."

KA

18:00

Kaled Atros

Kaled lifted his head in surprise.

" Can I? Really? I mean... I'm not trying to be a bother. They seem nice. Also exhausted. Sorry... mumbling.."

W

18:01

Wally

Zig bowed her head. Her mind continued to race. "Thank you very much, my friends. This information is very helpful, and might help us save our friend. When we're done with all of this, I promise to come back and if allowed, help with some of the repairs you need done. Aint nothing a hydrospanner and elbow grease can't solve."

KB

18:01

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

Strong looked over again, hesitant, uncertain what to say, and instead sidestepped over, closing the distance till their arms weren't quite touching.

"Peace is always the most noble of pursuits. Shameful, how often it comes drowned in blood."

T

18:11

Techsketch

Eilen grinned and nodded next to her. Helping some folks in need sounded nice enough. That was hardly ever a part of the deals they'd had years back in places like this.

T[

18:11

Tali Sroka [HJD QUA]

"Makes one wonder why we even bother to try," she sighed. "But I guess we're a choice selection of idiots too stupid to realize when to give up. Or fools who always keep finding a reason to carry on." She scoffed, shook her head, then turned her head towards him with a soft smile. "Even so, it's not been all bad."

W

18:13

Wally

Zig mounted her speeder, and let Eilen and Kaled follow her back to the Voidbreaker. She tapped into their secure comms. "Everyone meet back at the ship. I can confirm that Val'teo *was* here recently. Hoping you guys found out more."

KB

18:13

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

He looked thoughtful for a moment, before turning to give her a broad smile.

"Remind me, Tali. Was it 'Arcona Invicta' or 'Too stubborn to die'? I seem to have forgotten."

W

21:46

Wally

The twin suns were just passing their Apex as the Arconans all made it back to the Voidbreaker. While quiet towns like this should have been safe to discuss things, the Voidbreaker was better equipped for security. Plus it had better air ventilation and circulation.

Zig waited for everyone to gather before calling over C1ND3R. The multi-color paint job Astromech tweeted happily and began to project a holo map and images holographically for the gathered Arconans.

"Alright. Let's go over the data we have-" Zig started to say, as Doon, Mune, and Zuza walk in with a broad shouldered Togruta that... "well, kark me sideways fellas, is that THE W'ayne?" the Zygerrian exclaimed.

W'ayne stopped just at the entrance to the Voidbreaker at the top of the ramp. His face was stoic, stern, and he stared at the helmed woman who seemed to know his name.

Remembering herself, Zig removed her helmet, matted hair falling around her face but her eyes bright.

"...Kaliska?" W'ayne asked, stepping forward and then taking in her familiar features. "Zig," he replied back, still calm and steady, as was his way. "How are ya'now?"

"Good n' you?" Zig replied easily without missing a beat, her usually neutral accent slipping a bit.

"Oh not so bad," W'ayne smiled a farmer's smile and walked over to shake her hand. They held each other in a tight grip.

"You aren't here for a tilly, are you?"

"Fraid not, maybe later, eh?"

Zig smiled, genuine. "I was so busy with everything else I forgot to even see if you were still here, but of course you are. Kay'tee good?"

"Mmm," W'ayne replied, then made a pointed look over at L'ara. Zig followed his glower and put two and two together to make six. "Can confirm."

"Great, well the others told me about what happened to one of yours. My team here is here to help, because they have one of ours as well."

Zig moved on to talk to the rest of the team. "So, what Eilen, Kaled and I were able to discover from the locals was that Karran did come through these parts and -- allegedly -- killed a krayt. Was last seen heading to a town called Mos Draga, just south of here. But it was attacked and destroyed, and no ones come through since."

She looked over at Doon. "Sulivr, what were you able to find out?"

A

22:01

Attifer

Ruka just stood quietly, listening and noting, thinking about Karran and Joseline and the Kennyites and what they might face assaulting the Sarlacc's stronghold, with Eilen and Mune on either side of him. His eyes went from attention on Zig to Doon.

ZL

22:10

Zuza Lottson

Zuza was stood over with Aru and Sage, a couple steps behind Doon.

Out of the group, other than Sera and Zig, they were the folk she knew best, so decided to stick with them for now. Wasn't the moment to mingle, as nice as it'd be. She was still fairly relaxed, however with the growing information and the fact that they'd most likely be leaving soon, the tension was starting to set in.

For the more sweltering team members, the tiny Human was still frustratingly sweat-free and unflushed in the climate.

S

22:40

SongBird

Doon sucks in some hot air, cringing slightly at the almost rancid heat. Everyone was hot, sweaty. All but Zuza, who's core temperature must run in the low twenties if you'd ask Doon. His tongue hangs out of his mouth as he adjusts his armor, trying to cool off in the heat of the double suns. It Didn't work.

His ear flicks to a perk as he hears his name, and his tongue folds back up into his mouth before clearing his throat. "Supposedly there is a worn out, half abandoned Rebel base to the south of Town. South of that are some 'Sand Pits'. I hear they swallow people pretty quick. They're also difficult to pick up on scanner. Somewhere in there or beyond is supposed to be where the Crimson Shitheads hang out. I was told if we stomp around out there, They'd find us. Might be a decent idea to set up a bit of an ambush to question a few of them"

W

23:14

Wally

Zig nodded along. "That could work, we'll keep that in mind."

She shifted her focus over to the Miraluka and his Cythraul. "Eleceos, I'm glad you're doing okay now...what did you find out from your uh...vision-thingy?"

R{

23:32

Rhylance (Arc Con)

Ele moved his head in the direction of Zig's voice. He felt better after recovering from his episode. His only goal now was to keep his Clan mates alive.

"I saw...fighting. Us and the Sarlaacs. There...was death...blood. A river...I heard flowing water. And a Trandoshan with a halberd pike. That's all I could gather. I hope that helps."

MC

23:39

Mune Cinteroph

Mune listened intently... or... seemed to be at a glance. Thoughts roiled about in their head, thoughts on just about anything they had discovered, on how ridiculous the heat was, perhaps a bit caught up in what it could mean that the vision Ele had was shared among the crew and if it were a good or a bad thing. With a sigh, they shifted twitchily, tongue lolled out as they panted. They were never very good at being still during briefings... or listening for long.

W

23:51

Wally

Zig nodded again. "No way we come out of this without getting our paws dirty," the Zyerrian played a bit to the crowds demograph. Bad joke, but. "I'm sorry you had to go thorough that but it helps. So now we know they have a leuteneint that's a Beslisk and a leader, it seems that's Trandoshan. Both mean business. The water is intesting because..."

Zig bopped C1ND3R on the head. The Astromech warbled, but patched in the data Edema had recovered. "Edema's scans came back with activity that was subteranial. Which from what we can piece together-THANKS NATHAN-it seems that we'll be looking for an underground base...or possibly sewers."

Zig exhaled slowly. "So, our best course of action is to get to Mos Draga, or there about, and we find this underground sewer base. That's where we'll find our guy, and Mos Kenny's Joseline. The only thing left is..how do we get there?" 23:51

"I don't think that we can the Voidbreaker...as that might draw too much attention. Anyone disagree?"

17 August 2021

T

00:03

Techsketch

Eilen shook her head and scratched her fuzzy chin. "We don't have enough speeder bikes for everyone, do we?"

W

00:25

Wally

Zig grinned at that. "Hey Eilen, remember how we worked on that counter-weight modification that decreased speed but could increase weight tolerance?"

00:27

She tapped a few buttons on her wrist-comm, which revealed a sealed part of the hangar bay that opened up and revealed a row of speeders. "Compliments of our lovely Quaestor and our Battleteam Leader, thanks to our efforts on Dandoran."

A

03:40

Archian

Archian was listening to everything what Zig said and other collected information.

He came back with Cu-Pa while ago, but he needed to calm down the creature, otherway it would damage metal structures around.

What was more surprising Eopie mother with its calf was still following Cu-Pa, but they were still keeping slight distance from busy hangar, and were standing closer by to sleeping Ronto now.

Archian wasn't a fan of speeders, but they needed to reach Mos Draga as quickly as they possibly could.

"Can we leave Cu-Pa somewhere around? And also that two next to Ronto? I don't think you can separate this group that easily...."

Archian asked Zig in the very shy way.

"Also I am not the best driver, so I will need some good support with me" he stared at one of the closest speeder with fear in his eyes.

E

04:00

Edema (Sophie)

Edema got on her com as soon as she received the message from Zig "KayCee, prep the Prism for immediate pick up and dust off, will rendezvous at town entrance in 5" she turned to the team "hey, anyone who wants a lift, hussle up, we dust off in 5, down those drinks and head to the town entrance" with that, the two Sephi left the cantina and headed to the pickup point.

ZL

07:12

Zuza Lottson

Zuza let out a low whistle as Zig revealed the speeders, stepping up and peering at them all. "Hey these are *nice*."

She looked back over towards Tali and grinned "Thank ya. Though I'll be sticking to my personal one. It has guns, and I can carry someone. Who can't ride?" Her eyes glanced over the group.

E

07:37

Edema (Sophie)

The Prism began to descend on the outskirts of the town, clouds of dust billowed up as its repulsors kicked in.

AL

07:41

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

Aru felt sort of offended, even though the speeder reveal was very much news to him as it was to everyone else.

"Hey! No thanks to me?"

Sage on the other side, was trying his best to walk away from the group. Speeders and The Boss weren't a good match

KB

08:11

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

Strong was setting his helmet back on, clicking it into place before glancing over at the young man who reminded him far too much of his previous charge.

"I do not believe you helped negotiate the funds, nor temporary reassignment from the AAF stockpile for the equipment, Mister Law," he rumbled, clearly amused.

AL

08:42

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

The Aedile moved over towards the Chiss and placed a hand on his right arm, not reaching his shoulder.

"Strenstronarmilaisnahe..." He stopped before he said something rude in Chiss. "We all know that my name alone is good enough to lower the prices in at least 20%. If it weren't for me these speeders would certainly have been more expensive."

KB

08:51

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

There was an audible snort of amusement from inside the helmet, the lone reply.

ZL

08:54

Zuza Lottson

Zuza noticed the backing-away Zeltron and looked momentarily confused, stepping away from the hangar and back over to the group, shimmying past the others and over to Sage.

"Sage?"

AL

08:58

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

"Huh, I think I'll just walk," the Zeltron said looking once again to the speeders, "after all, they don't look nearly as good as The Boss!"

While backing away he accidentally bumped into another parked speeder and jumped quickly away from it

KB

08:59

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

Strong's armored visage tracked the obnoxious Zeltron for a moment, happy to be wearing his helmet so no one could see his absolutely malicious smile. It was rare for him to enjoy himself this much with Aru and Sage around, but both were proving entertaining today.

ZL

09:03

Zuza Lottson

Zuza was quiet for a few moments, realising what was happening. She'd never seen him scared before, but at least this made some sense. Not that it'd help when walking would be deadly.

She held her hand out to him and smiled, doing her best to be comforting but also not calling him out on being scared, "I think you'll like the sand pits even less than the Speeders. Wanna come with me? Mine has a pretty neat paint job, might even match your coat."

AL

09:20

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

The Zeltron looked around the hangar and found a black coated speeder with some accents in dark green.

He then peered over his shoulder to confirm his big jacket was the green one.

"I guess The Boss can accept that speeder as suitable."

ZL

09:42

Zuza Lottson

Zuza grinned, bouncing on her toes for a moment, "There ya go. Saves face diving under the sands."

A

10:23

Attifer

"I can drive one of these things," Ruka spoke up. "Whoever needs a ride."

AL

10:33

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

"Shotgun!" Aru immediately yelled.

The Human then happily made his way towards the Mirialan

A

12:58

Attifer

The Mirialan looked at Aru with grit teeth and narrowed eyes, his expression of disgust actually rather well repressed, all considered. His thick brows ticked, but he nonetheless considered only briefly before slowly enunciating, "Fine. Don't try *anything* while we're moving, I don't care what it is. Just hold on."

Better he be subjected to Law than anyone else, whether it was just the man slobbering after any of the women or doing something just plain stunt-ass stupid and crashing the speeder.

AL

13:03

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

The Aedile, overflowing with joy jumped inside the passenger seat.

"I was expecting you to put more of a fight honestly, KaKa," he babbled, "but I won't complain. We're gonna have so much fun!"

A

13:07

Attifer

"Don't call me that. This is not fun. Focus," Ruka recited for the third time that day, glaring. His expression softened as he looked around at the others, particularly Eleceos and Kaled. "Yo, we got enough drivers? If we need to move people around we can." ZL

13:15

Zuza Lottson

With that said, she went over to her speeder, hopping into the drivers seat and patting the passenger one behind her, looking back toward

Sage.

"You should be able to adjust the seat a bit to fit ya. Haven't had a passenger before but the engine on this is solid. Won't have any problems."

T[

13:17

Tali Sroka [HQD QUA]

Tali gave a nonchalant smile, knowing full well how precious personal vehicles were. Indeed, she too would have happily ridden her own S-Swoop, had she still had it. But with the time spent working for the House, it had seemed wiser to be rid of it.

A utilitarian scout bike would suffice, then. Although a part of her had some reservations about how Strong might be able to pilot his own, and even more severe ones if he tried sharing one. Repulsor units were minor miracles of technology, but that particular feat would require a fairly major one...

A

14:14

Attifer

Noting that the Miralukas would need help, and Archian's comment about needing it too, and Mune's hesitation along with knowing Sera could *not* drive...Ruka shook his head and jerked his thumb at Aru.

"No, nevermind, out, Law. I know you can drive, even if I've never seen you do it *sober*. We're gonna have to shift some. Sully, get Eleleos and cythraul. I'll take Mune. L'ara can take Archian, and Captain Kaliska can take Kaled while Eilen gets Sera. Everybody else should be fine, right, ay?"

"Nooo!" Aru protested. "I wanna ride Kaka! With! Best friends adventure!" His smirk suggested the phrasing was intentional.

Ruka's temple pulsed with pain. He resisted the urge to slam his palm into his forehead and instead lifted his hand, gesturing with a telekinetic grip.

Unfortunately, either Aru actually had better reflexes sober or he knew what the Mirialan was likely to do, because when Ruka tried to lift him out of the sidecar, he clung on with both hands to the lower lip, sticking his legs akimbo to wedge them down below too. "Nooooooooo, you can't make me!"

Ruka growled and released the invisible grip.

"Would you *get out*? Your other teammates need it more, for kriff's sake."

"Aww but I need Kaka most--"

"Out."

"Fiiiine. But you're gonna be jealous of all my cool tricks! Hey, Ziggy Zig, Larry-La, watch me!"

KA

14:21

Kaled Atros

"Oh no...M-Master! Careful! Please be careful!" Miraluka lifted up his hand in the air trying to get Law's attention.

AL

14:24

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

The Zeltron could certainly be more comfortable, that with being as massive as he was.

But he knew better, and treasured a rare friend like Zuza more than his own kingly comfort.

Besides, he was more concerned with looking tough to everyone than anything.

"I'm perfectly fine Chibi." He said, his voice lower than usual. "I hope this Karen is worth saving."

He inadvertently put one hand on Zuza's hip to hold on better

14:28

Aru revved his speeder to test it's sound. Happy with it, he saluted both his apprentice and Ruka.

"Watch the piloting skills of the Law legacy!"

He darted off into the desert, speeding more than he had anticipated. The speeder was far more powerful than what he had thought. The front tilted up for a few seconds, catching Law off guard.

But the Aedile.managed to maintain control and sped off into the distance, not knowing where he was supposed to do, and also not really caring about it. Speed was freedom

T

14:31

Techsketch

As Sera got situated behind her, Eilen's ears jerked at the sudden revved engine and successive burst out of the hangar.

"...Uh-- d-does he know which direction we're going?"

KA

14:32

Kaled Atros

Miraluka braced himself, expecting a crash or a fall.

But surprisingly nothing happened.

He took a deep breath and exhaled.

"Well at least nothing happened..."

ZL

14:41

Zuza Lottson

Zuza adjusted her seat forwards a little. She'd given herself a little more space than usual in it for slower rides where sitting normally wasn't necessary. However today, they'd be going at a good speed over potentially dangerous territory so having the seat pulled in was far from a bad thing, and she'd be able to give Sage more room.

"I trust Zig, and Ruka and Sera... most of everyone here feels this is important, that he is. I dunno the guy, but I'll trust them. And I'll look out for my friends while we're at it." She turned round to look at Sage and smiled, raising her hand for a fistbump. She didn't think much of his hand on her hip, he was nervous clearly. And that's what nervous folk do on speeders.

AL

14:52

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

As would be expected, Law went the completely wrong way.

And it was more than obvious to anyone but him.

Even with the entire crew signaling for him to turn around, Aru only thought they were cheering on him, so he sped even more to the max speed his speeder could give.

There would be more to be told about this story, the deserts of Tatooine have many mysteries hidden on its sands...

14:53

Sage returned the fist bump, his hand twice the size of Zuza's.

And he forced a confident smile, however he was anxious all over

KB

15:00

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

Strong mounted a speeder bike, wincing as he heard the repulsors groan a bit before leveling out. He ran through the precheck, flipping switches and testing the throttle and brake levers and pedals before grunting in satisfaction.

He watched Aru speed off into the sands and shook his head, sitting back to wait for the Captain to lead them to wherever it was they were going.

A

15:17

Attifer

With Mune tucked safely into the side seat next to him -- thankfully, Captain Kaliska seemed to have helmets available for people with articulated ears in mind, Ruka was impressed -- the Mirialan strapped on a helmet of his own and took the few moments to familiarize himself with this particular model's controls. His gaze clocked after Aru with barely a twitch, not at all surprised and yet somehow *still* disappointed. Or just nauseated. They were the same around Law.

Looking around, everyone else seemed to be mostly doing the same. At least everyone was situated with an appropriate rider. He hoped.

ZL

15:34

Zuza Lottson

A confident smile could hide a lot. It could hide pain, sadness, anxiety, even fear or anger. It could hide everything because as soon as you look confident, most people tend to look the other way, it would deflect inspection. She'd done it more than enough times, and it made sense that someone like Sage would... Espeically when the fear was something like a speeder. But, he'd be okay, and she knew that.

Just had to make sure this was a smooth ride.

As she withdrew her hand, the idea earlier popped to mind and she flashed the Zeltron a grin, "I'll buy ya a pint of milk after eh? Gonna need to cool down after this mission anyway, everyone apparently prefers much cooler climates." She giggled.

AL

15:45

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

At the mention of milk, the Zeltron seemed to perk up

You got yourself a deal!

His face seemed to grow more confident. The fear ever present, but now dimmed down by Zuza's quick thinking

ZL

15:52

Zuza Lottson

"Kark yeah." Zuza's grin broadened, and she closed her eyes for a moment before sitting to sit properly again, getting comfortable in the seat and waiting for take off.

W

15:53

Wally

Zig watched the Aedile take off west, which was the exact wrong direction of where they were headed. If he had listened, he might have realized that everything pointed to going South.

She didn't even bother to sigh. That would be acknowledging the universe's clear play at trying to get attention.

Instead, Zig looked around as everyone, somehow, managed to find a ride. Strong and Doons burly frames managed to float just find on the modified single-speeder bikes. The Quaestor had her own mount, and seemed perfectly at ease on the speeder. It was hard to forget that, despite her status, she was a powerful and highly capable fighter herself, much more than just an adminstrator.

The M-68's that Marick had been gracious enough to purchase at Zig's request were also going to come in handy. Ruka, ever the gentleman, had Mune squeezed in beside him in the second seat. Sully, smiling as always, took Archian in his side seat. Lastly, while

L'ara would have much preferred being forced to be close/press against Zig from behind, the Twi'lek had wordlessly moved to help pilot Eleceos. His Cythraul looked up questionably, but managed to squeeze into the middle of the two-seated speeder, and idly stuck his head out the side window.

Zig had an idea. She quickly rushed over to the pile of extra gear they kept on hand and rummaged through it. Finally, she found a pair of goggles she had been toying with. She padded over to the Cythraul and leaned down to look her in the eyes. "Can I put these on you? It will keep you safe while you're riding out there."

The Cythraul's tongue lolled out, and she panted, seemingly unphased. "Alright then," Zig continued as she fixed the goggles around the wolf's head. She made a few quick adjustments, but they managed to stay in place. "Perfect!" she said with a grin and ruffled the Cythraul's fur. "Oh..and one last thing," Zig took a sash out of her satchel and tied it around the wolf's neck like a bandana. "There."

Zig moved off from the speeder and looked over the remaining group. Sera, who had been quiet, clearly lost in thought, got on the back of Eilens speeder. While Eilen might have been going through a lot, sometimes the best help you could get was to help someone else who needed it. It was okay to not be okay, after all.

Lastly, she waved Kaled over and let him get situated behind her. Kaylee, her brightly painted Flare-S revved her modified engines. "You good, Kaled? Just make sure to hold on to me."

And with that, the Voidbreaker cadre took off into the desert, heading south towards their objective.

K{

16:38

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara mounted up on her speeder before offering a hand to the young Miraluka.

"You ready kid? There's only two speeds when you ride with me. Fast & Furious. Cuz ain't nothin' more important than family."

She revved the engine. Getting a feel for the ticks and quirks of the accelerator. Oh yeah, this was gonna be a good day.

R{

16:40

Rhylance (Arc Con)

Eleceos smiled before answering.

"I'm sure we are safe in your capable skills."

Ashyrith gave an agreeable yip.

ZL

16:42

Zuza Lottson

Zuza stayed towards the front of the pack, letting Zig lead and giving the captain more than enough space. Crossing over the sands with the twin suns beaming down on her brought a grin to her face, even as the tiny Human lowered the visor on her helmet. It sucked a little, but being blinded would be worse. Mineral-thick sand particles were kicked up into clouds, certain to find all of the nooks and crannies in and about everyone, under the force of the engines crossing their surface.

What little of her hair wasn't trapped beneath the helmet, was flowing free with the wind. She had one hand on the wheel, complete confidence fuelling her and resisting the temptation to show off. Sage's hand on her hip was a steady reminder of her less certain passenger, so she instead put the effort into ensuring they didn't veer up and down too much, keeping on a steady and straight line. It occurred to her several minutes later that doing tricks and messing around on the way to a rescue mission wasn't really so smart either.

K{

16:52

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

With her passenger secured, the Mando-Lek checked that Eleceos's hands were secure. Confident that the boy wouldn't fly off, she let out a piercing call and let the throttle rip.

"YEEEEEEEEEEEEEE-HOOOOOOOOOOO!"

The best part about Mandalorian helmets was that it allowed uninterrupted vision and ensure that she didn't have to worry about sand or bugs in her teeth. But hers allowed her Lekku to feel the warm breeze. She loved to ride in the sun. The heat seemed to improve circulation in her lekku and cleared her mind. Maybe it was a placebo, but it worked for her.

KA

16:56

Kaled Atros

Kaled took the captains advice. He was holding on to her tightly with his cybernetic arm.

Miraluka felt sorry, but you can never be too careful on these things.

The heat was a bit to much for him. Even though Kaled grew up on this planet he could never stand it for long.

The young Arcanist lowered his head down. Concentrating and reaching out in the Force and let him guide him.

Through the haze, he could feel something up ahead.

Shapes? Could be animals in the distance, or maybe people.

Even with his natural sense's it was to far and to difficult to tell. But Kaled was sure that they will come across something up ahead.

"Mast- Ahhh Zig? There seems to be something up ahead?" Kaled tried to get her attention.

"I can't say for sure what it is but... Maybe it's nothing, but it could be something."

A

16:58

Attifer

Ruka, mindful of both his hesitant passenger and everything else, set out at a slow pace before building up speed to a relative cruising velocity that he hoped wouldn't whip the sands about overmuch around them or make too much kick-up for the other drivers. He needn't have worried, apparently, because most everyone else blasted off, actually leaving more dust in the air for him to coast through. He sighed slightly under his helmet, already wishing goodbye any prayer at subtlety when he heard one of the ladies bellow in excitement.

His gaze swept around, noting that Doon was cruising at a steady clip a bit ahead of him but not much farther, while the others drove off rather impressively if excitedly. He supposed they were eager to get to Karran too. He itched with the urge to just-- just *sprint* across the sands with the Force in his veins.

K{

17:06

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara checked the sensors on her helmet's built-in HUD and counted the dots on the motion sensor. When she came up one short, she did a quick visual sweep to see who was missing.

She called up the missing member of the team on her head-mounted comlink. *"This is Speed Racer two to Wet Blanket one, are you having engine troubles? I can't pick you up on my sensors."*

A

17:10

Attifer

Ruka just sighed *hard*.

"L'ara?" he asked, activating his own comm. *"If you're Racer One, who's Two? Better to just use names we know. And we're fine, engines are all clear. And does anyone see Law yet? Ruka and Mune, over."*

ZL

17:12

Zuza Lottson

Back on the Voidbreaker II, Nathan watched the group on the cameras as they headed, and carefully drew back up the hangar door. He'd open it once they were within sight. He could still talk to Zig with reasonable ease, so leant back in the seat, prepared to play the waiting game.

He gave Eiros an awkward smile, before pulling a faulty tablet out of his bag and tinkering with it. No need to sit doing nothing at least.

K(
17:13
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"I think everyone knows who Wet Blanket one is. Didn't you get the memo that green means go go go!?"

The Twi'lek smiled at her joke, *"Just lemme know if you guys need some help."*

AL
17:13
Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

As the speeder went and Sage found his feet off the floor and speeding towards the endless desert, his red tone became darker.
His forehead started to sweat more, not due to the heat, but due to his fears being resurfaced.
He closed his eyes and held on the best he could. He hoped for the best, putting his trust on Zuza's piloting skills.

T(
17:16
Tali Sroka [HQD QUA]
Their course set and target known, Tali exhaled a lungful of arid Tatooinean air before engaging the throttle. The speederbike shot off with the high-pitched hum of an irate insect, its repulsorlift unit purring between her legs as she fed more and more power to it.
The soft undulations of the sandy surface jostled her about in a jagged sinewave of motion, rising up shallow banks before catapulting off at their zenith, only to touch down with a soft bow just in time for the next.
Wind whipping past her as she raced ahead, Tali pressed her body against the humming frame of her charge, her cloak fluttering in the turbulence of her own making, a content smile under her visor. She had no love for voidflight, but this... This was *fun*.

KB
17:18
Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)
Strong sighed as he watched people zip off and gradually accelerated, taking up the rear of the Arconan line, more concerned with keeping an eye on everyone then speeding along.

R(
17:20
Rhylance (Arc Con)
Ele sat quietly. He enjoyed the feel of the wind whipping by him. The human of the engines drowned out everything around him. It was actually rather peaceful.
Ashyrith was greatly enjoying herself! The air roared by her in such a way that it caught her snowy white fur, puffing it out into a bloom of floof. Her tongue flapped against her face and the goggles kept her eyes safe, allowing her to see everything. She howled in heightened happiness, enjoying the sensations she was experiencing.

AL
17:20
Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]
"This A-Aru ..aw." a full of interference message was transmitted to whoever was listening.
"I ..hink ... Fou... K..en"
The message was getting worse by the second.
"...o nee.. for yo.. t.. ...ome."
Then it suddenly became clear for a second.
"Tell KaKa he owes me."
"A...u ..ut"

A

17:36

Attifer

Ruka muttered and swore under his breath but otherwise ignored Law and his sithspit. The man was apparently still alive, so hopefully he wouldn't cause trouble or get into it. The Sith kept focused on the drive, scanning the horizon.

So it was that his violet eyes caught the blur up ahead that didn't waver and shimmer with the heat roiling off the sand. The roar didn't seem right to his ears for wind, but rather all too familiar *engines*. None of that was good, and he knew, in his bones, something was coming, something was wrong.

"*Ay! We're coming up on something, everybody be careful, that ain't no storm, I hear engines,*" he barked into the comms, tightening one hand on the handle while loosening the other and dropping his elbow in case he needed to move it quickly for a gesture.

K(

17:46

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara thought about telling Ruka that they were *on* bikes, of course he heard engines, but then her eye was drawn to the blips on her motion sensor.

She tensed and feathered the brakes, not to stop, but to reduce speed in case she had to maneuver. She wouldn't be able to live with herself if the Miraluka and his dog were thrown from the speeder.

ZL

17:48

Zuza Lottson

"*Uh, Ruka. We're on bikes?*" Zuza called into the conversation, sounding quite confused but looking ahead into the distance.

He was either confused, or something was up.

A

18:13

Attifer

"*I don't mean our bikes. Different sounding engines. Listen close, that's different firing cylinders.*" Maybe arguing like a mechanic was pointless.

S

18:15

SongBird

Doon never particularly cared for driving. He didn't have a knack for it, and he was usually best placed ready to launch into action than behind a wheel. Speeders were even worse. A Levitating plank of metal hauling 200Miles per hour wasn't exactly his first thought of a joy ride. But this wasn't for joy, it was for job.

He bit his tongue as the others took off, then revved his own modified speeder to follow. Between his handling, weight, and unwillingness to open the throttle, he found himself behind the ball of dust that was kicked up by the rest of the speeder pack. His ear lays flat, his eye squints, and his whole body hunches forward, trying his best not to crash into anyone or anything. Over the wind, engines, and his own mangled hearing, he didn't have much chance of hearing anyone.

W

18:15

Wally

Zig, based on the warning from the blind space mage that could see through the Force, plus the Mirilan that could yeet an Aru off a building with a casual hand motion, being on alert, she did the only sensible thing a girl would do. She tapped the fancy sensor in her armors shoulder, the sensor pulse sending out into the desert.

A storm of engines and repulsors took control of the ambience as dustclouds began to cloud and slowly spread in the distance, growing closer.

Zig's HUD flickered with a series of red dots, contrasting the blue dots of her team. Her mind raced, but she noticed something.

"We've got hostile contacts, eyes sharp!" Zig shouted through her visor and over comms. "L'ARA! On your three-look out--"

As she did, a small dune buggy of some kind, rusted over but working just fine and with pikes sticking out of the metal chasis, jumped over a the sandy wall that flanked the Arconans, and nearly crashing into the nose of L'ara's speeder.

Fortunately, the Twi'lek was already moving when Zig had called out the alarm, mercenary reflexes and instinc knowing that things just went south and it was time to survive.

With the surprise attack thwarted, the dustcloud above became more clear as the Arconans continued forward in a straight advance. More buggies became clear, and each was operated by a band of leathery skinned Trandoshan that began to shout.

A last vehicle of some kind crunched across the sand, some kind of personal craft, and was blaring strong violent string instrumentals from a speaker flanked by gnarly looking, archaic spears.

ZL

19:26

Zuza Lottson

Coming forward out of the dust first and into view was one of the smaller crafts. It swung forwards and turned attempt to flank the group.

Zuza muttered under her breath as she watched the movement start, licking her lips and calling back to Sage, "Buckle down big guy!" She felt his arms shift to wrap around her waist as the huge pit fighter curled in, holding on for dear life on this death machine.

With Sage secured, she set into action. A shift of arms and she changed direction sharply, drifting into alignment as the mercenary activated the blaster cannon for the pilot's seat. For a few adrenaline fuelled moments, she drifted. Sand kicking up behind her with the angle she leant at, large fingers digging into her abdomen and her target so quickly, but so slowly, lining up. A cackle of laughter burst from her as she hit the trigger, letting off a few bright red shots and watching them collide with the hostile buggy. With such a quick reaction from her, it didn't have time to account or dodge, the driver screaming as one shot hit him, and the vehicle careening off the ridge with the engine smoking profusely.

It exploded on the way down from the ridge, debris joining the trail of quickly dying flames.

"Yes!"

K(

19:40

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara watched the junker bearing down on them. Her thumbs hovered over the trigger buttons on the speeders controls, until she was confident in her aim.

As she fired the cannons, red bolts streaked ahead as the vehicle swerved to the side. She cursed in Twi'leki as her lekku curled and stiffened. But she was consoled by the sight of her bolts strafing the side and sparks erupting inside the cab, leaving the co-pilot quite dead.

Finally, she angled the controls to maneuver the speeder between two of the enemy vehicles to buzz past them, narrowly missing some rusted spikes as she zipped through and hauled the controls to the left in an attempt to drift bring her cannons around to hit them from the back

A

19:57

Archian

Red looked at two speeders at front of him and oncoming vehicles.

Archian took his bow out and putted the arrow in the place.

He didn't want to shot neither do drivers nor passengers.

He focused on, what he saw between them.

Shistavanen pulled the string, hold the breath, and while Sully was focusing on the stable driving, Red hold on I this position until there was a gap between both driving crew members and realised deadly arrow at vehicle, which has showed up in the front of him.

Arrow flew through air and reached the window of his metal prey.

T

21:41

Techsketch

The sight of the incoming vehicles gave Eilen pause, but her resolve quickly steeled. For once, her friends were in a fight on her own turf: roaring engines and ludicrous speed. "Hang on, Sera."

Her friend barely heard as she gunned the throttle. Without solid footing to stand on, Sera didn't have much of a chance to swing her feet and fling daggers, but she still had the Force. The Zabrak tightened her grip with a grin and entered a fierce concentration.

Eilen's racing vehicle kicked up from its cruising pace to speed past her allies. Her altitude briefly climbed with it to keep from blowing that much more dust in her friends' faces, but that was a courtesy she wasn't planning to keep for the vehicles coming after them.

The swoop's engines flared bright as she jumped overhead. Her steering vanes aimed close to the front of the machine that nearly hit L'ara, and even closer to the ground as she dove ahead of it. Dust blew up by the meter in Eilen's wake, leaving the Trandoshans stuck with a haze over their cockpits and headgear.

W

22:46

Wally

"Can't see shsstt" the Trandoshan hissed as he turned the heel hard to a skidding slow down so as not to crash through the dust cloud.

The smaller speederbike wove with such percission it was hard to track what happened next.

T

22:52

Techsketch

While his passenger took a minute to find his next chance for a shot, Sully eased his heavy hand off the outer side of the wheel and reached behind his shoulder for his own weapon. The rod slid from its holster with a *clank* as the head of the hammer magnetized into position.

The vehicle ahead was swerving, caught off-guard by the sudden arrow through their cockpit. At the rate they were going, Sully had a clear shot. He maneuvered into a near-collision course that would pull them within arm's reach of the vehicle.

By the time they saw him coming, they didn't have time to plan any kind of counter-attack or make an escape. Sully's mechanical arm flexed overhead, arcing the power hammer straight down at their vehicle. On impact with its engine, the repulsors blew a hole clear through its hull, sending the vehicle careening aside.

Sully strained as he reared the hefty weapon back one-handed, keeping his hold on it against gravity and waves of sand, but he couldn't help but laugh at the destruction.

W

22:58

Wally

The vehicle never stood a chance, not at that range and not after Archian had hindered the co-pilot with his sniper shot. The vehicle tumbled, crashed to the desert floor, broke apart and flames erupted in a small ochre ball before disipating.

Through it, Zig and Kaled shot their metephoric shots.

"Kaled, I'm going to toss a thermal, I need you to help guide it with your Force-stuff," Zig spoke to her co-rider.

"Force..stuff?" Kaled asked, curious. But then he realized what she must have meant. "Oh, okay, if you're sure...but this won't kill anyone right?"

Master Maker...give me strength "No, Kal, it will just take out their vehicle so they can't hurt us, now, ready?"

"Oh, okay..."

"NOW!"

Zig kept one hand on the control handle of *Kaylee*, while her free hand palmed a Thermal Detonator from her belt and tossed it in the general direction of the oncoming buggy. With quiet percision, Kaled reached out one hand and with the Force, guided the explosive sphere just in front of the War Buggy's floating, forward path.

It wouldn't have worked on the ground, of course, not as well. But with Kaled's telekenisis, the grenade detonated just where it needed to, collapsing the front of the vehicle at the point of detonation and thermal expansion.

The two drivers went with the vehicle as it crashed into the desert below. There was a chance they'd live, but it wasn't an instant gruseome death, and there was no time to linger.

--

Meanwhile, having lost her co-pilot to L'ara Erinos' marksmanship, the remaining driver of the first Buggy attempted to make the most of their decreasingly positive situation. They revved up the engine, stuck their head out the window, and drove straight for the large armored Chiss hovering along on the modified single speeder.

In a continued stream of bad luck, Strong managed to swerve the speeder out of the way, leaving the War Buggy in a precarious position passing Mune and Ruka's speeder.

A

23:04

Attifer

Chaos erupted; not in how disorganized it was, but in the sheer momentum and velocity of the attack, how quickly it came and how quickly it fell apart. One after another their teams' speeders swerved or twisted skillfully away, Zuza's guns screeching while arrows flew from Archian and Eleceos' bows and Eilen's swoop sent a sandstorm cascading over the raiding party. The grenade sent by Captain Kaliska and Kaled's speeder made a maelstrom of fire and smoke and sprayed more dust still, and it was a lot like a volcano had erupted from the dunes, in those few heartbeats. At the same time, Ruka felt the familiar touch of Sera's presence steel in his bones, the synchronicity of their heart-song to a double drumbeat, knew she'd be reaching to everyone, together.

He, Mune, and Doon brought up the rear as Strong swerved around the incoming buggy that had made it past the initial onslaught, and Mirialan decided to make sure that one didn't get a shot off at their backs or get away. Ruka's free hand drifted up only a few inches before he clasped a fist, closing a telekinetic grip around the Trandoshan pilot and lifting her straight up, locking his legs together and arms to his sides, an invisible prison. The buggy continued on without her, and he just floated there while the Mirialan wheeled the speeder back around to keep their new captive in his sightlines and keep ahold of him without crashing.

W

23:25

Wally

"SSS WHAT SORCERY IS THIS UNHAND ME WIIIIITCH!!" the Transoshan woman scowled and tried desperately to flail in place, but unable to move in any manner.

W

23:45

Wally

While the smaller speeders were not faring well, the more heavily armored vehicle plowed forward towards Sully and Archian's vehicle, with its flank facing Zig and Kaled.

Three Trandoshans hung out the windows of the vehicle shouted a reptilian battle cry. Each of them took a can of some kind of cannister and sprayed their open, tooth filled mouths with a spray of...something. It was a red mist, and whatever it was, it seemed to make their cries louder and more guttural. Their scaled muscles - they wore no tops, male and female alike- started to bulge and twitch and they hoisted large BD-1 Cutter vibro-axe, usually a 2-handed weapon, but seemingly with one hand.

"WITNESSSSSS"

18 August 2021

W

00:05

Wally

The first one hanging out the flank jabbed their axe towards Kaled and Zigs speeder. The Zygerrian tried to zig, when she should have zagged, and in an effort to protect her passenger, lifted her hand up instinctively to try and block the attack.

Her vambrace shield couldn't activate in time. The Beskar, true to its lineage and origin, resisted the blow, but physics was still something even Mandalorian blacksmiths couldn't solve for.

Zigs speeder kept going, and Kaled was left in the seat alone. Zig tumbled to the sand below, but managed to use an instinctive martial artists roll as she landed.

00:05

The second took aim at Sully and Archian. The burly Togarian managed to his hammer around in time to incerpt the axe, steel clanging against steel. But the Transohan's augmented strength and momentum was superior. Sully swireved, the one hand on the wheel losing a bit of control, putting their speeder into a spin.

The third Trandoshan aimed their Axe at Zuza and Sage, and lashed out bi-latterrrly for their cockpit.

00:18

The last war buggy remaining flanked around the armored craft. The driver steered them towards L'ara and Eleceos, but and the co pilot leaned out and hurled a crude looking spear.

00:29

The speer flew towards L'ara, sure to hit, but a furred guardian wearing goggles was not having it. Ash the Cyhtraul timed the protectile with preternatural focus. Cythraul were no regular arx wolves and boreded on the mystism of Loth wolves.

So Ash, deftly, managed to catch the spear by its staft and with a powerful shake broke it in half.

Stick!

T[

09:17

Tali Sroka [HQD QUA]

The dust and sand kicked up by the roaring engines, churning quad wheels and shrieking repulsors wrapped the moving battlefield in a cloak of smothering haze. Sound and sight blurred as combatants jousteds against each other, red, blue, and green plasma illuminating the choked air admist the barking discharge of blaster cannons and blossoming fireballs.

Speed bled all of this into a smear, a chaotic impression drawn by a maddened artist's hand. Yet admist the confusion and violence, there was calm within the self.

Extending her lightsaber at her side, Tali brushed her thumb across the activation stud that kept the weapon in its collapsed state. In an instant, maglocks disengaged and a multitude of plates shifted like an elaborate puzzle as the mechanism clicked into place, extending the weapon's length many times over. As the final, finely engraved piece of the clockwork mechanism slotted into place, she fixed her eyes upon a looming shape barely outlined through the whipping sandclouds. A swift tap on the brakes adjusted her course parallel to its rumbling charge, a twist of her wrist sending the speederbike on a headlong pass towards it.

Bracing the lightsaber pike under her shoulder like a knight of old, Tali thumbed the second rune, a bright yellow blade of plasma, as radiant as a caged sun, emerged from her makeshift lance's tip as rider and mount closed with their mechanical prey.

Their relative speed made the pass last but an instant, the Twi'lek gripping as firmly onto her bike as she could while extending the makeshift lance to the side and striking the lumbering vehicle a meter off the ground. The impact almost threw her off the saddle, jarring her shoulder and threatening to wrench the weapon out of her hand despite the lightsaber's legendary ability to slice through metal with ease. At such speeds, even base durasteel could choke a plasma blade as the entirety of the vehicle's flank was fed into its hungry teeth in the span of a heartbeat.

Emerging from the pass in a shower of sparks, Tali raised her weapon and pivoted around, her speederbike humming beneath her as she considered her next move amidst the burning corpses of the Sarlacc's broken buggies.

KA

09:28

Kaled Atros

"Z-Zig?! Zig!" Kaled started to panic. Without a normal vision he couldn't see that Zig was shot off the bike.

In a panic he jumped, grabbing control's firmly with both of his hands.

"How-No,no,no!" Was the only thing that Miraluka said before his bike started to spin in circles. Not wanting to end up like his driver, he held to the controls with his dear life.

"Biscuits! How do you fly this contraption?!"

K{

10:02

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara witnessed the glorious destruction wreaked by her fellow Twi'lek and couldn't help but be impressed.

"Beautiful work, sister!" She called out in their mother tongue

A

10:07

Attifer

"Kal! Kaled, what's wrong? Hang on!" Ruka cried into the comms, hearing the Miraluka's distressed cries follow various sounds of pain when Kaliska went down and exclamations in another language. He glanced briefly over, but couldn't really make out what was going on up there where the others were with the sand kicked up. The lady yelling about witchcraft was armed. "Kriff! Mune, can you do anything from here? Sense them? I think they're in trouble but I *can't kriffing see*."

A

11:09

Attifer

It all happened very fast.

Sage, terrified on the racing speeder and with the Trandoshans lifting two-handed weapons and screaming about being witnessed while hanging off of speeding buggies, clutched onto Zuza with all his might. Under his forearms, he felt the familiar, normally satisfying *snapshnick* give of a ribcage imploding against his MIGHTY MIGHT. Zuza, at the controls and trying to steer away from the axe coming right at their cockpit, bit down on a scream, her whimper of pain lost to the noise of the engines and the hooting war cries. Her body, however, reacted even though she mentally trapped the noise, muscles seizing and jerking in pain as agony exploded in her chest and bone shards stabbed tight against her lungs, stealing her breath. The yoke jerked when her arms did, and the speeder spun out, like a pulled ripcord, back end swinging all the way around to smash into the oncoming buggy even as the Trandoshan was still swinging. His vibroaxe, rusted and scrubbed and plucked from the sands once long ago, sailed right for Sage's exposed back, slicing open the feathered coat nearly all the way through but actually bouncing *off* the sheer hard surface of Sage's fully-tensed, Zuza-crushing muscularstructure. It rebounded, the head breaking from the haft from its own inertia.

But all that action was lost in seconds, as the vehicles collided and the riders were all thrown into the sand in sprays of shrapnel and explosive force. While her speeder got away banged up, the buggy burst apart.

Zuza's saving grace as well as her doom was Sage's hold on her; her much smaller body was almost fully curled into his, bones grinding inside her, while his bulk hit the sand and they kept rolling, losing all sense of up and down, dizzy and blacking out briefly. The sand scoured skin off of Sage's exposed parts down to muscle, bloodier and more twitchy than his normal outer red appearance, absolutely caked in the sediment. The impact bruised and jarred him, the sand solid at their speed, but perhaps less forgiving in how it absorbed the force.

The Trandoshans were less lucky, caught up in flames and metal. One crawled out while burning, and another who had been thrown almost entirely clear was groaning, getting back to her feet, but the third was a pulp in between the two machines. R(

11:16

Rhylance (Arc Con)

Eleceos sensed pain! he sensed fear! He heard the collision of the two vehicles and felt his teammates terror. All the young Miraluka knew was they needed help, and they needed it now!

"Please! Take me to them! Our friends are in danger!"

Eleceos pleaded with his pilot. He wasn't as powerful a healer as his cousin, but he knew he could do something to help, at least to keep them alive. and then he felt something dark...something bad was coming but he didn't know what.

"Ashla help us."

ZL

11:24

Zuza Lottson

Zuza laid on the sand, crumpled under Sage and about managing to get her face out the sand, blood seeping from the damaged skin across her cheeks and forehead. Immediate instinct was to get up. Get up and draw her sword, down the Sarlaccs that had survived the crash. Yet, between the grip of the Zeltron over her, and the pain pulsing through her form, breathing was hard enough already. Every inhale and exhale felt hollow and she didn't want to contemplate what damage had been done. With a slow and steady pull,

and a sharp hiss through gritted teeth, she managed to pull herself from under Sage, and then carefully rolled onto her back, giving some space for her chest. Zu had the faith the others could handle the fight, there wasn't much left. Just had to lay here and wait it out and hope she wasn't dying.

Kark, it felt like she was dying. She wanted to call out to sage and ask if he was okay. Ask if he'd been hit by anything in the fall. She couldn't even see him properly, hadn't been able to check. If he was... tears hazed her vision as she looked to her friend for movement. T[

11:42
Tali Sroka [HQD QUA]

It took her a moment to respond, not least of which for the sudden sound of such a rarely-spoken language. It had been a while since she'd heard anyone talk Rylothi to her.

"Thank you, L'ara, but the fight is not over yet."
AL

11:52
Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

Having rolled more than expected, the Zeltron struggled to react at first.

He felt pain and burning on his back and arms. A pain all too familiar, but one he had not felt in a long time.

Sage spat. Sand and thick saliva came out next to him. That's when he noticed the small Human lying on her back.

His vision was blurry, so he couldn't quite make out if she was breathing or not.

Move! He ordered his legs. But they weren't responding.

Putting one fist on the sand, Sage managed to lift his torso only slightly. Enough to see the standing Trandoshans coming to them.

Kark
He tried to call for Zuza. His mouth opened but no sound came out. Anger filled his mind. Then guilt. He worried for her.

A
12:12
Attifer
MEANWHILE

Off in the middle of who knew where, Aru was cruising along, spectacularly lost and stopping occasionally to hop off his speeder and look around in nooks and crannies in the sand and stones, thinking he'd find a krayt dragon egg to show off, when his senses dully pinged of an incoming attack on his person. No sooner than the feeling came to him than did he feel an incredible tugging on his massive tail of hair and yanking all along his skull, pulled from his feet entirely. The Human yelled in surprise, but was not being thrown. In fact, he landed on his ass, and felt the wet, massive breath of something all along his back. His skin prickled. And then felt very wet.

Aru craned to look up with his entire tail of hair held taught. It smelled horrible. An entire waterfall of saliva slid in gobs down his neck and back as the bantha chewing on his ponytail like it was some piece of tasty grass waving in the sand seemed confused as to why there was a person attached to its meal. It gave a whine and spat his hair out, shuffling away to nose at the parked speeder and look for something tasty. It was disappointed. The massive, shaggy-haired, horned creature bleated sadly.

KB
12:20
Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)
Strong grimaced, watching the speeder holding Miss Lottson and the Red Gundarkass go down, a pirate approaching the downed pair.
Releasing one handle, he reached down and pulled his riot baton out, spinning it into activation and banking his own bike towards them. The baton began spinning, the electrified end whirring as he gunned the accelerator, trying to get a good line on the Trandoshan's scaly, frilled head.
12:23

The hit would have been good. It should have been perfect. But Strong could see the Zeltron struggling to stand and grit his teeth. The follow through would likely take the man's head off after knocking the pirate down. He suspected some wouldn't mind but others would have an issue...and a Son of Garmis did not go out of their way to 'team kill' as the kids put it.

He adjusted his aim, zooming past the Trandosha as the pirate lifted their greataxe, and slammed the riot baton into the haft, tearing the weapon from the lizard's grip and flying past.

AL
12:26
Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

"Where'd you come from bud?" He spoke to the inquisitive mammal.

The Bantha was clearly lost. This creature walked in packs, or were herded by Tusken.

But none were in sight.

The Human tried to approach the animal that was now munching on his speeder seat.

"Hey there! Don't touch that!"

His screaming spooked the creature that knocked and stomped over the speeder, it's massive weight rendering it useless.

"Great! Now what?" Aru was not amused. Losing his ride in the middle of nowhere wasn't a pleasant feeling.

But upon closer inspection he noticed the Bantha was saddled. And that it was carrying a slugthrower. The typical Tusken rifle. I'm fact, this could only be a Tusken Bantha, as it was carrying everything you would find on a Tusken settlement. Makeshift tents, some cooking utensils and even a set of clothes.

"You're mighty friendly bud." Aru was now fully dressed in Tusken clothing, with a rifle on his back and mounting on his new Bantha friend.

"Always wanted to have a Bantha! Since I was just a little kid!" He was thrilled with what had happened to him, completely ignoring the wrecked speeder.

"Can't wait to show you to KaKa!" He stopped and his eyes widened with excitement.

"KaKa**! I shall call you KaKa!"**

KaKa seemed to purr and groan deeply, as an acknowledgement of it liking the name.

The two wandered off into the desert again, off to whatever new adventure the lost Aedile would find on the desert sea

A
12:49
Attifer

"Of course!" Mune yelped to attention, feeling the reverberations of pain in the air and in his bones like the desert itself was shaking.

Despite their dislike of the heat, how the sand matted their fur and their tongue was dry and sticking and swollen in their mouth from panting to try to cool down, despite the discomfort of the speeder ride and lack of control, Mune would do anything for allies, friends, for this new family he'd been invited openly into. He looked inside himself as much as around him, and felt the currents of the Force, dancing on a blade's edge, swirling on the wind, carrying his mind along. Their senses found Zuza and Sage, on the ground, hurt and helpless, found an enemy, found another burning, so much pain, felt the returned echo of Eleceos' distress, the Miraluka feeling the same things they were. Strong's offensive and Doon's flaring protective instincts and Zig on the ground and everyone's alarm and confusion.

Mune opened starry eyes and barked, "I need to help, we have to get over there, please, Ruka! Drive!" They were already grabbing their weapons.

The Mirialan quickly looked over. "I'll do you one better. Get you over there real quick. You trust me? It's gonna be a flight."

The small Shistavanen didn't have time to hesitate and wouldn't waver in the face of friends in danger. "Whatever it is, do it."

Ruka nodded tightly, and then flicked his hand, flinging the captive he'd held suspended idly and letting them drop to the sand. Then he gestured at Mune, who felt a gentle, invisible hold grasp him like a baby bird and lifted him straight out of his seat. And then he was *flying*. Carefully, and they still felt the hold, but nonetheless their body alone was moving through the air towards the tumult. He soon landed in the sands, trying to reorient.

K{

13:36

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara heard the Miraluka's pleas and twisted the steering controls of the speeder as far as they would go before gunning the throttle to its limit.

"Don't worry kid, I'll getcha there! There's a medkit on the back of my belt if you need it!"

S

13:45

SongBird

Doon's growling sounded like an engine of its own mixed with the chaos of speeders and wheeled vehicles. This was far from his comfort zone, flying vehicles with hazy dust covering everything. Chaos. His good ear twitches, hearing various sounds of crashing over the rushing wind. That's hardly good. If the team ends up wiping out and taking to the ground, the enemy vehicles will be uncontested.

His snout wrinkles, slightly wishing he had taken a bandana like that pet someone found had. But something deeper bugs him. The crashing, sounds of chaos and barely covered sounds of pain. He knew who that was.. Sera? No. She was to the left, with... Zig. The captain is down. But still, who was it closer to him, on the right. His eye closes as he thinks, wind whipping through his fur.

His eye cracks open and burns with fury. Zuza. He jerks to wheel to the right, slightly overturning and wobbling on the speeder. This wouldn't do. He kills the throttle and stands, then leaps to the sand off his ride. For anyone other than Doon, landing and sliding forward on all fours would make them pause, stumble, then start running. But Doon landed exactly as he wanted to. His claws dig into the sand as he throws his legs forward and vice versa.

A feral beast, would be a good description of Doon currently. Between his quadrupedal sprint, the snarling, and the burning anger in his eye, any who saw him charging them would probably fill their pants.

Luckily for the Trandoshan, all he could hear is the deep rumble of a very pissed off Shistavanen and his armor clanking along with him.

Still, the lizard man held his ground and leaned into the sound, bracing for impact or to snake back and dodge a weapon.

Unfortunately, he wasn't quite prepared for the size and bulk that is Doon Sulvir to come at him out of the haze like a bullet. The two bodies collided and were in the air a bit longer than they should have been before they hit the ground.

The Trandoshan was happy about the soft landing in sand.

He wasn't exactly happy about the crushing weight of the heavily armored Shistavanen landing on him.

R{

14:01

Rhylance (Arc Con)

As the speeder reached its destination, Eleceos didn't even hesitate. He could feel Zuza's pain, as much as she tried to hide it. The crushing feeling in his chest. The difficulty in his breath. Ele's concern grew.

His thoughts drifted to his visions from earlier. Death. Someone died! It wouldn't be his friends. He couldn't let that happen. He wouldn't.

Even if it meant losing himself in the process, he would protect those who he called Clan mates.

He jumped from his seat onto the sand, flying past Ashyrith who held the "stick" in her maw still. He felt the heat bearing down on him as he ran to his companions. He held no regard for his own safety. His mind was singularly focused, as if driven by pure instinct.

He slid to Zuza's body, he could see her glow had somewhat faded from lack of breath. He breathed in deep and let it out before smiling gently and moving to meet her eyes.

"Don't worry. I have you Zuza. Everything is going to be alright. I will never let my friends die."

He placed a hand on her forehead, and another on her chest, careful about the placement as to allow her to keep her dignity. The Miraluka concentrated on the Force, drawing energy from the world around them. He channeled the energy through his body, down his arms, out his hands, and into Zuza. He needed to mend the bones. The punctured lung as well.

The Force was doing its job, but took its toll as well. Ele lost the world around him. Darkness overtook his senses. Smiling at his jobs success he learned forward to gently speak into Zuza’s ear.

"You're safe now, my friend."

Then he slumped over, rolling into the warmth of the grainy earth. His body had shut down from overexertion. Laying on the sands Tatooine, Ele slept in a forced peace.

A
14:18
Attifer

More screeching and hooting of witnesses and bright sands and blood came from the ridge above, and another buggy sailed right over the edge, making a spectacularly stupid sight to Tali who craned her head back to watch. It landed with a shudder and thud and kept going, more Trandoshan on board thrusting spears into the air and howling. The other buggy made a beeline back around, seeing the lone green driver closest to them and their fellow raiders joining in. Their screaming matched in pitch despite that several of their buggies and people were destroyed.

ZL
14:25
Zuza Lottson

The crashing and fighting all around hadn’t helped Zuza’s mindset. What had been worse, was watching the form of Sage try and move before falling still again. She tried to call out, unaware of the surviving enemy that had just been pinned, or that someone was there to even pin. Everything was moving too quickly, except Sage.

Eleceos was a welcome surprise, although confusion filled her eyes as the young male settled beside her. What was he do*Oh*.

She gritted her teeth, crying out against them as her ribs clicked back into place, but then relaxed. Her eyes fell shut for a moment, the relief almost overwhelming. There was still pain, the bruising deep and her face still stinging sharply from the sand, but she could *breathe*.

The sound and sensation of someone slumping down beside her, and the removal of Ele’s hands, brought her mind back to the situation. Zuza pushed herself up via her elbows, biting her lip. Painfully, but steadily, she got her knees under her to sit up, sand trickling off and into her clothes from where she’d been laid. Upon seeing Ele limp in the sand, her heart jumped to her throat. He couldn’t be dead, no no no no-

“Eleceos?” Zuza spoke, softly, before repeating it with panic, taking the man by his shoulder and putting two fingers to the side of his neck. It took a painful few seconds for her to feel the pulse, her own heartbeat loud in her ears, but he was alive. She checked his breathing and relaxed slightly, he was unconscious.

Her eyes moved to Sage, seeing the Zeltron in the sand. Her instinct was to go to him, but spotted that he was awake at least. Thank Kark for that. No one had died because of her. He was hurt, the top layers of his skin missing and bleeding, but he was alive. She offered him a weak pained smile, still watery eyes moving to the battlefield as the Human remained beside Eleceos, trying to work out what was going on. R{

17:19
Rhylance (Arc Con)

Ashyryth see's the Trandoshan that had been on fire moving painfully. She held the stick in her mouth and attempted to throw it back at the lizard man. Her aim was thrown after seeing Ele pass out and the stick wide wide.

T
17:24
Techsketch

The ongoing chaos was apparent in Eilen's senses. People were getting very hurt, but through the dust and the restrictive lenses on her goggles, she could make out help on the way among friends. She nearly turned toward them, until she realized Zig's swoop was firing off into the distance - without her. Kaled was still on it.

Aw, crap...

"Sera, go help them! I'm going after Kaled. Get ready to jump."

She squeezed the handbrake as she spoke and tilted far to her left, letting her armored boot graze the sand as they skimmed the ground with a sharp turn.

Sera's concentration broke as they rapidly slowed. Much as she was doing where she was, the rest of the team needed her more than Eilen right then. And knowing her, she probably had some kind of ridiculous plan that worked better without a passenger. The Zabrak nodded and prepared to dismount. As the swoop lined up with its new heading, Sera flipped off its back seat, lightsaber at the ready. Eilen rocketed forward, gaining on the runaway Kaled with relative ease.

She shouted as she neared him, "Kaled! I'm coming, just hold it steady, okay?" "If you say so!" He shakily called back, keeping as still as possible.

Eilen continued ahead until she had a good lead in front of his vehicle. Her options weren't exactly great - the first thought was cutting the throttle via telekinesis. Far too much chance of that going disastrously wrong, though, if she overdid or underdid literally any part of it. And trying to force one bike to a stop with another through shear force was liable to crash and burn them both. So, she was gonna have to try a more direct approach.

When she reached a safe distance in front of him, Eilen cut her engines and swung her foot over. The decelerating swoop inched closer back to Kaled, faster by the second. She gulped at the thought of her own plan, but didn't exactly have anything better in mind. Her precognitive senses began eating at her anxiety with a bad feeling, but she was in too much of a hurry to listen, tense as she already was.

As the speeders passed each other, she jumped. Whether it was miscalculating her time or the amount of pushback she'd have on her vehicle, she didn't leap as far or as gracefully as she'd planned.

KA

17:45

Kaled Atros

As Eilen jumped, Kaled instinctively turned his head around. They didn't have much time, and he was afraid that he would soon lose control over the bike.

Miraluka released his grip from the control's, reaching out to Eilen.

Please be close, please be close

By some form of luck Kaled managed to catch her in time. He pulled her into the seat managing to stabilize them both so they don't fall on too the sand below. Miraluka could feel his heart racing. The rush of adrenaline made his hand shake and his muscles tense.

"Carbs! That was too dangerous!" He said with a shaki voice. "Quick! Grab the controls!"

A

18:03

Archian

When Sully stopped the speeder Archian jumped out of it, and directed himself to Sage. He wanted to look at his wound, and his internal medic feeling was stronger than fighting instincts.

With his medpack ready and riot shield as backup, he kneeled next to Sage. "How you feeling my beast? Let me have a look at you."

Sage's body was covered with sand, which was digging inside of his wounds, so Red decided to remove it as much as he could. He took out antibacterial wipes and water. Archian looked at Sage's face and with big patience said "Please do not bite off my arm, if it hurts you". And he poured first water at wound and sticked wipe into the wound.

A

18:12

Attifer

"WITNESS US! FOR THE SCOREKEEPER! POINTS BE PRAISED!" the Trandoshans hooted and howled, leaping free of their buggy one by one as it circled, rolling or running in various acrobatic landings and uncaring of any pain, it seemed, or risk. Their eyes were wide, their pupils slits, their maws sprayed with crimson-orange and cracked as if painted. They growled and called and charged, bearing spears and axes, and their own claws and teeth.

The speeder that trapped the Arconans, meanwhile, kept circling, tight and dangerous, engines roaring like a predator closing in on them. Sulith, seeing their teammates in danger, angled their speeder that way and managed to just barely avoid crashing as they flew in, slamming on the breaks and spraying sand as they stopped abruptly. It gave Archian the opportunity to dismount and help, and Sully prepared to do the same, whether that was defend or apply medicine too.

Strong, meanwhile, also saw an opening. He could head for the driver, perhaps break the blockade. But as he looked, the Trandoshans pressed their attack, charging for the small Human, the downed Zeltron and Miraluka, the wolf-people, and the tail-head.

18:17

Further back, where he'd idled before throwing Mune, Ruka's instincts spoke of danger almost minutes in advance. He was forced to turn from watching the chaos to look behind him and see the other buggy gunning right for him. Snarling, the Mirialan went to gun his own engine, but the thrusters skipped and stalled out, whining in a way that suggested to his mechanic's ears vents clogged with sand. He was dead in the water.

With a curse, the Mirialan Sith hopped off the bike and instead stood to stare down the oncoming vehicle. He lifted his hands and *pushed* the whole thing, rather than bothering with the pilots, gritting teeth as he shoved it *up* rather than fighting the power of the engines trying to push it back or change its course. The buggy sailed high, with many shouts from its riders, going right over him and crashing back down, its nose hitting the sand as the repulsors struggled to compensate for the fall and the angle.

ZL

18:26

Zuza Lottson

It was chaos. Zu worked that out quickly enough, not entirely sure where her helmet had gone but wishing it was there to protect her eyes from the sand. But, the chaos was closing in clearly, sand or not. A speeder churned up sand as it circled the group on the ground, drawing closer as another craft approached. They'd have more of them to deal with soon. More blood to be shed, and friends to be protected. Sage's hunched form to her side, despite now having Archian beside him, still drew a pang of guilt, although the knowledge that it was his fault eased it mostly... She couldn't help but wish she'd have managed to keep on course. Kark. She needed to stand up. Like hell was she gonna stay kneeling in the sand while everyone else fought. Eleceos hadn't just knocked himself out for her to sit her ass there like a lazy... lazy thing.

The Human gritted her teeth again, putting one hand into the hot sands and shoving herself up. It was a quick movement, and for a short moment her vision blotted out. Zuza stumbled, one arm raising straight in an attempt to counterbalance that was surprisingly successful. Adrenaline surged, and the pain ebbed, a tiny giggle escaped Zu as she drew her blade and met eyes with the closest lizard-dude. The circle was tight, and dangerous, but it was fight or die.

Her movement was sudden, but agile and definitely something she'd regret whenever the adrenaline drained away. Taking a few steps forwards, used to the sands underfoot and moving with confidence, Zu was within a moment at blades reach of the lizard she'd connected eyes with. Her own were wild, working on instinct, however her opponent was equally hyped on something. She swung, driving a deep gash into the torso of the Sarlaccian, ducking down and taking a step backwards as it's spear drove into the air, a hair's breadth from where her neck had been a moment prior. Digging a foot backwards into the sand, she watched as it uncaringly continued, but simply yelled above the howl of the engines at it.

"You guys ain't shit! Crackle faced yellow-lickers!"

T

19:12

Techsketch

Eilen clung for dear life with Kaled's help. With some effort and her well trained climbing skills though, she found her metaphorical footing and got herself situated. She exhaled hard beneath her scarf.

"Thanks," she let out in relief. "Now hold on."

Zig's bike didn't handle quite like hers, but she'd flown enough vehicles to quickly adjust and compensate. And now that Kaled was back in good hands, Eilen was turning them around to return to the fight.

Her own vehicle would lazily coast along to a stop, as she left it.

MC

19:38

Mune Cinteroph

Mune's eyes followed the path of the enemy buggy, knowing full well the danger it posed to them on the ground. Their mind hurriedly calculated and knew immediately there was only one safe bet if it were to veer towards them either accidentally or purposefully. In either case, they were not going to be left in any sort of fit form...

Their sabers remained in hand, yet to be activated. They planted their feet and calmed their mind then threw their mind open wide to the Force, letting it fill them. They had but one goal, protect the lives of their clanmates, those within the circle, those in immediate danger. Their fur began to bristle with concentration, a growl catching behind his lips as they focused their will entirely on that one task. The feel of that godsawful sand in their fur fell away. The heat of the desert receded while he focused everything they could and willed the barrier in existence.

Their ears laid back, their power thrusting outwards to encompass the others, or so they envisioned and willed. They dared not shift position, dared not move, but it was done.

A

19:42

Attifer

The Trandoshan that Zuza stabbed hardly reacted to the bleeding or pain, merely whooping in fury and excitement, throat working. The others seemed equally excited, one in particular deciding to join in with the tiny soft stabby female. The second Trandoshan lifted its axe in one hand instead of two and ran at the Human, while a third decided to swoop in on the tasty and easy target of the unconscious boy in the sand and the fourth spat and screeched at Mune.

"WITCHESSSSSS!" she hissed. "WITNESSSSSS ME SSSSCOREKEEPER!"

And then she charged too, throwing down her axe altogether in favor of raising her hands. She would have the most Points and live eternal for killing a magician on her own claws and drinking its blood.

Unfortunately for the raiders, they all met resistance against Mune's barrier, the shimmering coronas turning away spear haft and axe blade and wicked snapping at the Trandoshan female kept trying to bite at Mune in a craze. Unfortunately for the Arconans, the barrier around Eleceos began to crack at the repeated spear stabs, and the one around Zuza shattered with the running slam of a two-handed vibroaxe.

KB

19:50

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

Strong brought his speeder bike around in a tight curve, watching as people flocked to the fallen speeder and its occupants, shaking his head. Medical concerns should have been dealt with after hostilities, he thought, now they were just clumping up and making themselves easier targets.

"Sloppy," he muttered, catching sight of the buggy of loud Trandoshans circling the fallen group. "And unable to breakout, as long as that is in play," he said to himself, swinging his baton and angling in at the outside of the patrolling buggy.

He roared, the modulator in his helmet letting it ring off the dunes, as he swung, the electrified end of the riot baton shredding rubber as he passed the car.

A

19:53

Attifer

With a **POP** one rear tire went out on the circling buggy entrapping the others, sending it veering sharply at full speed in a straight line away from those it had been trapping. The driver shrieked and hissed in rage, managing to skillfully steer and skid the buggy around and to a stop, facing the group again. His eyes fixed on the shiny shiny bantha that had stopped his ride, and he howled again, reaching into the back to shoulder a beloved rocket launcher.

R{

19:55

Rhylance (Arc Con)

Ashyryth's eyes snapped to the Spear holding Trandoshan who dared attack her sleeping pup. Her eyes narrowed, and her claws extended. Her jaws set in a snarl and she prepared to protect that which was hers.

20:02

She charged forth, leaping at her prey. It heard her growl and turned, catching the Cythraul with its armor. He shook her off and she landed on her paws. The taste on her tongue was not one she enjoyed, but she stood firm between the Trandoshan and her cub. ZL

20:07

Zuza Lottson

The barrier was as unexpected as it was short lived. Even as she moved to dodge the incoming attack of the lizzy in front of her, it's attack bounced backwards. Zuza would have questioned this more, had a second crack not alerted her to the additional fighter. Whatever had protected her was gone, but it had also given a moment of momentum lashback on her opponents.

She pushed her foot back into the sand, prepared to shoot forwards and go for the eyes, the twin suns dimly reflecting off of her blade through the dust cloud still dredged up by the that had been buggy circling them. It was gone now, she guessed, from the mildly reduced noise and screaming.

A

20:09

Attifer

As Doon Sulvir hit the sand, feeling his weight impact the Trandoshan's, feeling the other predator's scales and claws trying to sink into him in turn and scabble at his armor, their maws snapping at one another, he also felt every one of his instincts roar. One of his pack females -- and when he had come to consider her even slightly so, he could not place -- had been hurt, and this other was the cause.

Doon's powerful arms and legs and muscles all flexed as he bellowed and snarled, rolling and wrestling, sand spraying everywhere in the haze of animal screams. The Trandoshan sank teeth into his shoulder only to be rebuffed by the plate, and Doon used all fours to shove the other immense male off and over, rolling to pin him. He raked his metal-engraved claws through the sun-bleached leathers and found the flesh in the gaps, tore through cloth and scale and sinew. Had he been of a cooler mind, he might have remembered to activate his shock gloves, but as it was, his claws were doing the job without being electrified.

The Trandoshan barked like it was laughing-- laughing and laughing and scrabbling back. Doon barely felt the slashes in his rage, or the punching puncture of a clawed foot. He kept clawing, biting, ripped chunks out until he was matted in red and sticky as if he'd rolled in a berry bush. Still the Trandoshan seemed to feel no pain, and only stopped moving when his mouth tore a ballooning, scaley red throat from the green of its neck and chest. It tasted rancid, chemical, wrong. But Doon didn't care. He tossed his head back and howled, then stood to his feet and kicked away the corpse, pivoting to dash back towards the fighting, nose pointing him towards Zuza. He skidded into the sand behind her still on all fours, a bulk to distract the two enemies she faced.

20:13

One of the other Trandoshans, seeing this spectacle, skidded in the bloodied sand as they charged after the running Doon and fell. They scrabbled to get to their feet, wobbling precariously, breathing hard, shaking like something was wrong with them. Froth built on their stained snout, and they started shaking harder, falling sideways and seizing.

T

20:29

Techsketch

While Archian tended to the wounded, Sully was left with only the job of protecting the others. As he looked between them, he grimaced

— Mune, the main thing keeping their friends safe for the moment, had a Trandoshan gnawing directly through the barrier not a foot away. Sully hefted his hammer and charged for her.

The Trandoshan's teeth gnashed at Mune, gaining an inch with every beating against the barrier. It's head was breaking through, threatening by the second to tear into the white fur. With the lunge that might have done it, Sully's industrial-sized weapon whirled over Mune's ears in a wide swing to meet the zealot's teeth.

Viscera exploded across the barrier as the hammer's repulsors shattered the Trandoshan's skull on impact. Sully staggered from the knockback as a gaping hole blew through the magical shield, but the most direct threat flew back in a limp spread over the sand.

Sully didn't waste any time, and quickly shook Mune's shoulder as the other barriers were breaking down. "Hey, come on! I gotcha, but we gotta get them!"

KB

20:44

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

Strong pulled away hard after hitting the buggy, a glance over his shoulder showing the craft swerving and heading more or less after him now, bringing a smile to his face. It froze when he saw the launcher lifted up and over the front, causing him to grimace and turn to read the terrain ahead. Weaving through the dunes, he glanced back, watching the buggy struggle to maintain a straight line with a missing tire.

Looking ahead, he made a decision, opening the throttle and going straight rather than weaving and dodging, one eye on the side mirror of his bike. A few seconds of straight flight later, he spotted the tell-tale flash and smoke of a rocket launching, and cut hard to his right, a burst of sand flying into the air near his initial path.

A

20:57

Attifer

The dummy rocket sailed well past Strong, having been aimed high for his bulk, before it eventually lost momentum and hit the ground with an explosive if sand-muted **boom**. The driver that had fired it shook the empty launcher in frustration, refocusing on the task solely of driving after his shiny shiny bantha foe.

Meanwhile, Ruka took matters into telekinetic hands and levitated the raiders on the buggy that had missed him out of their seats too. A glance aside and he had hold of his original captive again, and one idling bike. The Mirialan floated the struggling lot together and, with a feat of the Force and fine-tuned concentration, held them together with one gesturing grasp while the other hand lifted a length of grapple and rope from off the buggy and wound it around and around the lot. They then were set down in the sand, tied together, struggling like a six-legged creature.

"Do not make me fight you," he warned. "Just stay still, don't try anything, and you'll be treated fine, ay, if you answer some questions and stop resisting."

Sadly, the Mirialan also recognized the haze of the drugged, high, or drunk when he saw it, all too well. He didn't know *what* they were on, but they weren't responding normally. Two of them were frenzied and probably hallucinating or something, but one was a *little* clearereyed. He sighed, wondered if knocking them out wasn't better, but then the sound of an explosion had him whipping back around. His eyes widened at the rocket's burst, and at the carnage visible now as the sand had started to settle. Blood on the sand. Blood all over Doon and Mune and Sulith, Eleceos and Sage on the ground, Zuza smiling while she launched herself at a man.

"What the kriff?"

ZL

21:07

Zuza Lottson

With one already bleeding deeply, Zuza decided to focus on the uninjured lizz-boi, using the prepared foot shoved back to launch herself with surprising force. Raising her sword arm, she jumped up, and as she descended again the force of her arms and her body's weight behind it, the Human's blade hit true. The eye was sliced apart, as was the skull and brain behind it.

Hitting the sand was round, stumbling and ending up half knelt with her blade wedged into the skull of her now dead foe. She let out a string of colourful curses while attempting to drag it back out, looking toward the other in hopefully enough time to get out the way.

MC

21:28

Mune Cinteroph

When the barrier protecting Zuza shatters, the small Shista flinches, feeling the cracks form in the barrier protecting Ele, they have to fight panic. The trandoshan gnawing at them, trying desperately to get through to sink its teeth into them was the furthest thing from their mind in that moment. Then... came Sully and Mune's eyes widened in shock. They watched the corpse go sailing through the air and only blinked when they felt the huge Togorian's paw upon their shoulder. They blinked up at Sully in awe then snapped out of it quickly. They had a job to do.

"Protect them, I know my role," They said resolutely, a ferocity following on the edge of a growl in their voice.

They felt the barriers waver, those remaining with the break in concentration. They snarled, fur bristling and threw the doors wide.

Panting growing deeper as they focussed once more and fueled those barriers that remained, as well as restored those that failed. Everyone that was within range were protected once more, barriers slamming into place to protect those that they had so quickly come to consider family, something worth protecting. They were so tired of being without one.

A

21:35

Attifer

Mune's barriers flashed back to brilliant life, whole and restored where they'd been broken, new and shimmering where none had been before. It was none too soon, as the spear-wielding raider stabbed at Ashyrith, and the cythraul refused to move even an inch lest the weapon slip past her and hit her pup; she would die first. Thankfully, the blade was deflected entirely, sending the Trandoshan backpedalling onto their rear from the redirected momentum, their spear haft jabbing them in their gut. She coughed, winded.

Across the sand, the other male that had been attacking Zuza, seeing her wrestling to get a dagger out of his fellow's eye socket and the large wolf-man dripping blood behind her moving in the way, decided to pick another target. He wheeled about and raised his sawed-off blaster, firing at L'ara on her speeder still, but similarly the shot was caught by the barrier that sang true.

KB

21:49

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

Sand filled the air from the rocket's impact, which made the shiny and chrome Chiss's hulking figure all the more impressive when it blasted out of the cloud, sand scouring at his armor. The bike's repulsors whined under the weight as he pushed the throttle harder, the baton whirring as it spun, his glowing eyes fixed on a front tire.

For all the world to anyone else it looked as if he was charging straight at the buggy, only veering off with seconds to spare to tear through another tire.

The impact nearly jerked the weapon from his grip, and he looked over his shoulder in time to see...the buggy flip, the driver having been pushing the speed too hard to maintain control. He winced, and hoped, despite what he knew, that the sandy impact wouldn't kill the lot of pirates.

A

21:51

Attifer

The sandy impact did, indeed, kill the pirate. At least it was only the one driving, as the others were busy being murdered brutally by the rest of his team. The red ooze under the upside-down carriage spread out like a cracked open egg, only to sink quickly into the hungry, dry sand in seconds.

R{

22:05

Rhylance (Arc Con)

Ashyrith approached the downed Trandoshan slowly. She neared its face down head and growled, drooling as she crept. The trandoshan slowly looked up, meeting the gaze of an enraged mother beast. It remained silent before the Cythrauls maul opened lightning fast, snapping of the lizards head and shaking back and forth hard, tearing flesh from bone, muscle from ligament, before ripping the creatures head clean off. The taste of the drugged blood was vile to Ash, but the thought that she had successfully protected her cub was all she cared about. Her tail wagged in excitement.

T

22:24

Techsketch

As the enemies continued to drop, Sully spotted the last one standing lining up shots on L'ara. With no time to waste on charging, the soldier hefted aside his hammer and drew his pistol. The way was clear, and Sully didn't wait to line up the crosshairs for a precision kill, so long as he'd hit — not that it mattered tremendously, because his finger went for its grapple line trigger.

The pin whipped out with a piercing blow into the unsuspecting Trandoshan's shoulder and immediately recoiled taut. The reptilian target screeched as it staggered back, blaster firing wildly about in desperation. With a slightly larger window of opportunity earned, Sully clenched an eye and centered his scope on the disabled enemy. A squeeze of its main trigger put a plasma bolt through its chest for the kill.

A

22:26

Attifer

The last Trandoshan dropped, a burnt-edged hole smoking in his chest cavity.

The sand settled, finally; or at least, only the normal breeze now disturbed it. Idling engines and active ones still added to the noise, along with heavy breathing, but for a moment there wasn't any more movement as the last of the attackers stilled.

Then, Eleceos groaned softly, and Ashyrith turned and settled next to him and began licking the blood that had been sprayed over him off, grooming her pup. That seemed to be the break, as L'ara let out a whistle, and Tali, Strong and Eilen rode up on respective speeders. Doon stuck close to Zuza, growling as others drew near, still protective even against their teammates. Archian had managed to mostly clean Sage's wounds, skillful enough to prevent the worst infection while beginning to bandage. The sound of Zig's's jetpack firing as she approached came, and Kaled let out a sound of mourning and horror as Eilen parked and the beheld the massacre through the Force.

Sera was on foot running over, and Ruka came up behind at an enhanced sprint.

"Everyone okay, ay, ay?!" He took in the carnage. "*Sanos illa Bogan ey Ashlami dieosez na*. What did you guys do? Kriff. Kriff. Everyone's okay? Who's hurt? I got three of them back there we can question but they're hellu drugged, they're probably outta their minds."

"They all were," Kaled whispered. "I could feel it. Oh..." He covered his mouth.

"L...let's get out of this mess and food she cover first," Zig commanded shortly, looking at her team. "Then look at the wounded. We've got multiple medpacs. Then we can see about asking questions of. Uh. Prisoners. Right! Sully, help us get Sage. We should collect all the speeders and those buggies too."

"Ghhrrreeejhdaghrdghjheeeerr!" Aru screeched, with about as much skill as he had once tried to imitate Gunganese in a Gungan accent before KaKa had saved him in Otah Gunga where he'd done absolutely nothing wrong. He lifted his spear thing and waved it from the back of Better KaKa.

Across the sand, a multitude of Tusks stared back at him.

T

22:35

Techsketch

Sully was breathing heavily when the silence finally fell, much like many of his friends. When Ruka finally spoke out, he slowly turned toward the Mirialan and offered a sheepish grin.

"Hey... Sorry about the mess. Just... you know. Can't be too careful with this stuff."

A

22:38

Attifer

Ruka repressed any further feelings on the matter by shoving them down hard under *do it for them do it for them* and made himself smile sickly for Sulith. "I'm just glad you're not hurt, Sully. You're not hurt, right?"

ZL

22:39

Zuza Lottson

Zuza was hyped on the adrenaline still, managing to rip her sword free and stumbling backwards, tripping over herself and landing on her ass. She paused for a moment, feeling like that probably should've felt worse, but then hopped back up, stabbing her dripping sword into the sand. The blood and brain juice instead seeped into the sand. She gave Doon a gentle pat on the elbow, still kind of confused as to exactly how he had arrived, or the reason to him dismounting.

The tiny Human looked over as Ruka spoke and glanced round, ignorant of her own face that was still forming small droplets of blood from the grazing on the sand. Sage had stopped the worst of it.

"I think other than Sage we're mostly okay? Eleceos passed out after healing me. Which, thank you." She gave him a wide smile, before hurrying over to check on Sage, hands somewhat twitchy but not really able to get too close.

T

22:39

Techsketch

"Ah, nah. Totally fine." As he said it though, he was already breaking out his medical supplies. Sully turned back toward the others and called openly, "Is anyone *not* totally fine?"

R{

22:40

Rhylance (Arc Con)

Ele sat up, head down. Everyone was safe, but the young Miraluka felt out of place. Everyone else worked so hard, and did so much on this trip, and he has had to be taken care of again and again.

"Every time I think I've gotten stronger, Ash, I still need to be protected. Why cant I be strong like Yiru and the others."

Ash whined and nuzzled against his face trying to cheer the young man up. He just felt useless. The Cythraul licked his face and tied to force him to get up.

"I couldn't even keep you safe Ash. You had to protect me again."

MC

22:43

Mune Cinteroph

Mune was panting heavily, they had let the barrier finally fall. Spattered in blood, they approached the group. Maintaining the barrier over their friends had exhausted them and already they were thinking they'd have to take a rest to channel the Force and restore some of those reserves. Holstering his unused lightsabers back into their sheathes, they brushed a paw through their headfur and glanced around.

Mune eyed Ele for a moment, "You are plenty strong... the sheer feat of strength it takes to protect someone you care about..." their eyes shift to glance to Zuza.

ZL

22:44

Zuza Lottson

Zuza's head snapped round as Ele's voice caught her ears. She wandered back over and offered her hand to him, "You saved my karking life, without even any hesitation. Don't do that self downing stuff."

Her foot continued bouncing despite this, and she flashed Mune a mildly confused look. She'd only met Ele today, it'd be neat but most people didn't make friends that quickly. Most!

A

22:51

Attifer

Ruka nodded to Sully and then urged, "Ay. Like Captain Kaliska said, let's get out of this mess, we can at least get shade under that rock shelf, c'mon." Even as he spoke, he examined everyone for wounds, trying to see past blood and sand, thinking to himself to see if Eleceos wanted to talk later since the others had it in hand. He stopped to look very closely over Eilen and Kaled, squeezing each of their hands, before turning and examining the vehicles, the bodies, the flipped over buggy with two popped tires.

The Mirialan wandered a bit in his searching while everyone talked and fussed and moved. There was a water tank dangling off the back of one buggy, and with a telekinetic heave he pried it off, summoning it over. The tap was intact, if bent. A towel came out of his backpack, and he offered it to Mune, who had been looking terribly uncomfortable, deciding not to ask Doon, lest the growing, twitching Shistavanen attack him for using the Force in a non-combative way. Eleceos seemed to be getting a...bath...eeeuuugh...from his dog, so. Whatever with that.

"Here," he commented. "I'm going to go get the others. We should have any of the medics look at them too, I'm really not sure they're okay with whatever they're high on. I can't really do more than stick on bacta patches. Sewing up people is NOT the same as sewing clothes."

T

22:52

Techsketch

Eilen stopped further from the scene than she'd have liked, particularly on account of not wanting to go any closer to the gory mess the fight had left behind. And judging from her immediate check around her friends, Ruka was right there with her, pretending to be fine. It seemed everyone else was either safe or being cared for already.

She inhaled sharply to steel herself a bit longer, then pulled up to join the rest. The scarf and goggles remained over her face for now, just to help hide her discomfort.

"Hey, uh, Zig — I caught your runaway speeder, eheh... I, uh, need to go back for mine, though." Eilen dismounted and helped Kaled to the same, then focused on Ruka and waved him over.

MC

22:57

Mune Cinteroph

Mune smiled gratefully for the towel, nodding to Ruka, "Thank you."

They moved towards shade, towelling off the blood from their white fur as tey walked. Luckily most had wound up in dark patches on their cloak and their armour. They really should have had the cowl up but... it was already far too warm with even the cloak on... Mune made sure to fall into step with Sully, glancing up at the huge guy, they grinned some, "Thank you for the save back there, my barrier was ready to fall and had it gotten through..." they winced at the thought. "Thanks."

T

23:00

Techsketch

Sully shrugged and smiled wide. "For sure! Don't worry, I wouldn't have let it happen." He lifted his supplies. "I saw you take a bit of a tumble though. You need any bandages, bacta patches, pick-me-ups...?"

MC

23:02

Mune Cinteroph

They gave their head a shake and grinned, "I am more durable than I look. Do not think I have a scratch, maybe some bruising... mostly just a headache from concentrating too long and hard." They chuckled. "That hammer is terrifying, I am so glad to not be the target you throw that thing towards."

T

23:04

Techsketch

A short laugh left him. "Fair point. Well, at least take this. It might help with the headache." Sully dug out a small bottle of pills — simple painkillers.

MC

23:06

Mune Cinteroph

Mune accepted the kind gesture, taking one of the painkillers. as much as they accepted the minor headache as a reminder not to abuse their power, it would be nice to be rid of the headache sooner rather than later in case they needed to call on the Force again before too long. "Appreciated, thank you. Let us get to the shade to cool off, I am sure that will be a huge help to everyone while we recover." R{

23:10

Rhylance (Arc Con)

"I apologize for my weakness. Old habits are hard to quit."

Ele flashed a smile to the Human. It was clearly a forced gesture, the Miraluka pretending to be swayed by her words. He didn't want to ruin the chance at friendship, but his current depression was the result of years of forced isolation that he still wasn't completely over.

"I am truly happy I was able to keep you alive. Your achievements in the Clan are praiseworthy and you deserve to live a full, happy, and healthy life among our peers."

A

23:11

Attifer

As he returned with their prisoners in telekinetic tow, Ruka went about seating the three Trandoshs in the shade, out of hearing range of the group. He hated to leave them tired to one another in rope, but he only had the one set of stun cuffs, and so set about trying to see if each of them would take water. Two weren't even responsive enough besides trying to bite him, but the one did after he drank from his canteen first. They didn't say anything, and neither did he.

The Mirialan shoved down his conscience again and straightened up, returning to the others. When he saw Eilen waving at him after a moment, Ruka rushed over.

"You okay, *Eilenmi*?"

T

23:13

Techsketch

Eilen hugged him tight as he came close. "Yeah! Yeah... just..." She shuddered. "...That was a lot worse than I expected," she whispered. "...You want an excuse to step away for a bit? Because... my speeder is like... a kilometer, at least, that way-ish." Without letting go, she hefted out a leg to point with her foot.

K{

23:14

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara dismounted from the speeder as it pulled to a quick stop.

"You guys patch up, I'm gonna pop up and see if I can get a view of the area."

Her jetpack quickly lifted her from the ground and easily deposited her on top of one of the plateaus nearby. What she hadn't accounted for was the setting twin suns directly in front of where she was looking.

Even through the tint of her helmet's visor, her pupils squeezed tight as fast as they could, but not fast enough to prevent her being momentarily blinded.

"Gah! Kark! Son of a *Huttkriffer*! *Lekksucker*! Ffffff-!"

Her exclamations came in a mix of Twi'leki and basic.

ZL

23:22

Zuza Lottson

It wasn't hard to see through the fake smile. Her brow creased, the wild look finally leaving her eyes as Zu crouched down.

"Your 'weakness' is what saved my ass. Im not accepting an apology for something you didn't do wrong, even with passing out. No matter what you'd have chosen to do, you still helped, and was important to what just happened. Just the like the stuff you saw earlier gave us information that's helped us know to come out here in the first place, ok? Ruka's got shade and water set up together, wanna go?" She offered her hand again to him. It was hard to discern exactly what was wrong, so she had just tried to sorta hit.. everything. Her mind was still rushing although her heartbeat was no longer in her ears at least.

R{

23:25

Rhylance (Arc Con)

Ele didn't want to cause any more trouble than he already had, so he took Zuza's offered hand, continued smiling and followed her lead.

At the end of the day, they still had a mission to complete. Karran needed to be found.

Ashyrith followed her pup closely. They had both come too close to death this mission and the Cythraul wasn't happy about it. She would continue to look after and pretext what was hers.

ZL

23:30

Zuza Lottson

Zuza headed over to the shade, letting go of his hand once they were over there, “Thank you, again. I hope I can repay you someday. But for now... I’m gonna head back to check on Sage, I’ll be right back.” She gave a glance to the others already there before turning to head back. Despite knowing he was okay really, she was still nervous about the crash. How he felt about it as well. Dammit she was worried about him. And Doon but he.. seemed okay mostly. If a bit angry, but that was far from unusual.

A
23:44
Attifer

Ruka's arms lifted automatically to hug her back, suffocating heat or no. The tight hold was comforting, helped settle some of the sheer panic and uselessness gnawing down below his bones at having been so far away from the fighting when it went badly and unable to track things. And just...the state of their attackers. None of this had warranted slaughter. They'd just come at them, in moments, and then...

He choked around a sound that could have been distress or a coo, endeared by the sight of her toes pointing when he looked down with the motion. He whispered back, "Ay...yeah, okay, buddy up. And that would be good. I need it. Just one sec."

Disentangling just a step, Ruka called over his shoulder, "Sully? Will you go help the Trandoshsans over there? I really think they need to be treated for being drugged. If you can."

T
23:47
Techsketch

Sully waved a hand high overhead and turned it into a thumbs-up.

With that settled, Eilen grinned back to him and pulled Ruka around. "So... you got a ride, or... are we just walking?" The latter was gonna be rougher, for sure, but it least it gave them more time to recover in a different way.

A
23:50
Attifer
"S'pose we can take any of these..." Ruka looked at the many dismounted speeders, one seaters, two seaters, and those with side cars. "Walking is fine too. I'd say we could run, but we should conserve our energy. Probably hop on a bike, yeah, ay. We walk, the sun will sap us worse than anything else."

T
23:53
Techsketch
She nodded and pointed to a bike nearby. "That'll do... And, uh... no reason we can't linger a bit, right?"

A
23:56
Attifer

Ruka climbed onto said bike, scooting to the front of the seat for Eilen's larger frame. "A bit," he allowed, agreeing. "Just not too long." 19 August 2021

A
03:27
Archian
"You will be alright buddy" Archian said to Sage and collected his medical supplies back to backpack. While doing that, he heard Ruka speaking with Sully about treatment of captured Trandoshsans. Shistavanen moved to closer to Sully, and by passing Ruka and Eilen at the bike spike to them. " I will help Sully, that will make it shorter for all of us, and also save some time". After that Red followed Sully to group of drugged road warriors.

S
05:22
SongBird

Doon watches the others, prepped to jump in wherever needed. As each of them wrap up their own scuffle he kneels, still covered in the mess that he made of the lizard. His golden gaze scans the others, keeping an eye out for any further trouble while simultaneously assessing damages. People were hurt, that much was clear. But Doon knew there was plenty of people around capable of helping.

Everyone was up and moving, that was the important thing.

His eye lingers on Zuza as he takes a handful of sand and starts rubbing his paws together, clumping the muck off his claws. He’d need a thorough wash after all this heat and mess. His own nose wrinkles at the thought of how he’d smell after the job. He turns his head and spits a bloody gob of gunk, tastebuds finally registering the chemical filth that flooded these lizards. Disgusting.

Finally he stands, and searches the sands and wreckage for Zig, not quite sure where the captain ended up after the crash.

KB

05:25

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

Strong stood beside his speeder, by the overturned buggy, staring down at the darkened sands underneath the forward portion of the vehicle. He was shaking his head, deep in thought.

ZL

06:56

Zuza Lottson

Zuza smiled to Archian as he walked past her, raising a hand to have but continuing to keep walking. She was relieved to see that Sage’s skin wasn’t bare muscle anymore, that the Zeltron was back up as usual. Things were calm again for now.

However, she started slowing to a stop, ending up standing a few metres away from Sage as her face paled. One arm crossed over her chest as the Human hunched over. Oh her *ribs*. It hurt. It wasn’t as bad as before Eleceos, but suddenly her whole chest was protesting everything. Every breath. *Every breath*. She managed to spit out a swear, protesting against the pain. She’d been healed for **karks** sake! This was stupid, she didn’t want to stop moving again. But the curse was regretted immediately as the pain flared for a moment and a whimper followed it. Maybe jumping that last Sarlacc hadn’t been the best plan..

E

08:48

Edema (Sophie)

Due to technical issues, the two Sephi were unable to rejoin the parties, they instead flew back to where the VB was berthed and docked ready to provide assistance when needed and also to assist with command and control aspects.

MC

12:08

Mune Cinteroph

Mune finds a nice spot in that shade and removed the armor weave cloak. Folding it they place it down and sit. The towel handed to then by Ruka was on their head. They had quickly gone back to irritable from the heat and sand. Out of their pack came a fur brush and they literally sat there brushing out their tail fur while resting. Priorities? They had the little fan from Zig resting on one knee to help cool down. They used that calm to restore their energy reserves, knowing there was no way they were not going to see more action once they've reached the enemy's hideout.

A

13:53

Attifer

Eilen slid onto the speeder behind him, arms looking even skinnier than normal with her fur a bit limp with sweat, but no less strong as they coiled around his chest. They'd rode like this a dozen times before, whether he was driving or she was grabbing the controls around him. It had been a favorite pastime when she was a Padawan, before they'd started tooling around building her her own bike.

The Mirialan clocked a last look around the group and the corpses and, longest, the survivors, measuring, before he turned his eyes forward and kicked off, twisting the throttle. He didn't go particularly fast; they didn't need another dust cloud. But the simple drift, even in the unrelenting heat, was more pleasant for having his apprentice there behind him. It reminded of better things, and offered familiarity. It was okay here to revv the engine a little and jump forward for a small burst of adrenal excitement that the both of them, motorheads, could well-handle. Just a small one, just a bit, to feel her squeeze tighter and know she'd have grinned, her muzzle making the shape of a feral smile against the back of his sweaty neck.

His own grin was just as tight and short-lived.

They passed the furthest out of the decimated buggies, then hit a wide stretch of open sand. Eilen didn't say anything in particular, so Ruka didn't either. He thought again of whether or not it would help or harm to ask, of words burning in his gut and on his tongue, like fire ants pricking his fingertips with the need to place his palm on the back of her neck, in her hair, to murmur, *are you okay, what's wrong, breathe with me, talk to me, I'm here, I've got you.*

Better or worse? He didn't know. But her unease and stress and the frayed nerves of her that hadn't settled since Baro ripped them open and left them exposed when he ripped out her heart nagged at his senses, at their bond. It was like a pulse, an itch.

Scri-scri-scriscrrrr.

Who can I trust-what if I can't-why wasn't I good enough?

He knew those questions too well. Especially when it came to a parent.

The thought conjured glassy, yellowed eyes and boozy breath. A clench in his stomach. Bruises and shouting. Scraped knees and bloody feet and more missing high heels. Laughter and crying but both just as airy and out of their mind.

Just like the Trandoshans. Who were now mauled, exploded, or crushed. Or overdosed. He'd flinched when he saw that one. Eilen's swoop idled up ahead. Ruka steered the borrowed speeder neatly up alongside it, killed the throttle, let the engine idle with a hum.

It wasn't going to cool much in this heat.

"Wanna take 'er into the shade? We can look her over," he said instead.

R{

13:59

Rhylance (Arc Con)

Ele felt a pang in the Force. He followed his feeling and that led him to Zuza, barely keeping it together, despite the pain she was feeling from her very bruised ribs. He didn't want her to hurt anymore so he approached her calmly.

"Zuza, I believe you could use another round of healing. There's no need to put up with this pain you're feeling."

ZL

14:06

Zuza Lottson

Zuza internally swore, looking round towards the Mirakula and attempting a smile. It came out very weak. She started to straighten up, but the still searing pain flared worse for a moment, so she decided to remain hunched, holding herself. Her voice was tense as she responded to him.

"I, I appreciate the offer. But you already passed out once healing me today. I'll survive, just need some pain meds." She again, attempted a forced smile, but was watching him carefully. They didn't need him down for the count, and she could fight like this. Wasn't exactly the worst injury she'd ever had.

R{

14:09

Rhylance (Arc Con)

Ele looked down in shame at the mention of his passing out. He knew that he had let down his team, and they were trying to keep protecting him. But he needed to persevere and show his worth.

"It takes far less energy to dull pain and heal some bruising than to put shattered ribs together again. I will be fine in helping you. Besides.

As you are now, you aren't in the best condition to fight or protect yourself. And we will desperately need one of your skill."

K{

14:13

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara came down from her lookout point with the assistance of her jetpack. As she landed, he pulled off the helmet off and wiped the gathered sweat from her forehead.

"Remember, water and shade are your best bets! Zuza! Are you at a hundred percent? You took a hard hit."

ZL

14:25

Zuza Lottson
Zuza bit her lip, concerned but firm in her opinion. "I.. can't thank you enough, for helpin' me. But some pain meds and I'll be good to go. No use wasting your skills and energy on some bruising when someone might end up in a worse state later. Team needs *both* of us, not just me. And you might be the difference between someone making it home or not."

L'ara's voice from behind drew a sheepish expression, looking over to the Twi-Lek, taking a few painful deeper breaths. Talking wasn't fun, but necessary. "Need something for pain, but I'm gonna be fine thanks to Eleceos."

T
14:29
Techsketch

Eilen didn't get off from behind him quite yet. "That's probably best," she figured, "...but... maybe just give it a minute."

That fight had been a lot more than any of them expected. Although her body had mostly calmed, Eilen's thoughts were still on edge, not only from the thought of another attack, but the manner in which the first had gone. Familiar as she was to causing destruction and mayhem, it didn't usually involve killing people — and it never got easier to see when it did. She could only imagine how Ruka was taking it.

In a motion she was usually afraid to try, Eilen breathed deep and let her senses reach out from her shell to get a feel for Ruka's. It wasn't her most practiced ability, and didn't give her much of a reading, but she knew enough about him to put together what he was holding back.

She released her hold on him, but leaned her head on top of his. "...We're gonna be okay," she said quietly, partly for him and partly for herself. "We're gonna... get Karran... go home... and everything will be fine."

A part of her didn't believe it fully — not *everything* would be fine, when all this was over, at least for herself. Every step she took was another toward selfish fears, and another away from problems she didn't want to face yet. But it would be fine for everyone else when they got home, and that mattered more.

Eilen sighed. The heat was miserable, and there was no telling what else lurked in these sands. Still, with Ruka right there, all she could hope for was another minute. She wondered if the feeling was mutual.

"...Are you gonna be okay?"

R(
14:30
Rhy lance (Arc Con)
Ele gave Zuza a hard look. He was strongly opposed to allow someone to be in pain when he could help. But he wouldn't force her, yet.
So the Miraluka smiled.

"Fine, take some pain meds, but if they don't help, then you will allow me to heal you. Deal?"

ZL
14:47
Zuza Lottson

Zuza chuckled, but nodded. "Deal. I.. will go find those." She gave him a thumbs up, glancing worriedly toward the quiet Zeltron sitting a few metres away before heading towards the shade to find some meds. Then she'd go worry about getting Sage under cover.

A
14:55
Attifer

Ruka grit his teeth at the question, at the small reassurances he suspected she didn't include herself in, gave in to the urge to reach up to bury fingers in her damp hair behind her ears while she let her head weigh down on top of his. His throat closed, and that just made it worse. Kriffing selfish, was what this was. He needed to get it together. Shove it down, ignore it, *get up, move, it's fine, it's fine, do it for them, find Karran*, just get Karran and Joseline and everyone home, just--

"I. I don't know." His hand flexed, once, and his leg bounced. "Can we-- I need to get up. I gotta move."

T

14:58

Techsketch

Eilen leaned off him right away, giving him the space to dismount. She gave him a worried look. "Ruka..."

A

15:04

Attifer

The Mirialan all but leapt off and started pacing in tight circles, flexing his hands and trying to keep them from shaking. He didn't know if it was with upset or anger or anxiety. Maybe all of them.

Stupid pathetic idiot-- no, stop it, focus, focus, it's fine-- it's not fine-- just--

"I..." He twitched, looked over at her, chewed on the inside of his cheek. "You're not okay, I know that, I'm trying not to ask, but-- I'm--" He couldn't keep looking so he turned away to keep moving, gestured behind them. "I just need a minute to get a hold on-- *that*."

T

15:23

Techsketch

Eilen frowned and extended her hands for a hug.

A

15:31

Attifer

Ruka shook his head at her, kept pacing.

"Not-- not yet. Sorry. Sorry. I. I feel *too*-- I'm." He stopped. Started, "Those people were all high out of they minds, Eilen. And-- You ever dealt with people really kriffed up? High or drunk or both? They're messed up. They're not thinking. They feel everything different. My Mama was always so drunk, she got into so much shit, she did-- she'd do anything-- It's the *same goddamn reason* you can't consent, why you can't consent if you're like that. They're not in *control anymore*."

He paced faster, muscles coiled, hands grasping at his hair, too hard, then returning to gesturing sharply with every word.

"Those monsters, on Atolli-- you wouldn't kill me. You wouldn't let me die, none of you, and-- I hurt Zujenia, I tried to kill her, I was going to kill all of you, and I'm supposed to be franging *forgiven*?" the word spat like acid. His arm lashed out, finger jabbing back whence they'd come. "*Those people are dead*. They were as out of their minds, out of control as I was, and *I'm* still standing here, and they're *dead*, they're franging shredded, did any of them even TRY not to kill? Zuza was laughing! *Laughing!* Sulvir looks like he rolled around inside a man. What, because they attacked us? WE COULD HAVE STOPPED THEM TEN OTHER WAYS. I'm not-- I'm not saying I'm not a goddamn murderer too, or I ain't *slaughtered* people, but-- but did these guys even have a chance? Did they even know what was happening? Of course they didn't stop when they got hurt, of course they came at us like crazy, THEY'RE HIGH! That man back there goddamn OD'd! You know how many ganger kids I saw like that back home? I don't-- I can't-- *ahh!*"

His arm jerked again, like he was hitting something. Several yards away, across the sand and along the other side of the canyon, a sandstone boulder cracked and split and caved in on itself in a rush. The gravel and silt fell in a shower, and Ruka fell back onto his ass, just sitting on the ground with head in his hands.

ZL

15:36

Zuza Lottson

Taking the pain meds was a short and uninteresting few minutes. Although the destruction they'd wrought was... hard to ignore now. She didn't really expect it to look that bad but... well she'd seen worse. Worse done for less. The blood sticking to her armour and face was steadily growing more notable.

A soft sigh escaped her, and she collected water for herself and Sage. She avoided stepping in anything on the way over to the big guy, slowing as she got close, "Sage? You ok?"

AL

15:41
Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

The Zeltron looked at Zuza clearly for the first time.

The state she was in, hunched over herself, clearly struggling to breathe.

Sage lifted his head to face her but couldn't. Her look was too pure, to innocent, even though he knew perfectly well she had seen blood and death more than once.

But this time it was different. The Zeltron had heard the conversation from when she was being healed. There was only one cause for all her injuries, and it was him. Sage was the one to blame for all this mess.

"I'm fine," he said, "shouldn't you be worrying about yourself rather than me?" His voice was cold, almost shrugging her concern off.
T

15:43
Techsketch

Eilen was coiled inward as she watched, hands clasping over her mouth. Her own guilt panged, begging her to speak up, but he needed to let his problems out — so, so badly, he needed to let himself have that.

When he'd finally dropped quiet again, she slid off the speeder and carefully approached. Her feet transitioned into tip-toing as she neared, and slowly, she eased herself down next to him in the sand.

A hundred memories of the Outer Rim surfaced at the front of her thoughts. Whether good people doing bad things or bad people letting themselves be worse, Ruka's words echoed many encounters.

"...Ruka. You *never... chose...* to let that happen to you. That's why you're forgiven, okay? And... and yeah, this stuff doesn't need to happen, but— well... that's really it, alright? People... *Some* people, they just... they do it to themselves, *on purpose*. And we can't just make it stop, right? For kriff's sake, it's not your fault."

K(
15:45
Karran (L'ara Erinos)
L'ara sat in the best piece of shade she could find and sipped some water, letting it sit in her mouth and hydrate the skin there before swallowing.

She contemplated all of the deat they had dealt out. Could they have done things non-lethally? Possibly, but at what cost? Zuza and the tall Zeltron, she hadn't caught his name, wer both banged up. If they had taken the time to make sure the Raiders had survived, they would have been the only ones taking those measure, and their own injuries could have been much worse.

She regretted the loss of life, but these people had made their choices in life. They chose to prey on the weak, and it came back around to bite them, hard.

ZL
15:49
Zuza Lottson

Zuza blinked, not expecting him to attempt to brush her off. But, it made sense so she didn't allow it to stick. He wasn't trying to hurt her, she didn't think he was anyway. She knew he hadn't meant to on the speeder.
She shuffled, awkwardly moving to sit down near him on the sands. Straightening up hurt too much but, the initial lash back of pain was starting to wear off in a deep dull ache. After a moment, she set down the canteen of water in the space between them, drawing out her own and sipping it for a moment, thinking. "I took some meds, I'll be okay. I... I thought you'd.." Her voice trailed off, recalling the painfully fresh moment of being unable to move but able to see the edge of his form still. "I thought you died. I know I'm okay, no point worrying about that but you're my friend. And you're hurt, so I'm worried."

A
15:50
Attifer

Ruka moved enough to shrug a little, run out of words and not sure what he was feeling about her sentiments or what to say to them. He knew they were true, he knew it, it was exactly what he despised Law and once Bleu for, why he'd told his mother, I will always love you, but I don't want to see you anymore, why so much... happened.

It just kriffing wasn't okay. And even when it was their fault, even if they did it to themselves...that didn't mean they deserved to be hurt in turn. That didn't make it right when people took advantage. It also didn't make them unaccountable if they hurt someone else, but--

He groaned, and listed aside, slumping into Eilen in a way that was very close to burrowing into her. It was immediately gross, because they were both so sweaty and hot and there was sand, but the press of her presence there-- that was a lot less complicated. A good thing.

T
16:03
Techsketch

His weight forced her to shift her own, but when Eilen got her balance, she gently curled her arms around him again. Baro had walked through this conversation before. Much as she was trying not to think of him, his words of wisdom had never failed her.

"They... they knew what they were doing. They decided that while they were still... thinking normally. I— it... It's not the same, alright? ...It's not the same. And we can't... you know... *act like* we're perfect enough to... figure out the perfect thing to do in the moment, every time, I guess is what I mean..." She sighed at herself, hoping the point made sense.

A
16:06
Attifer
"...yeah," Ruka rasped, tucked into her hold. He snaked an arm out and clutched around her back. "I know. I'm not. Saying. I've done worse to people, El, I know I have. And I wasn't there, they was hurt, it's messy, I just. It's just. Ugh." He squeezed once. His chest felt a little less like there were bands around it. "Thanks. Are you...?"

W
16:08
Wally
Zig would have time to berate herself later. Everything could be dealt with later. Future Zigs problems to solve. For now, she was needed.

The Zygerrian's beskar kept her more or less in the same shape as when they set out. She assessed the teams status.

"Do we have enough vehicles remaining or viable to move everyone? Otherwise I can try to scrap an improvisational skid or sled or something of the shrapnel."

She glanced around. "Also, anyone care to help me good cop, bad cop our captured friends?"

She looked over at the captured Trandoshans, who seemed to be suffering some kind of withdrawal. A quick glance from her visors sensors and she found one of the discarded spray-cans they had used.

T
16:13
Techsketch

Eilen's head slinked back as her neck muscles loosened. "...I'm really not," she confessed. "...More for reasons that... like... aren't fair, and... I mean, same old kark, but also... ugh." She shook her head gently. "Just stupid stuff I need to get over, really."

S
16:15
SongBird
Doon was crouched infront of the water barrel, carefully washing his paws off. He then ducks even lower, sticking his head under the barrel. He lets out a soft growl as he pulls on the spigot tab, sending a stream of water over his head and snout. Matted, bloody fur wasn't going to improve his mood at all.

One satisfied with soaking his head and neck, Doon stands and stretches his arms out, flexing his claws and jaw. As Zig speaks, his ear twitches and a snarl sets into his snout. As he steps out from the shade he shakes his head out, flinging water around him into the sand as he approaches the captain. “I don’t mind getting bloody again.” He growls out as he eyes the captives across the sands.

AL

16:15
Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

Her words hurt his pride. His ego. How could this have happened? He is 'The Boss' afterall, and 'The Boss' never shows weakness.

Yet there he was, all bruised, his jacket in tatters. One of his only friends hurt severely because of his stupid fear of speeders.

"AHHH!" Not knowing what to do or say, Sage resorted to the only thing he was good at.

He stretched his left hand forward and punched the rock to his side with all his might, which went well. The Zeltron didn't have his fisticuffs on and the rock was harder than he had anticipated. It shook with the impact but the same couldn't be said about the Zeltron. He felt his hand crack in some way and an acute sense of pain quickly travelled around his whole body. 16:16

"KarK!"

A

16:20
Attifer

"S'not stupid if it bothers you. And who's talking fair? I sure ain't bein' *fair*." He hugged a little tighter, and then reached up to massage at her neck doing its long slinky thing. The sweat was valiantly ignored on both their parts, but Bogan, was he swimming. Kind of starting to envy her outfit. "*Eilenmi*...just. If I can do anything for you. I always will. Even if you never get over all the it. Not asking you to. But I'll help if I can?"

ZL

16:26
Zuza Lottson

Zuza watched with a look of horror and concern and Sage just... probably broke his hand.

She dragged her own hand through her hair, resisting a grimace as she realised a clump of it was bound by a mix of blood and sand, and quickly pushed it behind her ear, wiping her hand on her trousers. Sand stuck to her hand. Zu did her best to ignore the gore, shifting in front of the Zeltron and doing her best to meet his eyes, "Sage! Holy kriff are you ok? Why did you-" She paused for a moment before redirecting, "Can I look at that, if its broken it'll need binding." Her voice was heavy with worry, her expression reflecting that as she held a hand out for his. She didn't know what to do precisely, but backing off certainly wasn't it. He was her friend.

T

16:31
Techsketch

Her face slanted, a little defeated. "I, uh... wish *anyone* could help with this one. It's just... something selfish, I guess."

Her eyes slid elsewhere as she took on a somewhat shameful expression and rubbed her neck. "...Sera and Karran... really have something special, huh? ...Not that... it's gonna make me, you know, not help. I'm just..." She sighed, already feeling guilty.

AL

16:34
Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

He reluctantly stretched his hand towards the Human.

"It's not broken," he assured her, "I've had worse."

He let his hand rest on Zuza's lap, waiting for her to confirm it wasn't broken. He trembled, fearing to touch her, afraid of causing her more harm. ZL

17:03
Zuza Lottson

"Doesn't mean it's not worth checking."

Without hesitation, but remaining gentle, she took his hand into both of hers, focussing. She wasn't a medic by any means, but she knew enough to find if knuckle was broken or not, looking his hand over and gently running her thumb over each joint, feeling for any misalignment or damage beneath the grazed skin. It helped a little that her hands was so tiny compared to his.

After a quiet minute she gave the unscathed top of his hand a pat, "You're good. Lucky as well." She chuckled softly, "Bacta would probably handle where ya hit it. Should get ya into the shade though either way, and drinking that water. The desert ain't kind." She gestured to the canteen, still sat in the sand.

AL
17:09
Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

"I'm..." he hesitated, "i'm so..."

Sage grabed the canteen and chugged the water in two gulps.

" I'm Sorry! "

ZL
17:14
Zuza Lottson

Zuza smiled weakly, shifting forward and hugging him. He was sweaty, and between the gore on both of them it was rather gross, but she didn't really care that much. He hadn't meant to hurt her, and tears formed in her eyes.

"Sage... I forgive you. I know you didn't mean to."

A
17:34
Attifer

Ruka's violet eyes widened slightly with realization. It wasn't really hard to put those two things together, and it wasn't like they hadn't shared before about her anxieties, especially physically, about men. Not for the same reason, but there was a similar vein to mine here.

The question was how to be *helpful* about it.

"They're close, ay, yeah," he allowed eventually, feeling supremely out of his depth and praying he didn't put his foot in his mouth as badly as he seemed to when trying to be a friend to Qyreia before they'd figured out the whole...wishing in a way for more thing. And just still in general half the time. Honestly it seemed like his toes paid his teeth rent, kriff. "But, like...what they got is also they own thing. It's family too. She took him into her tribe. She did the same to me, in a different way-- I'm not, y'know, Zabrak. It's not the same. But the brotherhood is there? And I mean... You'll have to talk to *her*, but from what I know, Sera is like...you. Open, y'know. Karran definitely is. And I'm *pretty sure* they aren't exclusive. So. Even when he's back, cause yeah, you're right, we're gonna get him back and we're gonna be okay...I think you still have a chance. And I think Sera would be really lucky to have a girl awesome as you ask her out." He pulled back a little so that she could see him smile awkwardly at her, raising both brows. He could sense her guilt, and Ashla and Bogan and his Ancestors knew that was a thing that was ugly and deep rooted but if some of the people he somehow had could shake him out of it sometimes then maybe he could. "If you want I can make it really weird and be all like, *I don't know if you're a good enough lady for my little sister*. Except like. To both of you. And then it'll be *extra* weird because it's like my sisters dating, and," he had never felt more like an asshole or like he was about to curse himself but the karma would be worth it if he survived, "--THEN Satsi comes in and says something about how *that's frakking hot sugars*."

He wasn't good at impressions. He still threw it high anyway.

W
17:43
Wally

Zig and Doon approached the Transoshans. They squirmed a bit in place, writhing and hissing and sneering. The one in the middle seemed to be the most composed of the three. His hisses were low and cold and his eyes focused on the group of Arconans, and followed the armored Zygerrian's movements as she drew close to him and took a knee in front of him.

"Alright, you're lucky that my friends here decided you were of more use to us alive," Zig said in an attempt to be a friendly presense.

No reaction. The Trandoshan stared blankly at her. She held up the can she found discarded.

"You were doing something with these cans? What are they...and where did you get them?"

The Transoshan lifted his head, peered into the Zygerrian's visor, and then spit a wad of phlegm at her. The other two started to cackle in response, their bodies twitching despite the restraints.

Lovely, Zig sighed. She was out her depth here. She didn't know anything about interrogations. That's what Marick was supposed to handle...

Two shadows suddenly flanked the Captain, with two burly bodies blotting out the twin suns to cast a literal shade over Zig and the captured raiders. Doon and Strong took a simple step forward. Doon slowly let his lip curl back to show rows of fangs, his guttural growl a warning of its own when paired with his matted fur and grizzly glower.

Strong simply cracked his knuckles, one by one, slowly and deliberately. He rolled his wrists, his armor creaking faintly against his muscled torso and powerful shoulders. His armored helm revealed literally nothing, a stoic presense backed by the confidence of his posture.

The center Transohan that had spit on Zig turned his head to look away and said nothing. The one to the right stopped hissing but seemed to button up as well. The third, however, began to squirm and refused to look at the trio of Arconans. It seemed that she wanted to be literally anywhere else, and wanted nothing to do with the towering Chiss and sneering Shistaven.

Zig smiled behind her helmet and moved towards the weakest link. She held up the can to her face. "What is it, and where did you get it from? If you cooperate, we'll only punish your two other friends here."

The raider looked frantically at the other two, who seemed to "dare" her to say anything. When he looked back, Strong's modulated voice spoke resonantly, **"We can start with each finger and work from the thumb outward. Transohan bones break the same as any."**

In response, Doon let out a low, throaty chuckle.

The Transohan's entire body language retreated into itself, all sense of bravado leaking away. "Spiccee," she explained. "...uniquely refined..variant of spicce from the Sscorekeeper makesss us sssstronger. Powerful. Take what we wantss."

Zig studied the canister and nodded. "This Scorekeeper...are they the leader of the Crimson Sarlaccs?"

The other two raiders hissed and whipped their heads around, shaking their heads furiously. The one speaking, however, kept their attention on Zig, trying avoid looking at Doon or Strong desperately. "Scorekeeper...no," she shook her head. "No Sarlaccsss here. We are Serpentine Strikers. Take what we want," she said slowly, her voice not raising too high as if afraid to be overheard.

Zig was caught off guard at that. Their attackers weren't part of the Crimson Sarlaacs? But what about Eleceos' vision. The leader was supposed to be a Transoshan. In the back of her mind, another voice screamed *"SPACIST"* at herself, but she ignored the voice.

"But did the Scorekeeper get the spice-cannisters from someone. Is it the Sarlaccs?"

"Perhaps..."

Zig sighed and realized she was probably losing the intimidation factor bonus she had going. "Okay, last one and we'll let you go. Do you know where the Crimson Sarlacc make their base?" Hesitation, hissing from the others.

Zig removed her helmet and looked the Transohan in the eyes. "Please...they have my friend," Zig spoke softly.

17:43

The raider seemed to take this reveal of the Zygerrian in different ways, all too quick and subtle to be discerned. "Underground. Sewers, just south of her--"

17:44

CRACK

T

17:47

Techsketch

Eilen grinned sheepishly and shook her head, eyes shut. "You're ridiculous..." She let the thought hang between them, then muttered, "Thanks."

W

17:47

Wally

A horrible sound assaulted Zigs senses. A wet, meaty *thump*. Scale, blood, and black-and-green ichor splashed her face as the Tranoshans head simply exploded from a high velocity sniper round.

Zig was too shocked to respond or react. She simply stood there, frozen in place. Before the rest of the group could react or shout warnings, two more **cracks** split the air and the remaining two Tranoshans met a similar fate.

In the distance, from the top of a ridge, a few moments later a distant engine could be heard, as the likely assassin took off towards the South.

AL

17:51

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

At the sound of gunshots, Sage reacted by instinct, covering Zuza with his body against the wall, keeping her safe from harm.

"What in the kark is going on!"

S

17:51

SongBird

With a barked order in Shistavanen, Doon took a step forward instinctively. Positioning his body infront of Zig from the direction of the shots. His golden eye scanned the sands, unfortunately not making out much. He claw darts to his side, ensuring his personal shield was still active. He lets slip a few more guttural curses in his native tongue, in able to do much more than he is.

KB

17:52

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

Strong sighed at the senseless slaughter, glancing at his bike. With his bulk, there was no way he was catching the shooter, better to watch over the wounded he decided.

ZL

17:54

Zuza Lottson

Zuza's head was over her shoulder, still in the midst of a hug and almost too surprised by suddenly being shift, and the sudden shot.

However, she followed the sound of the first shot, and as the other two followed, she spotted the figure turning to run off the ridge.

She wiggled, "A sniper?! Sage we need to check on the others!" She was unaware of the hostages they'd taken, and it felt like ice in her heart at the thought of who just got shot. With how those went off, and where he was, they weren't likely to be alive.

"Kark!" She shimmyed from behind Sage and, limping slightly, moved back toward the others.

A

17:54

Archian

Archian was still around Prisoners and trying to patch them up.

He smelled something around them, possibly it could be some ingredients for sprays that Transohans used for their battle rage.

Archian wanted to be quick with it, but also he didn't want to show his tail and ass to everyone around. Red decided to stand at his arms and by sniffing ground around them, catch up each of particulars of scent, that he could recognise with his medicine knowledge.

Shistavanen was making circle while Zig and Doon started interrogation. He left this to them, he wanted to focus on job which he knew, he can do.

Sudden shot, and blood which has fallen at him , distracted him enough that he fall at his back, and quickly covered himself with his Riot Shield.

"Is everyone alright?" He already knew that in the middle are only three bloody masses, which doesn't matter anymore.

A

17:57

Attifer

The distant trio of **CRACKS** splitting the air and a belated warning of *wwwrrrrroooooonnnGGG* in his senses had Ruka's smile for Eilen disappearing and his head snapping around even as his body snapped upright. He gasped, swore, and barked, "Come on! The others!"

Then the Mirialan took off running, pushing the Force into his muscles that cramped with the heat.

K{

17:59

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara jumped up, helmet in hand,, spilling her water into the sand which swallowed it up thirstily.

In a moment, her eyes scanned, spotted the sniper, and tracked their movement. She took off running, shoving her helmet on as she did before jumping onto a speeder to give chase.

She practically yelled into her comm, "We have to catch that assassin! If they're with the Sarlaccs, they'll give up our location and numbers!"

AL

17:59

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

After making sure Zuza was ok and no more shots were fired, Sage too darted off behind Ruka.

There was no way he'd get on a speeder again. He'd run the whole sea of dunes if it was necessary.

T

18:01

Techsketch

Eilen's ears flexed toward the noises, immediately wiping the look of her face. "Ohh no— R-Ruka?! Hey!" She hopped up and threw her arms to either side. "We've got— Oh, for the love of..."

A hand dragged over her face, but she wasted no further time. Right away, Eilen hopped onto her swoop and powered it back up. With a kick, she oriented toward Ruka and the sound of the noise and gunned the engine.

She only slowed as she passed by him to offer a telekinetic nudge toward her vehicle. "Get on, dummy!"

A

18:04

Attifer

The Mirialan looked over as an engine ROARED up next to him, felt immediately idiotic, and waved an affirmative, bracing as she then pulled him telekinetically up and on. He grabbed around her waist, tapping to let her know he was secure and silently apologizing for cramming her tail between them, then hung on tight.

ZL

18:04

Zuza Lottson

Zuza ran over, but didn't see anyone down except 3... corpses. Lizards. Not friends.

She shook her head and hopped onto the nearest speeder. That was a problem for later. Hissing between her teeth, she got into the seat, ribs protesting the sudden movement but pressing buttons and getting it into gear. It was a shame hers was down but... well. Problem for later as well.

No wait. Problem now. The speeder she hopped onto was clearly Zig's now looking, and she had no damned clue where the Captain had put her ignition switch. She looked at it with an annoyed glare.

T

18:05

Techsketch

As soon as Ruka was aboard, Eilen used her free hand to pull up her scarf and lower her goggles. The engine burst to full throttle a moment later.

K(
18:32
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

As L'ara pursued the assassin, she spotted another motion signature on her scanner nearby, matching her speed. She looked to see Eilen and Ruka gaining on their target as well.

Suddenly, she got what seemed to be an amazing idea. "Oi! Space wizard! I'm gonna shoot him," she winced at her word choice, "*stun* him. When I do, he's gonna lose control of the speeder, can you do your fancy magic trick to pull him off when I do?"

She took her left hand off of the controls, still gripping the throttle in her right. She wouldn't have brakes, but hopefully she wouldn't need them. Her hand went down to pull her Westar from its holster to aim and waited for the Mirialan's reply

A
18:34
Attifer

"Do it," Ruka responded, grim, raising one hand while Eilen blasted them across the sand.

ZL
18:37
Zuza Lottson

Zuza was getting on a speeder, but by the time she was sorted she was lagging way behind.

Ah well, if the assassin had backup she'd be able to help out with that.

K(
18:42
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara nodded to the green man as she looked back toward her target. They were moving at a good clip. Dunes were a blur. She took a deep breath and pulled the trigger.

As she did, a ring of energy burst from the pistol and hit the assassin square in the back.

"Now!"
A

18:46
Attifer

The figure's body slumped and went limp for less than half a heartbeat before Ruka was already closing it in a telekinetic hold that could have been called a cradle, lifting the form up and levitating it to the ground in a gentle slump. As soon as it touched down, he let go and instead fixed his eyes on and extended his mind towards the runway speeder itself, depressing the machine's brakes. It started to slow, and very quickly, he and Eilen and L'ara were flying right by, needing to slow and turn around themselves to get back to their downed targets.

K(
18:49
Karran (L'ara Erinos)
"YEEEEEEEEHOOOOOOO!!!"

L'ara let out a victorious cry paired with a trio of blaster shots into the air before holstering the weapon and whipping her speeder around.

A
18:50
Attifer

Ruka, of course, was silent about the victory, instead snapping when she let off shots, "*Stop that!* They'll come right for us!"

He gestured pointedly at the settlement the speeder had been heading towards, mind already racing, body tense. Would more of them arrive in minutes now, right for this location?

A

18:58

Archian

While everyone around jumped and speeders, Archian managed to stood up, and put away his Riot Shield.

He looked at machine flying away with their drivers, but close by to him was standing Zig, totally covered with blood from their former prisoners.

He stepped aside of her and took some bottle full of water from his medipack, and gently washed up her face. With very sensitive touch he moved his fingers around female eyes, to not damage them with his claws.

When Zig's eyes were ready and cleaned, he passed bottle to her and propose. "Use it to wash off rest, i will take care of this bodies. Better if we get rid of them, other way someone can seek revenge on us".

MC

19:00

Mune Cinteroph

Mune approached the mess the prisoners had become, arching a brow. They watched Archian help clean her up some. "Zig... I have my fur brush if you need..." what else was there to say?

A

19:02

Archian

Red moved closer to the bodies and tried to move some of the parts. He tried to dig hole for them but sand was collapsing every time back to the place.

"Well that won't work" Archian looked confused at the bloody parts waiting to be removed from the view.

W

19:26

Wally

You should be used to this by now, really.

Too many things happaned at once. She knew she had to move, had to lead, had to take action. But her body froze. Everything she'd been putting off seemed to assault her. Kararn had left her. Avery had left her. Sera had left her, not in the way the others had, but she had gone too. Zag left. Alaisy had left her. She had let everyone down, and that's why they left. She had tried to be brave, to conceal it, to focus on everyone else. Eilen was suffering...Zuza though she wouldn't speak of it was going through her own pains. Even Aru...was trying to do better and Zig continued to treat him as she always had. Like she was somehow better. She wasn't. She was just as broken as everyone else.

She had gotten used to some of the darker things, thanks to Alaisy. Sith, spirits, symbiotes? Not so scary. Tall empowering people? Fair.

Death was...something else still. Especially right in front of her. She had promised the woman safety, and in the end her words had meant nothing.

Zigs hands trembled. She heard the words of her teammates and tried to blink and focus as the twin-suns overhead baked the blood and ichor on her face.

"Thank you Mune," she said automaticlaly, but waved away his offer. She mechanically reached into her bag and pulled out a nerf-wool towel. She hadn't packed one, but somehow she knew in the back of her mind that Wyn had swapped it out with something else she had packed. He was consistent, at least. She wiped her face with the towel and tried to focus. She took the bottle from Archian greatfully and poured it over her face, matting her bangs and trickling off her chin before she blotted her face down.

Her armor seemed more or less fine, the colorful paintjob only marginally dampened by the ichor.

"Thanks everyone. Let's...move. There isn't anything we can do for them...now..." she said, voice barely a whisper, as she slide into her helmet and tried to hide inside it.

19:28

There was no action from the settlement beyond. The body of the assassin was wearing light armor and a helmet. Female by the contours and shape of the now limp body that Ruka had caught and lowered.

A
19:40
Attifer

As Eilen slowed the speeder, Ruka hopped off and stalked over, hands open, just in case. But the female -- one presumed -- didn't move, and the Mirialan crouched to look closer. His initial instinct was to take the helmet off just to look, and he disregarded it; it didn't matter what or who she was, just that she was a person they'd need to watch and treat well now, especially if there was going to be any upset with the team. Though, he still didn't know what had happened...

"L'ara, who was hurt?" Ruka asked, quiet and grave, glancing again at the compound and then the Twi'lek. He reached to remove the rifle on her back, then fit arms under the woman's legs and shoulders and lifted, standing. Her helmet was an uncomfortable wedge that thumped against his chin and rattled his teeth, kriff.

A
19:51
Archian
Archian looked at Zig.

She looked brave, but hiding under the helmet made her look vulnerable. Red has putted his paw at top of hear headgear from behind, and with other snuggled her around waist. As usual he wasn't the best with cheering people up, so unfortunately he said what he said. " Misson is important, but you as a leader must take care of yourself. And don't get used to me hugging you often...". Which after a few seconds he released her and turned to Mune.

"Please keep her company, I have a feeling that we will be moving as soon as we have any information about assassin". After this words Red moved away to restore his privacy bubble, which as for introverted personalty was needed.

MC
19:55
Mune Cinteroph
Mune gave a firm nod to Archian, "I expect it will not be long. Captain, I hope you do not mind my accompanying you."

What they actually meant by the words were, *I know you will not ask for the company so, I will be here with you if you need to reach out.* They offered a bit of a smile but generally for them, the situation made it difficult to put on a smiling face.

K(
19:57
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"None of ours, just the three Trandoshans we took prisoner. Something tells me this one," she nudged their prisoner with her boot, "wanted to make sure they didn't give anything up."

A
20:05
Attifer

The Trandoshans were dead? *Dammit, dammit, goddammit.* He couldn't save anyone. It was just more franging death.

He swallowed tightly, glaring when L'ara nudged the assassin and shifting away.

"They'd kill their own people?" Ruka muttered, disgusted. "Wait, did they say anything? Are-- *were* they part of the gang?"

K(
20:14
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"I'm not sure, I wasn't there for the interrogation. I just heard the shot and saw the shooter. Wouldn't shock me if they did kill their own though. If I'm right, these Sarlaccs are brutal. I've seen their type before. They get off on hurting people smaller and weaker than them."

L'ara scoffed, sneering under the T-visor of her helmet, "Not everyone has principles like us. And if you show too much restraint, they'll stab you in the back without so much as a thank you for your kindness."

She shrugged, "but what do I know? I'm just a soldier and a scout."

W

20:17

Wally

Zig smiled from under her helmet. Archian meant well, and the hug did help with her focus. She nodded at Mune, her smile becoming a bit more serious behind the visor.

"Yeah. Let's move."

ZL

20:20

Zuza Lottson

The humming of engines came within reasonable distance, as Zuza on the borrowed speeder approached. She shut it off before getting close enough throw sand up in all of their faces before hopping out onto the sand. The jolt of movement made her clench her jaw and take a moment, before she started walking over the trio. Well, the four. Did it count if one was unconscious? Too damn much was happening too quickly on this mission.

She noticed the cuffs but remained quiet, not interrupting the conversation but offering an awkward wave. Just.. just a bit late.

A

20:25

Attifer

Ruka's brows lifted somewhat out of their furrow at her last comment.

You sound like a kid having a passive aggressive tantrum, is what, he thought, but didn't say.

"I dunno know what you know, L'ara, so I'm not sure what you're actually asking, or why you're calling yourself *just* anything. It's not really the time for it, though. We gotta get back." He adjusted his hold, nodded to Eilen. "Go on ahead, let the others know we're coming, ay, *arrarmia*. I'll take this one and her bike. L'ara, you want to watch our back?"

K{

20:36

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"That's what I do third best, after blowing stuff up and piloting."

W

21:13

Wally

The rest of the Arconans caught up to Ruka, L'ara and Zuza who had zipped on ahead. Zig had been forced to hot-wire Zuza's speeder, but the act of getting her hands dirty and focusing on the mechanical nature of the task seemed to have helped ground her a bit. She hopped off the speeder and parked it near where Zuza had placed Kaylee.

The others all came and gathered. A small plateau was ahead, and Zuza had already found a spot to try and scout. Beyond that, a small outpost had been set up. There was not a lot to the town, but the homes were typical tatooine fashion, single-story, made of stone and a mixture of square and rounded architechute. There was a cantina, and some housing, but not much else. In the center of the town was a singular grate that was both inconspicuous and obvious at the same time.

A

21:24

Attifer

As the others arrived, Ruka carried their shooter over to the plateau they all gathered near and set her down against the rock. He unclasped the stun cuffs he carried from his belt and clasped them on her wrists, careful not to touch anymore than absolutely necessary. Then the Mirialan paused and frowned. It didn't seem good to leave her here, to who knew what conditions of the desert, but they wouldn't be able to carry her along.

He'd figure it out soon. For the moment...

The Sith stood and rejoined the others, examining them briefly. More blood on Zig -- hopefully not hers. Mune hovered close to her. No one seemed any *more* hurt, though Sage's hand was swollen when he thought maybe it hadn't been before. He glanced up then instead, waiting for whatever Zuza would report and wondering if he should go up on the plateau's ridge too. ZL

21:34

Zuza Lottson

Zuza had settled herself onto the plateau, uncomfortable being laid on her chest but the pain meds had kicked in fully so it was fine.

She had let Ruka, Eilen and L'ara return to the pit stop, and had remained in the area, finding this outcropping and using it to their advantage. It was a good viewing point, looking down on the surface settlement. It wasn't much seemingly, but there was a cantina that was busy with well armed folk. Whether they were gang members or not was.... She tried to peer, but couldn't make out anything that looked like a clear sign.

With everyone up on the dunes however, she shifted off of her viewing spot, unusually careful as she slid down, still aware of her injury despite the pain reduction. For the better, the most of the gore that was on her, none her own, was now covered in sand. At least it didn't look as bad as it did initially, but the Human could certainly use a clean up at some point having not had the chance yet. Upon spotting Ruka she gave him a smile, glancing around to double check *everyone* was there before meeting his eyes properly, "You alright? Didn't get a chance to see if you were after that mess back there."

A

21:38

Attifer

"Fine," Ruka answered briefly, but tried to soften his tone. "Are you?" His eyes roamed over her slightly hunched posture, having noted ginger movements on the way down that, if he had to guess at all from knowing her in their short time, was less from caution and more out of pain. "See anything? I might go look."

ZL

21:47

Zuza Lottson

"Overcompensating a bit, I'm alright." She shrugged slightly, still smiling and looking toward the ridge, "And yeah. Big old grate is fairly left alone, but the cantina is busy. Looks like a focus point for 'em, everyone is armed but there's no guards about. No one on a patrol, or in any vantage points. Couldn't see if they're wearing anything with any gang symbols or anythin', but, hey, we've found *something*."

She paused for a moment, the gears visibly turning in her head, "Was the assassin person helmeted? Might be worth doing the good old clothing switcheroo and seeing if we can find out for sure before trying to barge our way in. Someone's gonna be the same-ish stature to sneak down, find out, claim they forgot they speeder and we've got a scouting done."

A

21:54

Attifer

Ruka shifted uncomfortably at the idea of undressing someone they had stunned and prisoner against their will, but...it wasn't the worst idea. Then again, others could go in more undetected.

"Maybe?" he hedged, tilting his head to point at where the assassin rested. "She's got a helmet on, yeah. Maybe if one of you can fit into her clothing. I even brought her bike. Still risky though. Eilen is also great at cloaking, uh-- going invisible with the Force. I'd say Law is actually unfortunately good at it too, but..."

ZL

22:00

Zuza Lottson

"But he's still missing. I'm not too worried, he did this last mission and showed up just fine later so... he'll probably do the same trik again." She chuckled, shaking her head, "If Eilen can sneak in all invisible like, then that'd work better. No risk of folk noticing the voice is wrong, or the personality an' so on. And saves.. stripping someone we have cuffed."

She pulled an awkward expression, "Might nick her bike though, I have no idea what happened to mine. The whole crash thing went by pretty quick."

MC

22:05

Mune Cinteroph

Mune, seeing that things were settled down some while they waited, moved to a spot of shade. Removing their cloak they again folded it up and sat upon it. The heat was ridiculous but they hated doing nothing, they were not good at standing around being inactive. They did not stray far from Zig, wanting to ensure she knew that they were nearby if they so needed.

The small shistavanen, taking a slow breath, calmed their mind. They hadn't opened themself in such a manner outside the quiet and calm of their quarters in a long while. They managed though, letting the world around them fall away, the noise of their surroundings receding, the present being swallowed up as their eyes shut. It was different from their zoning out during a briefing... or the selective hearing when someone boring spoke... The Force whispered, or so it always seemed, to them, when they meditated and fanned the flames of the first gift they initially touched upon when still very young.

They breathed deep, drawing in a centering breath and exhaling just as slow. Calm, centered, the here and now far from their mind, the called on the Force and the possibilities that lay ahead, trying to grasp at the strongest of them and inviting it to fill their mind so that they may witness what lay ahead.

A

22:20

Attifer

"Yeah. Rather not undress somebody. No one should go through that without they consent." The Mirialan squinted at the bike mention. "Yours was in that mess, with the other buggies. I got a look. Banged up, but we can salvage it easy. Your nose and rear was dented and so was the right thruster but replace that and buff out the panels and as long as the internals are fine she'll be good."

ZL

22:27

Zuza Lottson

"Yeaaaaaaah." Zuza nodded in agreement, but then looked rather surprised. With all the explosion sounds and crashing, she'd assumed it had at least been mangled, exploded at worst. But then again, she hadn't exactly gone to check herself. "Oh huh, awesome!" A pleased expression followed quickly, glad that the others had at least not assumed the worst on it, bouncing on her toes twice before stopping herself, "Something for after the mission to sort out, but thank kark. Just a bike, but, well yeah."

"I'll let Zig know what I saw. Wanna come with or are you taking a peek too?"

A

22:38

Attifer

"I'll go up and look just to see. Won't feel ready if I don't. Gonna talk to Eilen too." He nodded to her. "Hey. Ay. Bike or not...if it's important, I could maybe help fix it. If like, one of the better mechanics can't. Probably can, but still."

MC

22:42

Mune Cinteroph

Mune's ears perked, the sound of running water filling them. The sound was only part of it though, the man, was he looking right at them? They studied the Zabrak, tried to memorize his features, the look of the cell. They recognized some of the things Ele has described, a sewer, piping... They felt the need to tell the man that they were on their way, that they'd save him soon but... Mune knew better. They were only impressions received through the Force.

They drew their consciousness back into the present, following that path back into where he sat in the here and now. Deep breaths filled their lungs with hot, dry air. The feel of all that heat returned, the itchiness under their fur, the sound of their clansmates. They shook out their fur, coming back to themselves completely and opening their eyes to let them focus on the sun baked sand.

Biting their lower lip some in thought, they debated who they should talk to about what they saw, or if they even should, the same thing they had warned Ele against. Though... it was different in this case, was it not? They frowned some, eyeing Ruka where he was with Zuza. *Perhaps it would lift his spirits...* they thought. *But you know better... worse can be had by sharing the visions.* they argued internally.

"Ruka..." Mune said low, as if uncertain still and caught between wanting to speak and not. They were getting slowly back to their feet.

ZL
22:45
Zuza Lottson

"..I'd appreciate that." She smiled to him, nodding in understanding at his first comment before turning to go find Zig.

A
22:52
Attifer

Ruka was about to turn and leap up the plaeteu when Mune's quiet voice stopped him. He approached the few steps closer to the slim Shistavanen, noting they looked a lot cleaner and...oddly well brushed when he'd last seen them covered in gore.

"You alright, Mune?" the Mirialan asked, extending a hand to help the other up, just as ready to crouch down beside them. The other was panting, and seemed a little tight around the eyes, but it was so hard to tell with fur. He only could after years with Eilen. "Do you need some more water? You can have mine."

MC
23:01
Mune Cinteroph
Mune offered a nervous smile then gave their head a shake. They studied the Mirialan's violet eyes, swallowing hard they spoke before they could change their mind, "He is waiting for us, he knows we are here."

They were still gathering themselves back up, shaking off the last of the vision. "I cast forward and, I was in his cell. He was looking directly at me... or... I think it was him from what I gathered from all of you. They were looking at me as though they could see me. I heard running water. The sewer. Pipes." They looked away, "I... I've been taught to _never_ share the visions. I... you... I don't know. I wanted to tell you, out of anyone... I think he is expecting us."

When they were done speaking, they were panting again, as if only the talking kept that tongue from lolling right back out. Their ears lay back as if they expected to be admonished for sharing what they saw. They'd given more than one seer a stern glare for sharing, more than once... now they did the same because they thought it was worth it, to help someone they thought could use it, needed it. "I am sorry if... if... I should just stay silent on it... I... I mean.... I just... I wanted... I..." They huffed and frowned, "Silence, yes, I should just be silent. My apologies."

A
23:23
Attifer

"*Mune*," Ruka choked out, his heart having stalled somewhere back around, *he is waiting for us*. Karran was here, Karran was alive, Karran hadnt given up--

He hasn't realized what he was really, truly fearing until right then. His mind hadnt let him. But he knew then. He'd been waiting, worrying, that they would get here too late and find Karran...

Like Yi'o all over again, except this time Ruka wouldn't have *watched* him jump.

His brain was catching up. Mune's words, being taught silence, the stumbling and hesitation and pinned back ears, expecting to be hit.

"Mune. I'm. I'm going to hug you now," Ruka explained. He reached out slowly, and, hesitating a moment at the risk of crossing a line, giving the other time to refuse while telegraphing the movement all the while, pulled the Shistavanen into a hug. "Mune. Mune, please. You don't have to apologize, please-- *thank you*. Thank you. *Vagraci, vagraci, vagraci.*"

The little chant in his own tongue slipped out, and he clung for just a moment longer before pulling away, in case being touched upset the seer. His face felt wet, and he blinked hard to clear tears from places he'd thought he'd made peace with.

"Thank you for telling me. Thank you for being so brave. I won't betray that trust, ay, I swear it."

MC
23:39
Mune Cinteroph

Mune's ears eased up, they were uncertain at first then, relaxed into that embrace, returning it after another moment. Tears stung their own eyes. They knew it had been worth it, to go against everything they had been taught, everything that was driven into their wandering skull... It was worth it, to ease the burden upon their friend's mind and heart.

The hug ended and, Mune offered the towel, freshly rung out and lightly damp with cool water for Ruka to wipe away the tears. Their smile has lost the nervousness, instead, there was warmth and certainty there, knowing they had made the right choice. 20 August 2021

A
03:42
Archian

Archian was resting. He knew that time is clicking, and that they are close to enemy. He needed to focus. He dug his paw inside of the robs, and checked on Scurrier, who was still sleeping between the material. Small creature opened the eyes, moved his snout a few times, stood up at its muscular back legs and looked straight at Red.

It was a staring contest between them two. Both of them didn't want to give up, but Scurrier got bored, turned around, after made a few circles around Archians palm of the hand, and lye back down to sleep, lke nothing has happened. Archian smirked under his nose, and putted back creature inside of his robes.

KA
04:27
Kaled Atros

Miraluka was sitting a bit further away from the group. His left arm was shaking. The massacre has left shaking. And for a moment he started to have doubts.

There were so much things that he could take, but how much more is enough?

Focus... just...I-
This time it was not Kaled who committed the act, but the feeling...
It was like a wound or a painful scream. It was enough to make to send a grown man on his feet. And then
silace. *I...I can't... Aayala was right....I can't do this for much longer..*

Miraluka took off one of the shining stones that were tied up on the beads on his hilt. The stone was opal, round and smooth. On the sunlight it shined in myriad of colours. For Kaled the colors were not that important. But the shape and how the stone is smooth on the touch was calming.

"You.. were right.. I'm really not up for this..." Kaled whispered softly to himself.

E
09:44
Edema (Sophie)
Edema and Jor fired up the repulsors, sand blowing everywhere as they lifted off and set course to meet up with the rest of the team. It took several minutes to reach them but they were both ready on the ramp for the arrival. Jumping off the ramp as sand flurried around them causing the others to cover their faces, the two Sephi rejoined the team.

09:54
The shuttle thundered off once more, scattering sand everywhere as Edema and Jor'ana joined the team once again.

E

11:09

Edema (Sophie)

Jor scuttled off with her usual stealthy efficiency to find an overwatch point, somewhere high with plenty of vantage and cover, she would need a good spot to set up her rifle to cover the team as they advanced on the target. she picked a tall structure on the outskirts of the town, it had a view over the target and the surrounding area. She worked her way in, bypassing locks, luckily it was empty so she made her way to the roof and began to setup.

ZL

11:15

Zuza Lottson

Zu wandered through the group, taking a drink of her water and really hoping they'd brought the tanker. The blood was already mostly dried, she wasn't keen on having to deal with this back on the VB.

Either way, she soon spotted Zig and headed over to her, doing a small wave. She was concerned, knowing Zig had been in front of those guys when they'd been shot but... well she didn't quite know what to do about that right now. She'd work it out.

W

11:16

Wally

"What are you thinking, Zu?" Zig asked from behind her helmets slight modulation.

ZL

11:25

Zuza Lottson

"I spent the time on that ridge watching them. There isn't any guards in particular, but everyones armed and comin' in and out of one building. Looks like a cantina. But there's also a big grate that goes underground in the middle of the place, so considering what Ele's vision was about, we probably want to go in there. Not sure if we wanna go in sneaky, but it might help. Someone... Ruka called it Cloaking? Going invisible, or disguised. Dunno really, planning ain't my strong suit." She chuckled, and then her expression became more serious.

"Are you okay though? That looked like a nasty situation back there."

A

12:29

Attifer

Ruka took the returned towel and patted at his face, taking a breath to recenter his nerves. Karran was here. That Joseline girl likely was. And possibly others.

They had to get to them, and they had to be careful. Images flashed in his mind, Kaedeans rasping and crying with guns to their heads, suffocating in a bunker. Miners of a colony trapped behind plasmic shielding by their slaver-turned fellows. Hostages made everything so much worse.

"Thank you," he said again to Mune, tone stronger now. He tucked away the towel, and then turned to stride straight for the *Voidbreaker* captain, even though it was rude interrupting her chat with Zuza. "Captain Kaliska? I know it's ain't really my place, but I wanna say something. We NEED to be careful here, and go in quiet, or maybe distract em, something. But not smashing in the front. That's how hostages die. I've seen it too many times, and we know they got two at least, probably more, and they willing to drug and kill they own people. Eilen can go on cloaked, or L'ara is a scout she said? Could look around maybe, or maybe like Zuza was saying we can use the assassin, long as we ain't torturing her." He paused, exhaled, looked meaningfully at some of the more...loud or brute force of the group.

"I'm plenty willing to give them someone to chase. Or make a bunch of noise. Whatever you think is best. Just-- please, let's be *careful*."

MC

12:34

Mune Cinteroph

Mune followed close behind Ruka. They listened then nodded in agreement. "We should also avoid any indicators of what we are here for... so anything that may link us to the Brotherhood, even the Force... else they may realize who we are here for and... well..." They would rather not say what they were thinking.

"I also do feel if we send someone in cloaked... that they should not be solo... if something went wrong." For this, they glanced up at Ruka, "We should no risk Eilen, I know she is good but... No one should be alone just in case." It probably sounded overly cautious but, was it worth risking one person to save another? They did not think so right then, and just from seeing how Eilen and Ruka interacted, they knew if something went wrong...

"I do not mean to overstep or anything," they added nervously.

E

13:33

Edema (Sophie)

Edema had already slipped into cloak, despite all her bulk and weapons, she was silent and invisible, her motions going undetected thanks to the force. She positioned herself close to where their quarry was and readies herself.

13:34

She could see the other elements of the team picked out on her hud, they were getting ready, she assumed some kind of distraction was going to be prepared, however she was in position to prevent... Intervention.

A

14:01

Attifer

"Scouting is useful. We hardly have the intelligence necessary for more than basic planning," Doon growled, drawing himself up as he joined the debate, as though taking charge.

"Not overstepping, Mune. If anybody is, I am," Ruka commented. "And nobody else can move while cloaked like she can, I don't think.

Unless you can too? Believe me, she's... Really good. She saved my life on Dandoran getting by the enemy lines that way."

The Mirialan shot his attention a proud, tight smile, seeing Eilen raise one hand as if to cover her face and wilt from the attention and comment, only to hesitate, shake herself nose to tail, and nod jerkily, rallying.

"I can do it," she said. "I'll look around, try to figure out, eh...how many people are down there and if there's any traps and s-stuff. Get us more, uh, information we can go on. I'm on it!"

The hybrid nodded at Zig and the gathering group, though her gaze skittered quickly over Doon. Ruka reached out and wrapped a hand around her neck, angling her down and leveraging up on his toes to press their foreheads together. She huffed at him, extra fidgety of the affection with eyes on them in an important mission moment, but nudged back, and then disappeared from sight right under his palm. Barely a shimmer, the same as a heatwave off the ground, revealed her passage; even her footprints were muted in the sand, like she was a ghost.

E

14:06

Edema (Sophie)

"I heard that haha, did ya miss me" Edema's voice crackled over the coms "you know I can see you all right?"

14:07

"she's not the only one who can move under cloak"

A

14:08

Attifer

"Guess we have back up," the Sith surmised.

E

14:08

Edema (Sophie)

The air shimmered in the distance momentarily as the image of the mandalorian flickered into view, waving, before promptly vanishing again

MC

14:09

Mune Cinteroph

Mune uttered a low prayer under their breath for Eilen's safe return. "I wish I were as good at vanishing as she was, but, alas, it is not my forte." They smiled apologetically to Ruka, trusting in his faith in his friend.

They blinked some and funnily enough looked around before remembering the comm. *Well... don't you look silly...* They nodded, "Good, good, I am glad."

E

14:10

Edema (Sophie)

The com lit up as Jor coughed "hey folks, don't forget about little old me up here", she saw members of the team looking around for her

"nope cold....nope still cold hehehe"

14:11

The Sephi snipers position flickered momentarily on the teams hud, before vanishing again "I got you covered, don't worry"

ZL

14:17

Zuza Lottson

Zuza watched them head off, smiling slightly and then looking to Ruka with sheepish curiosity, "...did you guys bring that container of water with you?"

A

14:18

Attifer

"The big one? No, but you can use this," he offered his canteen, and pulled back out the towel, unsure if she meant to drink or wash. "Bit used but what we got."

MC

14:19

Mune Cinteroph

Mune muttered softly with a blush, "Sorry if it smells like wet Shista..." They scratched the back of their head some with a smile at Zuza.

ZL

14:26

Zuza Lottson

"Ah, nah you save that. Was looking to clean up, but I can use my own if we only have our canteens at the minute. Get the worst of.. this off" She gestured at herself, and the sanded dried gore sticking to her armour and face. At least on her face it was mostly her own..

She returned the smile to Mune with her own lil grin.

A

14:32

Attifer

Ruka clicked his tongue, crouching just a bit towards Zuza as he wetted the towel with his canteen and reached out to rub at her cheek with utmost gentleness, but firm enough to scrub. First one, then up carefully around the eye. "It's fine, *ay*, not like you're dumping it in the sand, don't worry about it...you really got messy, and I *know* this ain't comfortable."

Then he paused, brain catching up to his actions, and reared back, towel-wielding hand retracting, nearly hitting himself in the head with the canteen from an automatic forehead-slapping motion.

"Oh kriff, I'm *so sorry*, I just-- treated you like one of my kids."

MC

14:35

Mune Cinteroph

The Shista desperately tried not to laugh. They actually had to turn away from the scene to hide the mirth that surely glimmered in their eyes.\

ZL

14:43
Zuza Lottson
Zuza hadn't initially known how to react as Ruka crouched and began cleaning her face up for her. Confusion, at first, as it was such a fatherly thing and didn't quite connect at first. But before Ruka had even computed what he was doing, she accepted fate and was cool with it. He was a great dad, she'd seen that in how he acted with Leda and Noga, so despite it not being Gwaine, it was still a fatherly thing to do coming from a father.

She giggled as he drew away, waving a hand in amused acceptance, "It's alright, I'm short enough to be one of 'em. Don't worry about it.
Guess I'll take that towel now it's already got blood on it, if that's alright?"

A

14:49
Attifer
"It's fine," Ruka mumbled, still a bit embarrassed, having had such automatic behavior taken badly before. He extended towel and bottle, glad she at least seemed unoffended. "All yours. I carry it for this kinda thing."

That was said with a pat to the bulging pouch that sat at the small of his back and over his rear, belted around the waist nestled, above his weapons belt.

ZL

15:02
Zuza Lottson
"Ahhh, that makes more sense. I was wondering where the towel came from." She still looked amused but taking the towel and drawing out her own canteen. Zu looked up, seeing his expression and her own softening a bit.

"It's sweet, that you went dad-mode, by the way. I'm about as far away from bothered by it as possible."

A

15:09
Attifer
The Mirialan's face tinted further, and he rubbed at the back of his neck.

"Ay, uh ... thanks? I'm just glad you're okay."

ZL

15:12
Zuza Lottson
"Always am." She flashed him a grin and some fingerguns before moving to go find a rock to sit on and begin the process of cleaning herself up.

MC

15:13
Mune Cinteroph
Mune grinned toothily... being shista... there were plenty of teeth in that toothy.

A

15:21
Attifer

That made Ruka forget his blushing, replaced by an eyebrow twitch. Covered in gore, having laughed stabbing a man, how could he have forgotten that, and apparently real prone to hiding injuries.

Always fine, my ass.

But it wasn't the time to push it, and besides, it wasn't his place anyway. At least Mune seemed amused, and Zuza was getting clean. He turned to look back up at the plaeteu, shifting on his feet with the anxious energy to go look and to *run* and to *act*, to see Eilen back with them and have Karran and everyone safely home.

Waiting was waiting, though. It was perhaps time to meditate while they awaited better intel, whether from Eilen or from their captive waking up.

Speaking of, he should probably go check on her, too...

"I'm going to meditate over there," said the Mirialan at last, nodding to where he'd laid the assassin. "But my ears will be open. Might help. Who knows? Least until we can get some better plan."

MC

15:25

Mune Cinteroph

Mune nodded and glanced around. "I am feeling a little more... here again. I'll restore my reserves and be ready in case we need them. I'll be ready. Meditate. Rest some. And... try NOT to worry for a time."

E

15:42

Edema (Sophie)

Edema sat down and let herself rest in the force, she wouldn't be need for a while so she took the chance to rest and relax.

KA

18:28

Kaled Atros

As Miraluka finished contemplating the situation, he took the stone and put it back with the rest.

The thought crossed his mind on Togorian and her group.

I should have taken the offer... What do colors look anyway? Would I really see some? Ah well...

As he finished that though, Kaled slowly god up and made his way back to the group once again. He kept quiet, listening to others about their next plan of action.

A

18:49

Attifer

The twin suns inched overhead.

Ruka opened his eyes. For a moment, though they were open wide, they stared through the world around his body, to something else, somewhere else, altogether. His irises and pupils were glazed with burnished gold, as whenever the Dark Side flowed fully through him, but more. Faintly, they glowed, and the Mirialan's demeanor seemed altogether different, none of the often present hunch to his shoulders or lift to his chin, expecting to be hurt, feeling a burden and outsider wherever he stood, fighting against the world around him to eke from it as much as himself. Instead he seemed completely calm, solid, immutable and untouchable.

And then he blinked, and the haze cleared, and he gave a horrible little shudder that he quickly bit down on. Breathed in and out in a slow four count. Wiped at the tears that had appeared, felt himself settle back into his bones, familiar now after the months-becoming-years of this. Stood and slowly stretched, feeling oddly more centered in the moment.

He turned his senses back to the group and surrounding area, rather than ahead, where nothing yet existed. He was really only looking for one person in particular, with his weak sense-- *Eilen*. Still alive. And coming closer.

Ruka approached the others again. "She's on her way back," he informed softly, looking towards the plaeteu.

ZL

18:53

Zuza Lottson

Zuza glanced up as Ruka appraoched, nodding.

She'd managed to clean up the gunk, even out of her hair at this point. There was still some stuck to the armour in some awkward spots, but she was no longer covered. Only the sand-grazes on her face, stark against her skin, remained as obvious evidence of the earlier fight.

"Should be able to get going soon then, before they get suspicious of where their assassin disappeared to."

T

19:04

Techsketch

Not long after he spoke up, her faint tracks trudged into the sand nearby, and Eilen's form reappeared in place. Her body gave a shudder from head to tail, and her hand went to instinctively pull back her hair, only to find it swept back where her sweat had kept it.

"...Hokay, okay, so." Her glove hands clapped and rubbed. "...I couldn't get inside, not like I wanted to, but there's a *lot* of droids down there."

Eilen breathed deep and recounted carefully, fingers flicking out as she went.

"There are *at least* five IG-units. Two of them have high ground, each on either side of their main encampment. There are a few, I think three, normal-looking goons, and I spotted two astromechs with them. There's a Hunter-Killer droid on the far side, and some creep in Mandalorian-looking gear. I couldn't tell if it was real beskar or not, but he's got a jetpack and good firepower."

Eilen looked at her hands again, then back to the others. She wasn't sure if half of them knew what any of that meant.

"So, uh... yeah. Basically a lot of danger. Um..." She cleared her throat. "...IGs are no joke; they almost never miss unless you screw them up somehow. And the HK droid — those things will freakin' eviscerate you. Whatever the rest of those guys are packing, I don't know what they've got installed in their astromechs, but those guys... y-yeah, they're really cute, but they'll getcha, so be careful. The guy in the helmet... well, you guys know what kind of people usually wear armor like that."

MC

19:10

Mune Cinteroph

Mune's ears perked, catching Ruka's heads up before Eilen actually reappeared and his attention snapped to them. They frowned some, uncertain of getting through such odds without alerting enemies underground. "What are the odds we can take them out stealthily without warning the rest? I mean... can we whittle down the force bit by bit before they can put up an alarm?"

A

19:10

Attifer

Ruka, at least, was somewhat relieved despite her warning. Destroying droids wasn't murdering more people.

"Good job, *arrarrmia*. You really musta been careful to get past those droids. Damn good," he said, admiration in each word.

T

19:13

Techsketch

Eilen shrugged. "Droids can communicate binary at ludicrous speeds, but they don't always have built-in radios. I dunno if I can suggest anything for sure without knowing more, but... the IGs don't look like the standard factory models."

A

19:31

Attifer

"Probably gonna be hard to not raise any alarm with people AND droids around...I dunno. Maybe a distraction *would* be better." He grimaced, shrugged. "I can go down there, take out a few droids, make a run for it? Or see if they'll take me to wherever they're holding everyone else."

A more hopeful option than just getting shot, but.

KA

19:35

Kaled Atros

Kaled tilted his head to the side.

He sighed deeply shaking his head in disapproval.

"Probably..not a good idea to go in alone...I can go in with you? The only problem are the droids for me. Bit I can.. cover you..."

MC

19:36

Mune Cinteroph

Mune frowned, "You are not getting yourself potentially captured... vito," they said rather flatly. "There are no guarantees they'd not just shoot you on sight. Same with you," they added to Kaled.

K(
19:40
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"I could go. I'm wicked fast on a speeder, plus I got this if things get too close." She tapped the jetpack, "and I've found that these make great distractions." She pulled out a detonite charge and a vehicular mine.

ZL
19:41
Zuza Lottson
"... bombs might be better than rushing in. We don't need anybody getting captured, if we're going in fighting, we all need to go."
Zuza piped up with a frown.

A
19:44
Attifer
"Bombs might not be smart if the people we're looking for are *underground*," Ruka said grimly. "There was sewers in the visi--" he nearly said *visions*, but Mune had been so scared to share, "vision, right, ay?" And there's not that many buildings up here. Where are they keeping a whole spice op and hostages?"

KA
19:48
Kaled Atros
Miraluka thought for a second.
"Underground?" Kaled lifted his finger up as if he was in the classroom.
"Or maybe somewhere safely stored away?"

MC
19:48
Mune Cinteroph
Mune nodded some, "It is also loud and so would warn any enemies within range, including underground, that we are here, so endangering any prisoners if the enemy decides that is what we are here for."

A
19:48
Attifer
The Sith offered Kaled a tight smile. "Yeah, maybe. Maybe we can sense them?"

KA
19:50
Kaled Atros
"We can? I mean...I never tried something like that...can we?" Kakeds head was now filled with question.

K(
19:51
Karran (L'ara Erinos)
"Explosions like to follow the path of least resistance. Sand is a very good defense against these forces because it's small and gets compressed before breaking. That's why sandbags make a good defense. The forces generated will tend to go up rather than down. Might shake some dirt loose, but shouldn't bring the whole thing down." Her brain reverted to basic training and classroom work. She'd been drilled over the physics of explosives day and night. This was her craft.

MC
19:52
Mune Cinteroph
They have a thought, rubbing at their muzzle some, "We could always make it appear like a raider attack... make them believe we are here for the spice so ensuring they do not link us to our actual mission of saving a prisoner..." Mune was thinking out loud. They were really getting tired of the sun and sand, giving a huff and sharing their fur to try and get some sand out of it. "Would really work like that?" they asked Karran, they had no understanding of explosives themselves, their ears splaying curiously.

A

20:07

Attifer

"Don't know about explosives myself, but whether or not it comes down kinda depends on the structural integrity of the tunnels themselves. If they're meant to transfer water, they gotta be made of some sturdy stuff in all this sand, and that means they're gonna be dense. Less likely for cracks and rust because of the lack of moisture too. But on the flipside...if things did collapse, the sand would rush in a lot easier than other materials," Ruka thought out loud, trying to match what L'ara said to his carpentry knowledge. He'd never exactly built something underground, despite having a hand in many different types of structures. Mostly, it had been housing and ships, or whatever other building some rich Sephi wanted the work crews for, when not repair work, maintenance, or landscaping.

K{

20:25

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"Realistically, as long as I disperse the payload, even something right on top of the sewerd *shouldn't* cause a cave-in. But you're right about the rust. I imagine the interior would be treated to prevent corrosion, and it's so dry that there shouldn't be any issue on the exterior." L'ara nodded along with Ruka's assessment.

A

20:34

Attifer

"Suppose we could set off some bombs a bit away? See if they go running for it? Unless they're gonna hunker down."

ZL

20:38

Zuza Lottson

"Doubt they're the type to hunker down, it might be worth the risk." Zuza was listening intently, out of her depth but wanting to know what they were going to do.

A

21:02

Attifer

The Mirialan's lips pressed into a hard, reluctant line, and he looked over his shoulder at the assassin he'd heretofore kept relatively unbothered.

"We could ask," he murmured, sounding like the suggestion was painful.

K{

21:16

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"But how do we make an explosion big enough without- think we can scavenge the fuel cells from the raiders' vehicles? A bit of detonite tape on those oughta destabilize them enough to blow them sky high."

The Twi'lek could feel her heart pumping in anticipation. If only Jax were here to share in the fun

A

21:17

Attifer

"...could do," Ruka murmured, looking back.

21 August 2021

E

09:25

Edema (Sophie)

Jor'ana sighted on the droids she could see "Ooh IG and HK, someone has too much money" she commented to herself. She carefully logged the range and ballistic information for each target, so that she could, when needed, ping a few rounds down range at the clankers. Her ballistic computer recorded the distance, height etc and logged it in its system, when the time came, all she would need to do was call them up and adjust for current factors etc.

09:28

Edema remained sat, were she not cloaked, she would be in line of site of most of the team, but the force hid her from view. She focused and relaxed, readying herself for the coming battle. She could sense the droids, despite their lack of flesh, they left a void in her senses, she had been up against droids often enough that she knew how to recognise it now. This would not be an easy fight.

W

10:14

Wally

Player initiatives

Walk Into Town

Zig - 19

Doon - 10

Ruka - 18

Blaster Line Up / Marksman

Zuza - 3

Edema - 4

Archian - 5

Eleceos - 13

Eilen - 4

Drive By

L'ara - 14

Cover / Charge

Sage - 9

Mune - 5

Suly 4

Kal - 1

Wally pinned [this message](#)

W

10:35

Wally

On the outskirts, with the intel of scouting gathered, Zig spoke. "Everyone here. Doon is going to outline our plan. Let's listen, then get into positions. Understood?"

A

14:55

Attifer

Ruka nodded to Zig, turning to give his attention to the growling Shistavanen, but not before a last look at the unconscious assassin. He hoped to avoid any interrogation, and was leery of the others hurting her -- some of those present had yet to give him reason to think they wouldn't and a few to indicate violence meant nothing to them, if not actually enjoying it -- but he did want to ask her a thing or two before they assaulted the base. There was every chance she wouldn't answer him or believe him, but still.

AL

15:30

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

"These karking pieces of Gundark poodoo are in need of a real lesson!" Sage growled. His fists were eager to smash all the skulls he could find.

"Be quick or be dead!" He ordered. "I'm moving in soon."

A

16:13

Attifer

As an example, the Mirialan thought tiredly, a sincere, loathing glare shot at Sage.

"You move when you're *told* to move. There are lives at stake here. Don't jeopardize them by running in just because you're angry." *Or make me stop you.*

MC

16:17

Mune Cinteroph

"Caution is called for... not brute-forcing the situation..." Mune added, perhaps more patiently than Ruka, definitely more gently and without the glare. They offered Ruka a reassuring glance. "I am sure whatever plan Doon and the Captain have pieced together will ensure we do not endanger anyone unnecessarily."

A

16:26

Archian

Red looked at other Shistavanen, and tried to support him with calming the Zeltron.

He came closer to Sage, looked at him eye to eye, started to breath very deeply and slowly.

"You will have your battle, focus on what is now, let the air inside of your body, because your cells still need to recover after road attack." He whispered quietly to him, and closed eyes in the middle of the sentence, which said to rampaging Sage.

AL

16:47

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

"Calm down!" He yelled. "You're telling me to CALM DOWN! You got a death wish punk?"

Sage clasped his fists and flexed hard on his muscles

ZL

16:50

Zuza Lottson

"Sage." Zuza spoke up, looking at him with a small frown, "We gotta know what we're doing, just hang on a bit yeah? Don't need to fight each other for no damn reason."

She'd hoped he'd calm a bit, but it was better to step in now than when there was a fight.

A

16:51

Archian

Archian putted his open paws palms at front into open, negotiating position "Sometimes I would like to die because it would be just easy way to connect with bio cycle of life, but do you won't to lose medic and good homemade spirits at parties?" Said calmly to Zeltron.

AL

16:54

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

"Fine..." he mumbled. "What is there to plan anyway? We go in, we punch their faces, we get out. Sounds easy for The Boss."

A

16:55

Attifer

Ruka hissed a warning, craning his neck to listen and wishing he could look past the plaeteu into the town, senses on alert. Had Sage bellowing like an idiot alerted their position? He was worse than an actual toddler.

"Quiet," he hissed. "Of course we need a plan. I--" and then he stopped mid-adomnation, because honestly, the way the Zeltron acted was worse than a toddler, but also...*so much like a toddler*. Kriff, even the milk thing. Maybe he shouldn't be trying logic. The Mirialan reached for his pack and rummaged under to-- *ah hah*. Ashla and Bogan bless his kids and bless Cora getting them back into art. He pulled out the set of colored wax sticks and held them out, along with the tiny pad, and changed his tone. "Do you need to color some, maybe? I know waiting is really hard, bud, but you're doing a good job. These can make waiting more fun."

A

17:02

Archian

"Thank you" Archian whispered to Zuza, while slowly stepping away from Sage backwards, and passing her on the way.

AL

17:07

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

Sage took the wax sticks slowly, expecting something nasty from the Mirialan. With his other hand he grabbed the drawing pad.

He picked the red stick, his color, the best color, and drew a heart. After being sure Ruka wasn't going to try anything, he ignored everything else and started filling the heart with beheaded aliens.

"This is... acceptable." he mumbled while drawing, his skills being more than rubbish

ZL

17:12

Zuza Lottson

Zuza had smiled to Archian, giving him a nod, before watching in amazement and barely contained laughter as Sage settled with colouring. That... worked even better than her talking him down.

Confusion dawned on her face as she considered it, the amusement dying down quickly. *Why did Sage accept her telling him things he yelled at others for?*

A

17:18

Attifer

Ruka watched Sage color with a sense of mingled relief and, peeking at the paper, dread. Where those bodies? Sweet Ashla.

And it had *worked*.

This guy should not be on a goddamn combat operation, oh my kriffing god.

His protective instincts and questions of rightness and thoughts of development stages -- recalling Sage picking fights, Sage talking himself up, and in third person no less, Sage's loudness and temper, Sage being amused by looking naked at the pool -- started to bubble, and he mentally shouted at them, *no, no, please no*.

But they were already there.

Goddammit.

His head ached. He pinched the bridge of his nose and closed his eyes.

"Sulvir," he began, "the briefing? Unless we're going to ask the woman anything, should probably leave her some water and get to it."

MC

18:13

Mune Cinteroph

Mune just stared dumbfounded. There was confusion, disbelief, wonderment... the scene could NOT be real. They watched the big guy colouring, their ears splayed, puzzlement clear. Heatstroke, they decided.... they were suffering heat stroke and hallucinating the whole thing. "I may need water..." they shook their head and blinked at Ruka before glancing back towards Doon and Zig.

A

18:15

Attifer

Wordlessly, Ruka extended his canteen towards Mune; Zuza hadn't used much to clean. There were still probably three quarters left, and he intended to leave the rest with their prisoner.

MC

18:19

Mune Cinteroph

Mune took it thankfully, took maybe half a mouth full before handing it back. "That was just... surreal, and I spend much of my time in visions." They grinned.

ZL

18:30

Zuza Lottson

Zuza had used most of her own to clean, she sat there, staring at the sand in front of her with deep confusion and took the canteen out, sipping what little was there as some form of action to hide her expression.

It hadn't occurred to her before that Sage listened to no one but her. Well, and Aru. She couldn't imagine it was just because of their friendship, she couldn't have been the only person to treat him normally. Which was... all.. she did.

Which either meant, she had something others didn't, or Zuza was his only friend. Neither of which sat well with her. He was either lonely, or had another intent which... she didn't know why. The only inkling for why wasn't something she'd think of Sage doing but... the thoughts trailed off. *She just didn't know.*

So she sipped her water some more and did her best to not look too out of it. 22 August 2021

S

00:17

SongBird

Doon tugs at his armor, trying to adjust it so he could get more comfortable in the ever present heat. His eye remained closed as he tried to drown out the yelling and bickering coming from the others a ways away. So many people. So much potential. Such deadly opponents.

The plan. They're all waiting on him. Doon lets out a strained growl as his hands subconsciously check his gear. The Shistavanen was no stranger to calling shots, but the last time he did... he shakes his head and maintains a steady snarl. This is different. They're equipped now for it. He's trained against the force. But if any of them fall today it will be on him... unless that buffoon Sage goes running off to get himself killed like he was shouting about. He turns his head to bark an order at them but pauses, seeing Ruka distract them.

This was hardly a functional pack. But it's what he had to work with for right now. He wasn't planning to loose anyone, and would be willing to throw himself infront of any threat too large for them to handle.

But they could handle it.
Right?

Doon casts a glance to Zig as he steps back near the group and lets out a noise between clearing his throat and a bark. "We need to move quickly. If they sent that sniper, they'll be wondering where she went." His voice rumbles like usual but carries a more authoritative tone.

"There's a lot of droids there, deadly droids. Hard to kill droids. We don't have many good options against them. But luckily, we have something." He holds his hand up, showing Zig's ion grenade clutched carefully in his paw. "Ion. Debilitating to electronics and droid alike. Ruka. You'll follow the Captain and myself down to the place they've got set up. Anyone with a decent blaster or slugger will set up and provide us overwatch. Anyone more close quarters oriented should stay low, wait for the shooting to start. When it does, follow our trail and provide support. We'll be surrounded initially. But between the overwatch and anyone who follows us in, we should be able to split their attention. I'll focus on the One in Mando armor. If they are mandalorian, I've trained in fighting them. The captain and Ruka will focus on the HK, taking it out as fast as possible. We'll use the Ion grenade if a good opportunity presents itself. Anyone going into melee shouldn't rely on any tech to fight incase they get hit with the blast."

He lets out a long breath, letting his words sink in. Once satisfied with the faces he was looking at he speaks again. "Rely on the person next to you. We don't know what else there will be waiting for us down there. If things go south, get a speeder and regroup under the shelf we rested at. Once the fighting is over, wait for us to give an all clear before the rest of you come down. Finally.. none of you are amateurs. You made it here because you're good at what you do. Each of you." His golden eye burns with an fierce intensity into each face looking back at him. He locks eye with Eilen as he continues to speak. "Fight with everything. Do not dare hold back. Know at the end of this, you've done all you could to help the team. We **will** get through this. Each of us."

With a snarl and a salute of a claw raked across his chest armor, he shouts. "For Arcona. For Qel-Droma."

E

05:17

Edema (Sophie) watching everyone moving around on her hud, Edema looked at the targets that presented themselves. The one that stood out the most was the Mandalorian, that was target number one. She got onto her coms to Doon "Doon, im gonna hit that mando and the droid hard, want me to go in loud from above or spend some time getting in behind them for a more suprise option?"

A

06:42

Attifer

Ruka nodded his acceptance, grim, murmuring a reply to the rallying cry despite his own outsidersness. Mentally, he added, for *Karran, Joseline, those Trandosians, and anyone else.*

MC

10:12

Mune Cinteroph

Mune focussed on what Doon was saying, probably the best they had listened to any briefing really. They did not like anyone going in solo but... were they really solo? The team would be watching the three going in quite closely and Mune did not plan on letting them go in reliant only on their armour... *Find a good spot to keep sights on them... then focus*, they thought to themself.

W

14:37

Wally

Zig lifted a hand to her helmet and pinged the comms. "Edema, wait for the signal. When you hear it, take your shot, then provide sniper coverage for the rest of the team. Do not take the shot until we signal."

She nodded along to what Doon finished saying and was quietly happy about his proud salute. "That's right big guy." She turned to the rest. "Alright then, looks like Ruka, me, an' Doon are going in. Everyone else, get into your positions. Our 'go' word will be: *Roshambaeu.*

When you hear it, light them up, and we'll sweep this outpost Arcona-style."

K{

14:54

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara took a deep breath from her seat on the speeder. She double, triple, quadruple checked her gear followed by a more thorough inspection of her MM9 wrist launcher and all of its micro-explosives.

"It's not whistling birds," she thought, ruefully, *"but they'll do."*

She checked her Westar, made sure no sand had settled into any problem areas that would interfere with its workings. A quick check of the power pack to make sure she wouldn't come up short in a firefight.

Another breath to steady herself. She thought about Jax taking the time to help her hone her abilities at the firing range on base to get her through basic. Then all the long hours spent in the classroom as he taught her and her unit-mates about the fundamentals of explosives and their uses. He was the closest thing she'd had to a father, and she couldn't wait to see him again to tell him all about the wonderful "art" she had made

W

18:05

Wally

Before they proceeded, Zig did her best to make sure everyone knew their positions. They weren't going into this blind or bluntly. This would not be a repeat of the desert ride over, or of the Transohans. It couldn't, otherwise why had she ever been trusted with this command in the first place.

On a plateu with a decent view of the center of town, Zuza took up position with her blaster. Eleceos and Archian flanked her, and each drew silent beads with their energy bows. She knew that Edema was also in position, and that Eilen would be making her way to a good spot as well.

Sera found a spot to sit and fold her legs, seemingly at home in the heat and dryness of the desert. She closed her eyes and let her mind reach out to her friends with the Force. Tali and Strong hung back to keep an eye on the meditating Zabrak and the unconcious shooter they had apreended. Perhaps also they wanted to see their *Voidbreaker* investment in action.

No pressure.

Zig made sure that Sully and Mune were in cover just at the entrance to the outpost. On the far side, a clearly anxious-to-go Zeltron crouched in a racing-stance, like an organic pod racer waiting for the flag to drop. A bit more peaceful, surface wise, Kaled was readied his lightsaber and steeled his focus, just like Marick had taught him. Tune out distractions, focus on the task at hand.

Lastly, Zig extended a quick first towards L'ara. The mounted Twi'lek, looking like some kind of valkerie met her first with a faint "dap" sound. That was all that needed to be said.

That just left Doon and Ruka. Zig nodded to the two men. "Ready when ya'll are," she drawled.

T

18:29

Techsketch

Eilen nodded to herself, considering her position options. Her bags were filled with tools for infiltration and thievery, not the calculated destruction she could have planned out right then. Fortunately, she always had room in her gear for a last-resort weapon. It seemed that micro-grenade launcher would actually get some use, the way things were panning out for the moment. A vantage point would be ideal, then — someplace open enough for her to keep watch on her team and calculate her weapon's trajectories.

She rubbed her gloved hands together in anticipation and made to cloak, when a thought surfaced. It was fleeting, but as vivid as the sands before her: a vision of a rival who shared her talents, like a dark reflection who, just then, had every intention of blowing her to pieces. Eilen shot first, and the chain reaction scattered that face to every corner of the hangar where they'd tangled. She hadn't pointed her weapon at anyone since then — purely out of circumstance, as nothing had demanded it of her — but the memory stuck like paste at the front of her mind as she realized it could happen again.

Baro had told her he'd have done the same. In skipping out many of the choices he'd always had to make, Eilen had to wonder at times if she'd always have chosen like him. The thought scared her now more than ever. Her cloak shimmered with a shudder that worked its way out from her gut, threatening her with a moment of deepest doubt.

And then, as quickly as it came, her anxieties were dulled, spread, pulled out from over her in a familiar breeze that caressed her soul rather than her fur. It was Sera, not ten feet away, pressing her hands together in that meditative state that gave her strength to everyone around her. Like gravity releasing its hold, Eilen felt like she could stand upright in the presence of Sera's Force-emboldened meditation.

Clouds in her mind seemed to stretch far away, thinning them enough to see light beyond.

I can do this, she told herself. It doesn't have to be... that. It just has to be me... doing right by the people who matter. Yeah...

Eilen felt like she was breathing fresh air as her cloak renewed itself. Though her friends couldn't see her, she offered them a parting wave, then scampered toward the settlement. She could already see which rooftop would make a good vantage point for herself.

A

19:14

Attifer

"Ready," Ruka swore softly as he watched Eilen go, tracking her shimmer and the feel of her before his gaze lost even that, hands loose at his sides, leaving every weapon in its place. Two heartbeats synchronized with his, and through them, he felt the others, felt even Doon and Zig. The blackness hummed under his skin, drawn more and more into him with each breath, each beat; he wondered if, to Kaled or Eleceos, he shone with it, bled with it. It patiently waited in his empty palms, easy and steady.

Doon growled his own affirmative, and Zig nodded to herself and took point around the bend of the plaeutu and started to descend the sandy slope into the town proper. Doon continuously stepped long and wide in his strides, shoulders back, like he was trying to take the lead and couldn't quite manage to curtail the habit; and it had to be habit, the way he moved naturally into it and twitched back enough to be in step with his Captain. Ruka followed at her right hand, both of his up and empty as they neared and every droid arm and weapon swiveled their way. Zig reached for the sky, and a light nudge at Doon's shin reminded him of the same, not that his claws, glinting with metal, lend well to the picture of pacification. The Shistavanen was doing his level best to stare down a robot.

Ruka's gaze clocked around. His senses prickled. The Dark sang.

If things went *badly*, he would get the others out of the way, and do his damndest to make it out too.

Thankfully, Zig would be doing the talking. The figure in Mandalorian armor was looking too, and the droids in various overlapping tones of binary blared alerts at them.

MC

20:35

Mune Cinteroph

Mune watched the three move forward towards their targets. The small Shistavanen moved into their own position. Taking a slow breath, they began centering themselves, letting the Force wash over them like the tide gently rolling in. They wrapped themselves in it, drank in the power of it to set their every sense buzzing with its presence.

Do not falter... they thought to themselves.

They watched and listened, ready to act at a moment's notice. No one would be hurt if they had anything to say about it. For now, they remained still in an ocean of their own calm and determination.

ZL

23:57

Zuza Lottson

Zuza settled onto the edge of the plateau. It was further from the action than she initially wanted to be, her confidence was in the thick of it, a blade in hand and tearing down foes. However as Doon explained the ambush, it was clear that they needed as many gunners as possible for the initial attack, especially with the time included to get a good aim and in theory, much more powerfully landing blows. That was the plan anyway, she wasn't a tactical type, but she trusted Zig and Doon both. This would work.

The plateau wasn't pleasant to lean on, hot from the twin suns bearing down overhead. While the Human had been mostly unaffected, she glad she'd had what water she did before cleaning up. With midday approaching it was starting to get to her. Still, Zuza settled her elbows into the sandstone and waited for the signal to go, watching those who were going forward for the initial assault step into place.

As soon as shots fired, she'd be joining them. Just had to get that one solid hit first.. 23 August 2021

W

13:49

Wally

With everyone in position, it was now up to Zig. She was comforted mostly by the fact that she had seen Ruka in action and knew that he was on par with Marick in command of the Force, and more than even Alaisy had been. That was sobering in and of itself. Doons presense to her right was also grounding in a certain way, knowing that the mercanry had found a new pact, it would seem, and was willing to tear things apart to keep his team safe.

So, Zig kept her hands up, with Ruka and Doon flanking her. She didn't command much presense, even in her full set of colorful armor, but her facial expressions were gracefully hidden behind her T-shaped visor.

Two Aquillish guards in red mercenry leathers stepped up, flanked by two astromech droids, blinked their beady eyes at the strangers.

"Hold. You're in Crimson Sarlacc teritory now, state your business or turn right back around where you came," the first one intoned.

"We're just regular old mercanries passing through. We're actually looking for a few of our crew that we got separated from in the last sand storm. Figured maybe they turned up here. Hard to miss. Big tough Zabrak fellow, kinda stubborn?" she winced realizing that...wasn't very descriptive.

The droid at his side twittered, and the Aquillish narrowed its bug-like eyes. "Plenty of Zabrak come through, can't say any recent that would be of any mention."

"Okay, then how about a girl from Mos Kenny," Zig gestured with her thumb over her shoulder, hands still up. "Went missing a week back."

The two Aquillish tightened their grips on their blasters and traded a glance with one another. "We get plenty of folk that come in and stay as our 'guests'. 'Boss tends to like em young and wiley. But that isn't any of your business, so again, I suggest you turn around and leave, or else we'll have to relieve you of that there armor and that ones shiny weapons...." the second Aquillish answered, and seemed to focus on Ruka's sapphire blade as it caught the light of the twin suns. The first seemed to be eyeing Zig up and down, as if her armor was a suggestive picture of a model posing for a magazine.

Behind them, one of the IG droids seemed to take a few steps closer and raised an E-11 carbine.

It would have been too much to hope for an easy resolution, I guess.

"Alright, but if you want this armor, you're going to have to **rochambeau** me for it," Zig called out, loud enough so that her voice would echo locally as well as out over the comms.

A

14:10

Attifer

Between the code word being given and the white-knuckling on those blasters -- and with the words '*boss likes em young and wiley*' lending a certain rare *fury* to the action -- Ruka jerked his upright arms across his body, open palms clenching claw-like, grasping both Aquillish in telekinetic holds. He lifted them into the air and then **slammed** them down into each other's opposite astromech the short meter or so between them. It was as much to clear the way immediately in front of the trio and a path for L'ara as to hope for bones crunching against the short droids' metal chassies.

K{

15:10

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

At the sound of the code word, L'ara's hand twisted the throttle for all it was worth, bursting toward the town. She weaved through various bits of debris before coming to the center of the town. He eyes spotted the one she really wanted as she planned her route. Her exit route would be complicated by an IG unit, but not for long. Her thumbs depressed the trigger button for the cannons, releasing a burst of bolts at the droid. Several bolts met their mark, but failed to down the target as the tough droid dodged the rest.

The Twi'lek hissed when she saw the droid still standing as her lekku involuntarily curled like clenched fists.

AL

15:57

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

His muscles were tense, every inch of his body raring to be unleashed.

Sage heard the code word and immediately saw Ruka magically catapult two tugs away. "That's my target" he thought.

The Boss was unleashed. There was no stopping him now. Nothing the others could say would quench his fury, especially since he had been hurt by them karking fools prior to this encounter, and more important, he had hurt a precious friend.

"AARGH!" Sage leapt forward and immediately fell on the downed thug, punching his face back and forth, burying it on the sand as much as he could.

"How'd ya like that you KARK!" He was thrilled.

W

16:00

Wally

The Aquillish, already stunned and downed, felt its one bug-like eye swell closed as Sage's knuckled fists slammed meatily into his face.

Black and brackish fluid squirted free onto Sage's knuckles and face, but the Aquillish squirmed and seemed to still be breathing.

E

16:14

Edema (Sophie)

Jor took careful aim on the mando, unsure of the armour was the good stuff or not, her AP ammo would make a pretty mess either way, she aimed center mass, more chance of hitting, and should the round not punch through if it was beskar, there was a good chance of it skipping and doing other damage. She racked the slide and felt the high density, durasteel slug slide into the breach. Aiming, she breathed in, then out and squeezed lightly on the trigger. The resulting crack would be heard around the town, but she was dug in well enough that there would be no visible evidence of her shot. The round was aimed at the left upper torso, she could almost see it spin it's way there, watching through her scope as the hardened tip struck the armour, now was the moment of truth. It was almost like slow motion, the round hit and was slightly defected, absorbed somewhat by the beskar, the armour piercing round gouging a path up and to the right, punching through the mandalorian less armoured gap on their shoulder. The damage was significant, but he was still in the fight it would seem so she got another round ready to go into the breach.

W

16:21

Wally

The woman behind the crimson-shaded armor felt her entire body rock and tremble. She staggered backward, swearing under her breath, and dropped to one knee, immediately clutching at her pauldron. She hissed as a tingling numbness took over her left arm. Fortunately, the bullet had hit the beskar plate, but the impact was enough to make her left arm feel largely useless.

It took her a few minutes to get her bearings, but now, there was no mistaking that this skirmish required her attention.

S

16:40

SongBird

As the others move, Doon's already raised hands reach over his shoulder. He pulls the slab of metal on a stick off it's holster and in one movement swings a wide arch, left to right. A guttural snarl is released as he cuts through.. air.

Damn droids.

W

16:43

Wally

Zig, seeing the shift in momentum and wanting to act fast, was right on Doon's heels, expecting to time a killer 1-2 punch, figuratively, on the closest IG-droid. She sprinted forward, muscles tense, and activated her shock gauntlets. She had not accounted for Doon missing his swing, or the droids alacrity. Her follow up punch missed its mark, as the IG-droid swiveled and turned and aimed its blaster pointblank into Zigs chest.

KA

16:57

Kaled Atros

Kaled went silent. Standing next to Zug he took a deep breath in, calling on the Force to come to his aid once again.

Calm... Concentrate..

Miraluka could feel a jolt going down his legs as his muscles tensed. Kaled turned his hilt around putting the two fingers inside the ring on the end of his hilt. He rushed passed Zig, stopping just in front of the IG droid.

There!

Miraluka quickly started to spin his saber. He could hear that his attack hit something as suddenly realized that one of droids parts fell on the ground.

W

18:03

Wally

"Unfortunate," the IG-droid intoned sadly, as its arm fell off and the tip of its blaster carbine was also cut by the Miraluka's lightsaber. Its head swiveled as it tried to reach for a second blaster...

A

18:06

Archian

Archian took an aim at Red IG-droid, after he has heard a signal from Zig.

He wanted to immobilise it, with shot into one of the legs, after it was moved by force.

He released an arrow, and it was into right direction, but maybe it was some small change of the wind, or changes made by force around, which made deadly weapon into a slightly uncomfortable sit for a droid, when it landed between it's legs.

No harm was done, only embarrassment to Red...

R{

18:10

Rhylance (Arc Con)

Eleceos heard the sound of the lightsaber cutting through a droids arm, he swiveled his body and drew back the bowstring on his energy bow. The plasma arrow formed, and Ele focused before releasing the bolt of energy. The arrow sailed through the air, impacting the IG units chest with such force that it was knocked to the ground. Prone, it may have been, but not dead. Not yet.

T

19:40

Techsketch

From her vantage point, Eilen had a clear line of sight on one of the heightened IG droids, on a rooftop not far from her own. When the word was given, she took aim at its hiding spot. Her body re-appeared as a streak of micro-grenades lit up the far roof, not quite damaging the droid's battle-ready chassis but ruining its advantage. A mix of smoke, dust, and debris surrounded the fresh rubble falling to the ground below, blocking its view as it made to get back onto its feet.

Sulith stepped out from behind another building to face an IG droid of his own, aiming to either disarm or disable it before the fight began. His pistol's sights lined up, but the grappling line went wide. Apparently he'd been spotted preemptively, as the droid casually sidestepped away as the projectile flew past. Its optical sensors twisted to face Sully without a moment's hesitation, at which the Togorian simply grinned. At least he had its attention.

"Hello there!" he called toward the droid.

MC

20:35

Mune Cinteroph

Mune watched Sulith move past then saw the miss and nearly muzzle palmed but, staying focused, they shifted their own position some.

The Force pulsed through them, an ocean of power awaiting their beckoning call.

You will not drown, Mune thought, balancing themselves ready to use calm or rage as needed to fuel their connection to it all. One tool as good as another. For this though...they let that calm fill their mind.

They drew their sabers in case they needed them, left inactive in their hands. They concentrated and willed the Barrier into existence. A deep breath to center... a slow exhalation and the Barriers were just there, the Force coalesced into a wall protecting those closest the small Shistavanen from harm. They could not help grinning at Sulith's greeting to the Droid. 24 August 2021

W

17:19

Wally

The barrier was not something the slowly recovering Aquillish guard was expecting to see today. The translucent corona seemed surreal, a trick of the twin-suns light. He growled, anger coursing through his veins at being tossed like a ragdoll, and tried to charge Mune Cinteroph with a snarl.

He, of course, bounced right off the barrier, stumbling backwards a few feet but regaining his footing beside the IG-droid nearby.

"Sorcery...just like tha' Boss uses..."

17:24

Meanwhile, the leader of the band slowly rose back to her feet. Her shoulder was still numb and tingling, but she grabbed some kind of injector from her belt and jabbed it into her arm. It would take a minute for feeling to return, but she could, and would, fight this new threat to her camp.

The crimson-Beskar-clad woman moved forward, drawing a Westar pistol with her opposite hand and training it on the Twi'lek in imposter armor, no doubt, that had ridden on a speeder bike like it was some kind of chariot.

She sighted off the hip and fired at the Erinos.

K{

17:43

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

After firing on the IG unit, L'ara set her sights on the woman in likely stolen Beskar. For all her teasing, Zig wearing it didn't really bother her. She had proven herself as an ally and friend and would surely bring no dishonor to the steel. But this person was probably little more than a mercenary who'd but it for cheap off of some scrappers who didn't know what they had.

Imposter or not, however, her aim was good. Shots from her enemy's Westar ripped toward her and trailed after the Twi'lek as she pulled the speeder in a hard drift. One shot nearly met its mark as it struck the engine, causing the bike to shudder as it let out a whining death rattle and black smoke began to billow from the exhaust.

She swore in Twi'leki, "*Son of a limp lekku!*"

The throttle went watery in her hand as all acceleration ceased.

Time for plan B, I suppose.

W

18:11

Wally

Little did L'ara know, Plan B was already on its way.

Zig's HUD did a quick assesement of the surrounding situation. She was no field commander or tactician but she was able to see that one of hers was in trouble. And when a friend needed help, you helped them. Seeing the situation right in front of her going...well enough, she decided to be bold. She activated her jetpack and launched herself over the center of the camp, landing beside L'ara and her discarded Speeder.

Not content to sit and wait, Zig set her sight on the closest threat, which seemed to be a woman in what looked like real beskar to her scavengers eye. So she drew the Sith Longknife Marick had given her as he trained both her and Zuza in bladework. Zuza was more of a natural, and Zig was progressing slower than she liked. Still, what could be cooler than using an ebony longknife that could match a lightsaber in resistance like some kind of space ninja?

Ninaj's were definitely cool. But a bit harder to pull off in full Beskar.

Zig drew her no-frills forged blade and swung for a weakspot on the Crimson Sarlac's knock-off Mandalorain.

She missed.

"*Kist*," she swore, and cast a nervous glance over at L'ara

A

18:25

Attifer

As the battlefield in the town center began to unfold and the familiar cadence of chaos evolved, pulling his eyes and ears and senses in every direction -- *threat, move, threat, allyprotect, threat* -- and the Aquilish who bounded off Mune's barrier muttered about magic, Ruka sought his own target. There was so much he wanted to do, so many enemies, so many to defend, and his heart clenched for each second anyone was exposed when he could've been between them and *threat*. But he couldn't do everything, and he knew he needed to trust them, and he'd been given one job.

Take down the Hunter-Killer.

There wasn't time to worry about, *their boss is a 'User too? Does that mean that Mando? Kriff!* Nor hesitate over anything else. The Dark thrummed in him, that second heartbeat to Sera's, and he hardly channeled it; he *was* it, and it him.

Ruka surged forward and leapt, soaring like a comet over the town and landing light behind the HK-droid, glinting in the light. His saber unfurled, shining blue, and he pivoted and swung, aiming to behead the thing. Instead, plasma met and spat against a personal shield's energy field, nearly turning it away, but the Mirialan Sith pushed off, flipping over the droid and lashing out again and again, the chain of unrelenting strikes sending the unit toppling to the sand as the shield sputtered and hissed under each impact.

W

18:30

Wally

The IG-Droid in the building above drew a bead on the the two armored women. But the bounty droid was so taken aback by the sudden, flying-then-landing-then-striking armored sorcer with a laser sword that....it simply missed its shot. It sailed wide, hit a reflective surface, and ricochehtted back into the rocky ledge at its feet, causing the IG-droid to stumble backwards out of position.

The IG-Droid that had been back behind the Crimson Sarlac captain and her HK-droid decided to be of use, and trained their blaster rifle on the colorfully armored Zygerrian. They fired the shot, which flew true.

The scarlet dash of light ricocheted off of Zig's beskar pauldron. She staggered backwards a few steps, felt a numbing pain run through her entire arm, and then grit her teeth and faught through the pain. This was nothing.

K{

19:51

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

As the speeder finally sputtered out and died, L'ara was lifted from the seat by her jetpack. As she shot into the air and leveled her left arm at the cluster of enemies. A hail of microrockets jetted out as she blew the entire explosive payload.

As she landed on the other side of the red-clad "Mandalorian" she called out in Mando'a *"I'm coming for that armor, aruetii!"*

W

19:56

Wally

The rockets hit the mark between the downed HK-unit, the IG-Droid, and the Beskar-clad leader. The leader was already moving away from the point of impact, their visor holding up against the flash of heat from the micro rockets. The IG-droid, too, backed away.

The HK-unit that Ruka had assaulted, however, was already prone and had to blindly accept its fate. Its chasis errupted outward into a burst of ochre flame and singed metal schrapnel. A husk of scrapmetal was all that was left in its wake.

--

Back towards the entrance to the encampment, the third Aquillish guard who had avoided the initial flurry spotted Eilen up above after her grendaier attack. He drew a bead and fired a few blaster rifle bolts up towards her.

T

20:03

Techsketch

Eilen's fur stood as a jolt of danger spiked in her senses. Her body preemptively twisted aside in a quick aerial spin, just in time for a bolt of plasma to fly through where her gut had been a moment before. She ducked behind the rooftop's ledge before more shots flew overhead, just enough safe space to plan her next move.

25 August 2021

AL

10:51

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

Not giving a single moment of rest, Sage kept pummeling on the Aquillish, not caring in the slightest for its painful screams and disgusting roars.

Punch after punch, the Zeltron's eyes grew wider and his grin larger with excitement. His knuckles were now covered in alien blood and he wanted more.

W

23:12

Wally

The Aquillish turned into a meaty pulp of broken bone and sinew, spilling and soiling the sand and sediment beneath Sage's fervor and fury. The rest of the body went still. A pain lingered in the Zeltron's wrist, but adrenaline, for now, overrode it.

Behind them, Mune maintined their barrier to keep their freinds safe. It rebuked the first two attackas against it. The third attack from the IG-Droids blasters were percise and controlled enough to wear it down.

Mune grit their teeth as the barrier flickered, but they would *not* let any harm come from to their friends. The barrier held, until the droids barrage stopped.

23:16

Having recovered from L'ara's drive by, the IG-Droid over by the back of the encampment stepped forward and drew a bead on Zig. It fired its blaster indiscriminently, and the shot traveled true.

26 August 2021

MC

00:33

Mune Cinteroph

Mune felt the barrier come apart, they felt the Force woven to protect their friends shatter and come apart, fading into nothingness. *Fine*, they thought. Their sabers were already resting in their hands. Eyes narrowed, they pounced. All that fluid grace leapt forward.

Now they would feel their teeth. Mune snarled. They landed in a low crouch. Their lightsabers snapped to life with a brilliant crackle of purple and blue light. One quick slash and the droid was disarmed. Then the second saber came around in a wicked horizontal slash that relieved the droid of it's head.

W

12:35

Wally

The IG-Droid that had originally been staggered and flustered by Eilens earlier grenade attack recovered and sighted down on the womans position. It fired off a series of percision bolts, all of which should have hit their mark.

Except they did not. Eilen somersaulted sideways with dextrous grace, neatly avoiding the volley and remaining safe behind her cover, albiet with a freshly added shean of sweat and harder breathing.

A

13:42

Attifer

Meanwhile, the IG-Droid positioned to converge from the south on the intruders took up its blaster and fired at the small, shining-armored command unit of the group.

Beside Zig, Ruka's ever alert senses screeched of warning, an echo, not directly to him but of danger to the captain two steps away. The Mirialan closed that distance in one swift lunge, saber blade extending in an arc to bat the bolt away before it could touch the Zygerrian, not even thinking of, *oh, beskar*, until he'd already done it and felt foolish.

"Sorry," he muttered briefly, twisting his blade back into a ready guard overhead and standing back to back with the tinkerer.

W

13:50

Wally

Zig blinked inside her visor, and was reminded again why DPS space mages were great to have around. "Thanks Ru," she said with no hint of annoyance

T

13:57

Techsketch

With multiple enemies laying fire onto Eilen's hiding place, her situation was getting a little out of hand. It wasn't a fight she could just flee, either. She needed a new plan to take out two birds with one stone.

Then it hit her — she didn't need the stone, she just needed one of the birds.

Her senses told her a break in the fire was coming. She had a momentary window to act. Eilen breathed deep, and prepared to leap out the instant the last shot flew over.

Her furry form sprung out and quickly locked focus on her Aqualish assailant. With a swing of her arm and a heave through the Force, he was whipped off his feet toward the IG-droid preparing to fire again. They slammed with a clank and both hit the ground before either had a chance to react.

Across the field, Sulith took notice of the two enemies going down. Not about to miss a beat, the soldier took aim at the IG-droid and fired on it, blowing a hole in the killer machine's chassis. The sooner those things were out of commission, the better.

Sully twisted so his shield faced the ongoing skirmish with the HK-droid and the enemies' assumed leader. A lot of fire was going on that direction, and people still needed protection. He repositioned himself between Zuza, Kaled, and the southward brawl, but kept his gaze on the downed duo.

"You guys alright?" he asked his nearby allies.

ZL

17:47

Zuza Lottson

Zuza had missed her shot from the blaster line, her elbow having slipped off of the sandstone plateau and skewing the shot up into the sky. Thus, she had began running.

Running into the fight. This had been planned, although it was mildly unnerving to run down, knowing you were in front of a line of various ranged weapons. She blew out a short breath, tucking the sling so the blaster hung on her back, bouncing with dull thuds against the back of the blackened armour as she stepped down the dunes into the settlement, hopping off of the sand and onto stable ground. From there, it was easier to move. Adrenaline began pulsing agian, although quieter this time. Despite the strength of the forces fighting them, it was far from a dire or doomed fight.

The Human drew her vibroblade, the handle comfortable in her small hand, and slipped to the eastern side. Her skills were better on the droids backing the Beskar-clad person towards the back, however the distance was far and one of the Aquillish bots was prominently in the way. Zu adjusted her grip on her blade, running just to the side and slowing her step to bring her arm back, the twin-suns glinting off of her blade, and sliced it down toward the bot. And met the sand below, sending a wave over the Aquillish as it spun away from her.

Sparks seemed to rain through the air, highlighting the lack of impact and impressive moves.

"Welp, kark ya then." Zuza commented, bemused but continuing on her path away, coming to a stop beside Doon. She glanced back to Sully, "Just got here so I am! You okay?"

KA

18:03

Kaled Atros

Miraluka turned his head twords Sully giving him a quick nodd.

He twisted the hilt once more before pulling his fingers out of the ring and firmly grabbing the hilt of his lightsaber with his cybernetic arm.

What do I do?! What would Buaphta...

Before he could finish his though, Miraluka remembered something. Back on the mission he recalled Hapans wise words.

Alright, try reaching out instead with your senses.

Kaled stood silent for a moment. He carefully observed the field in front of him, and to his surprise he found objects not far from were he was.

Miraluka almost gave a off a smile as he started to run forward.

If there is anything I can teach you, Kaled, is that you should always think with your head before your lightsaber. I've stayed alive as long as I have because of my awareness, not my talent for taking life. You, too, can be much more than just another blade.

" I'm more then a blade...I won't fail you Buaphta. " Kaled whispered to himself as he was closing in to the barrels up ahead.

"Hey!" Kaled exclaimed as he stopped right in front of the barrels.

"Head's up!"

With a quick motion of his hand Miraluka concentrated on object in front of him. The barrel suddenly rose up from the ground. And as

Kaled motiond forward with his hand, it launched itself right into the Mandalorian.

It's much easier lifting this... Barrels then rock's. How'd knew?

W

18:11

Wally

The Leader of this band of Crimson Sarlaacs managed to dodge out of the way of the incoming barrel on reflex. She backpedled a bit, nearly bumping into the IG droid nearby, but stayed on her toes, blasters drawn and ready.

A

18:53

Archian

Archian aimed at Aquillish, to shot it into leg. His plan was to immobilise it, and this way gave advantage to rest of the group.

Bow was ready, eyes were ready as well, arm bend for additional power of the shoot.

Only one thing wasn't ready...

Scurrier woke up, and came out from the robs, looking curiously around. At the same time it's tail was tickling Reds nose, which made him to loose arrow.

It was going unexpectedly accurate into enemy's leg, but finally it landed between them, the same like last attempt at the droid.

Archian looked at happily jumping small creature and face palmed himself... 27 August 2021

W

17:32

Wally

The Leader in Mandlarian armor mimic'd L'ara's manuver from earlier. Her jetpack activated and she shot up into the air.

"Nice of you to all to join us," she spoke, modulated, towards the new group of Arconans that had made their way towards her position.

"While it lasted..."

Her wrist shot forward and she unleashed a salvo of micro-rockets right into the epicenter of where Doon, Zuza, Ruka, and Zig stood....

A

17:51

Attifer

The armored woman shot into the air and taunted them, but her words didn't matter much to Ruka. What *did* was the way she raised her arm, was the distinct, dull, firing *fwopfwopfwop* of the explosives.

In his mind, for two heartbeats, he wasn't under the Tatooine suns, burning up in his armor, surrounded by a team. He was in a smoking metal corridor, pinned under blaster fire, back to back with Cora, people screaming at them to die even though they'd never met or done a damn thing except be born with powers. A grenade rolled across the floor, and landed by Cora's foot.

No.

No then, and no now.

A third heartbeat, and Ruka glared at the Mandalorian even as his senses screamed and screamed for the danger he wasn't running from, instead pivoting and shouting, "BRACE!"

His fist slammed into the sand, and the Force ballooned out away from it, the wave kicking out from the epicenter tossing the others and the sand. He would've winced had there been time, but away had to be good enough--

The rockets hit and his body *hithithithit*, rolling across the ground in heat and impact and then stillness and he tried to breathe and for that moment couldn't feel his chest, just smelled smoldering cloth and hair as his vision spun, staring up at the blinding suns flat on his back.

W

18:04

Wally

The Force detonated just moments before the rockets snap, crackled, and popped against the Tatooine sands. As the blow-back radiated outward, Zig, Doon, Zuza and Kaled all felt their bodies being suddenly *pushed* backwards with sudden propulsion.

Zuza used the backwards momentum to tuck her compact form inward and roll mid-air to land firmly, but without much flair, on her feet.

Kaled was already starting to retreat, and the shockwave merely sent him flying backwards, but with a bit of luck he managed to land next to Zuza without much flair, knees bent. Safe.

Zig leveraged her martial arts training to shift her weight, toggled her jetpack for a quick-second to adjust her own trajectory, and then landed in a crouch with one fist down on the ground. Super hero landing.

Doon's armored form, meanwhile, seemed to somehow weather the inertia of Ruka's manuver. The large Shistaven was propelled backwards, leaving his feet, but was able to smartly and stubbornly push his wate downward to stomp back to the ground and dig his heavy feet into the sandy tera beneath him. His heels still slid backwards through the sand before he came to a stop.

The Manadloarian woman swore under her breath, but at least she had seemingly gotten one of the pesky intruders. 18:06

--

The Aquillish guard that was remaining seemingly by himself while the Arconans rushed off past him was left, curiously, with only two intruders around him. The white furred Shistaven that had made the wizard-bubble, and the bulky Togarian that had a bunch of gadgets.

Doing some quick algebra, the Aquillish moved away from the wizard, and went to go try and land a few blaster bolts on the Togarian.

18:13

Sully lifted his shield and managed to catch the shots without much effort, the large guard making it easy to protect himself.

ZL

18:16

Zuza Lottson

As Zuza settled into position, she looked between the small sand craters produced by the mini-rockets, and then spotted the hunched over figure of Ruka. She swore.

"Karking shak"

W

18:21

Wally

Zig landed and quickly tried to adjust her senses through her visor and HUD. She didn't have the analytical mind that Doon or the other experienced leaders had, but she had instincts as both a mercanry and scavenger herself. Trying to get to the flying Mandalorian might have been a stretch. She'd need to trust the others. What she could do, of course, was punch something a bit closer.

Zig sighed on the IG-Droid to her right, and revved up her shockboxing gloves. Electric current cackled as she simultaneously activated her jetpack and bursted towards the droid. "Ziggy Puuuuuunch" she shouted thorough her helmets modulation as her fist struck the droid in the chest and sent it staggering backwards and down onto its back, prone.

18:31

The IG-Droid up above on a perch watching the battle now unfold saw its comrade go down at the hands of the armored Zygerrian. In retaliation, it aimed its blaster carbine and fired. The shot was a bit wide, and the Zygerrian Captain managed to simply step away from the trajectory.

18:35

Keeping with the theme of teaming up on the Beskar-clad Zygerrian, another IG-Droid took aim at Zig and fired their blasters. Zig lifted her forearm and activated the disk-like shield in her vambrace and held it in front of her to deflect the bolts.

"Nice try, tin can"

K{

20:11

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara watched the Beskar-clad woman as her jetpack ignited and began to lift her off the ground. She braced to dodge away until she realized that this fake Mandalorian wasn't even aiming toward her!

She snarled under her own helmet.

Mistake number one, you ignore me!

Mistake number two, you steal MY MOVE!

Mistake number three, you go after my friends WITH MY MOVE!!

It was time to bust out the big toys, she reached into her satchel until her hands found the spherical object. Maybe not literally big, but big enough. She ignited her own jet pack and rushed up behind the enemy and deposited the denton charge with a little toss, the magnet on the charge did the rest. It affixed itself to the fake mandalorian's jetpack as L'ara let herself safely fall back down to the ground, mentally ticking off the seconds on the explosive's timer. Her smile grew with each tick. 28 August 2021

W

14:51

Wally

Suspended in the air, feeling proud of her work, the beskar-clad Leader did not notice the Twi'lek's maneuver. Her helmet's visor was focused on the armored Zygerrian taking on three of her IG-droids, and the recovering group of Arconans. She assessed the others in her team not doing well. She should call for backup--

Wait, the Twi'lek in the knock-off armor. She was landing. When did she...take off to need to lan-

*Click, click click...***BOOM**

The denton charge waited until L'ara's feet touched down. Behind her helmet, the grin was feral and smug and defiant.

The charge ignited and created an exothermal reaction with the burning fuel in the jetpack. An ochre cloud of light blinded the area in white-hot light.

And then the woman was falling, her beskar armor singed and scored, but her body, more or less remained in tact.

She fell to the ground with a loud **thunk**. Her limbs were limp and her figure unmoving. Smoke trailed from the armored outline.

Later, if anyone checked to see what remained, the Beksar had more or less remained, but the flesh beneath had been cooked through thouroughly. The smell of burnt flesh started to emanate. Like a nerf stake.

The battle did not stop, however. IG-Droids were true to their programming and continued on without their leader.

A

15:35

Attifer

Ruka's pinwheeling purple eyes refocused slowly, having been blinded thrice over, between the stars that had rocked his skull, the twin suns, and then the ball of flame and indignation just above him once a green-armored spirit had streamed past. He blinked slowly, smelled burning, even stronger now. Wondered if it was him. Was it him? Was he on fire again?

He really hated the smell of him on fire, damn.

But no...no, it didn't...feel quite like that. He was fairly sure he was seared, but not actively burning. He flexed his fingers and toes and felt them all there, forced his mind through the heat-haze and took faculty, looked around, thought, *get up get up move do it for them*.

His body didn't quite cooperate just yet, but he could tilt his head back and feel the scratch of sand, turn his face to put eyes on the sprawled, metal form of the woman they had been fighting, smoldering in the sand. Distantly, he felt impressed, his eyebrows raising towards the earth. It took *a lot* of heat and sometimes force to put scorch marks on metal. Nevermind beskar.

Cooooool, was his still somewhat strained thought, wobbly underneath the mantra urging him to get up already, he wasn't hurt that bad, it was fine, really actually, he'd had worse and been fine, fine, get up, get up, do it for..

His eyes rolled back around, catching silhouettes. Zuza, Kaled, even Doon. He could feel Eilen, the others.

Them.

AL

16:39

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

The Zeltron looked around after beating his foe more than he should have.

There was a shot Aquillish on the run, and another that was knocked down. Next to it, an IG unit was also trying to get up.

"Oh no you don't!" The Boss dashed towards the downed enemies and unleashed a deadly barrage of punches all over the Aquillish's body and face.

"Die you karking kark!" He felt his wrist ache with every punch, but he didn't wanna stop.

No, the Boss could bandage his wrist later, but now was the time to kill!

W

17:10

Wally

Zig tried to filter out the sudden explosion and meaty thump of the airborne enemy leader. She was a bit preoccupied, though.

One droid up on the roof had a bead on her. One she had knocked down.

The other also seemed intent on tangling with her. She kept her wrist shield up.

She noticed motion out of her peripheral HUD. Doon? The large Shistaven was charging in, and seemed to realize that the better target was the prone IG-droid.

S

18:29

SongBird

Doon's blade fell like a guillotine upon the droids abdomen, cutting straight through it and embedding itself into the sand below. His eye scans the battlefield, still searching for the best place to put himself.

The team was good, well equipped. The plan was going smoothly. It left the Shistavanen with little to do besides help mop up. Still, he kept watch, making sure no more surprises like the sniper popped up.

A

18:44

Archian

Archian frustrated from his missing strikes from bow, decided that is the time to join close combat. He almost broke his bow in half, when he was hanging it back on his back, and replacing it with Bilari Electro- chain Whip. He had risen up from his knees and jumped down from the sighting spot.

He wanted to finish this unlucky bastard who was anyway already dying, but also to correct that fatal shot, which landed between Aquillish's legs.

After landing close by to injured enemy Red straightened his whip, and with slow movement of his wrist, and a few steps forward, he tangled tall posture with dark elements of his weapons and electrical sparks coming from touched skin.

The cutten deeply flesh started to burn, scales changed into ash, but there was only silence, because top of the weapon immobilised Aquillish face, and started to boil his eyes, which under pressure started to come out from its skull.

It took only a couple of minutes, till body fall at the ground, without any more movements, and Archian rolled back his whip, looking who needs medical help, after he had decided to take lower ground position.

ZL

19:27

Zuza Lottson

Zuza watched as L'ara launched herself into the sky, planting the Denton. It clicked what was going to happen, and the Human buried her face into her elbow to prevent her eyes being blinded by the burn of the explosion. Seeing the inert, assumedly corpse, of the beskar clad woman, she scanned the rest of the field.

Come on Zu, ya gotta do something.

Maybe it was for the best, injured ribs and all, but then again... She shook her head, looking around without that self concern even being vaguely pressing. Instead, her eyes landed on the two notably remaining droids. One was attacking the badass green Twi-Leki, but also had Zig. Two versus one, they were fine. Instead, she swept into motion, running back the way she had come to, shifting her feets sideways to slide in and slash the droid across the chest and stop Sage from breaking his hand for real.

She slid to a stop, not nearly as gracefully as she would have wished to but, but bringing her blade down across the torso of the droid.

A

19:43

Attifer

The droid that had shot poorly at Sage and been next for the man's fists or Sulith's might sputtered and shocked as Zuza's knife carved into its chassis and severed internal wiring. It crumpled to two servos before falling with a clank.

Meanwhile, the droid engaged at close quarters with Zig, unconcerned with preservation of its unit compared to eliminating intruders, shot over the armored Captain at the Twi'lek.

K{

19:59

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara barely had a moment to feel self-assured in the explosion that rocked the courtyard before she barely spotted the blaster bolt whizzing past Zig toward her.

She moved to drop her right shoulder back and turn on her left foot but the bolt moved faster than she expected and slammed into her right pauldron. It missed anything vital, but her it still burned her skin and rendered the metal near-useless.

MC

21:10

Mune Cinteroph

The droid they pounced upon downed, Mune scanned the field. Uncertain how hurt Ruka was, they knew they had to lend some sort of cover. Everyone would be making it home. Mune's sabers fell silent and put their energy into sprinting full out across battlefield. Naturally athletic, they had no need of the Force to enhance their speed, and so it was that they were quickly upon Ruka without dropping to all fours even.

Skidding to a halt, throwing sand up (luckily not ONTO Ruka), they took up a position that they could best cover their friend. Chancing a glance down at the prone Mirialan to try and assess his injuries they asked quickly, "You had best still be breathing, Ruka."

A

21:37

Attifer

Ruka found his voice as the pretty white wolf appeared over him, coughing out, "I'm...fine. M'fine."

Get up, he reminded himself yet again, shaking his head, and finally it was really clearing with the ringing in his ears. He tried to sit up and groaned lightly, warring with the instinct and habit and drive of *do it for them* and ignoring any hurt, and listening to his aches for once when he was surrounded by capable people and there...seemed to be the one hostile left. He imagined he could feel Eilen's gaze burning into the back of his head from her position. Or maybe that was just the hot sand he was laying on.

"Just winded," he repeated, still on his back but drawing up legs and arms, raising his shoulders in the process of letting his head spin again with the movement.

31 August 2021

T

11:46

Techsketch

From the moment she watched Ruka soak the blast himself, Eilen's heart lurched. And as long as things were still shooting around him, she couldn't get to him. She grit her teeth and desperately searched for a source to the sniper fire in the far building. A gleam caught her eye, not an exact location, but something she could address.

"Sully, help him!" she called down. Her jetpack lit up and flung her across the battlefield, directly over the main skirmish as her team dispatched the remaining foes.

Eilen's shot was hasty and poorly balanced, but her target was large enough that it didn't make much difference. The grenade from her launcher shattered the wall around the point of impact, scattering debris and dust. The sniper wasn't shaken, but perhaps its view was obscured.

Below her, Sully was in a full sprint. He leapt over Ruka, planning to address the wounds soon, but an IG-unit remained standing on the ground nearby. Both arms braced behind his shield for the incoming bash.

Zig's ears twitched at the all-too-familiar sound of a charging Togorian, and she deftly leapt out of the way just before he blew past. The droid Sully slammed into was not so accustomed to such an approach.

With a metallic slam, the IG-unit flew off its feet and clattered to the ground, hardly damaged but briefly disoriented. It would no doubt retaliate quickly.

KA

17:08

Kaled Atros

Kaled stood still, remaining in his Soresu stance.

Carefully sensing his soundings, it was clear that the leader of the group was no longer a threat.

The smell... Biscuits, that horrible smell...

She didn't deserve to die like that. Even if she was their enemy, no one deserved such a fate. Miraluka quickly turned his head around, noticing that Ruka was in pain. Kaled quickly made his way to him hoping that, somehow, he would be able to esse Mirilans pain in some way.

A bit further he noticed that Sully was standing over... something. It was vague. The aura was shimmering and it wasn't clearly defined.

Droid?

As Kaled was running, he though to himself. He wasn't a healer, and the only thing that Miraluka would be able to do was apply a medpack that was on him. But if he failed, Arcanist would only make Rukas situation worse. Instead he bolted pass wonded Mirilan and Sully to the droid that was still laying down on the ground.

Calm...deep breaths and strike!

With a quick motion, Miraluka lifted his lightsaber up and preformed a downward slash and hitting his mark with perfect precision. 1 September 2021

MC
01:04
Mune Cinteroph

Seeing the last of the enemies go down, Mune breathed a sigh of relief and holstered their lightsabers. Their attention turned from defending their friend to kneeling by Ruka's side and stopping him from rising immediately. "Just stay still for a moment, the danger is passed for the moment."

Mune drew upon the Force. From the looks of him, the wounds were not bad so it would not take much, so Mune surmised. They let the energy flow through them and, placing a hand on Ruka's shoulder, allowed the healing energies to flow through to him to mend the scratches and bruises. If there had been any more serious wounds, Mune was aware it would have taken far more energy but as things were, Ruka would be healed in only a few moments.

Within minutes, Mune let the Mirialan sit get up and took a moment themself to channel energy back into their own reserves. They'd need all the energy they could get if other battles still lay ahead in their operation.

"All good?" they asked, smiling.

A
05:41
Attifer

Mune's healing felt different than Cora's, different than others, like any User's power often did-- more like powdered snow and flower petals, extremely soft and almost too-light, as if hesitant to touch or linger. Nevertheless, as the power settled over him, the ringing he hadn't even realized was in his blown ears cleared, as did the fog of a concussion in his head that had him do dulled. Relief came to the burns and bone aches. The Mirialan lurched half upright, paused when there was no dizziness or nausea, and then stood all the way, stretching, twisting, testing range of motion.

"Yeah, ay," Ruka said, looking to the white Shistavanen and bowing his head. "Thanks, Mune."

That said, he started looking around, naturally concerned and on high alert again with a clear head. His eyes went immediately to Eilen, assured she was safe, then to Kaled, Zuza, Doon, Zig, the ones who'd been in the firing line of the bombs in the first place. Then the others, flickering too over bodies and then over the area, watching and waiting. Surely their battle had to have drawn attention, so where were the rest, and what were they doing? No were two women and a few thugs and droids the whole of the Crimson Sarlaccs, not with the way people talked about them and how much they trafficked and traded. At least, he didn't *think* so.

T
10:03
Techsketch

With the last droid down, Sully's head immediately whipped back to check Ruka. Before he could even reach for his medical supplies, though, Mune's magic was already doing the work of a million bacta patches. Without much of a wait at all, Ruka's burns

seemed to evaporate before him while fresh scrapes and bruises all but shrunk into nothing. The work of these people's magic never ceased to amaze.

Sully smiled gleefully. "Hey, you're looking better already. Still got any aches, pains, problems?" He lifted his head and spoke louder. "Anyone hurt at all?"

Not far away, Eilen's jet engines quickly faded as her feet touched ground. Her grenade launcher remained trained on the building ahead, but her head yanked around, urgent to see that Ruka hadn't damn near killed himself again. And thankfully, yeah, he seemed fine. She wasn't gonna let that slip, but for the moment, as the dust ahead of her cleared, Eilen was realizing they had a different problem.

"Uh... guys? Th- there was still a droid in there." Her weapon lowered for her to point up. "I... Kriff, I dunno where he went." Was it still there, hiding, waiting for a shot? Had it run? Either thought left her tense.

"...I— I think we should hurry," she urged.

A

10:10

Attifer

At his apprentice's warning, Ruka turned to follow her pointing hand and narrowed his eyes at the building. There wasn't a lot to see, really. The sandy, half-blasted front facade, collapsed windows, squat doorways common to Tatooine buildings, one unobscured if scuffed and weathered and the other piled with the debris her shot had caused.

The only bad thing about fighting droids: not being able to sense them. Even if his senses were bad.

"Yeah, probably should. Who knows what they're doing right now or how many we just alerted. C'mon, ay! Let's get out of they sightlines.

Stay close, keep your heads down. Mune, be ready with more of your barriers-- thanks by the way. And I'm okay, Sully. C'mon."

He reached out to touch Kaled's arm as he passed, drawing the Miraluka with him towards the building Eilen had indicated. At least if they all huddled against it rather than in the open all over the square, they'd be less likely to get sniped by a droid if it was still inside. And they'd have their backs to something if anyone came from anywhere else.

"Anyone see anything?"

2 September 2021

W

19:04

Wally

Zig assessed the group, her ears ringing from all the action and shouting and blasterfire and everything. Inside her helmet the ringing was slowly starting to dull out. Her helmets HUD sensors shows no more signs of hostiles, for now.

"Status!?" Zig called out, looking around frantically. "Is anyone hurt, or need medical attention?"

ZL

19:05

Zuza Lottson

"I'm good!" Zuza called from near Sage, glancing over everyone else with concern and... unsure of what to do.

She'd not really helped out with the fight as much as she'd have liked and was feeling a touch loss of something to do. So she settled for patting Sage, who she was still stood near, on the shoulder and trying to look his hand over again.

A

19:16

Attifer

Ruka's eyes roved over many dim buildings, detecting no movement, even looking with eyes that had grown up on the street, that knew to spot small motions in windows of flicking curtains or figures flinching into corners, knew from being one himself. He saw a head duck down below a counter in the cantina, the only lighted building. There wasn't much else beside the oversized sewer grate in the center of town.

Someone hiding though...a civilian? A scared ganger?

"Someone is in there," he murmured, more to himself than anyone else. He immediately felt slight unease, imagining Sage or Doon rushing someone frightened or desperate or hostage. Could he alert Zuza or Zig or Mune without alerting one of them? Or at least, not *Sage*. "Hey, Kal...do you sense anything...in the cantina?"

KA

19:27

Kaled Atros

After coming to his senses, Kaled deactivated his lightsaber and lifted his hand over to zig to give her an ok on his health status.

His attention was quickly stolen by Ruka and his sudden question.

"Ha? Ammm let me just-" Miraluka turned his head around to observe the sounding area as Marik though him.

To his surprise Mirilan was right. There was someone small hiding behind a door of the building. Kaled wasn't sure if it was a Cantina building but there was no mistake.

"Wow...well I'm surprised at your observation skills Master Ruka." Kaled said as he returned the hilt back on his belt.

"There is...Aaaa someone inside? If that is the direction of the Cantina. But this tall? Maybe a smaller human?" Miraluka lifted his hand up in down trying to give a rough estimate on the humanoid size.

W

19:36

Wally

The IG-Droid that managed to slip away from the Arconan assault force made their way down the secret entrance to the unground base. They moved as quickly as their chasis allowed. Metal clanking echoed through the hallowed halls of the underground sewer system. They knew the way.

Little did the droid know, however, was a small trail of oil was being left behind in its wake.

It made it's way through the winding sewer system and found its Master.

"Drod. Report," a basey voice hissed.

"Leader. We have come under attack from an armored group of raiders. They took out entire guard patrol in town, only I remain."

"That means...they got Mel'uren?!" a second voice snapped. This was a Basalisk, quadruple fists balling into angry fists.

"Impossible." "Possible. Confirmed," the Droid intoned. "They did inquire about a Zabrak..."

The leader stepped out of shadows and stroked a scaled chin as he listened, but made a few quick gestures and turned to the Basalisk.

"Handle it."

"With pleasure," the Basalisk sneered, as he grabbed a few idling Crimson Sarlaac members and motioned for htem to follow.

A

19:38

Attifer

The Miraluka's miming of height only alarmed Ruka further. Was there a *kid* in there? Or just someone short? If there was even a chance it was someone young, it didn't matter. He needed to get over there.

His eyes narrowed and his chin lifted.

"Alright, right. Good. Thanks, Kal. That helps. Hey, you mind coming with me a minute? I'm gonna check in there but I need help."

That said, he turned to Mune and tugged on the Shistavanen's sleeve, voice low but intent. "Mune, I need you to get Doon and L'ara's attention. Maybe we all go look over there? We should anyway. But make sure they stay focused." His eyes flicked over as he spoke, noticing Zuza already examining the big grate. That'd work. For once, luck. Thank Ashla and Bogan. "C'mon. *Let's check out this grate!*"

Not waiting for either to really respond, he started forward. When they got closer, he quickly whispered to Zuza, "Hey, Zu. Make sure Sage doesn't go anywhere, okay? Can you keep his attention a minute?"

KA

19:45

Kaled Atros

Kaled gave a small nodd to Ruka.

"Of course. I'll be happy to but are you all right? Are you sure you can move? Do you need a hand? I only have medpacks, but they would probably be useful-Am I talking to much again? Sorry..will accompany you... Right."

MC

19:47

Mune Cinteroph

Mune arched a brow then gave a nod. They moved towards Doon and L'ara, motioning to get their attention. "We should do a quick sweep of the perimeter to ensure there is no one closing on this position. If they had anyone further out that is now closing in we could find ourselves in a bad spot."

Mune grinned, happy they came up with an actual good distraction. It would bring them away from the cantina for the moment.

A

19:53

Attifer

"You're fine, Kal, thanks. I'm okay. You're helping exactly how I need," the Sith added over his shoulder, quick but firm.

ZL

19:56

Zuza Lottson

"Uh, sure. Easy as Shrik." Zuza looked up from the grate, giving Ruka a puzzled look but then wandering back over to Sage and taking the large man's hand and insisting on checking it over, and using the grazing from him punching stuff as an excuse to make him sit and wait while she made temporary bandages out of her shirt and wrapped the hand.

He resisted initially, but a small pout and a please and he relented.

This.. still confused Zuza on a level she couldn't comprehend while wrapping his hand. *Would sage even let Aru do this?!*

KA

19:57

Kaled Atros

"Aaa... Thank you...I guess?...Glad to be of service... Yes..." Kaled gave a nod and a soft smile.

"So...do we try and talk to the person? We are going to talk to them first right? Could only be an innocent bystander..."

K{

20:04

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

Karran sat in his cell with his right knee still propped up up the bench serving as a rest for his elbow. His fingers clenched and relaxed rhythmically, as if in memory of gripping something. He stared through the shimmer of the cell's containment field at the scurrying guards.

The alarm had been sounded. He was unsurprised. He had felt the faint rumble of explosions up above.

The old man in the bunk across the room stirred, he'd been out cold since they were captured. Karran had checked on him every hour or so to make sure he was still alive, but could do little else.

With a wicked, toothy grin he stood and walked up to the containment field. He could almost feel the electricity trying to arc out and bite him.

"YOU'RE ALL GOING TO DIE! RUN WHILE YOU HAVE A CHANCE!"

A

20:05

Attifer

"Yes, we're going to talk to them," Ruka replied, grateful as Zuza went to Sage, easing further past the grate with Kaled in a measured beeline for the cantina. He unbuckled his weapons belt as he went and the strap across his chest that held his sapphire sword on his back, dropping both outside the building's doorway. If it was a child, then maybe it would help. If it wasn't...well, maybe he'd need Kal's medpac after all. "Just...gonna take it easy, see."

Slowly, stepping more into the doorway, he lifted both arms, then spun very slowly around in a circle and stopped again. "Hey there," he called into the room, gentling his tone. Benches and booths were empty. There were mugs and bottles, dishes. Stacks of crates. More sand than floor tracked around, leaving all sorts of patterns. The wide, long bar that stretched all around the round common area where a figure had ducked down. "Hey. I'm unarmed, see? I can turn back around if you want to look. I won't see you. Neither will my friend, here. He's blind, see? His name is Kaled. I'm Ruka. We don't want to hurt you. We just want to talk. Nobody else has to get hurt. I'm sorry if it was scary and loud there. I know it was bad. But I'm not going to hurt you. What's your name?"

T

20:06

Techsketch

Between the missing droid and concern for Ruka, Eilen remained tense even in their moment of calm. It didn't feel like anything was over, yet. Mune's point only escalated that thought.

She caught herself before jumping to anything or badgering Ruka further. People were all over him already, even though he was walking again. *He's good at faking, though...*

It took looking away to think. Eilen wiped back her sweat-drenched hair again, considering the area and the threat it posed. She'd checked around before; could there have been an ambush hiding another dune out? Maybe. Flying to make it quick could be risky, but cloaking again would be a slow process, and they didn't have that kind of time. Alternatively, trying to follow that missing droid on her own when it knew she was coming was... probably just a good way to get herself shot, without help.

No. For now, she just hugged her launcher close and stood still, tense, trying to emulate Sully standing firm next to her.

W

21:17

Wally

"J-j-et," the young boy said. He could not have been more than twelve years old. He held a small frying pan in his grip, but managed not to quiver.

KA

21:35

Kaled Atros

Kaled was suddenly taken a back by the boys voice.

A child.. Thank Ashla..

He let out a sigh of relief before straightening himself up a bit.

"Hello there Jet." Kaled said with a soft smile.

"Don't worry... We don't mean you no harm! We were in a desert and stuff happened. Almost fell from the bike. Wild ride that was. And I mistook a landing pad for a person. Happens. Hehehe..." Miraluka rubbed his head. Still embarrassed thinking back on that moment.

" Are you alright? Hurt? Do you need some supplies? I have some snacks in my pockets. Biscuits, but they are good. Well not chocolate ones but they are fine. Sorry, I'm probably talking to much.... I'm just...Yes.."

A

21:41

Attifer

Ruka smiled slightly at Kaled's attempts and offers. It was sweet, but hopefully not overwhelming.

"Hey, Jet," Ruka said, still soft, letting Kaled's babble settle. "Kal's friendly, huh? It's okay. We're not going to hurt you. Good job, grabbing that pan, though. That's smart. You're really brave, ready to fight like that." He eyed the boy carefully. "My kids are pretty brave too, I bet you'd get along. Is this okay? Talking to you? Promise, you say the word and we're gone. You're in charge."

W

21:44

Wally

Jet looked back and forth between the tall, armored Mirilan...and the robed and serene looking Miraluka. He seemed curious to his blindfold.

"You...you aren't Crimson, so, I c-cant be here. And...if my mom gets back, she...she will hurt all of you. So you should just g-go. Or else!" he raised his frying pan towards Ruka.

A

21:58

Attifer

"Okay. I'll go, Jet. See?" Ruka stepped back again, into the doorway, since the pan was pointed his way. He glanced at Kaled. "Do you want Kal to go too...?"

KA

21:58

Kaled Atros

"No,no it's ok! Look we are good guy honest." Kaled raised his hands forward, accidentally reviling his cybernetic arm.

"Master Ruka maybe looks tough, but he is kind and sweet! Look..."

Miraluka came forward coming closer and stoping next to Mirilan.

He carefully reached out and softly pinched one of his cheeks.

"Soft! Like a marshmallow! Well nothing is more soft then a marshmallow, but he is really nice. And kind. Also fuzzy hair. Hehehe." Kaled slowly started to gently stroke Rukas hair with a smile on his face.

"Mine is longer. Never cut it. But his is really soft, and fuzzy. Like a pillow."

A

22:03

Attifer

Ruka stood there and. Let the Miraluka pet his face and dreadlocks, trying not to twitch much. They were both *sweaty*.

"I'm a marshmallow," he repeated dutifully, and his mouth brightened into a smile, thinking of Noga and Leda laughing at him now, thinking of them younger when they'd still put up with him more and liked such antics too. Days when they'd all been superheroes or space whales rolling around on the floor, wrapped in blankets.

W

22:30

Wally

Jet blinked a few times. *What was marshmallow?*

"My mom is fierce. She earned her armor through combat, but...I was stupid and because of me she...she.. we were forced to work here for the 'Sarlaccs. She helps patrol the area, and the Boss said that after their next haul... we'd be free to go. So, p-please just go?"

A

22:37

Attifer

The world ground to a halt.

Dread was terrible. Distracting. He pushed it down. Not now not now.

"Stay with him, *keep him inside*," he barked to Kaled, then turned and bolted back into the sunlight. He ran for the body in the beskar armor, skidding to his knees in the sand, *praying*.

"MUNE! EILEN! SERA! Anybody that can heal get over here *now*! Sully, I need you!"

He wasn't sure if he would be able to find a pulse even as he reached for the helmet, and not just because his hands were shaking.

No, no, no, why did it have to always be violent, no, no.

MC

22:55

Mune Cinteroph

Mune's head snapped around and they bolted to where Ruka waited. They skidded to a halt and dropped to their knees by the side of their clanmate. "Do we know how badly she is hurt?"

The Shistavanen would try to sense if she were even still alive to begin with. Healing an enemy did not seem that far fetched... oddly enough... to them at least. You did not kill unless it was absolutely necessary. There had not been a choice at the time with her amount of firepower but... now, if they could keep her alive... They reached out with the Force, gingerly reaching out to get some sense of the woman prone upon the ground.

They gave a heavy sigh and rose back to their feet, tail and ears down. They looked to Ruka. "There is nothing I can do... I..."

They shook their head, touched Ruka's shoulder and stepped away, "We... we have work to do..." their voice cracked some. "You... should go back to the kid..."

T

22:57

Techsketch

Sully's brow shifted as Ruka called out, and he hurried to the man's side. From just one look, though, he wasn't gonna have to take out his kits.

"...I... can't fix that," he said, apologetically. "...Who is she?"

A

23:19

Attifer

The Mirialan's hands were frozen on the helmet, still shining, despite the stench of burned flesh. Even he couldn't sense anything. He knew it.
He knew it.

But--

"Someone's mother," Ruka tried to whisper. No sound came out. He wanted to say, *Someone's family. Like every kriffing one today.*

His body convulsed, bowed over the woman's, forehead pressing to her backplate.

Why would I go back to that kid, he wanted to scream to Mune, *when I helped kill his mother?*

I did this.

I--

No. A child was waiting. Fault or not, that had to come first.

Ruka clenched his hands. Let go. Stood up. Wiped at his face and felt it go flat. Scars and ink and flat. Not marshmallow at all. Just ugly.
But it would have to do.

"Thank you, sorry," he muttered to Sully and Mune. "We have a civilian to take care of. Maybe twelve. Keep the loud ones out, or I will."

He walked back towards the cantina.

MC

23:23

Mune Cinteroph

Mune fell into step with Ruka, heart heavy. They stopped at the entrance while Ruka continued inside, taking up a post to guard the door and keep said loud ones out... though they did not admit that they knew not which ones Ruka meant so they figured to keep anyone else from interrupting. They would be there if they were needed.

T

23:23

Techsketch

Sully's ears lowered. Without waiting for the order, he joined Ruka. "Maybe I can help," he said, a little sullen.

A

23:28

Attifer

"Maybe. You're awfully nice. And soft. Like a marshmallow."

His voice didn't crack, because he didn't let it. It couldn't. Not in front of the kids.

Ruka ducked back inside, nodding his gratitude to Mune, and carefully called, "Jet? Kaled? Sorry to run off. Had to check something. Jet, this is Sulith. Do you want to say hi? He looks really big, but he's really nice. I know you wanted us to leave, and we will, but we can't go yet. Our friend is lost here. The Sarlaccs have him like they have you and your mama. Do you know where any of the other grown ups are? Maybe we can ask them about our friend."

W

23:40

Wally

"I...I can't they will make mother work more. I cant tell you so...so you'll need to go through...m-me." He raised the frying pan.

A

23:43

Attifer

The Mirialan crouched down to Jet's level.

"Jet, what does your mama's armor look like? Really shiny? Round helmet, split in the middle?" He mimicked the shape with his hands.

W

23:43

Wally

Jet nodded.

T

23:55

Techsketch

Sulith's expression lowered a little further. The soldier took a deep breath and slowly stepped forward, hands out, then lowered to the ground to sit.

It was a lot like looking in a mirror. Maybe not quite the same, but the echo was familiar.

"Hey, Jet," he said with little energy. "I, uh... I'm not gonna hurt you, I promise. I'm a soldier; my job is protecting people, see?" He gestured to his shield with a half-hearted grin, then laid it on the ground next to him. "...You can hold your pan right up to me, if it helps, but I'm just gonna talk. Is it okay if I do that?"

3 September 2021

W

00:04

Wally

Jet looked at the towering Togarian, and the shield.

"...okay."

T

00:25

Techsketch

There were many faces over the years, young and old, who Sully had seen come to terms with knowing they'd never see their families again. Most of them, he'd met under the crushing weight of Hutt-given shackles. Time as a soldier had created a few more.

Jaren was better at talking to them, but Sully always hoped he'd learned how to find the right words from listening. If nothing else, he knew what he wished someone had told him.

The faint smile remained. "You're fierce too, I can tell. That's something for her to be proud of." His expression faded again.

What you needed to hear, Sully reminded himself.

"...Jet, the Sarlaacs can't hurt your mother anymore. She... well, if they were making her work for them, do bad things for them, then..." He took a moment to overcome the knot in his throat. His nose twitched. His scars itched, but he didn't dare lift a hand to scratch.

"...The Sarlaacs took a lot of good people, and they're making other good people do bad things to save them. We've come to help, but... we couldn't save your mother."

His entire body deflated. "I'm sorry, Jet, but she's gone... She died fighting for you, like a true Mandalorian would." As the heavy silence hung, he tapped his thumbs. *What you needed to hear...*

"...We're going to put an end to these Sarlaacs and save the rest. You'll never have to be afraid of them again, I promise... And when they're gone, we're going to take your mother's body to her home, to be laid to rest. We're gonna need your help to show us where her home is, so you can both finally go back. You've done her proud, I can tell, but she's gonna need you one last time for that, okay?"

W

01:36

Wally

Jet slowly lowered the pan slowly. His face, mousy hair and average features, seemed to be weathered to the harsh realities of life. He felt his lip quiver but he held his footing and didn't cry. Not in that moment, not in front of all these...strangers. He already knew what the arrival meant, if his mother hadn't come to check on him. She would never flee. She had been defeated, somehow.

He just simply felt numb, instead. He simply nodded mutely.

He walked over behind the bar, and managed to stand on his tip-toes to reach a few bottles. He mechanically re-arranged them into a certain order, then pressed a button under the bar.

A part of the wall in the back side of the cantina slid open to reveal a descending staircase.

Jet raised his hand, pointed, and then felt his arm waiver a bit as emotions bubbled up and he tried his best to not show anything of what he was feeling.

The darker part of his young mind thought: Either these strangers would kill the Sarlaccs, or they'd kill the strangers. Either way, his mother was not coming back.

T

04:24

Techsketch

Sully's head turned to follow the kid as he slumped off. Much as he hated to be the bearer of a loss so traumatizing to someone so young, the back of his mind ached to think of the alternative. Some forward closure could have saved him decades of harsh thoughts.

The secret entrance was unexpected, but it was another step closer to finishing the fight. Head still turned, and he managed a weak grin behind the loosened strands of sweaty mane that had fallen free of his ponytail. He'd lived the kid's same strong front enough to not dare call it on him; an image of strength might be all he had left. And in Sully's own case, some solitude after that was always the break he needed.

"Thank you, Jet. We can take it from here. Stay safe until we come back, okay?"

He twisted his arms and hauled himself back to his feet, nearly hitting the ceiling. As he bent back down to reclaim his shield, Sully spoke quietly to Ruka. "I think some space might be good for him."

In an uncommon gesture for someone who rarely bothered to groom himself, Sully swept back and retied most of his loosened hairs. After a deep breath, he put on a hopeful grin and stepped back out to wave over the rest of the crew.

"Hey, guys! We have a way in!"

Eilen quickly checked her surroundings one more time, then darted over. A dreadful feeling reached her senses, giving her a momentary pause. She gulped down a knot from the secondhand pain in her heart as a pain of her own started to creep in behind it, the pieces coming together in her head.

The sooner this was all over, the better.

MC

10:59

Mune Cinteroph

They did not envy Sulith and the task they took on. No child should ever have to lose their mother, especially so young. Now, he was getting the news from a complete stranger... No. They did not envy Sulith and their task at all. They heard the opening of the passage and glanced over their shoulder, *Does that lead... down?* Their ears perked at Sulith's announcement to the team.

Mune moved away from the cantina entrance, seeing as their guarding it was no longer necessary. They glanced down into the passageway, remembering the images from their vision and swallowing hard. A sewer... that meant narrow tunnels with how much weight of earth pressing in from all sides. How narrow were the tunnels they wondered as the panic already started to build.

Mune looked away and began muttering a count to ten in Shistavanen to steady their nerves and stifle the growing anxiety. *Maybe someone should stay with the kid? Maybe I should stay with the kid? Not go down there... No... no. Do not be pathetic. Get it together.* They took a deep breath and swallowed the panic and tried for a grin but it turned into something more like a pained grimace. All over just picturing the claustrophobic situation they were about to head down into.

"S... s... so," they coughed, counted again this time in their head, "We continue forward."

They were not looking forward to going down into the passage...

ZL

11:11

Zuza Lottson

Zuza heard the call out that the way had been found. She looked up from Sage's hand, feeling the large man pull away and trailing after him as he went toward the cantina.

She stepped inside and frowned at the sight of the kid behind the bar. Her eyes found those already inside, Ruka, Sully and Kaled, with a head tilt and questioning eyes.

KA

11:54

Kaled Atros

Aftet hearing the boys story Kaled's changed to one of sadness.

The leader....Oh Ashla, what have we done?_

Miraluka remembered how it was like to lose a mother, well part's of it anyway. He could remember anything about her, and the fragments of his past were still missing. The only thing Kaled could really remember was the screaming of the people and blaster fire accompanied by a sound of the lightsaber being activated.

I wish...I could remember you..

Kaled felt grateful to Atty, Marick and Ruka for bringing him into their families but...

Miraluka came closer to Jet, lowering himself down he reached into his pocket and produced a small packet of sorts. He then reached and pulled a small shiny rock from his bead that was attached to his lightsaber hilt. The rock was purple in color. It wasn't really valuable but it was a memento from one of the children from the slave pit.

"Here...I know...I can only imagine how you are feeling right now... I'm truly sorry.... Please take this...For you.."

W

11:59

Wally

Jet bit back tears and tried to be strong. He took the stone and looked at it, tried to focus on it, and the kind Miralukas words. But then anger, regret, remorse all starts to bubble.

"Just go," he said quietly. But his hand clutched around the stone, and he walked away.

A

12:46

Attifer

Ruka wanted to stay. Hated how the story was wrong, because the truth was that they had killed this child's mother, orphaned him. The truth also was that Sulith had done surprisingly well in framing it in a way someone Jet's age was likely to understand-- just as much as he would understand what was really going on. The anger in his small face was a familiar thing; he could see Noga's just as easily.

I'm staying, he was going to say, because whether or not Jet wanted to be alone or Sulith thought he needed space did not mean it was acceptable, prudent, or right to leave a grieving child alone, or any child alone, in a gang-controlled cantina in the aftermath of a shootout.

But Mune was shaking, and Eilen was going down there, and Karran was there. He needed to go too. And besides, there were others.

Ruka spoke into the comms set, "Lady Sroka, Strong, we have another...guest. Not a prisoner. It's a kid, about twelve, named Jet. His mother was a casualty of the skirmish. The area is clear, but we're going down into the tunnels below the town, and someone needs to come look after him. He's in the cantina. Do you copy?" He didn't have much a measure of Strong, but Tali...the way she'd spoken at the pool, and a glimpse he'd caught of her at the festival with flowers and black ribbons...he had a hunch she might at least do okay comforting a traumatized kid. Maybe. He hoped.

KB

15:40

Kordath Bleu (Pantless Arconae Sloth)

Strong quirked an eyebrow at the comlink, wincing at the casualty comment.

"I suspect we are at fault," he said with a sigh, reaching down for the bound prisoner and throwing them over his shoulder. He turned to Tali, "I...will take this one to the cantina, I suppose, to keep watch over them and the child. I understand if you would rather," he paused, looking down at the sand before glancing back up at her, "I would understand," he said, simply. T[

16:04

Tali Sroka [HQD QUA]

Tali caught herself staring into the middle distance, a lump caught in her throat. Had she been so parched without noticing? She wet her tongue before speaking, tasting copper and silica.

"Ve vill take care of it," she replied over the comms. *"Just make sure you get our boy back."*

Turning to Strong, she offered a grateful nod, but this was something she had to do. She'd seen what the galaxy did to motherless children, and she had no desire to add any more to that number.

W

16:09

Wally

Zig watched it all from behind her helmet, grateful again for it to cover her expressoin of terror and greif. Alaisy had conditioned her, prepared her, for the dark side, quite literally. This, though? This was different. Killing and fighting was one thing- all mercenries accepted this. But the feelings of regret and anger and confusion eminating from the child? She did not need the Force to sense that.

She listened intently to the Quaestors words, and nodded to herself.

As she did with the rest of her emotions, or concerns, Zig pushed them down and into the recesses of her mind. There was still work to do. Karran was within their grasp. She had lost Alaisy and Zag, sure. She had lost her parents in the past, her first crew that had taken her in.

But she had a chance to do something here. This criminal gang was responsible for this. And they had her friend.

She thought of Sera's smile, despite everything.

"Alright, let's move in. Weapons ready, on me," Zig said, her voice sounding more confident than she felt herself, but was aided by her helmets modulation.

The beskar-clad Zygerrian took point and started down the secret staircase.

ZL

16:22

Zuza Lottson

Zuza looked over toward Zig’s voice, frowning softly. She didn’t want to leave the kid but they had a reason to be here, they needed to pull Karran outta here. She hoped Tali and Strong would take care of the kid alright. She always hated it when kids got wrapped up in the middle of this shit. Her mind wandered, memories and tales springing to mind, fear and pain. That’s all it caused before you could even begin to understand the depth of this shit.

With a small shake of her head, and a mumble about making sure the kid got a drink, the Human followed her captain down into the depths beneath the Cantina.

T

16:28

Techsketch

Sully secured his shield, drew his pistol once more, stepped close behind Zig, ready to jump at the first sign of anything foul.

Not a combatant by nature, Eilen put herself toward the back of the crew. Her expertise, if needed again, would not do well for her to get shot.

A

17:20

Attifer

Ruka paused one more time in the cantina, having had to go back out and gather his weapons he'd dropped before trying to speak to Jet. He crouched down a foot or two away from the boy and took off his armorweave cloak, folding it up and putting it on the ground next to the kid.

"This isn't as good as your Mama's armor, but it'll protect you a little from any shooting. Just in case you ever have to deal with the Sarlaccs or anybody like that again." He paused. "Sorry if it's sweaty. Some friends of ours will be here soon, to stay with you and make sure you're okay. If the Sarlaccs come, they'll protect you. One is a purple Twi'lek and she's real nice. Another is a big blue Chiss in really big armor. He's loud but he won't hurt you either. They have another person that's working with the Sarlaccs with them that we captured. She's cuffed, but no one is going to cuff you, okay? You don't have to talk to them. You can just hold onto your rock and even stay under the cloak if you want. We'll keep you safe while we're here. We'll leave you alone. But you don't have to be. I'll see you later, Jet."

He didn't expect a response before going down. Just stood up and followed his teammates, figure made slim and smaller without the cloak, blades gleaming dully in the dark. Ruka squeezed Eilen's shoulder as he passed her, glad she was in the back, and made his way up, intending to join in the front. Mune's stiff and tail-tucked figure gave him pause, though. It was obvious the other was uncomfortable.

He took place next to the smaller Shistavanen and carefully took Mune's paw in his own hand, squeezed.

"It's okay, I've got you," he whispered.

KA

18:46

Kaled Atros

Miraluka only stood silant as Ruka gave Jet the armor.

He was more or less lost in his own thoughts.

The who conflict in his mind could've been avoided if they prepared a little better, or if they just went with the intent not to harm anyone.

But would they do the same?

Kaled moved forward, still not saying a word as the others started to descent the staircase. Miraluka said nothing as he was walking a way from a boy who's mother was killed by there actions.

What would you have said? What would you have done Marick?

He placed his hand on the wall, carefully tracing it to the entrance. Kaled made his way down the stairs, still thinking about the boy, and himself.

As he reached the end of the stairs, Miraluka braised himself for the dangerous that they may find down there.

I pray that this time, no one gets hurt...

A

19:05

Archian

Archian aware of kid around, tried to hide his frustration after battle. He didn't help the crew much, either as warrior, either as medic.

He looked at the child again, and grabbed hidden small handmade bow out of his robs.

Looked at it, tightened his paw on it, took a deep breath, and closed eyes.

He imagined his camp with... no, not yet, It wasn't time for it, but he needed to survive.

Small bow went back inside of the robs, next to sleeping Scurrier.

Archian walked closer to Jet, and looked at him. He opened his paw and showed a sleeping creature in the middle of it.

"He will guard you".

Archian looked at jumpy things which walk up and nodded to it.

Scurrier jumped off, come closer next to Jet, looked at him like calculating his strength and proudly lift up his chest, making itself bigger than it was in reality, and made a sound to give a bit of brave inside of kids soul.

Red was happy with reaction of the creature and follow up others downstairs.

He will come back, he must come back and he will take his new friend to camp.

K(

19:35

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

L'ara was pulled from her inspection of the sewer grate by the commotion in the cantina. It took her only a moment to realize what she

had done. She froze. A child without their mother. It was lucky that her mask covered her face, if it hadn't, the shock would be plain to see for everyone.

It wasn't until she heard her name over the comms that she snapped back to reality, and the gravity of the situation settled on her shoulders.

"Y-yeah, I'm g-gonna secure the area, m-make sure the landing zone is...s-secure."

MC

21:22

Mune Cinteroph

The Shistavanen felt a hand close around theirs and squeeze. It did something to help chase the memories and nightmares back some. They could not relax completely, there was no way they could come back completely from there. Mune took another deep cleansing breath and looked sidelong up at Ruka. Their ruby eyes were full of shadows, eyes showing far too much white.

"T... thank you,,, Ruka. I'll be okay... I'll protect them when it is time... I promise."

With a deep breath, they followed down into those shadows, into the unknown... into that horrible... pressing... panic inducing darkness.

They steeled themselves and kept tight hold of Ruka's hand. *Why did it have to be horrible... narrow... underground sewers...* 4 September 2021

A

00:42

Attifer

The team advanced further into the pipeline, the entrance letting down light behind them. It lead immediately into an intersection with a wide cistern and split in two other directions, with one solid wall of piping.

"We should stay together," Ruka commented, carefully loud enough to be heard but not to echo overmuch. It was far from the first sewer or place like it he'd been in. "And track our progress somehow, in case we get lost. Might double check the comms work.

Back working in the mines or underground, they didn't even give us none cause they didn't work good anyway and it wasn't like it mattered if we came back out."

Using his free hand, he stepped -- with Mune in tow -- over to the wall on their left and ignited his lightsaber, scoring an X-shaped scratch in the rock.

"This is start. We'd leave marks for directions pointing back and sometimes how many people went what way...worked better with chalk.

Suppose now we could just make a scratch to show we've been some way."

MC

00:57

Mune Cinteroph

Mune hesitated, glancing around some, taking in the dim space of the cistern. Their ears remained back and tail tight to his body as anxiety threatened to overwhelm. *Stop it... control yourself... think clearly...*

"Ruka, do we have anything that belonged to Karran?" their voice was a little squeaky, "I... could try tracking him if we did."

A

11:05

Attifer

Ruka grimaced slightly, though more in regret at uselessness than his concern for Mune. "*I* don't have anything of his *with* me, not like, an object," his tone lowered slightly as he added, "I'd say we belonged to each other, we were...are...brothers, he's my apprentice. Maybe Sera would."

A

13:54

Attifer

"Maybe instead we can track something back here? Have a back up if making the walls gets messed up. Can you track fur? Eilen and Sully shed a lot." He tactfully did not mention places he'd found her fur after a shower when they'd both briefly been staying with Satsi, during her time as his apprentice and first Padawan.

"Either way," the Mirialan lifted his voice, since Mune was obviously so hesitant, and the tunnels awaited them. "Let's go. Stay together. Don't run ahead." He shot a meaningful look to Zuza and nodded at Sage, as if to say, *buddy system*. "Only way we're going to find them is by looking. And anyone with explosives now: *just don't*. You probably know how to do it right and stuff not to bury us but I been in a lot of mines and sewers, okay, and we dunno if there's gas pockets or deposits of stuff that'll react or poison us or if the structure is bad somewhere or nothing. And there might be hostages besides Karran and Joseline. So just...eye open, senses up, be careful."

That said, with the look on Jet's face still steeling his spine far too much for him to spiral or hesitate over the wrongness of him taking command, the Mirialan started forward to the west, tugging Mune with him. His lightsaber left a score in the tunnel wall pointing backwards as they entered.

ZL

14:22

Zuza Lottson

Zuza nodded in understanding at his words, and the look he gave her. Keep Sage on board. She offered the Mirilian a soft smile too and took a small step to be beside Sage, the confusion of the day drawing in again, but the dark stodgy tunnels being enough o a distraction to not focus on it.

She didn't pipe up against the direction chosen.

W

15:27

Wally

Zig nodded to Ruka and lead the team towards the west. She toggled her helmet's visor to IR and the sewers became a two-tone scale of reds and white. Harder to read any signs, but she could very clearly the shape of the cooridors and where they were going at least.

A quick glance towards the north signified a most likely dead end, so West seemed to be the best course.

When she looked back to the west, as the group proceeded forward, the tunnels narrowed to being 3-Sully's wide.

A beeping warble tipped off her senses as she looked ahead and saw two signatures appear with the shape of droids.

15:31

They dropped down from the ceiling like mechanical spiders, spindly limbs reverting into a somewhat humanoid shape. Crimson red chasis mirrored glowing crimson eyes. EX-D Infiltrator droids, by Zigs mark.

"Infiltrator droids!" the Captain called out.

15:46

Zig was first to react, and took a step forward. The armored Zygerrian shot her wrist forward and unleashed a grappling cord from her Vambrace. The cord whipped through the sewer's dim lighting and lashed out for the first EX-D droids torso. The droid, nimble as a human with enhanced reflexes, managed to dodge to the side, but Zig was able to adjust and wrap the cord around its left arm, holding it in place.

"Go!"

A

16:13

Attifer

The Captain's warning shout was plenty, and Ruka was lifting his lit saber in front of he and Mune in a heartbeat, barking, "Mune! Take the free one! Bring it here!"

His other hand, after all, was busy holding the Shistavanen's. Both their grips strained with the instinctive battle-coiling of muscles, arms trying to raise or reach for weapons but finding themselves occupied.

Thankfully, Mune seemed to pick up on his meaning, even with the unclear and very sudden direction. His tail was tight to his body, and his free hand trembled when he lifted it, but nonetheless the white-furred Force magician's ears pinned back and his ruby eyes fixed on his target, the one Zig wasn't holding grappled. He summoned his will and locked it around the droid, yanking it forward, towards them.

Ruka's saber arm, meanwhile, swept forward, a sapphire flash, cleaving right through the droid's mechanical leg as it failed to escape the invisible grasp or recover once skidding closer. Sparks and molten metal briefly lit where steady blue light didn't as the limb clattered uselessly away and the EX-D stumbled luckily backwards before the Mirialan's flicking wrist could decapitate it.

W

16:35

Wally

The droid looked at its now missing arm. "Oh my god, Not again," it whined in a robotic monotone.

A

16:51

Archian

Archian took his Electro Whip out and made a slight move with it to spread it and lye at his side.

He made a few steps to front of the other crew members and with small jump forward, Red made a whip strike at one of the droids, with momentum of dragging his weapon behind him and accumulated power of the jump conducted by straightened line of power inside of the whip.

W

16:54

Wally

The EX-D Droids chasis dented and groaned in protest, but it somehow managed to keep its footing. Infiltrator droids were tough, but without their mobility, could usually be overwhelmed. "Ouch," it intoned mechincally, red glowing eyes narrowing at the Red Shistaven. ZL

16:57

Zuza Lottson

Archian wasn't the droid's only problem by far.

Wiggling through the wall of people, her smaller stature allowing and easier gateway underneath someone's arm, Zuza popped up between the two droids and swung her vibroblade into the neck of it. With a spine-wrenching clattering crash of the metal on metal, she yanked it back out, having severed its primary circuits and stepping aside as it collapsed.

She grinned up at Archian for a moment before looking to the other droid now beside her.

W

16:59

Wally

Zig grinned as the lithe Zuza finished off the droid. She released her grappling hold and caught the droids chasis and lowered it to the ground, stepping to the side so that the Arconans could formally swarm the remaining, armless EX-D droid

KA

17:27

Kaled Atros

After hearing the commotion, Kaled quickly grabbed his lightsaber and activated it.

But there was a problem. He noticed that the space they were in was a bit tight.

Miraluka excited his arm forward as he was rushing forward.

"Sorry! Excuse me! My apologies!" Kaled exclaimed as he tapped the shoulders of Zuza, Sully and Mune as he rushed passed them.

"I'm really sorry!" Was the last thing Miraluka said, as he raised his blade and bringing it down on a droid in front of him.

"I hit something!"

W

17:28

Wally

The droids chassis buckled against the lightsaber. As it went down to one knee, it desperately tried to fire a blaster bolt at Ruka.

A

17:32

Attifer

"You hit the enemy, Kal,--" Ruka started to say, already feeling a little cramped now, less in the claustrophobic way Mune seemed to -he'd crawled in too many machines and such to ever feel that -- but in the way of being in a tightly packed crowd. Annoyingly and jarringly cramped. Bad for moving.

His statement was cut off, though, as his senses pinged even before the droid fired at him. With Mune beside and the others behind him, he didn't move, rather allowing muscle memory to guide his saber up, the *wrrssh* of its humming movement accompanying the deflection of a blaster bolt.

ZL

17:36

Zuza Lottson

Ruka was then even more clustered as the hulking form of Sage shoved past him, practically cheering with blood.. rust lust? He bumped shoulders with Ruka as he focussed in on his target.

He slammed his fists into the droid, denting it's chassis beyond repair and use as the lights in its eyes flickered out.

Zuza smiled in amusement.

W

17:38

Wally

The two infiltrator droids were down. Zig assessed the group. "Status report, everyone good?"

A

17:39

Archian

Archian smiled back at Zuza "Nice moves" he said with small laugh in it.

ZL

17:40

Zuza Lottson

She looked over to him, snapping her fingers and doing a fingerguns at the taller fluffy boi.

“Likewise!”

A

17:41

Attifer

Ruka glared in mild annoyance at Sage and exasperation at the close quarters. At least Mune hadn't gotten run down by the man barreling by.

"Fine," he called, adjusting his and the Shistavanen's hold and raising his lightsaber to make another mark in the wall.

KA

17:49

Kaled Atros

"Ahh...All good? Sorry for bumping into everyone. Tight space, heheh." Kaled smiled nervously, shrugging his shoulders in a process.

"Oh, should probably..." Kaled the deactivated his lightsaber, but he still held a tight grip on the hilt.

"Just in case."

W

17:56

Wally

Zig smiled slightly beneath her helmet. She glanced down at the disabled droids and thought for a moment. She took a tool from her belt and started to fiddle with the chasis of the one that had been taken down by Zuza. After a few moments, she pulled out a circuit box.

"Hm, a thought occurs," the Zygerrian murmured as she took the circuit and tried to attach a cable to her wrist-computer and pull up a code sequence.

18:04

"Kist," she swore. "Not getting much off its memory bank. It did know we were coming, however, as it had instructions on stand by for us to pass this way..."

Zig chewed on her lip under helmet. "I feel like going in the same direction though might lead us into an ambush. Perhaps we take the next turn?"

ZL

18:06

Zuza Lottson

"Makes sense. Couldn't hurt to turn? We could take an ambush on either way, but delays aren't great right now." Zuza added, slipping her free hand into her pocket

W

18:09

Wally

The group continued until they came to another room. No immediate threats displayed on sensors or through the Force. There was a small pool of water that continued to flow straight and to the west by Zig's HUD compas.

To the North was a sealed door, away from the water flow. To the west was no door, or obstacles seemingly in their path.

A

18:09

Archian

Archian looked at the memory bank in Zig's paws and said " You are probably right- turning sounds like good idea, and maybe that will occur for less work for medics".

KA

18:42

Kaled Atros

Kaled stayed silent for a moment.

Once more recalling Marick's words about perceiving ones soundings.

He reached out with his hand, letting the Force guide him beyond the sealed door. But there was nothing there.

Miraluka let out a sigh of relief.

"Well...it looks like there is nobody waiting for us behind the door. So I assume we are good to go? At least, until we find a way to open

it..."

ZL

18:43

Zuza Lottson

As they stepped into the next room, Zuza spotted a door.

They hadn't seen one in the entire damn building. Her brows furrowed, curiosity burning as she stepped aside from the rest of the crew, jogging over to it prodding it.

"No tech on it, so we ain't slicing this the fancy way. Just durasteel though." She looked over to the force users, forgetting about her own saber on her hip.

MC

18:50

Mune Cinteroph

Mune hesitantly released Ruka's hand, offering a gravely smile to the other man that was a little rough around the edges. They moved towards the door and drew both of their lightsabers.

"C... can everyone stand back..." they were fighting to keep from the panic of the combined tight space and crowd of people. "I need space..." *So I do not lose it...* they added to themselves.

Their sabers ignited in a brilliant cavalcade of crackling plasma. Blue and violet. Their white fur looked to glow with the vibrant colour before they raised both lightsabers and plunged them into the wall. Sparks tumbled and durasteel began to blister then melt altogether as they held steady. Only when the hole began to widen did they begin to bring the weapons apart to begin widening the opening. They would need enough of an opening to see beyond and hopefully make it through if they were planning on that path.

Stay focused, you are not under tons of dirt and stone and steel... Only when the hole was wide enough did Mune withdraw and deactivate the weapons.

"Good enough?"

A

18:56

Attifer

"Really good, Mune. Thank you," Ruka said, tone firm and encouraging, coaxing. He reached out and took the Shistavanen's hand again, noting the catch in their voice still. He edged his way in front of the other as he did so, bodily shielding now that there was a hole in the door and sightlines on them.

W

18:57

Wally

"Good 'nuff," Zig drawled from behind her helmet. The Zygerrian took point, moving past Ruka and stepping through the opening....into what was a short corridor that led to- unsurprisingly - another door.

From behind them, distant footfalls could be heard in the distance.

"Everyone through, let's go," Zig tried to say calmly.

A

19:03

Attifer

Ruka swore softly at the echoing of footsteps. He stepped aside of the door, still tugging Mune, to free access and waved the others through, grip tightening on his saber.

"Go, go, ay, I'll bring up the back."

ZL

19:03

Zuza Lottson

Zuza followed Zig, looking at Mune. For a moment, she could have sworn something was up but she caught a glimpse of Sage and those thoughts surged. She couldn't even see their faces so she simply shook her head and moved forwards, moving toward the next door, lowering her voice so it wouldn't echo so bad.

"Sounds like trouble."

W

19:08

Wally

Zig waved over Eilen, and the two engineers went to work on the interface pad. It wasn't hyper complex, mind you, but it was old and used more outdated protocols that Zig wasn't as familiar with. Still, the two of them worked quickly to get the door open.

"Down that tunnel towards the Cantina!" A voice boomed in the far distance.

A

19:24

Attifer

As everyone filed through, some with more shoving than others -- somehow Sage's elbow again clocked him in the *face* -- Ruka regretfully let go of Mune's hand in order to squeeze the Shistavanen's shoulders once.

"You're okay, okay? Ay. Listen. It's going be okay. I've got you. Now, breathe," he instructed, and gently, but firmly, shoved the smaller man through the entrance and into the smaller space with everyone else and the two engineers hacking the next door.

Kriff, airlocks were necessary but they wouldn't be good for claustrophobia.

With the voice booming down the tunnel and the last one through, Ruka turned about and faced the breach, focusing on the severed portion of durasteel. Miming the motion with both hands, he lifted the thick metal slab and slotted it back into place, exhaling as he concentrated on holding it there. He hoped they didn't look hard.

"Everyone quiet," he said softly, tense. Then, a whisper, "Zu, check on Mune."

ZL

19:32

Zuza Lottson

She peeked over at Ruka, giving him a firm nod. Something had been wrong! It wasn't much of a internal joy, just worry and an slap to the forehead mentally for not actually noticing.

Zuza had been tempted to help with holding the metal up but, well, she didn't really have the physical strength for that. So she stuck to what she could do, sidling past the group and coming up beside the white shistavanen. She murmured a soft greeting, to not surprise them, and then put a hand on the back of their upper arm, "Would ya like a drink? I've got some water left."

MC

19:43

Mune Cinteroph

Mune quite literally squeaked when they were shoved into the tight space with the others and their anxiety went from... well.... not zero but pretty bad to holy mother of a blood soaked Sith really quick.

They pressed themself tight to a wall. They heard the question distantly but grasped at it to try and anchor themself. A drink? They shook their head rapidly from side to side. "N... n... no." Manners forgotten for the moment, their voice a strangled squeak.

"No thank you," they tried again.

They began counting to themself again, even as just a distraction. They counted, eyes tightly closed. *You are not allowed to be useless here*, they repeated in their head over and over.

W

19:44

Wally

"HAH GOTEEM" Zig and Eilen said at the same time as the door's security system gave way to their prowess and opened into the next room.

From the tunnel they had left, metal and organic footsteps and calls to arms padded and stormed by. None seemed to notice the door that had been cut into earlier as the shadows seemed to obscure the irregularities of Ruka's efforts.

"Er...let's go..."

ZL

19:47

Zuza Lottson

Zuza frowned, gently rubbing Mune’s shoulder.

“Do you want a hug?” She asked softly, wanting to help but not wanting to push. Not knowing exactly what was wrong, even if she could guess reasonably well, meant jsut going for something could make it worse. Just be gentle, like a bubble on a babbling brook. Even as Zig called out, she stayed put. There was plenty of fighters there, as much as she enjoyed it, Mune was more important than an adrenaline kick.

MC
19:54
Mune Cinteroph
"Just... need more space..." they were noticeably trying to keep their voice level but it kept cracking. "I... I will be fine. Just... no hugs... not here..."

They tried to give Zuza a reassuring smile but it did not reach their terribly hainted ruby eyes. They were too wide and too shiny as if they were trying not to cry. They heard Zig and their head snapped around. Would they file out? Space. They desperately hoped the next room had more space. Air. Lessen the press of bodies. They did not realize it right then but they had grabbed a hold of Zuza like a lost child. When they noticed they let go quickly.

"Sorry. Let us go," they managed, the embarasment wiping the catch from their voice.
ZL

20:01
Zuza Lottson
“It’s okay.” Zuza gently took hold of Mune’s hand, speaking softly and still cautious but following them through “You can probably see better than me anyway, we can stick together.”
She looked around, peering through the darkness at the new room

A
20:03
Attifer
"Don't apologize," Ruka murmured, though he was focused more on the slab he was holding. It wouldn't stay in place if he let go, but lowering to the ground entirely would leave their backs exposed if anyone went by again. Gnawing on the inside of his cheek, he thought a moment, eyes clocking back to watch Mune all but rush to get into the next open space, Zuza close at hand, all the others and who knew what threats on the other side. He couldn't charge in there. Had to hope it was okay.

Finally the Mirialan decided to just ease the slab slightly forward, the grinding sound making him wince, and set it down *just* to the left of the gap it had originally been in on the opposite side. He telekinetically propped it there then released it, the soft thud the only indication of its release, mostly blocking the entryway save a half inch of space and perhaps even passing as solid at a really blind glance. It would have to do. Hopefully the time and muscle it would take to move it would give them a precious few seconds of warning if need be, and if they came back out this way, he could just lift it again.

That done, he turned and moved to follow the group, bringing up the rear.
W

20:14
Wally
The Dashade guarding the downward stairs seemed preoccupied with... something. There was a portable radio, of some kind. A comm device...and a speaker to play music.

~g-g...tsssssss....aler....sttttttt~

The Dashade sneered and hit the communicator box with a meaty fist. This method of tech support did not seem to help.

But they did not notice the door opening.

W
20:39
Wally
Zig held up a hand and the team seemed to take up different positions without advancing to quickly.
MC
20:45

Mune Cinteroph

The room was bigger! They felt like they could brearh again. Releasing Zuza's hand they gave a reassuring glance before taking up a position that they would be most useful in and a barrier would cover the most people if it were necessary. They kept quiet which was easier to do now that they did not feel so crowded. They waited patiently.

A

20:47

Archian

Archian looked at Dashade from around the corner, and tried to see what is behind him, but the mass of its posture was too big.

K{

20:53

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"Why do you not open this cell and fight me!?! You must be hungry! Come here and fight me, coward!!!"

Shouting could be heard from beyond the Dashade, a familiar voice to some in the party

A

20:57

Attifer

Ruka stepped into the next chamber and spotted the hulking figure of an alien standing in front of one passageway. He gripped his saber once more, moving to the fore around Zig and Doon, eyes fixed on the Dashade. He tries to extend his weak senses, but it was hard to pick anything out amidst the emotions of anxiety and panic and anticipation, and that thing was almost...like the thing was a *warp*. Like a negative spot. What the actual HELL?

"I'll draw its attention," he volunteered, starting to go on, "into the middle of the room. And then we can flank

it--" But the shout stopped him cold. And then kick-started him all at once.

"*ARRARRMIO!*" Ruka shouted, igniting his saber and launching himself at the guard thing.

W

20:58

Wally

The Dashade grunted and turned his back towards the room where the Arconans had gathered to address the inmate.

"Quiet puny horned-runt--"

K{

21:04

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"RUUUUUUUUUKAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!!!!!!"

A

21:23

Archian

Archian tried to use his Electro-Whip to immobilise the Dashade, but it didn't work.

Enemy was very skilled with his weapons and easily countered the Shistavanen's tries to support at any possible way the surrounding him crewmates.

W

21:28

Wally

The Dashade grunted, senses tuning in to the sudden flare of emotion through the Force. A link...a bond...a sense of passion and life devoid from the annoying Zabrak...delicious.

Corded layers of muscle moved with a warriors grace. While he had not sensed the intruders or known exactly what was going on, it was clear to him that they had come to try and take his prisoner. They would try.

The Dashade drew a pair of Vibro-Arbir Blades and used the first one to deflect and shrug off an attack from their sister weapon, the chain-whip. "Impressive."

He turned his attention then to the armored green Sith that had tried to run him through. This one was teeming with power. He met the Mirilan's blade with the lightsaber-resistant filament second blade he carried and pushed back against their forward momentum. "Yes, good, give me," he sneered in excitement.

He locked both blades together to create a double-bladed sword staff. "Come, fledglings!"

The two KX-Series droids down the stairs made their way forward in response.

A

21:35

Attifer

Ruka landed on his back-foot from the shove and disengaged as the two blades locked, preparing for another swing. He bared his teeth at the hulking thing and summoned his kukri above his other hand, saber held at the ready. The thing could talk. He didn't know the species, or whatever the kriff was going on with its null, sickening, *sucking* signature, but it was sentient, and that meant--

"One warning," he snapped at it. "Get out of the way, or I'm going to make you."

W

22:29

Wally

The Dashade simply grinned with his mutant face, fangs showing and a somewhat...hungry expression crossing his visage?

The two KX-series droid with- of course- crimson chasis stepped forward to flank the hulking Dashade and fired their blasters at the group of Arconans.

Zig stepped up to the first one and readied her vambrace shield and caught the series of blasts.

"Nice try, but you have our boy and if you're looking for a 'tilly, well you found yourself one!" the Zygerrian shouted from behind her helmet.

MC

22:38

Mune Cinteroph

Mune plants their feet. This... this is what they could do. The Force filled them, they beckoned it, grasped it and forged it into something to protect. The Shistavanen threw that power outwards, coalescing around the group and blazing to life as a bubble that absorbed and dispersed the energy of the droid's blaster bolt.

Mune grinned, eyes narrowed as they focussed on maintaining the protective field.

5 September 2021

ZL

11:07

Zuza Lottson

Zuza hurried up beside and past Ruka, she sliced upward with her blade, moving quickly enough that it didn't have time to dodge her.

She drew long slash across its chest.

The droids wouldn't be such an issue but that thing... she'd heard of them before. Never met one, but tales and whispers. This karker was nasty business. And if some of the whispers were true...

"Ruka you might wanna put some space between you and this ugly kriff." She warned, not.. quite wanting to out his abilities but not wanting him to get his soul *sucked out or something*

A

11:12

Attifer

As the protective corona formed around him and the others and Zuza slashed mightily over its chest, drawing blood -- well, it could bleed -

- Ruka shouted again, heart pumping double time to hear his apprentice calling for him, "KARRAN! HOLD ON, WE'RE COMING!"

He couldn't focus while fighting to connect their minds and ask anything. But he was going to get through this thing one way or the other.

The Darkness *hummed* under his skin, his whole body flush with the power he was letting flow freely.

Zuza's warning as they fell back in lock-step was a slight rankle, when all he wanted to do was throw himself at the thing, but it did give him pause considering how wrong it felt.

"Why?" he asked quickly, instead thinking of ranged attacks. He lowered the amethyst kukri into his palm, flipped it around in his grip, and extended the hilt to her. "Here. Blade'll take a blaster bolt."

AL

11:16

Aru Law [HQD AED|M:HM]

Sage took the yelling as a sign to intervene, and so, he threw himself in front of everyone and tried to punch the ugly creature that was standing in his way.

"Take this you gray leech!" He punched as hard as he could on the Dashade's torso.

Instead of the usual grunt of pain from his opponent, Sage felt an acute pain go from his wrist and through his arm.

"Karking hell!" he backed off holding his wrist with his other hand

ZL

11:18

Zuza Lottson

“I’ve heard stories about these guys.” Zuza stepped back into a defensive stance, but spotted the proffered blade. Safe coming in gave her a moment, not like there was time for hesitation anyway. She took it, working to sheath her vibrosword while continuing, “They like to eat more powerful souls. Might be an exaggeration but, I’d rather you guys come home whole.”

She played it off in a joking manner, but the concerned and focussed look on her face betrayed the worry.

T

11:22

Techsketch

From the back of the crowd, without much chance to get past, Eilen dug her feet in for a tense encounter. Planning hastily, her hands raised with fierce concentration as she honed her senses around the dashade and pulled his space to a crawling pace - or at least, that was the intention. She'd not employed this power often; hopefully it would hold.

A

11:27

Attifer

"Sage! Kriff! Get behind us!" Ruka snapped, skidding over to stand in front of the larger man as he reeled away, clutching his arm? Hand? "What does devour souls even mean? Don't touch it?"

Was that way Sage had just got hurt punching it?

ZL

11:28

Zuza Lottson

“I mean just people like you. And Mune. Yknow!” Zuza reached to pull Ruka back “Doesn’t go after normal folk.”

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

A

11:35

Attifer

Ruka didn't budge, much.

"I don't have to touch it to kill it," he said lowly. "It just hurt Sage. 'Normal' doesn't seem to matter."

ZL

11:38

Zuza Lottson

Zuza’s eyes widened.

“..Kark.”

T

11:44

Techsketch

While the others debated how to approach, Sully went about it as directly as possible. His hammer was drawn, and with a shout, he charged between his friends and brought its head down on the hulking enemy's chest.

The dashade slid back on its feet, its body moving almost in slow motion as it reacted, but the brute remained standing.

"Right here, big guy," Sully said in full confidence.

W

12:03

Wally

Both droids study the barrier. Without much else to do, they shrug, and fire thier blasters at it. It holds.

A

12:33

Attifer

Ruka swore at the plasma bolts rippling over the barriers around each of them. Maybe Zuza was right, and he needed to leave the thing alone for a second; Kaled and Archian were already moving toward it.

But if it had hurt even Sage that fast...how much could it hurt the rest of them?

A

13:15

Archian

Shistavanen needed to do something, as he had a feeling that his Jedi Amigos would be in trouble trying to confront the beast. "Hey Jedi magicians, leave him to us -simply folks!"

He shouted to rest of the company, while looking directly at Ruka.

He moved slightly into the middle of the corridor and with strong grip at the end of his whip, slightly made a move towards lower parts of the creature.

The electricity of the whip made a lot of sparks, while sliding at the sewerage floor.

It reached Dasheds' foot and tangled around it, but body was too strong and Red wasn't able to pull it off from its feet.

At least that maneuver slowed down big posture and maybe made some opening for more fair fight.

W

13:50

Wally

Kaled darted in, carefully but with intent. His lightsaber struck out, but was met by a slow by capable parry from the Dashade's blade.

The Dashade grunted, feeling sluggish, slow. But then, slowly, his bulky body started to...digest the Force-enduced slowness. Not fully, but it became a bit easier to move. However, there was the whip around his foot.

The Dashade grunted and stepped down on the whip to untangle its coill. He lumbered forward towards the barrier as the melee attacks retreated behind the barrier and struck the barrier with a meaty fist.

13:51

The translucent corona of walled energy repelled the Dashades fist. He sneered and backed up slowly, with the two droids keeping tight to his flanks.

MC

13:56

Mune Cinteroph

Mune saw the Dashade move forward, saw that massive fist throw towards the protective bubble. They braced and focussed on holding strong against the blow. If they could hold strong against the blaster fire, there was not way they were letting the Dashade through to their companions. The bubble did not even waver, repelling the blow altogether. They would not get cocky though and redoubled their focus on keeping the protective field up.

A

14:05

Attifer

The Dashade trying to punch his companions nearly had Ruka throwing himself forward again, but Mune's brilliant barriers held, and Zuza's warning and the continued splashing of plasma around them kept him focused on redirecting his attention. "Incoming!" he shouted in warning, just in case anyone had intended to run at the enemy again. The Mirialan Sith lifted both hands, one empty now, one keeping his saber in his palm in a loose reverse grip of just two fingers while the other two and his thumb extended. He levered one at each droid and let the Darkness under his skin culminate at his fingertips like looking storm clouds, electricity bursting forth and streaming across the scant meters of space into the crimson combat droids. One, the one he pointed his empty hand at, started streaming steam and smoke as its internals short-circuited and overheated under the onslaught. It collapsed in a jittering heap. The other, though, seemed relatively unphased, and Ruka quickly cut off the attack lest his lightning hit a teammate and drain their barrier.

W

14:11

Wally

Zig watched ad Ruka struck out the droids with Force Lightning. A thought occured.

She checked her belt, grinned, and palmed an EMP grenade.

In the chaos of the skirmish, she toggled the remote setting and rolled the grenade down the stairs by the dodging lightning droid. The droid seemed to think it was a dud and focused elsewhere.

Once behind the enemies and into the room with the cells, Zig thumbed the remote trigger.

An electromagnetic pulse rippled outward. The old containment field cells flickered once. Then twice, then gave out.

T

16:17

Techsketch

In spite of the chaos, Eilen managed to find her own pace within the action. She briefly entered a zen state as her focus held on the main enemy's body, slowing his every movement.

Sully leapt forth once again from the safety of Mune's barrier and swung full force at one of the droids. Its chassis blew apart between the force of the power hammer and the wall, scattering its limbs into a pile of scrap.

S

17:20

SongBird

Tight quarters. Barely enough room to pull an elbow back to punch with. Still, Doon managed to find a gap amidst the struggle. Enough of one to lash out with sharp claws, static change crackling between pointed tips.

He slashed through nothing vital, but his charged glove crackles with energy as it discharges into the Dashade, causing muscles to spasm and lock. With a snarl he draws back, ready for a retaliation.

K{

17:21

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

When the containment field dropped, Karran took his chance. He rushed the Dashade and threw his arms under the guard's armpits and laced his fingers together behind his enemy's head. He squeezed with all his might until he felt the joints threatening to dislocate from the jailer's shoulders.

Finally, he uttered a satisfied whisper in the Dashade's ear. *"I told you that you would die today."*

W

17:24

Wally

The Dashade's body was worn down by the Arconan onslaught. There were just too many. Muscled corded body trembled and shook as he started to go down before the grizzly Shistaven.

Then the inmate was on him, and he could not move or reposition.

KA

17:58

Kaled Atros

With Dashade's body worn down and pinned to the ground, it seemed like a perfect opportunity to strike.

Kaled wanted to move forward, to help his team, but his body felt numb.
He tightened his hands more around his hilt but..

Help us!
Kaled!

It was like a sudden shock. The voices were mixed.

Aayla...

This wasn't right. It didn't "feel" right.
Without a word he took a step back, deactivating his lightsaber.

I...I can't.. Not again...

A

18:18

Archian

Red looked at worn and pinned Dashed and decided to put it out of misery.
He dropped his Electro-Whip away and grabbed the bow from his back.
He made a small run to reach enemy with just a feet away distance and with that close range, he let the arrow fly with the ferocious power.

A

18:24

Attifer

With one brutal, wet *thwack* of an arrow hitting true, it was over for the jailer. The massive, buggy reptilian body fell to the floor with the downed droids, the the arrow splitting its skull cracking at the shaft when it did, the hole in its head bleeding rapidly. The Zabrak that had been hanging on to it half-went down too, stumbling before he stood fully, kicking the meaty corpse away, though it hardly budged much. Everyone panted as Eilen's torporous hold let go and she slumped in mild exhaustion, while Mune's barriers seemed to themselves shimmer as with hesitation as the Shistavanen themselves wondered whether the danger had passed. It was still, for a second. Quiet.

Ruka's saber clattered twice sharply against the ground as he dropped it, blade winking out, body flying forward. He was up on his toes and throwing his arms around Karran's shoulders, one hand clutching at the junction of synthetic and organic flesh, the other cradling the base of a horned skull securely and pulling his head down to press into his own shoulder. The Force shivered between them, their bond knitting up along stained-thin strands of shadow and promise, like the truths told on hushed, long nights and the unjudging press of a fevered palm to a forehead in the dark.

"My little brother," he murmured in his own mother tongue, voice breaking. *"You're alive. You're okay. Thank the gods and ancestors. My brother, my brother, I didn't lose you, you didn't leave--"* a breath, quaking, "Karran, brother. We're here. We're here. Are you hurt? Is there anyone else with you? Captives? Guards?"

K{

18:33

Karran ([L'ara Erinos](#))

Karran returned the hug with all of his might. He squeezed the green man until he thought the ligaments in his spine might pop, not dissimilar to his grip on the Dashade, but with a very different emotion behind the strength.

"I am fine, Ruka. I am fine. There is much to tell you, but no time right now. There is one person who needs help."

His voice was dry, as if his throat was coated with the same sand that covered the planet. His skin was darker than the last time the Mirialan had seen him. His months under Tatooine's twin suns had turned his skin to a dark leather.

With a gesture telling Ruka to wait, he disappeared into his old cell and reappeared with a man-sized bundle of blankets. "My father. He was injured in our original attack."

A

18:41

Attifer

"Kriff," the Mirialan swore, half in shock and half in alarm at the situation. Karran had told them -- Karran had thought -- his father was dead. *Long* dead. He shook his head. That wasn't important. "Alright. Ay. Ay, ay, right, we got healers, and medics, Sully and Archian is right here-- and Mune. Karran, this is Mune and Zuza and-- we'll get to introductions, kriff. Just. Here. There's no other way out of this room? We can rest a second but we still have people to find. A Falleen named Joseline. And anyone else the Sarlaccs is holding. But there's a way clear back to the surface not far. Tali and Strong and Sera and L'ara and half the crew is there. You can get your dad out. We'll meet back up with you."

As he spoke, he summoned his saber back to hand, idly annoyed at his own carelessness, eyes darting around now at the other tunnel, opposite the hastily blocked off one from whence they'd come.

T

18:49

Techsketch

Sully stowed his hammer with the widest grin he'd bore in a long time. His arms outstretched toward Karran, his only warning being the heavy footsteps before he yanked the man off the ground in a giant's embrace. He had no words, but Karran was sure to feel his chest vibrating even through his armor.

ZL

18:53

Zuza Lottson

Zuza had wanted to step forward and fight, but amidst the Force emanating from Ruka and the lightening and everything else...

She just stayed out the way, biting her lip and watching for something to get too close.

When it hadn't, and Karran was free, she grinned, relaxing, but already moving to go look down the corridor that the Zabrak had been in, being quiet and letting the others enjoy the reunion

MC

18:55

Mune Cinteroph

Mune nodded some, their only reaction to the introduction. They were uncertain if the danger had actually passed, they were still in the depths of enemy territory after all and so the barrier remained in place. "Come back to me so you are protected... there could be enemies anywhere still."

K{

18:59

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

Karran laughed as he was lifted by Sulith. "It is good to see you, my old friend."

He returned his attention to Ruka, "I cannot leave until every Sarlacc is dead. We have...history. In the meantime, I need my lightsaber.

The good news is, their numbers are likely thin, otherwise they would be attacking now."

A

19:10

Attifer

It was so typical of Sully to just lift a man *holding* another man. But his apprentice's words caused even that brief joy to die out.

Ruka grimaced at the mention, glancing over again from examining everyone and the room -- checking Eilen was okay, the others. "That's not the point of this. We save the hostages, we get out. We aren't going to slaughter an entire people, Karran. We've already orphaned a child today and murdered enough. If we have to get to the captives or get out, then so be it, but we're *not* chasing them down. Can you really say *every one* deserves to *die*? No." A cutting motion with his hand, forestalling argument. "Can you?"

Violet eyes held brown and white a moment. Nonetheless, Mune was right. He backed closer to the Shistavanen, the group drawing in, but didn't drop his gaze.

K{

19:26

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

The corner of Karran's lip twitched as he wanted to sneer, but he resisted. He took a deep breath before releasing it slowly. "They worked my mother to death in that cantina of theirs. They drove my father away every time he tried to come find us. Pund Ekker put me in the fighting pits when I was fifteen, Ruka. My horns had barely come in and I had already killed a man with my bare hands. I can trace almost every single one of the greatest pains in my life to the Sarlaccs. I will not force you to exact my revenge with me, but I cannot leave until blood is repaid."

Karran stood straight, his good eye not breaking contact with Ruka's.

"I am sorry, brother, that you were pulled into this. It was not my intention."

W
19:34
Wally

Zig slowly removed her helmet and held it under one arm. She watched from a distance as Karran and Ruka spoke. Her eyes scanned around the room, on alert, but she seemed to enjoy the moment to collect herself.

A
19:49
Attifer

Ruka's shoulders pulled taut as his chin lifted, back straight, stance shifting subtly. His grip on his saber tightened, while his arm loosened, ready, perhaps, to raise overhead.

To Karran, or anyone who had fought with him as long, it would be familiar. They'd fought, once, under the branches of great tree in a courtyard.

"Pund Ekker is one man, Karran. And maybe he deserves it. But that was *fifteen years ago*, brother. Please, I know what it means. I *know* what they gangs can do to a place. To people. They killed so many of us, used so many of us. So many kids got up in that shit 'cause they ain't had nothing else, Karran, because them gangers got them in on drugs, or threats, or debts, or *whatever*, or that was just, the best they had-- if I hadn't had the kids, Karran, I would've-- how many, Karran, that are Sarlaccs now actually did to you and your Mama and your dad what then they did? How many have just ended up here over the years? You *don't get to kill everyone here for what some few did to you*. You don't. I don't care if this is your quest or that you didn't want me and you didn't want Sera. I mean-- that you didn't want us here. Is it because you knew we'd stop you from this? Do I have to take your crystal away again to keep you from *murdering people*? Because I will."

He took one step back, and planted his feet.
"I will stop you."

ZL
19:52
Zuza Lottson
Zuza looked toward the conversation and her expression slowly turned from happy to an almost grimace. It was... what Ruka described wasn't all that unfamiliar to her.

She glanced between the pair and slowly backed up, if this was going to turn into a fight it was between Ruka and Karran. It wasn't her place to split that up.

K(
20:03
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

Karran drew up his shoulders and set his jaw. As much as he loved Ruka, there was too much softness in his heart for them to ever fully see eye to eye.

"I came here to clean the slate, Ruka. I started with the dragon. I *found* my father. Pund Ekker and the Leader of the Sarlaccs are the last mark. Remove them and the entire gang will crumble. But if you are committed to standing in my way...you can try. But I am just as dedicated to finding justice for every single family ripped apart by the Sarlaccs, not just my own."

A
20:12

Attifer

"Then get *justice*, not revenge. Murdering all the Sarlaccs isn't justice. You don't know what each of them now has done. That choice isn't yours to make. You don't have a right to hurt other people just because you've been hurt. It's still wrong." The Mirialan's voice was firm, a reprimanding whip-crack, but his eyes were sad. His jaw locked just like Karran's did. He shook his head. Gestured with his off-hand. "Look at yourself, Karran. What condition are you in? You have no weapon but your bare hands and the Force, and I know you're willing to break yourself apart fighting for the blood you *think you're owed*, but your father, *your still kriffing alive dad is right there*. And he's hurt, and he needs to get out of here. Do you think you can fight me right now?" He leveled his gaze. "Do you think the lives of Kar, of Joseline, of Jet, that's the twelve year old we just orphaned, *us, Karran, to save you, not the Sarlaccs working her*, do you think *all our lives* are worth your revenge? Because they aren't. Murdering the people here won't undo what's been done. It's just more wrong. I am telling you: no."

K{

20:20

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

Karran's nostrils flared. His eyes narrowed. Blood pounded in his veins, his twin hearts beat in a pounding rhythm. Until...he released. His shoulders sagged a bit. He hung his head.

"Very well." He sighed wearily, "I still want my lightsaber. They took it, and the Tribe Kell Zhaboka. Both are immensely important."

A

20:27

Attifer

Ruka didn't entirely relax at Karran's acceptance. He'd been there from the beginning trying to tame the man's rage, from that first day under the tree, through all the battles and the wars, through the inked petals on his chest and the red crystal bleeding for vengeance and the drunken calls and the fights, and he didn't trust it now. He wanted to, but--

A table flipped. Shattering glass. The smell of alcohol. Cora stumbling back. Leda screaming. Karran's fist raised. No. No. His brother. His husband. His daughter.

--but he couldn't. Promises couldn't be trusted, let alone the most important ones. It was the action that had to be paid attention to.

"We'll get them," the Mirialan promised. His stance stayed ready. "Sit down. Let us tend to your dad. We can hold this position for a few minutes, at least."

K{

20:30

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

The Zabrak nodded, offered a half smile, clapped a hand on Ruka's shoulder, and moved on. He could not sit, though. He'd spent too long cooped up in the cell. He needed to stretch his legs.

A

20:32

Attifer

Watching Karran pace, Ruka sighed. He turned to Mune. "Hey, ay. Don't exhaust yourself. Cora does that too. We can keep watch. Recharge. Everyone's good, right?"

MC

20:46

Mune Cinteroph

Mune dropped the barrier and staggered slightly. They swallowed and gave themselves a quick shake, ruffling their fur up and taking a deep, centering breath. They did not take a break though, they did not recharge. They moved towards Ruka and Karran, "I can heal, I have plenty left in me."

A

20:51

Attifer

The Mirialan regarded him carefully. "...if you say so." He nodded to Kar, wrapped in blankets and badly bruised from what little was visible. "Karran, give him over. You can stretch your legs watching that hallway if you gotta, ay?"

K{

20:53

Karran (L'ara Erinos)
The Zabrak nodded, barely taking his eyes off of his father until he had fully handed him over. "He is strong, but old. Please take care of him."

A

21:02
Attifer

Ruka took Kar's surprisngly sturdy weight and knelt next to Mune, not letting the older man touch the cold stones, propping his crackhorned skull against his shoulder as best he could.

MC

21:05
Mune Cinteroph

Mune gave Karran a reassuring look, as tired as they were, they had more than enough left to give some form of comfort. They were already drawing on the Force again, drawing that power to themself. They were getting better at healing, and knew then, that they would have to deepen their study in the future to get still better at it. They focussed that healing energy on Karran's father, tipping the balance within themself to draw upon the light and let it flow into the battered and bruised man.

Bruises lightened, colour returned some, the pained breathing calming. Mune began to pant, focussing on healing as much as they could but, there was only so much their reserves could manage. They still tried though. All they could do was try.

"I'm sorry... I do not believe I can heal the bones..." They swallowed, eyes a little unfocussed. "I need a moment, I can try again, but I need a moment to collect myself."

K(

21:11
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"Do not worry. He has survived several days like this. If we can get him to a medical facility, he will be fine. Thank you." The Zabrak nodded at Mune and offered a hand in thanks

MC

21:16
Mune Cinteroph

The pale furred Shistavanen stood a bit unsteadily, having to look up at the taller man. They took the hand. "We will get out of here and he will be fine." They put as much certainty into those words as they could manage, panting as they were and looking flat exhausted now.

They would definitely need a short respite. "I should make myself ready. Let me know if there is anything more I can do."

T

21:22
Techsketch

Eilen timidly raised a hand. "I can help him," she offered. "I'm... no fighter, but I, uh, have some healing skill as well. You know, if someone needs to... stay, or get him out, yeah."

A

21:24
Attifer

Ruka's face finally softened a little at Eilen. His relief for the sound of her voice was a visible balm, though he still kept watching Karran, and his brow creased in worry for Mune. "You're great, *arrarmia*. Mune, we're good, you can meditate. We'll watch over you."

MC

21:26
Mune Cinteroph

Mune nodded some and, reaching under their cloak, they removed one of their sabers from its holster. When they let go of each other's hands, they placed one the weapon in it. "I want it back when we get out of here."

K(

21:30
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

When Karran felt the familiar sensation of a lightsaber hilt in his hand, he quickly brought his left hand up to hold it in both before bowing at the waist.

"It is no small thing to offer your own weapon to another. *On my honor, you will get it back.*" The second half of the phrase was spoken in Zabraki as an oath as he touch his finger tips to his horns and then tapped his chest over each of his hearts.

MC

21:33

Mune Cinteroph

Mune nodded some, smiling lightly, filling even their tired eyes with some energy again. They moved past Karran to find a safe spot to sit and rest. The arcanist opened themself and let the Force flow through them and begin the work of restoring their energy. Eyes closed, they meditated and trusted in their companions to keep watch. Mune knew they had to be ready to do their part again sooner rather than later.

K{

21:36

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

Karran slipped the lightsaber into his own leather holster that hung from his belt before adjusting his armor.

"May... I borrow someone's commlink? I think there is a call I have to make..."

T

21:39

Techsketch

Eilen blinked, looked down at her toolbelt, and plucked her communicator, offering it with a sheepish grin. "Just don't, like, get me stuck with cold callers, okay? Eheh..."

K{

21:59

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"Should not be a problem, thank you."

He accepted the commlink and began punching in a familiar code. When it started to ring, he put the commlink to his ear.
A

21:59

Attifer

Ruka watched the proceedings with wary eyes, gone tight around the edges again as soon as Karran had a weapon in his hand. He understood only the first half of the Zabraki oath, but didn't say anything as he was next given a comm, instead just minding to hold Kar carefully. Almost unconsciously, he'd started to ease his thumb back and forth over the elder's temple, as though cradling someone when they were sick. He'd held Noga and Leda this way for years, though they weren't yet so big in his arms. Cora had been. And once, so had this man's son.

Who would Karran call? Sera was upstairs...and oh, Ruka had *things* to say over that, but none so important as their present situation. Someone else on Tatooine? He tried not to let his thoughts run away from him, and focused back with a deep breath. He set himself to watching, as he said he would.

O{

22:11

Orion (Sera)[Gal AED]

Tatooine felt wrong.

Sera never thought that she would see a desert that she didn't love. The dunes were her home, her range, their hot wind constantly in her wings. But, Tatooine was *wrong*. The twin suns burned with a light that was too harsh, the sands were too rough...and whenever she reached to the Force, its song within her mind cracked, as if it has been warped by the heat.

Maybe she was just stressed out, of course. Plenty of good reasons for that. Plenty of good reasons for her to not go down with the others. Not that she was afraid...never afraid...but L'Ara needed her.

And there was what they might find. Who they might find. Might. Sera didn't know.

She wasn't afraid. She wasn't. She had...faith. But the last time she'd let Karran out of her sight, she'd picked him back up again in bloody, smoking pieces.

No. Not afraid. Definitely, certainly not...but worried out of her mind.

Which is why both hearts jumped straight from her chest into her throat as her comm rang, Eilen's name under the caller ID.

The Zabrak was headed towards the underground passage in half a second, throwing one last glance to L'ara as she went.

With one hand, she slowly brought her com up. The other clenched around the grip of her dagger...as she reached out to the Force, searching with her mind. Searching for one, familiar chord in particular.

"E?" she answered. "Coming right down. Is everything...?!?"

K{

22:22

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"Hey, *Kachinka*. How are things up there?" Karran's voice almost caught in his throat. He had no idea how this conversation would go. She could be furious. She could be relieved. But what he did know is that the sound of her voice let all of the tension in his shoulders release.

O{

22:32

Orion (Sera)[Gal AED]

Sera paused where she was, literally freezing in her approach down the corridor. Her mouth closed, opened, closed again, and clenched.

Then, she reached to the comm, and hung up without a reply.

Unconsciously, her other hand's white knuckle grip relaxed...a little...as she turned her walk into a sprint down the corridor.

K{

22:34

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

Karran looked at the commlink for a moment after the signal cut out. He pursed his lips and closed his eyes as he offered it back to Eilen.

"I think I was safer in my cell."

T

22:42

Techsketch

Eilen's expression slanted, a much simpler response than the ocean of words she had for him and the anxieties flooding her thoughts.

Karran had a *lot* of catching up to do. She scratched at the back of her neck, gaze drifting elsewhere.

"...Uhh... yyyeah..."

O{

22:50

Orion (Sera)[Gal AED]

The Zabrak turned around the corner at a dead sprint, sliding to a stop perhaps fifteen feet away from the group, and the wreckage of their enemies scattered around them.

Sera's eyes, and her invisible, intangible touch in the Force, fell first on Karran. Bruised and battered...but he had the same amount of limbs, and eyes. New scars. New pain, inside.

But okay. Not broken. Not again.

She took a long, deep breath, and then looked to the others, assessing each in turn. Her gaze lingered particularly long on the older Zabrak, stretched over the floor, but it flitted back to Karran in time.

Another breath in. Out. And she started to step forward.

“*Katka. Boora,*” she spat, marching right into Karran’s face. Her blue eyes flashed, body tensing as if she were preparing to strike a blow... Only for her to wrap her arms around his waist, as high as she could reach.

“Thanks. For...knowing to call for frackin’ help *this time.*”

K{

22:58

Karran ([L'ara Erinos](#))

The taller Zabrak bent down to return the hug. "Of course, *Kachinka*. I am so sorry for leaving, but it's not all bad." He gestured to his leather robes, the pebbled and scaled hide, and then to the older Zabrak laying on the floor. The tattoos matched his own, a dead giveaway to the relation.

W

22:59

Wally

Zig stoodby and watched, and felt her throat tighten. They had all lost things. She had lost things. When she had been lost, Sera had been there for her.

It's okay not to be okay

Zig's yellow eyes got a bit misted over, but her face remained collected. She blinked a few times and slid her helmet back on, to beter keep her emotions hidden. They were still in the middle of hostile territory. They still had someone left ot safe. But for that breif, fleeting moment, hope swelled inside of her heart. Hope that two people, lost, could maybe, just maybe still find each other again. She thought...

Maybe she isn't gone forever...

She knew that it was no true. She knew better, but for that moment she let herself believe, and in that belief, she felt a weight of relief from her shoudlers she had no idea she had been carrying with her since Sera and Zig had gotten the clues to Karran's whereabouts. Hope did exist, and maybe she wasn't doomed to be alone forever, just because Alaisy had moved on from her.

She continued to stay quiet, but realized that she had to be Captain right now, and being a friend could wait until later.

T

23:02

Techsketch

Eilen shrunk back as they embraced. Her thoughts tangled, fighting through insecurities and envy and guilt for even having such feelings. But more than anything, one of her best friends had her partner back, and Eilen couldn't help but feel happy to see it. A sheepish grin spread across her face, and she stepped aside to give them some space as a misty feeling came in behind it. O{

23:13

Orion ([Sera](#))[[Gal AED](#)]

Sera glanced between Karran and the older Zabrak, following his gaze, slowly putting something together. The realization hit her just as she was about to make her second point...a more physical one.

The knee that had been intended for Karran’s crotch glanced against her leg, impact partially absorbed before it hit its targets. It still had some impact...but Sera’s hearts just weren’t in it. She was, per say, distracted.

“Not...that bad? You could have told us *before* you left. Or called *more than once*. Told us anything, like what you were doing, or who... who...*who!?!'*” she finally cut off, gesturing to the stranger. “Your...you said...”

W

23:16

Wally

Zig watched the exchange and sighed. She slowly walked over towards the two Zabrak, beskar clinking. Her shockboxing glove crackled slightly as she balled a fist.

With her free hand, she placed a hand gently on Sera's shoulder. Then, with the other, she leaned in towards Karran and, with a quick flash of motion, jabbed him between the legs with the back of her shock-added knuckles.

"How'are'ya'now" Zig drawled from behind her helmet as she glanced at Karran, squeezed Sera's shoulder, and then padded back off.

A
23:17
Attifer

Ruka stayed quiet. Sera could speak for herself, after all. Instead he just reached out from his spot on the floor with Kar and took Eilen's hand -- she hadn't been too far, after all, coming to heal the man -- and squeezed it.

He hoped their conversation earlier helped, but that didn't mean kriff didn't hurt.

K(
23:19
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"I thought, but he's not. He's the opposite. He's alive, and he's com-"

The air shot out of his lungs as the impact and electricity jolted into his groin.

"*Good'n'you...*"

Yep, he deserved that.

W
23:21
Wally
Zig smirked to herself and moved over towards Mune. "You get anything, Mune?"

MC
23:26
Mune Cinteroph
Mune opened their eyes slowly, the fatigue had eased some though, they had glimpsed things. They could only assume one of those they had seen was Karran, their eyes watching the Zabrak and wincing some in sympathy, noting to be careful who they upset. Their eyes flicked up to Zig before they rose back to their feet and stretched.

"Yes, we're not done yet. The woman is okay, from what I could see." They seemed to be parsing what to share and what not to then with a sigh, "I am not used to sharing these things so, honestly, I do not know *what* to share. Expect a fight, a Zabrak, maybe Karran will fight a Besalisk with two pistols and two knives. I also saw a Trandoshan, rifle ready and meaning business... maybe their leader?"

They shrugged. They got it out easier than the last time they shared, but, they still did not seem to like sharing necessarily. "I am not onehundred percent certain."

W
23:28
Wally
Zig nodded and was already tapping buttons on her wristpad. She moved towards the wall, found a terminal of keys, and tapped a few buttons. Then she tapped her shoulder and triggers the Scanner Pulse.

Seven or eight red dots appeared on her HUD.

"You're not wrong. North, next room. They're expecting us and I doubt it's for tea."

MC
23:32
Mune Cinteroph
Mune sighed softly, "I could really go for some tea right now..."

A

23:42

Attifer

"I promise I'll make us all some as soon as we're back on the ship," Ruka tried to assure. At least Mune seemed so focused now on the task at hand that they weren't panicking. The Mirialan looked down at Kar in his lap, then rose to his feet, keeping careful hold. "We shouldn't leave him here, but we shouldn't carry him into a kriffing gunfight either. Someone will either need to stay with him or take him up to the others."

T

23:50

Techsketch

Eilen breathed in and wiped at her face with her free hand. She squeezed Ruka's fingers well and good, then let go.

"I can help him. You guys are the real fighters, anyhow."

6 September 2021

A

12:24

Attifer

"Ain't nothing real about us compared to you," Ruka said, and made to settle Kar on the ground in his threadbare blankets as comfortably as possible for the hybrid to tend. When he stood again, he paused just long enough to pull Eilen back to him by the back of the neck and bump their foreheads again, just like previously on the battlefield when they'd parted.

"Be safe, *arrarrmia*."

MC

12:33

Mune Cinteroph

Please no tight tunnels... no tight tunnels...

Mune took a deep breath, calming, centering, knowing once battle began, there would be no time for panic, no time for freaking out. They put the images of the vision to the back of their mind. They trusted the people around them and had to believe they trusted in them.

Mune watched the interaction between Eilen and Ruka. *Everyone must make it out... We did not come this far to lose anyone now...*

O{

12:38

Orion (Sera)[Gal AED]

Sera pulled her gaze from Karran, back to Eilen and the downed, older Zabrak. Karran's father. That was something she would need to wrap her head around...later. For now, she stepped back towards her hybrid friend, reaching up to wrap her in another embrace. This time, without any knees launched at any genitals.

"Be careful, E. We'll be right back; promise!" she stated, finishing with a toothy grin.

ZL

12:40

Zuza Lottson

Zuza remained a step back, keeping close enough to see everyone but giving space. One more fight to go... they could do this.

Her grip tightened on the Kukri in her hand, not wanting to interrupt Ruka but also not wishing to keep his weapon when they were going into another fight. It'd be nice, and the blade was beyond impressive, it reminded her of the Diamond sword she'd borrowed back when the citadel was under attack. A small smile crossed her face. She'd get one of these herself someday.

A

12:44

Archian

Red looked at Sage moving his wrist around, and from time to time holding it with other hand.

He decided that a bacta bomb would be helpful in this case, but he had a lot of self concerns if male Zeltron won't smack him in the head, when he would come closer.

Archian waved to Sage " Would you let me have a look at it?"
He asked him.

A
12:50
Attifer

The Mirialan released his apprentice, then looked to his other two, then the rest of the group. Noticing Zuza lingering as if not wanting to interrupt but clearly waiting for him, a smile on her face towards...the kukri?...he stepped over, joining the others preparing to move on.

"Keep that til we're outta here," he told the Human. "Like I said, it can take a blaster bolt or two, if you're quick enough to parry 'em. I've got my saber. And we been fighting a lotta droids with guns. Plus that guy with blasters Mune said he saw. Better safe than sorry, ay? And you're probably better with a blade than I am anyway." He reached up and touched the hilt of the sapphire gladius strapped over his back. "This one's blade won't block 'em, but they'll dissipate on it. If you're better with two than one, you can use it too." A small, hard expression that didn't quite make it to a smile. "I'm sorta my own weapon if I need to be."

ZL
13:02
Zuza Lottson

Zu looked embarrassed for a moment as her eyes met his, but it was replaced with a firm expression of confidence as she nodded.

"Not sure about being better with it, but thank you. Really gotta get myself one of these someday, second time I've ended up borrowing one." She chuckled softly, before continuing "I'm good with *just* the one, though. Prefer having a hand free, and even if i didn't, I'd prefer you not just relying on yourself being a weapon. Doesn't end well usually, that kinda thing. Skin and bone doesn't take blows as well as a blade. And we're all comin' outta here whole."
She flashed him a grin

A
13:09
Attifer

"Yeah, we are. And Joseline and the others too." Ruka made a tight sort of grin back to her.

W
13:25
Wally

Zig leaned up against the door to the next room. Helmet back in place, she thought about her options.

"We're going into a trap. We can try a gambit with a barrier, Force users first to deflect blasters...we could try smoke..."

Her HUD showed the signatures in the next room. "Anyone?"

ZL
13:25
Zuza Lottson

"Pre-cise-ly" Zuza raised a hand for a fistbump.

MC
13:26
Mune Cinteroph

Mune nodded some, "It makes sense, against heavy blaster fire we do likely stand the best chance of creating an opening."

A
13:28
Attifer

Ruka raised two fingers in a sort of salute.

"Are they grouped up? I can run in, scatter them, draw fire. Then we flank. Or," the next words were a little heavier, "there's lightning."

K{

13:44
Karran (L'ara Erinos)
Karran stepped up, "You are not the only one with a penchant for charging blindly into danger anymore, Ruka. And I may be overestimating the weight of my history with the Sarlaccs, but I do think they would enjoy the chance to take a shot at me. I did throw some choice words around concerning their mothers." He nodded to Zig. Her repeated lessons in the art of 'chirping' had come in handy.

W

13:46
Wally
"Space Mages can go in first. My instinct is smoke, but I have thermal vision on my visor, and that might ruin others. Backtracking the way we came looks like it will lead us into more, not less trouble. So we need to go forward I think...and bash their faces in."

Zig gestured vaguely

T[

13:46
Tali Sroka [HQD QUA]
"That must be him," Tali stated to Strong, the Chiss carrying their bound prisoner on his shoulder like a rug. She gestured at a lonely boy curled up with his knees by his ears under a far too expensive cloak. Waves of grief swelled from that unassuming bundle, reminding her of another young boy who'd lost his family—and been turned to dark deeds for it.

She sighed and turned to the Chiss. "Can you take her inside? I'll see what I can do, though I doubt it will be much. He just needs time..."

A

13:47
Attifer
Ruka eyed Karran. "If we go for me breaking their formation, I can't have anyone near me; you'll get knocked back too. But you can follow.
Incapacitate," he stressed.

MC

13:48
Mune Cinteroph
Mune grinned some, "Okay, so, Ruka, going up the center... Karran and I split and take the flanks?"

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"Incapacitate, yes. But I make no promises for the lives of Pund Ekker or their leader."

ZL

13:52
Zuza Lottson

"Can i go up front as well? I'm more useful in the thick of the fight than at the back." Zuza piped up, looking toward Zig.

K{

13:55
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"I could throw you, if you consent to it. Either through the Force or by hand."

T

13:57
Techsketch
Eilen lifted a hand. "Could send in the guy with a riot shield to block shots, have the Force-users file out from behind him to counteract... whatever trap they have."

Sully's ears lifted, and he waved lightly.

ZL

13:57

Zuza Lottson

Zuza blinked a few times, and then grinned, bouncing on her toes a few times. "I'm down for that, pretty good at landing on my feet."

W

14:05

Wally

"I'm wearing full beskar, but if ya'll want to go in first, fine by me. I'm still going to vote follow-the-Sully-in." 14:05

She patted the large Togarian on the side.

O{

14:11

Orion (Sera)[Gal AED]

"I can hit the flank, once Ruka's got them all jumbled. Move in, knock some heads, or keep the big guys distracted. Wherever the thick of it is," Sera suggested, palming her dagger. "That, plus a lil' bit of Battle Meditation might help..."

A

14:19

Attifer

Ruka nodded to Karran grimly, gripping his saber.

"I scatter, you all follow Sully in, we hold the front charge in case of traps? Actually," he scowled, "earlier. One of the Aquilish. He mentioned magic. That Mune was doing magic like the boss does. Karran, is Pund Ekker or the other a Force User?"

K{

14:27

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

"Pund is simply a thug, but I know very little about the boss beyond his name and species. His name is Esssekiel and he is a Trandoshan."

Wally invited Skar DB

A

14:33

Attifer

The Sith frowned and nodded. He closed his empty hand in a fist, flexing it, and then exhaled and inhaled, letting the Force steep all through his muscles, simmer in his palm.

Here was to hoping he didn't get shot like the fool he was.

"Everyone ready?"

MC

14:35

Mune Cinteroph

Mune readied their lightsaber in one hand and their Inquisitorius Sith Dagger in the other. They took a centering breath, readying to draw the Force with a thought.

ZL

14:41

Zuza Lottson

Zuza nodded, rolling her shoulders and glad the painkillers she took earlier were still working and vaguely feeling bad for herself the next day before the thrill of the upcoming fight washed it away.

K{

14:44

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

Karran gripped the borrowed lightsaber in one hand and left the other free to throw the small human when the time came. He focused on his breathing and readied himself for the fight to come as the Dark Side flowed through him.

A

15:00

Archian

Archian looked at Sage but he behaved like no one existed around him. He was just staring at his wrist, and playing with like checking broken toy.

15:08

Archian put everything in one move. All of this made him very impatient, especially that Zeltron was making his wrist worst with every move...

Archian came behind Sage, and tapped him at left shoulder, while holding bacta bomb in his right paw.

Sage turned into left direction, and Red with quick move throw bacta bomb at Sage's wrist from right side.

His reaction was immediately suprising, as he didn't even felt that but just looked at wrist, touched with finger, smiled and walked away, like nothing happened.

Archian was only happy that he still kept his head on....

K{

15:41

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

Karran reached out through the Force to lift Zuza off the ground. With a heave, the small human flew forward into the fray in a frenzy.

As he whipped his arm, though, a painful cramp stabbed his shoulder. He cursed silently. He was dehydrated and tight from his time in the cell. He knew he should have stretched, but it was too late for that

ZL

15:42

Zuza Lottson

Zuza managed to withhold a cackle of laughter as she was thrown across the room. It was strange, being thrown by nothing but seemingly the wind. A grin did break across her face as she landed in front of the enemy.

oh this was fun

Ruka had mentioned non-lethal, but she had to get em down first. She stepped forward towards the nearest beska..big boy lizard? Four armed lizard man. Without hesitation she raised Kukri and slashed across the larger being, taking it by surprise and cutting deep because of it. Through the scales and into the muscle, drawing blood and flicking it across, spattering onto one of his teammates.

W

15:49

Wally

"Get the--"

"--What the kark?"

"Gaaaahhhhh!"

The Besalisk Crimson Sarlacc thug cried out as the amethyst blade dug into his flesh and scales and hobbled him backward.

ZL

15:51

Zuza Lottson

"HAHA YA SHIRKERS, DIDNT EXPECT THAT DIDJA." Zuza laughed back, stepping back in preparation to dodge undoubtedly incoming hits.

W

15:53

Wally

The Arconans stormed into the room then just as chaos was about to erupt and echo through the sewers.

Sully went first, his shield raised, with Zig next to him, wrist-shield up.

Ruka, Sera, and Mune moved in next, each spreading out and moving in first.

The next wave of Doon, Kaled, and Archian followed, moving around the downed Karran to give him time to recover.

"Kill them all!" Pund shouted from the back in an order.

MC

16:47

Mune Cinteroph

Mune made use of the momentary distraction of Zuza landing so abruptly to dart forward. The Force coursed through them, empowered his forward momentum so that they were quickly upon the Noghri. Their lightsaber flashed in a wicked arc but their target was quick enough to dodge what was intended to be quite literally a disarming blow... Mune settled for the Noghri's blaster falling into two halves, leaving one half in the enemy's hand, flaring red from heat and smoking.

Mune flipped his Sith Dagger into a reversed grip ready to defend, seeing the knife at the ready.

A

16:55

Attifer

More violence, a quieted part of Ruka's thought at Pund's shout, the rest tuned into the battlemind of *nowmovethreatgo*. Zuza was a comet, blood spraying off an amethyst blade. Mune dashed, white lightning and plasma, fierce and bright.

The room wasn't so cramped as the tunnels, rather open, but he knew then as they fanned out that he wouldn't be able to detonate a telekinetic blast without possibly throwing his teammates on the front lines with him, and without their lives on the line of a live grenade, that wasn't a risk he was willing to take. Instead, his eyes flicked to one of the four-armed, large besalisks, the furthest to their right -- and, he reasoned, the most able to flank them besides the other noghiri -- and closed an invisible vice grip around it. He lifted the besalisk into the air, as far as the cistern's ceiling would allow, and clocked his gaze to the noghiri on Zuza's other flank from Mune. The besalisk followed, thrown into the smaller reptilian, who tried to dodge back. It wasn't quite the clash of bodies he'd intended, but both did go down in a tangle of limbs, one prone, the other only staggering as he kept his feet.

W

17:41

Wally

In retaliation, having recovered from the initial surge, Besalisk 1 sneered and took aim. His blaster carbine leveled with the Mirilan Sith and he fired indiscriminately.

Ruka was powerful and fast, but Zig was already moving from her guard position. She interposed herself between Ruka and the incoming blaster fire and used her wrist-shield to block it.

After the solvo finished, Zigs shield sputtered and then winked out. "Er. Uh oh."

Meanwhile, Noghri 1 was slowly recovering their footing...

O{

17:43

Orion (Sera)[Gal AED]

Sera's mind was quiet, calm, as she and her friends stormed into the next room. Amidst chaos, a whirl of confused, terrified shouts, the ring of blasters, a peal of laughter, she felt...utterly tranquil. Her hearts pumped steadily, clear rhythm in her soul.

It was as close as they would ever be. Karran was back. Eilen, Ziggy, and Sully were with them...the old crew. Ruka by her side. Zuza, Doon, Archian, Mune, relatively new to the song in her mind, but trusted still.

Nothing could put her down. Not right now. Not when she had all of them. She was the sun on the dunes, sand on the wind...and she struck like a storm.

A brown and tan blur shot out, just behind Zuza as she went sailing through the air, sandy cloak snapping. Sera pivoted left, jackknifing in front of the besalisk that the smaller human was currently slicing apart, and rounding on the little lizard man to her flank. She was on him in a flash, quicker than he could even raise his guard, sturdy boot heel crunching into the center of his face. The guard went spinning backwards, wounded, but still conscious.

Sera just grinned...and chambered her next kick. It was going to be a good fight.

KA

18:00

Kaled Atros

With everyone else getting in the action, Kaled prepared for the attack.

He could sense a few of them up ahead.

Only peace...

Kaled took a deep breath in, filing his lungs with much air as possible. Using the Force, he could feel his arm muscles had started to swell up.

There was not much time.

Miraluka bolted forward, taping Sully's shoulder as he passed around him.

"Sorry! Coming through!" Arcanist said as he started to move quaker closing the distance between him and Noghri 1, how was the closest enemy that he could engage.

Kaled lifted his lightsaber in the air. Preparing to strike his enemy down, but before Miraluka could deal the finishing blow he could hear Hapan's words echo in his ears.

More then a blade.

"I'm really but.."

As the strike was seemingly going for the Noghri's body, Kaled quickly twisted his blade around and severed the enemies right arm from his body.

W

22:13

Wally

Archain stepped forward and lashed out with his whip, aiming to coil it around the neck of the Besalisk Zuza had wounded initially. He whipped it, but the Besalisk say nay, and managed to slip the lead.

W

22:46

Wally

The Besalisk that had been knocked prone from Ruka's telekenetic assault slowly pushed themselves back up to their feet. They sneered and fired, not exactly at the most logical target, but the biggest one they saw- the armored Zygerrian.

Sully, however, begged to differ and stepped up with his riot shield.

22:53

Pund, meanwhile, seemed to take in everything going on around him and appeared to be...shook. How did they move so fast? How did they take out nearly half of his men...when they were the ones that should have been ready to spring a trap. Sure, the Boss had some unique abilities...but nothing so blatant as superspeed or throwing someone without touching them.

no...no...no

Instead of joining the fight, Pund slowly back away, keeping his weapon from firing as if not to draw attention to himself....

22:57

Besalisk 3, meanwhile, who was bleeding and hurting from the initial wounds inflicted by the small human woman, tried to take a swipe at Zuza with the rifle in his first two arms, as well as the knife in his third arm.

Zuza was ready, however, and twisted and wove through the attacks, staying on the balls of her feet with a confident grin spread across her freckled visage.

23:03

Noghri 3, who had been disarmed drawing his blaster, countered attacked with their knife. Mune, however, sensed this coming, a whisper of warning through the Force.

K{

23:24

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

Karran rolled his shoulder to ease the pain of the cramp, muttering in Zabraki. He moved to follow the rest of the team into the chamber as he filled his lungs with air and channeled the Force into his diaphragm to let out a bestial howl.

"PUND!! EKKER!! I AM COMING FOR YOU!!!" He choked momentarily on the last word as he tasted blood from an overworked throat. He spat it to the side before rushing in, leaving a smattering of it on his chin.

When he entered, he saw the Besalisk backing away from the fight, likely planning to bolt. But this was not an acceptable outcome. He would have Pund's head on a pike.

With a flick of his wrist, the borrowed lightsaber burst to life and the Sith charged.

W

23:36

Wally

Noghri 2, after being knocked back by Sera's kick, tried to get a counter strike in. But the Zabrak was lithe and already moving, and twisted away from the slashing attack with a grin.

MC

23:49

Mune Cinteroph

Mune twisted to dodge the knife slash from the Noghri, feeling the attack coming but, over compensating as they tried to turn the dodge into a slash to take out a leg that result in them missing completely. Mune cursed inwardly, a little off balance but knowing well the error could have been costly.

ZL

23:53

Zuza Lottson

Zuza dipped under a pair of the arms of the besalisk (3) in front of her, giggling at how kriffing awful he was at catching her and deciding to focus her attention on something that could be more of a problem. Like the runaway 2nd in command.

She easily caught up with Pund, hearing Karran yell and reckoning this guy was gonna die anyway, so adjusted her grip on the kukri and lowered herself slightly, slashing him deeply across the legs to force him to stop or fall over.

"Sup runaway!" She hummed, smirking up at him with Pund's blood dripping from her blade.

W

23:58

Wally

As Karran charged after Pund, he was intercepted by Noghri (3) who was frustrated by the other Zabrak getting away from him. Karran grunted, and his saber came down, and took off the Noghri's weapon hand. It hissed, and now the creature still stood between Sera and Karran, who stood together.

23:59

Pund cried out in pain and felt his progress...hamstrung. He hobbled and hissed waved his twin daggers wardingly to keep seperation and space at the demonic, small woman. "GET AWAY FROM ME"

7 September 2021

S

00:01

SongBird

More fighting. More in the way of a completed mission. The heat. The rancid stench. The dull pang of a previous glancing blow.

Doon wasn't putting it up with it anymore.

His massive form burst out from behind the front line and slammed into the Besalisk, sending him flying back. Still, Doon was on him. Claws teeth and metal tore into the poor grunt, too stunned to put up a full fight on the ground. Still, his many hands was a nuisance for the rampaging Shistavanen to deal with.

Doon's knee planted itself on the hip of his target, anchoring himself as his claws slashed through the shoulder armor on either side of the

Besalisks lower arms. With a guttural feral sound his claws pierced the armor and he jerked upwards, rending fabric, tendon, and bone.

With two sickeningly wet pops, Doon found it much easier to finish off his Two armed opponent.

ZL

00:02

Zuza Lottson

Zuza grinned, and uttered in an annoying cheerful tone, “Nah.”

W

00:14

Wally

Noghri 1, meanwhile, having lost an arm to the lazer sword, went to get as far from it as he could. With a reckless abandon, he threw himself bodily at the next closest thing- Sully- and his shield.

T

00:20

Techsketch

Sully blocked the Nogri's incoming body, but let the shield sink close. His free hand reached around and grabbed the flailing enemy by the neck. With a mighty heave, Sully twisted and threw him in Doon's direction.

S

00:34

SongBird

Doon's ear flickers. His maw opens and drops a piece of tendon? Fabric? Bone? He couldn't tell. What he could tell was the off balance pattering of someone moving closer to him. He plants his feet and twists, swinging his arms low and cutting into the legs of the Noghri.

His arms keep moving, carrying the legs with them in a sweeping manner, causing the one armed attacker to spiral through the air over him.

Doon's golden eye tracks his cartwheel, and he propelled himself forward once they hit the ground, intent on keeping this one.. 'pacified' with a pair of claws pressed into the ground around their throat. The following snarled command was in Shistavanen, though it didn't need much explaining.

KA

10:53

Kaled Atros

With Noghir now out of the way, Kaled made another dash forward to the next target. He could sense a big lifeform right in front of him.

Alright! I can do this!

With the Force still inpowering his attack, he picked up his speed. As he was was getting ready to attack, Kaled quickly made a step to the left and dropped on the ground, slashing off Basalisk's left leg.

"Please, go...This is the final warning..." Miraluka said as he rose up, turning him self around to face Basalisk.

W

11:06

Wally

The Besalisk fell, crying out in pain. Two of its four hands gripped at the now phantom limb as he cried out in anguish. The other two flailed miserably as he writhed on the floor and tried to crawl and wriggle away from the Miraluka.

A

13:45

Attifer

The sheer carnage actually distracted Ruka for a moment, for the second time that day. Doon, again drenched in blood, men -- or women, whatever they were -- screaming in pain, terror on their faces, crawling away or slack on the ground and bled out from where their limbs had been bitten and torn off by a man acting animal. The sand-panther's scars on his own limbs ached fiercely, and Zuza's giggling and taunting...Ashla and Bogan and Ancestors, that was **worse**.

His stomach revolted, and his mouth filled with sick burning bile. He forced it back down with two swallows and made himself look because he had to. He had to.

The Sith gripped his saber, noted Kaled's plea for surrender, Karran's charge, Mune's dodging and Sully shielding and belatedly thought to thank Zig later for shielding him. But later. The laughter, the wholesale sadistic slaughter-- *later*. Now. Now. Now was this. Was three enemies left, disarmed or unhanded or bleeding, and Pund, with Karran going for his throat, and Zuza cackling over how he begged her mercy. At least Mune wouldn't kill the noghiri they fought.

A vague part of him wondered -- what was the point? They'd all been ripped into in minutes. *Incapacitate*. Right. Why try? What could he do that even needed to be done? That would be any gentler now to these kriffing gangers?

If his exhale was more of a tired, *defeated* sigh, his inhale more a gasp to *keep going* then, well, only he needed to know.

Violet eyes fixed on the remaining, bleeding besalisk. *Try*, he reminded himself.

A
18:06
Attifer

One hand extended towards the besalisk, while the other reached for the unhanded noghiri that Karran would surely cut in actual halves just for being between him and Pund Ekker. His gaze flicking been the two, Ruka focused his will, splitting concentration, and telekinetically lifted both individuals up into the air. Again, he suspended them as high as they could go, close to the ceiling and out of reach of everyone save perhaps the tallest of them, and even then, awkwardly at best. The image of Archian's arrow between the Dashade's eyes flashed in his mind, and the Mirialan flicked his wrists about and summoned the gangsters towards him, keeping them buoyed over his own head. It wasn't much an assurance, but--

"I've got them," he called with slight strain, if only to be maintaining the hold. "Don't shoot. Help each other."

W
18:15
Wally

Zig watched as Ruka floated the two. She was half tempted to go help Mune..but trusted them to handle their own. Plus, there was something pulling at her, like an unseen, dangling piece of string she was fascinated by and wanted to...punch?

Zig saw the Noghri struggle and writhe in the air as he faught back and couldn't help herself. She took a few running steps, toggled her jetpack, activated her shockboxing glove, and uppercut the floating Noghri in the jaw.

"Shoryuken!"
His head jerked back, and the momentum took him out of Ruka's telekenetic hold and crashing - alive but disoriented - into the other wounded/downed Besalisk Kaled had taken out.

"Oh, thanks Ruka!" The Zygerrian called out with a grin as she landed.

A
18:37
Archian

Archian decided to not show any mercy anymore.
He took a chance that Ruka lift up Besalisk in the air, and was very thankful for that.
From this perspective he was able to manage and did a move into the most sensitive place of every organism, thier reproductive systems.

Archian made a loop up to down with his whip behind him.
" It is the time for you to fall!".
Red leaded whip with circular move from down back to up at front of him, directly between legs of flying Besalisk.

"LEET'S DAANCE!".
Shistavanen shouted while immediately kneeling down to give extra power to his whip's move.

W
18:48
Wally

The floating Besalisk made a "OOOOO" expressoin and grunted and wilted while floating in the air. He dropped to the floor, writhing around, tears rolling out of his eyes as he curled into a fetal ball. "No more..." he groaned.

The lone remaining combatant was tuned in to his target- the white-furred Shistaven. The Noghri sneered and attacked with vigor. Mune's awareness in the Force wasn't as quick as it usually was, but their muscles were dialed in to the flow of the melee. A quick step, juke, and spin sent the Noghri attacking nothing but air, and facing down a crowd of Arconans.

18:58
Pund, meanwhile, was crawling away from Zuza and the rest of the Arconans. His eyes were wide. Blood streaked and strained the floor as he used all four arms now to crawl away towards...something. Anything to get away from them. He had watched his men toyed with, played with, and ravaged before his eyes.

The Pikes were kinder, and that was saying something in the underworold.

"No no no, what the kark are you people!?"

He kept crawling towards a figure in the distance.

The Tranoshan with black scales simply watched, arms folded across his chest. He seemed calm, and unphased by everything, by contrast.

ZL

19:06
Zuza Lottson

Zuza wiped the blood off of the Kukri on her trousers, walking after him and somehow not noticing the large calm individual simply watching them all.

"Better than you." She spoke simply, shaking her head. "Coward."

A

19:35
Attifer

Are you really? Ruka thought, tired, so tired, from the back, staring at the downed aliens who'd been beaten like suspended toys. *Idiot*, he reflected of himself.

His eyes moved from Zuza to Karran to Pund and back again, and his grip on his saber tightened.

MC

20:44
Mune Cinteroph

Mune barely sensed the attack in time. It was only because of their agility that they twisted and slipped under the wild knife attack of their opponent.

Even as the Noghri went stumbling into the other Arconan's, Mune was reaching and threw the Force out to try and pull the unbalanced gangster back. The realization dawned then that they had overdone it with so many barriers.

They felt the presence of Ruka joining them before they felt the Mirialan helping. The Noghri was pulled back quite suddenly back the way he had come and sprawling upon his back. Mune's lighsaber blazed, pointed threateningly close to the man's chest.

"Drop the knife and surrender, I have no desire to kill you... and I am sure you are rather attached to all your limbs..." the threat held the edge of a growl.

They hoped the enemy took the threat seriously and gave up. There had been far too much killing for their tastes. In their peripheral they glimpsed glimpsed wanton slaughter their clanmates visited upon the enemy. Mune never had much stomach for blatant death and destruction... their eyes focused back on the Noghri and narrowed.

"I suggest you do it..."

W

20:46
Wally
The Noghri trembled and held his arms up. "Was just follow orders...please don't...let them do what that *thing*...did to Jar'em ..."

A

20:56
Attifer

Ruka's mouth was a thin, grim line, his expression firm but drawn.

"We won't hurt you," he told the noghri, kicking away the knife, then added, bitter, "not anymore. Go lay on your stomach against that wall and keep your arms behind you. Make sure your friends do the same."

So said, barely flicked his eyes to the fallen besalisk that Archian had whipped and the other noghri Zig had knocked out in order to lift the aliens again and set them in a tidy heap where he'd indicated, against the western wall. Then he turned to his apprentice.

MC

21:03

Mune Cinteroph

Mune knew immediately who the Noghri meant by *thing*. They disengaged their lightsaber, seeing Ruka kick the knife aside, so letting the Noghri follow the man's orders. Their eyes wandered to Doon, covered in blood, none of it the Shista's own. Phantoms from their past dimmed their eyes and they frowned.

"This... was not necessary... we could have... we could have forced them to surrender without... without..." They sighed, they had yet to know these people well. It had not been long enough for them to know them well.

Swallowing, they put that aside for now, mission first, regrets later. They glanced to Ruka, "Thank you, I must have worn myself down far more than I had realized."

A

21:19

Attifer

"You've done a lot to protect us. Thank *you*," Ruka murmured back, a half-rote thing born of years of reassuring his children when he didn't believe a word himself, when everything was bad but they were still so good. He raised his voice only slightly. "Sully. Get out your medpac. These people could bleed out."

He wasn't confident in lifting the one who Kaled had taken a leg from, telekinetically or otherwise, without accidentally killing the man. The rest were...well. He didn't even need to look for a pulse.

Almost as if on autopilot, he slowly started towards Karran.

K{

22:42

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

With his path cleared, Karran stared daggers at the crawling Besalisk.

Pathetic coward.

Pund Ekker had revealed his true colors. Running yellow.

Karran extended a hand toward the toady little coward and clenched. With a jerk, he threw the alien up where he collided with the draftees piping that made up the sewer tunnels before letting him fall with a sickening but satisfying (to Karran's ears) thud, still alive.

"*You*. You ruined everything. Every good thing that you get your four greasy hands on turns to ash." His voice was hoarse, his volume pulled more blood into his mouth, which he spat at the prone man. **"Beg me for your life! Offer me whatever I want!"**

MC

22:49

Mune Cinteroph

Mune hears the yell, their attention snapped to what was going on and a look of shock and disbelief crossed their face. Yes, Pund was an enemy but... he was already subdued, they could not fight back. They just stared, uncertain what to do right then.

A

22:52

Attifer

A green body clad in black and gold -- so much shorter and thinner now next to the Zabrak that had grown and twisted with Sith magicks, with his cloak left to the child above them, with half his weapons gone -- stepped between the barely-moving besalisk and the dragon that loomed over him.

"Karran."

Ruka's arm came out, up, straight as if to bar the way. He stared up into Karran's mismatched eyes, teeth smeared with blood and bared.

"Karran, stop. He's beaten. He probably won't even walk again. You've already won. Leave it. Don't do this. Don't do this to *yourself*. Don't be *him*." K{

23:04
Karran (L'ara Erinos)

Karran, nearly lost in his rage, snarled as Ruka spoke and pulled his attention. His own blood dripped from his pointed teeth. He wasn't happy about leaving Pund alive, but he would allow it. He strode past the Besalisk, delivering a strong kick to his corpulent gut as he moved onto the next engagement.

W

23:11
Wally
"Val'teo..." the Transoshan leader of the Crimson Sarlaccs hissed. "Why not finish him? Hmm?" he waved a hand casually. But nothing seemed to happen, Karran's rage diffusing the paltry attempt.

K{
23:16
Karran (L'ara Erinos)
The Zabrak felt the feeble attempt to probe his mind. He shook his head to clear the momentary fog.

"I have given him a fate worse than death. He crawls like a wounded Womprat, defeated and dishonored. A fate you will soon share."

A
23:17
Attifer
Relief tried to kindle in Ruka's chest, and he kicked it back down, turning around to see who'd spoken. His eyes narrowed at the man, catching the gesture, the shake of Karran's head.

"Don't try anything else," he snapped at the Trandoshan, warning, urgent. "Karran, hold on. You. Where is the Falleen you kidnapped? Are there any others?"

W
23:22
Wally
"Perhapssss," he hissed and looked at the Mirilan. "Joseline? Why, she's right here..."

A Falleen woman slowly stepped out of the shadows. "Hello..." She said quietly with a shy smile. She moved over to the Transoshans side and ran a hand over his chest.

MC
23:33
Mune Cinteroph
Mune, once Karran had stepped past Pund, hurried over before dropping to their knees. They were already drawing the Force for a singular purpose, to just keep from adding to all the death that stains the stones with blood. Moisture, certainly Pund's blood, was soaking into his trousers but they paid it no mind. They thrust that power into Pund with the sole purpose of ensuring he did not bleed out. They could be crippled for the rest of their life, he most certainly deserved it... but... Mune focussed that power and closed the man's wounds.

They kept telling themself that Karran had his reasons, everyone had their reasons. They just wish they understood them better. Only when they stopped the blood flow did they turn their gaze to those shadows and the scene cradled by the darkness. *Well... that's unexpected...*

W
23:36
Wally
With the fighting done, and Ruka on "adult" duty, Zig set her focus up the more menial task of cleaning up.

"What do we do with them," she radioed to Tali after explaining the situation to the Quaestor. "...and did Aru ever turn up...?"
8 September 2021

T[

01:25

Tali Sroka [HQD QUA]

Prisoners, right, we actually get those occasionally.

Tali considered her options. It wasn't like they were here to expunge criminals, but to save one of their own. That said, they had already caused much harm to the locals. Maybe they could do at least some good.

"Bring them up," she replied. "Ve'll let the locals decide their fate, or drop them off vith the Republic."

ZL

02:32

Zuza Lottson

Zuza had winced at the crunch, half expecting Pund to be dead from the impact but surprised. Not.. happily so. He was a coward and an enemy, but hey, the others the inclined to leavin' em alive and she just wanted to fight.

Her eyes looked up toward the Trando, raising an eyebrow and glancing between the others looking for their reaction, a little unsure of what to do. This wasn't her fight to start neither... awkward standing continued.

A

09:19

Attifer

"... Joseline?" Ruka asked, eyes widening. He'd expected-- the sort of thing he'd seen on Eldar, with the Kaedean women captives: drugged out of their minds or wounded, held in cages or collared, broken, bruised, used as hostages...

But Joseline. Well. Had stood of her own power. Or had she? The Trandoshan had just tricked to mind trick Karran. Was he controlling her?

The Sith's expression became thunderous. He told himself the blood roaring in his ears was anger, and not absolute terror, not the echo of those things screaming on Atolli and crawling inside his head and-- *and--*

"Let. Her. Go," he choked out.

MC

10:59

Mune Cinteroph

Mune straightened up after healing Pund, "Remain calm, Ruka."

There was nothing to be gained by giving into anger right then, there was no telling if she were in her position by choice or not right then. It was true she could be being controlled by the Trandoshan... however... it were just as likely that she were no victim at all. "Anger will get us nowhere now..." they glanced to Pund to make sure the bleeding had actually been stopped.

They were already drawing on the Force again to ready a barrier to defend, uncertain where things were going, unable to find the answers in the visions of earlier.

W

11:40

Wally

The Trandoshan tilted his head. "What do you mean?"

"I want to be here with Essie," Joseline exclaimed, scrunching her ridged brow and narrowing her eyes. "He takes care of me and gave me all of this!" she gestured at the room behind them.

The room, which resembled more of a den, had some lush pillows and seating, a canopy type cover to a recessed bed, a table with fresh fruit on it. Various treasures were scattered about, and by treasure, it was items looted most likely during raids or by the locals.

"So, you should leave us be. You have what you came for," she gestured at the angry Zabrak.

A

11:44

Attifer

The Mirialan's eyes narrowed, further torn by everything he saw and what she said. Nothing he could see in her stance or expression or hear in her voice indicated she was lying. But...

"Mune, can you sense if she's sincere?" he asked softly.

MC

11:51

Mune Cinteroph

Mune eyed the two, trying to get more of a grasp of the situation, of her, mostly. "I believe she is quite sincere. She is not in need of rescuing."

Then this last battle... it had been utterly unnecessary... Mune looked back at all the blood and winced.

A

11:59

Attifer

Ruka's expression lost some of its intensity, some of the underlying horror, but remained grim. He shook his head.

"We can't just leave you here. Neither of you. You don't get to keep up this gang kriff you like so much that got you them jewels. You don't get to hurt people anymore. Surrender and come quietly. Order all your gangers to do the same."

A

14:40

Attifer

Nonetheless, despite Mune's reassurance -- maybe even, just maybe, because of it, because now apparently Joseline was *culpable too*, not a victim -- Ruka extended his own weak senses the couple's way. The Trandoshan was...oddly focused on her. *Really* focused on her, despite the invaders into his hiding spot and the dead bodies and his beaten lieutenant all around him. Like the hand she stroked down his chest was a magnet. He practically radiated an overwhelming urge to please her. And she...she sort of...clouded him. Pressed to him.

Was a presence, this almost physical thing. Not her body, but her emotions and thoughts. It was like...like...

The Mirialan's eyes widened.

Like Qyreia. Like when they were both upset and arguing or when she was venting her frustrations and it felt like beating her fists against him -- provided that wasn't actually happening...she did like to smack him a lot, eesh -- or when she laughed and that happiness was soda bubbles fizzing in his chest. She hated it a little, actually. How her emotions radiated, and how others' emotions influenced her. But that just was part of her. Her pheromone thing.

Did...were Falleen like Zeltrons?

Swallowing hard, Ruka lifted his saber again and pointed it, this time, at Joseline. There was still plenty of space between them, but the threat was clear.

"Whatever *you're* doing to *him*, you're going to stop it, right now, and you're both surrendering. This is over. All of it."

W

14:53

Wally

"But I'm not doing anything to him!" she huffed. "Just because we have something special doesn't mean you need to try and ruin it!"

The Transoshan nodded a long, but the "leader" of the Crimson Sarlaccs didn't seem to have much...fight in him.

A

14:57

Attifer

"You're doing something, I know you are, I can *feel* it," he snapped, agitated. It...wasn't easy to be arguing with the woman or pointing a weapon at her. "It's-- it's not the Force, not like him, it's-- it's pheromones, ay, ain't it? Or something. He ain't right in the head...Kriff, and I thought he was using you."

W

14:59

Wally

"Look, Scarface, no need to get all jealous on account of little old me, so why don't you kriff off!"

A

15:26

Attifer

Two thick eyebrows lowered in a flat glare. She wanted to keep denying it? Fine.

"You had your chance to do this willingly," the Mirialan said, and flicked his fingers like a parent dismissing a child. "If I have to separate you AND capture you, *fine*."

His telekinetic hold locked around both the Trandoshan ganglord and the Faleen puppeteering him, like closing a fist, forcing their arms to their sides and legs together and then lifting them both a few inches off the stones. He gestured, and Joseline went to one corner, quite literally, of her little bedroom nook, while Esssekiel went to the far northwest corner of the cistern, completely opposite her and isolated from everyone else but a corpse. The Sith maintained the hold, keeping them there, even as Joseline protested loudly.

MC

16:18

Mune Cinteroph

Mune shook their head some and frowned, their ears and tail down. "Ruka... we are not the authorities... I... we can't just... for all we know he invited her in knowing what effect she would have on him we cannot just assume..."

Of course, Mune knew in all likelihood that Ruka assumed correctly but... what proof was there? Not to mention... who were they to get involved. They were here to rescue Karran and they had done that so now... why were they not withdrawing? Mune swallowed nervously, "We've saved Karran... we've done what we set out to do... there is a child upstairs who needs our help more than..." they motioned vaguely at the two lovers, "... these two."

A

17:15

Attifer

"You wanna leave them to pick right back up and keep doing they gang kriff to the towns around here?" Ruka asked stiffly, not because of Mune questioning but because he was holding two people actively still. "With however many more Sarlaccs is around this base? Yeah we came to get Karran and any hostages, but that don't mean it's not up to somebody to stop this operation. And we can do that. Without just murdering people. We'll give em to the locals or take them to the Republic like Sroka says."

MC

17:35

Mune Cinteroph

Mune nodded slowly. They remained uncertain... they had misgivings when it came to imprisonment. They agreed in principle that the best way to stop the crimes from continuing was to turn them in but then... what would be done with them by the authorities?

"You are right of course... sorry." They stepped back then moved to go help the injured, they could heal after all.

A

17:54

Archian

Archian looked around, still a bit angry for no reason... took his medpack off from his back, opened it and started looking for his all medical tools.

Also at the same time he was staring at Ruka, and listening to his emotional speech.

"I will help with the wounds, and bleeding, but if they survive after that is up to them". He told to everyone who could have heard him.

One thing is to help hurt innocent based on instincts creature, and other to enemy who wanted to kill you just a few minutes earlier....

KA

18:02

Kaled Atros

Kaled lifted his hand. He did have something to say about the current situation, but ultimately he decided to drop it. They were in love but, does that excuse the things they have done? The gang? It was a good thing that Miraluka didn't have any say in this. He would rather live the difficult choices to his much experienced superiors.

Kaled walked around the room, over to the wounded. He made a stop next to the Basilisk that was unfortunate enough to lose a leg do to his initial attack. Miraluka knelt down beside him, visibly worried and saddened.

"Ah.. sorry.... About... I'm really sorry about what has happened...I didn't mean... here ammmm...I have a medical supplies. I'll help you... it's the least I can do..."

Miraluka slowly extended his hand for a hand shake.

A
18:07
Attifer

The besalisk made as if to make some violent motion at the extended hand, but stopped, looking around at his friends. Fekkie's...body. Missing two arms and chunks and the wolf dripping in pieces of him. There was part of the lunch they'd all just had on the floor where H'eo's guts were spilled out around a long cut from that tiny Human. For sandsm's sake they'd beaten Jim to death with Fekkie's ripped off arms!

Shamefully, the besalisk curled in on himself, clutching at the stumps of his own leg and limbs and feeling the world cold and wobbly. His heartbeat was loud in his ears. Did he still have both ears?

"Frak...you...y'did'thiss..." He wanted to tell the blind boy to frak himself on the leg he cut off, to spit and scream. But his eyes rolled back and he slumped over, breathing barely there and shallow.

KA
18:16
Kaled Atros
Kaled quickly got up. He was shaking. Not out of anger, but out of fear.

No! No,no,no!

Miraluka quickly turned around trying to call... someone, everyone for help. But the Basilisk was right. This was his fault. And this was the consequence of his action.

"M-M-Mister Sully help! I need your assistance! Quick!" Miraluka yelled as he dropped on the ground next to the Basalisk, taking out his medpack and quickly trying to help the injured man.

T
18:52
Techsketch
"Hm?" Sulith looked up from the bleeding mess he was already treating. One lowlife preserved, yet another set of stumps to cauterize and bandage on another.

"Ah, jh..." He shuffled over, already digging through his pack. "Alright, pal. Sorry about this, but it's gonna hurt."
10 September 2021

K(
19:16
[Karran \(L'ara Erinos\)](#)

Karran's eyes narrowed as he listened to the conversation. He knew what had to be done. He was the only one who understood life on Tatooine.

"The Republic has never cared about what happens on Tatooine. The only justice anyone had ever had is what you can take with your own hands. The people here will never be able to stand up for themselves fully. If the Sarlaccs disappear, another group will rise to take their place. A message must be sent to those that would do so. A story must be left for future generations to tell of those who would prey on the innocent."

A
19:23
Attifer

"If the locals don't do anything with these people, that's up to them. How is this not already a message?" He jerked his head at Pund, sobbing in fear and smelling like literal shit, to the mutilated bodies and crippled and handicapped men and women. "It's already over, Karran. It's done. You're just not satisfied by not getting to *hurt* them more *yourself*. That's your plan, ain't it? What do you intend for him?"

The Mirialan pointed at Essekiel with the hand that currently held the Trandoshan suspended in place.

K{

19:37

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

Karran took a deep breath and let out a ragged, bloody sigh. "They don't have to be hurt to send a message. I am not some mindless beast that I cannot recognize when a situation has grown beyond my scope of knowledge. All I know is that the *Republic* is not the answer. Do you think the people here have not tried to call for their aid? Did you ask?"

He coughed as blood pooled in the back of his throat once again, ready to be spat out. "My vengeance is complete. All I truly desire is my weapon and the relic of my tribe that were taken from me when I was brought here."

A

19:45

Attifer

"We'll see what's done with them," was all Ruka answered, tiredly, unable to reach out and touch Karran's throat, soothe the hurt. That seemed kriffing fitting. "Whether the locals decide, or the Quaestor does. Go. See if your things are over there." A nod at the den and its treasures. "If not we find it in these sewers. I won't leave until we do."

And that, for now, was going to be that. He'd hardly exerted himself much, but gods and ancestors, he felt so drained.

K{

20:49

Karran (L'ara Erinos)

Karran nodded and made his way into the room, finding his lightsaber and his father's weapon with little effort. With a simple motion, he slid the lightsaber into the holster that was made and molded for it. The hilt was new, crafted from scraps of his old saber, and incorporating a fang of the Krayt Dragon at the bottom of the hilt, as well as a new crystal, whose energy Karran could almost feel humming through the several layers of leather that he now wore. With a moment of reverence, he retrieved the Zhaboka and slung it behind his back and exited the room.

"It would be wrong to leave this wealth for just any treasure or bounty hunter to find. We should tell your friends and encourage them to distribute it among the villages in the area."

A

21:03

Attifer

Ruka presumed that Karran was talking to Zig, about her junker mentor. It would make sense. He put Essekiel with the others and Joseline in her corner and watched them all until down came the others to help collect and ferry out the wounded.

Then there was clearing out the entire sewers and base. Then it would be the bodies. He'd make sure Jet got his mama whole, nobody treating her corpse wrong just to get that armor. Then...then...

They'd see.

11 September 2021

A

12:59

Archian

Archian went out from sewers, and looked at the Jet with a Scurrier jumping around him, which was looking around for any dangerous movement, even that their mission was almost over.

Shistavanen came closer to both of them, kneeled down at front of the boy and said.

"Time for me and your small... guardian to go...hm... would you like to name it? I didn't give him any name yet." He looked at him and patted small creature at the head.

Scurrier immediately jumped inside of Red's robes and its only visible head was looking at Jet with question.

ZL

13:10

Zuza Lottson

Zuza came up the stairs behind Archian, a few steps ahead of the rest of the group. She looked at Jet with a soft frown, biting her lip and thinking.

There was no way they were leaving the kid here... Her father would take him in though. At least for a while, until they could contact other family members or find him somewhere else if Gwaine couldn't take care of him long term. It'd be worth an ask at least, so she stepped outside of the cantina to call him. Even if they found another option in a bit, it was worth giving him the heads up.

A

13:20

Attifer

Time passed. He moved.

They cleared the other tunnels until they found the end of them. Brought up the wounded. Then the dead. It was morbid, to be moving bodies en masse with his mind, but it was also significantly easier than carrying them. He felt bad watching the survivors watch it happen. Corpses floating in parade.

He was gentle. The dead deserved that. He kept as much dignity as possible moving them all out of the sewers and into a neat line in the town center, and then added the bodies on the surface. He thought to go back for the Trandoshaan raiders.

Their assassin prisoner joined the line up of the wounded Sarlaccs. Jet did not. They kept him in the cantina, and Ruka kept particular watch over his mother's body while Archian and Zuza hovered near the kid, wary that one of the team themselves might try to strip the woman's armor, nevermind once they got to town again.

He watched and turned his thoughts to a pyre. He would've dug a grave, had done it before, but not in sand. So much sand. Wouldn't it just all fall back in? Blow away in a bad storm? Did they have anything to burn? Maybe a space funeral would be better. If he could convince Zig or anyone else to bring the bodies on board for it.

And everyone seemed pretty convinced these guys hadn't deserved any good treatment in life, nevermind death...

Ruka shook his head. Noticed Zuza making a call. Thought about Jet. The kid needed someone, and he wasn't going to leave until that was settled. But they weren't really in any position to just adopt another -- or rather, he doubted being adopted by his mother's killer was going to be good for Jet -- but something had to be done.

The Mirialan thought, and thought, and watched over the corpses, watched everyone move around and go their own ways, worried for his apprentices all and for Mune and Kaled, who'd been terrified in the tunnels and upset by the violence alike.

MC

18:46

Mune Cinteroph

Mune had not become as shaken passing back through the tunnels, there was far too much on their mind on the return trip. Replaying over and over what had happened. Where had things gone so wrong? Was it truly necessary to take so many lives? All of it worked its way through their mind, replaying over and over again. They remember Ele's vision back in the cantina what seemed like so long ago now... what they had thought was blood of companions had turned out to be so nightmarishly the blood of their foes.

They did not help Ruka move the fallen through the tunnel, they could not deal with the tight space so well as that, but did help once they were brought up.

"It was them... or us..." they said at one point to Ruka, but, there was no conviction to the words at all.

They had no doubt had they not defended themselves, they'd have lost some of their own. They also knew full well they had the skill, the talent even, among their crew to have spared more lives than they did. To neutralize without slaughtering. That is what bothered the Shistavanen. They were not some ragtag band desperately fighting for survival. They were a talented group of Force-users, soldiers, fighters... Were they that blood thirsty?

Mune eyed Doon. They flashed back to other scenes of carnage in their past, but the blood was all over their white fur, matting it, dripping from their jaws, the taste sweet and coppery on their tongue. It was under their claws. The scent clogged their nostrils.

"Excuse me..." They muttered to Ruka and the others before walking calmly out of sight to wretch. It was the image of Doon that burned in their mind, seeing another Shistavanen covered in blood, using tooth and claw, it messed with their head far more than any of the others. They returned only ten minutes later to continue to help in whatever way they

could, tending to wounded or helping with the dead, anything to stay busy until they could retreat to the coolness that waited upon return to the ship. not to mention a shower to rid themselves of the sand making him itch all over.

A

19:07

Attifer

Perhaps it was the lingering smell of bile he knew too well, or just the hunch to Mune's shoulders and limp tail. But when the smaller Shistavanen returned at one point within reach, Ruka hesitated only a moment before grasping their arm and squeezing. They'd tried to help today, and they'd tried to comfort him, which meant he was more of an obvious wreck than he'd like to be and Eilen was probably going to flop on him if he wasn't quick to hug her over Sera first.

"If you need to talk after this. If you need anything. You can call me. Or Cor." His gaze went back to the cantina. To Jet. He saw Noga and Leda in his mind's eye. "If you ever want to. Thank you, Mune. For *trying*."

MC

19:15

Mune Cinteroph

There was a sudden flash of rage and they opened their mouth to speak but just as quickly shut their mouth. They wanted to yell, wanted to scream. *What is the point of trying if people are going to die needlessly anyway.*

The words did not come, though, and the rage was just as quickly snuffed out. They looked up at Ruka then nodded, calming, trying so desperately to grab hold of the calm they needed to make it through the rest of the day. With a breath they spoke almost normally, if not a little flat, drained, "I... will be fine... Thank you, Ruka. I am just tired. Perhaps when all is said and done, I... I will reach out."

ZL

19:16

Zuza Lottson

Zuza had finished her call, exhaling deeply afterwards. Having to explain their work was never pleasant, and was usually something that went unspoken. Her father had never.. approved, but supported her despite it. Asking him to potentially take in the child of someone they had killed had been uncomfortable. The cheer had left his voice, and was firmly dampened, but Gwaine had promised to do his best if he were needed. He'd see if Jet wanted to stay on Tatooine, and if not he'd see if anyone was looking to take someone in. So Jet would be taken care of, either here or elsewhere in the galaxy.

She was soon joining those in moving the dead with a grim expression. It was far from her usual to pay respects to foes, but she didn't see the harm. They were people too after all. It had been kill or be killed, but this was better than leaving them to rot among the sand.

When they were lined up, she headed into the various buildings to look for flammables to make the pyre. She'd speak to Zig, to Ruka and Strong if she could spot one of them while they weren't busy, and find out if they already had ideas for what to do with Jet. If not, she'd follow up on her father's promise. But while moving bodies and finding tinder, or having quiet conversations... Zuza knew when to interrupt something. This was not it.

A

19:26

Attifer

"Yeah. When it's all over. Any time. Day or night. My line is open." He made himself smile, like for the kids. Tired. Yeah. Yeah, that was a word for it. He squeezed Mune's arm again, then went about the work, minding to approach Zuza.

"Thanks," he said, because she was helping, even if he couldn't unsee her smile or sneering laugh directed down at Ekker. "You alright? Not hurt?"

MC

19:32

Mune Cinteroph

Mune sought out water to rinse the bile from their mouth then took on the task of moving from crew member to crew member to make sure they stayed hydrated. They would likewise ensure the prisoners were given water. Anything to stay busy, anything to stay moving, knowing that if they stopped moving, they may just curl up in a ball. It was useless to let it eat them up, all they could do was look forward and take one step at a time. No matter how much they thought upon moving forward, the images were there, haunting. ZL

19:40

Zuza Lottson

Zuza shifted the load of tinder and flammables a bit as Ruka approached her slowing to a spot on her wandering search. The dull thrum of the returning ache beginning to resurface in her ribs argued against the small smile she looked up at Ruka with, but it stayed in place. Week or so and she'd be fine, so she easily decided that it wasn't particularly worth mentioning. "Yeah, I'm alright. Didn't take any more hits... thanks to you." She paused for a moment, the smile widening slightly, in genuine appreciation. "Which thank you, truly. I don't think

I got the chance to say it earlier. Wish you coulda got yourself outta that blast as well but, I appreciate it. Are you okay?"

Her eyes glanced over him, looking for anything obvious. She wasn't much of a medic, the missing chunk from her shirt made that more than obvious, but she could at least poke Ru into going and seeing someone who was.

A

20:12

Attifer

The Mirialan eyed her closely in turn, skeptic eyes narrowing, like catching one of the kids out after bedtime or having sworn like they weren't supposed to. He didn't believe she wasn't hurting or tired after her earlier injuries and the excitement, not with how her eyes were tight or how she held herself. Would she take the bacta he had if she tried? Probably not.

"All healed. I'm fine." His eyes flickered, and the scraps she carried lifted gently out of her arms to hover between them. "Here. We're going to need a lot more than either of us can carry. Might be better to just use the airlock." He sighed. "I'm not sure they'll do it if I ask, though. Captain Kaliska, maybe. And maybe Quaestor Sroka...Strong might think it's a waste of time." And then a thought occurred, and the Mirialan groaned and pressed his fists into his eyes.

"Oh, kriff me, where the hell is Law?"

ZL

20:21

Zuza Lottson

Zuza nodded a little, but let him take the tinder, rolling her shoulders. The airlock wasn't the worst of ideas, just that much was heavy, and she'd struggled to find it, finding enough to build a large enough pyre to actually burn them all would be more than difficult. "I reckon Zig would be fine with it, I don't see why she'd have an issue."

Her eyes widened, and she looked around as if expecting Aru to be standing smugly among them. His absence was still notable however, and a worried expression overtook her smile. "We should probably take speeders out to find him, kark knows where he's ended up though..." Zu shook her head, pushing her hair back out of her eyes, "We'll find him. Speakin' of though... I have an idea for Jet. I dunno if someone's already got a plan for him, but my dad would be willing to take him on or find him a family somewhere more familiar for him. Either way, depending on what the kid wants, he'd be safe and would have *someone* to take care of him properly. I don't think any of us wanna leave him here."

A

20:27

Attifer

Ruka looked at her in surprise, then in consideration. "I...guess that could work. I was going to...well. Offer him a place. Not that I think it'd be *good* for him, getting adopted by his mother's killer," his tone dropped low. "But I won't leave him. We have to do something...your dad. You talk about him like. Like he's good. And he's here already. And he's...not us. Maybe that's better. Maybe."

His eyes closed briefly. Because he only let them be closed briefly. If he didn't, he wouldn't open them again, and he wasn't allowed to stop. He couldn't.

"That's good, Zuza. That's. Something."

Not anything that could ever make right. But something.

ZL

20:38

Zuza Lottson

"He's better than I am." Zuza spoke with honesty, although with a pained note. She knows he loves her, but the disappointment was painful. She shook the thought off, and smiled back up at Ruka, "I think it'd be good. For him and us lot."

Kids didn't deserve this shit. It... something to think about later. Later.

A

21:30

Attifer

Ruka frowned back at her. At that fake smile. Had her smiles always been that fake? Or only when she was trying not to sound hurt? The others didn't seem bad before.

But then, he hadn't seen her smile bloody before...

He shook his head. Too much. He needed to be cautious with Zuza, with the kids. Tell Corazon about this. Just to be careful. Cor would probably frown about it too. Both at Ruka's suspicion of Zuza, and at all the violence. He'd be sad about that. To know this about his new friend. Not that it would change that status, because Cora was too good like that, loving people that didn't deserve it and a world that didn't deserve him.

Ruka would know. On harder days, but the better kind, he would think there was something wrong with that thought process.

But today it sat in his bones. And today Zuza had laughed while she stabbed a man. And today she was hurting too.

"You're good," he said awkwardly at last, knowing it had been too long. He wasn't sure anymore what he meant by that. Some kind of reassurance. She'd hurt her ribs, so he didn't touch her back, instead just sort of patted the back of one hand he'd seen her shape into a pistol sort of gesture a few times. It seemed allowable, given she hadn't minded him acting like a moron and cleaning her face off earlier. It felt like that was days ago. It felt like the Trandoshans were a week. The town a month. He hoped that shopkeeper didn't get killed for the emerald dagger. That was how it went with valuables back home in the ghettos, with the gangs.

Ruka shook himself. Focused a moment to channel the Force through his body, steel it and his mind. He was listing, and there were things to do. Bodies to deal with. Captives to turn over. Orphans to drop off with Gwaine Lottson. Injuries to tend to. Goddamn Aru Law to go find. And then there'd be the debrief. And then he'd check on Sera and Eilen -- even if he wanted to check on them sooner -- and Karran and Kaled and Mune and Zuza, and maybe Captain Kaliska if no one else had by then because this whole day was awful and if being in charge of a team was anything like being a parent then she might be taking it all on her shoulders, who knew, he didn't kriffing know her, and then--

Well. Then he'd probably comm Cora, if it wasn't the middle of the night on Selen. And maybe sit down. But only if he got ahold of Cora. Because if he sat down without his husband on the other end of the line, he was probably going to break, and there were too many people on the Voidbreaker he didn't trust or counted now as dangerous to have a stupid kriffing panic attack around. So, sitting. Eventually.

But not now, not yet.

Get up. Move. Do it for them.

"I'll go ask about the ship burial. Check on Jet. Should get one of the medics with him. We'll go from there, ay? Thanks, Zu. With your dad. You help a lot."

12 September 2021

KA

10:43

Kaled Atros

Kaled finally emerged from the entrance, shaking. His hands were still a bit bloody, but Basalisk was finally stable. He will live, but his words still resonated in Miralukas mind.

Arcanist failed to notice people who were already out. He still couldn't come fully back to his senses. Kaled still walked forward. *I...I am... Biscuits...*

When he finally came around, Miraluka realized that he was standing outside of the cantina, the warm sun felt almost like a nice change. As he was standing there his wrist communicator started beeping. As he turned it on, he could hear R4 on the other end. Apparently there was a message left by Qyreia. Miraluka only let out a deep sigh. He wasn't ready. Relying too much on the Force took a toll on his muscles, but not only that...

"I... I'll think of something...R4 could you... Could you probably contact Aayala later? Also... Prepare Hope for departure. And some rations for the little ones."

"Woooo...beep woop beep...(It will be done...I don't see your fascination for those things...)" The little droid replied from the other end.

"They are my... Family...If I don't take care of them...no one else would, you know that... And Vulpus..Well it is peaceful with them around."

The little droid replied in confirmation. The rations will take some time to get to the ship, but he assured Kaled that the task he has given will be finished when he arrives.

Kaled only thanked R4 before pressing the button and hanging up.

"Well...I at least hope she will hear me out... What's the worse that could happen right?" Miraluka asked out loud. He stood there for a moment. Thinking about what to say to his Twi'lek friend before shrugging and raising his hands in defeat.

"Biscuits...."
