A New Order

by arturus

Summary

A renegade Jedi has a force vision of a pair of powerful Force sensitive's. This sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order of Force users. This new order will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds. HP/LL SW Universe
Chapter 1

**Synopsis:** A renegade Jedi has a Force vision of a pair of powerful Force-sensitives. This sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. An action that will have profound effects on the future of many worlds.

**Disclaimer:**

*All publicly recognisable characters, settings, etc. are the property of their respective owners. The original characters and plot are the property of the author. The author is in no way associated with the owners, creators, or producers of any media franchise. No copyright infringement is intended.*

I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fanfiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

**Authors Note:** As always I take canon and play with it to suit my twisted imaginings. To set the stage the events in the prologue take place during OOTP and 3 years before the events of the Clone Wars (about 26 BBY in Star Wars Canon-verse) and about 7 years after the events of Star Wars: The Phantom Menace (33 BBY).

*Earth is in uncharted space far from the known regions of space occupied by the Republic.....*

**Chapter 1 – Prologue**

Talia Tal-Shin no longer considered herself a Jedi, nor did she consider herself a grey Jedi or a Sith.

No, she was now an instrument of prophecy. Decades ago she received a gift from the Force. A vision that foretold the rise of a new order of Force users. So she had left her fellow Jedi with their restrictive rules following what she believed to be the will of the Force.

A gifted Jedi, Talia Tal-Shin was also a very competent engineer. Not that this was an area of skill the Jedi Council had recognised or placed value on. Yet it was this understanding of engineering combined with being open to the will of the Force that was the foundation for the knowledge, skills and training that she now sought out.

Even with the Force to guide her, it had taken her years to assemble the knowledge and materials to bring about the situation the prophecy demanded. The Force had needed a place to birth its new order so she had built it. The Force needed certain obscure, dangerous technologies so she had acquired them. Now the Force needed raw materials and she had found them, far beyond even the outer rim, territory the Republic knew nothing of. A smile crossed her beautiful face as she studied the unknown yet foreseen planet below, the birthplace of her chosen ones.

-oOoOo-

Harry Potter cursed as he ducked into another darkened corridor, this one blocked by a heavy wooden door. His ill-fated plan to save Sirius was fast unravelling, they had been fighting a running battle with Voldemort's servants since the fight in the Prophecy room. Somehow his friends had gradually become separated in the chaos till just a bloodied Luna stood by his side. Working as a pair, they had defeated half a dozen adult wizards. Harry could only hope that others were doing just as well, but he was beginning to realise that without help he, no they were going to lose.
"Harry" whispered Luna as she pointed down the corridor they had just left, the sound of running feet followed by a flash of green light drew a bleak picture of what lay back the way they had come. With a gesture he indicated the door; not waiting for Luna's nod he tried the door, it was locked so he cast the unlocking charm and tried the door again, it was still locked. He was about to blast it with an explosive hex when Luna slammed in to the door with bone-crushing force before he could even turn his world exploded.

oOoOoOo

Lucius Malfoy cursed as he watched Bellatrix blast the Lovegood girl and then Potter into the wall. Pale-faced and snarling he turned to the smirking witch beside him, "What are you playing at Bella? The master wanted Potter alive and we'll both pay if the prophecy is destroyed."

Bellatrix cackled as she watched Potter's blood begin to pool around him, kneeling she began to search through his pockets. She could hear Lucius muttering behind her, but she ignored it as she searched for the glass prophecy sphere. Not finding it she cursed and searched the dying girl beside Potter, still nothing.

"Damn it," with a wave of her wand she cast one of the few healer spells she knew, the Vitalus Suppress. It wouldn't heal them but would keep them alive long enough to be questioned by the Dark Lord.

oOoOoOo

In the Atrium of the Ministry of Magic, Lord Voldemort stood glaring furiously at Lucius and Bellatrix as they deposited their captives at his feet.

"I told you I wanted the prophecy and a living Potter," the Dark Lord's voice was quiet, but none of his servants mistook it as anything other than barely controlled fury.

Lucius flicked his eyes toward Bellatrix as the witch knelt before her master, "My Lord Potter still lives. He and his little friends were…troublesome so Bellat…"

"Crucio"

As Lucius finished writhing in agony, Voldemort turned to Bellatrix, "Remove the suppressor and guard me as I search his mind."

Voldemort entered the dying mind of the teen and quickly found what he was after. So the prophecy was destroyed as Potter fled the Department of Mysteries. No matter, the fool had been stupid enough to watch it. So he watched the memory of the prophecy and nearly laughed. This piece of dying meat was supposed to defeat him; this boy was Dumbledore's hope? The old man must be insane. With little regard to his watching followers, he threw back his head and laughed.

With a cruel smile at the dying boy, he raised his wand, "Nothing can stop me now Dumbledore."

"I beg to differ," was the unexpected reply.

Whipping around he found a young looking woman standing behind him, close enough to touch. He immediately raised his wand to kill the newcomer and then time stood still. In one fluid movement, the young woman spun left and a strange beam of light appeared in her hand. Before he could react, she continued her spin and struck severing his wand hand before dancing away.

Voldemort looked down at his severed hand, still clutching his wand and made to reach for it just as
his emergency portkey activated.

Talia palmed her lightsaber and then dropped her Force bubble and appeared behind the force user, "I beg to differ."

The Force user was absolutely cloaked in the darker side of the Force so she was prepared for an attack and predictably it raised a weapon to her. With her trained reflexes, she spun away from him and ignited her lightsaber. It was a simple task to continue the spin and disarm the darksider.

Almost immediately the surrounding lackeys raised their Force foci and Talia was forced to deflect several Force attacks. Spinning her lightsaber in a defensive pattern to deflect their attacks she barely paused before leaping forward to counter-attack.

Albus Dumbledore and the Order of the Phoenix apparated in to the ministry atrium and froze in shock at the strange one-sided battle before them. A single figure, wielding what looked like a glowing blue sword was engaging a half-dozen Death Eaters. As they watched the figure, a young woman he saw, deflected a spell with a sweep of her glowing sword before decapitating the spell caster and spinning away from a volley of spells.

His interest in the spectacle waned as he spotted Harry Potter and Luna Lovegood slumped motionless in the middle of the floor, "Dear Merlin no."

With a curse, he directed his people in to battle and after deflecting a curse thrown his way as he began moving quickly to where Harry and Luna lay together amidst their pooling blood.

Talia noted the new arrivals, from their auras they were more than likely the local versions of law enforcement. Sensing an attack she blocked and turned back to the two injured humans she had travelled so far to find. Before anyone could interfere, she summoned another Force bubble and quickly levitated them. With her Force manipulation hiding them she calmed turned and headed back to the surface.

A few steps away the white-bearded figure looked around apparently confused by her disappearance. Talia did raise an eyebrow in surprise when he began using something akin to Force perception. She couldn't risk him interfering so she Force pushed him to the other side of the room and quickly continued on her way.

Albus watched as the single cloaked figure moved toward Harry and Luna and then abruptly disappeared. Shocked he quickly cast some detection and Finite spells. Almost immediately his spells detected three magical beings moving toward the exit. Unfortunately, before he could raise his wand, a spell struck him and threw him halfway across the room. Before he could counter it he collided with the last upright Death Eater, knocking both himself and Bellatrix Lestrange unconscious.

Talia working in concert with MK-67, a medical droid quickly place both critically injured teenagers in to Bacta tanks. Then sat and meditated awaiting the droids diagnosis.
MK-67 quickly completed his scans and immediately reported even as it continued its work on its subjects. "Mistress both subjects are suffering from severe trauma. I would calculate a nine percent chance of a full recovery."

Talia nodded having expected this result, "As expected then. MK, please begin the cloning process. Use the Khalodian memory crystal to map out what you can of their memories and thought patterns."

"Of course Mistress, I shall begin the procedures immediately."

On her way out she turned to look for a moment at the two figures suspended in the tanks before turning and walking from the medical bay.

---

A weary and heartsick Albus Dumbledore stood and addressed the gathered members of the order, "My friends I am afraid that the news is….not good. Last night Harry Potter was tricked in to believing that Sirius was being held in the Hall of Prophecies by the Dark Lord. Being unable to contact Sirius, he decided to rescue his godfather himself. Accompanied by….." as Albus explained the previous night's events many in the room began to feel a sense of dread with Potter gone and likely dead more than ever they were reliant on Professor Dumbledore but at the moment he looked like an old, broken man.

---

As soon as Talia reached the flight deck of her ship she began the pre-flight checks. Within minutes, she lifted off and set her course for Trallax 3. It was the work of moments to enter the coordinates for the first of many hyperspace jumps, each designed to disguise her course. It would also make backtracking her journey to the outer rim somewhere between difficult and impossible. Both her mission and her cargo were far too precious to take any risks, no matter how long the odds against detection.
Disclaimer: I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fanfiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

A/N: For a timeline see the notes in Chapter 1

Last time:

As soon as Talia reached the flight deck of her ship she began the pre-flight checks. Within minutes, she lifted off and set her course for Trallax 3. It was the work of moments to enter the co-ordinates for the first of many hyperspace jumps, each designed to disguise her course. It would also make backtracking her journey to the outer rim somewhere between difficult and impossible. Both her mission and her cargo were far too precious to take any risks, no matter how long the odds against detection.

Chapter 2

Talia drifted off into her meditation and let her consciousness drift amongst her memories. Slowly a memory formed of an argument in the Jedi temple.

Jedi Master Tahl was lecturing her. "You always were arrogant Talia but to think that you believe this…..dream is a Force vision is foolishly so."

As the Jedi Master stalked off, Talia felt a hand on her shoulder and a familiar presence in the Force. "You shouldn't provoke Tahl Lia," chided Qui-Gon.

"I know Qui-Gon but Master Tahl seems determined to stop me following the will of the Force."

Qui-Gon frowned as he considered her words, "Perhaps, but I suggest that you should meditate on your visions and find your path my friend. The council is wise, but they are not always right."

The memory faded as Talia drifted to the next memory.

"Seek to follow your vision you will, a self-fulfilling prophecy I think it is."

Talia bowed her head at Master Yoda's words, partly in respect and partly to hide her expression.

"Frustrated you are, unhappy with my advice I think hmmmm?"

Talia was glad her face was hidden as she felt her expression turn dark. "Yes Master Yoda, I believe it to be a true Force vision yet the council won't no can't seem to see the truth."

"Hmm, now anger I sense, beware of the dark emotions young Jedi. Bow to the will of the Council you must, dangerous it will be if you do not."

"Yes Master," replied Talia.

Slowly drifted to the last of her memories, the most painful but also one she was the proudest of. Master Yoda stood watching as she packed her few personal effects into a backpack.
"Dangerous this path is young Talia, chasing phantoms you will be."

She said nothing and simply zipped her pack closed. Then she turned to face the Jedi Master and handed him her lightsaber before clipping a blaster to her utility belt.

"Stubborn as your friend Master Qui-Gon Jinn you are, unwise this is, unwise and dangerous."

"I'm sorry Master Yoda, but I believe that you and the council are wrong but as of now, I am no longer your concern. May the Force be with you," Talia walked out of the Jedi Temple, the only home she could remember amidst whispers and stares from the Jedi in the halls. Straight-backed and proud she showed no emotion save determination as she disappeared into the crowds.

It was time for her to go to work.

As she came out of her Force meditation, she looked up the chronometer in her cabin and smiled indeed it was time to go to work.

Trallax 3 – Outer Rim Territories

"Wake them, one at a time," ordered Talia.

"Yes, Mistress" replied MK.

As the medical droid injected the sleeping figure, Talia sent a wave of reassurance through the Force. MK knew to lace the stimulant with a mild drug to help induce calm as she could not risk any mistakes or misunderstandings.

Luna slowly became aware of her surroundings. She was laid out on a strange bed under a sheet. And she was feeling remarkably well rested and calm, considering that she had just awoken in a strange place. Since nothing bad seemed about to happen, she sat up and immediately stopped moving as she took in the figure at the end of the bed. Surprisingly for a pureblood, she recognised it, well what it was at least. Reading science fiction had its benefits.

"Hello, Mister Robot, could you tell me where I am?"

"MK probably can not, but I can," offered Talia.

Luna swung around to see a young woman standing on the other side of the room. Moving slowly, she slid out of bed and looked around the room till she saw Harry lying on the only other bed.

"Harry!" exclaimed Luna as she rushed to his side, "Harry?"

Talia sent another wave of reassurance as she answered, "He is unconscious, our healing protocols required it."

"Will he be okay?" asked Luna.

"MK shall awaken him momentarily. How are you feeling Luna?"

Luna's brow wrinkled, "How did you know my name?"

Talia laughed and replied, "There are no secrets from the Force, my young friend."

Luna shrugged and gestured unselfconsciously to her naked self, "I feel fine, great actually."
Talia gestured and robe rose up and floated to Luna, who took it and sat back down on the bed, making no effort to don it.

"You were about to tell me where we are," Luna prompted.

Talia nodded and sat on one of the vacant beds, "You are aboard my ship and we are currently orbiting a planet called Trallax 3."

Luna sat stunned for a moment before seemingly collecting herself enough to ask her next question, "Why?"

"I wish to train you and this is where that shall occur," replied Talia as she again sent a wave of reassurance through the Force.

Luna shook her head, "No, I meant why did you abduct Harry and I?"

"Because you are the chosen ones," replied Talia "Without my intervention, you would have both perished. Search your feelings Luna you know I am being truthful."

Luna seemed to drop into some sort of Force awareness for a few moments before slowly nodding, "Very well I believe you, but why?"

Talia gestured to MK. "Allow me to wake Harry and I'll explain my reasons to you both. MK, please wake our other guest. Luna you may want to put your robe on or Harry may have trouble paying attention to our discussions."

"I don't like it Luna" declared Harry as he paced the small cabin Talia had supplied them. "Bloody hell, I don't even know that you are you. I mean my bloody body has changed and I'm sure I'm taller."

Luna cocked her head as she regarded Harry for a few moments, "That's a good point Harry, perhaps we should give ourselves a good once over. Do you have any distinguishing marks, besides your curse scar, of course, a birthmark or anything?"

"The others have disappeared, well the ones I could see anyway."

"Yes, mine too, all the normal scars gone. Hold on I've got a birthmark on my bottom, a small heart shape," Luna pulled her robe up and pointed, "Is it still there?"

"LUNA" yelled Harry, as he quickly looked away in shocked embarrassment.

Luna shrugged wholly unrepentant, "Oh Harry grow up, it's a possible life or death situation surely you can look at my bum for a moment and tell me if I still have a birthmark."

Harry was turning an interesting mix of white and red as he steadfastly stared at the roof, "There is no way I'm going there, Luna."

"Look I'm clean and I don't smell and you don't have to touch it or anything just have a quick look."

"Luna I am not going to check out the bums of my friends. That is not going to happen, okay. Find a bloody mirror or something," Harry could feel his face burning with embarrassment and worst of all, the first stirrings of some inappropriate and bloody ill-timed arousal.

After a few moments of silence, Harry felt Luna's arms wrap around him in a soft hug, "I'm sorry
Harry I didn't mean to embarrass you or make you uncomfortable."

"Um… it's alright, so what now?"

Luna shrugged, "Not sure, we don't have our wands but we have been feed and had our wounds treated. Talia seems nice and, to be honest, her answers ring true, I….well I'm just not sure why but she sounds sincere and she did save our lives."

"But what about our friends and your dad, our lives back home?" asked Harry as he sat down.

"I don't know," replied a subdued Luna.

Talia smiled at the two chosen ones and sat indicating that they should as well. She had given them several hours to think up their questions and they were rapidly approaching a critical point in her Force vision.

"Are you both feeling well?" asked Talia.

At their nods, she gestured to the decanter and glasses and poured three glasses of water when they nodded. Now it was time to get down to business.

"I owe you both an apology but before I do that, I'd like to tell you an important story about the history of our galaxy. About five thousand years ago there was a war known to historians as the great hyperspace war. Historically the war was fought for a number of reasons, but the truth was that it was a war of ideologies as much as anything else. On one side you had the Republic supported by the Jedi Knights who deemed themselves the guardians of peace and on the other the militaristic Sith Empire.

The end of the war saw the Republic victorious and the Sith in disarray with a shattered fleet and its leadership tied up with vicious infighting. But the Sith were not finished and a century later they were back," Talia paused to take a sip of water.

As she set her glass down she smiled at Harry and Luna, "Do you have any questions, or do you want to wait to the end?"

Harry looked at Luna, who shrugged, "We can wait."

Talia nodded and continued, "For over four thousand years the Jedi and the Sith fought for supremacy and control of the Galaxy. In the end, there was another war except this time the Jedi thought they had succeeded in their task and for a thousand years, they considered the Sith gone from the universe. They were wrong.

The Sith disappeared from history but not from existence from that time on they became a cult of two, a master and an apprentice. They still want what they always have power, control, supremacy call it what you will but they seem to now be working from the shadows. They have become manipulators rather than soldiers.

Meanwhile, the Jedi are oblivious, my former comrades refuse to even acknowledge the chance the Sith still exist. Even after a decade of seeking them I still know little other than some ancient Sith lore and some strange sightings and events that I have traced to them. The irony is that both the Sith and the Jedi are wrong in how they view the Force."

Harry's face was blank as he tried to take in Talia's words. However, Luna was listening with a rapt
expression on her face while the story unfolded. As Talia finished, Luna leaned forward to speak.

"That's a very interesting story but I think you need to explain a few things for us. What's the Force and what exactly are Jedi and Sith."

Talia nodded, "An old instructor of mine once described the Force as the energy field created by all living things that also surrounds and penetrates living beings and binds life together. It's a good answer, but I call it the living Force it is everywhere and everything. It is important to understand that among the countless beings that inhabit the Galaxy, there are but a few beings born with the ability to manipulate this Force."

"So this Force is like magic?" asked Harry.

"A better way of saying that Harry would be to say that magic is just another way of using the Force," answered Talia.

"And the Jedi and Sith," prompted Luna.

"The Jedi are or, at least, see themselves as the servants and protectors of the Republic and the whole galaxy from conflict or government instability. They are moderators and negotiators as much as fighters. They are led by a Council of twelve members consisting of the most powerful and wise members of the order. To keep them on the right path the Jedi are bound to a code of morality and justice and are trained from early childhood in the use of the light side of the Force part of which is controlling their baser emotions."

"And the Sith?" asked Harry.

"The Sith use emotion, the Jedi taught that fear, anger, and pain were negative emotions to be overcome and avoided, the Sith believed that these strong emotions were natural survival traits. By harnessing their emotions rather than suppressing them, the Sith believe they could achieve true power. Indeed, the Sith saw passion as the only real way to fully understand the Force. However, the Sith believed strongly that the worthy could control their emotions and use them while the weak were ruled by them."

Luna appeared to be thinking over the explanations before asking, "Does that mean that the Sith are evil and the Jedi good?"

Talia shook her head, "No Luna it doesn't really but that is how most see the world. I suppose more…ah, neutral Sith could exist but they would be few and far between. There are also those who walk a path between both codes. Force sensitive's, grey Jedi and many individuals like yourselves who wield the Force without being constrained by either code, Force adepts who would finally bring balance to the Force. I have dedicated decades toward creating that vision and with your arrival, one of the last pieces is now in place."

"So you believe that Luna and I are these Force adepts?" asked Harry.

"Yes I do," answered Talia.
Harry found looking at his mortal remains a rather weird experience.

After Talia’s explanation, she had escorted them to the medical bay for the next revelation. On arrival the robot…droid he corrected uncovered two shrouded bodies, his and Luna's. Since then Harry had simply stared at the scar covered 'Harry' unmoving on the bed.

Luna, however, was poking and prodding her previous 'housing' with every indication of interest, after a final poke she turned to Talia, "So you copied us then dumped our memories in to homunculi?"

"Clones" corrected Talia, "But essentially that is correct."

"Why don't I remember the process?" asked Luna looking almost disappointed.

"Unfortunately by the time I reached your location you were both almost dead from your injuries. Even MK couldn't keep you alive long enough to heal you. So the entire cloning process happened while you were unconscious and continued as we travelled here."

"How long has it been?" asked Luna.

Talia didn’t hesitate, "Almost nine months that was as fast as we could develop a clone through enhanced gestation to an appropriate level of maturity. In your case, your developmental age is around ten years old."

As Talia answered Harry finally looked up from the bed "What? I look about eighteen."

"The process produces the best possible outcome, growth and musculature are maximised and then we arrest the aging gene so as to extend your lifespan."

Harry looked down at his younger looking self, "But am I still human?"

Talia nodded her head, "Of course Harry, you are as you should have been, without injuries or illness. Well, that was the theory you seem to have retained your scar although it has faded."

"It's not an injury it's a curse scar," replied Harry as he subconsciously rubbed his scar.

Talia looked intently at Harry allowing the Force to enhance her perceptions, "It is rife with dark side energy although it appears much less so than when I first examined it, perhaps distance from your home world will cause it to fade away."

Harry stopped rubbing his scar and looked to be working something out. "Wait on….so we are that far from home that it took nine months to get here?"

Talia smiled and shook her head. "A very astute question young Harry. No, it hasn't taken all that time. I have been collecting some vital materials and gathering supplies along the way. In truth, I wanted you to be awake when we arrived on Trallax."

Luna sat on the bed next to her predecessor, "So what now?"

Talia gestured to the small window in the medical bay where a green and white planet could be seen below. "There is one option, training with me to fulfil your potential. The other option is returning you home."

This was it, a Force shatter point. Two choices one would follow her Force vision and garner the chance to bring balance to the galaxy. The other one would see the endless wars continue. Talia
watched the two chosen ones as they considered her words.

After a few moments of silence, Harry turned to look at Talia, "I don't know what to do, Luna what do you think?"

"If we stay would we ever go home?" asked Luna.

Talia's face was impassive as she answered, "Your choices are your own. What I offer is training and resources so that if you did return home no evil would prevail against you. I offer you the chance to be a force for balance and justice in the galaxy. With my training, you could save your friends and family but I warn you once your eyes are opened to the Force you may not be comfortable or happy in your old lives."

Luna took Harry's hand and looked him in the eyes, there was none of her usual vagueness on display as she spoke, "Harry I won't try to influence you but I want to stay. I've always wanted to make a difference and with Talia's help I can. If Daddy were here, he would urge me to do it if only to keep me safe."

Harry looked into Luna's silvery blue eyes and nodded then turned to Talia, "I hate my life with my relatives and to be honest my life at school wasn't much fun either. I want control of my life. I want to be strong enough to help. I'll stay as well."

Talia smiled and gestured for both Luna and Harry to approach. When they stood before her she laid a hand on each of their shoulders, "Then from now you shall be my apprentices and we shall work together on fulfilling your potential."

Their first year of training was pure hell. Talia had both of them run ragged as they were put through a science-heavy educational regime designed to compensate for their non-republic background.

Both Harry and Luna found this challenging but Talia and her education droid helpers made sure that each of them performed to the best of their ability. Luna, in particular, seemed to share some of Talia's skill with technology and quickly grasped new principles. Harry's skill seemed to lay in the more hands-on classes, in particular, martial arts and was surprisingly skilled in whatever acrobatic skills were being taught.

At the end of the first year of their apprenticeship, it would have been difficult to recognise them as their old selves. Both were in top physical shape, courtesy of their physical training and they both had an almost visible aura of confidence.

EDU-6 their droid tutor in spatial navigation informed them that they were both summoned to Talia's weapons training room. They quickly pocketed their data pads and jogged across the compound to the training bunker. Before Harry could hit the door panel, it slid open to reveal the sand-covered floor of the training floor and their Master waiting for them.

Both Harry and Luna jogged over and dropped to one knee as Harry politely addressed Talia, "You wanted to see us, Master?"

Talia laid a long-fingered hand on each of their heads before addressing them, "Yes, up now apprentices, I have gifts for you."

Each was given a leather satchel, "You may examine the contents."
Both contained a toolkit and a smooth metal cylinder with a single switch, a lightsaber.

Talia smiled at her two excited apprentices, "Tomorrow we will begin your lightsaber training so take tonight to read the service manual for your training unit."

Talia's smile grew wider at the twin groans.

"Master do you think my father misses me?" asked Luna as they ate their evening meal.

Talia laid a gentle hand on her apprentice's cheek, "Of course but you already knew that answer beloved. Search your feelings for him and send them out in to the Force and he shall hear the echo of you and know that he will see you again."

"You think so Master?"

"What does your heart tell you?" asked Talia, her voice gentle.

"Yes" sighed Luna after a few moments, "I will see him again."

Talia patted Luna's cheek and turned back to look at a smiling Harry. "Good, now both of you finish your meals and get some rest, we have flight training tomorrow."

"Yes Master."

"Stop" commanded Talia in a loud voice as she walked forward to where Harry and Luna were sparring. "Why did you hesitate Harry?"

Harry indicated where Luna was lying crumpled on the ground, "Luna may have been hurt!"

"And?" replied their Master.

Harry shrugged, "I caught the scent of blood so I stopped to check her."

Talia shook her head, "Your compassion and love for your sister apprentice does you credit, but after two years of training, you should know better. That lapse in concentration could get you killed, what else could you have done?"

Harry sighed as he answered, "I could have extended my awareness and checked if she was injured or simply play-acting."

Talia turned to Luna and rolled her over to be greeted by the snap-hiss of Luna's lightsaber being activated.

Harry's eyes narrowed for a moment, "But I smelled blood!"

"It's that time of the month for me Harry, sorry brother but I was faking. I knew once you were in fight mode your sharper senses would catch it and well it worked."

Harry scowled at her but couldn't hold it for long, "Good one sister of mine, although it's pretty sad that you have to cheat to beat me."

Now it was Luna's eyes that were narrowing, "I have to cheat do I?"
On the word do, Luna gathered the Force and jumped forward tackling him to the ground and then sitting up on his stomach, "Are you that desperate to give me a back rub that you threw the sparring session?"

Talia watched her two apprentices tussle for a few moments before calling for their attention. "Take your stances again, Luna correct your footing…better, now proceed."

The third year of their apprenticeship saw a marked change in their training. It had started when Talia walked in holding two ornately carved wooden boxes.

"These my apprentices are two of the three holocrons that I have managed to obtain. Each employs patterns of organic crystals and holographic technology to capture the appearance and cognitive networks of its creator. Once activated they project a three-dimensional hologram. The hologram or gatekeeper acts as a guide through the holocron's store of information. These two are Jedi holocron that I recovered from an ancient Jedi outpost. I believe that you are far enough along in your training to find them useful," Talia handed each a wooden box.

"Master," asked Harry "What of the third holocron?"

"The third holocron is Sith and while you will study it in due course, it would be too dangerous to do so now. Let it suffice to say that the Sith put fewer safeguards on theirs."

Luna lunged at Harry and he was forced to leap backwards in a Force assisted somersault to avoid her attack. Deciding that attack was his best defence he immediately used a Force push to launch a crate at her to hide his own rushing advance only to pause as a strange feeling passed through him.

Luna was also looking around trying to detect the source of the Force presence, "Harry something is wrong."

Harry deactivated his lightsaber and changed it from inhibited to full power as Luna closed her eyes and let her 'sight' drift in the flows of the Force, for a few moments she was still and then her eyes flew open.

"There is a dark user….close by….whatever it is it reeks of the dark side," Luna said as she followed Harry's example and reset her lightsaber.

Harry gestured toward the main compound, "I don't like this, let's find Talia."

As the door of the weapons training bunker slid open they were confronted with a droid they had only seen in the holo-news, a battle droid which turned and immediately opened fire.

Harry blocked the blasts while Luna disabled the droid by running her lightsaber through its CPU. Even as she pulled back, four more droids appeared from the main building and opened fire forcing both Harry and Luna to block and redirect the blaster bolts.

"Luna break left, I'll go up and over," ordered Harry.

Immediately Luna broke left, splitting the incoming fire and Harry Force jumped over the droids to attack them from the rear. A tactic that put the droids at a severe disadvantage. Unsurprisingly, the droids were soon reduced to smoking metal parts.
Then from behind them came the sound of slow applause and a well rounded cultured voice, "Well done Padawans, but now I will ask you to lay down your weapons. Surrender before I'm forced to make a regrettable decision."

Turning slowly Harry spotted a bearded older man dressed in maroon and black standing surrounded by nearly twenty B1 and B2 battle droids. As he studied the man, he immediately spotted the lightsaber on his utility belt. So, thought Harry a Jedi or a Sith. Although probably the later as a Jedi wouldn't be so cloaked in the dark side of the Force.

While Harry was studying the newcomer Luna was silently trying to locate Talia but the concentration of the dark side was fogging her perceptions.

The standoff continued until the man sighed and made a slight gesture, immediately the battle droids raised their weapons and targeted Harry and Luna.

The older Force user realised they were not standing down and shook his head in false regret. He started to stay something when his attention was suddenly focused across the compound. Too late, however, as a large silver ball landed at his feet. Recognising the device Harry and Luna deactivated their lightsabers and closed their eyes as a large flash followed by a tingling feeling washed over them as the electromagnetic pulse bomb activated. It wouldn't destroy the droids but it would play havoc with their systems for a few minutes until their systems compensated.

As his droids de-activated, the man drew his lightsaber and moved to attack Harry and Luna only to be meet by Talia as she dropped her Force bubble.

"Harry, Luna go to the ship and lift off, now," ordered Talia as she assumed her classic Makashi stance not even glancing backward as Harry and Luna retreated at a run.

The older man smiled and bowed although his eyes never left Talia, "Ah, I do believe I have found the reclusive Talia Tal-Shin. It has been a long time since I saw you last although I doubt that your mastery of lightsaber combat has improved."

Talia acknowledged this with a simple, "Master Dooku."

Dooku shook his head, "It is Count Dooku of Serenno now once I left the Order I reclaimed my family title."

Talia shrugged, "Dooku the Sith would be more accurate."

Dooku inclined his head in apparent respect, "You see clearly Jedi, too clearly, now I fear you shall have to die but first I wish to obtain the holocron in your possession. If you give it to me, I swear I shall let your padawans depart in peace."

Talia smiled in reply as she deactivated her lightsaber, "An interesting proposal but I am disinclined to accept."

Dooku again shook his head, "Why throw away your padawans lives, is this how a Jedi should behave?" he taunted.

Talia smiled and circled around buying time for her apprentices. The moment she heard her ship lifting off she struck with a burst of Force lightning, blasting the older man backwards in to a stone wall. Just as she released her control of the lightning, she heard the whine of an engine as her ship descended from the clouds.

"What makes you think I'm a Jedi?" asked Talia as watched Dooku struggling to stay conscious.
Harry took flight controls as Luna prepped the engines for take off. Within two minutes they were airborne and headed toward the main compound. They were just in time to see their Master blast the dark sider across the compound with Force lightning.

As Harry began to descend, he called out to Luna, "Lower the ramp and I'll take us down and pick up Talia."

Talia turned from the smoking form of Dooku and watched the descending ship. As it approached the ground, the main hatch opened and the ramp extended. With a Force jump, she was quickly standing on the ramp beside Luna.

Luna watched Talia turn away from her attacker and breathed a sigh of relief as she Force jumped to the ramp. Extending her hand she grabbed Talia’s and pulled her in to the ship only to feel her stumble and fall, pushing Luna off balance and onto her knees. When Luna looked up, she was horrified to see the bright red tip of a lightsaber protruding from her Masters' chest for a moment before it disappeared.

"Talia," screamed Luna as she scrambled on her knees as Talia slumped to the deck.

"Harry!" screamed Luna as she cradled the twitching form of her Master.

Harry heard Luna scream and cursed as he quickly activated the autopilot to take them out of orbit. Once the ship was locked on course he leapt up and ran to the hold. Seeing Luna holding an unmoving Talia caused him to momentarily freeze before sprinting to them and dropping to his knees.

"What happened?" asked Harry.

"The bastard threw his lightsaber hit her in the back" answered Luna.

"Shit, okay we need to get her to the medical bay, I'll levitate her, you go and get MK up to speed."

They were interrupted as Talia whispered, "Harry?"

"Master!" exclaimed Luna as she gently raised Talia's head.

Talia reached out to touch Luna's hand, her breathing was laboured and her voice just above a whisper, "Luna, Harry I'm sorry my apprentices….I knew this time would come sooner….rather than later."

"Master we need to get you to med…..," began Luna only to have Talia softly squeeze her hand.

"It's too late for that my beloved apprentices…I can feel myself slipping in to the Force….and I welcome it….once I pass over I can guide….y….you….keep the holocron….safe…study….do….not….go…after…Doo…ku…promise me," Talia was struggling to speak as her strength began to fade.

With tears streaming down their faces Harry and Luna bowed their heads in obedience.
Talia smiled, "Good…now fly free…I….love you….both…my….apprentices."

As Talia's passed, both Harry and Luna looked on in wonder as her body seemingly evaporated leaving only her clothing and lightsaber.

"What happened?" asked Harry as he rocked backwards in shock.

Luna, however, smiled sadly and gestured in a circle, "She's a part of the Force now. That's what she meant when she said she was slipping in to the Force."

"I can't believe she's gone," whispered Harry as he sat back on the deck.

Luna sat back wrapping her arms around her knees, "As she said she will continue to watch and guide us, but for now, we grieve and then move on."

Harry nodded and climbed to his feet then extended a hand to help Luna up, "Come on we're not home free yet as I don't doubt that bastard will have a ship as well."

Luna nodded as she collected Talia's belongings, "I'll put these in storage until we can have a memorial or something."

Harry nodded and made his way to the bridge. He knew Luna was right now was not the time to mourn; there would be time for that later.

    oOoOoOo

Count Dooku climbed painfully to his feet as he watched the ship disappear in to the clouds. Talia's attack had been a shock, a nasty one but his mastery of the Force had allowed him to survive, again proving the weak foolishness of the Jedi and the superiority of the Sith.

He considered trying to follow the Jedi's ship but dismissed it as it was more than likely to have already jumped in to hyperspace. No, he thought with a bright spark of anger, the Holocron was gone along with Talia and her padawans. Taking a deep breath, he realised that this was just a setback he had found it once and he would find it again.

For now, he had a mission to complete and this one was for his master rather than himself.

As he boarded his shuttle he turned to the droid pilot, "Set a course for Geonosis."
Synopsis: A renegade Jedi has a force vision of a pair of powerful Force Sensitives and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

Disclaimer: I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

A/N: For a timeline see the notes in Chapter 1 - Chapters 1 - 3 Edited April 2016

Last time:

Count Dooku climbed painfully to his feet as he watched the ship disappear in to the clouds. Talia's attack had been a shock, a nasty one but his mastery of the Force had allowed him to survive, again proving the weak foolishness of the Jedi and the superiority of the Sith.

He considered trying to follow the Jedi's ship but dismissed it as it was more than likely to have already jumped in to hyperspace. No, he thought with a bright spark of anger, the Holocron was gone along with Talia and her padawans. Taking a deep breath, he realised that this was just a setback he had found it once and he would find it again.

For now, he had a mission to complete and this one was for his master rather than himself.

As he boarded his shuttle he turned to the droid pilot, "Set a course for Geonosis."

Chapter 3

Harry was piloting the newly christened Talia as Luna was looking through the data from the navigational computer. After losing Talia and escaping from the Sith on Trallax 3, they had decided that their best course of action would be to disappear. So Luna plotted several seemingly random hyperspace jumps before bringing them to the planet Teth.

Teth was, Harry had to admit, a good choice. It was remote enough to be considered a relatively risk-free destination. That and the small time gangsters that ran a lot of these outer worlds were unlikely to be allied with either the Jedi or the Sith. Gangsters they could deal with, but right now they needed supplies rather than running battles. A quick look through the ship showed a reasonable amount of trade goods and both Harry and Luna had a good supply of Republic credits courtesy of Talia.

Three hours later and a considerably poorer, Harry and Luna were back on board and storing their purchases in the cargo hold. They now had enough supplies for a significant cruise and as MK was satisfied with sickbay they simply paid the docking fee and made for open space.

Their ship, a modified HWK-290 light freighter was a good, solid, economical ship with an excellent maximum range which offered them a large number of options as far as destinations went. So all they needed to do was decide on their course of action.

Harry shut down the engines and made his way to the ship's mess where Luna had laid out food and drinks. As he sat down, Luna walked in with their meals and sat opposite him, "Eat up and then we'll work out where to next."
The rest of the meal was eaten in companionable silence as they both considered their options. As Luna finished eating she collected the plates, dumped them in the disposal and sat down again, "We don't know what Talia had planned except in general terms and we certainly are nowhere near fully trained. I think we need to go through her logs and then find somewhere remote to continue our studies."

Harry looked a bit unconvinced as he nodded, "I agree that we need more training but we need to trust in the Force to guide us. Even if we travel for the next six months, we have the Jedi and Sith holocrons to study."

Now it was who Luna didn't look convinced, but left that topic alone while she sorted out her own thoughts, "I'm worried about the Sith he may well come after us next. You know as well as I that there are ways to find people even if we are in deep space."

Harry was about to reply when he felt a familiar presence, spinning around he was confronted by a ghost, a Force ghost of their Master, "Talia!"

Talia smiled and gestured toward them, "My beloved apprentices I am glad to see that you escaped Dooku."

Luna had tears streaming down her face as she knelt before Talia, "Master I'm sorry we failed to save you but..."

Talia shook her head and smiled gently, "Put aside your grief Luna my death was less than nothing compared to your survival. You are not yet ready to face Dooku or his hidden Master, but one day you will be," she then turned to Harry, as beautiful and graceful as she had been in life. "Harry don't be angry at fate my apprentice, meditate and seek once more to connect to the Force in peace."

Talia stepped back fading slightly, looking somehow less distinct, "Your training in Force based combat is almost complete for now. Later you will find another master but till then it would be safest if you seek out your past, it is time for you to embrace your heritage and master the Force manipulations of your ancestors."

Aboard the Talia – Outer Rim

"I can't believe it, we're going home," Luna was almost bouncing up and down in her seat with excitement.

Harry smiled as he checked the navigational computer, "We will be dropping out of hyperspace shortly."

The journey had taken nearly a month of long hyperspace jumps using Talia's original coordinates. It would have taken longer if they had used the same circuitous route she had but the Force was telling him that time was not a commodity they could afford to waste.

A loud beep indicated the imminent drop back to relativistic space and within moments, they were looking at the dark side of the moon. Luna immediately activated their shields which according to Talia's electronic log served to confuse Earth-based detection technology.

Harry checked the navicomp and smiled, "Right where we wanted to be, Okay Luna do you want to do the honours?"

Luna laughed and inclined her torso in an exaggerated half curtsey, "No Mister Pilot you do the
honours just don't crash the ship."

Harry replied with a half-hearted scowl, "I should make you fly after that comment. So where shall we land? We'll need somewhere isolated enough to hide the ship while we work out just what the hell is going on in the wizarding world."

Luna smiled, "How about my dad's house?"

At Harry's nod, Luna began programming coordinates.

_oOoOoOo_

**Hogwarts – Headmasters Office**

Albus Dumbledore cursed as he sat back in his chair. It had been a long, exhausting day re-enforcing the wards around the school, exhausting but necessary.

For three years after the death of Harry Potter Voldemort had disappeared, oh the depredations of his Death Eaters had continued but Tom had been…absent. Then last year in what was now known as the Knightsbridge massacre he had returned from his self-imposed exile in a truly horrifying fashion. In one hour, Tom had laid waste to a wizarding primary school killing over thirty pre-Hogwarts students and twelve teachers then he simply walked the streets and killed Muggles. In the end, over two hundred innocent lives were lost.

It was the end of Fudge and with him gone the Ministry had begun to fight back. Slowly a stalemate was reached, the Ministry and the greatly expanded Order of the Phoenix on one side and Voldemort on the other.

"And a bloody stalemate it is," whispered Dumbledore as he poured himself an Irish whisky.

As he sipped his drink, lost in his memories he almost didn't hear the whistling noise coming from his bookshelf. When he did hear the noise he froze and turned almost afraid to look…..there on the shelf the blood-based monitor that measured the health of Harry James Potter began to spin once more. The first time it had done so in three years.

"Dear Merlin…..Harry."

_oOoOoOo_

**Lovegood House - outside the village of Ottery St Catchpole**

As soon as they left the ship they both projected Force bubbles masking them from any wards as well as the naked eye.

"Do I look okay?" asked Luna as they slowly approached the house.

Harry laid a hand on his companion's shoulder, "You look fine, beautiful and all grown up. It's your father Luna, he'll be overjoyed to see you alive and well if you were dressed in rags and covered in dirt."

When they reached the door, Luna took a deep, centering breath and knocked.

Nothing happened.

Extending his Force perception Harry studied the house. Besides a lot of Force emanations, probably
wards, there was no human life in the house.

Feeling slightly saddened for his friend Harry turned to Luna, "Luna nobody is home," when she didn't reply he gave her shoulder a squeeze, "We could have a look around the house, make sure everything is okay."

Luna sighed and looked around the dark yard, "No, we have to find out what's happening first, daddy could be at the office or overseas. I can't sense him nearby. My instincts tell me that we should go to the Weasley house next; they should be able to tell us what's happening."

"And they can be trusted to keep a secret," added Harry.

Luna smiled, "Remember Harry, trust in the Force and we shall go where we need to be."

With Luna leading the way through the local lanes and hedgerows they made their way toward the Burrow.

"Are you nervous Harry?" asked Luna in a quiet voice.

Harry considered his friend's question before answering, "Nervous? No, not really, I'm more worried that we'll get caught up in the plots and machinations of others and be dragged in to their petty disputes."

Luna smiled at his answer, "Not so petty to those that live here."

Harry shrugged, "True enough, I believe that Talia wanted us to explore our heritage and perhaps get a better understanding of the way magic uses the Force. Well and good that we can do and then be on our way, but do you believe that the Wizarding world would willingly let us go?"

Luna took Harry's hand and gave it a squeeze, "Could they stop us if we wanted to go?"

"No, well probably not," Harry answered, "To be honest I'm more worried about that than Voldemort."

"Don't underestimate him, he's a dangerous man even if he's no Sith or Dark Jedi," cautioned Luna.

Harry gave Luna's hand a squeeze back before releasing it, "I won't but neither do I fear him. No, I believe that we can deal with Voldemort the trick will be finding him."

They walked in silence for a few minutes before Harry almost ran in to Luna's back as she suddenly halted, "Harry something's not right."

Before he could reply a wave of dark energy seemed to pass overhead, its very presence sent a cold shiver down Harry's spine, leaving him breathless.

"What the fuck was that?" gasped a suddenly nauseous Harry.

Luna looked ill as well even as she expanded her Force perceptions, "I think…..Harry, I think that was Voldemort."

Harry cursed and then looked down the hill toward the Burrow where flashes of light could be seen lighting up the night sky.

oOoOoOo

The Burrow
"But how Albus?" demanded Molly Weasley, "You said he was dead."

Dumbledore made a placating gesture, "I don't know Molly but there is no possible way the device could be wrong, it is tied to Harry's magical signature and that cannot be faked. As to why after nearly four years it has begun working again, the answer is I simply don't know."

Hermione sat beside her boyfriend Ronald in shocked silence, how could Harry be alive? Where had he been? "Are you able to locate H-Harry?"

Dumbledore looked over at the recently graduated witch, "Sadly Miss Granger that has proven difficult. I can only surmise that something was and likely still is masking his location."

Bill Weasley looked up from where he was leaning against the kitchen wall, "So how do we find him? It won't be long before the Dark Lord finds out Harry is back."

Ron looked around the room at the shocked faces and almost laughed, "You're kidding right? There are only a few places he'd go, here, Hogwarts or Sirius's house."

Hermione smiled, "I think Ron may be right, where else would he go?"

Dumbledore smiled, "Which is why I have Sirius keeping watch at his house and Minerva and Severus at Hogwarts."

Arthur Weasley cleared his throat, "Um Professor how should we handle this? Harry could be injured or desperate after his escape from where ever he's been kept."

Dumbledore nodded in approval, "If he comes here contact me in my office immediately, I'll make sure to bring Poppy along just in case."

Molly was wringing her hands in distress, "The poor boy, dear Merlin after four years I hope he's not ...

A loud clanging alarm sounded interrupting Molly and causing most of those present to immediately draw their wands, someone was attacking the house wards.

As the entire room watched him, Dumbledore cast a complicated detection spell. The entire room shuddered as they watched his shoulders slump.

A moment later they straightened and Dumbledore was back, "Molly, Arthur guard the door, Bill try the floo."

Bill cast a handful of floo powder in the grate to no effect, "It's down, shit," next he turned on the spot only, "shit and Anti-Apparition wards are up."

"Who is it Albus?" asked Molly.

Dumbledore seemed to age ten years as he replied, "Voldemort and his Death Eaters, I'm sorry Molly."

Molly paled and whispered, "Oh Merlin," even as she drew her wand.

Dumbledore laid a hand on her shoulder, "When the fight begins I'll hold him off, the rest of you make a break for the woods," he knew there was little chance Tom would allow anyone to survive but there was always hope.

Bill growled as another gong like alarm sounded, "They've almost brought down the wards
and….what in Merlin's name is that?"

 From the protection of their Force bubble, Luna and Harry watched the Death Eaters attacking the wards protecting the Burrow.

 "Ready Harry?" asked Luna.

 "That's what I get for questioning the Force," muttered Harry before replying to Luna. "Yes and remember hard and fast, Voldemort is the most dangerous but anyone can cast a killing curse."

 Luna smiled serenely as she drew her lightsaber, "I'll be fine, you be careful as well."

 "Go," ordered Harry as he gathered the Force and leapt high over the mobbed Death Eaters. He landed behind two of the masked figures. The two masked Death Eaters saw a green light behind them but they didn't have time to react before they were beheaded.

 Albus watched in shock as two hooded figures attacked the mass of Death Eaters outside the house. Both were wielding swords of light, one green and one blue as they seemingly danced through the massed Death Eaters. That's it he realised, they 'danced' just like the witch in the Ministry. The witch who had disappeared with Harry. Moving with a speed that belied his great age he raced to the door ignoring the cries of the Weasley family. He needed to save these people for they were his link to Harry.

 Even as the sword wielder cast some sort of mass stunner felling the Death Eaters Voldemort raised his wand.

 Dumbledore watched it unfold desperate to intervene but he was too late. A coldly smiling Voldemort cast a Killing Curse at the back of the defenceless sword wielder. Before he could even raise his wand to intervene the figure turned, sword in hand and simply almost carelessly batted the spell away. Dumbledore froze in shock and before he could recover he was issued with another.

 "Harry Potter we meet again," Voldemort's tone was deadly as he circled the hooded figure.

 No, it couldn't be, thought, he's not ready. His grand plan, on hold for these past years was, once again possible. Don't let it end like this. He began to move when a blue blade of light appeared blocking his path.

 "Harry will be fine Professor, so please don't distract him," Dumbledore hesitated at the familiar voice.

 "Miss Lovegood?" asked Dumbledore in a near whisper.

 "Good deduction Professor, now shush I want to watch this," replied Luna as she pushed her hood back.

 Hermione watched from inside the Burrow, recognised Luna as she blocked Dumbledore from joining the fight and removed her hood, but how? Luna was dead, killed when she was caught with….wait if Luna was one of their savours did that mean the other was…." Harry," she whispered, it was almost a prayer.
Harry watched Voldemort circling him making sure to keep his lightsaber between them. He was interested to note that one hand was now apparently made of silver.

"Nothing to say Harry?" taunted Voldemort.

Harry didn't let his concentration lapse as he replied, "I won't even bother asking you to surrender Voldemort. You are far to sunk in to the dark side to consider it but I warn you if you don't then I will end your contamination of this world."

Voldemort laughed, "I'm an immortal you fool, I can't die."

Harry, immersed himself in the Force just as Talia had taught him. He was analyzing his foe, even as he replied with a pitying smile, "I can see what you have done Voldemort. I know how you have chained yourself to this world but you made a mistake, a mistake any trained Force user would have known to avoid."

Voldemort was shocked, was Potter referring to his Horcruxes?

Harry felt Voldemort's sudden fear, "You should never have anchored your soul that way. All you have done is lessen yourself and your capacity to truly understand the living Force. Let me demonstrate, say if I was to do this," Harry reached out with the Force and severed one of the twisted Force links anchoring Voldemort to this plane of existence.

Voldemort screamed and grasped his head, "What have you done?"

Harry severed another link, sending Voldemort to his knees, "How?" hissed Voldemort before he screamed again, and again as Harry methodically severed the Force links. As the last link faded, Harry allowed a twitching Voldemort to climb painfully to his feet.

"I warned you Voldemort," said Harry as he raised his lightsaber.

Auror Nymphadora Tonks watched in horrified disbelief as Voldemort was seemingly tortured by the dark cloaked wizard. When she had arrived at the Burrow, she had expected a fight with Death Eaters or perhaps another burnt out house and another good wizarding family torn apart. She had not expected to find the battle over and the Dark Lord being tortured. Well, whatever the situation she had her duty to perform and this was the perfect opportunity to capture Voldemort and bring an end to his reign of terror.

Seeing her experienced team already in position, she gave the capture signal. She wasn't taking any risks tonight and as her old mentor Mad-eye Moody always said, best to stun 'em all and then sort the bastards out.

Sensing the spells rushing toward him Harry spun and deflected two stunners even as he stepped around a third. Unfortunately, while this saved him from being stunned it also shielded Voldemort and in that instant the Dark Lord acted. Reaching in to his shirt to grasp a simple brass ring. A simple tug broke the thin silver chain activating his emergency Portkey.
Harry felt Voldemort disappear and cursed as he maintained his watch on the partially concealed figures whose interference had allowed Voldemort to escape.

Near the house, Luna cloaked herself in a Force bubble, lightsaber in hand and began circling left toward Harry and away from Dumbledore and the Burrow.

Dumbledore cursed as he saw Luna disappear and immediately called out, "Hold, everyone hold your spells. We are all on the same side here."

Harry relaxed his stance and de-activated his lightsaber but remained where he was as he watched events unfold.

Tonks immediately signaled for her Auror team to stand down and lowered her wand, "What the hell is going on Professor? Was that V-Voldemort?"

Dumbledore didn't take his eyes off Harry as he answered, "Yes it was Auror Tonks but before we discuss events I would suggest you see to the wounded," without waiting for her response Dumbledore began walking toward the young man standing alone in the front yard of the Burrow.

Harry watched as Dumbledore walked toward him and took several deep breaths as he centered himself, allowing the Force to flow through him. In his heightened state of Force awareness, he could almost see the Force presence of his old Headmaster, it was humbling to see both how strong Dumbledore was and conversely how little the wizard interacted with the Force.

Dumbledore's voice almost broke as he spoke, "Harry my boy is that truly you?"

Harry and Luna were surrounded by familiar faces as they sat at the Weasleys battered kitchen table. They were both still recovering from crushing hugs from Molly, Ron, and Hermione and struggling to answer the storm of questions coming from around the room. Eventually, Dumbledore brought the room to order.

"Quiet please, I am sure you all have questions for Luna and Harry but, for now, I would ask you to restrain yourselves. Tonks, please contact Sirius and prepare him for some new arrivals at Headquarters. Molly, Arthur I'm sorry to say that you will need, at least for now to relocate your family to Headquarters until your family wards can be re-established and most likely significantly strengthened. Harry, may I have a word with you in private?"

Harry simply nodded and followed the older man outside. The Aurors were gone having departed after transporting the dead and disabled Death Eaters to the Ministry.

"My boy as much as I wish to hear what I don't doubt to be anything less than an intriguing tale, it is vital that I immediately remove you to a safe location. I plan…"

Harry sighed he had half expected this, "Professor, I don't wish to be rude but I will not accept being locked up, even for my protection."

Dumbledore paused for a moment as he processed Harry's answer, "Harry please, be reasonable Voldemort is a powerful wizard and will surely come after you in revenge for this night's defeat. My allies and I can protect you until you are ready to face your destiny."

Harry smiled politely, "With all due respect Headmaster, I do not need your protection. If I had not
been interrupted earlier, I would have dispatched Voldemort.”

Dumbledore frowned at that, "Surely you can't believe that Harry."

Harry sighed, "I had already destroyed the Force…..sorry magic that allowed him to preserve his essence. He was vulnerable to my attack but before I could finish him, your Aurors attacked me."

Dumbledore paled at Harry's references to Voldemort's Horcruxes. Shocked he reached out with a subtle Legilimency probe only to be rebuffed by some sort of mental shield.

Harry smiled again although this time it didn't reach his eyes, "My thoughts are my own Professor I'd thank you for remembering that in the future."

Dumbledore felt sick as he realised that Harry was not going to be persuaded. He had not wanted things to be this way but Harry must be kept safe at all costs, he hoped the young man would be able to forgive him. With a swift movement, he drew his wand only to find a blue lightsaber at his throat.

"Kidnapping Professor?" asked Luna in an amused tone, "Please lower your wand."

Harry was no longer smiling, "I had been willing to forget your former meddling in my childhood and work with you to defeat Voldemort. I see now that this was unrealistic. So here is my new offer, give us the intelligence we need to kill Voldemort and we will do so. In return, we ask for some tutoring to fill the gaps in our training. I'll be in contact Professor."

As Harry finished speaking Dumbledore felt the strange sword removed from his neck even as Harry and Luna disappeared.

"What have I done?" whispered Dumbledore as he looked forlornly around the empty yard.

oOoOoOo

In a cellar deep beneath an abandoned castle, Tom Marvolo Riddle screamed in anger and fear. Lying dead at his feet was his familiar Nagini and worst of all he could sense nothing, no link, and no Horcrux.

"Potter, curse you what have you done?" he hissed.

oOoOoOo

**Number 12, Grimmauld Place**

Sirius Black sat in a high-backed leather chair sipping his fire whisky and waiting for the Headmaster to begin. Downstairs, he could hear the Weasleys getting settled in. No doubt Molly was making tea or preparing food.

Dumbledore cleared his throat, again before meeting Sirius's eyes, "It was Harry."

Sirius shot up from his chair, "Where is he?"

Dumbledore almost flinched but managed to hide it, "He and his companion managed to defeat Riddle and his followers. Alas, but I wasn't able to convince him to accompany me to safety, I'm afraid my boy that he has once more has disappeared."

Sirius resisted the urge to hurl his glass at the old man, "Let me guess you tried to force him and he declined, you chased him off you old fool!"
Dumbledore tried to reach the angry man before matters got out of hand. He needed Sirius and the resources the Lord of House Black had at his disposal, "Sirius please we must gather our forces and find Harry, he is not ready to face Riddle..."

"Get out" demanded Sirius in a cold whisper.

Dumbledore tried again, "My boy you must…"

This time, Sirius had his wand in hand as he stood almost nose to nose with Dumbledore, "I said GET OUT."

Dumbledore nodded sadly and left the room. Sirius watched him go, No doubt the great chess master was already planning his next three moves. Once the door was shut Sirius sealed it, opened the window and whistled. After a few moments, a snowy white owl flew in to perch on the back of a chair.

"Hedwig I have a task for you," he quickly wrote a short note and folder it in to an envelope before turning back to the owl. "Your master has returned Hedwig, take this to him and don't stop for anyone."

With a soft hoot, the owl clutched the letter and flew out the open window.

oOoOoOo

Lower City – Coruscant

"Report my apprentice," ordered Darth Sidious.

The Dark Lord of the Sith watched as the hologram of Darth Tyranus flickered a moment before regaining full clarity, "Master I have concluded our negotiations successfully."

Sidious smiled coldly as he acknowledged the report, "Good, good and how soon can I expect your return, my apprentice?"

The answer would tell him much about his current apprentices ah…extracurricular activities.

"I will return immediately my master," was the immediate response.

So perhaps he had failed to find the holocron that Dooku still thought he was ignorant of, "Good, you have done well Tyranus, soon you shall be ready for the deeper teachings."

As he closed the channel, his cold smile changed to a bitter snarl. Dooku was an arrogant fool but he served his purpose until he could gain a better apprentice after all, his plans were growing ever more convoluted. Still if the fool managed to find the lost holocron it would be a significant enough feat but sadly not significant enough to spare him his fate.

After all, treachery was the way of the Sith.
A New Order by arturus

Synopsis: A renegade Jedi has a force vision of a pair of powerful Force-sensitives and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

Disclaimer: I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

A/N: For a timeline see the notes in Chapter 1

Last time:

As he closed the channel, his cold smile changed to a bitter snarl. Dooku was an arrogant fool but he served his purpose until he could gain a better apprentice after all his plans were growing ever more convoluted. Still, if the fool managed to find the lost holocron it would be a significant enough feat but sadly not significant enough to spare him his fate.

After all the way of the Sith was treachery.

Chapter 4

Aboard the Talia

Harry sipped his stimulant and glanced over to where Luna was sewing up some damage to her tunic. In typical Luna fashion she was doing this clad only in her bra and while Harry loved her like a sister there were times when, well he had to admit that he found himself admiring her lithe form. She truly was a beautiful woman but also his friend and therefore off limits. With a sigh he went to stand only to be distracted by a strange tapping noise, glancing around he realised it was coming from the cockpit.

The cockpit was empty and nothing seemed out of the ordinary so Harry turned his back to leave when there was another tap. Turning he saw an old friend standing on the main window.

"Hedwig?"

oOoOoOo

"It feels right, I mean it could be Dumbledore but it just feels right," said Harry as he passed Luna the letter Hedwig had delivered.

Luna quickly scanned the short letter before handing it back to Harry, "I think we should go regardless it gives us a chance to get a real feel for what is going on."

Harry nodded, "We'll need to be careful though I wouldn't put it past Dumbledore to have him followed and we'll need to be bloody careful as we get about."

Luna nodded, "Agreed, I mean we can't take the Talia and the Floo at my house is risky."

"What about the Knight bus?"

"Brilliant and if we persuade the conductor and driver to forget our trip we should be safe enough, a
"It is vital that we find Harry Potter and Luna Lovegood as soon as possible," explained Dumbledore as he addressed the leadership of the Order of the Phoenix.

"Why Dumbledore?" asked Felicia Spinkle who as a Senior Auror and one of the newer Order leaders felt that she was all too often having to ask the same questions, "You have yet to tell us why. As far as I know, Potter has broken no laws and has no warrants against him. What happens if we find him? What then Albus, bah I need more information than 'we must find him'."

If Dumbledore was annoyed by the questioning of his purposes he hid it well, "Alas I cannot say, not won't Felicia but truly cannot it would be too dangerous to tell you. Simply accept that it is vital to the war effort that we find Harry and immediately bring him under the protection of the Order."

"I'll not break the law Dumbledore," replied Felicia.

'Ha!' Thought Remus as he sat biting his tongue at the back of the room, go Felicia. Dumbledore was, according to Sirius anyway directly responsible for Harry disappearing again and was now apparently trying to bend the law to have young Harry arrested.

Dumbledore sighed and made a dismissive gesture, "I'm not asking you to do anything illegal simply find Harry and then we shall see if we cannot get him to reconsider his own safety." Looking to change the topic and move away from Felicia he turned to the youngest of those present, "Auror Tonks what was the aftermath of the attack on the Weasley's."

Nymphadora Tonks sat up in her chair as she replied, "Nine dead Death Eaters and six more critically injured but recovering in Ministry holding cells. We did interrogate them and surprisingly have a few new leads on new Death Eater base apparently located in Derbyshire, a ruined called Peveril Castle. We know they've used Muggle locations before. I know we will be following those up over the next few days."

Dumbledore stroked his beard his face pensive, "It concerns me that Mister Potter and Miss Lovegood were so quick to kill."

Minerva frowned at Dumbledore's comment, wasn't he concerned about a new Death Eater base? and this obsession with Potter, what was driving that? "They were there to kill the Weasley's Albus I hardly think you should be sympathising with murderers. We all know what you must do to be a wearer of the Dark Mark."

Dumbledore looked saddened as he addressed his long-term deputy, "And we all know that redemption is at least possible, now Harry and Luna have robbed them of that chance."

Remus shot out of his chair, "You must be bloody joking. Harry and Luna robbed them of redemption, what about the victims?" with that final question hanging in the air Remus stomped out of the meeting slamming the door behind him.

"I think he's fucking senile," snarled Remus as he paced around the kitchen.
Sirius gave a barking laugh, "nice to know someone agrees with me, now take a bloody seat and I'll make your day."

Remus practically threw himself in to a chair as he glared at his smug looking friend, "What?"

Sirius handed Remus a single piece of parchment, a letter in fact. After a few moments of silence he placed the letter back on the table and looked up.

"Okay so he did get your letter, what now?" asked Remus.

Sirius grinned, "Now Moony my old mate we get to play marauders and ditch the watchers the old coot has in place."

The Kings Arms Hotel – Kings Cross

Sirius twirled his pink cocktail umbrella around his glass as he watched the door impatiently. He haw unaware of the smirk on the face of Remus as the werewolf sipped at his own drink, a local stout.

"Enjoying the drink?" enquired Remus innocently.

"Yeah," Sirius replied absently, his eyes never moving from the door, "What is it?"

"It's called a sea breeze," replied Remus.

"He should be here soon," commented Sirius for the fourth time.

Remus sighed and thumped his friend on the leg, "Relax Padfoot, drink your sea breeze and relax, we've still got ten minutes."

"My what?" asked Sirius as he looked at the large cocktail glass complete with pink paper umbrella, "Moony what in the blue blazes is this?"

Remus attempted to look innocent as he replied, "Some sort of fruit cocktail."

Sirius glared at his friend, "You bought me a girly drink you bastard."

Remus tried to maintain a straight face, "Hey when I asked you said, and I quote anything will do."

Sirius was about to reply but was interrupted by the sound of the door opening, he swung around it time to see Harry looking around the dimly lit bar for a moment before looking up at them.

Sirius stood and almost threw himself at his godson, dragging the startled Harry in to a tight embrace for a long moment before releasing him.

"Dear Merlin it is you," whispered Sirius as the tears started to flow, "I never believed you were dead but I started to doubt my own sanity in the end. What happened, where were you?"

Harry smiled at his godfather, "Sirius I'm more than happy to answer that but not here."

Sirius winked at him through his tears, "Secrets eh pup?"

Before Harry could answer he was pulled in to another hug this time by Remus who simply held him
a moment before releasing him and pulling Luna in to an equally bruising hug.

"Thank you for looking after him Luna," whispered Remus as he released her.

Luna laughed as she stepped back and straightened her robes, "We looked after each other Professor."

Sirius smiled at the blond teen as he stood and offered her his glass, "Drink or shall we hit the road?"

_oOoOoOo_

**Aboard the Talia**

"Bloody hell" whispered Sirius as they entered the Talia.

"This isn't muggle technology is it?" asked Remus.

"Sort of," replied Luna with a grin.

"Do you to want something to drink?" asked Harry.

Sirius looked at Remus who nodded and pulled out a bottle, "Connemara Peated Irish Malt whiskey, double distilled I might add."

"The perfect drink for a long night of stories," added Sirius.

Over several hours and quite a few glasses Harry and Luna told their story to the two marauders. Harry explained how Talia had been gifted with a vision of the future and how a new order of Force users could make a difference. He went on to explain how Talia had tried to rescue them and how she was forced to resort to cloning to save their lives.

Luna then took over the story explaining how Talia had begun their training in the Force and about how they had lived as apprentices on Trallax and finally with tears in her eyes she told them of Talia's death and their escape.

Harry gave Luna a brief hug as he took over to allow her to compose herself, "We were a bit unsure as to what to do next but then we had a….visitation from our former Master who made it clear that we needed to reconnect with our heritage."

Sirius exchanged a glance with Remus before speaking, "Um visitation, do you mean Talia is a ghost?"

"More or less" was the unexpected reply from Talia herself as she appeared next to her apprentices.

_oOoOoOo_

"So you're an ex-Jedi knight and you were, sorry are training our two here to be the founders of this new order, alright so far?" asked Sirius.

Talia nodded solemnly.

"And," continued Remus, "you want Harry and Luna to be trained up so that they can find a way to combine magic and the Force?"

Talia inclined her head in acknowledgement, "I would say it is so that they can gain insights in to how your people use the Force and how they can then use that information to enhance their
understanding but you are essentially correct."

"Were do I sign up?" asked Sirius.

"Sign up?" asked Talia.

Sirius nodded, "Obviously Harry and Luna need training but if you are right then time is a factor. There is no way even an outstanding student could learn much in a few months but if I was to tutor them it would be a different story. Besides I’ve nothing left here anyway."

Remus laughed, "Well I guess I need to sign up as well as there is no way I’d allow Harry and Luna to leave with Sirius and not me, he needs extra adult supervision."

"But first Harry needs to fulfil the other prophecy he is being driven by, this Voldemort," Talia reminded the room but her eyes were on Harry.

Harry acknowledged Talia, "I know Master but first I need to find him and that will take resources which we currently lack."

"I may be able to help on that front," offered Remus.

Luna was watching Harry and Sirius going over a topographical map of Derbyshire that Sirius had ventured in to Muggle London to acquire as she put together a backpack of equipment when she felt Remus behind her.

"Luna?"

"Can I help with anything Professor?" asked without turning.

Remus touched Luna on the shoulder gently, "Harry mentioned you were a bit worried about your father. I know I should have said something earlier but with everything…well last I heard he had remarried and was living in Norway. He moved there after the Quibbler was shut down and after….after he thought you were gone. If you like I have some people I know who can begin a discreet search."

Luna turned and embraced Remus, "Do you think he is happy Remus?"

Remus nodded, "The last I heard he was happy with his life."

They were interrupted by Harry's triumphant "Yes, well bloody done Sirius."

"What is it?" asked Luna.

Harry gestured at the map, "Sirius found a reference to a dungeon under the castle, that's where Voldemort would have to be. The rest is open to the public. Now we can go after the bastard."

"Shouldn't we check it out first?" asked Remus as he joined them at the map table.

Harry shook his head, "No, my instincts tell me it's the right place; if we scout it we just run the risk of alerting the bastard."

"It seems risky," objected Remus with a frown.

"Have faith in the living Force Remus," said Harry as he stood, "With a bit of luck we can put an
Peveril Castle – Derbyshire

The three guards were dealt with silently and quickly with no alarm being sounded. Indeed not even a lone hunting fox detected the two Force shrouded figures as they moved toward the now unguarded entrance.

Lord Voldemort paused as he sensed something familiar, a taint. Concentrating he tried to pin down the feeling of ill-ease that came with the sensation of familiarity it was….Potter.

"Potter," hissed Voldemort from his throne-like chair, "Potter is nearby, go and prepare our defences," he ordered sending his minions scurrying from the room.

Harry and Luna had managed to avoid most of the Death Eaters in the approach to the throne room. There was however no practical way of avoiding the group of six defenders blocking the narrow stone passage with its low ceiling. Moving slowly Harry and Luna attempted to close to within touching distance before activating their lightsabers, unfortunately however luck turned against them as, without any warning one of the Death Eaters reached in to his pouch and threw a handful of silvery dust in to the air. The dust immediately outlined them both in a silvery glow and then all hell broke loose.

All six Death Eaters begin firing off Killing curses which effectively forced Luna and Harry to drop their Force bubbles and begin deflecting the incoming spells. As Luna blocked Harry went on the attack, using the Death Eaters close positioning against them by charging directly in to their ranks and attacking them hand to hand.

Between Harry attacking them directly and Luna deflecting their spells either away or back at the caster, Harry and Luna had soon overcome their opposition and were facing a closed metal door.

Harry let his Force perception expand for a moment before turning to Luna, "What do you think Luna; I can sense a disturbance in the Force in the next room which just has to be Voldemort, do we run him off or try to end it now?"

Luna smiled as she turned to face back down the corridor, "I'll cover your back and keep any reinforcements off you while you deal with Voldemort once and for all, don't underestimate him Harry and may the Force be with you."

Harry gestured at the door and it swung open.

Tom Marvolo Riddle or as he preferred to think of himself 'Lord Voldemort' watched in genuine interest and a small amount of grudging respect as Potter walked through open doorway. Obviously the boy had realised the door was trapped and had used magic rather than simply opening it by hand thus avoiding a painful and prolonged demise from the runic array inscribed on the door and keyed to the Dark Mark.

"Potter," hissed Voldemort as he stood slowly and drew his wand, "You are a fool for coming here."
Voldemort was surprised as Potter simply shrugged and continued walking, "You can't beat me Harry."

Again Potter made no reply simply walking forward with his strange sword held tip down almost trailing on the floor.

Voldemort didn't like the lack of expression on Potter's face. Perhaps it would be best to end this quickly then, "Nothing to say? Well then let me… Avada Kedavra."

To Voldemort's surprise Potter didn't even slow his pace as he batted the spell away with his sword. Potter was drawing close now, too close. Where were his Death Eaters? Surely Potter and the girl hadn't killed them all.

"Crucio," intoned Voldemort only to see the curse again battered away. Potter continued forward raising his left hand.

"Bombar..." suddenly Voldemort couldn't breathe as Potter gestured with his left hand, by the dark gods it felt like his throat was being crushed. Desperate now he reached for his portkey and pulled on the chain, nothing. Damn Potter had raised wards! With one last herculean effort he cast one last dark spell, one of the few spells he could cast silently, his last chance, the imperius curse pushing the spell toward Potter with all his considerable mental strength.

Release me, release me

Slowly the crushing force lessened and stopped and as Voldemort took a shuddering breath he lashed out once more.

Drop your weapon, kneel before me

Voldemort breathed a sigh of relief as Potter slowly knelt, cautious now he raised his wand to finish him only to see Potter move so quickly that his eyes couldn't follow him. There was a flash of light and then burning pain in his chest.

oOoOoOo

As Harry used the Force to choke Voldemort he felt a weak mental thrust and immersed himself in the Force letting the psychic attack pass through him. Voldemort was trying to use the 'imperius', so Harry slowly complied. When the second command to drop his weapon and kneel he appeared to comply and then simply used the Force to plunge his lightsaber through Voldemort's chest literally vaporising the dark wizard's heart.

With a flick of his wrist Harry used the Force to summon his lightsaber and walked the last few steps toward where the dying wizard had slumped to his knees.

Harry shook his head sadly as his Force perception showed Tom's magic fighting to preserve him, drawing on the magic of his marked followers and failing.

"You were not always an evil man Tom but you left me no choice but to end your existence. May the Force guide you toward some sort of redemption," as he spoke Harry drew back his lightsaber and beheaded the dying Wizard. With a final glance at the corpse Harry de-activated his lightsaber and went to join Luna.

oOoOoOo

Number 12, Grimmauld Place
Albus Dumbledore paced the kitchen trying to piece together just what was happening in the magical world. In the next room Poppy worked to save Severus, the one wizard that might be able to shed some light on recent events. The potions master had collapsed the moment he arrived at headquarters and remained so. He was so absorbed in puzzling over the situation that he didn't hear the door open, and Poppy walk in.

"Headmaster, I'm sorry but he has slipped away. Whatever knocked him out attacked and effectively drained his magical core there really was nothing anyone could have done to help him," Poppy's voice was tired as she explained the death of her least favourite colleague.

Dumbledore nodded acknowledgement and sat heavily in one of the kitchen chairs. How had this happened? Snape was a vital asset in the war, a masterful spy dedicated to Riddle's defeat. Had Tom guessed at his role and punished him? Could the Dark Mark be used to kill or was it something else.

oOoOoOo

**Ministry of Magic – Auror Command**

Amelia Bones frowned as Moody stomped in to her office without so much as a knock.

"Director we've got a major incident in Derbyshire, I've just had a call from Black and Lupin saying they've got a large group of Death Eaters and bloody Voldemort on site." announced Moody.

Moody's entrance forgotten Amelia shot to her feet, "All hands Moody, get all on and off-duty Aurors to Peveril Castle right the hell now. This is our bloody chance to get the bastard."

oOoOoOo

**Number 12, Grimmauld Place**

Hermione Granger was a smart witch; in fact she was a very smart witch. So when Sirius Black and Remus Lupin disappeared right after Harry resurfaced she had very quickly put two and two together. Her problem was what to do with the information because right now Albus wasn't exactly acting rationally. His orders to find and bring Harry to headquarters, stunned if they had to were disturbing. That all the rest of the order save Ron was out looking was worrying. No one even questioned Albus.

"Mione?"

Hermione sighed at her hated nickname, "Yes Ron."

"You've worked something out haven't you," Ron wasn't as stupid as he sometimes acted and after three years of dating he knew his girlfriend well.

"Sirius and Remus have been in contact with Harry, hell they're probably with him now," replied Hermione in an annoyed tone.

"So what are we going to do about it?" asked Ron.

"If we track down Sirius we'll find Harry and I really want to find Harry before he does something brave and stupid and gets himself killed," Hermione's tone was determined and Ron knew well just how determined she could be.

"So how do we find Sirius?" asked Ron patiently waiting for Hermione to reveal her plan.
"Grab your broom Ron and…" Hermione paused as yelling erupted from downstairs," gesturing for silence she whispered, "shush listen."

oOoOoOo

A voice screaming, "ALBUS" sounded in the foyer of Grimmauld place and brought Albus running.

"Fergus what is it?" demanded Dumbledore as he confronted the Auror and Order member.

"We just got word from Black and Lupin, they have Voldemort and his Death Eaters trapped in Peveril Castle – Derbyshire. Amelia has ordered an all-hands operation."

As the Auror disappeared a gaping Dumbledore stood motionless for several moments before starting to call out orders. He didn't hear the gasp from the top of the stairs.

oOoOoOo

**Peveril Castle - Derbyshire**

Dumbledore and all the Order of the Phoenix members who answered the call arrived via portkey they appeared in the central courtyard of the Castle only to find everything under control. Confused Dumbledore looked around and spotted Amelia Bones talking to his old friend Moody and began walking over after gesturing for his people to stand easy, obviously no battle had occurred.

Dumbledore plastered a smile on his face, "Amelia how can I be of assistance?"

Amelia smiled grimly, "You can't it's all over we are just cleaning up and capturing the evidence before the Muggles get here."

Dumbledore raised an eyebrow in enquiry, "Cleaning up?"

Amelia smiled nastily, "Mad-Eye show the good headmaster around but make bloody sure he doesn't touch any evidence."

Dumbledore knew Bones wasn't particularly fond of him, having never forgiven him for the death of her niece Susan but they had managed to work together for the greater good. Before he could say anything Moody cleared his throat and spat on to the ground.

Moody watched his boss stomp off calling orders, "Oh ho Amelia's in a right snit for all that it's been a good night."

"What has happened here?" asked Dumbledore; perhaps they had caught a Senior Death Eater.

"You wouldn't believe me if I told you so I'll show you," replied Moody and limped off toward a stone arch.

After travelling down a long stone tunnel, passing Aurors taking photos and apparently collecting evidence they finally reached a large stone room where a crowd of senior Aurors stood in a rough circle. Dumbledore absently noted Remus Lupin among them as his attention was drawn to Moody gesturing at the floor.

"What…who….is that….." Dumbledore couldn't accept what he was seeing. It had to be a fake, it couldn't be real.

Moody smirked as he replied, "That is the mortal remains of one Tom Marvolo Riddle AKA Lord Voldemort."
"But how?" whispered Dumbledore, this wasn't possible the prophecy was specific.

"That would be me Headmaster," answered Harry as he approached the scene flanked by Luna, Sirius and Amelia Bones.

"No this can't be Riddle, Potter would have had to die he was a Horcrux," Dumbledore was rambling in shock and failed to notice the group around him react to his words.

"I see, sorry to disappoint you Professor," replied Harry with a cold smile at the spluttering wizard.

Dumbledore, to the shock of all drew his wand and pointed it at Harry, "He has to die to defeat him it's a lie, a fake."

Amelia and many of the Aurors immediately drew their wands and pointed them at Dumbledore.

"Albus drop your wand or I'll take you down," ordered Amelia her wand steady as she took aim.

With a twirl of his cloak, Dumbledore disappeared and reappeared on the other side of the room. The friendly avuncular image he oft displayed was gone, now the ancient wizard looked wild-eyed and enraged, "Potter must die so that the Dark Lord can be defeated, the greater good must be served."

With a gesture he threw a stream of raw magic at Harry who ignited his lightsaber and used it to block the burst. Around the room Aurors stood stunned as Dumbledore poured almost unimaginable magical power in to his attack. Then Dumbledore fell like a puppet with cut strings. Behind him standing with wand raised and a look of determination on her face was Luna.

oOoOoOo

Hours later as Harry, Luna, Remus and Sirius stood talking to Amelia there was a sudden commotion at the perimeter set up by the Aurors and a few moments later Mad-Eye Moody led a rather windblown Ron and Hermione to them.

"What…" was all Harry managed to vocalize before Hermione engulfed him in a hug that soon became a three-way hug as Ron joined them. When a red-faced, breathless Harry was finally released he led his two oldest friends over to a wooden bench.

"Harry James Potter what were you thinking?" demanded Hermione, "What if He-Who….Voldemort had been here?"

"He was," replied Harry quietly.

Ron paled at Harry's reply, "Bloody Hell mate, what happened?"

Harry sighed, "Hermione, Ron I'll tell you the whole story later but for now well the short version is Voldemort is dead as is anyone carrying the Dark Mark. If you can give me half an hour to finish up with Amelia we can go to our ship and have a long overdue chat."

With a tired smile, Harry walked off talking with Amelia and Sirius leaving behind an open-mouthed, speechless Hermione.

"Ship?" repeated Ron in a puzzled voice, "Why the hell does Harry have a bloody boat?"

oOoOoOo

Aboard the Talia
"What on earth, where did you get this the technology. My God, it must be centuries ahead of Earth technology," Hermione was talking in a constant stream as Harry led her and Ron on a tour of the Talia.

"Funny Remus said much the same thing," replied Harry with a smile.

Hermione gave the flight deck one last look before turning to Harry, "Okay its very interesting and I'd love to have a good look around but you said we would get an explanation."

Harry smiled at his old friend, "So I did, if you follow me I'll take you to the mess….sorry mate the kitchen and we can have a drink and a chat. Luna should be back with Sirius by now anyway."

As they made their way back to the main module Ron's nose twitched, "Is that food I can smell?"

Hermione elbowed him as Harry laughed, "Some things never change and yeah its food the others went to grab some grub from the Village."

Hermione and Ron took it well although Hermione had a lot of questions about some of the science behind their story. Luna promised to take her to meet MK so she could see the data. Both his old friends were surprised by the different take on magic but seemed to be accepting of the fact that it was a similar concept. Hermione did get up and hug Luna and Harry when they got to Talia's death and their escape.

Harry explained about Talia's Force ghost guiding them to seek out knowledge about magic and how Harry and Luna needed more training before being able to bring about Talia's vision.

Finally Harry told them a brief version of how they had defeated Voldemort. How the Aurors discovered the Death Eaters new base and how Sirius and Remus had developed a plan to stop the Death Eaters escaping or interfering while he killed Voldemort.

Lastly, he explained how Dumbledore had attacked them and how in the end England's most powerful wizard was felled by Luna's stunner.

"Was it hard Harry?" asked Ron quietly.

Harry shook his head sadly, "It was easy to kill Voldemort, too easy in some ways. You need to understand Voldemort had created what ancient Force users called Soul anchors a very dark Force ritual. It's only something you can do once or perhaps twice and have any hope of maintaining your sanity. Voldemort had done it multiple times and in doing so he created the means for his own defeat."

"What do you mean Harry?" asked Hermione.

"Any decently trained Force user can see the links and break them, with training I'm sure witches and wizards could as well but the process was either lost or never discovered on Earth. Anyway after I severed his connection to his soul anchors he was as mortal as any wizard. In the end I just batted away his spells with my lightsaber and then killed him. The only real surprise was when all the Death Eaters started keeling over. I'd surmised that they might be knocked unconscious but their Dark Marks went further and killed them. Who bloody knows Voldemort might have set it up that way."

"So he and the Death Eaters are gone for good?" asked Ron.
Harry grinned at his old friend, "Yes."

Ron laughed and punched Harry lightly on his shoulder, "Bugger me, well bloody done Mister Potter!"

"Ron Language," was the automated reply from Hermione who was taking notes on a conjured notepad.

Ron gestured toward Hermione as he added in a stage whisper, "Still a bit mad about swearing."

Sirius handed Harry the message from Amelia and watched his godson's expression change.

"Advanced Dementia, damn I may never forgive him but even he didn't deserve this," said Harry as he finished and passed the scroll to Luna and Hermione.

When Hermione finished she turned to Remus, "Remus is there nothing in the magical world that would help?"

Remus finished reading and shook his head, "Not that I know of, I'd suggest St. Mungo's Hospital but if they are saying it's too late," Remus shrugged looking sad.

Sirius closed his eyes for a moment, 'He was always eccentric so nobody really questioned his strange behaviour and we needed his raw power in the fight, but looking back, well hindsight is as they say 20/20. He was probably taking wit sharpening potions to stay focused."

"Will he go to trial?" asked Ron.

Sirius shook his head sadly, "I don't know but I doubt it."

The next morning over breakfast Hermione startled Harry by asking him outright when he was leaving.

Harry sighed he had been hoping to put this conversation off at least for a while, "A couple of days maybe a week. Sirius needs to put his affairs in order and Remus is taking us shopping so we can buy wands and what we need to study up to NEWTS and beyond."

Hermione took a deep breath, "I want to come."

"Hermione you have a life here, Ron, your parents….""

Hermione looked down at the table and Harry could feel her sorrow as she answered, "Harry my parents were murdered two years ago."

"I'm sorry Hermione," Harry could empathise with the loss of both parents.

Hermione nodded at his words and continued on,"I'm still a muggleborn witch so no matter how smart I am most jobs are closed to me. From what you have told me what you are doing is important to everyone not just Earth. I want to be a part of this, a part of your life."

"What about Ron, are you willing to leave him behind?" asked Harry.

Hermione indicated the empty table, "Ron and I spoke last night he wants to help as well. That's
where he is right now talking to his parents with Luna.."

Harry could sense her sincerity and in many ways he would give anything to have his old friends by his side, "Hermione I know you mean it but the training would…"

Harry was interrupted by a familiar voice, "Do not turn away those who offer themselves freely my apprentice."

Harry bowed his head, "Talia I was…I mean yes Master."

Talia smiled at Hermione, "You are a brave and determined woman but not destined to be a warrior young Hermione. In my vision you fulfilled a different role, one suited to your strengths leader of the Archivists you will one day be. The holder of worlds worth of knowledge."

Hermione blushed at Talia's words but Harry felt a sense of relief at those words, "Thank you Master."

Talia nodded feeling her former apprentice's relief, "Harry you have gathered around you the core of our new order. Others will come and others you yourself will train but not all will be adepts of our order and with these others you shall maintain a balance that both the Jedi and the Sith lack. Now you must find a home for our order and study the mystery of the Sith for time is short and war is coming to the Republic."

"War," echoed Hermione.

"Yes war young Archivist, a terrible war that will have terrible ramifications on the Force. You will all have a role to play," Talia flickered before solidifying "My time grows short. Harry you must leave soon, do not delay you are needed on Geonosis."

After Talia faded away Harry sat quietly for a moment before standing and pulling Hermione in to a hug, "Welcome aboard the Talia."

oOoOoOo

Weasley House - outside the village of Ottery St Catchpole

It was a somber group that gathered outside the Burrow ignoring the light rain. All the Weasleys were present along with several in laws including a very pregnant Fleur Weasley with her Husband Bill and a rather shell-shocked Dean Thomas with Ginny. Standing off to one side was Xeno Lovegood and his new wife and their infant son.

"You take care of them Sirius Black or I'll bloody well hunt you down," threatened Molly Weasley.

"I will Molly," answered Sirius with a smile.

"Harry love, please feel free to drop in when you can," it was more of a demand than a request and Harry knew it.

"Missus Weasley we will make sure to come home regularly as we can," promised Harry.

As Molly led the Weasleys forward to embrace Ron her youngest son had tears streaming down his face. As Molly moved on to Hermione Harry caught a glimpse of Luna kissing her father on the cheek then he found himself pulled in to a hug.

"Thank you Harry and please be careful and make sure you eat good balanced meals."
Harry felt a smile on his face even as the tears flowed.

Chancellor's Stateroom – Coruscant

Darth Sidious sat brooding in his office. All was proceeding according to his master plan. The Jedi jumped through his hoops and marched inexorably onward to their obliteration. No all was proceeding exactly as he planned and yet he felt a distant…discordance.

Opening his eyes Sidious stood and walked to the immense glass wall that showed a breath taking view of the city planet of Coruscant. As he gazed at what would soon be his alone he felt a flicker of disquiet as a surge passed through the living Force, he tried to follow it but it soon faded. For a moment his eyes narrowed before he dismissed it, for now he had more important things to expend his energy on.

Jedi Temple - Coruscant

As Jedi Master Yoda meditated he too caught the surge in the Force and for a brief few moments the shroud of the dark side lifted before settling back in to place. In that moment he had sensed a familiar presence one he had known.


Aboard the Talia

Harry turned to Luna who nodded as she replied, "All system operational and I've entered in the hyperspace co-ordinates for our first jump once we clear the planet."

"Okay, everyone we ready for this?" asked Harry with a smile.

A chorus of approvals sounded so with a broad smile in place Harry slowly lifted off, hovering over the Weasley house before turning and setting course for open space. He watched as their four newcomers watched the Earth disappear from sight.

"Okay" said Luna, "Next stop deep space."
Chapter 5: Chapter 5

Synopsis: A renegade Jedi has a force vision of a pair of powerful Force-sensitives and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

Disclaimer: I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

A/N: For a timeline see the notes in Chapter 1

Last time:

Aboard the Talia

Harry turned to Luna, who nodded as she replied, "All system operational and I've entered in the hyperspace coordinates for our first jump once we clear the planet."

"Okay, everyone we ready for this?" asked Harry with a smile.

A chorus of approvals sounded so with a broad smile in place Harry slowly lifted off, hovering over the Weasley house before turning and setting course for open space. He smiled as their four newcomers watched the Earth disappear from sight.

"Okay," said Luna, "Next stop deep space."

Chapter 5

Geonosis - Arkanis Sector - Outer Rim Territories

"What a complete shit hole," were the first words spoken by Sirius Black as he stepped out of the Talia.

"Not as inspiring as one small step," grumbled Remus as he squinted against the sun's glare.

Harry turned and glared at the older men, "We are not here on Bloody vacation, now stay with the ship while we check out the vicinity."

"And be careful," added Luna, "the ship's computer didn't have a lot of information on the planet."

"Have you both got your wands?" asked Remus.

Both nodded as Luna patted her hair where her new Yew and Dragon heartstring wand was threaded through her braid. Harry showed Remus his wrist sheath where his new Oak and Phoenix feather wand was just visible.

Remus smiled in reply, "Good, I know you prefer your lightsabers but it never hurts to be prepared and besides I paid good money for those."
Making their way through the dry, rugged terrain wasn't difficult, just time consuming, especially if you tried to do it without drawing attention to yourself. By the time they reached the bottom of the outcropping, they were both sweaty and covered in red dust.

"Look over there," instructed Luna as she pointed at one of the larger rock outcroppings.

Harry watched for a moment before seeing what she meant. The outcropping was a building somewhat similar to an anthill and almost indistinguishable from the planet's natural stone.

"Nice camouflage I'd imagine that they…Luna down," Harry ignited his lightsaber and blocked a blaster shot as Luna rolled away from and then sprang to her feet with her own weapon in hand.

Harry blocked another shot as he spotted their attackers, Battle Droids. Drawing his lightsaber he leapt up and over the two visible droids, slicing downwards as he somersaulted. As he landed facing Luna, the two droids simply fell over, neatly cut apart.

"Intruders in…" The remaining droid facing Luna was just beginning to transmit a message when she gestured smashing it in to the rock wall so hard that it was reduced to shattered parts.

"Bugger, they were probably scouts," commented Luna.

Harry nodded as he knelt to study the two Droids he had destroyed, in particular, the symbols on their chest plates, "What the hell are Trade Federation droids doing on Geonosis, this isn't an aligned world."

Luna shrugged, "I've no idea but regardless it is clear they don't want visitors, those droids weapons were not set on stun and they fired without warning."

Harry quickly glanced around the area, "We should move away before more of them turn up to find this lot, the question is do we go on or head back to the ship."

Luna gestured toward the outcropping, "That looks like a likely place to begin."

---

Harry shook his head as he whispered to Luna, "This doesn't make any sense, why would they need an army this big? There are thousands of Battle Droids down there and it looks like they're building more."

Luna shifted slightly on the small ledge they were laying on endeavouring to see the rest of the cavern. She suddenly stiffened and whispered back, "Harry shield us, now."

Harry immediately concentrated and a Force bubble appeared around them. He felt Luna grip his arm a moment before he too felt what she obviously had, very faintly somewhere below there was a Dark Sider.

Luna closed her eyes and used her Force awareness, attempting to identify the other presence, "Dooku…..Harry its Dooku, look," moving slowly she pointed down toward the floor of the droid factory.

---

Count Dooku was satisfied that the production of weapons. The Droids were well ahead of schedule. His Master's plan would need them all too soon. Beside him, Archduke Poggle the Lesser was lecturing the Trade Federation and Banking Guild envoys on the quality of the armaments being
produced. The fools were so wrapped up in their own petty desires and needs that they once more failed to see that their army would never succeed it was simply another step in his Masters all-encompassing plan.

"Yes, yes, it is very impressive my friend. With this new army, we can begin the next phase of our strategy," Dooku's voice was warm and sincere. There was nothing present in it that showed just how much he loathed the cowards surrounding him.

He was about to offer another meaningless platitude when he felt...something, a presence in the Force, but what or who? It was only a moment's contact but it felt familiar, he had felt that presence before, recently. Thinking quickly he turned to the Archduke, "My friend we have a problem, I just sensed a Jedi. You need to send out your people and kill the spy he cannot be allowed to report to the Republic."

oOoOoOo

"He probably sensed us if only for a moment," Luna gestured back toward the Droid factory.

"That's enough reason for us to leg it," replied Harry as he scrambled across the exposed rock face to a ledge higher up the rocky outcropping.

"True, now we need to get out of here before the bastard sends all those bloody Droids after us," replied Luna as she landed beside Harry.

Harry spotted movement back toward the factory, "We may be too late, move it."

Luna turned to look; already the first Battle Droids mounted on some sort of speeder were approaching.

oOoOoOo

"Where in the name of Merlin are they?" demanded Sirius as he paced up and down the ramp.

"They said they needed to scout Padfoot, they'll call if they're in trouble," replied Remus as the communicator he held activated.

"Get the ship prepped we've got a bit of a problem here," it was a breathless sounding Harry followed by a burst of static sounded followed, "and it's following us home."

Sirius and Remus exchanged a concerned look even as they burst in to action; Sirius sprinted up the ramp yelling for Ron to get the ship ready to leave while Remus pulled his wand and kept watch, ready to lend a hand.

oOoOoOo

Luna dived in to a forward roll to avoid a stream of blaster fire. As she rolled back to her feet she deflected another burst of fire back at her attacker, without pausing to see if the deflected attack hit its mark she launched herself in to a Force assisted jump landing on the rim of the broad flat rock that was their destination.

Harry was running away from two pursuing Battle Droid flyers that were doggedly pursuing him across the rocks. As they circled back for another attack, he summoned a large rock and Force pushed it at the Battle Droid on the left. The unexpected attack caused it to veer right and impact in to its companion destroying both in the fiery impact.
Harry looked up in time to see Luna Force jump to the top of the cliff and disappear over the edge. With a flick, he deflected an attack from yet another Battle Droid before following Luna.

Mounted on his personalised speeder bike high above the action Darth Tyranus watched the two Padawan learners fend off the Battle Droids. He was mulling over the situation as he watched the two make for the ridge top and their ship.

Had he been followed, were the Jedi investigating him and if so why would the Jedi Council send two Padawan learners? They were important questions, questions that he needed to be answered before he dealt with the two spies.

Making sure the planet's sun was behind him, he pushed the speeder in to a steep dive.

Remus was moving the moment he saw Luna land and had reached her just as Harry landed a few feet away.

Remus ran his eyes over both of them, "Are either of you injured?"

"No," answered Luna, "but we had better get moving we have only delayed them."

"Righty-oh let's do just that, the others have the ship waiting and…Oof," Remus grunted as Harry forced pushed him toward the ship and out of the way of a fast moving blur.

Harry didn't take his eyes off the speeders rider, "Get aboard Remus, we've got this."

Dooku was seemingly unconcerned as he approached Harry and Luna, "We meet again younglings but this time, your Master seems to be absent."

Silently Harry circled right and Luna left each of them had their lightsaber pointed at the Dark Sider. On the fifth step, Harry lunged forward using the Force to enhance his speed. At the same moment, Luna Force pushed Dooku. It was a move Talia had developed and one they had practised extensively during their training.

It failed completely. Dooku simply leapt straight up avoiding Luna's push and Harry's attack. As he descended, he responded with his own Force push which struck Harry in the back blasting him off his feet and sending him crashing painfully onto the rocks. Dooku then immediately attacked Luna using sheer strength to drive her back and away from Harry.

Within moments Luna realised that she was in trouble, she was being forced to defend and give ground just to avoid the experienced duellist's initial attacks. One mistake and she would be dead.

Harry slowly dragged himself to his knees the world spinning around him, shaking his head to clear it he stood, somewhat unsteadily and looked over to where Luna was being forced back by Dooku's blisteringly powerful attack. Forcing himself in to a run he re-entered the fight.

"Shit," cursed Sirius as he watched Harry thrown in to the rocks, "Are you two okay here?" he asked Ron and Hermione as he stood up.

Ron didn't even look up from his instruments as he concentrated on piloting the still unfamiliar ship,
the few lessons he had gotten from Harry had relegated him to the role. "You go and help Harry we'll be ready to go when you get back, I hope."

Sirius sprinted to the hatch arriving just in time to see Harry stagger in to a run. Raising his wand, the former Auror sent a series of stunners flying toward the black-clad figure attacking Luna.

Dooku suddenly had to give up his attack and defend himself from an attack from the ship. Scowling as he realised that it was some sort of Force attack he hadn't seen before, he easily deflected the attacks with his lightsaber but the steady stream of red blasts was keeping him on the defensive. With a snarl, he Force leapt away to give himself fighting room. As he landed he touched the controller on his wrist, he needed a distraction.

Harry watched Dooku leap high in to the air to avoid Sirius's stunners. Harry was too far away to engage the Sith with a hand to hand attack so he pulled his wand and cast an explosive hex at Dooku's feet and succeeded in blasting the man backwards and off his feet. A blaster bolt crashed in to the ground next to him as more Battle Droids flew overhead.

Harry looked over at Luna and called out, "Luna, withdraw now, we've got more company."

Dooku watched impassively as the freighter lifted off and went to full thrust almost immediately. Once more the two Padawan learners had eluded him and while that rankled him somewhat, it was overshadowed by his interest in their unique Force attacks. He smiled as he mounted his speeder bike, "You cannot elude me forever my young Padawans and when I encounter you next I will learn your secrets."

As he lifted off, he was already composing his report to his Master. The Jedi may have evidence of extensive armament production but that didn't really impact his Master's plan. In fact, it may even help them achieve their next goal.

Jedi Temple - Coruscant

"Talia Tal-Shin," echoed Mace Windu as he walked alongside Master Yoda, "Are you sure?"

Yoda tapped his glimmer stick against the leg of his fellow Master, "Yes, yes our missing former Jedi I sensed, strange it was her presence, powerful and infused with the living Force."

Mace frowned as he considered possibilities, "Do you think Talia found the two Force-sensitives she saw in her visions?"

Yoda shrugged, "I know not, but my fear is that dead she is."

Mace nodded as he accepted Yoda's perceptions.

Yoda resumed walking, "Failed we have to find the Sith, not the first death will she be."
**Aboard the Talia – on route to Coruscant**

Sirius took a bite of his apple and sat back in his chair, "I'm still not sure why you just don't send them a communication, I mean why do we have to tell this Yoda chap personally?"

Luna snagged the last apple from the platter, "Because Talia always said that Yoda was one of the few Jedi she still respected. And because the Republic needs to know that someone looks like they are expecting a war and with a Sith involved well, something tells me the right people need to know about this."

Harry took a sip of his spice coffee before speaking, "And we can't expect to have much luck settling down and studying if the galaxy is suddenly at war."

Hermione looked up from the text she was reading, "I think we are doing the right thing, who knows maybe the Republic can put a stop to the war before it begins."

Ron's disembodied voice suddenly sounded from the flight deck, "Oi, you guys we are about to drop out of hyperspace."

**oOoOoOo**

"So the whole bloody planet is one city?" asked Ron.

"Pretty much it is the capital world of the Republic," answered Luna.

"It is amazing seeing it like this," said Hermione with her face pressed to the flight decks window.

In the pilot's seat, Harry was busy navigating busy spaceways as well as dealing with all the red tape that came with organising a landing on Coruscant.

"**Talia, this is Coruscant control, you have been given permission to land but due to a current security investigation, upper landing zones are unavailable. Please proceed to landing pad 1167, acknowledge.**"

Harry immediately responded, "Coruscant control this is the Talia, we are proceeding to 1167."

"**Sending the beacon now Talia, welcome to Coruscant.**"

**oOoOoOo**

**Outlander Club - Uscru Entertainment District – Coruscant**

"I can't see why they recommended this place," muttered Hermione.

Sirius looked around the bar area, "I dunno Hermione it looks safe enough and besides Harry and Luna wanted us to blend in until they got back."

Remus waved away some little toad selling something called Death sticks and took a sip of his drink. It tasted surprisingly like pineapple, but with a fair amount of alcohol. "I don't mind it besides it is interesting just sitting back and watching the crowd."

Ron didn't enter in to the banter as he watched the wall of images where sports of all kinds were playing. One, in particular, caught his eye as ships raced through rocky canyons, it wasn't Quidditch but by Merlin, it looked great.

Sirius stood up and waved, "There they are HARRY."
Just as soon as Harry and Luna had taken a seat Hermione leant forward, "So?"

Harry shook his head looking frustrated, "We managed to leave a message for Yoda but apparently
the Jedi council is in session so we don't know when he'll get back to us."

Nearly everyone at the table was listening to Harry, however, Luna was looking around the room,
"Harry, I just sensed two Jedi, I'm not sure if they are…..actually now I'm sure, they just walked in."

"What are they doing?" asked Sirius.

"One's at the bar and the other is walking this way," replied Luna.

Harry turned to look and immediately spotted the Jedi in traditional robes sitting at the bar a moment
later he spotted the second, a Padawan, who was walking through the club looking for something or
someone. He glanced back at the elder Jedi and who was sipping a drink and looking around at the
crowd. When he glanced in Harry's direction, their eyes met for a moment and the Jedi seemed to
frown and look more closely. Harry, however, was now looking past the Jedi as he sensed an
undercurrent of danger, but what….there behind the Jedi a woman was approaching him and
drawing a weapon, without thinking Harry flicked his wrist and his wand fell in to his hand even as
he fired a stunner at the woman.

oOoOoOo

Obi-Wan Kenobi sat and ordered Pyrodi Nectar as he watched Anakin move through the crowd.
Their quarry had gone to ground in this club and was likely still present somewhere in the crowded
bar. His Padawan learner still had much to learn. Why expend energy looking through the crowd,
when simply waiting would bring the Senator's attacker to them.

Taking a sip of his drink he glanced around at the crowd and noticed a young man watching him,
there was something about the man that caught his attention and so he studied the young man's face
for a moment before he saw the man's eyes look past him, then two things happened. Firstly the man
was moving, apparently drawing a weapon and almost simultaneously he felt the Force warning him
of danger behind him.

oOoOoOo

Harry watched the woman drop to the floor even as the Jedi spun around lightsaber in hand.

"What the hell, what's happening Harry?" asked Sirius as he drew his wand. Around the club,
people realised that something had happened and were moving away from the danger.

"Someone was about to shoot that Jedi in the back, so I dropped her with a stunner," answered Harry
as he watched the Jedi Padawan approach their table.

oOoOoOo

Anakin sensed trouble and turned at the flash of red light, Obi-Wan was under attack! He began
pushing through the crowd only to find his Master kneeling by the shapeshifter.

"Is she dead, what happened?" Anakin asked as he reached Obi-Wan.

"No just unconscious and I'm not entirely sure what happened, Anakin the man in the grey and
black, on the other side of the bar, please bring him to me," seeing the question coming he answered
it, "He was the one who stunned our assassin."
"I must ask you to accompany me," The Padawan's tone was formal and cold as he gestured for Harry to follow.

"May I ask why?" asked Harry politely.

"My Master has questions about your actions," replied the Padawan.

Harry turned to Sirius and Remus, "Very well, Remus, Sirius can you get everyone back to the ship. We'll meet you back there after we help the Jedi with their enquiries."

With that, Harry turned back to the Padawan, "Very well take us to your Master."

"My Master only asked for you," pointed out the Padawan.

"We're a matched set," replied Luna with a smile that didn't quite reach her eyes.

Anakin shrugged and led the two humans to where Obi-Wan knelt checking his assailant's pulse. The woman was now disarmed and her hands were secured with binders.

"Ah thank you Anakin," Obi-Wan stood and studied the young man and woman; "I'd like to thank you for your help."

"My pleasure Master Jedi," replied Harry politely.

"The person you helped capture is wanted in a very high profile case and I appreciate the assistance of private citizens although if I may, I ask about the weapon you used."

Harry shrugged, "Weapon Master Jedi?"

Obi-Wan got the feeling that the two humans in front of him were being truthful but he could sense a feeling of dislike. Puzzled he tried another angle," As I said she is an important witness and I need to question her I am merely trying to determine how to safely wake her."

"I can do that," volunteered Luna and knelt by the motionless figure. Only Harry saw her short grip her wand and cast an underpowered enervate. Harry smiled at her deviousness it wouldn't do to have the prisoner suddenly wide awake.

Obi-Wan gestured for Anakin to approach, "Anakin arrange for a prisoner transport directly to the Jedi Temple."

With Anakin's nod, he returned his attention to Harry and Luna. "I'm sorry but I need to ask a few more questions as you may be needed as witnesses, may I get your names and planet of origin?"

Harry answered, "I'm Harry and this is Luna were from Trallax," he didn't mention Earth or offer any other information.

Obi-Wan smiled, "An Outer Rim world is it not?"

Luna and Harry nodded.

Obi-Wan again opened himself to the Force, trying to sense either truth or falsehood, "And your purpose for coming to Coruscant."

"I'm here to deliver a message, nothing more," replied Harry.
Obi-Wan mused over that for a moment. From what he could tell this Harry was telling the truth, "May I ask the recipients name?"

Harry studied Obi-Wan for a moment considering if he should answer. It was a reasonable question so with an internal shrug he answered, "Jedi Master Yoda."

oOoOoOo

Jedi Temple – Archives

Yoda turned as he sensed the familiar presence of Obi-Wan Kenobi. The usually composed Jedi Master looked….flustered.

"Jedi Kenobi, your investigation in to the attacks, proceeding it is?"

Obi-Wan inclined his head in respect, "Yes Master Yoda, in fact, we have apprehended the mercenary that made the attempt of the Senator."

Yoda nodded, "Good, question this mercenary we must, uncover the true source of these attacks our goal is."

"Master there is also another matter. The mercenary was stunned by some bystanders using some sort of unknown weapon and then revived similarly. I'm not sure but as strange as it sounds it certainly looks like their technology may be Force-based. When they used it, you could feel the Force almost vibrating."

Yoda leant on his stick for a few moments, "Strange indeed, speak to them I think I will."

"Strange you should say that Master Yoda the two of them claim they came to Coruscant to deliver a message to you," explained Obi-Wan.

oOoOoOo

Jedi Temple – Meeting Room

Harry and Luna stood just as the Jedi Kenobi led a small green and rather ancient and wizened figure in to the room.

Yoda noted that the two had stood before they could have been physically aware of him.

"Master Yoda I am, wish to speak to me you did hmmm?"

Harry bowed deeply as did Luna both could sense the power of the ancient and frail looking Jedi. As Harry straightened his tunic resettled but not before Yoda noticed what appeared to be the hilt of a lightsaber.

"Master Yoda I wanted to bring word of a discovery we made on a planet called Geonosis," as he told of what they had found he could sense Yoda's Force based subtle probing. With a slight smile, he relaxed his shields enough to let the Jedi master sense the truth in his words.

As Harry finished Yoda leaned forward, "Hmmm important this information is and many more questions we must now answer, my thanks for your service. One question I have though."

Harry looked at Luna, who nodded, "Of course Master Yoda, ask away."

"Who is your Master?" asked Yoda simply.
For a moment, Harry considered not answering but he realised that to do so would be demeaning Talia's memory.

"Our Master was Talia Tal-Shin," replied Harry.

"Was?" asked Obi-Wan Kenobi.

"Yes was," replied Luna fiercely, "she died allowing us to escape from Dooku. One of yours I believe."

Yoda's shoulders slumped, "Raw your grief is and understand it I do, feel it I do. A good and brave Jedi she was."

Luna looked Yoda in the eyes as she stood tall, "With all due respect she wasn't a Jedi, was she? You should say that she was a good person."

"What will you do now?" asked Obi-Wan.

"We need to restock our supplies and then we will find a safe place to train. Luna and I are committed to working towards fulfilling our Master's vision,“ replied Harry as he bowed low. "I wish you luck Master Yoda, Master Kenobi perhaps we'll meet again."

Yoda smiled at the two humans, "Let the Temple restock your ship you shall, repayment for your service it will be."

Harry bowed deeply, "My thanks, Master Yoda."

"May the Force be with you," added Luna.

oOoOoOo

**Jedi Temple – Council Chambers**

If Obi-Wan Kenobi was nervous, he certainly didn't show it, "We've questioned the Mercenary and handed her over to Republic security. Alas, she seems to know little save the fact that she was hired to kill the Senator for Naboo by a bounty hunter named Jango Fett."

Kit Fisto leaned forward, "We need to apprehend this Fett and find out why he has done this and who is pulling his strings."

"Agreed," Said Ki-Adi-Mundi with a nod to his fellow Master, "and we need to put a stop to them."

Obi-Wan cleared his throat, "Masters we have also discovered the fate of Talia Tal-Shin."

Master Rutga Tahl bit back a pained oath at those words. For even after all this time he blamed himself for the departure of the talented Knight, "Master Kenobi you say you have information on Talia."

Obi-Wan sighed knowing how much the next few words would hurt the grizzled Jedi Master, "We have confirmed word of her death, on one of the Outer Rim worlds."

Ignoring the words of sympathy from his fellows Tahl focused on Kenobi, "And who brought word of this?"

"Her Pada… My apologies her apprentices brought word of her death. She died to give them a chance to escape."
"Escape," echoed Tahl, "Escape from whom?"

Yoda stepped in, much to Obi-Wan's relief, "Know we do of Talia's vision of an order of Force-sensitives, well a reality she has made it and began their training. From the two apprentices, she has we received word of a grievous betrayal, not just of their Master but all of us fallen to the dark side has my old Padawan."

"Dooku," whispered Tahl in horror.

Mace Windu looked ready to leap out of his chair, "But how can that be possible, he was a Jedi Master, he served on this council."

Jedi Master Kit Fisto shook his head, "It seems unlikely Master Yoda could they be mistaken?"

"Believe them I must, the truth they spoke to me," replied Yoda calmly.

Plo Koon looked "But that would mean Dooku was a Sith….by the Force it can't be, why would he turn to the Dark Side?"

Yoda gestured toward the holo-projector and an image on the planet Geonosis appeared, "A part of the puzzle this world Geonosis is, ask we must why Dooku builds a massive droid army. Brought word of this discovery Talia's apprentices have."

"We should investigate this immediately," said Mace Windu as he studied the data being displayed by the Hologram.

"And we must still see to the safety of the Senator," added Plo Koon.

Several of the council members spoke quietly for a few moments before Ki-Adi-Mundi turned to Obi-Wan, "Your Padawan should be an acceptable bodyguard for the Senator Master Kenobi, while you travel to Geonosis to confirm these reports."

Obi-Wan exchanged a look with Master Yoda before nodding and departing the council chamber. Anakin would be a capable and effective bodyguard and yet he had a very bad feeling about the upcoming mission.

oOoOoOo

From the gantry, Anakin watched the odd group of people as they loaded a modified freighter with supplies.

"Is that them?" asked Padmé Amidala.

Anakin nodded, "Yes, Obi-Wan said that the Council was still up in arms over the news they bought and before you ask I don't know what it was."

"They look harmless enough," offered Padmé.

"They were apprentices of a former Jedi Knight, who left the order," said Obi-Wan as he appeared on the landing.

"Master Kenobi," said Padmé warmly, "Is there news?"

Obi-Wan inclined his head in respect, "Senator Amidala, there is in fact. We ran the Name Jango Fett through both the Jedi archives and the Republic database and we came up with some hits including a note on a file regarding a political assassination on Corellia. The name was mentioned
but he was never questioned. The murder weapon was never properly identified so I took a Holo of
it to an ex-mercenary friend of mine and he gave us another lead. The council has assigned Master
Shaak Ti to investigate."

Anakin looked mutinous for a moment before nodding, as much as he would have liked to hunt
down the man responsible for threatening Padmé he had to admit Master Ti was a cunning and
powerful Jedi Master and was more than capable of tracking down their mysterious bounty hunter.

Obi-Wan turned to Padmé, "Senator, the Chancellor, and the Jedi Council hold some concerns about
other assassins this bounty hunter may have hired and have decided that it would be safer if you were
not on Coruscant. The Chancellor suggests Naboo might be a good choice, a brief visit home while
this matter is dealt with were his words."

Padmé frowned in reply, "I dislike running away but I believe that a short visit would not be
inconvenient, as long as no important matters are before the Senate."

Obi-Wan gestured to Anakin, "Anakin will go with you as your bodyguard."

"What?" exclaimed Anakin, "My place Master is with you."

Obi-Wan shook his head, "The Masters disagree," he said sternly before placing a hand on Anakin's
shoulder, "I'll be fine Anakin and this mission is critical, the Senators safety is in your hands." He
hated misleading Anakin but the Council had been adamant that word of Dooku's treachery be
contained until the truth was determined. "The Council has arranged transport for you on a registered
transport, travelling to Naboo disguised as refugees."

Below the Talia slowly lifted off.

\[\text{oOoOoOo}\]

\textbf{Aboard the Talia – On route to the Outer Rim}

"Try it again," asked Remus.

Harry raised his wand and called, "Solarius," and again was rewarded with nothing but the faint
burst of orange light.

"Excellent Harry," said Remus with a clap of his hands, "It's a bloody difficult spell and you're
mastering it very quickly. Now, Luna, it's your turn."

In the week since they departed Coruscant life aboard the Talia has settled back in to a rhythm of
training and study. Harry and Luna were being tutored on a range of magical subjects and in return
they were continuing the lessons for the others on the history and technology of the broader galaxy
that had begun when they left Earth.

In the evening, Harry and Luna would continue their self-directed study of the Force, in particular,
the priceless Dakshee and Vor'Na'Tu holocron's that Talia had collected. It seemed that the more you
studied them, the more information they uncovered. Although besides translating its name they still
hadn't managed to unlock the Darth Vectivus holocron no matter what they tried.

"It just doesn't feel like the right time," said Luna "I suppose we'll know how to unlock it when the
time comes."

A pleasant sounding voice sounded behind them, "How very wise youngling so like your Master,
which I suppose is unsurprising considering how she has shaped you both."
Even as they turned both Harry and Luna could sense the massive amount of Dark Side power radiating from the figure of an old man.

Harry's alarm faded when he saw the faint blue tinge to the figure and recognised it at once; the intruder was a Force ghost. "Who are you?" he asked calmly.

The old man smiled, "Ah an excellent question, I am but an echo my dear boy, but in life, I was Darth Vectivus Lord of the Sith."

Luna raised an eyebrow, "You seem a bit….well um nice."

Darth Vectivus laughed softly, "Nice? I assure you, young apprentice, I am not nice but neither am I some manipulative, sadistic conqueror. In life, I sought power and knowledge as its own end and when I grew old, I passed over counting my life well spent. But time is short and dangers multiply as we speak. You must go to Geonosis and take or destroy the Val'Neth holocron held by Dooku. It is imperative you do this for if you fail Dooku will unlock its secrets and believe me that would not be in your best interests."

Luna's eyes narrowed as she considered the self-proclaimed Sith Lord, "Why tell us this, why not the Jedi?"

Darth Vectivus rolled his eyes, "Can you imagine the Jedi accepting my guidance?"

"Fair point but why didn't Talia deliver this vital message?" asked Harry.

The Sith Lord shrugged, "Even with you lending power to enable her to manifest your Master has exhausted herself with her constant crossing back and forth and since I knew the dangers I volunteered to come and you will need my help if you are going to defeat Dooku."

"Your help?" questioned Luna.

"Oh yes, I'll give you a gift my young friends, the gift of knowledge," with that the Sith surged forward and passed through Luna, who screamed and collapsed.

"What have you done?" yelled Harry as he knelt next to Luna.

"Given her a little bit of knowledge and an advantage," replied the now fading Sith Lord. "Her pain should pass momentarily. Remember young one you must take it or destroy it." The Force ghost was fading fast now, "My final gift is my holocron use my knowledge to build your new order as your Master intended."

With that, the translucent Force ghost simply faded away.

oOoOoOo

As soon as Luna had recovered sufficiently, everyone convened to the mess where Harry gave everyone a detailed version of recent events.

Ron scratched his unshaven face, "So you're saying this Vectivus was one of the bad guys but one that didn't go mental and all Voldemort when he went dark."

Harry nodded, "That's about it. When we searched Talia's logs, she did mention meeting the spirit of Vectivus on an asteroid in the Out Rim territories. Apparently, he told Talia his story and she shared some of hers. The end result was that he gave her a gift which I assume was his holocron."
Sirius looked troubled as he considered the situation, "So why should we believe him? I mean he is, sorry was, a Sith Lord and from what you have told us, we should be taking whatever he said with a huge amount of scepticism."

Luna shook her head, "No, he was sincere if arrogant. Darth Vectivus was a very strange Sith more interested in knowledge than power. From what he's shown me, it's clear that the holocron he wants to be destroyed is one that contains forbidden lore that even the most power-crazed Sith realised was dangerous. Unfortunately, the knowledge of why the holocron was hidden was lost and now Dooku has it and in his ignorance may well open it."

"So tell the Jedi," offered Ron, "They're like Aurors aren't they?"

"I'm not convinced that's the right thing to do," said Hermione in a distracted fashion as she scrolled through Talia's electronic logs. "Dooku was once a Jedi, who knows who he's corrupted amongst the Order."

"So, it's up to us?" asked Sirius, "Does anyone else feel like we are getting pulled from pillar to post and back?"

Harry shrugged, "We do what we must to bring Talia's vision to fruition. As far as I'm concerned this is just another step toward the goal of an order of Force users who understand both sides of the Force."

"And" added Luna, "an important step it is, we now possess the key to the holocron of Darth Vectivus one of the few Sith holocrons that are safe to study."

"Then it's back to Geonosis?" asked Remus.

"Looks like it," replied Harry.

"Well, this time, you are not going alone," said Sirius in a firm voice, "And that is not negotiable."

Geonosis

Obi-Wan Kenobi was feeling quite annoyed as he tried once more to determine a way to switch off the restraints that held him immobilized in his revolving prison. At least, he had managed to get a message to Anakin before he was captured. His news of the Clone army and his pursuit of Jango Fett to Geonosis and the presence of Dooku had proven beyond doubt that there was some grand conspiracy in progress. He just hoped that the Council had received the information he had acquired. His thoughts were interrupted by a familiar if unwelcome presence.

Count Dooku entered the cell dressed in his usual finely made robes, "Ahh Master Kenobi I have tried to get you freed but the Archduke was less than impressed to find a Jedi spying on his facilities. Perhaps if you were to explain your purposes to him, I might be able to persuade him."

Obi-Wan glared at the older man, "You are a traitor and a Sith so you can stop the act. I'll not aid you or your allies in any way."

Dooku's expression changed gone was the expression of regret it was replaced by one of hatred and anger.

"Then you are a fool Jedi and very soon you'll die a fool," replied Dooku as he stormed from the room.
"Point me Val'Neth holocron," intoned Harry softly as he watched his wand spin to point toward a large stone structure.

"Okay let's go," ordered Harry.

Moving slowly even though they were shielded by a Force bubble they moved slowly through the strange dusty streets of Geonosis. On reaching the stone structure, Harry again cast the locator spell.

"Okay hold on," suggested Remus "let's get a better position. Luna shift over a bit before casting, with a bit of luck that will help us triangulate its position."

They watched as the two wands pointed upwards and to the right and quietly moved in that direction. The need for the Force bubble became apparent as they encountered more and more traffic in the stone passageways. There was obviously a large gathering somewhere ahead because the noise grew louder and louder as they continued. Eventually, they came to a hall guarded by several Battle Droids.

"Point me Val'Neth holocron" whispered Harry as his wand pointed at the door.

"Luna and I will take the Droids, you guys open the door and check it out," whispered Harry.

The sudden appearance of two assailants in their midst left the Battle Droids little chance of protecting themselves and they were quickly dispatched.

"Alohomora," intoned Hermione, then she quickly stepped aside to allow Sirius and Remus to enter first with their wands drawn.

Standing on opposite sides of the room Remus and Sirius cast at the same time, "Point me Val'Neth holocron."

Their wands pointed to a small metal box standing on top of a slightly larger metal box.

Sirius approached the boxes but didn't touch either of them, "That looks a bit off Moony."

"Probably some kind of security system," replied Remus.

"Do we care if his stuff gets broken?" asked Sirius.

"Nope," answered Remus with a smile.

Sirius smiled and cast a very difficult piece of magic transfiguring the metal in the box to magnesium.

"Be my guest Moony," said Sirius as he stepped back.

Remus cast a simple but powerful fire hex and a bluish shield appeared along with a beeping noise but quickly flickered and disappeared. Within moments, the metal box was reduced to a white powder and a collection of broken smoking remains.

Sirius tried the locator spell, "Point me Val'Neth holocron."

Both watched his wand fail to react.

Remus gave Sirius a thumbs up "I'd say that's proof positive eh Padfoot?"
Sirius was about to reply when they heard Harry calling out, "We've got some unwelcome company out here."

oOoOoOo

Harry watched Sirius and Remus duck in to the room and then turned to watch the corridor. With whatever was going on as a distraction infiltrating the building had been easy so far but that couldn't last. He resisted the urge to check up on the two marauders as he kept a close watch.

The sound of heavy non-human footsteps approaching was definitely not what they wanted to hear. Harry gestured to Luna with the hand signal for enemy approaching and saw her nod. Then the fight was on as four B2 Super Battle Droids appeared at the far end of the corridor.

Buying time Luna and Harry deflected blaster fire as Ron and Hermione shielded and fired explosive hexes at the heavily armoured Droids.

Harry deflected another attack and called out to Remus and Sirius, "We've got some unwelcome company out here."

With the arrival of the two experienced wizards, Harry and Luna abandoned defence and attacked the three remaining Droids and were able to quickly destroy them.

"Are we done?" asked Harry.

Sirius nodded and held out a bagful of blackened and broken crystal

Harry gestured back the way they had come, "Right then let's get back to the….."

BOOM

The sound of an explosion followed by blaster fire became audible somewhere further ahead. Harry was just about to signal a speedy retreat to take advantage of the diversion when he heard another distinctive sound a lightsaber. Then from around the far corner, a Jedi appeared engaged in combat with two B2 Droids. Flipping over the Droids in a risky attack the young human Jedi managed to destroy one but was clipped with blaster fire from the other.

Harry surged forward destroying the B2 as it raised its arm-mounted weapon.

Luna knelt and checked the fallen Jedi, "She's alive but in a pretty bad way we need to get her back to a med bay as soon as possible."

Harry breathed a sigh of relief, "Hermione, Ron side along apparate her to the Talia and get her to MK. Prep the ship while we find out just what the hell is happening and be bloody careful we don't know what conditions are like."

As Hermione and Ron apparated away with the wounded Jedi, Harry turned to the others. "Right let's go."

Following the sound of battle, they quickly found themselves on a balcony high above what looked like a gladiatorial arena and below them, a battle raged. What looked like thousands of Droids were attacking what had to be Jedi, and from the number of wounded littering the ground, the Jedi were going down hard.

"Bugger me," whispered Sirius as he looked down on the fight below.
Luna, however, rushed to where a Jedi slumped against a wall and checked the man over before shaking her head, "He's gone."

Harry gestured and the dead Jedi's lightsaber flew in to his hand. On catching it, Harry threw it to Sirius, "Collect any you find we'll need them to train with."

"Look," called Luna as she pointed to the arena floor, "there're Obi-Wan and Anakin."

"And there is Dooku," said Harry pointing to a balcony a third of the way around the arena.

"How do we help?" asked Luna.

Harry paused and then shook his head, "It's no use jumping in to that mess below we'd only become embroiled in it but if we are right about the bastard I'd guess that Dooku is controlling this so let's see if we can't distract our resident Sith."

Fighting calmly Obi-Wan let his senses guide him. With each passing moment, another Jedi fell as an army of Droids encircled them. On his left were Anakin and Padmé and on his right Master Windu.

Then the fighting seemed to stop as the Droids ceased fire. Obi-Wan half listened to Dooku's ridiculous speech as he checked the fallen Jedi. He heard as the Jedi turned Sith uttered some false platitude. He then watched in shock as Dooku seemed to pause and look up before drawing his lightsaber and attacking some invisible foe.

Having been told to be quiet and guard her while she concentrated the others watched silently as Luna concentrated on Dooku and used a mental attack developed by Darth Vectivus.

Dooku was about to re-activate his droids when he felt a very unwelcome presence, Jedi Master Yoda. The small but deadly Jedi dropped to the floor in front of him and immediately attacked.

Dooku blocked Yoda's first attack, barely, and began fighting for his life.

Archduke Poggle the Lesser and the rest of the delegation watched in shock as Dooku fought an invisible enemy but a greater shock followed almost immediately as a large contingent of airborne troops began arriving in the arena, weapons blazing. The new arrivals were systematically destroying the inactive droids.

With almost universal cowardice they fled the balcony and left Dooku to his 'battle'.

Mace Windu led Obi-Wan and Kit Fisto across the arena determined to capture Dooku. When they reached the stairs, they were halted by a young man dressed in what looked like some sort of black combat suit.

"Harry?" asked Obi-Wan.

Harry nodded in recognition, "Obi-Wan, Luna can't hold her illusion for long and when she loses it, Dooku's going to reactivate those damn Droids. So get your people out of here while we've still got the bastard distracted."
"Harry, Luna looks like she's losing it," warned Sirius.

Harry gestured to where Dooku was glancing around in confusion, "Go get out of here, capture him later. What the hell do you think you are doing?" asked Harry as Mace Windu ignored him and drew his lightsaber obviously to go after Dooku. However, it appeared that they had missed their chance as Dooku disappeared from the balcony.

The Jedi Master looked extremely annoyed as he turned to face Harry, "Your delay has allowed Dooku to escape. The traitor can't have gone far, we……"

Whatever the Jedi was about to say was drowned out by the sound of the Droid army re-activating and engaging the armoured infantry protecting the evacuating Jedi.

With a final glare, Mace Windu and Kit Fisto jumped off the ledge and ran to aid their people. Obi-Wan was about to follow when a stray bolt from a blaster cannon struck the ledge above them sending huge slabs of rock crashing down on them. Cursing Harry grabbed Obi-Wan and pulled him back just as Sirius grabbed Harry's shoulder and apparated them to the Talia.

oOoOoOo

**Aboard a Low Altitude Assault Transport**

Anakin was growing worried. Obi-Wan had followed Masters Windu and Fisto as they went after Dooku just as he had been getting Padmé aboard the gunship.

Working quickly he helped several of the wounded aboard with the last Jedi clambering aboard just as the remaining droids began firing once more. He caught a glimpse of Master Windu aboard another gunship and then he was rocketing skyward.

He just hoped his Master was safe.

oOoOoOo

**Aboard the Talia**

"That was a rather unique experience," commented Obi-Wan after patting himself down.

"And an unexpected one," replied Harry, "What the hell was going on?"

Obi-Wan shook his head, "The short version was I was sent to confirm your intelligence and you might say things escalated after that, I was captured after finding Dooku still in residence and I would suspect that Order mounted a combination rescue and capture mission."

Harry looked over at Luna before turning back to Obi-Wan, "Okay so now the question is what we do with the two of you."

"Two of us, you have another Jedi aboard?" asked Obi-Wan.

Luna nodded, "Yes and she won't be going anywhere for a while, she's hurt and probably floating in a Bacta tank right now."

Obi-Wan nodded in acceptance and thanks, "Perhaps if the Jedi have left the planet you could transport us to a spaceport on a Republic world?"

Harry shrugged, "That should be…" only to be interrupted by Sirius calling out "Holy Merlin," from
the flight deck.
"What is it?" called Harry as he made his way forward, followed by Obi-Wan and Luna.

Sirius pointed outside, "We have a serious battle going on below and…whoa, Ron, it's not a bloody Nimbus."

"Sorry Padfoot but everyone is shooting at bloody everything, Harry you had better take over mate, I'm still…..sh*t that was close," said Ron as a massive explosion rocked the Talia.

Harry slid in to the co-pilot's seat and took control, "Right we are getting the hell out of here."

Obi-Wan, however, turned away from the battle and looking intently out the side viewport over Harry's shoulder, "Harry can you get me to that mountain?" he enquired pointing down toward a single rocky mountain.

"Are you bloody kidding, why?" asked Harry as he rolled the Talia along its axis to avoid heavy anti-air fire.

"Because" replied Obi-Wan, "Dooku just landed there."

oOoOoOo

Aboard a Low Altitude Assault Transport

The gunship carrying Anakin and Padmé to the temporary Jedi spaceport for evacuation rocked as it was struck and only Anakin's Jedi reflexes saved Padmé from a potentially fatal fall.


"Sir we're out of ordinance," reported the clone pilot.

"Then follow him," ordered Anakin as the gunboat was struck by more.

oOoOoOo

Geonosis – Docking Facility

Dooku landed his speeder and abandoned it as he quickly made his way toward where his ship was docked. He knew full well that pursuers were likely on their way.

The plan had worked but not without a few complications. The Jedi had taken the bait but he had failed to kill as many as he had hoped. Something had happened right at the moment of his victory and he still wasn't sure how it was done. Then a worse failure although this one was far more personal; someone had stolen his hard-won holocron and again he didn't have a clue how it had been achieved or who had managed it. He had been so close to true power….it was galling to have to admit that someone had beaten his elaborate defences around the priceless object. When he found who was responsible for the theft they would pay dearly for it.

"Going somewhere Dooku?" asked a voice behind him.

Dooku halted but didn't turn around, "Ah young Skywalker and," Dooku slowly turned, "Senator Amidala. Back away, boy, you can't take me alone and protect her."

"Alone?" said Obi-Wan as he appeared with two hooded figures, "I wouldn't say Anakin was alone, surrender Dooku you can't escape."
"I beg to differ, Master Jedi," snarled Dooku as he struck with Force lightning, which Obi-Wan calmly blocked with his lightsaber. Seeing his attack wasn't working Dooku immediately changed tactics and turned targeting the person least able to defend herself, Padmé Amidala.

"No!" screamed Anakin as he realised what Dooku was doing. With a burst of Force-enhanced speed, he threw himself forward trying to intercept the deadly attack but knowing he would fail.

Dooku's eyes were alight with dark satisfaction as he struck only to see a figure pop in to existence in front of the Senator and block the attack with a lightsaber. The blond Padawan from Trallax, so two Padawan and one fully trained Jedi. Those odds were still manageable.

Then the situation changed again as another Padawan, the male, appeared beside the first. Dooku was worried now, there were four Jedi arrayed against him and Kenobi was a dangerous fighter. He needed to even the odds.

Dooku sneered, "Hunting in packs now I see and yet you will still fail because you fail to understand the power of the Dark Side," he gestured and a massive metal beam tore free from the wall and flew at Kenobi.

Anakin watched in horror as Obi-Wan tried to leap over the beam only to have it suddenly change direction and pin him to the wall. Driven by his fear Anakin charged Dooku lightsaber raised.

Dooku easily blocked Anakin's attack and launched a flurry of strikes that the Jedi was pushed to defend against. He ended with a Force push that sent Anakin careering into the stone wall.

"You will have to do better than that Skywalker," Dooku stated calmly, "Perhaps with the proper motivation."

Dooku launched another bolt of Force lightning at the stunned Jedi but again found it blocked by the female Padawan. Cursing Dooku ignored the other Padawan's shouting and used the Force to launch a large metal crate at the foolish girl only to see it pause in mid-air and then rocket back at him. It was only the fact that he was already moving that saved him as the crate impacted against the wall behind him.

Even the most powerful can be caught off guard by something new and as he gaped at the girl's feat, he failed to keep watch on the other Padawan.

Harry banished the crate back at Dooku, sheathed his wand and then launched himself at the Sith.

Dooku sensed an attack and managed to sway aside from a strike that would have beheaded him, damnation the boy was fast. He didn't banter this time he just attacked.

Harry knew he was in trouble as Dooku countered. The older man was a very experienced dueler and it showed it was all Harry could do to defend himself.

Luna watched as Harry was driven back by Dooku. The plan to capture Dooku was out the window, now this was about survival. With a burst of speed Luna charged in to the fight sweeping at Dooku's legs as Harry struck at his head.

With a curse, Sirius stopped and turned to the others, "Come on I can hear fighting up ahead."

"Harry told us to wait on the ship," complained Hermione even as she drew her wand.
Sirius made a dismissive gesture, "Yeah and he also said they would be helping Kenobi go after Dooku. I'll be buggered if I'm letting them do it alone again."

"Sirius," Remus said laying a hand on his friend's arm, "We need a plan, we can't just rush in."

"Disillusionment charms should keep us safe while we get a look at the situation and if Harry and Luna need help we can," offered Ron.

Hermione nodded and then added. "We should be prepared to shield as well if it's an untenable situation let's just grab our guys and apparate back to the ship."

Sirius smiled at the two of them, "Right we've got a plan lets go."

Padmé was trying to wake Anakin as the two Padawan's fought Dooku. She didn't need to be a Jedi to tell that they needed help.

"Padmé?" whispered Anakin.

Padmé breathed a sigh of relief, "Anakin, are you injured?"

"I'm a bit…," Padmé watched as Anakin shook off his injury, "Dooku?"

"He's fighting the other two Jedi, wait, Anakin…" she tried to stop him but he rushed past to re-enter the fight.

Luna barely held Dooku's lightsaber at bay as he pushed downward. Luna watched in horror as Dooku kicked out at Harry's knee dropping him to the floor. In desperation, she tried to change position to protect Harry but even as she shifted her grip slightly Dooku stopped his downward pressure and shifted it to a different angle. Luna felt a burning pain in her wrist and staggered back as Dooku kicked her severed hand and lightsaber across the floor.

"How valiant young Padawan but not good enough," Dooku swung his lightsaber only to have his attack blocked by Anakin.

"Back for more boy?" asked Dooku as he shoved Anakin back.

"Here Anakin," called Harry as he threw Anakin his lightsaber.

Anakin launched a vicious attack on Dooku driving him back couldn't seem to find a weakness in the Sith's defences and soon he was being forced back.

"I sense your anger and fear boy," taunted Dooku, "yet you still fail to use them. Let me show you…." Dooku was interrupted by a beam of red light that he barely managed to block.

Spinning around he saw an older man against the far wall raise something and call, "Stupefy," and another red light shot toward him.

From behind him, he heard another voice yell, "Reducto," and spun to block even as something impacted his lightsaber throwing him backwards away from Skywalker and off his feet.

Dooku was again outnumbered and although the dark side flowed at his command, he was growing weaker as his aged body began to fail him. It was time to leave so with a snarl Dooku fell back to his
last resort and gestured at the roof sending huge chunks of stone crashing to the floor. In the chaos that followed, he ran for his shuttle.

Harry's pulled Luna to him and covered her with his own body as the rocks began to fall.

oOoOoOo

Republic Medical Frigate

Harry watched from his bed as a Medical Droid worked on fine-tuning Luna's new fitted artificial hand.

"Harry?"

Harry turned to see Obi-Wan standing beside his bed.

"Master Kenobi," Harry acknowledged the Jedi with a nod.

Obi-Wan looked uncomfortable as he spoke, "I'd like to thank you Harry; without your help, I would have been killed. We…I underestimated Dooku and we all paid for my hubris."

Harry shrugged, "We survived and frankly that's a win in my book even if Dooku escaped."

Obi-Wan nodded absently as he watched Luna moving her hand, "The Jedi Council wants to speak to you both."

"About," prompted Harry.

"About your training, the code doesn't allow Jedi to be trained the way your master taught you. I would expect they would like to see you tested to make sure you don't pose a threat to the order."

Harry's face was devoid of expression as he answered. "I see and if we don't wish to be tested? Neither Luna or I claim membership of your order Master Kenobi, nor do we acknowledge its right to approve or disapprove of us."

"As stubborn as your master you are," said Yoda from the door.

"Master Yoda," said Obi-Wan inclining his head in respect.

"I won't submit to testing," stated Harry.

"Hmmm disagree with the council on this I do," replied the diminutive Jedi master.

"Will the Jedi council force the issue?" asked Harry.

Yoda didn't reply for several moments his eyes on Harry, "Leave you should, follow your Master's vision if you must. Need new enemies the council does not."

Harry nodded and stood, limping slightly in his leg brace he walked over to Yoda, "I won't forget your assistance Master Jedi. If we hear anything about the Sith, I'll be in contact."

Obi-Wan watched on unsure what to say after Yoda all but admitted the council would try to detain Harry and Luna.

"Master Yoda what happened to my friends?" asked Harry
Yoda smiled, "Fine they are, ready to depart they seem to be," with that Yoda walked slowly away.

Obi-Wan cleared his throat, "They are docked with the ship, taking on medical supplies apparently. If you like, I can show you."

Harry smiled, "I'd love to see that, let's collect Luna I'm sure she would like to see it as well."

"You are sure that this is wise?" asked Rutga Tahl as he approached Yoda, "the rest of the council is sure to object."

Yoda leaned on his glimmer stick watching the departing ship, "Wise, no but the right thing it is my heart tells me."

"Do you think Talia's vision was true?" asked Rutga quietly.

"Ahh see that far ahead I can not but perhaps…..think more on this I will. Sleep I need now."

Rutga nodded and turned to leave, "Then I will bid you goodnight old friend."

Yoda nodded absently as the Jedi Master left the cabin, his eyes still on the dwindling shape of the freighter, "May the Force be with you."

AN – Another chapter is done, and now it's back to work on some of my other stories.

But fear, not I already have chapter 6 in the works for A New Order.

I have rushed the story somewhat BUT before you go up in flames and rain curses upon me let me explain.

It was my intention to establish the crew of the Talia's relationship with the Sith (Tick) and the Jedi Council (Tick) as well as some of the main characters (Tiiick).

This slows me to move the story forward to the period I want to play in, the period between episode two and three. We have already seen events differ slightly and moving forward those ripples will have a profound effect on SOME events. The entire SW canon universe will not be re-written but there will be some different outcomes.

Does that clear it up?

Now for those that can't wait…

Here is a sneak preview of the upcoming chapter

The hologram of the hooded figure turned to face them, "Both the Jedi and Sith philosophies are flawed. The Jedi abandoned their emotions in search of peace and the Sith embraced negative emotion in search of power. Both have failed to understand that only by seeking balance can a Force user fulfil their potential. Light and dark are the same it is the purpose to which power is used that defines it."

"But that argument implies that evil is nothing more than a perspective, the Sith spread lies and hate and whole worlds are torn apart by war."
"It is your lack of perspective that clouds your vision, yes the Sith who plague the Jedi have committed evil, great evil but that is not the Force that is the philosophy of the Sith. You must put aside labels my apprentices."
A New Order Chapter 6

Synopsis: A renegade Jedi has a force vision of a pair of powerful Force sensitives and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

Disclaimer: I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

A/N: Timeline checkpoint it is now coming to the end of 23BBY and the early months on 22 BBY in the Star Wars Universe – The Clone Wars have begun…

Last time:

"You are sure that this is wise?" asked Rutga Tahl as he approached Yoda, "the rest of the council is sure to object."

Yoda leaned on his glimmer stick watching the departing ship, "Wise, no but the right thing it is my heart tells me."

"Do you think Talia's vision was true?" asked Rutga quietly.

"Ahh see that far ahead I can not but perhaps…..think more on this I will. Sleep I need now."

Rutga nodded and turned to leave, "Then I will bid you goodnight old friend."

Yoda nodded absently as the Jedi Master left the cabin, his eyes still on the dwindling shape of the freighter, "May the Force be with you."

Chapter 6

Aboard the Talia, Deep Space

Harry sat with Luna in the med bay watching MK remove the sedated Jedi from the Bacta tank and begin a long chain of medical checks on the young woman.

Soon enough the medical droid completed his tests and reported, "The subject has recovered from blaster burns to her torso and shoulder. The broken collarbone and dislocated shoulder have responded to treatment with Skele-Grow. Her pregnancy appears to have not been compromised in any way."

Harry didn't know what to say to that. 'Pregnant,' the Jedi sleeping on the bunk was still a padawan if her hair and uniform she had been wearing were to be believed and, to be honest, she didn't look like she was any more than 16 with a youthful face, petite figure, and a long black braid.
"You can just see it starting to show and that's only because she's pretty skinny," commented Luna as she ran her hand over the girl's abdomen.

"But….bloody hell Luna she's pregnant, how the hell did such a young padawan fall pregnant?" Harry was quite aware of the relationship taboos of the Jedi code.

"I would imagine that she engaged in intercourse," replied Luna distractedly as she studied the motionless girl.

"Oh ha ha, you know what I meant Luna."

"She will be cast from the Order," added Harry as he watched Luna ran her hands over the young woman. "What are you doing?"

Luna turned to face Harry her face puzzled, "You say you felt a compulsion to say nothing to the Jedi?"

Harry nodded, "Well it was….it was like a voice telling me to say nothing about her, why?"

"I think we need to have a talk with her before we decide anything else, MK is it safe to wake her up?"

"Yes Mistress Luna, there should be no risk," replied the Droid.

Luna looked at Harry, who shrugged and then she turned back to Mk, "Wake her up please MK."

The Droid injected the sleeping padawan.

oOoOoOo

"So what is the deal with our guest?" asked Sirius as the crew of the Talia minus Luna gathered in the Ships Mess.

"She is recovering well enough," answered Harry.

"I can feel a 'but' there Harry," replied Hermione.

"But the situation is a bit more complicated than we thought," Replied Harry, "Padawan Keisha is pregnant."

"What? How old is she?" asked Hermione.

"Fourteen," replied Harry.

"Bloody hell…I mean…bloody hell," muttered Sirius.

Harry nodded, "MK said that she's recovering well and that the baby is okay but this opens a can of worms. Not just because she's underage but because this would see her cast out of the Jedi order."

"What?" asked Ron indigently, "She made a bloody mistake….that's stupid."

Hermione laid a hand on Ron's shoulder, "I know Ron but from what I've read of Talia's notes and from the computer the Orders rules are quite strict regarding relationships."

"Poor kid," added Remus.
"So what do we do?" asked Sirius, "We can't just dump a pregnant teenager on some planet and wash our hands of her. Does she have any family?"

"She doesn't know, Keisha was taken from her parents as a baby and doesn't really know anything other than her home world was somewhere in the Outer Rim," replied Harry.

Luna sat holding Keisha's hand as the Padawan cried.

"Everything will be okay," said Luna as she stroked the teens shaking hand.

"I'll be cast out," whispered Keisha as the full implications of her situation occurred to her.

"If you go back," answered Luna, "that is the likely outcome. If it is not too sensitive an issue can I ask about the father?"

"Zor-sha, he's a Mast…a Padawan…we…um….well it's obvious what happened." Keisha looked at the floor as she whispered, "What will I do? I've dedicated my whole life to being a Jedi."

"Keisha, look at me please," asked Luna even as she filed the name Zor-Sha for further investigation.

As Keisha looked up, Luna smiled at the padawan, "There are always choices Keisha, several years ago I was offered the choice to learn about the Force, a choice you were denied well now the universe seems to be offering you a choice."

Puzzled Keisha stared at the Luna, "I don't understand."

Luna smiled and summoned a container from the other side of the room.

"You're a Jedi!" exclaimed Keisha.

Luna laughed merrily, "No I'm not, but my Master was a Jedi."

Keisha stared at Luna for a few moments, "You are a Force-sensitive?"

"Yes, I was one of the apprentices of a former Jedi Knight called Talia."

Keisha looked interested despite her own problems, "We were taught about some of the other types of Force-sensitives but I've never heard of them wielding a lightsaber," she said as she gestured at Luna's.

Luna laughed again, "Well Harry and I do and we've seen at least one Sith running around with one so maybe the Jedi need to update their textbooks."

A wide-eyed Keisha risked a smile at Luna's answer.

Luna took Keisha's hands, "Keisha you are welcome to stay aboard the Talia while you decide what you want to do. We've got time considering the Council no doubt thinks you are dead."

"Thank you," whispered Keisha as she gave Luna's hands a friendly squeeze.

As she stood, Luna pulled Keisha to her feet, "Now up you get and I'll take you to meet the rest of the crew."
Luna settled Keisha in to the last of the spare cabins and skipped down the corridor to her own small cabin. The Padawan had been a little overwhelmed by what she had heard and seen even if she was very grateful for the haven the Talia offered. Luna had her suspicions about the chain of events that had brought Keisha aboard and promised that she would ask Talia the next time the Force ghost appeared.

After stripping off and washing up, she sat on her bunk and slowly immersed herself in to the Force, sending her love to her father. She felt the briefest moment of connection before it faded. With a mental sigh, she slowly withdrew her awareness and returned to her physical form.

Almost every night she tried to send her love to him but it didn't seem to reach him. Perhaps it was the fact that he was a wizard and therefore not as Force aware as she had been trained to be, regardless it didn't seem to work.

Luna lay back on her bunk thinking of her father, safe with his new family on Earth, which was good of course but there remained a small part of her that was saddened by the changes to her life.

As she slowly drifted off to sleep her mind drifted and she smiled maybe, tonight would be a Harry dream.

An hour later she woke from a rather different dream and padded out of her room.

It had been a long day but a productive one. For nearly four hours Keisha and the crew of the Talia had exchanged histories. That had led to a demonstration of how magic worked and an even longer discussion of other aspects of Force manipulation. By the end of the long day, a relieved and excited Keisha had eagerly agreed to stay aboard the Talia for the short term.

Harry was absolutely exhausted when he finally got in to his bunk. His knee was healed but the muscle was still a bit stiff and he had been sitting for too long. After a few minutes of massage, the muscle relaxed and he lay down, he had just closed his eyes when he felt Luna enter the room.

"Luna?"

"Can I lay with you for a while?"

Harry shifted over and Luna lay beside him with her head resting on her shoulder. After a moment, she drew her leg up to rest her knee on his stomach. He could feel her warm skin and risked a quick glance. She was indeed naked.

"Luna is there a reason why you are naked and sprawled all over me?" asked Harry.

Luna caressed his shoulder, "You're warm and besides I'm finding it comforting watching you sleep. You are very handsome."

Long exposure to "Luna-isms" had granted Harry a great deal of shock resistance but that comment was enough to generate a blush.

"Are you blushing Harry?" asked Luna.

"Yes," answered Harry shortly.

"It was meant as a compliment," explained Luna.
"Thanks," replied Harry.

There were a few minutes of silence then Luna shifted around for a few moments before sitting up on Harry's abdomen, very low on his abdomen, "Luna!"

"I wasn't going to do anything. Can I...."

"LUNA"

"You are very repressed Harry it is just a body part. Why would you mind if I touch it?"

"Because I do mind," replied Harry in a strained voice.

Luna shrugged looking disappointed, "I had a vision or a dream I'm not sure which and I wanted to talk to you about it," as she spoke her soft, warm hand was resting on his stomach.

"Oh Merlin, Luna could you move your hand….UP move your hand up."

Luna removed her hands and slipped off his belly to sit on the bed, "Better?"

Harry nodded and pulled his sheets up, "What sort of dream?"

"It was like when Vectivus gave me the trick to doing those Force illusions except this time it is all disjointed. There were things I recognised even if I couldn't get too many details. Keisha giving birth as Hermione held her hand. Then it shifted and Remus and Sirius were teaching us and then you teaching Ron, Hermione and Keisha," Luna paused and Harry felt her suddenly jump up.

"Luna?"

"Come on Harry, I know what to do next," Luna was pulling at his hands trying to pull him up.

"What?"

Luna pulled back the sheets, "The Sith holocron, it showed me where we needed to go, Oh Harry, it showed our new home. We need to go look."

"Right now, when just about everyone is asleep?"

Luna sat back down on the bed, "I suppose it can wait until we have rested," She looked down at Harry's lap."

"What are you..." began Harry before realising what Luna was referring to, "Oh Merlin, look Luna I know you don't mean to....stop that!"

Luna looked totally unrepentant, "My lips were dry I just moistened them with my tongue."

"You licked your lips!" yelled Harry.

Luna smiled in a rather predatory way, "I was just looking I wasn't going to do anything."

"LUNA!"

"WILL YOU TWO SHUT UP!" bellowed Sirius from next door.

Luna rolled her eyes and yelled back, "SORRY I WAS LOOKING AT HARRY"S mmmm pp ph."

"Oh god," whispered Harry as he put a pillow over his Luna's face.
Next to him, Luna hid her smile and thought one step at a time my love, one step at a time.

oOoOoOo

Straight after breakfast, Luna brought the three holocrons to the table and told every one of her dream vision and her theory regarding the holocron.

Keisha was floored when Luna mentioned the holocrons. "Wait you have a Sith holocron? They are incredibly rare and dangerous. By the Force…how do you even have Jedi holocrons they are priceless artifacts!"

"Talia believed that to understand the force you need to study both sides so she spent decades gathering lost holocrons for study," explained Luna. They had only given a brief overview of their training last night and the holocrons hadn't been mentioned at all.

"But surely the Sith holocron is too dangerous," argued Keisha.

Harry looked thoughtful as he answered, "I am sure some are, that's why we destroyed one on Geonosis. Our master left us this to study and I have trust in Talia's decision."

oOoOoOo

Opening the Sith holocron turned out to be a bit of an anti-climax. The holocron simply projected what turned out to be spatial coordinates.

"There has to be more doesn't there?" asked Hermione.

Harry looked disappointed as he answered, "I would have thought so. I mean the Jedi Holocrons we do have contain huge amounts of information."

"Maybe you need to turn it on at those coordinates?" suggested Ron.

Hermione smiled at her boyfriend, "That's a good suggestion, maybe it is location specific or there is another reason it won't show us anything….hmm maybe there are several conditions. Luna, do you remember anything else from your vision?"

"Just bits and pieces of what I assume are upcoming events,

"So do we go to these coordinates or not?" asked Sirius.

Keisha looked up from where she had been entering data in to the ship's computer with a frown, "There isn't much in the nav database just a designation for the star system, MZX33291."

oOoOoOo

"What do Talia's logs say about this Vectivus chap?" Remus asked Hermione as the crew of the Talia ate their evening meal.

Talia's personal logs were a treasure. She kept scrupulously accurate records and had captured much of her research in her recordings and notes. Hermione and Luna were slowly going through them and cataloguing them for ease of use.

Hermione pulled her data pad over and flicked through screens, "According to Talia's research he was apparently a successful and ethical if rather ruthless businessman. He was also a scholar and apparently his interest eventually led to him seeking out the Sith. He completed a Sith apprenticeship and became a Sith Lord but a strange one."
"How so?" asked Sirius.

"He was never motivated by the usual desire for galactic domination or an all-consuming hatred of the Jedi. Instead chose to live the remainder of his days luxuriously in the company of his family and friends."

Sirius snorted and laughed, "That doesn't sound too Sith like, I mean don't you get kicked out of the club for being a nice guy?"

Hermione rolled her eyes and continued, "Okay, so Talia must have a good information source, um okay…. Here you go Sirius, she notes that Vectivus was still a ruthless individual, willing to do whatever it took to succeed."

"How did she know?" asked Harry.

oOoOoOo

Keisha sat listening intently as Sirius explained how wands work to focus a person's magic. Talia's newest, if still unofficial student nodded then looked puzzled, "Master Sirius..."

Sirius fought back a chuckle, "Please Keisha, just Sirius will do."

Keisha nodded, "Lightsabers work the same way, focusing energy using crystals. Would that mean I could use my lightsaber to direct the Force?"

Sirius shrugged and called Harry over from where he and Luna were sparring and repeated Keisha's question.

"I've never tried it but the theory sounds interesting, one way to find out I suppose," Harry raised his lightsaber and pointed it at Sirius's jacket that was hanging over a chair.

"Wingardium Leviosa," intoned Harry mimicking the wand movements.

"Try that again Harry," asked Sirius as he watched the lightsaber carefully.

"Wingardium Leviosa"

"Try your patronus," ordered Sirius.

"Expecto Patronum"

A fine silver mist appeared but quickly faded.

"Bloody hell it worked!"

Harry ignited his lightsaber to check it worked and then deactivated it, "But how I mean it's not a wand?"

"It's a foci, well done Keisha. As is so often the case the student has taught the teacher. I think we need to look more in to this because if it works out, it solves one of the problems I was worried about."

"Wands?" asked Luna.

Sirius nodded, "Exactly, wands, how do we get more or replace any that are lost or broken."
Harry looked at Keisha for a moment before smiling, "If you don't mind Keisha I think I'll have you work with Hermione on this one."

"Tired mate?" asked Harry as he entered the flight deck having left Keisha, Luna and Hermione in the Mess discussing crystals and wand foci.

Ron laughed and punched Harry on the shoulder, "Ha as if, this ship is amazing and besides the more hours I log up, the better chance I have of being the chief pilot."

Harry laughed and flopped down in the co-pilot's seat.

"What's up Harry?"

"Just a bit worried about what we are going to find," replied Harry.

"Second thoughts?" asked Ron.

"No, it's just that we are placing a lot of trust in the spirit of a dead Sith Lord even if Talia trusted him it, well it doesn't mean we should."

Ron nodded and gestured at the Nav computer, "Well you have still got about two days to change your mind."

"I hope it's just nerves but there is something….oh I don't know. It's like a shadow over the sun constantly there but when you look it's gone."

Ron looked over at his friend, "We knew we were going to have to be careful so let's be extra careful."

Harry sat back in his chair, "Let's hope it's enough."

Asteroid Belt - MZX33291 system – Outer Rim Territories

"Are you sure this is it?" asked Sirius as the crew of the Talia crowded the flight deck.

"We are at the correct coordinates," confirmed Hermione.

"What's that?" asked Harry pointing to a large asteroid.

"It's a habitat," said Keisha, "A lot of mining colonies use them as bases. I saw some once when I was on a mission. There should be an access point to an internal dock."

"Hail the base," ordered Luna.

Hermione opened a standard hailing channel, "Mining operation this is the Freighter Talia seeking permission to land."

"Nothing," reported Hermione.

"Take us down for a look Ron" ordered Harry.
"Everyone ready?" nods answered Harry.

"We need to be careful here, instruments show that the environment is fine but be prepared to leave immediately," said Luna.

Harry pressed the pressure a touch panel and the door hissed open. Exposing a beautiful park of small trees and flowering bushes leading toward an elegantly proportioned building.

"Wow," whispered Harry.

"Beautiful," was Luna's comment

"How is this possible?" asked Hermione, "Are people still living here, someone has to maintain this."

"Droids," said Remus.

Hermione was busy looking around the area trying to establish a theory when Remus spoke up, "That is very likely but….oh."

A Droid was approaching across the lawn, "Greetings I am 1C-32 of the Jonex Mine Eight Eleven B asteroid mining colony, if you would follow me to the house I will see to your needs."

Hermione stepped forward, "1C-32 could you please tell me who lives here?"

"The colony is no longer in operation and the mines are closed," replied 1C-32.

Hermione reworded her question slightly, "Is there someone still living here even though the colony is no longer in operation?"

"The colony is no longer in operation and the mines are closed," replied 1C-32.

Hermione looked like she was about to ask again when Luna touched her arm and shook her head.

"Very well lead on," ordered Harry.

1C-32 immediately set off toward the house leading them through the sculptured gardens. As they moved through the grounds, they began to see some of the impressive engineering that allowed what was essentially a closed ecosystem to survive. Water reclamation units were hidden among the gardens and large solar lights dotted the dome's roof. They also passed several other Droids working in the grounds but besides watching their progress, they did not initiate any conversation or other interaction.

"Do you think the Droids are the only ones here?" asked Remus as he paused to examine one of the Droid workers pruning a flowering bush.

"Maybe," replied Ron, "surely they'd tell us if someone was living here."

The interior of the building was just as impressive. Comfortably appointed its smooth flowing design made it seem almost organic, they halted in a large room with huge windows overlooking the gardens.

"Doesn't look much like a mining colony," commented Sirius.

Harry looked around the well-appointed room, "It looks like a home, a very expensive home. This makes less sense than before why would an ancient Sith holocron lead us here?"
"Because this was, or perhaps it is more accurate to say is the home of Darth Vectivus, the creator of the holocron I gave you," explained Talia as she appeared next to Harry.

"Master," greeted Harry as Luna called out, "Talia!"

"It is good to see you my beloved apprentices," Talia then turned to the others, "Indeed it is good to see you all, the vanguard of our new order."

Talia walked over to Keisha and knelt by the young Jedi, "I am pleased to see you here Keisha for this will be your home, a home for your child and the home of the order."

oOoOoOo

"What is the place Talia?" asked Remus.

"Many centuries ago it was the home of Darth Vectivus a Sith Lord. Indeed, his spirit still resides in the lower mines. For now, suffice to say it is a very safe place unknown to the Sith or the Jedi."

"Harry, Luna, please follow me, 1C-32 please see to refreshments."

Talia led Harry and Luna through the house until she paused at a visually unremarkable doorway. But to Harry and Luna, it was like a black hole of dark side energy.

Talia paused before the door once more fading as her time grew short, "I can go no further, but you must my apprentices."

"What is behind the door?" asked Luna.

As Talia faded, her voice was almost a whisper, "Fear."  

oOoOoOo

Harry walked through the door and was plunged into absolute darkness. Blind, he fell into the Force extending his awareness and sensed nothing. It was like the universe had ceased to exist.

Slowly light returned but it was a sickly green reminiscent of decay and it did little save highlighting the shadows and sickly mist that surrounded him.

"Harry….Potter…the boy-who-lived…look what I…have become Harry," slowly out of the mist a shadowy figure appeared.

"Don't you recognise me Harry?" hissed the figure its voice filled with hate, a familiar voice, Tom Riddle's voice.

Harry didn't move, "This isn't real; you are a projection of the Force a test, Riddle is dead."

"Oh, so brave Harry yet so foolish. Here is my domain, here you are weak…..weak and pliable…through you I can return Harry." The shadowy figure moved forward extending a clawed hand.

Harry stood firm and unmoving, "You are an illusion a wraith and you have no way to hurt me save with words,"

"We shall see Harry, Crucio."

The pain was indescribable.
No, this can't be thought Harry as his body convulsed. Then the pain stopped leaving him twitching and nauseous.

"Powerless am I, let us see then, Crucio," hissed Riddle.

Harry screamed as the pain tore through him, then ended as Luna appeared by his side, lightsaber in hand.

"Ah Lovegood come to save your saviour have you girl?" mocked Riddle.

"Avada Kedavra," screamed Riddle and green light lanced out, a rushing wind sounded and then nothing.

Harry fought to stand and face Riddle but he found his eyes drawn to where Luna lay slumped on the ground, motionless.

"No, Luna," Harry dropped back to his knees and turned Luna over. Sightless eyes looked out from her dead face bathed in green light.

"You are weak Potter and you appear to have run out of sacrifices," Riddle mocked and then burst in to high pitched laughter.

"No," hissed Harry as his fists clenched and his lightsaber twitched on his utility belt, "It's not real, it's an illusion."

Yet Luna's body looked real it felt real. His Luna was dead.

He made no conscious decision yet his lightsaber was in his hand and ignited. Loss and Anger coursed through him as he advanced on the laughing Riddle. Harry struck and was enraged when his blade was deflected off an invisible barrier.

And Riddle laughed.

Again and again, Harry lashed out with his lightsaber, each strike harder as his rage powered his attacks.

Then it was over and Harry found himself standing in an empty cavern.

"Well done apprentice," said a mild, cultured voice from behind him.

Spinning Harry recognised Darth Vectivus.

"Where is Luna?" he demanded blood still pumping with his pain and anger.

Darth Vectivus looked on impassively, "Control it, apprentice, master your anger, master your emotions, use it never let it use you."

"Where is Luna?" demanded Harry.

"Luna is safe and well, she was never here," replied Darth Vectivus in a soothing tone, "Now calm yourself and reestablish control."

"Why?"

Darth Vectivus smiled, "To see if you have the gift of rage and the control to harness your emotions, in short to see if you could be taught."
"Oh yes, Harry you, my young apprentice have the capacity to learn."

"And Luna?" asked Harry.

Darth Vectivus smiled, "Let us see…"

Luna walked through the door a step behind Harry and in to her past.

"Loony Luna Lovegood," mocked Cho Chang.

"What is this?" asked Luna as she looked around the Hogwarts girls' toilets near the potions classroom.

"Loony, loony Lovegood, what are you doing?" asked Chang.

Luna knew where she was now and what was to come, but why?

"Cat got your tongue Loony or are you just ill-mannered? Perhaps you should learn a lesson loony."

Knowing that the slap was coming, Luna tried to move…SLAP. The pain was just as she remembered.

"Little freak you can stay here till you learn," hissed Chang as she vanished Luna's clothes and snatched younger Luna's wand with another slap, laughing they left the weeping Luna naked in the bathroom and walked out laughing. Luna looked around knowing what was next…no not again.

"Well, well who have we here?" asked a male voice.

No, not again thought Luna I won't allow this as fear coursed through her. Luna gasped as a rough hand grabbed her shoulder.

"A little firstie," it was a Slytherin by his robes. Luna was pushed face first in to the wall.

No no no

"Best make sure you're not hiding anything."

A blast of uncontrolled magic burst from Luna as the older boy flew backwards.

"You little bitch," hissed the older boy as he picked himself up off the floor.

Luna backed away, but like her first year, there was nowhere to go.

Knowing what was coming, Luna could feel the fear and the pain and the humiliation and snapped, she had power and she would stop this. With a gesture, the leering senior stopped and reached for his throat. Luna tightened her fingers as the older boy choked and tried to draw breath.

No, this wasn't real…it was an illusion…this was her past with a gesture the boy fell to the ground and the room faded.

"You did well Apprentice, you used your anger and fear and it made you strong," Darth Vectivus said approvingly as he appeared.

"That was cruel," hissed Luna.
"Yes it was, but not without purpose. You had to know you had the gift of the Sith, the gift of rage and I had to know you had the ability to control it. The universe needs no more followers of the dark who lack control."

"Go and rest, tomorrow I will meet your friends. With my help, you will learn to use your gifts both light and dark. Through me, I will show you the path of control." Darth Vectivus bowed and faded away as the exit appeared.

"Bloody hell," hissed Ron as Harry finished explaining the test they had undergone.

"Are you two alright?" asked Sirius his expression showing his deep concern.

Harry nodded, "Fine Sirius it was all an illusion, bloody convincing and painful but an illusion never the less."

"What about you Luna was it Riddle?" asked Ron.

"No," answered Harry on her behalf, "Luna's was worse, was that a real memory? Because if it was I swear I'll hunt them all down."

Luna sighed, "I'll talk to you about it later Harry."

"So what now?" Hermione asked as she picked at her salad.

"Well it appears that our host has agreed to train us all," replied Harry.

"I'm not sure I want to anymore," mumbled Ron.

"You have a choice to make then," offered a cold voice as the red-robed Darth Vectivus appeared.

"A very impressive illusion," complimented Luna.

Darth Vectivus nodded and lowered his hood revealing a handsome if a bit portly middle-aged man, "Thank you I've always been rather good at them," he said to Luna before turning to the others, although his gaze fell on Ron.

"As I said you have a choice to make. I will have no unwilling students."

Sirius looked thoughtful as he considered the image of the Sith Lord, "Why must we choose?"

The image of Darth Vectivus gestured and another image appeared. This one of a man in black and red armour. A blood red lightsaber ignited in his hand but their eyes were drawn to the twisted expression of hate and rage on his face. It was was frightening. "This is why, because unless we restore balance to the Force, he is the future. Uncontrolled hatred and rage... poised to destroy what he cannot have. Yes, I will train you to understand the darker side of the Force but, more importantly, I will teach you about balance and how to harness your emotion but remain in control. I will teach you this because I have seen what will be if I don't."

Keisha looked terrified as the Sith Lord spoke but summoned her courage to speak, "What will happen if we fail?"

"The Sith will all but destroy the Jedi but in their turn, they will also fall and the cycle of war and destruction will begin anew. Spreading and growing until the galaxy is in flames. In the ruins I see a new foe rise a civilization, beings outside the Force, who seek only destruction and death. Failure is
not something that can be contemplated."

"I've seen it happen," whispered Luna.

"I know little seer, you have the gift just as your master once did when she studied here. Pay close attention to your Force visions and what they tell you."

"But how can we stop that?" whispered Hermione.

Darth Vectivus looked at Hermione and waved his hand as an image formed behind him. Harry and Luna in robes of grey and black stood side by side and behind them arranged in a semi-circle stood dozens of people dressed in the same grey and black robes. Hermione saw herself standing next to Ron and Keisha. Sirius and Remus stood alongside them looking out at the future.

As they all took in the image the voice of Darth Vectivus continued on, "By opposing the fools who try and destroy the balance, by being skilled and knowledgeable enough to intervene and manipulate and if all else fails to be strong enough to kill."

-oOoOoOo-

1C-32 insisted on a tour of the main estate which turned out to be huge and remarkably well maintained. The tour included Hydroponics bays, Droid repair facilities, and even a small aerospace workshop.

The self-sufficient nature of the old mining colony also meant that nearly all their time could be spent training. Harry was sure it was going to be busy.

-oOoOoOo-

**Three Months Later (22 BBY)**

The Force ghost of Darth Vectivus turned to face his students, "Remember both the Jedi and Sith philosophies are flawed. The Jedi abandoned their emotions in search of peace and the Sith embraced negative emotion in search of power. Both have failed to understand that only by seeking balance can a Force user fulfil their potential. Light and dark are the same it is the purpose to which power is used that defines it."

Darth Vectivus shook his head, "It is a lack of perspective that clouds vision. Look at the Sith – Jedi war. A dispute over who will hold power that has persisted for millennia. The same battles, the same philosophies, and the same outcomes, what insanity makes the participants believe the same input will give a different result? You must put aside labels and old ideologies my apprentices, judge by actions and outcomes, not labels, Balance and control, emotion guided by a moral philosophy. There is nothing that cannot be achieved with these strengths."

"But how do we break the cycle?" asked Hermione.

"By changing, adding a new element to bring the Force in to balance. That was Talia's vision and that is what I came to see in my later life and why I agreed to help her."

With that, the Force ghost faded away as he always did when he decided the lesson was done.

-oOoOoOo-

Talia had trained them to be open-minded about the Force and it was now obvious why. Had they had the traditional Jedi training they may not have been as open to the more destructive dark side of
the Force. Much as Keisha struggled with some of the Sith lore they were learning. Still, it was a revelation to learn just how much more powerful they were when they used emotion and an even bigger revelation to find that powerful positive emotion worked nearly as well as the darker emotions.

Harry, Luna, and Keisha were drilling the others regularly in the combat arts, which they considered as a requirement considering the unrest in the galaxy.

Hermione and Keisha were still working on a way to use lightsabers as wands and how best to blend traditional Force powers with magic. For three months, they had trained harder than they ever had before attempting to master the teachings of Vectivus.

The only downside to this frantic learning was that regardless of their successes and their excellent progress it was very obvious was just how far from mastery they truly were. Each new skill, each facet of understanding they gained simply showed how much there was still to learn.

They could all feel the clock ticking and time was short because elsewhere the endless war between Sith and Jedi was entering a new phase.

HoloNet News

Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) begins new round of deployments

Clone troops led by Jedi have moved to several star systems in a bid to bring the threat posed by the Separatist to an early conclusion. Read more here

Amendments to the constitution before the Senate

A set of constitutional amendments introduced to Senate by Supreme Chancellor Palpatine, who was quoted as saying, "There are times when we must all endure adjustment to the Constitution in the name of security." Read more here

One thing quickly became obvious about the Sith, they really were not keen on keeping good records. Hermione sniffed in frustration as she read the crumbling manuscript that vaguely hinting at some common rituals and rites used by Sith several thousand years ago.

For months now she had been sorting through the mass of data collected by Darth Vectivus and while interesting, it was time-consuming.

"Hermione," Ron's call drifted down the stairs, "Are you in that bloody library again?"

Hermione sighed quietly as she laid the manuscript aside, 'I'm down here Ron," she called back.

Ron trundled down the stairs, walked over and kissed his girlfriend on the cheek, "How goes it?"

"Slowly," sighed Hermione, "Much of this was never catalogued and just placed in storage, dumped in storage is probably more accurate."

Rod squeezed her shoulder in support, "Well you had best come up they are almost ready to go."
Sirius stowed the box of supplies and turned to Harry, "I wish you would let one of us come with you."

Harry sealed his storage box and turned to his godfather, "You guys are busy studying and that is important, besides we shouldn't be gone long a couple of weeks at most."

"Is it worth the trip?" asked Remus as he entered with Keisha.

"Vectivus said that the Jedi Enclave was destroyed but the crystal cave survived." The former Padawan was now four months along with her pregnancy and starting to show.

Sirius sighed, "Just be careful Harry. I trust Vectivus to train us, but I'm not always convinced that we have seen his true motives."

"We'll be careful old man, you just keep trying to master Shii-Cho," replied Harry with a grin.

"Hardy Ha Ha I'll have you know that I am well on the way to mastering Makashi," replied Sirius.

"Remus is well on the way to mastering Shii-Cho, Ron and Hermione are well on the way toward mastering Shii-Cho. You would do well to emulate them, Apprentice Black," replied Keisha in a stern voice that sent Remus into paroxysms of laughter.

HoloNet News

Rumours persist of Separatist forces preparing to attack core worlds.

Republic sources admit that attacks by militant separatists led by disgraced Jedi Count Dooku are likely to attack Republic targets. Read more here

Rumours of a new Separatist General

Sources have revealed that the droid army of the militant Separatist's is being led by a cyborg. Read more here

"Look after him," said Hermione as she gave first Harry then Luna a long hug.

"We will look after each other," replied Luna.

"See you in a few weeks' guys and for Merlin's sake, please bring me some meat. I'm getting tired of this vegetarian thing," added Ron taking his turn to hug Luna then slap Harry on the back.

Harry laughed as he pantomimed writing a shopping list, "Meat and focusing crystals got it. Dantooine is a fairly safe destination, mostly rural and you know we need the crystals. Vectivus is also hoping we can get some of the relics left after the Jedi Enclave was destroyed."

"Okay, anyone who is not coming to Dantooine had better get off," said Luna as she made shooing gestures.

oOoOoOo
A New Order by arturus

Synopsis: A renegade Jedi has a force vision of a pair of powerful Force Sensitives and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

Disclaimer: I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

A/N: Timeline checkpoint it is now coming to the end of 23BBY and the early months on 22 BBY in the Star Wars Universe – The Clone Wars have begun…

Last time:

"Look after him," said Hermione as she gave first Harry then Luna a long hug.

"We will look after each other," replied Luna.

"See you in a few weeks' guys and for Merlin's sake, please bring me some meat. I'm getting tired of this vegetarian thing," added Ron taking his turn to hug Luna then slap Harry on the back.

Harry laughed as he pantomimed writing a shopping list, "Meat and focusing crystals got it. Dantooine is a fairly safe destination, mostly rural and you know we need the crystals. Vectivus is also hoping we can get some of the relics left after the Jedi Enclave was destroyed."

"Okay, anyone who is not coming to Dantooine had better get off," said Luna as she made shooing gestures.

Chapter 7

HoloNet News

Fighting Continues in numerous sectors

Separatists invade Rhyloth Read more here

oOoOoOo

Dantooine – Ruins of the Jedi Enclave

"Got it" called Harry triumphantly as the door released.

"Okay," muttered Luna, as she watched her wand spin. "I would think that any crystals collected would be stored somewhere secure. The archive would be on the lower level to protect it from attack. Logically, they should both be similarly located. If we are lucky the archive might be, at least partially intact."

"We'll find any crystals and then check out the archive," said Harry cast a light spell to illuminate the debris-strewn passage.

Luna paused as they came to intersecting corridors, "Point me Crystals," but again her wand spun listlessly. "Bugger, okay looks like we have to do this the hard way."
For the next few hours they systematically searched the lower level of the ruins however, in the end, it was blind luck or the Force that led them to the best-preserved part of the ruins. They got their break when Harry squatted to retie his shoelace and spotted a faint sliver of light.

"Luna, I'm just going to cancel my light spell for a moment, 'Nox,'" as he cast the spell the light became more apparent. On his knees, he determined the source was the far 'wall' where a line of light appeared at floor level.

Harry stood and re-cast his light spell, "It's a false wall."

Harry and Luna spent twenty minutes searching the entire length of the wall but failed to find any traps or mechanism for opening the door.

Luna pointed her wand and cast the unlocking spell, "Alohomora," but the false wall/door failed to open.

Harry was next as he concentrated and used the Force to try and open it, pushing in then up and finally sideways, "Yes," hissed Harry as the door rolled smoothly to the right. Then he got a look at the large well-lit cavern and what appeared to be half a dozen Jedi, who were studying him with surprised expressions, "Okay, wasn't expecting that."

oOoOo

Initially, there had been a few awkward, uncomfortable moments as Harry and Luna stared at the Jedi in the cavern and the Jedi stared back before an older white-haired Jedi slowly approached hands raised to show he was unarmed.

The older man smiled wryly as he halted a few paces away, "Well we certainly were not expecting to find anyone still living in the enclave."

Luna gave a non-committal shrug, "To be honest we could say the same Master…?"

The man smiled again, "My apologies, I am Master Djinn Altis and these are my Padawans and friends."

Harry raised an eyebrow, 'Padawans' it was almost unheard of for a Jedi to have more than one Padawan at a time.

Luna bowed in respect, "Master I am Luna Lovegood and this is my fellow apprentice Harry Potter."

"You are not Jedi?" asked Master Altis with a small frown, behind him several of his Padawans were now watching Harry and Luna closely.

Luna smiled brightly as she took a step closer to Harry, "We are Force Adepts, we trained under Talia Tal-Shin. Perhaps you knew her?"

Altis nodded, "Ah yes I knew Talia quite well she was a skilled Jedi and it was a loss to the order to see her go. If your Master is nearby? I would enjoy the opportunity to speak with her."

Harry's expression was cold as he replied, "Talia was murdered by another former member of your old order, goes by the name of Dooku."

The Jedi Master's expression changed to one of sympathy, "I am sorry for your loss. As I said she was a skilled Jedi," the Jedi Masters face hardened with his next words. "I also knew Dooku, I won't insult you by asking if you are sure but….how could he fall so far as to become a murderer?"
Harry was about to name him as a Sith when he felt Luna's hand on his arm.

"For myself, I am surprised to see you here. It seems like a rather large coincidence that two groups of Force users are here at the same time." Luna's comment brought a smile to the Jedi Masters face.

"We were seeking to mine some crystals from the caves nearby and have been using this facility as a storeroom for our mission, what of you?" asked Altis.

Luna accepted that with a nod, "Much the same although we were simply searching the ruins hoping to find some usable crystals, perhaps we should seek the mines as well?"

"You will need to be careful, the mines are dangerous. Perhaps we might spare some crystals for your purposes," offered Altis as he waved his Padawans back to work.

"That is a kind offer, Master Jedi," replied Luna.

Altis nodded and then continued in a casual, conversational tone, "May I ask if you are continuing your training?"

"Yes we are," replied Harry "but you will forgive me if I don't say where. The Jedi don't seem to approve of Force adepts for some reason and I don't want Jedi battering down our door."

"Are things really so far gone with the Order that you fear the Jedi?" asked Altis his face showing his genuine curiosity.

Luna paused as she considered the Jedi's wording and expanded her Force awareness, searching the hall for the taint of the dark. Beside her, she could feel Harry pulsing with the Force his 'aura' a swirling mix of colours, his Force presence was almost tangible. Slowly she pushed further as she studied the other Jedi, all were vortexes of swirling energy but none showed anything but the minute traces of the dark side that were present in all living things.

"Have you been away from the Order Master Altis?" asked Harry more to give Luna time to finish her sweep that out of any real need for the answer.

Altis sighed, "Indeed we have young Harry, for many years now. Perhaps we might discuss it later but for now, I must see to the loading of our supplies. You are welcome to rest and partake of our stores if you wish," with that the Jedi Master bowed and walked over to where his people were loading two speeders.

oOoOoOo

"Who are they Master?" asked Ash Jarvee.

"Two Force Sensitives looking for crystals in the ruins of the Enclave. They both carry lightsabers so that adds credence to their story, oh and they claim that Talia Tal-Shin trained them."

"Tal-Shin the 'would be' prophet?" asked Ash Jarvee.

"More worryingly they spoke of her murder and named the killer Jedi Master Dooku."

Ash shook his head in denial, "What? That's not possible Dooku was a respected Master Jedi when we left. The man's a legend. I mean he's a politician now but still an idealist."

"Perhaps but many have fallen to the dark before…the question is what to do with these two. Maybe it's time to bespeak an old friend; keep our young friends entertained while I do some digging."
Djinn Altis watched as the small hologram of Yoda turned to face him, "Many years has it been Master Altis, the information you seek, important it must be, hmmm."

"Master Yoda it is good to see you well and you are right I am after some important information, about your old Padawan."

Yoda paused for a moment, "Interesting your question is, as is the timing. Seen him have you?"

Altis frowned at the non-answer, "No I haven't, but I have two Force adepts here who say he murdered their master…"

"Harry and Luna are with you? Hmmm disappeared they did after Geonosis," Yoda paused again seemingly thinking, "Allies they are and speak the truth they do. Fallen to the dark side Dooku has."

"What happened, Master? We don't really follow the holo-news and we've been busy with our own work, I mean I knew there were some disputes with these separatists, we've been giving humanitarian aid on some of the affected worlds."

Altis felt his blood run cold as Yoda explained. How could this have happened without anyone noticing? He may have his differences with the council but he wouldn't have thought they were so blind to the rebirth of the dark.

"How many lives have been lost?" Altis asked not really sure he wanted an answer.

"Many lives have been lost already, worse I fear it will be before it ends," replied Yoda.

Altis took a deep breath before answering, "Master Yoda I know that the Jedi Council disapproves of my people but perhaps some may be persuaded to help."

"Any help the Altisian Jedi may offer, grateful we would be," replied Yoda solemnly.

"That what they are calling us now Altisian Jedi. Who came up with that name?"

Yoda smiled at the response, "Embarrassed you are? Then form your own order you should not have done. Find out you must why Harry and Luna are searching the enclave."

Altis raised an eyebrow in enquiry.

"Allies they are, but their purposes we do not know, worry I do that so young are they to be set on travelling."

"Do you think there will be any trouble?" asked Luna quietly.

"They seem pretty friendly, even if they are effectively keeping us, prisoner, here," Harry replied with a small shrug. "But if they do try anything we'll just apparate back to the Talia."

Altis smiled at Ash Jarvee indicating he could get back to work, "Harry, Luna my apologies I had to make a quick holo-call. Now you said you were searching for crystals?"

"Yes we did, and you mentioned that you might be willing to part with some?" asked Harry.

Altis nodded and gestured towards the pile of crates in the corner, "That shouldn't be a problem
although strictly speaking only Jedi should be carrying lightsabers. Do you need them for spare parts?"

"Unfortunately, our new home doesn't have a supply of crystals," said Luna.

"New home?" asked Altis. It looked like the two youngsters had found a new home, perhaps here on Dantooine.

"Our group is living with our new Mas…instructor, he values his privacy," replied Harry with a glance at Luna.

Altis didn't like the way that sounded. Why wouldn't they want to say anything their home or instructor? "I would have thought your master would oversee your mission. No offence meant but you are what, seventeen?"

"Technically I'm Fourteen," replied Luna with a laugh, "Don't you know that it's rude to ask a lady her age?"

"Fourteen, what was your master thinking?" hissed Altis, what were two Padawan aged Force Sensitives doing wandering around unsupervised?

"He was probably thinking that a simple retrieval mission wasn't going to be difficult besides he's all for challenging tasks," replied Luna with a smile.

"And the fact that this will soon be a war zone doesn't make the situation risky," offered Altis in rebuttal.

Harry was growing annoyed, "I see, well Master Altis if we could get those crystals we had better get home."

Altis realised that he had probably annoyed the boy Harry, but letting two fourteen-year-olds conduct a dangerous mission was insanity, even if he could sense that both had strong connections to the Force.

"I do not mean to anger you but surely you can see my concerns. You were, by your own words searching the ruins of the enclave where we were working. You arrive moments before we hear that separatist forces are targeting Dantooine and you have avoided naming your master. If I was a suspicious man …..

Harry sighed, what was it with Jedi, "If you were a suspicious man?" prompted Harry.

"I might think you were hiding something," concluded Altis as he watched them closely and reached out with the Force searching for any falsehood.

Harry glared straight back at him, "You are right I am hiding things but I am curious as to why you would think you have a right to an answer. I am not a part of your order nor is Luna and as I have already said to Yoda, we don't accept your authority. Now since I assume you are going to withhold the crystals you offered, we'll be on our way."

After glancing at Luna he made a twisting turn and disappeared with a cracking sound. As Altis stood gaping, Luna pointed her wand and incanted, "Accio box." As she caught the box of crystals, she gave Altis a smile and wave before apparating away leaving behind a shocked Jedi Master.
"I can't believe that you stole a box of crystals," said Harry as he prepped the Talia for takeoff.

"He did say he was going to give us a box so from a certain point of view we only took what was ours anyway," replied Luna as she ran through her own pre-flight checks.

Within minutes the ship was airborne and rocketing in to open space or what should have been open space, "Harry we have multiple vessels in orbit, recalculating the jump give me….." THUMP.

"Bad hit, we are taking fire, going evasive," called Harry as he spun the Talia through a series of evasive manoeuvres aimed at making the agile freighter harder to target.

"We're through the cruisers," Luna was working quickly at her console, "Give me two minutes to recalculate."

Harry looked down at the console as it began beeping, "Shit, we have five, no seven fighters coming around for a pass. Luna?"

Luna's voice was calm as she entered in co-ordinates, "Two minutes, keep us clear for two minutes and we can jump to hyperspace."

The Talia shuddered as a shot struck the aft shields. Harry spun the ship on its axis to avoid the following two blasts as sparks rained down from several consoles above his head as power surged back through the ship's systems, not a good sign as it usually meant the shields were fluctuating.

"Jumping….now," said Luna as she activated the hyperspace drive.

There was an ominous lack of noise.

"Fuck," cursed Harry as he again sent the Talia in to another stomach wrenching set of twists and turns. "Luna?"

Luna was working frantically as she ran diagnostics, "I'm on it…okay we've had a surge and it's fried the navcomp interface. We can fix that but I need time."

"How much time?" asked Harry as he watched the fighters coming around again.

"A couple of hours," replied Luna her tone grim.

"Right well that is rghh" Harry grunted as he twisted the Talia in to a spiralling dive, "Not that bloody convenient. So do we run or land?"

"I'll need main power down," replied Luna.

Harry acknowledged her with a nod, "Land it is, right taking us down."

Seemingly satisfied with driving them back to the surface the fighters discontinued their pursuit.

Harry worked quickly trying to find a suitable sheltered landing area. Eventually, he chose a rather open area of scrubland far from any settlement. Once on the ground he immediately powered down the engines.

"Look," said Luna quietly.

Harry looked up as a large ship passed overhead. Escorting it was a squadron of fighters identical to their attackers.
"It's an invasion," Luna whispered.

Harry unbuckled his harness and stood, "Luna get to work. I'll stand guard. I've got a bad feeling that this planet is about to become very unfriendly."

oOoOoOo

The Clone Commander of the 187th Legion currently serving on Dantooine watched his men deploy quickly and efficiently. With a nod to his 2nd in command, he jogged over to General Mace Windu.

"Sir we have deployed and the gunships are ready to act as a sweep. I've deployed the launchers to the rear."

Mace Windu nodded, "Very well Commander let's see what we are up against."

oOoOoOo

In Orbit above Dantooine – The 'Executioner' - Providence-class carrier/destroyer

General Grievous sat brooding as he watched the last of the dropships leave for the planet's surface. He had wanted to lead the attack himself but Dooku had forbidden it. His knowledge that there was at least one Jedi on the surface made this infernal inaction almost unbearable. Since his…..rebirth for he hated Jedi with a passion. One of the few passions left to him after the shuttle accident and…..transformation.

A Neimoidian officer cautiously approached the dangerously unpredictable cyborg, "Sir the troops have landed and report heavy resistance from Clone troops on the surface. Aerial units report the destruction of the civilian space docks and our interceptors destroyed all but two of the fleeing vessels. One escaped to hyperspace and one was forced to land."

Grievous didn't even look at the disgustingly servile worm, "Send a squad to destroy the ship that landed. I want all the escape routes closed down. Order all units to engage the Republic forces on the planet."

oOoOoOo

Harry cursed from his position nearly a kilometre away on the small hill overlooking the Talia. Hidden in his Force bubble, he watched as some sort of military shuttle circled the Talia and landed just below him. A moment later it began disgorging two dozen B2 Battle Droids and much more worryingly three droideka. Harry looked over at the powered down, defenceless Talia and made his decision. Luna needed time so he would have to tie up the enemies forces.

Taking a deep breath to centre himself, Harry drew his lightsaber and fell in to the Force. All around him, he could feel currents and eddies of the Force so he let it guide him as he somersaulted to land amongst the advancing droids. To anyone watching Harry suddenly appeared and moved so swiftly that even the Battle Droids seemed shocked. In one graceful movement, he ignited his lightsaber and ran it through a droideka's CPU before swaying away from the delayed blaster fire his sudden appearance initiated.

The battle was almost a blur as Harry attacked the B2's and danced away from the shielded droideka's return fire. He knew he was gradually being forced to give ground as part of his defense as the two droideka literally held him in their crossfire. He found the droideka's shields were just as impervious to his spells as two hasty curses failed.

A detached part of his mind knew that he was not going to survive for much longer and in response,
he could feel his anger and frustration begin to well up inside. His raw emotions were driving him on, power to harness just as Vectivus said it would.

The deadly dance continued as Harry spun and weaved through the droids who were hampered by their own superior numbers. All his skill, his training, and his Force empowered agility were combining to make him nearly unbeatable but at a cost. Each time he apparated away from a blast, shielded himself or sent Droids tumbling he used became a little slower as exhaustion slowly and inexorably set in.

With a gesture, Harry picked up the last two B2’s and crushed them with the Force as he hurled them at the remaining droideka’s hoping to distract them as he prepared himself. Using the Force he somersaulted high in to the air to land between the two droids. As he landed, he slipped his wand in to his left hand and cast the duelers shielding charm Remus had shown them. The partially visible shield appeared on Harry's arm as he raised his lightsaber to bat away a shot from the droid on the right. As he deflected a second shot with the dueler's shield. As he had hoped the two Droids kept up a steady stream of fire as they advanced. Their programming dictating that they overpower the shield.

Harry gritted his teeth as he poured raw power in to his shield and desperately blocked the increasingly powerful hits from the two approaching droids. He needed them closer for his plan to overpower their shields to work. After a seemingly endless period of blocking and deflecting he realised that the droids were finally in position.

In that frozen moment, he reached inward letting his love for his friends, his love for Luna and his fear and hope course through him as he raised his arms.

Luna brought main power back online and ran the diagnostics when it came up clear she immediately began to power up the repaired Navcomp. The interface was also green lighting.

"Right problem solved, and in record time, Mister Potter," muttered Luna, as she flipped switches to bring the external sensors online just as a waved of emotion passed through the Force. It felt like someone pulled at her soul just for a moment.

"Harry," whispered Luna as she turned and ran toward the main hatch.

Harry felt the Force rolling through his body releasing a pure stream of magical power through his hands. The pain was incredible; he was almost blinded by it as he poured all he had in to the vortex surrounding him, love, hate, fear, hope was poured in as he tried to save Luna and himself.

Luna covered her eyes as Harry seemingly erupted into a kaleidoscope of scintillating colour as what appeared to raw energy arced out from him and in to his attackers. The two droids literally evaporated but the stream continued.

Luna started to run.

Mace Windu paused as he felt a profound disturbance in the Force; it was almost like an emotional barrage followed by a pull at his Force connection. It lasted for few seconds before slowly fading. What had happened?
As he took his seat in the cockpit of his ship, the 'Wookiee Gunner' Djinn Altis felt a small Force ripple before being almost staggered as a wave of emotions passed over him and for a moment disrupted his connection to the Force. Looking around at his fellow Jedi he could see their confusion.

"What in the…what was that?" asked Ash Jarvee as he looked around in confusion.

Altis didn't answer as he closed his eyes and concentrated on the Force disturbance. Realising what the Master Jedi was doing his followers remained silent. When he re-opened his eyes, he gestured to the North.

"Quickly there isn't much time, take us in low and fast," ordered Altis.

Even with the Force empowering her muscles Luna was still several hundred meters away when Harry collapsed in a smoking heap. By the time she had reached him, he was thankfully unconscious. Gently she turned him and nearly gagged at the sight of his burned hands and forearms and the smell of burnt flesh.

"Damn it, Harry," she hissed as she pulled her wand to check his vitals.

"Vitalus," intoned Luna and flinched as his aura barely flickered, not a good result. Working quickly she levitated Harry and began the slow trek back to the Talia.

"There," said Ash pointing toward a small civilian freighter on the surface, "There are two of them, one looks hurt," reported Ash.

Altis hit the intercom button, "Alissa please prep a med kit."

Luna looked up as a large freighter passed overhead and descended to land between her and the Talia. She slowly lowered Harry and drew her lightsaber and adopted the classic Soresu opening stance.

Unmoving she watched the freighters ramp lower and two humans and a Twi'lek run down the ramp, toward them.

Altis recognised Luna and he assumed the badly wounded individual was Harry but given her drawn lightsaber he gestured for his people to stop as he walked forward.

Altis approached a few more steps before addressing Luna, "Luna, what has happened?"

Luna didn't lower her weapon as she answered, "Harry is injured, so if you would like to move aside so I can to get him in to our medical droid."

Altis gestured at the female Twi'lek, "Alissa is a healer; will you allow her to help Harry?"

Luna looked at the Twi'lek, who was carrying a medical kit and nodded lowering her lightsaber allowing the healer to rush past and begin assessing Harry.

"Luna, are you injured?" asked Altis.
"No, I'm fine," replied Luna before turning to the Healer, "I have a medical droid aboard and a Bacta tank will that help?"

"Yes, I think so. These burns are pretty bad and he is absolutely exhausted." The Twi'lek gestured and Harry rose slowly in to the air.

oOoOoOo

Hermione awoke in a cold sweat, heart pounding and her scream still sounding in her ears; Ron was looking down at her.

"Are you alright Mione?" Ron asked his face concerned as he studied his girlfriend.

"Harry, something happened to Harry for a moment it was like I could feel him fading away," whispered Hermione as she started to grow calmer.

"I didn't feel anything," Ron offered in an attempt to reassure her.

Hermione cuddled against Ron for a few minutes before speaking, "Maybe it was just a nightmare."

Ron kissed her neck, "We can give him a call if you are worried."

Hermione smiled at his concern, "Thanks," she checked the time. 06:00 am. "We've got an hour till we have to get up."

"Whatever shall we do?" whispered Ron as he kissed her neck again.

oOoOoOo

Mace Windu was exhausted. The battle for Dantooine had been hard fought and costly but it had been won. With a sigh, he gestured to the pilot of the gunship who nodded and lifted off. It was time to return to the temple.

oOoOoOo

Alissa smiled reassuringly at the young woman hovering outside the Bacta tank watching the Medical droid work on a sedated Harry's arms. "He should be fine Luna; you have a top of the range Medical Droid and a very well equipped sickbay. That and the fact we got him aboard very quickly increases the chance of a full recovery."

"Thank you for your help Alissa," Luna replied quietly as the Twi'lek left the room.

oOoOoOo

"How is he?" asked Altis softly as Alissa joined him in the mess.

"He'll live and most probably avoid scaring, although I'm not one hundred percent on that." Alissa shrugged, "I can't be sure exactly how he was burnt and Luna has been close-mouthed about it."

"Hmmm what is your impression of her?" asked Altis.

The beautiful Twi'lek shrugged, "Very smart and self-reliant, she is very dedicated to this Harry, you can feel the concern radiating off her."

"I won't ask you to leave a patient but do you need any supplies?" asked Altis.
"No, their Med section is very well equipped and you are right I'm not leaving such a seriously injured patient," replied Alissa.

Altis nodded, "We need to persuade her to move the ship. There is a battle being fought on Dantooine and something tells me that two ships out in the open is a big red flag."

As they spoke, Ash walked in the main hatch and walked straight to Altis, "Master we have detected more Droid units in the vicinity. I think we need to get off planet."

Altis glanced at the Med Bay and sighed, "Alissa you stay while I talk to her, Ash get everyone else aboard the Wookiee."

Altis walked over to the Med Bay, already sensing Luna's concern as he approached the door.

"Luna, can I talk to you for a moment?" asked Altis in a quiet voice.

"Okay," Luna replied without removing her eyes from Harry.

"There are a lot more droids coming, so we need to get the ships moving," Altis could feel the young woman's grief, swirling around her, "Do you want me to fly your ship?"

"Whatever," Luna replied distractedly.

Altis sighed he hadn't wanted to have to do this, "LUNA," he yelled before speaking in a more normal tone."Snap out of it. I'll get Alissa to sit in with Harry. She says he is going to be fine and we need you functioning, you can fall apart later."

Luna's shoulders slumped as she turned to face the Jedi Master, "I'll fly the Talia but you can navigate."

The Wookiee Gunner and the Talia lifted off and rocketed skyward quickly passing through the atmosphere and into space.

"Fighters," reported Altis as Luna trailed the Wookiee.

Luna barely nodded as she "I see them, breaking left. Set the coordinates for Bespin and jump as soon as we are able."

Luna kept the Talia moving through erratic turns and spins to avoid taking any potentially damaging hits. Beside her, Altis watched the Navcomp.

"We are green, jumping to hyperspace, now," Altis reported as he activated the controls.

Behind them, the Wookiee gunner did the same leaving Dantooine behind.

"Are you sure Master?" asked Ash from aboard the Wookiee Gunner.

Altis smiled as he replied, "We'll see you back at the enclave my friend, may the Force be with you and say hello to Dellia and the boys for me."

Altis watched the Wookiee re-enter hyperspace and then stood and walked to the Med-bay.
Alissa was working with the Medical Droid checking the unconscious Harry's dermal patches as he arrived. She gestured for quiet and pointed to where Luna was sleeping on one of the two bunks.

Alissa dried her hands and walked over, "I had to give her a mild sedative she needed rest."

"How is he?" asked Altis as he peered at the twitching figure.

Alissa rubbed her face as she answered, "Recovering well, we are keeping him under for a few more hours but he should be right to come out by the time we reach Bespin."

"Good, Alissa I…..I hate to ask but have you learned anything?" asked Altis.

Alissa shrugged, "A bit, their Medical Droid released their basic medical history; they are both fourteen nearly fifteen standard years old for all that they look closer to eighteen. Interestingly their medical records only begin at age eleven and they have been heavily edited."

Altis looked speculatively at the two sleeping youths, "I'd hoped for more, there is something about these two….that makes me feel it is important that we connect with them."

Alissa smiled at the elder Jedi, "Then there is the fact that their 'Master' is apparently quite reckless with their safety."

"And," added Altis, "The quite extraordinary way they are using the Force, they are a mystery and I'd like a chance to get to know them."

Alissa was about to agree when a loud beeping noise sounded, a communications alert that sent Altis jogging to the bridge. He activated the comms console and a hologram of a black-haired man appeared.

"Who are you?" demanded the hologram.

"My name is Master Djinn Altis; may I ask who you are?"

"Sirius, now where are Luna and my godson?" demanded the hologram.

"Luna is asleep and Harry has been injured….." Altis was cut off by the hologram.

"How badly?" demanded Sirius.

Altis replied quickly, his voice calm, "He suffered some rather severe burns to his arms but we got him in the Bacta quickly and our medic assures me he shall escape scarring. May I ask where you are located, we are on route to Bespin in the Outer Rim but I'd be happy to make a detour."

Sirius looked thoughtful for a long silent moment, "I'll need to check that's okay with Da…..with some people I'll call you back." With that, the image flickered and disappeared.

Altis scratched his chin as he contemplated what was said and unsaid before checking the Navcomp autopilot and heading aft.

"Master Altis you look well, for an old man," He froze as the vaguely familiar voice sounded behind him. Turning slowly he found himself talking to the ghostly image of Talia Tal-Shin.

Altis was truly awed by the sight, "A Force Ghost," whispered Altis, "Talia is that you?"

"Yes Master Altis it is I or more truthfully a Force projection of me," the Ghost of Talia smiled, "Thank you for helping them."
Altis nodded, "No thanks are necessary, it was the right thing to do."

Talia nodded, "They are important Djinn, they are the ones from my vision the ones destined to create a new order of Force users who will bring balance to the Force, the third leg of the triumvirate light, dark and grey."

"How can you be sure?" asked Altis.

Talia just smiled, "I don't have long left before I've used up the small reserves of the Force I have amassed. You must win their trust for a shatter point draws near and in the aftermath, your people shall train them. Do this Altis and your order will be saved, fail and they shall fall under the weight of the Sith."

"I would try and help regardless but why me? Yoda has centuries of experience," asked Altis.

"The Jedi have grown rigid and devoted to the code more than the living Force. Their doing away with emotion will be their downfall," Talia flickered and faded. "I have little time left. Tell Luna and Harry that I love them and to remember that others love them too."

With that, Talia faded away leaving Altis feeling uneasy. Was Talia right were the Jedi doomed. It was one thing for him and his followers to split away from the mainstream order but he had no wish to see the light die. Then there was Harry and Luna, who were now revealed as players in a much more important game.

Luna awoke feeling refreshed and immediately rolled over to look at the bacta tank. To her joyous surprise, Harry was watching her.

"HARRY," exclaimed Luna as she shot out of bed.

Harry touched the plexiglass of the bacta tank and gestured at Luna.

Luna smiled, "I'm fine Harry," said Luna before realising he probably couldn't hear her. She held up her hand and walked around to MK.

"MK can I talk to Harry?" asked Luna.

"Of course Mistress," the droid handed her a microphone.

"Can you hear me Harry?" asked Luna.

Harry nodded and gave her the thumbs up.

"Are you in any pain?"

Harry gestured with his fingers a small way apart, okay so he was hurting a little bit.

"I was so worried; I thought you were going to die you, noble idiot,"

Harry again touched the wall as if reaching out for her.

"I miss you too love," replied Luna her eyes filling with tears at his heartbroken expression. Harry touched his chest and gestured at Luna, I love you.
Luna felt an immense sense of relief, finally after all her hints and teasing. She dropped the mike and placed her hand on the tank and mouthed 'I love you too.'

oOoOoOo

**The House - Asteroid Belt - MZX33291 system**

Remus gestured to Ron who went barrelling out the door toward the accommodation wing bellowing, "SIRIUS, LUNA IS ON THE HOL…." nearly colliding with Sirius as he walked back in.

The six-inch high hologram of Luna waved to everyone, "Hi everyone, I just wanted to let you know that Harry is awake and recovering nicely."

"What happened?" asked Hermione.

"We'll tell you all about it when we arrive in about…." Luna looked off screen obviously getting an answer from an unseen person. "Three days."

"Are you sure Harry is okay? Sirius asked his expression worried.

"He's fine, still in the Bacta tank, but fine," Luna assured Sirius.

"What about that Altis bloke?" Remus asked.

"He is still here along with Alissa, his healer," replied Luna.

Keisha looked down at Luna, "Are you sure that bringing a Jedi Master here is a wise idea?"

Luna smiled brightly, "It will be fine Keisha, anyway I'll go and we'll see you in three days," the hologram flickered and disappeared.

oOoOoOo

**Aboard the Talia – On route to MZX33291 system**

Harry flexed his fingers as Alissa watched, "It still feels a bit like my skin is um…..tight but it doesn't hurt."

Alissa handed Harry a small pot of blue-white paste, "Good, well here is some Bacta salve that you need to put on three times a day and I'd advise you to get some rest."

"Thanks, Alissa," replied Harry as Luna pulled him to his feet by his tunic.

"Right you, bed," ordered Luna.

Harry saluted and walked aft with Luna. They stopped at her cabin door but as Harry went to walk next door, she grabbed his arm, careful not to touch his sensitive hands.

"You are in here tonight," Luna said firmly.

"What?" asked Harry, had his cabin changed?

"You are staying with me, in my cabin," Luna explained.

"Um Luna I need to get some….." he paused as Luna drew her wand, 'In," she ordered.
Harry stepped in followed by Luna, who sealed the door then cast a silencing spell. Harry was about to ask why when Luna turned and pushed him slowly forcing him to back in to the wall.

"Luna what…” Harry was cut off as Luna kissed him passionately.

"I thought you were dead, never do that again," ordered Luna with tears in her eyes.

Harry was about to speak when Luna kissed him again and pushed him back on the bed.

"Luna what…." Harry trailed off as she threw her wand onto the floor and pulled off her tunic and bra and then stepped out of her utility pants and underwear.

"I love you, Harry," she gestured to her face, chest and lower torso, "This is me, my love. I want to see you and then we can snuggle in bed."

"…." Harry couldn't seem to form words as his eyes travelled over Luna's face looking for something elusive. All his life he had wanted to love and be loved and now the woman who had grown in to his best friend seemed to be offering …..what? Her love, her body…..then he saw it in her eyes. She wasn't giving herself she was opening up and letting him really see her. Not as the quirky friend, not as the powerful Force adept but as Luna.

Harry raised his hand to touch her face and was surprised to see that it was shaking.

"Luna," saying her name broke the frozen moment as he pulled her forward to capture her mouth. Luna moaned and Harry found his hand sliding down over her ribs.

Luna broke their kiss and whispered, "Harry, wait."

Suddenly unsure Harry began to step back.

"Strip," commanded Luna, 'It's not solo show and tell."

Harry couldn't help he burst out laughing even as pulled off his tunic.

oOoOoOo

Harry woke up with Luna spooned tightly against him. As the previous night flooded back, he found himself grinning. They hadn't moved past kissing and caressing but that and Luna's presence in the bed had been more than satisfying. Unfortunately, he needed to pee and while Luna was very enjoyable to cuddle with the call of nature was winning. Moving slowly to avoid waking her he slid out of her bed and padded off to the toilet.

By the time he returned Luna was sitting up, "Good sleep love?" she asked with a small smile.

Harry leaned down and kissed her forehead, "Fantastic, you?"

"Brilliant," Luna replied as she stretched, which captured Harry's attention.

"Sorry?" apologised Harry tearing his eyes away from her chest.

Luna laughed at his contrite expression, "I don't mind you looking at my boobies Harry, but I don't want you in a daze all day."

Harry sat on the bed and took Luna's hand, "Will this change things between us, I mean we've teased and flirted but…..well I don't want to lose your friendship."
"Of course, things will change; our relationship will grow and change. One day we'll be more intimate and maybe Talia's vision will come true as we grow the order through having children or maybe we'll remain friends and lovers. The point is things have to change but that can be changed for the better," Luna kissed Harry's hand and gestured at herself. "We have to get up and dressed but before we do perhaps you better get your 'perving' quota in."

oOoOoOo

"What is this place?" asked Altis as Luna piloted the Talia through the asteroid belt.

Harry answered as Luna wove her way in to the belt, "It was once a mine but the previous owner converted it to a private home. It's now our home."

"How many of you are there?" asked Alissa.

"Right now there are seven of us living here," Harry didn't mention Darth Vectivus.

"All they all Force Sensitives?" asked Altis.

"Yes though that may change," replied Harry.

The voice of Keisha sounded over the voice-only channel, "Welcome back Talia, the dock is ready for your arrival."

"Thanks, Keisha, see you in a few minutes," replied Luna as she began her approach.

oOoOoOo

Luna brought the Talia in perfectly and together she and Altis began shutting down the engines. Harry activated the airlock and opened the hatch only to be almost bowled over as Sirius came barreling in followed by the others with a more staid Keisha bringing up the rear.

As Sirius took his shoulders and checked Harry with his own eyes, Luna was returning hugs and introducing the two newcomers to Remus and Hermione.

Harry looked around and smiled. There were dark times to come and outside the war was heating up but for now, they were home.

oOoOoOo
A New Order by arturus

Synopsis: A renegade Jedi has a force vision of a pair of powerful Force Sensitives and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

Disclaimer: I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

A/N: Warning there is quite a dark scene at the beginning of this chapter. Remember this is an M rated fic for a reason…

Last time:

Luna brought the Talia in perfectly and together she and Altis began shutting down the engines. Harry activated the airlock and opened the hatch only to be almost bowled over as Sirius came barreling in followed by the others with a more staid Keisha bringing up the rear.

As Sirius took his shoulders and checked Harry with his own eyes, Luna was being hugged and introducing the two newcomers to Remus and Hermione.

Harry looked around and smiled. There were dark times to come and outside the war was heating up but for now, they were home.

oOoOoOo

Chapter 8

In orbit above - Coruscant

Aralina Silk manipulated the controls of her personal shuttle to bring it to a perfect stop next to the disreputable-looking freighter. She paused for a moment to look at her reflection in the cockpit window and reached up and unbound her hair letting it fall over her shoulders then she undid several buttons exposing more of her pale breasts. Checking her reflection again she nodded and did a quick check of her tools before walking to the airlock.

The smugglers had prearranged a set of sign and countersign as well as the location of the rendezvous in an attempt to keep their transaction from becoming 'visible' to the Republic authorities. Hiding in plain sight, it was actually quite cunning mused Aralina.

Reaching the airlock she pulled out a transmitter and sent the seventeen digit code. A moment later a long string of numbers and letters appeared. Aralina didn't bother to read it she simply waited until the airlock cycled to green and then opened the hatch.

The smugglers, a Human and a Yinchorri were waiting for her with drawn weapons.

"Do you have the credits?” asked the Human as his eyes flicked to her partly exposed breasts.

"Do you have the information?” countered Aralina making sure that her hands were shaking.

The Human winked, "Don't worry pretty we've got it and once you have paid it will be yours and me and Troz will be on our merry way."
"Ten thousand Republic credits as agreed," replied Aralina, "I'll go and transfer the money to your accounts on Tepasi, have the data ready when I get back."

The Human smuggler nodded and turned to his reptilian comrade. At that moment, neither was watching Aralina. An amateur's mistake and a fatal one as Aralina surged forward, in one smooth motion she drew and ignited her lightsaber even as she swung wide beheading the more dangerous Yinchorri thug.

The Human realising his perilous position threw himself backwards even as he tried to raise his blaster.

Aralina snorted contemptuously and simply severed the smugglers hand sending it and the blaster to the deck. The smuggler let out a scream and backpedalled away from Aralina searching for some escape.

Aralina let the coward scamper to the far side of the ships small cargo hold, "Give me the information now and you will live."

"Take it and go," hissed the injured man and tossed a data pad to Aralina.

Aralina pocketed the pad and smiled coldly, "Thank you."

With a simple gesture, she summoned the frightened man across the cargo hold letting him fall at her feet.

She looked down at the shaking man, death always aroused her and he wasn't bad looking even with shock setting in from his cauterised wrist, "Get up," she ordered.

Slowly the smuggler climbed to his feet.

Aralina gestured at her partially covered breasts, "touch me."

The shaking smuggler shook his head in denial and then fear as the lightsaber came back up under his chin.

"Touch me, caress me," hissed Aralina.

Slowly the man raised his good hand and reached out to gently touch her.

"Harder," demanded Aralina.

The man squeezed and she let out a sigh and the lightsaber moved from under his chin.

"I don't understand what you want," whispered the smuggler as he released her breast.

Aralina smiled coldly at the man, "And you never will," she whispered as she thrust her lightsaber through his heart.

With a look of disgust at the dead smuggler, she reached in to her utility belt and removed a thermal detonator. She set the timer, threw it in to the engine room and walked back to her shuttle.

The information on the datapad was invaluable or so she was told. Her mission was to retrieve it not read it.

As she deactivated the airlock and set course for Coruscant, she was already thinking of which nightclub it would be best for seeing some action or maybe her master would reward her with a
playmate. It had been a long time since the last and a girl had needs.

Far behind her, a freighter burned.

The crew of the Talia were being welcomed home by the inhabitants of the house with a simple communal meal. Altis was struck by how similar the meal was to eating with his own people, the wholesome food and friendly company that typified life amongst his friends and Padawans. Yet he wasn't among his people and save Alissa he knew little about the strange group seated around him. Perhaps it was time to correct that. Finishing his mouthful he turned to Luna, who was seated on his right.

Lightly touching Luna on the arm to get her attention, "Luna may I ask a few questions?"

Luna smiled, "Of course although I don't guarantee an answer."

Altis inclined his head, acknowledging Luna's words, "Master Yoda said that you were allies but not Jedi yet you carry lightsabers and one of you, at least, was once a Jedi," he inclined his head in Keisha's direction, "even if she no longer wears her robes."

Luna seemed unfazed by his question, "We are...well we don't actually have a name yet, perhaps Force Adepts would be best. As to our goal well we are working toward building an order based on maintaining balance in the Force. Our founder and first teacher taught us that the old ways were failing, the war between the Jedi and the Sith cycled through the universe, for anything to survive, for the wars to end there needed to be balance in the Force. Light and dark, Sith and Jedi both philosophies are flawed and mutually exclusive. The Jedi repress their emotions to connect with the Force while the Sith revel in hate to power their connection. We seek to understand the Force so that the knowledge is not lost to future generations."

Alissa tensed as she listened, was Luna implying they were learning about the dark side of the Force, "The Dark Side of the Force is dangerous," warned the Twi'lek.

"Yes it is, but ignorance could kill you," replied Luna evenly.

Altis frowned, troubled, "Talia was a Jedi, what did she know of the Dark side?"

Harry shrugged, "When Talia left the Jedi order she travelled for decades seeking out lost and indeed in some cases forbidden knowledge in her quest to build our order."

"To what purpose?" asked Altis.

"So that they don't fall in to the same intellectual trap as the Jedi or find themselves consumed with the madness of the Sith."

Altis turned at the sound of the cultured voice behind him and gasped at the sight of the Force ghost standing behind Harry and Luna, then the wave of almost cold hit him. Whatever the being was before him truly was its Force presence was like a black hole blocking out the light.

Harry shook his head and sighed, "Is this wise Master?"

Darth Vectivus shrugged his rounded shoulders, "Better they hear our tale first hand rather than find out by some other happenstance."

"Find out?" Alissa asked with a concerned look at Altis who looked almost like he was in pain.
Darth Vectivus shrugged and threw back his hood revealing his face, "Secrets always get found out Jedi and I'll not risk….problems."

Altis slowly pushed his hair back and stood, "You were a Dark Jedi?"

"No, I was a Sith," replied Darth Vectivus.

"What have you done Dark one?" hissed Alissa as she stood and went to draw her lightsaber. A hand intercepted hers and she looked down in surprise to see Sirius shaking his head slightly.

"HOLD," yelled Harry before continuing at a more normal volume, "Everyone calm the hell down, Altis, Alissa, Darth Vectivus means you no harm and lacks the capacity to do more than talk. Altis, Alissa, please take your seats you will come to no harm in my home."

"What is going on?" asked Alissa as she shook off Sirius's hand and slowly lowered herself back onto her seat.

Altis paced the floor as he talked, "So let me get this straight, you have spent the last three months training with the Force ghost of a Sith Lord…..are you mad or merely stupid, he has been trying to corrupt you!"

Harry shook his vehemently, "I disagree, we have been learning how to harness abilities you think are Dark aligned, we've been learning to recognise the Dark and how to avoid or defeat it. Your assumption that we are now corrupt is ignorant. Do you sense the power of the Dark side flowing through me? No? Well, that is because it isn't. What he has taught me to open myself to all the Force not just a small part of it."

Luna shook her head sadly, her silvery eyes glittering, "You don't understand, you need to be shown."

Altis was about to reply, vehemently when something made him pause, there was a….ripple in the Force like a gust of wind across the water and he was somewhere else.

Coruscant...the Jedi temple was burning...scattered in its halls were the dead...Jedi...Padawan...all dead.

War….a darkness shrouding world after world.

A planet exploding… a huge metal structure….a figure in black armor…death…pain…and endless cycle of hatred and destruction…then blackness

A shaken Altis opened his eyes, "What was that?"

"The future, the now and the may never be," replied Luna. "I share my master's gift I am a seer, a Force prophet."

Alissa was looking at her Master in shock Altis looked like he was in pain, "Master are you well? What did you see?"

"I saw war," whispered Altis. "Was it real?" he asked turning to Luna and Harry.

"Real?" mused Luna, "Yes it was real, the Jedi face the extinction of their order and then the Sith shall rise up to dominate the Galaxy. Perhaps the better question is can it be avoided."
"Can it?" asked Altis.

Luna shrugged, "We hope so."

Hermione nodded to the Twi'lek Jedi as she entered the Library, "Can I help you?"

Alissa smiled at the young human, "I was told that there was an archive and I just wanted to see what it was like."

Hermione laughed ruefully, "I don't know about an archive but this is our library. Sorry about the mess but I'm still in the middle of sorting out the centuries of neglect."

"You are the Archivist?" asked Alissa inquisitively as she studied the curly-haired young woman.

"I am, not that I've had all that much time with all the training. Is there anything, in particular, you are interested in?"

Alissa looked around at the piles of scrolls, books and data crystals, "Is there any information about healing?"

Several hours later Hermione and Alissa were looking through a crumbling tome that purported to contain quite a few Force based healing techniques.

"I would love a copy of this Hermione," commented Alissa as she finished the page she was reading. "It is an absolute treasure."

Hermione drew her wand and tapped the tome, "Restituo," and a yellow light encompassed the tome for a few moments.

"Hmmm," mused Hermione, "That will stop it deteriorating any further so I can get you a copy, I think this should work, Plantoa effingo."

Alissa gasped as an exact duplicate of the bound tome appeared on the table.

"By the Force, how did you do that?"

"On my homeworld, we learned to use the Force differently to you, more directly. Just now I repaired the original and then made a copy."

Alissa was cautiously feeling both the original and the duplicate, "Can you all do this? It is like magic!"

"Where we lived it was called magic so I understand your reference," replied Hermione.

"What else can you do?" asked Alissa.

Hermione smiled, "The list is endless although there are some limitations as to what you can achieve. We've been working to find out those limits even as we learned more about the Force, in some ways it will probably be my life's work."

Alissa noted that rather than looking overwhelmed Hermione looked almost excited by the idea of a lifetime of study and research, "So how did you end up joining with Luna and Harry?"

"Harry, Ron and I were best friends at school and when he returned we followed," Hermione looked
misty-eyed for a moment before looking at the Twi'lek. "May I ask you a question, Alissa?"

"Of course, Hermione, ask away," Alissa replied.

"I understand from what Luna has told me you are not...ah regular Jedi. May I ask what caused you to break away from the Jedi Council?"

Alissa nodded, "A fair question considering all the questions we are asking. Master Altis felt that the Jedi order was making a mistake in denying Jedi the ability to love and marry. He also saw the Orders isolation from society as a whole as an abandonment of our responsibilities. He favoured a more hands-on role for Jedi. We do a lot of disaster relief work here in the Outer Rim."

"Harry and Luna's old master said much the same, I'm not sure I totally agree with her views but I do understand her cause and the fact that they don't like dissenters. I'll guess that the council didn't much like it when Master Altis aired his views?"

Alissa nodded, "Not very much no, so after decades of arguing his case he realised that it was unlikely they would ever accept his position. In the end, he gathered some like-minded Jedi and left the order. Since then many of us have married and had families and we've spent our time working amongst the poor and displaced."

Hermione shook her head, 'I can't imagine choosing to live without love, and I know that being with Ron makes me a better, stronger person, not a weaker one."

"Ron is the tall red-headed one?" Alissa asked with a smile.

Hermione nodded and gestured toward the Twi'lek, "And yourself?"

"No I'm not involved at the moment," replied the Twi'lek.

Hermione nodded and asked another question about Alissa's life.

 Altis was agitated as he tried to work out exactly what was going on; the revelation that Harry and Luna's mysterious trainer was a Sith Lord had rocked him. Now he was being led by Remus deep in to the old mines below the house. He sensed nothing untoward other than the fact that his guide was nervous, "Forgive me Remus but can I ask exactly what it is you are trying to show me here?"

Remus smiled and gestured toward the large open cavern, "Altis you still seem to think that Vectivus is corrupting us as part of some evil master plan. Well, I wanted to show you something that might let you see things from our point of view."

When Remus pointed at a small box sitting on a pedestal Altis recognised it immediately, a holocron.

"What is this and where did you get a Jedi holocron?" asked Altis.

"What makes you think it was a Jedi holocron Master Altis?" asked Darth Vectivus.

"You deceived me, Remus," hissed Altis as his hand reached for his lightsaber.

"Petrificus Totalus," called Remus as he froze the Jedi Master in place. "Don't worry he means you no harm and I think you will come out of this with a better understanding of the situation."
Altis found himself enveloped in the dark and then a voice spoke.

"You are a product of your training Master Jedi and even your rejection of some of the foolishness of your peers has not changed that. It took my death and my passing in to the Force to truly see what the Force is and just how little we know. You consider the light good and the dark evil just as others have done for countless millennia. The Jedi and the Sith are two sides of the same belief, passive and aggressive, embrace and dominate, peace and war. Yet even these articles of belief, the most basic tenants of our orders are flawed."

The hooded figure gestured and an image appeared of a Jedi Knight and a Sith Lord engaged in a furious duel, back and forth they fought heedless of the destruction around them.

"It is religion mixed with science, mysticism run amok. I spent my life seeking to understand power and how to wield it. At first, it was to grow my business empire then later, it became about seeking the knowledge for its own sake. I apprenticed with a Sith Lord seeking that knowledge and found it and yet….it was tainted and diseased. The Order of the Sith Lords had no ethics, no desire to understand they sought only dominance. So I trained an apprentice and disappeared to continue my studies in my old home, among my family and friends. It was in this house that I died with my daughter holding my hand and then…..well and then my eyes were opened to the greater truth of the Force."

The figure of Darth Vectivus gestured and Altis found he could move again.

"What do you mean what greater truth?"

"He means that there are greater truths in the Force than we understand," said a voice behind him.

Altis turned and looked in to the face of an old friend, "Qui-Gon?"

Qui-Gon laughed softly, "Yes old friend it's me, although slightly less solid than before."

"But how?" whispered Altis, to his shock he could feel his old friends presence in the Force as if his was standing next to him.

"I learned the secret from a shaman of the Ancient Order of the Whills, Orion or Vectivus as you know him worked it out himself and taught a few select others including Talia. For now, though it's important that you understand exactly what has happened and what will happen," Qui-Gon answered his expression serious once more.

Altis looked back and forth between the two Force ghosts, "Is this about the vision I had?"

"Yes," replied the Sith Lord, "You saw the end of an era, the fall of the Jedi order and the rise of the Sith. Yet within decades the Sith will fall and the Jedi will be reborn, on and on the cycle will turn until the galaxy succumbs to a threat so alien it defies description. That moment of horror is still avoidable IF we can bring balance to the Force. A new order must form, one based on maintaining the balance, the third leg of a stable triumvirate."

"For now our time on this plane grows short," began Qui-Gon, "So I'll be blunt you must complete their training Altis. Harry and Luna are almost ready to begin their task but their companions are far from ready."

Altis studied the face of Qui-Gon for a long moment, "Very well I'll train them," Altis hesitated and was about to ask for details when Vectivus interrupted him.

"Your role will not be to lead but to save what can be saved, to shelter the survivors, to keep them
safe because no matter what path is taken there will be a dark time for the Force," as he finished speaking Darth Vectivus faded away.

Qui-Gon smiled sadly, "The dark is moving and safe places are going to be few and far between and your enclave on Bespin isn't going to be a safe place for long, old friend."

Altis was about to protest when he realised that Qui-Gon was simply standing, watching him with a sad, knowing expression, "Start with your people, shelter them here and then begin building the safe haven."

Sirius looked up as Remus walked in to the kitchen, "How did he take it?"

Remus shrugged, "He was a bit pissed but I already had my wand out so no harm was done. I hope Vectivus can convince him because we need the damn training. Keisha's exhausted and Harry and Luna are tied up trying to Master the stuff Vectivus is teaching them."

Sirius poured Remus a shot of Whiskey and sat back in his chair, "I think Altis wants to trust us we just need to get him over the line."

Remus sipped his whiskey and relaxed back in to his own chair, "And soon because according to Luna and our friendly ghosts the clock is ticking."

Luna shuddered as Harry massaged and then caressed her shoulders his hands warm on her bare shoulders. His presence in the Force and his emotions wrapping around her, caressing her were intoxicating. She shuddered again as he paused and kissed her neck. Years of closeness, companionship, and shared experience had allowed them to grow closer and she had been subtly steering him toward a more intimate relationship. Yet when it happened it was a revelation.

"Luna?"

"Hmmm?"

Harry whispered in to her ear, "I love you," as his hand ran down her side, lightly stroking her ribs, "But it's time for our next training session."

Harry and Luna watched closely as the hologram of Vectivus gestured and summoned Force lightning sending it forth as a burst to strike an unseen target. The small hologram then gave a short lecture on just how to replicate his feat. After a few questions around the strengths and weaknesses of Force lightning, the hologram faded.

Altis watched Harry and Luna being instructed by the holocron and then dutifully practising the concept they had been learning about. From what he had seen of their training, the two of them were
quite skilled duelists. Even if they were not quite up to the standards of full knights. It was their other
skills that left him stunned, the way they manipulated the Force was incredibly flexible and this in
combination with their Force-based training was, well it was a sight to behold.

After a few minutes watching Altis slipped away, he had some thinking to do.

oOoOoOo

Keisha watched Hermione cast the light spell and then copied the motion and incantation but used
her lightsaber as the focus. When the soft glow appeared, Hermione nodded and showed Keisha
how to end the spell.

Hermione smiled as Keisha extinguished the light, "Okay so we know basic charms work well
enough with a crystal focus and we've established that most hex's work as well."

"A good step forward," offered Keisha.

"Indeed," agreed Hermione, "So now we need to work out how we train the others."

Keisha nodded and made some notes on her datapad before stretching and rubbing the small of her
back.

"We can break if you need to," offered Hermione.

Keisha smiled as she answered, "No, I'm okay just a bit stiff, one of the many new and exciting
things I'm learning about pregnancy."

"How are you coping?" asked Hermione her voice gentle.

"Fine, I'm just a bit grumpy, MK says that it's all the hormones and the constant changes playing
through my body. How are you and Ron enjoying sharing your room?" asked Keisha her tone light
and teasing.

Hermione and Ron had been living in separate rooms until Hermione took steps, namely walking to
his room and moving his belongings to her room, ever since she had been waiting for the others to
pass comment.

"It's fine, no great to have Ron on hand. He has been a great help with my…"

"Itches?" enquired Keisha with a smirk and a laugh as Hermione stuck her tongue out.

oOoOoOo

Keisha smiled as she felt a wave of passion followed by a muffled scream from the room next door.
Ron and Hermione were obviously having some 'private time'. Hermione didn't come across that
way but as Remus had said a few nights ago it was the quiet ones you had to watch.

As she sat on her bed, she rubbed her hands over her swelling belly and sighed. She couldn't find it
in herself to regret the conception of her child, no there were no regrets on that count but when she
considered her old master she had begun to realise just what he had taken from her, what he had
stolen. "Thank the Force that I had the good fortune to be rescued by them."

oOoOoOo

Coruscant – Lower City
"Soon Aralina you will be ready to learn more deeply of the Force and of the power of the Dark side. But for now, I want you and a strike force of dark adepts to Bespin and destroy the Jedi enclave. I have sensed a disturbance in the Force around the outcasts located there and it…concerns me. There are new players in my game, seek them out and destroy them."

"Yes Master, it shall be done," replied Aralina.

"Do not underestimate them," warned the cloaked figure.

"I won't Master," replied Aralina as she turned and walked away, disappearing in to the shadows.

oOoOoOo

"Abandon Bespin, but why Master?" asked Ash Jarvee his confusion evident even as a hologram.

"I will explain once you arrive, have all our ships ready to depart as soon as possible. I should be there in the next few days," replied Altis. He wasn't going to say anything about the hidden location of the asteroid base over the 3D network even if it was encrypted.

"See you then Master," replied Ash's holographic figure as he closed the channel.

"When do you think you'll leave?" asked Alissa as soon as Altis turned away from the communications console.

Altis sighed and rubbed his face, "Soon Alissa, I'm worried about the Force vision I was shown. There is something terrible coming and we need to start preparing now if we are going to survive it. Bespin was a great base of operations but it is too well known and I fear that it is too exposed to attack. I'll pull everyone back here and then we can make some decisions about how we shall continue with the training."

"I'll continue training those that stay Master," promised Alissa.

"Those that stay?" inquired Altis with a smile.

"I know you too well," replied Alissa with a wide smile, "You never miss an opportunity to train your students."

"Hmmm, well in this case you are correct, I'll ask Remus, Sirius, and Ron to help me relocate our people from Bespin and yes I'll avail myself of the opportunity to see how far along they are," Altis smiled at his former student. "I'll leave you to work with the others."

oOoOoOo

Altis looked around at the gathered residents of the house," I owe you all an apology." The Jedi master raised his hand to forestall any comments. "I was quick to jump to a conclusion and judged you all harshly because of my own fears and for that I am sorry."

"We understand but from now on in we can't afford to have these misunderstandings, things are too dangerous as they are," warned Harry.

"So where to now?" asked Sirius.

"Well that is up to all of you but I," Altis looked over at Alissa, who nodded, "Sorry we would like to help."

"Help?" echoed Harry.
"Well your people need training and to be frank, you need allies if you want to succeed. I'm willing to offer you the support of those among my people who want to help as well as the training of course. I only have one condition."

Harry glanced over at Luna who was smiling at the older Jedi, "What would that be?"

Altis smiled at the question, "That you consent to train my people as well, Alissa's been telling me about the work you have been doing on how you use the Force,"

Luna smiled at Altis, "I think we can agree with that condition, don't you Harry?"

oOoOoOo

"Harry, could you spare some of your people for my trip to the enclave?"

Harry shrugged, "I don't see why not, do you need all of us?"

"I was thinking of Sirius, Remus, and Ron," Altis replied, "we could use some help getting all the families packed up and aboard the few transports we have and Alissa suggested that your abilities might be useful."

oOoOoOo

"All Systems are operational, we're ready to go," announced Ron from the co-pilot's seat. Behind the two pilots, Sirius and Remus were watching closely as both older men were keen to learn to pilot the Talia.

Altis nodded his acknowledgement as he brought full power, "Alright everyone strap in and let's get underway."

With deft control, Altis piloted the Talia away from the Asteroid belt and prepared the first of two scheduled hyperspace jumps.

oOoOoOo

Harry swayed away from Alissa's counter and gestured, tossing the Twi'lek in to the padded wall even as he kicked backwards eliciting a startled "Ooof" from Hermione as she was sent to the floor. Sensing the next attack he used the Force to jump over the top of Luna as she thrust at his back.

"Stop, well done Harry, now Luna it's your turn in the middle," ordered Keisha.

Luna nodded and replaced Harry in the circle.

For nearly two hours Keisha and Alissa worked Harry, Luna, and Hermione through a vigorous session of combat training designed to test the two more experienced fighters as well as letting Hermione see just how far she had progressed.

After a short break, Hermione and Keisha stepped the others through what their research on using Magic with their lightsabers acting as foci. Hermione was still struggling to replicate some spells but the range of spells available was growing almost daily.

Harry smiled as he watched Keisha gesture with her lightsaber sending a stunner toward Hermione, who shielded with a wave of her wand. Hermione then launched in to a detailed explanation of what they had seen. Sitting next to him Alissa watched on with rapt attention.

Hermione walked over to Alissa, "Want to have a go?"
The Twi'lek nodded a bit hesitantly as she stood to join Hermione.

Hermione offered a reassuring smile as she raised her lightsaber, "Okay I want you to point your lightsaber hilt upwards and concentrate on the outcome you want. In this case, lighting the crystal in your lightsaber while saying the word Lumos."

Alissa nodded and followed the instructions, nothing appeared to happen but a thoughtful look crossed Alissa's face, "I felt something….like a swirl of the Force."

"Try it again," urged Hermione.

"Lumos," intoned Alissa, who was rewarded by a brief flash of light.

Hermione smiled at the Twi'lek's expression of shock, "Well done Alissa, It will take more practice but you have managed your first bit of magic."

Luna smiled and gestured Harry closer, "What do you think?"

"I think they've definitely cracked it, I mean we can do it because we've trained for years to do it more or less wandlessly but using your lightsaber as a focus, that's an act of genius."

"It gives us an advantage," offered Luna.

Harry nodded, "It does and that gives us a greater chance of success."

Luna sighed and squeezed his hand, "I know but then we need every break we can manage. I still feel half trained and I can feel the clock ticking."

Harry knew a dark storm was coming, there would be as Talia and Luna had predicted a terrible time of war. They could minimise the damage but not stop it. Yet with each life saved, with knowledge discovered and preserved they scored a victory against the greater darkness.
A New Order by arturus

Synopsis: A renegade Jedi has a force vision of a pair of powerful Force Sensitives and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

Disclaimer: I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JK Rowling and George Lucas!

Last time:

"I think they've definitely cracked it, I mean we can do it because we've trained for years to do it more or less wandlessly but using your lightsaber as a focus, that's an act of genius."

"It gives us an advantage," offered Luna.

Harry nodded, "It does and that gives us a greater chance of success."

Luna sighed and squeezed his hand, "I know but then we need every break we can manage. I still feel half trained and I can feel the clock ticking."

Harry knew a dark storm was coming, there would be as Talia and Luna had predicted a terrible time of war. They could minimise the damage but not stop it. Yet with each life saved, with knowledge discovered and preserved they scored a victory against the greater darkness.

Chapter 9

Republic Courier Shuttle – Outer Rim Territories

Jedi Master Cin Drallig smiled as he watched his former pupil Serra Keto and Bene his newest Padawan student sparring. Serra was a skilled duelist; perhaps the best he had ever trained but Bene was holding her own, however temporarily. He was proud of Bene who had to be feeling somewhat overmatched and yet continued to seek a weakness in the older woman's defences, back and forth and then it was over as the Padawan found two lightsabers pointed at her neck as her own blade rolled toward her master.

Cin stood and summoned his student's lightsaber off the floor to hand it to its owner. "Well done Bene, your footwork was much improved."

"Thank you, Master, I..." All three Jedi paused looking around before the small transport shuttle they were using suddenly rocked alarmingly; then all three were moving as they ran for the cockpit.

Serra was the first to reach the hatch, which was sealed. Cin immediately tried the intercom, receiving no reply. He was about to use the Force to open the hatch when his former student stopped him.

"Master don't, the cockpit is exposed to space, it's been hulled, badly," Serra warned as she studied the readouts from the small console in the passenger section.

"Are we under attack?" asked Bene.

Serra tilted her head as she searched the Force for enemies, "I don't sense anything hostile, so
probably an accident or a collision."

The Jedi Master frowned and gestured toward the cargo bay, "We still have, light, heat and air so the environmental systems must be working. Serra, see if you can get access to communications, Bene, please do an inventory of what supplies are aboard while I see to engineering."

The news wasn't great. The engines were badly damaged and could stop working with almost no warning and they lacked the parts to make even basic repairs. If those systems failed so would life support and if that happened they would be in dire straits.

Serra returned and reported that she had managed to send a distress signal but was struggling to find a way to receive signals so even if help was on the way they wouldn't know. At worst they could use the shuttles small escape pod but without any real idea of their location, it was a risk they were putting off for now.

oOoOoOo

**The Raptor – Bespin System**

Aralina Silk's long-range shuttle sat motionless in space in high orbit above Bespin with everything but environmental and communications shut down while she meditated awaiting her agent's reports. When the incoming message signal sounded her eyes snapped open.

"Raptor this is Gravis, we have completed the initial sweep and the site information is accurate the enclave is currently occupied although there are some signs that the Jedi are preparing to relocate."

"Relocating?" asked Aralina.

"So it appears, they are packing up their belongings in to cargo carriers and removing a great deal of equipment and supplies."

Aralina had her orders, 'Very well, keep them under observation and prepare to destroy the enclave once I have joined you."

oOoOoOo

**The 'Executioner' - Providence-class carrier/destroyer**

Dooku hid his distaste at having to deal with the cyborg monstrosity that was Grievous, "Your mission is to kill as many Jedi as you can. If we are going to win they must be on the defensive. We must disrupt their operations as much as we can. Do you understand?"

Grievous nodded, "Of course, do you wish me to continue the raids?"

Dooku gestured dismissively, "We want the war to continue so the raids must continue, show them your fist general."

After determining that the cyborg understood, he quickly made his way to the shuttle. He had some time till he next needed to make an appearance to support his 'allies' perhaps a few hours looking over his...."

"We are receiving an automated distress signal, a Republic Shuttle sending the message on several civilian and military channels," reported the Droid pilot.

Dooku was about to order the Droid to ignore it when he felt a ripple in the Force, "Which military
channels?"

"Republic Military channels," reported the droid.

Dooku considered investigating himself for a moment before relaxing back in to his seat, "Open a channel to the Syphion and give Ventress the co-ordinates then set a course for Abu Dreth System," After all his newest student really needed the practice.

oOoOoOo

The Syphion – Outer Rim Territories

Asajj Ventress read the brief message and began entering the coordinates on her Nav comp.

oOoOoOo

Republic Courier Shuttle

Decades of work as a Jedi left Cin Drallig with a highly developed and attuned danger sense and right now the Force was telling him that danger was approaching, "Serra, Bene we have a problem."

"What is it Master?" asked Bene.

"I sense danger fast approaching. Serra take Bene and ready the escape pod," Cin didn't watch them leave instead he closed his eyes and tried to determine the best course of action. He didn't wish to abandon the ship and risk the escape pod but facing the approaching danger in a crippled ship was equally risky.

"Master, the pod, is ready," called Bene from the small cargo hold.

Decision made Cin opened his eyes and quickly made his way to the hold, where his companions waited by the pod, "We must hurry I fear that whatever approaches will not be swayed by logic and we are at a distinct disadvantage here."

Cin pulled a blaster from his belt and made a few adjustments to it before throwing it in to the engine room.

All three Jedi climbed aboard the escape pod but before Serra or Bene could activate the automated navigation system and the pod's small engine, Cin pulled the manual release de-activating the magnetic lock and firing several small gas charges that sent the pod rocketing away from the shuttle.

"Master?" enquired Serra.

"We don't want them attacking the pod, do we? Let them focus on the shuttle while we get some distance between us before we activate the pod."

Serra was looking out the pod's small windows, "Master there is a large field of debris ahead. If we don't change course it should confuse their sensors."

"Excellent, Bene keep an eye out and let us know if anything happens," ordered Cin.

"Master," warned Bene, "a ship just dropped out of hyperspace, I..... by the Force, the shuttle just blew up."

Cin smiled, "I know, I threw an overloading blaster in to the engine room."
A few tense minutes passed by before the other ship disappeared into hyperspace.

Cir turned to his ex-student, "Serra power up the Pod and let's have a look at exactly where we are."

As the Pod powered up, Serra manipulated the controls bringing the basic sensor package online and scanning nearby space, "Okay we are just on the outskirts of an asteroid field and if these spatial coordinates are correct we are in Thanium sector near a planet called Mossak."

"Mossak, I've heard that name before," mused the Jedi Master before shaking his head. "Regardless we need to work out our next step. Apparently, our original distress call was intercepted by the CIS so, this time, I think we'll wait until the right moment."

oOoOoOo

Asajj Ventress cursed as she arrived just in time to see the damaged shuttle ripped apart by an internal explosion, a quick inspection of the debris verified that there could not have been survivors. Her mission completed without her intervention she re-entered the hyperspace coordinates to return to the fleet, after all, she did have more important things to do.

oOoOoOo

After spending several hours meditating Cin sat up as he felt a distant Force presence, several presences in fact and all tied to the light side of the Force, more than likely several Jedi, "Bene, please send a distress signal, the moment has arrived."

oOoOoOo

**Talia – On route to Bespin**

Altis felt a questing presence in the Force a moment before the communication panel lit up, "A distress signal, Ron we need to drop out of Hyperspace."

"On it," replied Ron as he shut down the hyperspace engines.

Altis keyed a channel open, "This is the Talia, a private merchant vessel may we be of assistance?"

"Merchant vessel Talia this is Jedi Master Cin Drallig we are aboard an escape pod in the debris field thirty Keltar off your starboard."

Altis smiled in recognition as he replied, "Very well Cin we'll be there shortly."

oOoOoOo

Cin Drallig smiled as he walked through the airlock and caught sight of Altis, "I knew I recognised that voice."

Altis laughed and offered an exaggerated salute, "Welcome aboard Knight, sorry Master Drallig."

"It is good to see you, Altis, even if you are an unrepentant renegade. Let me introduce Jedi Knight Serra and Padawan Bene, my current duelling student."

Altis smiled at the two women, "Welcome aboard the Talia."

Altis and Cin worked quickly to unload and disengage the Pod, leaving it to drift back in to the asteroids. After storing the equipment Altis led them to the mess.
"Is anybody injured?" asked Altis, "We have a top of the line medical droid aboard."

Cin shook his head thinking about the cost of having a medical droid on a freighter as he answered, "No, no injuries although I would love a cup of something hot. However, before that, I must warn you that we had a rather unfriendly visitor several hours ago."

Altis frowned and hit a com panel, "Ron get us back on course we may have unfriendly ships in the vicinity."

Ron’s replied moments later, "Okay Altis I'm on it. Are our guests all good?"

"No injuries, I'll bring them forward in a minute," replied Altis.

"Righty-oh, we'll be back on route to Bespin in a minute or two," replied Ron.

Cin raised an eyebrow in enquiry, "Your Padawan?"

Altis shrugged ruefully, "Old friend that is a long story and one that will have to wait till later. As you heard we are on route to my enclave on Bespin would that be acceptable for you or is there a requirement for you to be elsewhere?"

"Bespin will be fine, I can organise another transport from there," replied Cin.

"Good, now would you like to meet the rest of the crew?" asked Altis as he felt the subtle change in acceleration that indicated the jump to hyperspace followed by a moment of disorientation.

As they entered the cockpit Altis slipped in to the co-pilot's seat, "Master Drallig, Jedi Serra and Padawan Bene the crew of the Talia," Altis gestured to each as they were introduced, "Ron, Sirius, and Remus."

Ron gave a wave before returning his attention to piloting the Talia. Sirius and Remus however stood and exchanged handshakes.

"Welcome aboard," offered Sirius, "If you like I'll show you to some cabins where you can get some rest or you can take your life into your own hands and I can cook you up a meal."

Cin noticed the older two men were wearing lightsabers and looked over at Altis, who raised an eyebrow in reply, obviously another discussion for later. Right now it was time for a meal and some sleep.

oOoOoOo

**Bespin – Jedi Enclave**

Ash smiled as Altis walked down the ramp, "It's good to see you, Master."

Altis clapped the younger Jedi on the shoulder, "Likewise my young friend, how goes the preparations?"

Ash gestured at the three other ships on the overcrowded landing pad, "We've supplied the Wookie Gunner and the two freighters but I've held off on getting everyone onboard, too many families and well I didn't want to upset the younglings."

"Very well, get everyone together and I'll talk to them. Right now Ash. We need to get moving right now." Ash nodded and hurried off in to a nearby building.
Cin raised his eyebrow as he descended the ramp behind Altis and his crew. What was going on, were Altis and his people evacuating?

Pushing his way forward the Cin tapped Altis on the shoulder as the older man began to walk off, "Altis what's going on?"

Altis turned and looked at the man he'd shared a childhood with, "We received a warning that there may be an attack on the enclave. So I'm pulling all my people and our families out to a, well to a safe location. I'd suggest that you find that transport but something tells me that I'd be wasting my time."

Cin looked concerned, "We should notify the council surely in these circumstances they would…"

Altis stopped him with a shake of his head, "We are outcasts Cin and besides we don't have the time to wait for the Councils decision."

Altis was proud of his people as they accepted his explanation of the situation without a fuss and began their final preparations to depart their homes.

Ron scratched at his newly grown beard, "They took that well."

Remus nodded absently as he watched the Jedi and their families disperse, "Well Altis had warned them so I suppose this was just confirmation for them."

Sirius and Altis walked over followed by the Cin and Serra. Altis gestured toward the ships, "Remus, Ron are you able to help with the loading? We've got several families to get aboard and the medical bay to pack for transport."

The three wizards, much to the open-mouthed shock of the watching Jedi began shrinking equipment down and packing it in to crates which were shrunken down as well. Soon the remaining equipment was packed in to a single featherweight charmed packing crate and stowed aboard the Talia.

"How is that even possible?" asked a shocked Serra.

Cin shot a look at Altis, "A long story indeed."

Aralina watched as the Jedi in the compound began loading their ships in what was obviously a planned evacuation of their base. This would, she mused make an assault slightly more problematical as it meant she would need to strike soon. Turning she gestured to the leader of the Force trained soldiers, "As soon as your men are in position detonate the diversionary charges and then begin the attack. There are to be no survivors, so make sure no one escapes on those ships. Remember these are Jedi so don't underestimate them. Make sure of each kill even if it is a child, understood?"

The dark adept nodded and rejoined his men who almost immediately melted in to the shadows.

Knowing just how efficient the adepts were Aralina moved quickly to the roof of a building overlooking the compound and prepared herself, the Jedi were no match for her forces hampered as they were with children and families to protect.

Sirius looked around in confusion as a loud blast sounded in the distance followed by another and
then a third, much closer to the compound. Unsure of what it meant he immediately slipped his wand in to his left hand and drew his lightsaber. He turned to check on the family he was assisting when a blast nearly knocked him off his feet. Reacting on instinct, he threw up a shield as he looked around seeing the small family he was helping toward the Talia struggling back to their feet. As he looked around, he cursed as he saw black-clad soldiers firing in to the compound. Within moments the Jedi were responding forming a line of defence, protecting the children and non-Jedi from the furious assault.

"Sirius, get the children aboard," ordered Altis as he deflected a blaster bolt away from a huddled child, obviously stunned by the initial blast.

Sirius nodded and picked up the terrified child and ran toward the Talia.

"Sirius, over here," Sirius turned and saw Remus waving toward the Talia.

Ron watched Sirius escorting a family across the exposed ground holding a shield spell to protect them even from here he could see the strain on the older man's face. Deciding that Sirius needed help Ron rushed out from under the Talia and sprinted toward the small group.

oOoOoOo

Altis looked over at the ten Jedi holding a defensive line against the attackers to allow their families and friends to escape, most, however, were still holed up in the main building. Worryingly there were several Jedi down and unmoving and the fire from the hidden attackers was unceasing.

"We need to flush them from cover," yelled Cin as he blocked two blaster shots with a single movement of his lightsaber.

"Agreed, on three, one, two…three," with that Altis, Cin and Serra burst in to motion all three Force leaping onto the roof of the building being used by their attackers. Within moments, they were engaged in a vicious hand to hand fight with a half dozen men all dressed in cortosis weave armour and wielding vibroblades.

oOoOoOo

Aralina watched the three Jedi Force leap and engage her hidden snipers, almost immediately the heavy blaster fire ceased. Raising her hand, she made a sharp gesture sending the last half dozen of her men rushing in to the attack. As the sound renewed fighting reached her, she ignited her red-bladed lightsaber and charged toward the fight. Seeing a young Padawan helping an older knight with several children she angled in that direction.

oOoOoOo

Ron reached Sirius as the older man went to one knee with the strain of holding his shield, "Sirius you okay?"

"Buggered, I….the shooting, it's stopped," observed Sirius.

"Come on then let's get everyone back to the ship," suggested Ron as he went to take the stunned and crying toddler from Sirius.

"No I've got her, you help get the others aboard," ordered Sirius.

"You are just about done in, get going and I'll shield if we need it," seeing the older man hesitate Ron gave him a little push, "Get going."
Rallying the frightened family, Sirius got them moving just as the fighting started again.

Ron looked around seeing one of the black-clad figures moving to intercept Sirius. He quickly cast a stunner and watched as the figure, a woman batted the spell aside. Muttering a curse he cast a Blasting Hex at the woman's feet sending her flying through the air. Turning to follow Sirius to the Talia he didn't see the woman land in a forward roll that ended with her on her feet.

It was at the last moment that he sensed danger and spun lightsaber extended deflecting the blood red blade of his opponent.

Remus helped Sirius get the family aboard and ran back down the ramp. Looking around for Ron he spotted the redhead engaging a lightsaber wielding attacker. Fearing any distraction might prove fatal he drew his wand and lightsaber and ran toward the two combatants.

'Re you're no Jedi boy," hissed the black-clad figure as she stepped forward locking her blade against his.

Ron didn't answer as he struggled to hold his form the crackling of the locked lightsabers was centimetres from his face, so close that he could feel the heat and smell the ozone scent of electrical discharge.

He knew he was in trouble as his opponent began to force the blade downward, worry turned to panic as he realised just how outclassed he was. Knowing that he had to do something to gain some room he whispered a plea to the powers that be he tried a move Luna had used against him and stepped to the side while simultaneously lashing out at her throat with his elbow.

Aralina sensed her opponent's desperation and felt the subtle shift in his position indicating he was about to move, as the redhead sidestepped and tried a throat strike she swayed away from the blow and spun driving her lightsaber through the centre of the Jedi's chest.

Remus watched in horror as Ron crumpled to the ground and with a feral growl he threw himself at the woman impacting heavily as he knocked her off her feet. Remus no longer transformed having escaped the effect of the moon, the trigger to the curse but he retained his enhanced strength and as he advanced on the stunned woman his anger surged and he kicked out as powerfully as he could, connecting with the woman's leg with a loud crack. A second kick sent her lightsaber spinning away and a third shattered her jaw and left the woman unconscious. Ignoring the ongoing fighting he turned back to Ron and dropped to his knees.

"Ron?" whispered Remus as he checked for a pulse with a shaking hand, finding a faint pulse he cast the strongest healing spell he knew "Curatio vulnus, Don't you bloody die Weasley."

Thanks again to the ever-ready Master Beta xraiderv17

I know this chapter is short, it was originally part of a long chapter 8 until I had an attack of sanity
and split it in two, hope you enjoyed it
A New Order by arturus

Synopsis: A renegade Jedi has a force vision of a pair of powerful Force sensitive's and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

Disclaimer: I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

Last time:

"Ron?" whispered Remus as he checked for a pulse with a shaking hand, finding a faint pulse he cast the strongest healing spell he knew "Curatio vulnus, Don't you bloody die Weasley."

oOoOoOo

Chapter 10

Bespin - Jedi Enclave

"Sirius," screamed Remus.

Within moments Sirius skidded to his knees beside Remus, "What the hell happened?"

"He got run through, do you know any healing spells I don't…" Remus trailed off as he looked down at Ron.

Sirius drew his wand and made a complex gesture over Ron, "Vitalas Congelo,"

A faint green sphere formed around Ron before absorbing in to his skin. "What was that spell?" asked Remus.

"It a suppression spell, a very powerful suppression spell that slows his bodies functions. It should last a few hours and that is long enough to get him to MK to patch up." replied Sirius.

Working carefully Sirius levitated Ron and walked him toward the Talia.

oOoOoOo

Bene had been helping the enclaves Jedi defend the compound when the battle suddenly slowed and then seemed to come to a halt. Looking around she spotted her Master talking to Master Altis and several over Jedi, deactivating her lightsaber she looked around and went over to a wounded Jedi and began checking his injuries. He was unconscious and would need treatment for the blaster burns on his shoulder.

"Are you injured Padawan?" asked an unfamiliar voice.

Turning Bene saw a human male in Jedi robes who was carrying a field medkit.

Bene shook her head, "I'm not injured but, he's got some severe blaster burns on his shoulder."

The Jedi knelt done and examined the fallen man and nodded, "Its okay Padawan I'll take him from
Bene nodded and joined several Jedi as they moved around the compound checking both their and the enemy wounded. She checked several of the fallen attackers but they were all dead. Shaking her head at the loss of life she stood and walked over to where a woman dressed in the same black gear as the other attackers lay motionless on the ground. She was only a few steps away when she saw a strange red hilted lightsaber laying on the ground, curious she used the Force to summon it. The uniquely shaped hilt was made of a light weight black alloy and the crystal was ruby coloured, it was an odd weapon for a Jedi, in fact, she had never seen a ruby coloured crystal before.

With a shrug, she clipped it to her utility belt and made her way to the prone figure. The woman obviously had been physically struck across the face and from its odd angle, her leg was also badly injured if not broken. Leaning down to check for a pulse she paused as someone called out.

"Leave her."

The startled Padawan turned to see one of the crew of the Talia, the dark-haired Sirius. Who had a blaster in hand and an expression of barely contained anger on his face, "Step back Bene, she's injured, not dead and she's bloody dangerous."

Bene paused for a moment, was the older man going to shoot the injured woman? "I can't let you attack an injured prisoner," warned Bene.

Sirius shrugged but didn't lower the blaster, "Well seeing as how she nearly killed one of my friends, I thought it would be a good idea to treat the bitch with a bit of caution."

Bene paused at that silently reminding her self that she needed to stay calm and centred, "She is defeated and no longer a threat." As she finished speaking she felt the familiar presence of her master behind her.

"What is going on?" asked Cin as he stood beside Bene.

Bene quickly answered, keeping her voice even, "Master I was trying to treat the wounded and…"

"And I was just about to shoot your prisoner," finished Sirius.

Cin stepped between Sirius and Bene, "Perhaps we can resolve this without further bloodshed, stand down Sirius and I'll make sure she is detained and questioned. She is not a threat anymore."

For a moment it looked as if Sirius was going to make good his plan before he relaxed and lowered his blaster, "She nearly killed Ron so keep it…..keep her away from me and mine."

"Does he need medical assistance?" asked Cin.

Sirius's shoulders slumped "He's in with our medical droid now, It doesn't look too good…..the lightsaber cauterised the flesh and it apparently hit his heart."

"The lightsaber?" asked Cin as he looked down at the fallen woman with narrowing eyes.

"Does anyone recognise her?" asked Altis.

There were shaken heads all around as all those in the small cell studied the unconscious prisoner.

Cin ran his hands through his hair, a rare gesture of frustration from the usually composed Jedi.
Master, "I checked the courtyards security holo-camera footage and all I can determine is that she has been trained, well trained in lightsaber combat."


Altis looked up from the data screen and shook his head, "She has no records at all in the Republic Database or the Jedi archives so I doubt she was ever trained as a Jedi."

"A Force-sensitive trained on some non-republic world?" asked Serra.

"I think she is a Sith or at least allied to them," said Altis quietly.

Tanuri Chiell, one of the senior members of the Altisian Jedi frowned as she studied the unconscious figure, "I can't sense any Force presence at all."

"Which tells us that she has been trained to somehow suppress her aura," said Altis.

A worried Cin looked over at Altis, "Old friend, I'm getting that feeling again. I know that you have more information and I need it, the council needs it."

"That is not my decision to make Cin, but I'll ask," replied Altis.

"The council needs to know what has happened here, I will have to report this," insisted Cin.

"Do as you must, but be careful Cin I have a bad feeling about this."

oOoOoOo

Hermione looked up as the communications panel lit up with a signal from the Talia. Tapping the console she was somewhat surprised to see Remus' face appear.

"Remus how goes the mission?" asked Hermione.

Remus shrugged, "We've had an incident here, the Jedi Enclave was attacked and we have a number of wounded."

"Okay I'll let Harry know, we'll no doubt need to prepare…," Hermione trailed off at the look of concern on her old professor's face. "What is it Remus…oh dear Merlin Ron, its Ron isn't it?"

"He was badly wounded, he's alive but, it's a pretty severe injury," Remus warned Hermione.

Hermione took a deep breath as she tried to centre and calm herself, "When will you be on your way?"

"An hour or so and we'll be underway," promised Remus.

"Okay, I'll let Harry know…"

Remus quickly interrupted her, "Don't worry about that, Sirius has already spoken to him. We are doing everything we can Hermione and we'll be underway soon and this time we'll make a speed run home," Remus raised his hand in farewell as the channel closed.

Almost before she could move the door slid open and Harry and Luna walked straight to Hermione before pulling her in to a three-way hug.

oOoOoOo
Serra Keto handed the Bespin official a small datapad and accepted one in return. The dark-skinned human simply nodded as he pocketed the pad and walked off, disappearing in to the crowd, leaving Serra to make her own way out of the crowded market.

Bribery, grease on the wheel of intelligence gathering, distasteful but needful, even for a Jedi.

Trusting in the anonymity supplied by the large crowd in the market she moved quickly making her way to the small eatery where her companion was waiting.

"Did you get it?" asked Bene as Serra joined her at the small corner table.

"I think so," replied Serra as she quickly scrolled through the information on the pad.

"Have we got the bay?" asked Bene quietly.

Serra slid the pad across the table to Bene, "We have indeed Padawan, landing bay thirty-four B. Finish up and we'll head over and see what we can see."

Landing Bay 34B contained a state of the art long range shuttle. Getting aboard took a lot longer than they had anticipated considering the number and lethality of the ships security protocols and even then ships log and memory core were wiped by the time they had found their way past the last of them.

"This is military grade technology," said Bene as she looked over the control surfaces. Serra gave up on the memory core as she turned to Bene, "And that has to tell us something even if the core is fried."

Bene nodded as she tried the navcomp backup, "Serra I've got some spatial coordinates in the backup."

Serra leaned over, "Any route information?"

"Ahh most of it jumbled and nearly all of its partially erased, I'm not….hold on, these are the coordinates for Coruscant."

Serra frowned and gestured toward the unit, "Make a copy and we'll report in. I think the Council needs to know this. We'll send some technical people to give this ship a full inspection."

"What is happening?" asked Remus as he walked in to the medical section.

Sirius didn't answer as he sat watching MK working on the figure suspended in the Bacta tank.

"Sirius?" asked Remus as he laid a hand on his friend's shoulder.

Sirius didn't turn away from the scene as he answered, "MK didn't sound too positive, his heart has been damaged, badly damaged. It had stopped beating and even with the suppression spell there may have been some brain damage."

"Shit," whispered Remus as he sat with his friend.
"Yeah, shit," replied Sirius.

The sound of the door hissing open was ignored as both men focused on the Medical droid.

"How is he?" asked Altis as he walked in.

Sirius sighed, "Bad, the lightsaber went straight through two chambers of his heart. MK is working on repairing the damage…it doesn't look good."

"Anything at all he needs let me know," offered Altis.

"We will Altis thank….." Sirius stopped talking as the Medical droid backed away from the tank.

"Well?" asked a grim-faced Sirius.

The Medical droid gestured toward a medical readout on the bulkhead, "Master Weasley is in critical need of a heart transplant. His heart and lung tissue have been cauterised and this has led to a number of other systemic failures. I have managed to stabilise his condition temporarily but realistically he needs to be transferred to a major medical complex so an artificial or cloned heart can be implanted. If I were to attempt such a procedure with these facilities the chance of success would be less than ten percent."

All three men were silent for a few moments as they considered the droids words.

Altis was the first to speak, "The medical facilities on Bespin are adequate but for this….I think that we need a second opinion, no offence MK."

oOoOoOo

The Jedi healer shook his head as he read the readout, "I concur with the med droid Master. Most people would have died from that injury already. He needs to be in a top clinic like Republic Central Medcenter."

"Bugger, okay I need to speak to Harry," said Sirius quietly as the healer left.

oOoOoOo

**Coruscant – Jedi Temple**

Yoda's expressive face looked around the room at the Jedi Masters of the Council, "Disturbing this news is, adept at hiding the Sith have become."

Mace Windu nodded, "While the Altisian faction is…..somewhat unorthodox many of us remember Jedi Master Djinn Altis as a competent Jedi. I have no hesitation in trusting his judgment on this issue."

"Decided it is, sending a council member to question this prisoner we must," said Yoda.

Master Eeth Koth gestured to the hologram of Cin Drallig, "Master Cin is on Bespin is he not; surely he could conduct the questioning?"

"It is vital we find out who she is, this may be our chance to finally get some first-hand intelligence on the Sith. She should be brought back to the Temple and questioned," argued Saesee Tiin.

Yoda shook his head, "Worried I am about transporting this Sith, disappear I suspect she would."
Several of the Jedi present exchanged glances, had things really come to this?

Yoda leaned heavily on his stick as he searched the faces of his fellow masters, "Shrouded is the Force, difficult to see ways forward, one thing is Dooku's betrayal, but worry I do about the hidden things we see not."

Mace frowned as he considered Yoda's words, "Where is Altis receiving his information from, it seems remarkably accurate if, as Master Cin Drallig has reported he knew of the upcoming attack on his enclave."

Yoda looked up at Mace, "Hmmm, ask we shall but in this plot our course carefully we must."

Mace turned to the hologram of Master Drallig, "Has Djinn revealed anything about his source?"

The image of Cin turned to look at Yoda, "Not really Master Yoda. He has promised to tell me more but with the attack, there haven't really been many opportunities for us to talk privately and the crew of his ship have been equally close-mouthed."

"Is Altis still using the Wookie Gunner?" asked Master Adi Gallia.

"No he was on a ship called the Talia, a converted merchant ship," replied Cin.

"The Talia, hmmm interesting that is," said Yoda as he sat back in his cushioned chair sharing a look with Mace.

"Indeed Master, the crew were force trained but they were not Jedi nor did Altis claim them as part of his sect," added Cin.

Mace Windu sat forward, "Did you get their names?"

"Sirius, Remus and Ron, all three were Human males," reported Cin.

Yoda looked up at the hologram once more, "Think on this we will Master Drallig and a shuttle we will send to collect this Sith."

Master Drallig nodded and gestured causing an image of a young redhead to appear, "Master Altis has also requested a medical evac for one of the crew of the Talia who was injured. Apparently, he needs emergency organ replacement."

"Let Master Altis know that we will arrange the treatment if he forwards the medical information," said Adi Gallia.

The image of Jedi Master Cin Drallig bowed and disappeared.

"So Harry has new allies," offered Mace as he locked gazes with Yoda.

Yoda nodded slightly "Appears so it does and again thwarted the Sith they have. Perhaps insights they have hmmm?"

"Perhaps but the question should be will they share them with us?" asked Adi Gallia.

Hermione shot up as soon as the first beep sounded almost knocking Luna off the lounge. Activating the channel she found herself looking at the face of Sirius Black.
"Hermione, firstly he's alive, he's not great but he is alive. MK and one of the Jedi healers insist that he needs to go to see some specialists."

Hermione felt her fear recede somewhat, "Specialists?"

Sirius nodded, "They want him in some hospital on Coruscant apparently it's the best in the republic. So we're just about to leave Bespin on route to Coruscant with some Jedi. Hermione, Altis is bringing his ships straight home so if you want he's going to give you a ride back to Coruscant."

"Can I speak to him?" asked Hermione as Luna laid a hand on her shoulder.

Sirius smiled sadly, "He's in stasis for the trip. I know you're worried but we will take good care of him Hermione until you can get here yourself."

Obi-Wan Kenobi leaned back in his pilot's chair and closed his eyes, he felt like he could sleep for a week. Even with the Force flowing through him he was tired. His last mission from the council had been to destroy a separatist factory on Nivek which had turned in to a running battle with the well-equipped locals and at its conclusion, he and Anakin were immediately ordered to return to Coruscant. His tired musing was cut off as his Padawan cleared his throat.

"Master we are about to enter orbit," Anakin's voice sounded amused even through the com system.

"Thank you Anakin, R4 I'll take it now," Obi-Wan advised his astromech droid.

The Temples flight deck was as busy as ever as the two Jedi maneuvered their ships to their assigned docks. As soon as Obi-Wan's ship was settling on to its landing struts R4 began powering down the engines. Moments later he was on the deck where Anakin was talking to the Padawan tasked with maintenance.

"….I think it's the power coupling but if you could work with R2 to run a diagnostic we'll be able to pinpoint it."

"Okay Anakin I'll get on it straight away," seeing Master Kenobi the Padawan inclined her head respectfully, "Master Kenobi, welcome back."

"Padawan Briella," acknowledged Obi-Wan with a tired smile.

"Master Kenobi, Padawan Skywalker, made good time you have," commented Yoda as he walked out on to the landing platform.

"Another Sith not Asajj Ventress?" asked Anakin with some surprise.

Yoda nodded, "Indeed Padawan, being brought here our prisoner is. Perhaps learn about our enemy we might."

Anakin looked surprised, "How did Master Cin manage to capture a Sith"

Yoda shook his head, "An enclave of Jedi was attacked, Master Altis you know of?"

Obi-Wan nodded while Anakin looked somewhat lost, "I thought he had left the order?"

Yoda nodded slowly, "Left the order he has, but in communication with us he has been after meeting
two young Force adepts."

"Two young Force….Harry and Luna?" asked Obi-Wan.

Yoda smiled at Obi-Wan, "Perceptive indeed young Kenobi, many threads weaving together there are, more perhaps we will know when Master Cin arrives."

"Master Yoda, did you want us to be a part of the questioning?" asked Anakin.

"No, another role you will have," promised Yoda.

Coruscant – Beneath 500 Republica

So his operative had failed, doubly failed in fact as she had also allowed herself to be captured. It was particularly disappointing as she had shown a great deal of promise and he had held many plans for such a useful tool, all malice and hate.

Failure and yet not a disaster, Aralina knew nothing he did not want her to know, his identity was secure as were his plans. Yes, he lost one of his squads of dark adepts but they were easily replaced and yet there was a shadow at the edge of his perception, a disturbance in the Force one that he had sensed before. Whoever it was they had apparently thwarted his plans once again. His spy on the Jedi council had been unable to get too close but had managed to ascertain that Aralina was being transported to Coruscant along with a wounded Force sensitive that had been involved in thwarting her mission. Perhaps something could be salvaged from this failure.

"How far out are we?" asked Remus as Sirius walked back in to the small cabin they were sharing on the Talia.

Sirius slumped down to sit on his bunk, "An hour or two, these pilots know better than I do how to fly and with all the Jedi aboard our mystery Sith isn't going anywhere."

"I checked in on Ron," supplied Remus.

"And?" prompted Sirius.

Remus shrugged, "And he is still in stasis, I should contact Hermione and let her know we are about to arrive."

Harry pressed his attack.

Luna merely smiled and used the Force to leap straight, up landing on a small stone ledge toward the roof of the cavern.

Harry knew instantly that he couldn't leap up to the ledge; it was too narrow and with Luna already there it would be all but impossible to even gain his footing but before he could come up with a plan the communications panel beeped. With a gesture he activated the unit.

An image of a worried looking Hermione appeared, "Harry?"

Harry quickly walked over to the unit, "Hermione what is it?"
"They've reached Coruscant and we have just received a message from Altis, his ships are about two hours out."

As Luna moved to stand next to him Harry looked straight in to his friend's eyes, "Okay we'll be up in a minute and Hermione he's where he needs to be and we will get you where you need to be."

By the time Luna and Harry walked in to the main dining area, they found Hermione sitting with Alissa as Keisha conversed with several droids. As Keisha's pregnancy had progressed she began to spend less time training and had taken over more and more of the day to day administration of the facilities. With the imminent arrival of the Jedi from Bespin, she had shown a remarkable degree of skill in directing the myriad of tasks needed to prepare the facilities. The former Padawan looked up as they approached and waved them over.

Keisha gestured toward the three droids, "We're basically ready for our new arrivals and I've made sure that for now anyway, we've put appropriate security around the caverns."

Luna nodded, "Excellent, I think we'll need to be careful about who has access there and the library until we have a chance to talk to Altis."

Keisha glanced over at Hermione, "I've also got everything ready to resupply Altis for a trip to Coruscant."

"Thanks, Keisha," said Harry as he walked over to sit next to a red-eyed Hermione who looked up at him with a wan smile.

"Hi Harry."

Harry reached out and took his friend's hand, "Hey Mione, all packed?"

Hermione nodded absently squeezing his hand, "I'm so worried about him, I…can't lose him like this Harry."

Using the Force Harry projected his love and concern toward his friend, "Have faith Hermione, Ron's stronger than we give him credit for."

Hermione squeezed his hand again, "I know Harry but it's hard not to worry."

1C-32 the Droid in charge of the habitats operations turned away from Keisha "Master Harry, three ships are approaching the habitat."

Harry nodded and made his way to the wall mounted communications panel and opened a channel, "This is Jonex mining operations control, please identify."

"Jonex control this is the Wookie Gunner requesting permission to dock," even over an audio channel everyone could recognise the speaker.

"Bring them in Altis," replied Harry.

Harry smiled at the Bespin refugee's, "Welcome to…well asteroid designated XM whatever isn't that memorable so we decided on Haven. So on behalf of all of us welcome to Haven."

There were smiles as well as curious looks as the newly arrived Jedi and their families took in the dark-haired young man and his blond companion.
Their attention was then drawn to Master Altis as their leader stepped forward to speak, "And a haven it shall be but not just for those of us here today. The attack on our Bespin enclave is an aspect of the war with the Separatists and ultimately a war with the Sith, a war we will get drawn in to regardless of the neutrality we sought to maintain," Altis gestured toward Luna, "Luna is a Seer as was her Master and they have shared with me some of what they have seen of what is to come and it is horrific. Our role will be in part to save what we can, Haven will become a sanctuary. Our hosts are not Jedi but they are Force trained in a way we have never seen before. The second part of our mission is to teach them even as we learn their techniques. I once asked if you were brave enough, committed enough to our vision of what a Jedi should be to leave the Jedi order. Today I ask are you brave enough to challenge your perceptions of the Force."

As he finished Altis stepped backwards allowing Luna to take his place, "We ask no allegiance from you, we want no vows all that we ask is that you approach Haven with an open mind. We value learning and knowledge and we judge a being by its actions not its reputation so we ask you to respect that trust."

"1C-32," Luna gestured to the Droid, "has allocated you all rooms so if you would liaise with him we can start getting you all settled."

"I think that went well," said Altis as he watched his people talking softly amongst themselves as Haven's droids moved amongst them beginning the room allocation process.

Harry shrugged, "The real test will come when they realise just how different Haven really is."

Altis smiled, "I think they'll surprise you Harry."

"Are you sure Hermione?" asked Luna as the brunette pulled a small wheeled case up the main ramp of the Wookie Gunner.

Hermione shook her head, "Really I'm fine, Sirius and Remus are with Ron already and besides you two have enough to do here as it is."

Luna studied Hermione for a moment before nodding, "Okay well you make sure to keep us in the loop and if you need us we'll be there, no arguments."

"Hermione, I thought I felt you coming, you are right on time," said Harry as he appeared in the ship's hatch, "Altis wanted me to let you know that the ship is restocked and ready to go."

"Well I'm ready whenever he is," replied Hermione.

Harry could feel her fear and worry and pulled his friend in to a hug, "Come on I'll show you your cabin."

Jedi Master Mace Windu was silent as he watched Yoda talking to the two Force trained humans who had been escorted in to the council chamber by Cin Drallig. Both appeared to be middle-aged humans at first glance but there was something….off about the quieter one, Remus.

"Harry's teachers you were then?" Yoda asked when the formal part of the questioning about their unusual captive was completed, without any new information coming to light.

Remus smiled sadly, "Once many years ago, I had the privilege of teaching for a short while at
Harry's school but these days I'm the student far more than the teacher." The last was said with more of a genuine smile.

When Yoda looked at him Sirius laughed, "Merlin no, Harry is my godson and right now one of my teachers."

'One of his teachers' thought Mace, Talia is dead who's teaching them now?

"If need anything you do, contact the temple you must," instructed Yoda.

Remus nodded politely, "Thank you Master Yoda."

"One thing more there is," said Yoda seriously, "If Sith she is, some danger there may be for you and your friend."

As Yoda spoke Mace watched both Sirius and Remus share a look.

"We'll take precautions Master Yoda, thank you for the warning," said Sirius.

Yoda frowned, "Assign an escort I would."

Sirius looked surprised, "With all due respect Master Yoda, we should be fine but I would appreciate you keeping an eye on Ron while he's laid up."

"Assign guards we will," Yoda agreed with a nod.

After the two men left to return to the hospital Mace Windu turned his chair to face Yoda, "There is something here we are not seeing, something important."

Yoda gnawed on his glimmer stick, "Hmmm sensed it did you, touched by the darkness he is, touched but not mastered by it. Troubled I am, not sure what I am sensing in the Force. Darkness but not the malignancy of the Sith, strange it is."

Mace frowned as he watched Yoda, "We should have them watched and followed," quickly raising his hand to stop Yoda voicing a complaint, "for their own good. I doubt that the Sith will be pleased with their interference."

oOoOoOo

"They say he'll make it," said Anakin as he watched the human doctors and Med Droids working on the young man on the gurney.

Obi-Wan nodded, "He's very lucky, not one in a thousand would survive a wound like that."

"What do you make of them Obi-Wan?" asked Anakin with a gesture to the two older men standing quietly on the edge of their view screen.

Obi-Wan scratched at his beard which was still re-growing after their last mission, "They seem decent enough people, a little undisciplined but not unlike some Jedi I know."

Anakin looked troubled for a moment, "It surprises me that the council is okay with them just wandering around without the council overseeing them; I mean until recently I didn't even know that the Altisian Jedi existed and now there's another group of Force-trained people running around the galaxy. The archives don't even mention them."

Obi-Wan looked over at the younger man with a slight smile on his face, "Well the council has
always known that there were other Force users out there and not all of them are unfriendly. I've even met a few when I was a Padawan some of the other Force users out there were quite skilled in using the Force in ways we never considered."

"It's just….well actually I don't know why but it bothers me," Anakin looked away from his friend as he spoke his thoughts drifting to Padmé and for a moment he considered other paths he might have taken before he clamped down on those thoughts. The Jedi needed him and the Chancellor relied on him.

oOoOoOo

"Hermione?"

The sound of her name summoned Hermione from her meditation.

Altis smiled reassuringly as he manipulated the controls of the Wookie Gunner, "We're just about to land."

For a few moments, Hermione watched as Altis weaved through the heavy air traffic, "Have you heard from Remus or Sirius?"

"Only a message saying that we will be met when we land," replied Altis, as he banked the ship to starboard, "Which means any minute now because that's our landing bay."

oOoOoOo

Hermione was pretty much operating on autopilot as she was introduced to her guide, a Jedi of a species she wasn't familiar with and whose name she failed to catch. Indeed for the entirety of the short journey to the medical facility she was focused on her concern for Ron. It wasn't until she saw him suspended in the Bacta tank that she managed to focus on the world around her again. Finally noticing Altis talking quietly to Remus as Sirius talked to a human dressed in white.

"…and the surgery went very well. We have absolutely no fear now in saying he'll make a full recovery."

Realising that Hermione had not been listening, Sirius draped an arm around Hermione's shoulder and gestured to the middle-aged human, "Thank you Administrator Tharron, I think we'll just sit with Hermione for a while and let it all sink in."

The small man smiled and nodded, "Of course, of course, and if you need anything please let one of my staff know."

"It's going to be okay Hermione," said Sirius giving her shoulders a squeeze.

"He looks better than I thought he would," whispered Hermione.

"He's on the mend, it will be a long road but he'll be okay," Sirius said giving Hermione's shoulder a final squeeze before leaving her at the viewing window.

"Think she'll be okay?" asked Remus as Sirius joined him.

Sirius looked over to where Hermione was standing motionless as she gazed in to the treatment room, "I think so….. I hope so."

oOoOoOo
Harry swayed away from Luna's thrust even as he wandlessly cast a blasting curse at her chest which missed as she continued her forward motion and gestured deflecting the curse away.

"Hold," ordered a voice behind them bringing to an end their forty minute duel.

Harry and Luna turned to look at the translucent figure standing behind them as the Force ghost of Talia Tal-Shin smiled at her two former apprentices, "I'm so proud of how far you've come, how hard you have worked. You are skilled and in touch with the Force my beloved apprentices."

Both Harry and Luna kneeled with bowed heads in acknowledgement of her praise.

Talia gestured or them to rise, "Your powers continue to grow but all too soon the time foreseen will be upon us and you must be ready to act, fully trained or not. The dark is ascendant and soon it will crush the Jedi. You are surrounded by enemies my apprentices and have but a little time to save what you can so that it is not lost."

Luna looked up at her former master, "We had thought to use Haven as a sanctuary for those we could save, shepherded by Altis and his people."

Talia nodded, "Altis is a good man and a good choice for a shepherd."

Harry continued for his mentor, "But it is our role to seek out those we need to save."

"Not an easy task," warned Talia "But your first task is harder; you must identify your enemy."

"You don't know?" asked Harry.

Talia shook her translucent head, "No beloved they remain hidden, well save Dooku and I know only that he is no Master. It is vital you know who your enemies are"

Harry glanced over at Luna and then looked in to Talia's eyes, "We're ready Master."

oOoOoOo

On his security console, Obi-Wan watched the small group talking for a few moments before they slowly left the room turning to Anakin, "They look to be turning in for the night, well all of them except the young woman, Hermione she looks to be settling in."

Anakin frowned at the external monitors for a moment before adjusting the feed and turning to his former master, "They seem a tight-knit group."

"Yes and it's clear that Master Altis is involved with them they greeted him as a friend. I…something is wrong," Obi Wan reported as he felt a sudden presence in the Force, a dark presence.

Anakin cursed as his panel was suddenly filled with static, "The external senses are being jammed but I caught a glimpse of a ship."

Obi Wan gestured at the wall, "Get next door and defend it, I'll check out the exterior sen…."

A large explosion rocked the room and blew in most of the external wall showering both Jedi with debris and knocking them to the floor, "Go Anakin," ordered Obi Wan as he pulled himself to his feet and drew his lightsaber.

Anakin didn't acknowledge the order as he used the Force to slam open the door, leaving the room with Force assisted speed.
The corridor was a mess as stunned and injured medical personnel lay among the wreckage; cursing again Anakin almost blew the door off its hinges with a Force push as he charged in to the recovery ward. He was just in time to see two destroyer droids open fire on one of the people he was tasked to protect.

For Hermione, her recent training took over as she rolled and hastily raised a shield even as she drew her lightsaber to faceoff against the two Mark II droideka that immediately opened fired even as their shields blossomed in to place.

Anakin took in the scene and leapt in to action, engaging one of the droids trying to deflect its blaster cannon bolts back at itself or its companion. Initially, he had feared that he was too late to help Hermione but the young Force-sensitive was calmly maintaining some sort of shield as she deflected blaster shots with her lightsaber and tried to edge closer to the shattered wall, no doubt to protect her helpless friend. One of the deflected shots went through the hole in the buildings outer wall and this gave him an idea.

Raising his voice he called out to the younger human, "Get clear," as he used a massive Force push to shove the shielded droid out through the shattered wall and in to the night. The Droid didn't have time to react as it disappeared and plummeted out of sight.

The second droideka now had two separate targets and chose to engage Anakin which gave Hermione the opportunity to attack the droid with magic. With a quick incantation and a gesture, she sent a thin blue beam of light at the droideka which to Anakin's astonishment passed straight through its shields to strike the droids 'head' and sending electricity arcing over the droids limbs and more importantly disrupting its shield. Anakin took immediate advantage and with two swift strokes of his lightsaber the droideka was destroyed.

\[oOoOoOo\]

With narrowed eyes Obi Wan watched the shuttle hovering near the destroyed outer wall without hesitation the Jedi Master squeezed through the remains of the wall and dropped to the ledge running along the outside of the building. With a simple Force jump he landed on the roof of the shuttle even as a droideka went flying through the space above his head. No doubt Anakin's work mused Obi-wan with a smile as he moved toward the top hatch.

Anakin could sense it now, a familiar if unwelcome presence, Asajj Ventress. Raising his lightsaber he used the Force he tried to sense the darksider.

\[oOoOoOo\]

As much as Asajj Ventress loathed the Jedi and Skywalker in particular, she had to admit that he was skilled. The young Jedi and his female companion dealt with the two droideka easily enough. Luckily they had still served their purpose and distracted the Jedi enough to allow her to reach her quarry.

With a swift movement, she tossed the unconscious human over her shoulder and threw a thermal detonator in to the bacta tank and another against the far wall before summoning her personal shuttle with the remote on her wrist. With three quick steps, she reached the gap in the wall even as a scream sounded behind her.

\[oOoOoOo\]

Hermione rushed Anakin making for the gap in the shattered wall between the two rooms. She managed to squeeze through before Anakin could catch her. Cursing he squeezed through the same
gap just in time to hear Hermione scream and see Ventress leap out through the shattered wall with Ron over her shoulder.

He was about to follow the darksider when the room exploded.

Obi Wan moved quickly and silently as he tried to override the seal on the hatch. He could always cut his way in but without knowing what was awaiting him stealth was the safest approach. He had just about done it when an explosion sent him tumbling from atop the shuttle. It was only his quick reflexes that allowed him to gain a handhold on the ledge of the building as the shuttle rocketed skyward.

Keisha was talking quietly with Alissa when Harry and Luna walked out of the training caverns dressed in their almost uniform of black and grey and were kitted it with their specially designed holsters.

"What is it?" asked Keisha as she sensed something of their intentions through the Force.

Luna smiled as she took the heavily pregnant teens hand, "We've been given our marching orders."

"When do you leave?" asked Alissa.

Harry gestured toward the landing dock, "Talia stressed that our window of opportunity was small so I can't really see any reason to delay."

Luna gave Keisha's hand a squeeze, "That and we need to travel to Coruscant to see Ron and the others before we drop out of sight for a while. We'll stay in contact of course but we may be away for a while although we will try to make it back for the birth."

"Not quite the Talia is it?" commented Harry as he began the preflight checks on the small two-person shuttle that had originally been used by one of the Jedi's old cruisers.

"No, but it will get us to Coruscant," replied Luna as she finished entering their course in to the nav-comp.

With a smile, Harry keyed his mike, "Haven flight control, this is shuttle one requesting a departure."

"Harry this isn't a commercial spaceport," replied Alissa from Haven's small control room.

Harry laughed as he replied, "Just keeping you on your toes control, we are ready for departure."

"We will stay in touch Alissa," promised Luna.

"Make sure that you do," said Alissa. "May the Force be with you both….hold something is….We've got Sirius on the Vid, there was an attack on the hospital."

"What happened?" asked Harry.

"Hold on I'll patch him through to you," replied Alissa as dishevelled and dirty Sirius appeared on their screen.
"Harry, it's a real fucking mess here," reported a grim-faced Sirius.

"Are you hurt?" asked Harry as he took in his godfather's appearance.

Sirius shook his head, "No Moony and I are fine, Hermione was a bit knocked around when the room exploded, it's Ron, he's missing. Someone abducted him straight out of the bloody hospital."

Harry felt a strong urge to punch the wall, "Shit….okay Padfoot, please keep an eye on Hermione, we'll be there as soon as we can."

"I have a bad feeling about this Harry," said Luna quietly after the channel closed.

"So do I love so do I," acknowledged Harry.

oOoOoOo

"You have him," said the distorted image on the viewscreen, the tone indicated that it wasn't a question.

"Yes Master."

The image with its face shrouded in shadow nodded, "Good, bring him to me."

oOoOoOo

Another chapter done!
A New Order by arturus

Synopsis: A renegade Jedi has a force vision of a pair of powerful force sensitive's and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

Disclaimer: I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

Last time:

"You have him," said the distorted image on the viewscreen, the tone indicated that it wasn't a question.

"Yes Master."

The image with its face shrouded in shadow nodded, "Good, bring him to me."

oOoOoOo

Chapter 11 - A New Order

"Harry we are just coming out of hyperspace," reported Luna as she touched him on the shoulder.

Harry dropped out of his meditation and looked out the small cockpit window as they returned to relativistic space. The centre of the Republic lay was a very busy point in space and they were kept busy as they brought the shuttle in to land at a public spaceport near a large residential centre. Both were dressed as merchant fleeter with blasters strapped on their hips and their lightsabers hidden by concealment spells.

"Where first?" asked Luna as she looked around

"Let's find somewhere a bit out of the way and get in contact with the others," suggested Harry as he glanced around the busy landing area.

"Let's head for that bar," said Luna as she spotted a sign on the other side of the open walkway.

The bar was a dive but perfect for their purposes as it was nearly deserted. Luna took a table at the back of the room while Harry walked to the droid at the bar and purchased two drinks before walking back over.

"I couldn't sense anyone and this place just has the basic security surveillance package around the bar area, unfortunately, its now malfunctioning," said Harry as he sat and slid Luna a drink she wouldn't be touching.

Luna nodded and pulled out a communicator and punched in a twelve digit code before holding the unit to her ear, "Sirius its Luna we have arrived and we'll check in later. Give Hermione our love."

Harry looked around again before pulling out his wand, "Point me, Ronald Weasley."

Harry's wand spun listlessly for a few moments before Harry ended the spell.
Luna looked out the small dirty window trying to sense Ron within the Force. There was a presence but Coruscant was so cloaked in the Dark side of the Force it was impossible to tell where that presence was located.

After another futile attempt with the point me spell Harry re-sheathed his wand, "Damn so it's plan B time, let's go."

"Plan B?" repeated Luna with a touch of amusement in her voice.

Harry cleared his throat, "Yes plan B."

"Do we actually have a plan B?" asked Luna innocently.

By the time they had reached their ship, they had a plan B.

Harry looked a bit sceptical as he watched Luna settle down on her knees, "Are you sure this will work?"

Luna shrugged her expression serious, "No, but we are running out of time and options if they take Ron off-world we may never track him down."

Harry nodded even though Luna had shut her eyes and missed the gesture. He trusted her judgement but this was something she had only tried in a controlled environment. Darth Vectivus had called it Dark Sight and had cautioned against overusing it. In theory, Luna would be boosting her seer abilities, amplifying her skill by fueling it with emotion. Therein lay the risk, using Dark Sight slowly corrupted the user as they essentially became Dark side conduits. Harry knew Luna was strong-willed and their training had been around how to use their abilities safely and when to avoid using them at all. Right now this was required so his role became to watch Luna and be prepared to break her trance should he sense the dark gaining ascendancy.

As she slipped further in to the meditative trance Luna began to extend her senses. As Harry knelt by her side he could feel the tendrils of Dark Side energy as it swirled out from Luna seeking out the unique Force presence that was Ron.

LiMerge Power building - The Works - Coruscant

Ron awoke naked and strapped to a metal table. He tried to move but pain forced him to remain still. He tried to centre himself and connect with the Force but with pain coursing through his system he wasn't able to maintain it for more than a moment or two.

"You have been injected with a synaptic inhibitor so you will find it quite painful to move."

Ron managed to master the pain enough to turn his head toward the voice. He could just make out a figure sitting in the shadows, "W….who…"

"I have questions that need answers my new friend and soon you will give them to me," the shadowy figure stood and was replaced by a non-humanoid shape, an oddly shaped sphere that hummed ominously as it approached.
Luna found her new awareness somewhat disconcerting it felt like she had a thousand eyes all looking at different things from different angles. Concentrating she began to seek out the unique Force presence that was Ron.

Then she caught a slight, familiar waver in the Force, an echo of pain and fear. Luna followed it through the sea of life forces that was Coruscant she followed the faint thread until she came to a featureless steel room.

Ron was unconscious but alive that much she could sense, looking around she memorized the room and drew back her awareness until the building, a warehouse or factory of some sort came in to view, the LiMerge Power building.

Luna opened her eyes and shuddered as negative emotions churned through her. Anger at Ron's torture; fear for him, hatred of the animals that had….and then Harry was with her.

Luna felt a calming presence as Harry lent her the strength to regain control of herself.

As she opened her eyes Luna looked in to the worried face of Harry, "Harry?"

Harry seemed to relax after a few moments, "Your eyes Luna for a second they were ringed with amber, they've changed back now."

Knowing what he feared Luna touched his hand and Force projected her love for him, "I am me my love."

Looking relieved Harry nodded, "Did you find him?"

"Yes, he's being held in what looks like an abandoned factory, whatever it is now the place is a vortex of Dark side energy. We need to get him soon."

Harry quickly got Luna to walk through the room's appearance before he closed his eyes for a moment, "I don't like it, something is off with that setup. You don't abduct a victim and leave him alone in a huge room. I'd suspect it's quite heavily guarded."

"I didn't sense anything but the room was rife with Dark side energy, perhaps they are concealed the Force knows Dark siders are good at it."

Harry nodded, "So do we wander in to the spider's lair?"

"I'm pretty comfortable with the layout I'll apparate us in. We grab Ron and apparate out."

"Sounds like a good plan."

oOoOoOo

Darth Sidious watched the monitor in fascination. The human it showed was by every measure a standard human male, a Force sensitive of course even if he wasn't a Jedi. What was different was the strange Force presence he had. Not overly powerful but different enough that he could sense it. So far he had remained unbroken but he was close and the interrogation droid had recorded a few interesting answers. A pity the subject had been so weak on arrival, it delayed the process. The Sith Lord was about to instruct the droid to sedate the subject when two figures appeared out of nowhere, right in the centre of the room.

The male immediately attacked the droid destroying it while the female worked to free the subject. The automated defences activated but the male intruder simply gestured and activated some sort of
Sidious started to stand even as they freed the boy, the male disappeared with his prize followed by the female who had paused for a moment to smile insolently at the camera and offer a small, jolly wave.

The Dark Lord of the Sith sat back down in shock. The technology they had used to raid his facility was incredible enough but the fact that they had found it was frightening. How had they done it? With a silent hiss of frustrated anger, he stood and walked quickly toward his personal transport. This facility was now compromised and it was time to abandon it and see to it that nothing remained that could help his enemies. As his droid piloted shuttle pulled away he touched the single button on a simple device and far behind dozens of volatile Thermite charges ignited.

Another button activated a small communication screen and opened a secure channel which was answered almost immediately, "There has been an unforeseen setback, contact your students I have a new mission for them," the figure looked at the small sealed unit that held the tissue samples he had collected from his former prisoner.

Yoda smiled at his visitors, "Good to see you once more it is."

Harry smiled and sketched a bow for the Jedi Master, "Thank you Master Jedi."

Yoda smiled and waved his hand at Harry and the others, "So formal you are, your Master I am not, less familiar you can be."

Harry nodded toward the diminutive Jedi Master, "Thank you for the medical treatment for Ron."

Yoda gestured toward the medical bay where Ron was being treated by a medical droid and fussed over by a relieved Hermione, "An amazing rescue it was, how you found him, like to ask you I would."

Harry was expressionless as he considered Yoda, "Luna found him while she was in a Force trance."

Yoda frowned for a moment, "Hmmm," Harry could almost feel the Jedi's suspicion.

Luna gestured toward Ron, "Ron is our friend Yoda and we were not going to leave him in enemy hands."

Yoda considered the group of Force users for a moment before inclining his head in acknowledgement of the end of that line of enquiry.

"There was someone else there Yoda, someone powerful and absolutely surrounded by the Dark side of the Force," Luna frowned for a moment before she continued. "I've never seen a living being so out of balance in the Force, it was like a black cloud of Dark side energy."

Yoda considered Luna's words for a moment. Was there a powerful Sith on Coruscant and exactly how well placed were the Sith amongst the Republic's power structure? More and more evidence seemed to imply there was. Odd military grade ships, Sith trained assassins, raids countered, strange reversals of political positions. Even the Sith they had captured, a potential intelligence coup had been a failure as she had somehow committed suicide once placed in her cell.

The door hissed open to reveal a smoke-stained Obi-Wan accompanied by Mace Windu.
Obi-Wan acknowledged the others with a nod before turning to Yoda, "Master the building in question has been destroyed by a fire."

Yoda's eyes narrowed for a moment before he turned to Mace, "A new problem we have."

Mace frowned as he considered Yoda's words, "It is beginning to look like there is a Sith on Coruscant."

In the end, it was decided that Hermione, Remus and Sirius would accompany Ron back to Haven. To say Sirius was unhappy was an understatement, "Bloody hell Harry, where the hell are you running off to now?"

Luna gestured and cast a silencing charm around them before nodding to Harry, "Before we left Haven we were informed that time is running short and we needed to identify our enemy if were to succeed with our plans."

"And" added Luna, "We need to start searching out Force sensitive's to recruit to our cause. We won't be able to save everyone but there are people we are going to need."

"How do you plan to do that?" asked Remus.

Harry gestured to the large window, "We start right here by tracking down the Sith on Coruscant because whoever it is they are aware of us and that is a problem. Well, that and the fact that the Rule of Two that the Sith follow doesn't preclude them training Force sensitive's as assassins and soldiers."

"Like the one that nearly killed Ron," said Hermione with quiet intensity.

Luna nodded, "Yes and the one that abducted Ron, I don't think they are true Sith but that hardly matters if some Sith is controlling them."

"What will the rest of us be doing then?" asked Sirius.

Harry put a hand on his godfather's shoulder, "You will be completing your studies as well as helping us find those we need as well as helping train those that we send to Haven. Altis and Keisha will need help running Haven as well so don't worry you'll be busy."

Luna smiled at them before turning to Hermione, "Your work cataloguing the knowledge in the Holocron's and in the scrolls and books we have is still critical if we are to educate a new generation of Force Adepts."

Sirius exchanged a look with Remus before sighing, "Okay I accept that it's important stuff but….look just try to be careful, for me."

"Thank Merlin for conjuration," said Harry as he ran his hands along the side of the brand new YZ-775 Light Freighter he had just purchased from the main Corellian Engineering Corporation dealer on Coruscant.

Luna grinned at Harry, "You realise that without a ministry of magic you and I could be filthy rich after an hour or two's work?"
"Why would we need to be rich?" asked Harry as he continued to study the ship.

Luna rolled her eyes and went back to studying the ship's specs on her data reader. Harry and Luna had spent an hour or so in the morning checking out jewellers, or more importantly their products. They had then spent another couple of hours conjuring Amaralite gemstones to sell. Overall they had netted more than enough to buy the light freighter. A ship big enough for their needs and unlike the Talia it had been fitted with some significant aftermarket weaponry.

Luna finished scrolling through the specs and pocketed the reader. Harry had disappeared from view and it took her a few moments before she found him examining the weapon mounts, "Can we head in for a moment?"

With a nod, he followed Luna up the ramp in to the brightly lit interior and watched her cast a silencing charm on the area surrounding them.

Luna sat on the simple padded bench and gestured for Harry to sit next to her; as he sat down she put her head on his shoulder, "Sooo what now?"

Harry smiled as he took her hand, "Well now we wait for the Sith to show their hand."

"You think they know where we are?" asked Luna.

"Considering everything that has happened do you believe they don't?" asked Harry in return.

"So we wait for them to come to us?"

Harry nodded and kissed Luna's hand, "I don't want to lead them to Haven and we know the Sith have eyes here. Hell, we just grabbed Ron out from under their noses they'll be after us."

Luna slipped her hand in to Harry's tunic as she replied, "Okay so we hand around being seen and poking our noses in to dark corners and shadows while we wait for the bad guys to turn up."

"Pretty much," replied Harry somewhat distractedly as Luna's hand worked its way up his torso.

Luna tilted her head to kiss Harry's neck, "How about we check out our cabin?"

"What are they doing?" asked Anakin in frustration.

Harry and Luna had been engaged in a seemingly random pattern of activities. Shopping, hanging out in bars, searching the public data banks and buying a brand new transport ship, an expensive top of the line armed transport. For the two Jedi shadowing them, it was rather frustrating.

"They are not being particularly subtle about their activities," commented Obi-Wan neutrally.

"Like disappearing back to their ship to rut like nerf's every few hours," Anakin muttered to himself. Obi-Wan turned to look at his Padawan with a thoughtful expression, "I think I know what they are doing and I think we need to contact Master Yoda."

"Hmmm attempting to draw the Sith out you think they are?" asked Yoda.

Obi-Wan nodded, "It's the only thing that makes sense master. They are going through the motions
of investigating something very visible in an attempt to make them a target."

Yoda closed his eyes and tried to sense something from the Force, a nudge toward a possible future and was once more defeated by the swirling blackness of the Dark side, "Bold they are but dangerous their plan is. Trust them I do, still watch them we must, ready to intervene we must be."

Obi-Wan nodded, "We will keep an eye on them. Master Yoda?"

"A question you have?" asked Yoda.

Obi-Wan glanced at Anakin before returning his gaze to Yoda, "Master Yoda do you believe there is a Sith Lord on Coruscant?"

Yoda turned to look out the Jedi temples large windows for a few moments before replying, "Blind we have been, your Master Qui Gon warned us he did, listen we did not. Dooku betrayed us but believe we did not. A Sith there is I think but divided the council is."

"Should we notify the chancellor's office, I mean he should be warned," Anakin added with concern for his friend evident in his voice.

Obi-Wan frowned at his Padawan's obvious concern for a politician, a particularly powerful and manipulative politician, "Anakin what if the Sith is a member of the chancellor's staff or one of his trusted senators?"

Anakin looked torn for a moment before nodding, "I understand Master."

Nimeah Tral studied the two humans from the shadows of the small alcove concealed by a Force Cloak. They were talking quietly to a street vendor, questioning the merchant. They didn't look to be that much of a threat but her Master's orders were very clear, find them and determine their numbers and defences. Nimeah knew she was one of her Master's most trusted spies. She had been taken as an orphan from the streets of her homeworld, one of the first Force sensitive's to be trained as a spy and killer and she had excelled.

As the two humans moved off she moved to follow, all the time maintaining her cloaking field. They were rather inept at concealment and made only a token attempt to throw off anyone following them. To a Sith trained spy and assassin, it was pathetically easy.

"Is she still following us?" asked Harry as he made his way through the crowds.

Luna nodded, "I can still sense her and I just caught a fuzzy reflection in a shop window."

"Sloppy of her and good for us," said Harry with a grin.

Luna and Harry moved randomly through the streets, lifts and walkways of Coruscant headed back toward their ship. Luna could still sense the woman following them even if they only caught an occasional glimpse of the visual distortion that their training told them indicated the presence of a Force-based cloak.

As they approached their landing bay Harry gestured at their ship, "I think straight to the ship, I'll activate the ward array and then we will see what our blurry friend may know."
Nimeah watched as her targets walked straight in to a large newly built freighter. Both had done nothing to indicate they were aware of her presence but her training had instilled both skill and wariness. She quickly sent another coded message before moving slowly toward the rear of the ship, making sure to keep the main hatch in sight.

Harry disillusioned himself before apparating to a spot twenty meters from the ship. After a moment he could just make out the distortion field near the rear of the ship. Taking careful aim he began casting a string of stunners in to the centre of the distortion field. In their wake was a crumpled figure. Harry quickly moved to the figure and checked it was breathing before taking hold of her arm and apparating them both in to the ship.

After dispelling his disillusionment spell he searched the youngish looking woman removing a blaster and several pieces of equipment while Luna stood guard.

"Bind her Harry," ordered Luna.

Harry nodded and then conjured ropes to bind their prisoner.

Luna revived their prisoner and Harry stepped forward in to the woman's line of sight, "We don't have a lot of time Miss so would you care to tell us who you are."

Silence

Harry sighed and knelt down to face the bound woman, "Let me explain a bit better, you are working for a Sith and you have most likely had some training because your aura is nearly black despite your pretty face. We need information that you have and I need it now so start talking." Harry was using as much Force persuasion as he could but the woman's defences against the mind trick were holding.

"You won't trick me Jedi," hissed the woman.

"Luna she's all yours," said Harry as he stood and stepped back.

Luna knelt and touched the woman's face and closed her eyes trying to use Force empathy but again the woman's mental shields held and Luna got nothing but a feeling of fear mixed with anxiety and a sense of victory.

Luna shook her head and looked up at Harry who nodded; they had discussed this and the risk of using the dark side ability known as knowledge draining. It had been used by Sith to extract knowledge out of a sentient without his or her consent. It was painful and had many risks. By nodding Harry was leaving the decision in Luna's hands.

Summoning her strength Luna reached out and placed both her hands on the woman's face and instead of skimming she dove in shattering the Sith's defences and entering her memories. Hundreds of images sounds and smells assaulted her awareness as she battled her way through trying to find what they needed. There a face…in shadows and associated with power….fear and pain…..a meeting in the Senate, a name….Darth Sidious, Sith Lord. The pain was growing as she struggled to keep up the Force connection with an unwilling participant and then it happened, the connection snapped. For a moment Luna was nearly blinded by a backlash of pain.

"Are you okay?" asked Harry as he helped Luna sit up.

Luna glanced at the unconscious form of Nimeah, "Harry, get a message to Obi-Wan, we need to
warn the Jedi, I think that the Sith we are after is a senator."

**Jedi Temple**

Yoda truly enjoyed the time he had in the classroom, Padawan learners were open to new experiences and embraced them with passionate dedication. He was just about to demonstrate using the Force to sense hidden movement when the door slid open to expose Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker.

Obi-Wan bowed to Yoda and then the room, "I'm sorry to interrupt Master but we have had a development with our mission."

Yoda turned to his students and tapped his glimmer stick on the ground, "Padawan's through the practice forms you must move, return I will."

As the Padawan's began moving through the first of the practice moves that would eventually lead in to the first of the Lightsaber forms Yoda gestured for Obi-Wan and Anakin to follow him from the room.

"News you have?" asked Yoda.

Obi-wan handed Yoda a small datapad, "Yes Master, Harry and Luna have sent a message saying they have information for us."

Yoda read the brief message, "Investigate you must, answers we must have."

---

Count Dooku inclined his head toward the flickering hologram, "Master?"

"My agent has found them; Send in your Dark acolytes and remember I want them taken alive."

Dooku keyed an entry into his own datapad, "It is being done."

---

"They're on the way over from the Temple," reported Harry.

"Good I…: Luna froze for a moment before turning to Harry, "We're in danger."

Harry nodded, "I know I can feel it too, three of them," turning he cast a disillusionment charm on the bound prisoner and as she shimmered out of sight the hatch crumpled inward and two figures burst through the opening. Harry immediately moved to engage the first as the second charged past him targeting Luna.

---

Asajj Ventress watched as her the two dark acolytes leapt in to the ship to confront the two Force-sensitives within. She was about to join them when two familiar Force presences entered her awareness, "Skywalker and Kenobi."

Looking around she spotted a small speeder approaching at high speed with narrowed eyes she drew her lightsaber and prepared herself, here chance to get even with the two Jedi who had ruined so many of her missions.
Anakin turned to Obi-Wan as he pushed the speeder to full speed, "Something is wrong," he offered in explanation as he spun the speeder in to steep dive just missing an ascending freighter.

"Anakin…" warned Obi-Wan as they shot through two approaching ships, navigating a space most pilots would be hard pressed to copy at low speed.

"Sorry Master but it's the…" Anakin smoothly took the speeder through an inverted spin.

"…traffic in this section lot's of slow commercial vessels."

A slightly green Obi-Wan was about to launch in to a speech about foolish flying when he sensed a familiar Force presence, Ventress.

"Anakin by the freighter, Ventress," warned Obi-Wan as he undid his restraints and clutched his lightsaber

"I see her," acknowledged Anakin as he slowed the speeder enough to allow Obi-Wan to leap from the cockpit and land on his feet in front of Ventress while Anakin cut the engines and let the speeder slam hard in to the ground as he Force leapt to land beside Obi-Wan.

Ventress drew her red-bladed lightsabers and ignited them, "Two more to the slaughter then Master Jedi."

As the Darksider said Jedi she attacked with one blade lancing toward Obi-Wan who was forced to spin away from the thrust while the other slashed toward Anakin forcing him to block the red-hued lightsaber.

Anakin countered only to have Ventress Force jump over his head, spinning to land behind Obi-Wan who she re-engaged. Anakin had to concede that it was a brilliant move as it put Obi-Wan between them and in the large open area she could keep use the space to avoid having to face them both at once.

Obi-Wan traded blows with Ventress who seemed more determined to defend rather than attack, an attitude reinforced when Anakin rejoined the fight and Ventress used an acrobatic Force maneuver to again reposition herself forcing the two Jedi to close and attack. Obi-Wan held back for a moment as Anakin attacked again only to find his opponent determined to parry and disengage. Something was not right it was like she was trying to delay them and draw them away from….Obi-Wan looked around the landing bay and took in the buckled hatch on the ship and the faint sounds of combat from within it and realised her plan, "Anakin the ship she's delaying us."

Anakin heard Obi-Wan's warning and saw his opponent's eye's narrow in anger before she unleashed a flurry of strikes on him.

oOoOoOo

Norellian Sahl ducked under a frighteningly quick attack from the Padawan facing her. She had been a Jedi ere her eyes being opened to true Force mastery and she had immediately made the assumption that the human teenager had been a Padawan learner; her counterattack had dispelled that idea. True to her new Master's teachings she could feel her anger rising up; giving power to her moves adding grace and deadly speed to her attacks but it wasn't enough. The Jedi simply battered her attacks aside and retaliated with counters that were not easily blocked. Growing more concerned she backed away and raised her left hand summoning all her hatred and fear to cast Force lightning at the blond.

The blond simply raised a hand and deflected the attack straight back at her, "Nooooo…arrghhhhh," pain coursed through the fallen Jedi as her own attack struck her sending her crashing in to the
bulkhead. She managed to raise her head just in time to see a lightsaber as it descended.

Tol Skorr watched as Norellian rushed past to engage the female target, his own opponent was a teenager dressed in a strange almost military uniform of black and grey, still the lad had a lightsaber so he would need to be disarmed. He raised his own weapon in salute and launched himself at the boy with a vicious Ataru based attack designed to quickly beat down an opponents defences. By his third blow, he was in trouble.

The boy was quick and agile and his lightsaber form, apparently a blending of Ataru and Djem So with a strong defense combined with lightning-quick counter strikes, a difficult form to counter but not perfect as it left the user open to other Force based attacks, a quick tilt of his own lightsaber turned aside the boys counter giving him a chance to raise his hand and begin to Force choking his opponent a tactic sure to distract or disable him enough to enable a capture.

Harry turned aside another attack from his human opponent and struck back forcing the man to counter. He was about to follow it with another attack when he felt his throat being squeezed closed by an invisible vice. Obviously, the Darksider was using a Force choke on him. Well, the trouble with that was that it was easily countered. Harry flicked his wrist to summon his wand and cast a wordless bone breaker at the smirking human. The relatively easily avoided spell struck the human in the throat shattering several vertebrae and severing his spinal column, sending him to the floor like a puppet with its strings cut.

"You okay Harry?" asked Luna as she rejoined him by his fallen opponent.

"My throats a bit sore but otherwise I'm good," Harry gestured outside and Luna nodded.

oOoOoOo

Anakin launched a lightning fast strike at Ventress who parried the attack and kicked back to strike Obi-Wan in the thigh sending the older Jedi stumbling back a few steps. Then with a Force push, she sent the off-balance Jedi slamming in to a metal landing strut as she blocked Anakin's attack.

With a snarl, Anakin again stepped up his attack but again Ventress seemed to be unwilling to give ground, then she seemed to stumble and fell face first off the boarding ramp.

"Bet she wasn't expecting that," said Harry as he exited the damaged hatch followed by Luna.

"What?" exclaimed Anakin "Is she dead?"

"Just stunned," Luna assured him before looking around and frowning, "We've got company coming, a drop ship."

Anakin looked up to see the descending ship descending, "That will be reinforcements from the temple. I'm surprised they took so long."

Harry gestured toward Obi-Wan, "You check your friend we'll get your sparring partner."

Anakin nodded as he crossed over to where a groaning Obi-Wan lay on his side and began checking his Master over for injuries.

Harry leaned over to check where the Sith had fallen, only to find that there was no body.

"Luna cover me," he ordered as he dropped to the ground beside the ramp. Sure enough, there was no body to be seen.
"How the bloody hell did you manage that?" whispered Harry.

---

**Haven – Outer Rim**

"Mione?"

"Ron!" screamed Hermione in surprise nearly dropping her book.

"Bloody hell Mione, eardrums," said Ron with a wince.

Hermione snatched up his hand and squeezed it, "We've been so worried, you just stay in bed while I go and get Alissa."

---

Alissa finished scanning Ron and handed the medical scanner off to Remus, "You're doing well Ron. All your readings are excellent; the clinic really did fantastic work repairing your heart and lungs."

"From what Hermione has told me I'm lucky to be here," said Ron as he kissed Hermione's hand.

Sirius gestured toward Ron's chest, "Damn right Ron, we thought you'd had it when that happened."

"Spot on Padfoot, by Merlin I shudder to think what would have happened if I'd had to have told your mother," said Remus.

Ron had to smile at the thought of the former professor confronting the matriarch of the Weasley family, "You know I should, you know let them know Mum will go off if she finds out I didn't tell her."

"That's not actually a bad idea Ron," mused Hermione "There are quite a few things we could use."

"What's not a bad idea?" asked Ron.

Hermione gave Ron's hand another squeeze, "A trip to Earth."

---

As always thanks to my Beta XRaiderV1

Credit for the original design of the YZ-775 goes to 50stone of www.swdesignalliance forum / and the modified version YZ-775-A silverhawk by XRaiderV1 of www.swdesignalliance forum / ? topic=1450.0
A New Order by arturus

**Synopsis:** A renegade Jedi has a force vision of a pair of powerful force sensitive's and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

**Disclaimer:** I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

**Last time:**

Ron had to smile at the thought of the former professor confronting the matriarch of the Weasley family, "You know I should, you know let them know Mum will go off if she finds out I didn’t tell her."

"That's not actually a bad idea Ron," mused Hermione "There are quite a few things we could use."

"What's not a bad idea?" asked Ron.

Hermione gave Ron's hand another squeeze, "A trip to Earth."

---

**Chapter 12 - A New Order**

A narrow-eyed Yoda tapped his stick on the Drop ships ramp, "A senator you think this Sith is?"

Luna nodded.

Harry was busy watching medical droids removing the bodies from his ship. The covered corpses were being carried to a medical drop ship.

Yoda slowly shook his head, "Serious this allegation is. If true explains much it does. Too much influence our enemy has."

Obi-Wan who had just made his way over to the small group on the ramp frowned as he took in Yoda's words, "Politicians are generally not to be trusted but it is a big leap from corruption to being a Sith."

Luna shrugged and looked over to where the medical drop ship was taking off, "And yet we have Dark side adepts running around. Adepts who are remarkably well informed of not only our movements but what the Jedi are doing."

"That doesn't prove that there is a senatorial Sith in the Republic's seat of power," Obi-Wan argued.

---

**Haven – Outer Rim**

"So Harry and Luna are okay?" Hermione asked anxiously.

"They're fine. A bit annoyed at the damage to their new ship, but fine." Remus assured Hermione.
"Are they on their way home?"

"No, not yet. They have let the Jedi know that they think the Sith on Coruscant is a Senator. Yoda is apparently taking it seriously," Remus shrugged. "Anyway, they think absenting themselves from Coruscant for a while is a good idea. Luna's a bit worried they may run into some problems with the authorities now that they've suggested a senator."

"Did you tell them about our plans?"

Remus smiled, "Harry said to get him some Butterbeer if you go. Well, that and say hello to the Weasley's."

Hermione sat back in to the chair looking a bit less worried, "Well than I'd best tell the others that the trips on."

Her organized mind was already working out a list of supplies they needed to purchase.

oOoOoOo

Harry and Luna sold a few more conjured gemstones to resupply their ship after they finished the repairs on the hatch.

"You know I may be rethinking the whole 'who needs money' philosophy," commented Harry as he maneuvered a large crate in to the cargo hold and secured it in place.

Luna sighed, loudly, "If you are still going on about the price you paid for those Nerf sausages I'll throw them out."

"Well they were expensive Luna," said Harry, his tone aggrieved.

Luna turned to look at her partner. Harry noted the narrowed eyes, "Harry we are not going to argue about this are we?"

"No…..ah sorry," replied Harry.

"Good," was the rather more cheerful reply.

Luna smiled and stepped in close to kiss Harry briefly before skipping down the ramp for the next crate.

He still had a smile on his face when he reached the pile of cargo at the base of the ramp. He quickly cast a feather light charm and picked up a largish chest and followed Luna up the ramp. Wondering idly if he should get some more Ithorian starfruit, Luna loved them.

He was on his way back down the ramp when he spotted a figure in a heavy cloak standing near the perimeter fence. Even though the motionless figure's face was hidden in the shadows of the robe he was getting a clear feeling that he was being watched. There was no sense of malice or danger but rather a feeling of curiosity.

Luna appeared beside Harry a curious look on her face.

"I think she is waiting to speak to us."

"She?" echoed Harry.

"Definitely a she, I can sense that from here."
Harry studied the figure before speaking, "So what do we do now?"

His answer came as the figure began walking toward the ship.

Harry's lip twitched, "Okay, you or me?"

Luna seemed to stare at nothing for a moment as reached out in to the Force. "I think me."

Luna advanced down the ramp and walked several steps before pausing to wait for the approaching woman. She was certainly confident; there was no hesitation in her stride as she approached the ship. At the base of the ramp, the figure halted and threw back its hood. The first thing Luna noted was that she was right. It was a woman.

The dark-haired young woman looked Luna over impassively before nodding, "You are the seer?"

Luna nodded while above her Harry palmed his wand.

"I am Salara of the Bright Cave Clan of Dathomir."

Luna bowed slightly acknowledging the greeting, "I welcome you Salara, I am Luna Lovegood and this is my companion, Harry Potter."

Salara glanced at Harry before dismissing him with a flick of her eyes. "My clan matriarch wishes to meet with you Luna Lovegood. She offers a full alliance.

oOoOoOo

"She didn't seem to like me very much," commented Harry as he watched Salara walking across the tarmac.

"Matriarchal society love, we'll cross that bridge later on if we need to. I think we need to do this. From the little she shared with me they appear to have built a society around being Force sensitive. Think of all the knowledge they've developed. They even think in terms of spells for many of their Force powers. Thus the name Witches of Dathomir."

Harry scratched at his chin, "Hmm I guess so. It's just that I'm not looking forward to being on a world where I'm a second-class citizen."

"I look after you," replied Luna with a bright happy smile.

"Ha bloody ha. What else did you find out?"

"They don't think much of the Jedi. Apparently, the founder of the Witches was an exiled Jedi. Their laws and customs are based on her teachings. If we can negotiate an alliance even with one Clan we will be preserving another variety of Force usage." Luna shook her head. "The Jedi are so narrow-minded its way past arrogance. There are so many different types of sensitives in the galaxy."

Harry leaned back against the bulkhead. "And if we don't somehow find them the Sith will swallow them up or destroy them outright."

Luna stepped in to lean against Harry's chest, "We shall protect and preserve what we can and on Haven we will build a home for them all. That was Talia's dream my love and we will make it happen. Too much is at stake if we fail."

oOoOoOo
Harry bowed as the tall Dathomiri, "Salara, welcome aboard the Lily."

They hadn't had much time to consider naming their new ship but then Luna had suggested the ship be named Lily and the name had stuck.

Salara glanced at him but this time she seemed to notice the lightsaber clipped to his belt. She paused for a moment before nodding and walking past to greet Luna with a handclasp, "Luna thank you for agreeing to meet my Clan leader and for letting me travel with you."

"It makes sense for us to travel with you as our guide and accept your ahhh assistance with the politics of the situation. The last thing we want to do is cause an incident through a lack of understanding of your ways."

"Good, then we understand each other. Now, Luna, since we are to share our journey may I ask you a question?"

"Of course," replied Luna.

"Why do you permit your….companion to be armed?"

Harry bristled at her words but Luna could sense the genuine curiosity underlying the question.

"Harry is much more than my companion. It has been together that we have triumphed over the challenges we have faced."

A worried look crossed Salara's face as she considered Luna's answer, "That may be a problem amongst some of the more traditional clan members. It is not customary for males to be allowed weapons."

Luna shrugged, "If they cannot see past our differences then our potential alliance is doomed before it starts. Many of the Force users at Haven are males. All are equal in standing."

Salara nodded, "You are wise Seer-Luna and I believe you are correct we must adapt or we will face the darkness divided, just as my matriarch's vision foretold."

oOoOoOo

Harry piloted the Lily well clear of the more common spaceways and activated the navcomp. The coordinates supplied by the merchant ship Salara had arrived on would mean a fairly long jump but certainly doable. As he activated the hyperdrive he checked for any problems and seeing none set the auto-pilot. He was about to head aft when he felt a presence behind him.

"Can I help you Salara?" he asked without turning.

"I believe I may have offended you before."

Harry swiveled in his chair to face the Dathomiri, "I'm generally not easily offended Salara. We come from different cultures and that presents challenges and forces us to reconsider our own beliefs. I will admit my first reaction was to give you an earful but what would that have achieved, save potentially alienating you."

Salara leaned back against the bulkhead and for several long moments she quietly studied Harry seemingly considering his words. "You make a good point but I fear that the Clan leaders will dispute it. You may need to prove yourselves many times over."
Harry smiled at the warning, "My homeworld had a saying, well a curse really. May you live in interesting times. Well, I think your homeworld will be very, very interesting."

Haven

Hermione chewed on her bottom lip as she watched Alissa scan Ron. The healer consulted the medical scanners readout before smiling at the anxious patient and his equally anxious girlfriend.

"He's healing well so I have no problem with him travelling provided that he takes it easy for a few more days."

Ron smiled as Hermione leaned over to kiss his forehead.

"So are you going?" asked Alissa with a smile.

"If Ron gets a clean bill of health, yes we will make a run back to Earth. There are quite a few things we'll need anyway and we'd like to catch up with our families."

Ron nodded, "Mom and Dad will be rapt to see us even if I do get an earful for getting hurt."

"Would it be possible for me to accompany you?" asked Alissa.

"Does Ron..." began Hermione.

Alissa quickly corrected Hermione, "No, no nothing like that. It's just that I would love to speak to a magical healer and get some healing texts."

Hermione nodded, "It shouldn't be a problem and Altis, Sirius and Remus have the training well in hand here. We can even continue our studies on the trip."

"I'll let Altis know," promised Alissa.

"I..." what Hermione thought was interrupted by Sirius apparating in to the medial bay and yelling for Alissa.

"What is it, is someone hurt?"

Sirius looked desperate, "Keisha...I need...it's the baby!"

"Where is she Sirius?"

"In the library, she just grabbed her stomach."

Alissa immediately began grabbing sealed med-kits from the shelves and tossing them to Hermione. "Hermione grab these, I'll get the rest of my equipment and I'll get you to apparate us to the library."

A minute later a wide-eyed Ron was left looking at an equally wide-eyed Sirius.

The Lily on route to Dathomir System

Harry swayed to the side to avoid a vicious thrust from Luna and kicked out. He didn't connect but it did force her backward. With a flick of his wrist, Harry launched a large crate directly at Luna. An
obvious move but it was designed to hide the container he had prepared earlier flying for her back. To further distract her he surged forward swinging his lightsaber in a sweeping movement aimed at her legs even as he ducked under the crate Luna had sent hurtling back at him.

Luna used the Force to push the crate at Harry and jump over his arcing blade only to have something impact her back sending her stumbling forward in to Harry.

Harry caught Luna as she stumbled and kissed her on the neck.

Harry made sure Luna was steady on her feet before stepping back with a grin, "Got you that time."

Luna acknowledged his victory with a nod and a smile, "Nice bit of Force concealment. You prepped it beforehand?"

"Yep about ten minutes before you got here," replied Harry.

"And you kept me talking before we started to not give me a chance to notice the Force ripple. Nice work love."

Harry shrugged, "It's a good trick but I'm still working on how to use it during an unscheduled fight. Any half competent Force user could detect an incoming missile. If I can find a way to dampening the Force around it…well, I think it would be a good combat ability."

"You are both very skilled," offered Salara from where she had been watching them spar.

"Would you like to join us?"

Salara nodded and removed her outer robe to reveal that she was wearing a simple halter top and a short skirt. "As you can no doubt see I am unarmed so perhaps a hand to hand bout?"

Luna stepped forward but Salara held up a hand. "Perhaps a bout with your m…with Harry may give me a better understanding of his abilities."

"No weapons and passive abilities only," suggested Harry who received a nod from Salara.

Luna nodded and stepped back to allow Salara to approach Harry who hooked his lightsaber to his belt and assumed a balanced fighting stance with his knees bent and hands by his side. Salara, however, began to circle him. Her eyes were running over his stance looking for a weakness to exploit.

As she went to pass behind him Harry attacked with a simultaneous punch toward Salara's head and a kick toward her knee. The Dathomiri danced out of the way and then countered attempting to grapple with him as she hooked a leg behind him.

Harry tried to counter by pushing his stance wider to give himself stability while pulling Salara's arm forward to pull her off balance. Unfortunately, she was stronger than she looked and apparently quite an experienced wrestler. Once Harry began trying to pull her off balance she simply held for a few moments then went with the move and pulled Harry with her.

Harry felt Salara give then he found himself flung through the air to land on his stomach. He went to roll away when Salara landed on his back pinning him to the floor.

"You are strong for a male but you underestimated me I think." Salara ran a hand down Harry's back feeling his muscle. "It is a pity you are taken. You would produce wonderful children." Salara climbed back to her feet and turned to Luna.
"You should practice more hand to hand. A swordsman he may be but his hand to hand is a touch predictable. Many of my sisters will view him as a challenge and will try you both. To test you as outlanders or to try for the right to couple with your male, if you want I can work with you."

"Thank you Salara we will," replied Luna with a respectful nod.

Salara bent over in front of Harry to gather up her robe. Moving slowly she pulled it back on and left but not before looking over her shoulder at Harry.

"Oh shit," whispered Harry as Luna began to giggle.

oOoOoOo

"I'm not sure I'm comfortable being eye candy for a bunch of aggressive women," complained Harry as he sat on his bunk letting Luna smear massage oil over his shoulders.

"I'll be there to deter your suitor's love," replied Luna. Harry didn't have to look at her to 'see' the smile.

As Luna finished he turned to face her, "How's your back?"

"A bit sore," confirmed Luna.

Harry took the cream from her and gestured for her to get on the bed, "Your turn."

Luna grinned and pulled off her shirt and her bra before turning her back to him. Harry began to work on her shoulders and back. The massage oil supplied by Alissa was excellent and soon her shoulders began to relax.

"Harry?"

"Too hard?" replied Harry easing off her back a bit.

Luna turned to face Harry and leaned forward to kiss him. "I'm done with back massages. I think I'll practice staking my territory."

Harry looked up in to her eyes, "So beautiful. You are so beautiful my love."

Luna simply smiled as she lay with her long silver blond hair splayed out beneath her. If she had ever truly wondered about Harry this moment closed off forever any doubts she had. His green eyes were glowing with love and desire.

Their lovemaking was still awkward in many ways. Neither was all that experienced but what they lacked in knowledge was made up for with their passion. It was Luna that took charge directing Harry with touches and murmurs of encouragement. She led him as they explored together they found new ways to please each other.

oOoOoOo

Harry was half asleep himself as he lay in bed watching his lover sleep. He really should be up to check the auto-pilot and shipboard systems but it was so peaceful sitting with Luna's head in his lap. Absently he twirled strands of her hair around his fingers. He was about to wake her when he felt her tense. Then he felt it as well. There was a ripple of warning from the Force, a sense of danger approaching.

"Harry?" said a suddenly awake Luna.
Harry was up and pulling on his clothes. With his pants on he reached down to the floor and tossed Luna her clothes.

They reached the control room as the first alarm sounded.

...oOoOoOo

Haven

Keisha was asleep by the time Alissa finished the last of her stitching. The birth had been routine if quick and there had been a little tearing so once all the excitement was over Alissa had applied a local anesthetic and finished off.

As Alissa worked Hermione found herself holding the baby. The child was beautiful with a mess of black hair and the palest of pale blue eyes. It was the first birth Hermione had ever been a part of and far different from what she had expected. Far more…..well visceral than she had realised. Pain and blood then new life, it was a humbling experience.

Alissa finished packing up her medkit and turned to smile at Hermione who was making faces at the baby, "Amazing isn't it?"

Hermione couldn't help but smile in return, "Yes although I'll admit I hadn't really thought about what childbirth was like."

Alissa laughed, "Worried? Don't be Keisha will be a bit sore for a few days but once she's recovered the memories of the pain will fade. If they didn't who would have a second child?"

"How are mother and baby?" asked Altis from the doorway.

"Mother and daughter are doing fine, Keisha is asleep so I'm about to do a complete check on the baby if you want can pry her away from Hermione."

Hermione carefully handed the newborn to the older Jedi. Altis smiled down at the tiny infant, "She is a beautiful baby."

Alissa smiled at her old Master, "Yes she is. She is also the first baby to be born here on Haven."

Altis glanced at Hermione with a smile tugging at his lips, "True. When you write up the history of Haven I'll remind you to put it in." He gave the baby a kiss on the forehead. "May the Force be with you youngling," Altis handed the baby back to Hermione. "Now when will you all be off?"

"All?" echoed Alissa.

"I know you want to go Alissa. What with the options available to a healer from the Magical world. The different ways they have created to use the Force is amazing. Sirius and Remus have applications for just about everything. I'm surprised you lasted this long before you wanted a trip."

"You know me too well Master," replied Alissa.

"Now our newest resident has joined us I'm assuming you will be heading off soon?"

Ron looked over at Hermione who nodded.

The Twi'lek medic smiled, "If you will excuse me I've got to talk to Jelish and Castilla to see if they can take over the medical duties for me."
The Lily on route to Dathomir System

Harry cursed as he dropped in to the pilot's seat. The ship's sensors had detected a pursuer.

"We've got at least one ship following us," reported Harry as Luna took the co-pilot's seat.

"How?" asked Luna.

"No idea….actually hang on." Harry flipped several switches and activated the ships communications array searching for anything that could be transmitting…..got it.

"We've got some sort of transmitter aboard the ship. Very low power but it shooting a very tight beam signal back to the ship following us."

Luna closed her eyes and concentrated trying to sense through the Force to find who was pursuing them. Whoever it was they were shielding themselves, which by itself was an answer of sorts.

"Luna wake up Salara. I'm going to drop out of hyperspace. I doubt it will throw them off but we can't lead them to Dathomir and besides, I want to get a look at what we are up against."

Dooku watched in silence as the bridge crew of the CIS Executor worked to maintain the pursuit of the distant merchant ship. His master had been less than impressed with the loss of two more of his Dark Jedi. The body count that could be linked back to the two mysterious Force adepts was growing large. Now his master was demanding action.

Not that Dooku minded. The two and their apparent allies had humiliated him and to a Sith that crime was inexcusable. It was evidence of his weakness and weakness would not long be tolerated. So he had adapted his master's plan and insisted Ventress place a shielded beacon on his targets ship, just in case.

Now that foresight meant that he was closing on the Merchant ship with two CIS cruisers. Powerful and skilled they may be no matter how much he begrudgingly he admitted it, but they wouldn't survive being blown apart. But first, to find out their destination, it was always better to know your enemies.

"Sir, the ship has dropped out of Hyperspace," reported the senior Neimoidian bridge officer.

"Then drop out at the same coordinates and scan for the beacon's frequency," ordered Dooku.

"Should we raise defensive shields?" asked the nervous weapons officer.

' Cowards' thought Dooku, "By all means, we wouldn't want a merchant ship to get the drop on us would we?" was the derisive reply delivered in a cultured tone.

"Okay it looks like they are following us," reported Luna.

Harry grinned and handed the controls over to Luna, "I think I'll go and prepare a couple of surprises."

"Surprises?" asked Luna.
"I'm thinking a Marauder style prank, an overpowered light spell, a reverse gravity spell and a transfiguration field on a delayed activation."

Luna smirked at the thought, "Oooh that's evil love."

"What do you need me to do," asked Salara with a look of confusion on her face.

Harry smiled at the nervous looking Dathomiri, "I need you and Luna to find and deactivate that beacon for me."

"Will do, give us a few minutes," replied Luna.

Harry nodded and ducked out the hatch.

"How can you stop two ships?" Salara asked Luna.

Conventional wizarding lore tells magic users to avoid apparating to an unknown or moving location. It was considered dangerous because of the risks involved with not having a visible fixed arrival point. The risk, however, was somewhat mitigated by visual contact with your arrival point. The bridge windows of the CIS cruisers gave an excellent view of the bridge.

"Scan the asteroids, they must be hiding there," ordered the Captain of the CIS Interrogator.

"Roger, Roger," acknowledged the droid at the sensor console.

The Captain was grateful that Count Dooku wasn't on his bridge but that small mercy would not save him from the wroth of Dooku if he let their quarry escape. So focused was he on the readout on his screen that he dismissed the faint popping noise from behind his chair.

That would prove to be a fatal error.

Dooku frowned as he felt a ripple in the Force. Something was wrong. He had just managed to stand up when there was a faint popping noise behind him. Spinning around he caught a glimpse of a shadowy figure as it disappeared. Shocked at the sudden disappearance it took him a second to glance down.

The huge flash of blinding light burnt out the photoreceptors of half the droids on the bridge and blinded nearly every organic being, including Dooku. The reverse gravity field stuck everything not secured to the overhead bulkhead and then a field of randomised transfiguration magic did its work. Destroying equipment and disrupting systems.

On the Interrogator, the blinded Captain tried to summon help but his communication unit was fried. In his panic, he tried screaming orders to the droid bridge crew but those that were not damaged were stuck to the overhead or currently experiencing being brooms, rabbits or giant canaries. As it was there wasn't anyone in a position to notice the damaged engineering console reporting the fact there was a critically overload building in the power plant.

The Executor faired slightly better as fewer of the critical systems were damaged. And Dooku
managed to retain his composure enough to quickly determine that only two droids had not been impacted by whatever had happened. He immediately ordered them to assume navigation and weapons and to pull the ship back to a safe distance.

oOoOoOo

Luna and Salara returned to the bridge ten minutes later and found Harry in the pilots' seat.

"Okay we have the beacon," reported Luna as she tossed him the deactivated device. 'We found it hidden near the main hatch. It's magnetic so I'd say one of our intruders planted it as soon as they came aboard."

Harry nodded, "Okay so let's make ourselves scarce. I'll….whoa look at that!"

Luna and Salara looked up to see one of the ships begin to list to starboard and veer off course.

"I can't believe that actually worked!" exclaimed Harry.

Luna smailed as she replied, "I'm not sure they designed their ships with defending against apparating in mind."

Harry confirmed the navigational calculations and activated the hyperdrive.

Behind them, explosions ripped along the hull of the Interrogator.

oOoOoOo

Haven

The group of Jedi watched carefully as Remus demonstrated casting Petrificus Totalus.

There were a few questions and then the group split into pairs to practice. The teaching of theory was going well, but the practical aspects were hampered by the lack of wands. Hermione and Keisha's work on magical foci was progressing but many of the Jedi were still struggling with how much power they needed to use to get their spells working properly. Remus and Sirius walked the floor correcting pronunciations and movements as the groups cast the spell then the Finite Incantatem to release their partners.

When Remus reached Altis and Ash the older man was just releasing his Padawan. He looked up with a grin, "A good effect Remus. I can think of a number of occasions when this would have been useful."

"You need to be careful though. One of the drawbacks of this particular spell is that it can be broken easily by the Finite Incantatem. It also has a varying active duration so it's best to stun your target as well."

There were a few questions and then Remus began discussing other ways to disable attackers.

oOoOoOo

"Hold Sirius," instructed Ash.

"What is it?" asked Sirius.

Ash Jarvee demonstrated a bock with his own practice lightsaber, "Your block on the low attack was too strong. If you do that you can push your opponent's weapon in to a better attacking position."
Sirius nodded and stepped away from Remus.

"Okay Remus attack again, using the same pattern," ordered Ash as he stepped back and extinguished his own lightsaber.

oOoOoOo

That evening in the open park outside the main building the population of Haven gathered for a meal. Officially it was simply a chance for everyone to relax in each others company. The frantic pace of training and the multitude of projects underway meant that many of those at Haven were working on several different things. Food production, water and air recycling, health care the list of projects and things to be managed was huge, even if you left most of it to the Droid staff.

Unofficially this was a chance to welcome the newest member of Haven's community. Alina was sitting with her mother under a large flowering tree with what the other residents were jokingly referring to as the Adept council.

Sirius was making faces at Alina as the others watched on, "She really is a beautiful girl."

"I'm sure she appreciates your flattery Padfoot," said Remus with a smile.

"When do you leave Hermione?" asked Altis.

"The Talia is already loaded and ready to go so as soon as we wrap up here."

At that Sirius looked up from Alina, "Well we certainly need the supplies."

Remus looked out over the crowd in the park, "We'll probably need to do this regularly. Merlin knows we will need more supplies of, well everything when more people arrive."

"I don't know that our budget will spread that far," replied Hermione in a worried tone.

Sirius sprang up and took off toward the house calling out, "Oh hell, wait on I've got an idea."

A few minutes later he returned with an ornate key on a golden chain, "Here Hermione take this it is my key to the Black vaults."

"Sirius I can't just..." began Hermione.

Sirius interrupted her with a laugh, "Yes you can. I don't want the money. It should be used for something that will have my dear dead mother spinning in her grave. There are millions of Galleons in the vault, buy whatever you think is necessary."

"Imagine what we can buy," whispered Hermione as her eyes unfocused.

"Great now you've broken her," complained Ron with a smile.

oOoOoOo

Dathomir System

The Lily returned to relativistic above the Fourth planet in the Dathomir system. With Salara navigating and Harry and Luna at the controls, the ship descended slowly toward the planet.

Salara pointed to the coastal region of one of the three large continents, "We should put down near the lands of the Bright Cave clan. I wouldn't expect trouble but we should practice caution."
The landing was routine even as they brought the Lily down on some flat ground in the low hills surrounding the end of a mountain chain.

The sun was setting over the mountains as the ramp lowered.

"Nice spot," commented Luna.

Harry looked around and nodded. The flat ground was covered in wild grass and some small shrubs with the occasion rock protruding from the vegetation. "I guess. Is this area dangerous Salara?"

"Dangerous? No more so than the surrounding areas but it is not an area to wander about in the dark. There are ravines near here. We had best wait until morning if we are not found before then."

"Found?" asked Luna.

"My Clan patrols this area and would investigate any ship found in our area," replied Salara as she glanced around.

Luna turned to Salara, "Okay so we spend the night onboard and head off in the morning?"

Harry walked back over to the others and gestured toward the increasingly shadowy hills, "This may be moot ladies. I think we may have company approaching."

Salara brightened up as she considered the approaching figures, "Most likely it is a Bright Cave patrol. They would have seen us landing. Wait here and I'll go and explain the situation."

As Salara walked towards the approaching patrol Harry began to feel uneasy. There was nothing untoward that he could see but the sense of menace continued to grow.

Beside him, Luna was also glancing around the open area. She could sense Harry growing agitated sensing the same feeling of…..darkness and deception. "Harry they're going to attack we need to help her."

Harry heard Luna's warning and didn't hesitate drawing his lightsaber, "Luna apparate left."

As Harry disappeared Luna drew her wand and activated her own lightsaber and apparated to the left of Salara.

Harry appeared to the right of Salara just as a blade flashed toward her. He moved to block but Salara beat him to it. She sidestepped the attack and backhanded her attacker across the face sending the woman staggering backward.

Seeing Salara was in control he moved to engage two cloaked figures wielding a sword and a spear. He waded straight in sidestepping a spear thrust he Force pushed the spear wielder in to a large boulder and moved to confront the swordsman. Attacking her weapon produced an unexpected result a parry. Somehow the sword held against the lightsaber. Ducking under her counter attack he spun and kicked out at her feet. She managed to avoid being hit but was off balance when his Force push slammed in to her abdomen.

Luna was further away from her opponents so she raised her wand and cast a stunner at the closest figure. Surprisingly the black-clad woman managed to turn in time to deflect the spell. Snearing contemptuously the woman raised her hand and yelled something and made a gesture that sent a stream of Force lightning at Luna. With a simple raised hand Luna blocked the attack and sent the energy cascading back at the older woman who managed to dive to the ground and roll out of the way. The second black-clad figure screamed in anger and charged at Luna with a whip that was
practically glowing with Dark side energy.

Salara ducked under another attack lashed out at her opponent's throat. The woman she struck was gasping for air as Salara followed up with a second blow to the woman's face that dropped her to the ground.

Luna Force leapt in to a high somersault that took her over the lashing whip and landed on her feet behind her charging opponent. In the same movement, she fired off a bone breaker that struck her opponent in the thigh and sent her spinning to the ground.

Harry stayed on guard scanning the surrounding area as Luna and Salara moved among their downed attackers. Luna was moving between the figures stunning and binding the injured in magical ropes. Salara had paused in her study of the fallen and was examining the attacker she had punched in the face.

"Nightsisters," hissed Salara as she knelt down and studied the dead woman.

"What are nightsisters?" asked Harry.

Salara turned her head and studied Harry's face for a moment as if divining his reasons for asking before she turned away and replied. "The Book of law gives one rule all must obey. Never give in to evil. These …Nightsisters are given over to evil. These here are young and ill-trained which means they are probably initiates."

"Should we take them prisoner?" asked Luna.

"How long will your bindings last?" Salara asked as she stood and moved to the next bound figure.

Luna shrugged, "Till we dispel them and with those stunners, well they will most likely be unconscious for several hours at least."

"Good then leave them here while I make the run to the Bright Cave. These…..scum are wearing clan necklaces. There are only a few ways they could have those and they all bode ill for my people. They must be warned."

Salara reached down and picked up a spear from the pile and tested its weight.

Luna looked over at Harry who nodded, "Do you want me to come with you?"

Salara shook her head, "No, I know the way and will be recognised. You may well be attacked by our sentries before they realise you are not an enemy."

Moments later Salara disappeared as she jogged in to the hills.

Luna sat on a rounded rock and sighed, "Want a cup of tea?"

The Talia

"Okay everybody I'm about to jump to hyperspace," Ron warned as he reached over to activate the Hyperspace controls.

"First jump of three," said Hermione as she lowered herself in to the co-pilot's chair.

"I'll take first watch Mione, you go and get some rest," said Ron as he adjusted his chair to a more
reclined position.

"You're sure you are up to it?" asked Hermione.

"I'm fine," seeing her doubtful expression he smiled at her. "Really I am. It's not like this is strenuous is it?"

Hermione studied his face for a moment before standing up and walking over to kiss him. "You call me in four hours Ronald Weasley or so help me I'll have Alissa drug you and drag you to a Bacta tank."

Ron watched Hermione leave the flight deck and settled down to what would probably be a long, boring watch. There was no way he could be aware of the small device emitting a homing signal or of the small ship following them.

---

**Jedi Temple – Coruscant**

Yoda frowned as he finished listening to the report from the intelligence team that had taken apart the shuttle captured on Bespin. It didn't tell them much besides what they had already known. There was a very well resourced Sith supplying equipment and by deduction intelligence to….who?

What did they really know? That the Sith were back was now beyond doubt. Dooku was a case in point there. What they thought they knew about the Sith was now coming in to question. The rule of two, one to embody power and one to seek it was pivotal to what they knew of Sith history. What had changed?

The Dark Sider caught on Bespin had told them little but her very existence was another piece of the puzzle.

"Much there is that we are not seeing," said Yoda.

Mace Windu nodded, "The more we uncover the less we seem to know."

Yoda conceded that point without comment as he raised another point of concern, "Uncomfortable I am with your decision to spy on potential allies."

Mace frowned at his fellow Master, "I stand by it. We know next to nothing about these people you seem determined to ally us with. It is high time we acquire some solid intelligence."

"Risk alienating them you do. A betrayal of their trust this is."

"Come old friend surely you can see the need for this, even if it is distasteful. Besides Knight Serra Keto is very skilled and her ship is built for stealth. The beacon we planted is shielded so they will more than likely not even know she is there," said Mace.

"Skilled she is but paying we are for our arrogance and lack of foresight. Distrusting our friends, the work of the Dark we do."

Mace sighed as he considered Yoda's words, "I fear that also but I will not fail the Order through inaction. We are already stretched to breaking point," Mace rubbed his chin, "Besides the chaos hiding them from us….I find myself wondering what the Sith hope to gain from this war."

Yoda sighed, "Fear that answer I do. Giving it to them what they seek we might be."
A New Order by arturus

**Synopsis:** A renegade Jedi has a force vision of a pair of powerful force sensitive's and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

**Disclaimer:** I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

**Last time:**

"Skilled she is but paying we are for our arrogance and lack of foresight. Distrusting our friends, the work of the Dark we do."

Mace sighed as he considered Yoda's words, "I fear that also but I will not fail the Order through inaction. We are already stretched to breaking point," Mace rubbed his chin, "Besides the chaos hiding them from us….I find myself wondering what the Sith hope to gain from this war."

Yoda sighed, "Fear that answer I do. Giving it to them what they seek we might be."

---

**Chapter 13 - A New Order**

**HoloNet News**

*Republic troops fail to prevent civilian casualties during Battle of Nadiem*  
Reports of massacred civilians [Read more here](#)

*Jedi General Gurnath He-Ral killed in heavy fighting [Read more here](#)*

---

**Haven**

Altis deflected the stunner rocketing toward him and then spun to block a second. Continuing the spin he bought his lightsaber up and blocked the descending blade of his opponent. A strong Force push sent his opponent stumbling backward. Swaying to the left he avoided a probing strike from behind. Needing fighting room he swung his weapon in a wide arc forcing both opponents to give ground. He was about to counter-attack when a loud buzzer sounded.

"We got closer that time," said Sirius as he deactivated his lightsaber.

"True, although you are still too tight on the third movement in the form. It should be like this," Altis demonstrated a flowing wrist movement.

Sirius activated his lightsaber and copied the movement several times before Altis approved, "That's it Sirius."

"I'm surprised the stunners didn't give you more trouble," said Remus.
Altis smiled at the wizard, "If they had been synchronized it may have worked but the gap allowed me time to block. Keep working on it Remus I think the reasoning is sound. Did you use your wand?"

"No I used the crystal as a focus," replied Remus.

"I used my wand," admitted Sirius.

"Did you notice any drop in the spells efficiency?"

Remus shook his head.

Altis reached down and picked up his water bottle, "That's good progress then. It's fascinating how your people have learned to focus your Force manipulations. It is like the Jedi have gone down one road and your people another."

Remus nodded, "True but I think we have also shown that we can use the Force to complete nearly the same functions as magic. We need to have a sit down with the others when they get back to set up a dedicated research team. Keisha and Hermione made great strides on this when they were working on it."

Altis paused for a moment taking a long drink of water, "Most of my people have expressed interest learning…hmmm perhaps we could recruit some of my people to work on it as well."

Remus swung his arms to loosen his shoulders and gestured toward the training mats, "My turn?"

---

Aboard the Talia

As the Talia reverted to relativistic space Hermione and Ron were greeted by a familiar view, Earth.

"It's beautiful," said Alyssa as she entered the bridge and took one of the spare crew seats.

"It's home," replied Ron.

Hermione's fingers flew across the controls as she plotted a course. They had already decided that they would need to bring the ship down somewhere warded. The best location they could think of was the Weasley property.

"That's a course plotted Ron do you want to do the honours?"

---

The Burrow - Village of Ottery St Catchpole

Arthur Weasley sighed as he laid the Daily Prophet on the table. The Ministry had been enacting quite a few new laws around equality in the magical world. While he didn't think that they were going far enough they were a big step forward. He had worked hard on his own component of the new laws. He was trying to codify the laws around enchanting Muggle objects. In fact, it was the reason he was at home on a Tuesday. The minister had insisted that he take a day off after the flurry of work around preparing the new laws for a Wizengamot vote.

"Amazing to think what can be achieved now the old guard has been defanged," said Bill as he walked in to the kitchen carrying his own copy of the newspaper. His eldest son was back from his
fieldwork in Egypt and was now working in the London branch of Gringotts. He had come home for a few nights while his heavily pregnant wife Fleur was in France visiting her parents.

Arthur smiled as his eldest poured himself a cup of strong tea, "I know. Still, I would have liked to have seen the original draft passed. Unlikely as that would have been."

Bill sat at the table and took a sip of his tea before replying, "The Goblins are pleased with what has already been passed."

Arthur reached over to pour himself another cup of tea when a loud claxon sounded.

"The wards!" exclaimed Bill as he pulled out his wand.

Arthur drew his own wand and reflexively glanced over at the clock to check the status of his children. He looked back to Bill before his eyes returned to the clock. Ron's hand was showing that he was at home.

"William wait….Ron is home."

Bill was about to say something when a loud noise from outside drew their attention to the kitchen window. In the lower field, a large shape was lowering itself to the ground.

oOoOoOo

Dinner was a loud, raucous affair with all of the Weasley family in attendance. Arthur and Molly were overjoyed to see Ron and Hermione and had sent out an all Weasley invitation. Even a heavily pregnant Fleur had Portkeyed in. The Burrow was suddenly feeling quite crowded and soon the entire party had moved out to the garden. A few transfigured tables later and everyone could mingle and eventually sit down to eat in the mild evening.

Admittedly there had been a bit of a ruckus when Alyssa had been introduced. She had suddenly found herself surrounded by curious wizards and witches all asking overlapping questions. In the end Molly had to physically drag the three visitors away from the inquisitive crowd.

"Now, now there will be plenty of time for questions later. It's time to eat."

A bemused Alyssa found herself sitting next to Charlie Weasley and Fleur Weasley and opposite George and Fred. The conversation over the meal was lively and friendly avoiding any issues of substance. However, as the plates were cleared expressions became more serious. Eventually, it was Arthur that cleared his throat.

"Ahh so Ron you are obviously home for a reason. There is nothing wrong I hope."

Ron's reaction as minimal but it drew the immediate attention of his mother. Molly's eyes narrowed as she examined her sons face. "You know Ronald ever since you left your clock hand has been pointing to unknown. I guess there is a maximum range on the charm. Should we have been worried?"

"Um err well nothing really to…..um Harry is well," Ron unconvincingly tried to move the conversation away from his mother question. The whole table was now watching Ron and his mother.

Hermione glared at her boyfriend before turning to Molly, "Ron was pretty badly injured. He's fine now Missus Weasley but it was pretty bad."
"What happened?" asked Bill.

With a sigh and a sidelong glance at his girlfriend, Ron gave a brief but accurate version of the events on Bespin and his evacuation to Coruscant.

"Dear Merlin," whispered a pale-faced Molly.

"I'm fine mum, really I am," Ron assured her.

Alyssa sensing the tension tried to explain the extent of Ron's recovery. "Ron's synthetic heart is actually stronger and much more efficient than his human heart."

Molly still looked like she was going to faint.

Ron reached over and took his mother's hand, "Mum I'm fine, better than fine in fact. The healers took good care of me."

"Show me," whispered Molly.

Ron pulled his tunic up showing his mother the circular scar on his chest.

Molly extended a trembling hand to touch the faint scar. While Fred and George both whistled softly.

It took several hours and a long lecture from Alyssa and Hermione but Molly finally accepted that Ron was recovered from what she termed 'his ordeal'.

After that, the conversation returned to the other purposes for their return.

Arthur sipped at his tea as he took a homemade biscuit from the plate on the table, "Not that we mind the visit but what else did you need to do while you are here?"

"We need supplies. We have been teaching some people to use magic but we don't have a lot of resources. Remus mainly bought textbooks and some guides to fighting the dark arts. If Haven is going to succeed we need to get better resources. Books, samples of plants and potion ingredients we really need quite a bit," replied Hermione.

"That will be expensive Hermione. We may be able to work something....." began Arthur but Ron raised his hand to stop him.

Ron shrugged, "Dad, Sirius has given us his vault key so we should be right for money. What we do need is some names. We need to stock greenhouses, potion labs and build a small library. I have no idea how we go about doing that."

Percy looked over at his brother," I can help there Ronald. The ministry was a bulk buyer and I dealt with a lot of those suppliers."

Arthur smiled at his sons, "Have you got a list of what you need?"

Cloaked Scout Ship – Earth High Orbit

Serra Keto frowned as she tried once more to pinpoint the beacon. Somehow the Talia had dropped off her scanners. That meant that her crew had either found the beacon then deactivated it or something was interfering with the signal. The first was more likely as the beacon was well within her sensor range.
"They didn’t jump to hyperspace D6 so where did they go?" she asked her astromech.

The droids response when it appeared on her console basically boiled down to 'no idea'.

On a pre-hyperspace planet, there should have been no way to hide a ship that big. It was a puzzle. The beacon was one thing but there should have been no way to hide the residue drive emissions from its engines. She could feel herself growing frustrated and took several deep breaths. "I'm going to meditate D6. Continue running scans and let me know if you find anything."

The droid acknowledged its orders and began continuously scanning the surrounding space and the planet below.

Serra, however, closed her eyes and began searching the Force for answers.

oOoOoOo

Dathomir

Harry shifted uncomfortably as he set on the ground next to Luna. The meeting with Yanra the elderly matriarch of the Bright Cave Clan and then elders had gone on for hours. He had been involved only long enough to be introduced to the clan leader. After a formal and rather brief greeting, he was basically ignored. Luna, however, was the centre of attention. The Dathomiri's fascination with Luna was obvious. They were riveted by her stories of Haven and the creation of the Force Adepts. Finally, the talk turned to the Clan leaders' reasons for approaching Luna.

"I have had several visions that seem to show the destruction of my clan. They always end with my people being destroyed by evil ones."

Luna leaned forward, "Evil ones?"

Yanra nodded, "Beings given to the dark. They are leading thousands of white-clad soldiers.....every time my people are destroyed. Many of the other clans are forced in to hiding or flee off-world. My clan however is always destroyed. Then I had another vision of a safe place. It is a place where our people can live and thrive in peace. Then months ago I received a vision of a young blond woman and a dark haired male. A seer and her protector, as strange as that may seem to me. You are our guide to our place of refuge. My visions told me where you would be."

"I see," began Luna. "We can certainly offer your Clan sanctuary on Haven."

Yanra's eyes narrowed, "I sense a 'but' coming."

Luna smiled and gestured toward Harry, "Haven is home to many types of Force users and that will mean males, armed males who are as much part of the community as you will be."

One of the elders made a derisive noise, "You expect us to give up our ways to abandon our heritage?"

Luna shook her head but with a gentle smile, "No we expect you to accept ours as valid. We have no desire for you to change your ways but you must be able live with the others who will be living at Haven."

Yanra looked around the circle of elders, "We will need to talk more about this in council and give you your answer. Before we ask you to leave I would like to speak of the Nightsisters. Salara, tell us of the battle."
Salara gave a concise and accurate report of the melee with the Nightsisters. She was very clear about Harry and Luna's roles. There was a great deal of whispered conversation before Yanra called for quiet.

"The surviving dark ones were already exiled for their perversity. They have further compounded their crimes by murdering a dozen of our sisters. I fear that we have no choice but to end their lives to protect our own." Yanra voice was steady as she spoke but none doubted just how difficult she found it to speak the words dooming the surviving Nightsisters. On the field of battle was one thing but killing them in cold blood was very different.

Luna hesitated for a moment before clearing her throat.

"You wish to speak seer?" asked Yanra.

Luna inclined her head in acknowledgement, "May I speak to them before you make that decision?"

Yanra hesitated for a moment before replying, "Why?"

"We have been taught that there are many ways that the Force may be used. We believe that it is the intent of the wielder not the weapon that defines true evil."

"Are you saying that someone else has used the Nightsisters as their weapon," asked Yanra.

Impressed with the shrewd wisdom of the older woman Luna simply nodded.

Yanra turned to Salara, "Sister take the seer to the cave to see the prisoners."

oOoOoOo

Stripped of their weapons and secured in a stone cell the five surviving Nightsisters had been treated for any life-threatening injuries before being left under heavy guard.

"Come to taunt the condemned?" asked out one of the Nightsisters. She appeared to be the eldest of the prisoners. "Or have you brought me a male to play with as I await my death."

Salara didn't answer but she did grip the hilt of her dagger.

Luna however simply stared at the speaker. Harry could feel Luna reaching out with the Force. Soon all the Dathomiri in the room were staring at Luna. They could all sense at some level the growing Force presence in the small cave as she continued to draw power from the Force.

"You are a dark soul Kitara a murderer and a betrayer. Even as you await your demise you plot how to tear others down with you." Luna shook her head sadly, "There is no hope for you Kitara."

Slowly Luna turned and faced the next Nightsister, "Ril Sey'Thane you too are a twisted being. A lover of pain, how many of your lovers have you killed so that you may feel release?" Luna shook her head and looked to the next.

"A mind reader!" exclaimed Salara.

Harry shrugged as he stood guarding Luna's back, "Force Telepathy, she's examining their motivations. I suspect she is seeing if any of them can be saved."

Luna had been silently examining the third Nightsister. "Mohra…..alas you have fallen too far to redeem. There is no power that can bring back what you gave away." The Nightsister sneered as Luna turned to face the fourth prisoner.
"Alilith Vor you have suffered under your sister's madness. You may still be redeemed if you choose to turn from the darkness." The Nightsister shuddered and looked away from Luna.

The last Nightsister looked to be the youngest and had retreated as far as possible from Luna's silvery eyes. "Velath Cha.....It is sad that love can lead you to the darkness. Still, you can turn back from the abyss. Release your hatred and fear and you can walk any path you choose."

Velath Cha slowly met Luna's eyes and stood mesmerised by whatever her mind was showing her.

After a long silent moment, Luna turned to face Salara, "Salara release the young one from that cell. She does not deserve to be in such company."

Salara nodded and two of the guards unlocked the cell and removed Velath Cha. The young Nightsister looked stunned as she fell to her knees before Luna.

"Mistress, please...I saw you in my mind.....was it.....was it true?"

Luna looked down at the kneeling Nightsister, "Yes it is true."

Velath touched her forehead to the ground at Luna's feet, "I will serve mistress."

oOoOoOo

"What was that all about?" asked Harry as they sat in the small hut given over to them to wait in while the council of elders debated.

Luna smiled, "It was necessary my love. Velath is a very powerful Force adept already. She just had the misfortune to be born in to a clan of Nightsisters. She followed the path in to the darkness because she loved her mother. If we achieve nothing else here we have done well to see her saved."

"Will she join us?"

Luna shrugged, "If she is strong enough to break her ties."  

oOoOoOo

It had been a long evening of waiting. The council seemed ill inclined toward quick decisions. Salara had understood in part Luna's desire to save the Nightsister Velath and had agreed to speak in council.

Harry stretched his hands above his head, "I'm missing our morning exercise. I wonder how long it will be before..." he trailed off as his focus turned inward. There was something wrong; through the Force he could sense something dangerous approaching. It was close very close.

Harry drew his lightsaber and laid his other hand on Luna's arm, "There is something close by. Something dangerous but I can't sense much more."

Luna nodded and drew her lightsaber as well, "I sense it now as well. Whoever it is must have been masking the Force signature somehow."

Harry was about to suggest that they go and investigate when a scream sounded and was abruptly cut off. "Let's go."

Outside the sounds of alarm were spreading as the Dathomiri witches surged out of their tents. Harry and Luna looked around trying to determine what they were facing when flames leapt up in a circle around them. Harry and Luna ignited their lightsabers as they both Force leapt over the flames and
landed side by side facing the black-clad figures advancing on them.

Rin My'Keth ordered ten of her clanswomen to release their imprisoned brethren and then led the rest toward the main area of the village. For daring to thwart her clan's plans she would extract her revenge.

"Kill everyone, burn everything but leave the old bitch for me."

Rin paused as a young Bright Cave witch charged her with sword raised. Pointing her hand she screeched the words of her spell and released a stream of lightning that struck the young fool sending her flying backward to land in a smoking heap.

With another harsh invocation, she raised a ring of flame around two figures exiting one of the huts. With another gesture two of her initiates rushed over to finish the trapped figures. The two initiates rushed in with their pikes lowered when their victims leapt over the flames to land with drawn lightsabers.

"Jedi," hissed Rin. The Sith Dooku had been right the other clans had begun allying with the Jedi. Raising her voice she pointed at the two figures, "Kill the Jedi."

Harry and Luna leapt in to action as the Nightsisters charged forward. With a gesture, Harry cast an explosive hex at the feet of the oncoming attackers sending people flying as he charged forward with Force enhanced speed to engage the enemy. Beside him, Luna spun and disappeared only to reappear behind the attackers.

Harry ducked under a swinging pike and slammed in to a sword-wielding Nightsister sending her to the ground. Using his momentum he turned his fall in to a roll and came up on his feet to block a descending sword. He was falling in to his fluid fighting rhythm letting the Force direct his actions. Move and block, attack then move all in a seamless dance.

Luna thrust out her hand sending a powerful Force push in to the rear rank of the Nightsisters sending a dozen of the women tumbling across the ground. An ornately dressed Nightsister raised her hand and yelled something before sending Force lighting arcing toward her. A raised lightsaber absorbed the attack and with a smile Luna raised her other hand and called forth her own Force lightning sending it arcing back at the surprised Nightsister.

Velath heard the shouts and sounds of battle from the small cell the guards had placed her in after she had meet Luna. She knew what it meant.

She had been happily meditating and replaying in her mind the images she had seen in Luna's mind. Love and happiness could co-exist with power and ambition. It was a concept so far removed from all she knew that it was an epiphany. Now her former sisters were here to drag her back to the shadows a journey she would be lucky to survive given her circumstances.

The sound of a voice calling orders to her guards interrupted her thoughts. She wondered if it was her time when the Bright Cave clanswoman that had accompanied Luna appeared outside her cell, "Get up girl."

Her stone cell was unlocked and a simple brown tunic and short skirt was thrown at her feet,
"Quickly get changed. Your former sisters are attacking and I fear you would be struck down as an enemy before I could correct my people."

Velath complied stripping off her clothing save her halter and underwear and pulled on the new clothes. Once she was dressed Salara threw her a dagger.

Salara's eyes were cold as she studied the young woman, "I will take you to Luna….do not betray her faith in you or I will cut you down myself. Now follow me."

The two Dathomiri quickly made their way toward the entrance of the cave being used to house the prisoners only to find the guards engaged with a group of Nightsisters. Salara waded straight in to the fray taking down one attacker and moving on to the next. Velath surprised her by leaping straight in after her. With the two new fighters, the guards regained the upper hand and quickly overwhelmed the Nightsisters.

Salara gestured toward the injured and dead Nightsisters, "Get the injured locked up, leave the dead, Velath?"

The Nightsister nodded and bent down to pick up a sword. Salara didn't comment as the younger woman followed her out.

Their opponents may not have their skill level but they were experienced fighters and Luna and Harry were being slowly driven back by the sheer numbers and ferocity of their attackers. While not ideal it did have one upside. While the Nightsisters were concentrating on them they made the mistake of not pressing their attack on the Bright Cave Clan. This allowed the more experienced fighters to arrive in numbers and more importantly to organise their defence.

Harry was sporting a cut across his left bicep and Luna her left thigh as they allowed the remaining Nightsisters to slowly surround them.

Luna nodded before spinning to block an incoming Javelin, "I think we've managed to hold their attention."

With a grin, Harry patted Luna on the backside, "I've always had a way with women."

Luna snorted with laughter as the ring of bared weapons closed in. "A way with women Harry?" She smiled as she felt the reassurance he sent through the Force.

Harry readjusted his grip on his lightsaber, "I think our hosts are about to join the Party. Blasting curses to give us some room?"

"Let's scatter them," agreed Luna.

The Nightsisters were slowly moving forward preparing to attack them on mass to negate their abilities. The problem with that tactic was that it also rendered the witches special abilities redundant as well. The second problem was the inward focus on Harry and Luna. It allowed the Bright Cave witches a chance to regroup and prepare to counter.

"Go," said Luna and then, moving in unison they cast blasting curses in to the front rows of the Nightsisters. Once more bodies were flying through the air and in to the chaos Harry and Luna waded in Lightsabers flashing.
Yalara had been gathering as many able-bodied women as possible and had then begun sweeping the village. It had soon become clear that the fighting was concentrated toward the centre of the village. So she quickly led them that way, still gathering warriors as she went.

On reaching the fighting she found herself mesmerised by the one-sided fight unfolding below her. Luna and her male companion were fighting off what looked like a clan of Nightsisters. The two Force adepts were constantly moving, striking down enemies with both their weapons and spells.

With a gesture of her Force imbued staff she sent half her followers toward the rear of the attackers. To the remaining warriors, she gestured toward the Bright Cave.

"Go and see that the scum don't reach the caves."

With her troops on the way she hefted her staff and strode toward the melee followed closely by her two guards. By the time she had arrived the Nightsisters were being overwhelmed and had begun to scatter, seeking escape from the village. Turning to one of her guards she gestured toward Luna, "Go and assist the offworlders."

With a nod, the guard ran off and Yalara turned to her other companion, "Follow me."

Salara ducked under a swinging pike and stepped close to her attacker spinning to drive her elbow into the Nightsisters throat. Her opponent fell backwards and she stepped over the fallen woman to engage her next target. As she moved she sensed danger behind her a moment before excruciating pain struck her from behind.

Rin My'Keth ignored the pain from her burns as she climbed to her feet. It was only through her mastery over the Force that she was able to power her limbs. Looking around she tried to get a feel for the fight but it was immediately obvious that her brethren were in serious trouble. Nearly her entire clan of over seventy warriors had expected to overrun the village but somehow the battle had turned against them. There was no time for that now; now was about survival. Calling out to the few Nightsisters nearby she began looking for a way to escape. Seeing few defenders to the right she began moving that way. With a harsh incantation and a sharp gesture, she sent a surge of Force lightning into the back of a Bright Cave fighter. It sent the woman to the ground clearing her escape route.

"Quickly sisters this way," she ordered and without waiting to see if they followed she began running toward the outer edge of the village.

Velath saw Salara felled by a spell and realised the caster was Rin My'Keth. Cursing she moved to cut off the fleeing woman.

Harry paused as he realised that he didn't sense any enemies nearby.

"They're running," said Luna as she walked up to stand by his side.

Harry nodded absently as he extended his senses into the Force, "There," he said pointing to the left were a number of black-clad figures could be seen moving away from the fight. Before Luna could respond Harry apparated away.
Velath crashed in to an injured Nightsister sending her former comrade crashing in to a heavy wooden support pole. The downed woman didn't get up and Velath ignored her in her haste to catch My'Keth who had almost reached the outskirts of the village. With her target's head start it was going to be difficult to catch her but she knew how important it was to end this tonight.

Harry appeared a few feet in front of the four Nightsisters.

Rin My'Keth cursed as the male Jedi appeared, "Kill the Jedi," she ordered as she sent a ball of Force lightning toward the male.

Harry grinned as he casually deflected the attack away and retaliated with a Force push that sent Rin My'Keth flying backwards to crash in to the stone wall of a hut some thirty feet away. The witch slid to the ground and didn't move.

"This is your one chance to lay down your weapons and surrender ladies," said Harry as he turned to face the three now facing him.

"To a male, I think not," hissed one of the three women. Her face was covered with ritual tattoos and was twisted in rage. "You don't have your woman here to protect you now Jedi."

"I think you will find that I am here," said Luna as she from behind the three women.

"Kill the woman, I'll kill the male," yelled the tattooed Nightsister as she launched herself at Harry, thrusting her pike at his chest like a spear.

Harry cast a stunner directly at the charging woman's head. The Nightsister didn't even have time to react as the red light hit her between the eyes. Dropping her to the ground where she rolled to a stop at Harry's feet.

Luna sidestepped the first attack from a sword-wielding Nightsister and parried the spear of the second. Stepping forward she flicked her lightsaber sending the tip of her blade through her opponent's throat.

The last Nightwitch flicked her wrist sending a throwing knife at Luna's back. The lashed out with her sword striking diagonally in a move designed to Force Luna to either avoid the knife or the sword.

Luna let the Force flow through her as she swayed away from the slashing blade and twisted to avoid the knife. She partly succeeded as the knife cut a thin line across her shoulder blade. Almost immediately she sensed the danger. There was something wrong with the wound.

Then there was pain.

Stumbling Luna used the Force to suppress the pain but to no avail. She could feel Harry's concern but then it faded as pain overcame her. She tried to lift her suddenly too heavy lightsaber just as something heavy struck her and the world went dark.

Velath saw Luna and Harry fighting the fleeing Nightsisters and breathed a sigh of relief when Rin My'Keth was blasted back to slam in to a wall.
She was just reaching the fight when Luna stumbled, obviously disorientated. Her opponent was drawing back to strike and Harry was still turning and too far away. With a final burst of speed, she tackled Luna to the ground.

Harry turned to see Luna borne to the ground by Velath as a Nightsister raised a sword. Without conscious thought, he threw his lightsaber sending the blade through the back of the Nightsisters head as her blade began to descend. Rather than risk injury to Luna he summoned his Lightsaber back and at the same time Force pushed the still falling Nightsister well clear of Luna and Velath. As his lightsaber slapped in to his hand he was already moving toward Luna.

Luna awoke to a feeling of concern radiating from Harry.

Blinking in the light she opened her eyes to see Harry smiling down at her, "Luna, you back with us love?"

"What happened?"

Harry reached over to touch her shoulder, "You were nicked with a knife coated in some sort of natural soporific. Whatever it was it made from it was rather Magic and Force resistant. It knocked you out till one of our hosts managed to brew up a potion to counter it."

Luna frowned for a second trying to remember, "I remember now. What was it that hit me?"

"It was Velath. She probably saved your life when she tackled you out of the way."

"I'll have to thank her when I see her next," replied Luna before sitting up a bit in the bed. Harry quickly summoned a pillow to place behind her back. "I assume since we are having this chat that we won?"

Harry frowned, "I'm not so sure love. Salara told me after the battle that the clan of Nightsisters that attacked the village was by no means the most numerous of the dark clans. I've got a funny feeling that this was just the tip of the iceberg."

Luna nodded as she considered Harry's answer, "You may be right. When you talked to Velath did she have any insights?"

"Only that several offworlders had been meeting with her clan and sending emissaries to the other Nightsister clans. She heard one such visitor talking about shipments of weapons and supplies to help conquer Dathomir."

Seeing Luna's look Harry quickly added that he had passed the information on to Yalara. "Yalara is more convinced than ever that dark times are coming to Dathomir and her visions were a warning from the Force."

Luna held out her hand, "I can feel my strength returning. Help me up love, we have too much to do for me to be in bed. I can recover my strength as we work."

Harry helped her sit up on the side of the bed. "When Salara told me about the Elders being convinced by the attack. I remembered reading a book that spoke of evil being self-defeating. In seeking to destroy the village they have paved the way for us to save them."
Luna shrugged, "I don't see the Nightsisters conquering the rest of the clans. Even if they did can you see Dathomiri Witches bowing down to a conqueror?"

"Not without bloodshed. If we hadn't been here who knows what may have happened. The small difference our being here has made may have been enough to save this clan but the other clans will need to be vigilant. If the Sith are looking for soldiers I can see them wanting to groom the Nightsisters as a possibility. They are above average Force sensitive's with a similar ethos."

Luna smiled and pulled herself upright, "And that is why we need to be up and about. The Bright Cave clan isn't huge but we can't move them all at once. If we can get a few of the Altisian Jedi's ships it should be possible. Give me a hand Harry and we can go and talk to Yalara."

oOoOoOo

Yalara frowned, "Even knowing what is to come I find myself.....uncomfortable running away," the Clan matriarch held up a hand to stop any objections. "I know we have little choice."

Luna smiled at the older woman, "You will find Haven a very different place and you will need to adapt but we are also a centre for learning. Our mission is to seek out Force users and preserve their knowledge, their insights as much as it is to protect them. Our master had a vision of a threat so….vast that all would fall before it if we didn't start combating it now. She saw an order of Force adepts who embraced all aspects of the Force. We seek out Force users no matter their affiliation who will add to our collective and who can help us teach those who will come to us. One day the darkness Talia saw will come and when it does our Force adepts will be ready to fight back."

"You would welcome those who walk the dark path?" asked Yalara.

Luna gestured toward where a very quiet Velath sat with Salara and Harry, "We welcome any who embrace our philosophy. It is not the tool but the intent. Good women can kill to defend others. Evil can love and cherish. The old dogmas of black and white are flawed. We seek a new path."

"What of our way of life, what of the teachings of Allya in the book of law?" asked one of the Elders.

Luna acknowledged the question with a nod, "We have no desire to change your culture and only ask that you share that tolerance with the others living at Haven."

The debate was long even if the outcome was already decided. Yalara was convinced that the survival of the Bright Cave clan was best served through their alliance with Haven. The understanding was that they would help with the training of the Adepts and in return, they had access to all the resources of Haven.

The next morning Salara led Harry and Luna back to the Lily. Harry immediately contacted Haven via a scrambled Holo channel and asked Altis and the others to prepare for new arrivals. A few minutes later and he had an estimated time of arrival of enough ship tonnage to transport every person, animal and knick-knack in the village.
A New Order by arturus

Synopsis: A renegade Jedi has a Force vision of a pair of powerful Force sensitive's and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

Disclaimer: I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

Last time:

The debate was long even if the outcome was already decided. Yalara was convinced that the survival of the Bright Cave clan was best served through their alliance with Haven. The understanding was that they would help with the training of the Adepts and in return, they had access to all the resources of Haven.

The next morning Salara led Harry and Luna back to the Lily. Harry immediately contacted Haven via a scrambled Holo channel and asked Altis and the others to prepare for new arrivals. A few minutes later and he had an estimated time of arrival of enough ship tonnage to transport every person, animal and knick-knack in the village.

Chapter 14 - A New Order

HoloNet News

Senate Demands Action

A delegation of respected Senators have demanded the chancellor answer questions regarding the heavy casualties being suffered among the Jedi led clone troops Read more here

Chancellor Stands Strong Against Corruption

The Chancellor has passed a raft of new laws with the intent of making it impossible for small cabals of corrupt individuals to dominate the Senate Read more here

Earth – The Burrow

Arthur Weasley looked over the collection of boxes, jars and pots currently occupying his shed. "To be honest I'm not sure exactly what else we still need to get."

Ron grinned as he sensed Hermione approaching. "Hermione will have a list. I guarantee you that she will have a list."

Hermione huffed loudly before responding. Her voice frosty, "Very funny Ronald and as it happens I do have a list."

Ron rolled his eyes theatrically at her reply. "Good break out your list and tell us, poor disorganised souls, what's next?"
Now it was Hermione's turn to roll her eyes although Arthur did catch her lips quirking in to a smile as she consulted her clipboard. "We still need to pick up the last bits and pieces we spotted in Diagon Alley. Alissa and Bill should be collecting the Apothecary supplies we ordered today."

Arthur smiled albeit with a touch of sadness, "When do you plan to leave?"

Hermione glanced over at Ron who smiled and nodded. "We haven't really decided."

Arthur looked uncomfortable for a few moments before he squared his shoulders. "Well, you see Molly has been a bit...ahh vocal about everything. Now she...we are just worrying about you both and Harry of course."

Ron clapped his father on the shoulder. "Dad I understand. I'll talk to mum."

With timing typical of mothers everywhere Molly Weasley walked in to the shed carrying a tray of drinks. "You'll talk to me about what Ronald?"

Dinner had been a bit of a quiet affair and the conversation had been serious. When Molly brought up their leaving, it had become an even more serious affair. It took a bit of persuading and promises of frequent return trips to convince Molly to give her blessing for her son's imminent departure. In the end, it was Ron's conviction about how important their work was that swayed her.

Ron gently took his mother's hand, "So you understand Mum?"

Molly smiled even though her eyes were tearing up. "Oh Ron of course I understand. It's just that you are so far away."

Arthur smiled at his wife as he stood. "Come on Weasleys I think we need a visit to the alley. We can do the last of Hermione's shopping and pick up some of Fortescue's Ice Cream Parlour. I find myself craving a toffee ice cream."

Arthur smiled as he watched his wife stand and embrace his youngest son.

Hermione looked back and forth between Ron and his mother before clearing her throat to get their attention. "There is no reason that we couldn't set up an encrypted holocomm. It is a communication device like a special Floo. It will allow us to keep in contact."

Molly looked a bit puzzled so Alissa reached into a pouch on her utility belt and pulled out a small personal holoprojector. "They come in different sizes but given your location so far outside the outer rim. We would need a large less portable unit and several boosters. It's not a difficult thing to do but I don't think the Talia has the correct equipment aboard."

Arthur was practically beaming. "That's a marvellous idea Hermione. Imagine a space muggle device in my home. So how exactly does it work?"

Molly rolled her eyes and let out a sigh of exasperation.

Alissa handed Hermione the Holoprojector. "If you give me a moment I'll see if I can replicate a message...."
Serra Keto frowned as D6's reply scrolled across her screen. For nearly four standard days she had been scanning the planet below searching for her quarry. Frustratingly none of her scans had turned up anything. Part of the puzzle she was facing was that to all appearances the planet below had a rather low level of technology. There was certainly no evidence of the sort of shields she would have expected to see in a society capable of hiding an entire ship from her ships sophisticated sensors. She hadn't found anything saying that the ship was still here…yet there was something tickling the edge of her perception. She had meditated several times trying to identify it but it remained frustratingly elusive.

A beep drew her attention back to her screen, "What is it D6?"

A message scrolled across the screen indicating that an anomalous energy field had been identified. Serra studied the scan results but couldn't see what D6 had identified. "What sort of anomaly?"

D6 let out a stream of chirps and whistles. On the viewer, an image of the landmass below appeared. Marked in blue were places where D6 had found the strange energy fields. Just on the one landmass, there were thousands of blue dots.

"D6 overlay the drive emission remnants we detected when we first arrived and see if any of these anomalies fall on the same heading. Concentrate on the area of the landmass where we lost the trail."

A few seconds later and perhaps half of the blue dots remained. Spread out over the landmass below. Serra frowned as she studied the viewer. "D6 now eliminate any anomalies that are not of sufficient size to conceal the Talia."

Perhaps a fifth of the blue dots disappeared.

"D6 based on the drive emissions, which of these is on the most direct bearing?"

A mass of blue dots still showed on the scanner results. Serra resisted the urge to curse as she began rethinking her admittedly rather nebulous plan to eliminate search areas. Her instincts were telling her that time was running out if she was going to find the mysterious ship before it left the planet. Perhaps it was time to take a much closer look around. "D6 make sure the cloak is operating properly and then take us in. Find somewhere to land near this area of interference." Serra tapped a large blue zone.

Serra dropped from the cockpit to the ground. The landing site was a large cleared lot. It looked like the locals were about to build something judging by the materials stacked around the perimeter. It was also empty which suited her purposes. Still considering that this planet was an unknown quantity she wasn't going to take any chances. "Okay D6 stay with the ship and keep the cloak and ECM running. I don't want to risk any of the locals turning up."

A series of clicks and whistles followed. Serra looked down at her handheld datapad and read the Astromech droids response.

"I know it eats up a lot of power but we might need to make a quick getaway, better safe than sorry." Serra pulled the hood of her Jedi robe up over her head and began moving toward the large area D6 had selected as the nearest source of the readings.

As soon as she left the vacant land she began seeing people on the streets. Apparently, her mode of dress was unremarkable enough that she received only cursory glances from those passing by.
Discreetly checking her datapad she corrected her path several times before she reached the coordinates. There was nothing out of the ordinary immediately visible but she did begin to feel something on the edge of her perceptions. The feeling was like a Force signature but it was nebulous and hard to define even though it was definitely growing stronger.

She reached the nearest edge of the field and found what looked at first glance to be an unremarkable wall then a tavern of some sort. As she stood there she could feel something twisting her perceptions, trying to pull her eyes away from the building. Puzzled she closed her eyes and expanded her Force perceptions.

Shock...
Charlie smiled and shook his head, "Ha I find it more surprising that mum allowed Gin-Gin to stay at her boyfriend's."

With a wide smile on his face, Arthur shook his head. "Ginny's growing up lads so you had best get used to her having boyfriends."

Hermione was only half listening to the conversation when something caught her eye. Standing amongst the crowd was a figure dressed in a brown hooded robe. Not unusual in the alley but there was something about the figure that had her giving it a closer look.

Ron turned to speak to her to find her staring at the crowd in the alley, "Hermione?"

As he spoke the figure turned and for a moment the cloak fell open before the figure disappeared among the throngs of shoppers out enjoying the mild evening. The brief glimpse was enough to catch a glimpse of the figure's waist and reveal a silver cylinder.

Hermione paled as she turned to Ron, "I think we may have a problem."

Seeing her worried look and pale face Ron took her arm to steady her fearing she was about to faint. "What is it?"

Hermione pointed toward the milling shoppers. "There was someone standing over there. Ron, they were wearing a lightsaber!"

Alissa looked around the crowded alley and shook her head. "I can't sense any danger, but we had best return to the Burrow."

OoOoOo

**Haven**

Remus stepped out of the way as a dozen droids maneuvered a trolley down the passage. "The droids seemed to have the preparations well in hand."

Altis nodded as he looked around the piles of equipment in the cavern. "I'm amazed at just how well stocked this place is. Not that it matters that much with access to transfiguration spells."

"Even with the Dathomiri bringing what they had stored food is still the biggest issue we have," Remus gestured behind him toward the food storage facilities. "We can only support so many people living here for an extended period considering our hydroponics facilities. Then we'll need to start importing food."

"And then the risk is that we'll attract unwanted attention," Altis ran his hands through his hair. "I agree that we will need to look at something before long. For now, we should be fine for a little while. If worst comes to worst I'll send some ships to one of the agricultural worlds on the rim and we'll buy supplies."

"Normally I'd say that would be expensive but I should be able to transfigure some gemstones like Harry and Luna did on Coruscant," Remus added with a smile.

As they walked on toward the commissary Sirius appeared from around the corner. "Remus, Altis there you are. Harry just called in that they were about to jump to hyperspace."

Altis acknowledged Sirius with a nod. "Then we need to get moving my friends. Remus can you call everyone together. We need to talk to everyone before the fleet gets here. Luna's message said that..."
the Dathomiri have strong opinions and as a matriarchal society….well let's just say that I think we need to take things slowly till they settle in. Sirius, could you and Keisha check in with Ash and make sure that the hanger is ready."

Sirius threw Altis a comical salute, "Will do."

Earth – Diagon Alley

"That's a good idea Alissa" agreed Hermione. "We need to let Haven know."

Arthur looked around the alley, "Look Ron you lot head straight back. Bill and I will nip in to Gallaghers and get the last of the supplies you need. If you have to take off then at least you'll have the medicinal supplies."

"Thanks dad," said Ron.

Molly looked around with a worried expression on her face. Ron had explained their current situation and now it appeared that their problems had followed him home. With a final look toward her son, she apparated out followed a moment later by Charlie and the twins.

"Filthy mudblood," hissed a voice behind Hermione and Ron.

Both turned in surprise to see two figures dressed in faded and patched robes pointing their wands at them. Ron almost laughed as he recognised them. "Vincent Crabb and dear Merlin, is that you Flint?"

"Drop your wand you filthy blood traitor," ordered Flint.

Ron simply crossed his arms and smiled while Hermione wore an expression of polite disinterest.

"Drop your wands or we'll kill you," threatened Flint.

Ron's smile didn't waver, "You know what Flint I think Hermione and I will be leaving now. I would advise you to put your damn wands away before the Aurors turn up and drag you off to a cell."

Flint bore his stained teeth in a cold smile, "Your friend ruined our families, so now we'll make Potter pay by ransoming you back piece by piece." As he spoke he nodded to Crabb who lurched forward to Hermione. Flint raised his own wand to deal with Ron.

Ron's lightsaber leapt in to his hand and with one small gesture he had cut Flint's wand in half.

Hermione simple side stepped Crabb's attack. As the former Slytherin lumbered forward she drew energy from the Force and retaliated with a single punch to the stomach that sent her much larger foe to his knees. A quick summoning spell and Crabb's wand was also destroyed.

Ron stepped forward his lightsaber humming ominously as he pointed it at Flint's throat, "Now why don't you run along boys."

Marcus Flint caught between fear and outrage, evidently fear won and without even a glance at Crabb he ran off in to nearby Knockturn Alley. A few moments later Crabb managed to lurch to his feet and stagger after Flint. Ron simply shook his head and deactivated his lightsaber before clipping it to his belt.
"Why don't you run along boys?" asked Hermione mockingly.

"It got rid of them didn't it?" countered Ron with a smile before his face grew serious. "We could have easily dealt with them but what would be the point?"

Hermione stood on her toes and kissed Ron on the cheek, "Come on let's go before anyone starts asking questions. We have more important things to worry about."

oOoOoOo

"Alissa and I are prepping the ship for a quick run to get a message to Haven. Based on her calculations a nine-hour jag should see us in subspace range. So we'll probably be gone overnight," explained Ron.

"Hmm you know that we may need to set up some sort of booster or something if we want to talk to your family. We could do some calculations to work out the maximum range." Hermione speculated.

Before he could answer his mother's voice rang through the house. "Ron?"

"In the lounge Mum," Ron called out loudly.

Molly came bustling in followed by her husband and both of her elder sons. "The twins have headed back to their flat. Now you two I understand that you need to get close enough to send your message. Your father and I would like to come."

"Mum?"

Arthur smiled as he stepped forward. "Well if you do have to head back. Alissa said you may be gone overnight. So if we come we can kill two birds with one spell. You send your message and we get the chance to spend a bit more time with you."

Ron considered his father's excited expression. "And you get to see more of the Talia?"

Arthur's face lit up, "Of course I'm sure it will be fascinating."

oOoOoOo

The Talia swept through the clouds and in to the upper atmosphere before crossing in to open space. Aylssa smiled at the wonderstruck look on Arthur's face as he pressed his face up against the flight deck window.

Molly was nowhere near as enthralled, "Dear Merlin Ron, slow down!"

Ron laughed and looked over at Alissa who nodded. "Don't worry Mum we're just about clear to really show you some speed!"

"Ronald we are already going too fast….aiiiiiiee," Molly's words turned to a shriek as Ron increased the power to the sublight engines.

oOoOoOo

Arthur studied Jupiter as the gas giant slowly turned beneath them. "So how far from the Earth are we?"

Ron glanced down at his instruments, "Right now we are a close to six hundred million miles from Earth."
"Dear Merlin!" exclaimed Arthur, "That quickly?"

"It's one of the reasons that interstellar space travel possible," replied Alissa.

Ron almost laughed at the expressions crossing his parent's faces as they listened to Alissa explain the basic's of the Talia's operation. Turning away he quickly re-entered the coordinates for their trip in to Nav-Comp. As he turned to rejoin the conversation he noted a flashing light on his console. The Talia's sensors were indicating a potential piloting hazard. Another few taps on the control board and he bought the more powerful tactical sensors online. The computer was telling him that there was an intermittent sensor reading that could be either a low powered vessel or a spatial anomaly. That bit of data raised a mental warning flag.

He swivelled back around to face the others, "Hermione, Alissa?"

Sensing his concern Alissa was already turning to face him before he spoke, "What is it Ron?"

Ron shrugged, "I'm not sure. I've got some sort of sensor ghost coming up in the system. The sensors can't determine if it's an anomaly or a real ship. I thought you better have a look at it."

Alissa frowned and turned her chair to face the sensors, "A ship unrelated to the person Hermione spotted here, this far in to unknown space is unlikely" Alissa adjusted the sensor settings before starting a comprehensive scan of surrounding space. "That's not an anomaly Ron. Okay everyone strap in, Hermione can I get you at the tactical console?"

"What is it?" asked Molly nervously as her husband helped her with her safety harness.

Alissa gestured toward the sensor screen, "Hopefully nothing but it looks like we have a cloaked ship following us."

"Are we in danger, can we do anything to help?" asked Arthur as he took his own seat and begun strapping himself in.

Alissa pulled on her headset before answering, "Well it is a big coincidence. I think we need to find out what is going on before we act. The Talia is fast so if we need to we can always make a run for it. Ron lets plan for the worst, enter another jump in to the navcomp and take over the con. I'm going to hail our mysterious friend. Hermione be ready to bring our defensive shields up."

Setting her mike to external Alissa selected a general navigational channel, "This is the merchant vessel Talia hailing the unknown merchant vessel approaching our position. Please state your intentions."

Cloaked Scout Ship

Serra Keto slowed her cloaked ship almost to a drift as she locked on to the beacon on the Talia. Whatever had been shielding the ship was now gone so she was taking the opportunity to adjust the broadcast frequency on the beacon. Technically the Force-imbued crystal at its heart allowed her to track the ship through Hyperspace while the pulse being emitted allowed her to pinpoint the ship in relativistic space. Whatever the alien shields properties were they had somehow managed to disrupt both technologies. The adjustment she was undertaking to the broadcast properties would hopefully negate that problem.

"This is the merchant vessel Talia hailing the unknown vessel approaching our position. Please state your intentions."
"What the…" exclaimed Serra before calming herself. Somehow the other ship had detected her presence. Most likely the Force sensitives aboard had felt her presence. She had yet to deliver her report to Master Windu instead having decided to remain cloaked and see if her feeling that the Talia would leave had been correct. It had been. Not two hours later the Talia had appeared on her sensors. Now something had obviously given away her position. It was unfortunate but not everything was lost there was still misdirection. She took a deep breath and making sure to sound slightly embarrassed.

"Talia this is the Republic survey corps ship Celeste. Sorry for the confusion. I've just finished surveying the system and had my cloak operating to avoid detection by the primitive pre-interstellar culture. I really wasn't expecting other ships in the system. Do you need assistance?"

---

The Talia

Alissa almost laughed at the reply, "Ohh almost believable except for the fact that Survey ships don't come cloaked. So how do we want to play this?"

Hermione frowned as she studied the tactical scanners, "If these readings are correct it's also armed."

"Are its weapons powered up?" asked Alissa.

Hermione queried the computer and watched the results as they moved across the screen, "I don't think so…hold on…no our tactical scanners say that they are not powered up."

"Should we run for it?" asked Arthur quietly.

Alissa shook her head, "I'm not sensing any hostility even with the pilot's deception. I am not sure what to do here. The Force is telling me there's no danger and from what Hermione saw, well if it's the same person then I'm almost sure that the pilot is a Jedi."

Bill shook his head a puzzled look on his face. "Aren't Jedi the good guys?"

Again Alissa shook her head, "Individually perhaps but the Jedi council is very rigid. Let's just say that we don't see eye to eye on a lot of issues. We have been trying to keep Haven and its location a secret. Harry also wanted to keep Earth somewhat protected from what's going on in the broader galaxy."

Hermione frowned, "There is nothing we can really do. Earth is sure to be reported to the council. The pilot must know that we know!"

"Or at least guess. Then she also knows that we are not only not armed but also unwilling to instigate an attack so she is fishing for information. Well, we need to say something." Alissa flicked the line open. "Negative Survey ship Celeste we are outbound as well. The planet is too underdeveloped to establish trade relations."

---

Serra's brow furrowed at the reply. Whoever it was on the Talia had effectively parried her attempts at information gathering before she had a chance to initiate a conversation. She had also left her little reason to extend the conversation.

"Acknowledged Talia, Celeste out."
The Talia's occupants watched as the Celeste turned and headed out of the system.

Hermione was the first to break the silence. "If we are right I doubt she'll go far."

Ron looked up from his controls, "So what do we do now? We can't stop her reporting."

"I hate to say it," began Alissa with an apologetic look toward Arthur and Molly. "But I think we need to head back to Haven as soon as possible. They need the supplies and we need to report what has happened."

The trip back to Earth was subdued. It was obvious that the elder Weasleys were worried by the turn of events but were not sure what, if anything they could do to help.

Once back on the ground Molly and Arthur marshalled their family including a newly arrived Ginny. With all the Weasleys pitching in they soon had all the supplies aboard and secure. After a light supper, the goodbyes started alleviated somewhat buy the promise to return soon.

Ron was smiling to himself watching his mother lecturing Hermione on making sure that he took care of himself when he found Ginny standing at his side.

"I'm sorry that I didn't spend much time with you."

Ron shrugged and smiled, "Ginny our visit wasn't planned. It's okay that you had other things on."

Ginny shook her head her expression serious. "No Ron it's not okay. I've been avoiding dealing with.....well with the situation. Now I've missed my chance to catch up with my brother."

"Gin you...."

"Don't you dare make excuses for me!" snapped Ginny. "I've been avoiding you. I was so angry with you getting to be with Harry. I took my issues out on you. For that, I'd like to apologise."

Ron reached out and pulled Ginny in to a hug for a long moment. "Don't worry Gin we'll be back for another visit soon." He studied her for a moment as if looking for something. "Harry and Luna are happy. Busy and in all sorts of danger but happy, I'm sure he'd be just as happy to hear you are doing well."

Coruscant

Darth Sidious frowned as he considered the latest reports from his agents. Somehow his enemies had thwarted him only to disappear back in to the shadows. Not even a month ago he had received a strange vision of a cloaked figure warning that his enemies were being protected.

Closing his eyes he twisted the Force around him as he sent his awareness in to the darkness. He saw a vast web opening up to him. In its strands, he could sense the future, the present and the now. Possible dangers, possible manipulations and opportunities swirled around him. Focusing on the threats he tried to see in to the shadows, to pull the images to where he could identify those that foiled his machinations. His frustration changed to anger fuelling his power. Yet his enemies remained shrouded. How was it possible? It should not have been possible his mastery of the Force was unrivalled.
"You are a fool."

Darth Sidious' eyes snapped open immediately focusing on a figure clad in a dark hooded robe. With anger still swirling around him, Sidious flung his hands out sending a blinding storm of Force lightning toward the intruder only to see it pass harmlessly through the figure.

"You will not be able to harm me Sith Lord." The voice was cold and oddly accented.

Sidious slowly walked forward considering the figure. Considering the lack of even the slightest Force presence it was obviously a hologram. A very lifelike hologram with excellent resolution very advanced. "I assume that you have planted a holo-emitter somewhere in my quarters. Impressive when you consider the security measures, so if you wanted my attention you have it."

"You seek through manipulation and discord to achieve pre-eminence. You seek the rebirth of your petty Order of the Sith Lords. You know nothing about the true darkness. Your narrow views and stunted abilities will doom you."

Sidious made a dismissive gesture, "Empty words my holographic friend. Perhaps you can get to the point of your interruption."

The figure gestured and two images appeared. It was the two that had rescued the strange Force sensitive.

"I believe that you know of these two already?"

Stepping forward the Sith Lord studied the two figures intently. Both were young and fit and although not dressed like it they could have easily passed as Jedi Padawans. "Who are they?"

"Harry Potter and Luna Lovegood perhaps you should ask why they are so important?"

Sidious glared at the hologram, "Very well why show me this?"

"They were the first of the Force Adepts and are a far greater threat to you than the Jedi. You must destroy them before they become established. If you fail they will facilitate your fall far earlier than your fate decreed. You will die screaming as your newborn empire burns around you."

"And if I succeed?"

The hooded figure made a strange gesture, almost a half shrug as it replied. "Then you will have ended a threat to your reign before it begins."

"And what do you gain?" Sidious asked her suspicion evident in his voice."

"Dominance in a war yet to be fought far removed from here."

Sidious narrowed his eyes at the answer. "Hardly a substantiative answer, a suspicious man might question your motivations."

"The treacherous are ever fearful of betrayal after all betrayal is the way of the Sith," countered the figure in a mocking tone.

"You dare mock me!" hissed Sidious as he took a half step forward.

"Do not presume to threaten me Sith. I have no patience for your posturing and my people are far beyond the reach of your schemes. I have told you what you must do if you wish your glorious empire to survive more than a handful of years. By all means, destroy the Jedi. Your war holds little
interest for us but the Adepts must not be allowed to become established."

Forcing himself to appear calm Sidious considered his visitor's words and the many gaps present in the intelligence being offered. "You speak of threats and wars but you offer me nothing to work with. Surely you have more concrete information. Where is their homeworld, what are their weaknesses?"

Again the figure offered its strange, uncomfortable half shrug. "The Adepts are hidden from us. Even our most powerful seers cannot see at will through the shroud that hides them. We know they come from this place and time. It is from here that they originate and spread their contamination. Seek their leadership, seek Potter and you will find them. Once you do destroy them, leave nothing for future deviants to find."

"I will consider your words. How can I contact you?"

"You cannot, your people lack the ability. We will contact you if it is needful. One last thing Sith Lord, you need to destroy the sample you have taken. It is too dangerous for you to do what you plan."

Sidious raised an eyebrow in enquiry, "Why?"

"What you are seeking to do is an abomination and doomed to failure. If you did succeed, it would become the architect of your own demise. The Adepts genetic material must be destroyed."

Sidious may have been Force blind in this conversation. Unable to sense the truth or deception in this being's words but he was still a canny and experienced observer. His visitor's last statement stank of fear. It would be interesting to see if he could find what was so important about the sample that it warranted unequivocal destruction. Such a find might be dangerous but where there was danger there was opportunity. "As a gesture of my....understanding I will seek out these Adepts and see them destroyed. I do however have a question?"

"Ask."

"What are you called?"

The hooded figure turned and for the first time, Sidious caught a glimpse of something beneath the hood, a glint of metal and pale skin. "We are the Mah Vey."

_oOoOoOo_

_The Lily on route to Haven_

Harry leaned forward in the pilot's chair as he sipped at his stimcaf. He ran his eyes over the controls before relaxing back in to the comfortable chair. The small fleet of transports were maintaining their formation and they had yet to encounter anything more than a minor systems failure aboard one of the freighters.

"Do you want something to eat?"

Harry caught the scent of toast and jam and swivelled his chair to see Luna holding a plate of toast.

"Where the hell did you find jam?"

Luna laughed as she handed over the plate. "It's not jam although it is made of a Dathomiri native fruit. Salara gave me a few jars."
Harry took a bite and closed his eyes a blissful expression on his face. "Gods it tastes just like raspberry jam." All those from Earth had found themselves missing the oddest things. For Harry it was jam.

He took another bite before someone cleared their throat.

"Mistress?"

Luna waved Velath to come in. The young Dathomiri had forgone her dark clothing and was now dressed in a simple grey vest and skirt. She had also taken to following Luna around the ship addressing her as mistress much to Luna's bemused amusement. Although Harry was much less inclined to laugh he dismissed it as an odd form of gratitude and respect, strange but understandable under the circumstances.

The former Nightsister nodded politely to Harry but focussed on Luna. "The Elders have requested a meeting."

Luna raised an eyebrow, "Do you know what this is about?"

Velath shrugged, "From what I've heard the Elders are still worried about what's going to happen when they reach Haven. There have been a few grumblings about…..well about men and how things will be after we arrive. Mostly I think they are just worried."

"I'll meet with them. We need to keep everyone focused. Harry love how long until we reach Haven?"

Harry glanced down at the Nav-Comp display before replying, "About six hours to go depending on all the freighters holding up."

Luna pinched a piece of Harry's toast as she turned. "Well, Velath shall we go and allay some fears."

oOoOoOo

Haven

Keisha was the designated contact and so when the droid monitoring communication received a high priority call it immediately paged her to the operations centre. Since she was two rooms away overseeing the volunteers and droids putting the final touches on the logistics plans it had only taken her moments to arrive. Nodding to the droid operator she activated the channel to be greeted by Hermione in the cockpit of the Talia.

"Keisha we have a problem."

oOoOoOo

Jedi Temple – Coruscant

Jedi Master Ki-Adi-Mundi turned away from the holo-recording to face his fellow council members. "A planet with such a high concentration of Force sensitives is an astonishing find. However, I believe that Knight Serra's report that they have developed their abilities to be the more important part of her discovery."

Mace Windu frowned as he considered the reaction to his agents report. Most of the council seemed only vaguely interested. Yes, yes a new society of Force sensitives was a very interesting discovery. A discovery to consider once the war was resolved. Could they not see that these new Force users
were a dangerous unknown? This could be their homeworld and the chance to find something of their motivations. With the Sith on the rise, he would not allow another potential threat to go unanswered. "I fear that this may be of more importance than a simple archive entry. When I assigned Knight Serra this mission it was because of my concerns about these new allies that have appeared."

Adi Gallia gestured to Yoda, "Allies who have, according to Master Yoda's reports to date done nothing but aid our cause. That and they have an apparent association with the Altisian Jedi. Altis is known to many of those sitting here today. What have you sensed that warrants spying on a potential ally?"

Mace studied Adi's face wondering at the question. "Surely you share my concerns that we another Force sensitive organisation involving itself in this conflict. One that we know next to nothing about, save that it appears to be led by two barely Padawan aged children?"

Ki-Adi-Mundi waved a hand in dismissal. "I think you are putting too much emphasis on these affairs. They were trained by a rogue former Jedi and they are associating with a small number of ex-Jedi and Force sensitive's. That hardly constitutes a threat. We have had successful dealings with light aligned Force sensitive's before."

Yoda leaned back in his chair a look of frustration on his expressive face. "With Master Windu disagree I do. Ill-conceived this mission was, so hope we must that no damage have we done."

Seeing the look on Yoda's face Adi Gallia's expression changed to concern. "What then is your opinion Master Yoda?"

"Meditated I have on the warning we received. Believe I do that a Sith is based on Coruscant. Know too much our enemies do. Too many coincidences and deceits there are. Fear I do, that trapped in some vast conspiracy we are. Prepare we must if win we cannot."

Yoda's words had a profound effect on the Jedi in the council chamber. Many looked shocked at the Grand Masters words. More than a few looked frightened for a few moments before they composed themselves.

"Surely things have not spun so far out of control. We would have known!" declared Ki-Adi-Mundi.

Yoda shook his head again, "Hmmm….prideful we have become."

"Pride is something that must be set aside if the Order is to survive." Heads turned toward the voice and the figure now standing near the sealed doors.

Mace Windu half stood, mouth open in shock, 'Qui-Gon?'

Qui-Gon smiled at the shocked Jedi Master, "Master Windu it is good to see you old friend."

Throughout the chamber, whispers started as the stunned Jedi tried to come to terms with the appearance of the Force ghost of the well known Jedi Master.

Qui-Gon smiled gently, "My old comrades I fear my time here will be limited and I have much to share with you."

Adi Gallia had a look of wonder on her face as she studied her old colleague. "What could prompt you to give up oneness with the Force?"

"Not given up old friend," corrected Qui-Gon. "But rather some among the transcended have found
how to interact more closely with this plane of existence. It is rather draining normally but when the
dark side is so prevalent it is exhausting."

Yoda stood and walked toward the Force ghost. "What message do you bring Master Jinn?"

Qui-Gon folded his arms in the sleeves of his robe apparently taking a moment to consider his words
before speaking. "The future is not set in stone, some events must occur and some may occur
depending on your choices. In one future the Jedi are betrayed and hunted to near extinction by one
of their own. Thanks to the….intervention of others that future has been delayed if not yet aborted.
But the threat remains and the Order stands at a crossroad. You must set aside your pride and your
rigid beliefs and see what is."

Adi Gallia cleared her throat nervously still looking somewhat in awe at the luminous figure of Qui-
Gon. "You speak of the Sith?"

"Yes and no."

"Meaning?" Mace Windu asked suspicion evident in his tone.

Qui-Gon spoke seemingly choosing his words carefully. "Your suspicion that there are Sith on
Coruscant is correct."

Mace Windu sat forward in his chair, "Do you know their identity?"

Qui-Gon shook his head. "No the identity of the Sith Lord is shrouded."

Now directly in front Qui-Gon Yoda studied the Force ghost with evident curiosity. "Hmm yes and
no you say. Curious I am as to your other message."

The former Jedi Master met and held Yoda's gaze, "It is more of a warning old friend; you must
destroy all record of the planet your agent found. There can be nothing in the archives. If the Sith
were to find the planet events would unfold that would doom the Jedi."

Bridge - CIS Executor

Dooku was furious as he watched the bridge crew working. His enemies had once more escaped his
grasp. He was about to order the Navigator to set a course to the fleet rendezvous when the
holocomm on his belt began beeping. Without a word to those on the bridge he left.

Once in his personal quarters, he placed the holocomm on the floor and knelt before activating the
channel.

"What is your bidding my Master?"

"I have a new mission for you Darth Tyranus."

Well there is chapter 14 – A bit of a bridging chapter but hopefully, you still enjoyed it

Thanks once again to XRaiderV1 for his help with proofreading.

Hopefully, life will allow a quicker update for chapter 15!
A New Order by arturus

Synopsis: A renegade Jedi has a Force vision of a pair of powerful Force sensitive's and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

Disclaimer: I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

21.5 BBY

Last Time:

Dooku was furious as he watched the bridge crew, Navigator, to set a course to the fleet rendezvous when the holocomm on his belt began beeping. Without a word to those on the bridge he left.

Once in his personal quarters, he placed the holocomm on the floor and knelt before activating the channel.

"What is your bidding my Master?"

"I have a new mission for you Darth Tyranus."

Chapter 15 - A New Order

HoloNet News

Republic Security Threat Exposed

Senior Republic Security sources have announced that they are investigating a number of incidents involving criminal syndicates operating in the outer rim. Initial reports of Jedi being involved have denied by the Chancellor.

Read more here

Senate Calls For Decisive Action Separatist Forces

Several prominent Senators have called for a stronger military response to Separatist annexations. Ludo Morth was quoted outside his Senate offices, "These separatists are being allowed to directly control key systems. We need to win back worlds like Jabiim whose suffering people should be demanding Republic assistance."

Read more here

Haven

"Harry."

Harry turned to see Sirius and Remus waving to him from the edge of the crowd. He waved back and then turned to finish giving his instructions to the Droid tasked with unloading. As soon as he
finished, he trotted over to where the two marauders were watching the chaos with somewhat gobsmacked expressions.

Sirius smiled at his godson and pulled him in for a hug. "Merlin's balls Harry my lad you don't bugger around do you?"

Remus laughed and patted Harry on the shoulder, "Good to see you, Harry. I see that you managed to find us some more residents."

Harry shrugged, "We were very lucky to be able to help but to be honest I foresee a few problems on the horizon. Could you find Altis and Keisha I think we need to have a meeting and sooner is better than later."

As Harry was speaking Luna appeared at his shoulder. Behind her was her ever-present shadow Velath.

Luna smiled serenely at the two older wizards, "Remus, Sirius it's good to see you. I assume Harry has already called for a council?"

"We'll get it organised for tonight," Sirius reassured Luna. "What sort of trouble are we talking about here?"

Luna shrugged, "Hopefully none but we need to decide how we are going to manage the cultural differences."

"Such as?" Sirius asked as he covertly studied Velath.

"The Dathomiri are a matriarchal society where men have a lesser standing. Think male house elves although the system wasn't quite outright slavery it's pretty close. Men are for breeding, and it's acceptable to knock a man over the head and drag him back to your tent to be your mate. We have tried to explain but it's part of their culture. They are almost an analogue of the Amazons of human mythology. Change will take time, so I think we need to set up some ground rules."

Sensing that Sirius was about to make some sort of off colour joke Remus jumped in first, "Are we likely to have that sort of problem here?"

Luna shook her head, "No, well I hope not. The clan knows why they are here and what the alternative is. Their clan matriarch has her clan well in hand. Given that most of them are Force-sensitive warriors I think erring on the side of caution is best."

The Talia

"Haven Control this is the Talia requesting permission to dock," once more Ron was acting as the pilot with Alissa in the co-pilot's seat. Hermione was sitting in the third seat keeping a close eye on the long range scanners.

"Talia this is Haven Control you have clearance. Be aware Talia we have a full house, so you are to proceed to Bay fourteen."

"Acknowledged Haven," replied Alissa.

"Welcome, home Talia."
As they slowed to negotiate the asteroid field, Hermione breathed a sigh of relief. "No sign of any ships. There are quite a few decaying trails."

"They did say it's a full house," offered Ron.

When they entered the concealed dock, the bustle was surprising given that the large ex-mining operation had a large number of docking bays.

"They weren't joking, were they?" Ron said softly as he slowed the ship maneuvering to their waiting berth.

Ron and Alissa began the checklist to power down the engines and the corresponding systems as Hermione unbuckled herself. "I'll go and check in with the others. We need to report in and find out what's going on."

As it happened, she didn't have to go far.

Keisha was standing at the base of the main ramp, "Hermione, it's good to have you back."

Hermione embraced the former Padawan, "Good to see you too. How's Alina?"

"Hopefully asleep although with all the noise.....She's fine and growing like a Vadik plant."

Hermione smiled pleased for the younger woman. "Things look pretty busy. I take it that the Dathomiri have arrived."

Keisha shrugged, "Just a few hours ago. They brought nearly their entire village. Look I know you've just got back but would you be able to meet with the Dathomiri elders?"

"Of course, when?"

"Tonight, Harry and Luna called a meeting after they arrived."

Yanra took a sip of tea from the small glass before returning it to the table. "The quarters you assigned us are adequate. My concern is more focused on the bringing together of our people. If we wish to avoid...incidents we had best be clear in our orders. The elders were surprised and somewhat relieved to see so many women here in positions of authority."

Luna's eyes flicked to Harry for a moment before she answered. Harry had agreed to let Luna, Hermione, Keisha and Alissa do most of the talking in the meeting. He had also briefed the other males about what the most likely problems might be.

The conversation went back and forth for nearly three hours but eventually, all parties agreed on a general set of rules to govern the growing mixed population. A council with two representatives from each body would sit in judgment on any contentious issues. The most pressing problem was the livestock. They had bought a large selection of livestock that needed housing. So far it had been corralled in a section of the gardens. Hermione had explained and then demonstrated a space expansion charm as a solution.

That was just the first of the issues, but eventually, the Dathomiri had agreed to be a part of the ongoing exchange of information and training program which had been somewhat of a sticking point. It seemed that like the Jedi they were somewhat arrogant about the 'rightness' of their society.
Yanra had along with several of her elders had been hesitant about participating. Eventually it had taken a demonstration of magic from Luna to sway their opinion that the Dathomiri had 'little to learn'.

Leaving the details of things like division of labour and to be worked out by the representatives the meeting drew to a close with a light meal in the open gardens. The conversations and interactions were still a bit stiff, but all those present were satisfied that a good start had been made.

Luna sipped from a small glass of fruit juice, "What do you think Harry?"

"A good start I suppose I'm surprised that they didn't raise more issues around integration."

Luna smiled slightly, "Yanra has them well in hand as she is well aware of what is at stake. I'm sure more things will come up but for now, I agree it is a good start."

As they talked, Hermione and Ron appeared. Ron with a plate of food piled high and Hermione with what looked like a selection of fruit. Hermione was still looking around with interest at the large crowd.

"This is fascinating, I'm so glad we were back in time to attend the meeting."

Harry smiled at his oldest friends, "I'm glad you're back as well."

Outer Rim Territories - CIS Executor

Dooku frowned as he considered his master's orders. He had left Grievous to conduct the war and had begun the search for the renegade Force sensitive's that had so disrupted their plans. His first stop had been Dathomir. His allies had been tasked with destroying the light aligned Clans as 'proof' of their value. His master had plans for the witches that would see them serving as assassins and spies. But something had gone wrong. An entire clan had disappeared, and the few survivors among his allies had described two Jedi, two young Jedi that had been involved.

From there a trail of bribes and guesses had led him to the Outer Rim. He still had no 'fixed location', but there was something, a minor eddy in the Force that told him that he was in the right part of space.

Now there was nothing. His master's skills at determining the movements of their enemies had been somehow rendered useless, and his own meditation revealed nothing. The Sith could cloak themselves in the Force but how were two children doing so?

Haven

Luna stepped out of the freshener drying herself with a towel. She could have used magic but preferred the feeling of towelling herself dry. With her hair still slightly damp, she paused to look in the large mirror. Giving her reflection a nod, she tossed her towel in to the hamper and walked in to the room she was now sharing with Harry.

"You truly are beautiful Luna."

Luna smiled and blew a kiss at Harry who had been sitting on the bed reading from a datapad but was now running his eyes over her.
"I mean it Luna. Inside and out body and soul, you are beautiful."

Sensing his seriousness she walked over and sat on the bed next to him. "What is it, my love?"

"I watched you walk out of the freshener and realised…well, I realised that you needed to hear me say it. I don't think I say it enough to do you justice."

"Well thank you love, but I don't near to hear the words. I can feel your Force presence all the time. I know how you feel."

Harry reached out and gently stroked Luna's face. His touch made for an even deeper connection. Luna almost shivered at the intensity of his emotions as they swirled around her merging with hers and strengthening their mutual bond.

"Luna?"

"Hmmmmm?"

"I love you."

Haven – Central Cavern Training Room

Harry leapt over Remus and Force pushed Sirius backwards to collide with a wall. Luna parried an attack by Altis responded with a thrust that forced the Jedi Master to twist away from her attack. The five combatants fought on for nearly ten minutes before Ash called time.

There were some questions from the others in the room around their choices made in the sparring session. Altis then walked several of the younger Jedi some of the more advanced fighting techniques. The half dozen Dathomiri present asked a few questions about the fighting styles, and the session quickly became an open discussion around the advantages and disadvantages of various styles and techniques.

Next up was Remus who explained about foci and how the Force could be used in conjunction with just such a suitable focus. The rest of the lesson was around the light spell. After an hour almost all the Jedi could cast the spell. Those without lightsabers were encouraged to try using several of the wands bought back to Haven from Earth. Several of the Dathomiri managed to cast light spells which in turn became a discussion around gaining access to their own wands.

Lastly, Luna stood and presented a session on the difference between the philosophies of the Jedi and the Sith. With the Dathomiri leery of anything associated with the 'dark' she was careful to stress that she was not advocating wholesale adoption of the dark side. Several of the Dathomiri and Jedi looked uncomfortable, but Luna's position that intent was all important when judging actions was well argued. She went on to answer several questions before finishing with an invitation for a volunteer to present a rebuttal for their next session. Yanara was among those who asked what the purpose of such topics would be.

Luna made a sweeping gesture indicating the audience gathered in the cavern. "We don't all share the same beliefs, but I believe that there is room for different beliefs. I read somewhere once that if you wish to be understood seek first to understand. Every citizen of Haven is invited to participate in these sessions. No doubt we shall not all agree, but there is nothing wrong with healthy debate."

Harry stepped forward to stand beside Luna, "Our master saw a dark time coming. A threat so vast, so far-reaching that it would bring untold destruction to the galaxy. That threat is far in the future, but
the first parts of her vision have already come to pass. The threat grows closer each day and the
Force grows more out of balance. Part of what we do here is to spread and in that way preserve
knowledge. If we can achieve that, then we are helping to defeat that distant enemy as well as the
enemy currently at our door.”

As Harry finished, Yanara stood, "May I speak?"

Harry nodded, and the Dathomiri matriarch walked to the centre of the room to stand beside Luna
and Harry. "We have long held ourselves aloof from life outside our clan. Then I had a vision, a
vision that showed the destruction of my tribe among countless others. Haven is truly a haven for my
people, one that I shall encourage all to embrace."

oOoOoOo

**Planet Barseg – Outer Rim Territories**

Jedi Knight Kel Narl ducked behind a smouldering wall beside two ARC troopers. "This position is
untenable until we get some more firepower in here, so much for this being a neutral planet."

Another round of blaster fire slammed in to the wall. "Something has happened to the reserves they
should be here by now."

Kel and his squad of ARC clones desperately needed reinforcement if they were going to succeed
against the heavily armed separatist units. His old master and several other Jedi were meant to have
been here with a company of reinforcements almost an hour ago.

The senior ARC trooper gestured toward the enemy positions, "Sir we need to knock out those two
bunkers before we get picked off one by one."

Kel risked a peek over the wall. The consequences of waiting for reinforcements were made clear by
the dead and wounded, "I know. Boomer, order the rest of the squad to lay down some covering fire.
You two get ready to follow me to the next building. We will act as a diversion, and once in position,
we'll cover the squad's withdrawal. Then we'll pull back to the Alpha position as well."

The Clone Lieutenant nodded, "Yes sir…..okay lads cover fire we're giving you a distraction so get
ready to pull back to the Alpha position."

CLUNK

Kel suddenly felt the Force warning him of danger, "Watch…"

There was a painfully loud noise and a huge flash of white light then darkness.

oOoOoOo

Kel awoke to a blinding headache and a feeling of disorientation. He cracked open an eye to find
himself lying in the dirt. Extending his Force perception he could sense several artificial life forms
approaching.

Even turning his head slightly in his prone position he could see several unmoving clones. With a
groan, he knelt and extended his hand summoning his lightsaber. Moving quickly he checked
Boomer, but the clone was dead. Checking the others, he quickly realised that the explosion had
decimated the squad. He had only survived because Boomer had shielded him. Summoning his
strength, he prepared himself for the droids arrival. He would need to strike fast and hard if he was to
escape.
"Check for survivors," ordered the synthetic voice of a battle droid.

"Roger, Roger," acknowledged another further to his right.

Kel burst in to motion igniting his lightsaber and destroying the droid next to him and somersaulting over the rest of the droids. There was no gain in fighting here so he decided to head back toward safer ground. His starfighter and the ARC dropship should still be back at the Alpha location. Moving with Force augmented speed, he moved away from his pursuers in to the heavily wooded area near the river.

**oOoOoOo**

The dropship was a smoking wreck, and his starfighter was completely destroyed. All he had been able to salvage was a medkit and a damaged tactical comm unit from a dead clone pilot. The unit was missing the mouthpiece that had fitted inside the pilot's helmet, but the receiver still appeared to be working.

It was too dangerous to stay here so he decided to begin the long hike to Republic's main base of operations that on foot was, he estimated a good seven hours away.

He had been walking amongst the trees for nearly two hours when the comm unit picked up a transmission. Breathing a sigh of relief he held the unit to his ear. The reception was poor but considering the unit was meant for short range comms he was lucky to be getting anything.

"….All units are ordered to regroup at…"Kel smiled as he recognised the calm, measured voice of Jedi Master T'Rul the senior most Jedi attached to his battle group.

"…..watch out they've got a hidden emplacement near the ridge they.....aieee."

"We need reinforcements on the perimeter we have...."

"…cut off from the rest of the fleet. Repeat....."

Kel shifted uneasily as he realised the battle was turning against the Republic forces. As the chatter slowly died away, he received one final ominous message.

"…are dead. This is Hammer all...stand at....beach. Long live the...."

Overhead a flight of CIS Vulture-class droid starfighters shot across the sky.

With a sigh, he pocketed the comm unit. It appeared that their mission to secure the supposedly neutral planet and the important hyperspace route had failed; now he was behind enemy lines. His only real choices were to hide and wait for rescue or to try and find a functional ship and get off Barseg. Moving back in to the shadowed wood he resumed his long trek to the spaceport.

Moving carefully through the increasingly dense woods he paused and reached out with the Force. So far he had only encountered animals but better to be safe than...he paused as he sensed a strong disturbance in the Force. Taking a deep breath to centre himself, he tried to determine exactly what had caught his attention.

There was something, right on the edge of his awareness. It was elusive and nebulous, but it was there. It was hidden away deep underground, far from the light of day. Kel concentrated and tried to get some idea of where it was.....north....a cave.

He opened his eyes and looked around. Whatever it was there was no possible way he could not
investigate. All Jedi had a responsibility to investigate and report all such anomalies, regardless of the circumstances.

CIS Long Range Shuttle

"You must travel to the Barseg sector. Something has been discovered there.....you must recover it before the Jedi."

Dooku didn't react visually to the sudden change in his orders, but his master still detected it.

"You have a question apprentice?"

"I do not question your orders, my master."

"But you do Tyranus; your doubts are clear so I will explain. These Force adepts are a danger to our plans. They are an unknown that somehow remains hidden, even from me. They are a threat. Something powerful has stirred in the Barseg sector, something from the ancient Sith that would aid our cause. This is an opportunity, do not let it fall in to the hands of the Jedi."

Dooku bowed his head until the hologram disappeared and then gave the necessary orders to the droid pilot.

Jedi Temple – Coruscant

Yoda awoke with an oppressive feeling of suffocation. After a moment he centred himself and sent his Force perception questing for the source of the disturbance. As was the norm of late the dark side cloaked nearly everything, but he persisted. Finally, he caught a glimpse of Jedi Master T'Rul fighting furiously before being cut down in a hail of blaster fire.....shadows obscured his vision before it cleared again. A figure in Jedi robes was peering in to a cave. The figure looked around before disappearing in to the darkness.

Jedi Council Chambers

"Kel Narl found something dangerous he has," Yoda explained to the hastily gathered members of the Jedi Council.

The hologram of Adi Gallia sat back in her chair and sighed, "And Master T'Rul is dead?"

"Correct I fear I am," replied Yoda gently, T'Rul and Adi had been friends as Padawan learners. "A great loss to the Order his death is."

"The cruiser sent with the advance force has failed to make contact. That means reinforcements will have to be redirected from the Spinax system. That will take several days at best." Ki-Adi-Mundi reported from his position near the tactical display.

Yoda shook his head, "Too late they may be but send help we must. Dangerous this situation is. Send a master we shall."

"I will go," volunteered Adi Gallia. "I am but hours away with a fast courier ship."
Haven

"Harry?"

Harry turned at the familiar voice of Darth Vectivus.

The former Sith Lord gestured, and a palm-sized red crystal globe appeared in his hands. "This is the Oracle Stone. It is an ancient Sith artefact that has been lost for three millennia. In the past, it helped build empires and tear them down. Any sufficiently powerful Force sensitive can use it and glimpse things far away, spy out your enemies movements or seek out hidden things. I sought it out long ago, but its hiding place eluded me."

Harry studied the illusion in his instructor's hands. "It sounds like a powerful tool."

Darth Vectivus spread his fingers, and the illusion vanished. "It has been found on the planet Barseg. Even in this form, it calls out to me. You can be sure your enemies can hear its call just as well as I. I am sure that you see the problem here."

"Well, besides the fact that it would give the Sith a huge advantage against us it also destroys any hope of hiding Haven from our enemies."

Darth Vectivus nodded, "Indeed my student. You must retrieve it at all costs. If you are able to destroy it, having it here would be almost as bad as it falling in to the hands of the enemy."

Harry sent a mental call to Luna, "I've warned Luna. We'll put together a team."

Darth Vectivus shook his head, and his eyes grew hard, "I'd be careful many Sith artefacts are well protected. Some even have a disturbing level of sentience and may fight against their destruction."

"So just Luna and I?"

'It might be for the best," acknowledged Darth Vectivus as he slowly faded. "Beware of others seeking the crystal. I suspect that beside the Sith many Force sensitive's may also have felt the same disturbance I did. As will have the Jedi, even if they don't understand its cause they are sure to investigate."

Planet Barseg

As Harry and Luna walked down the ramp from the Lily, they had a magnificent view across a pristine river and the heavy woods on the opposite bank.

"It's beautiful," commented Luna.

Harry nodded, "Yes it is however even here in the sun surrounded by the living Force I can sense something, a taint."

Luna closed her eyes for a moment, "Yes I can sense something it's like a shadow over the sun."

Harry sealed the Lily and cast an area effect notice-me-not spell followed by a simple warding line which was essentially a magical alarm. As he worked, Luna sank in to the lotus position and took several deep breaths to centre herself. Reaching in to the Force she began seeking out the source of
the disturbance. Her technique was rooted in neither the light nor the dark but rather wove a path between the two.

To Luna, it was if she was travelling through a light mist. Around her shapes formed and then fell back in to the mist. A face…a ship burning…lovers entwined in passion….a tree of immense age…a Jedi standing at the mouth of a cave shrouded in the dark side…..Dooku striding through the trees.

Luna's eyes snapped open, "Harry I've found it. A Cave, about two hours walk away in that direction. We need to hurry a Jedi is already there."

Harry looked over at the ship, but Luna shook her head, "Too slow. Take my hand."

With a loud crack, they both disappeared.

oOoOoOo

Kel walked slowly through the cave. The Force was warning him that this was a dangerous place, but something was whispering in his mind calling him forward. He paused as he reached a chamber carved from the living rock, the whispers were louder now.

Amid the fallen stones and other refuse one item, a stone box lay shattered beneath a fallen rock. From within came a red-gold glow. Using the Force Kel lifted the fallen stones and pushed them to the side. Another gesture and a glowing sphere was exposed for the first time in millennia.

Entranced, Kel reached out and summoned the crystal sphere in to his hand.

oOoOoOo

As they reappeared at the mouth of the cave both Harry and Luna paused as a feeling of malevolent glee assaulted them.

Luna winced "Bugger, we'd better hurry."

Following the cave, they came to a figure hunched over on the floor of the cavern. The sense of evil was radiating outward from the motionless figure in Jedi robes, but their eyes were drawn to the figure in the shadows.

"You may as well stop hiding we can sense you well enough," warned Harry.

"Can you boy…so unlike the fool at your feet," stated a hooded figure as it emerged from the shadows. Clad in armour of a design not seen for countless years a figure formed. Its features resolved in to those of an alien with pale blue skin with withered features and cold yellow eyes.

"I am the guardian of the Oracle stone. My fate is to protect it…"

Luna snickered, "You are a Sith and a dead one at that. We are quite familiar with Force ghosts."

The Force ghosts eyes narrowed, and Luna frowned as she sensed an attempt to gain entry to her thoughts. Beside her, Harry tensed, sensing the attack taking place.

"You will never gain access to our thoughts. Now release the Jedi," demanded Harry.

The Force ghost hissed and raised its hands sending Force lightning streaking toward Harry who contemptuously battered it aside with his hand.

Harry didn't move as the Force ghost advanced toward him, "Let the Jedi go Sith."
"You've been trained boy, but you are no Sith," The yellow eyes were cold, but there was a hint of something calculating in his gaze.

"Nor are we Jedi. Now release him," ordered Harry.

The Sith laughed, "I have nothing to do with his predicament. The fool has done this to himself. I am but a spectator."

Luna stepped forward and raised her hand. Slowly she began to chant in Latin as she raised a hand to point at the ghost. Who sneered before shuddering, "What have you done girl?"

"Begun a spell of banishment which I will finish if you don't start explaining," warned Luna.

"I am Darth Ruin you insects are….arghnhh," the Sith's words became an unintelligible scream as Luna began chanting once more. Harry stepped forward and peered at the flickering ghost, "Tell me Darth Ruin how does it feel knowing that your stolen existence on this plane of existence is about to end. Do you fear what awaits you in the Force?"

"I have done….. nothing to….. the Jedi," Darth Ruin replied through clenched teeth as the painful pulling on his non-corporeal body halted once more.

"Then what is happening here?" demanded Luna.

The Force ghost looked rebellious for a moment before flinching as Luna raised her hand again. "Fine…..the fool touched the artefact, and in his ignorance, he is now trapped in the visions it has shown. The Oracle works but it also a trap for the unwary. Now release me, woman!"

Luna shared a look with Harry who turned to the dead Sith, "Why are you here are you it's guardian?"

Darth Ruin hissed in displeasure, "I died here at the hands of my 'faithful' followers. The fools fled the place of my transcendence never knowing the treasure lying at their feet."

"What is the Oracle?" asked Luna. When the ghost sneered at her question, she once more took up her chant.

"Enough," screamed the ghost. "Curse you, it is a semi-sentient device it grants clairvoyance and to the strong glimpses of the future."

"How do we release the Jedi?" asked Harry.

Darth Ruin laughed vindictively, "I don't know I never possessed it."

Harry considered the Force ghost for a moment before turning to Luna, "Any more questions?"

Luna shook her head and raised her hand once more chanting in Latin.

"No wait…..aiieeee…I can give you power….arghhh."

The Force ghost of Darth Ruin wavered and dissipated in a scattering of dust.

Uncaring of the Sith's long overdue fate Harry walked over to study the motionless Jedi, "Perhaps if we were to summon the stone."
"Wait a moment," warned Luna who took off her cloak held it in front of her, "I have no desire to touch it."

Harry nodded and levitated the stone out of the Jedi's hand and in to Luna's cloak. Once it touched the cloth, Luna secured the stone. "I don't want to risk shrinking it until we understand how it works."

The Jedi gave out a groan and collapsed to the floor in a boneless heap. Harry quickly checked the Jedi out and was relieved to find that he was breathing normally.

After a final glance around the chamber, Harry picked the unmoving Jedi up and threw him over his shoulder. "I'll bring our friend lets get back to the ship."

OoOoOoOo

Jedi Courier Ship

Adi Gallia let her former Padawan and now fellow Master Siri Tachi pilot the ship while she concentrated on finding their missing Jedi.

The shroud of the Dark side was making it very difficult, but proximity to her quarry was aiding her cause. Then, suddenly, the mists parted, and she caught a glimpse of Knight Nar. He was unconscious or wounded being carried by someone out of a cave. She concentrated and gleaned a bearing.

"Siri I have him," using the Force as her Guide Adi took the helm and began a rapid descent toward the heavily forested southern continent.

They had been exceptionally lucky to find that the CIS fleet had departed. The only other ship that had appeared on their sensors had been an inbound shuttle. That luck probably wouldn't last, but for now, they would take what the Force offered.

Adi scanned the landscape looking for a safe landing area, "I'll set us down as close as I can."

Once on the ground, the two Jedi Masters moved rapidly through the trees toward the Force signature of Kel Nar.

"I'm sensing two Force signatures with Nar and a third approaching from the east," Adi warned Siri.

Siri nodded as she leapt to the top of a steep embankment, "I know we had best hurry as I don't believe in coincidences.

When they reached the location of the Force signature, they spotted two figures, a female and a male. The male laid a third on the ground as they turned to face the two Jedi.

The woman smiled at Adi, "Well for a cave in the forest this seems a popular locale."

OoOoOoOo

Harry hid his smile at Luna's greeting and kept his attention focused on the two Jedi.

The dark skinned Jedi appeared raised an eyebrow at Luna's greeting, and he thought he saw the blond Jedi's lips twitch.

"Indeed," said the dark-skinned Jedi. "I am Jedi Master Adi Gallia, and this is Jedi Master Siri Tachi. We have been looking for one of our brethren."
Harry tilted his head toward the unconscious Jedi, "I take it that this is your lost lamb?"

Adi looked somewhat bemused by the reply, "If you mean that he is our lost comrade then yes he is."

"Well, he's unconscious but alive which considering…." Harry paused as he sensed danger. He raised his hand and his lightsaber leapt from his utility belt to his hand and ignited. Behind him, he heard Luna's blade hiss into life as well.

He noted that both the Jedi had also drawn their lightsabers.

"Dooku," hissed Harry as he recognised the Force presence of the approaching Dark sider.

Adi Gallia reacted when Harry said Dooku but didn't have time to comment before a figure dropped from the crest of the wooded hill and charged the two Jedi Masters.

Harry smiled grimly. Obviously, Dooku considered the two Jedi the bigger threat. Time to disabuse him of that notion he noted with a private smile. "Luna protect the wounded."

Adi blocked Dooku's blows as she gave ground to allow Siri to join the attack. Neither saw the blur that was Harry until he slammed into Dooku driving the older man backwards.

Dooku recognised Talia's apprentices as he had engaged the two Jedi masters. He knew Gallia quite well and knew she lacked the ability to beat him one on one. The fact that a second Jedi was with her made her more dangerous and thus his first target. He was unprepared for being slammed into by Talia's boy. The young Force-sensitive was powerful and fast keeping up a vigorous attack that forced him to give ground so he used the Force to leap high into the air and land well away from his opponents.

Dooku smiled as Harry stalked forward, "We meet again, boy."

Harry didn't reply as he advanced toward Dooku.

Without warning, Dooku sent a torrent of Force lightning toward Harry who blocked with his lightsaber. To his left, he could see the two Jedi moving toward the Sith.

Dooku banished every rock in the clearing toward the two Jedi without taking his eyes off Harry.

Harry smiled.

There was a loud crack as Luna appeared behind Dooku she was already moving as she appeared her lightsaber reaching out…but somehow the Sith managed to avoid being run through instead taking the lightsaber in the shoulder. Harry attacked, but Dooku parried and spun away in to the blade of Adi Gallia which barely missed decapitating him as it cut in to his other shoulder.

Dooku cursed realising that the battle was lost. Fury at another defeat coursed through him and with a scream he unleashed a storm of dark energy that burst out from him like a bomb blast.

Harry who was advancing on Dooku was thrown backwards by the blast before impacting heavily with a tree.

Luna, Adi and Siri were likewise blow off their feet and scattered around the clearing.

Dooku staggered over to the Jedi on the ground. He could sense the artefact close by…there. Dooku touched the controller on his wrist to summon his modified speeder. Wincing as he reached
down for the bundle of cloth and pulled it apart to reveal the red crystal orb.

He turned as his speeder appeared through the trees and walked toward the hovering vehicle. He could feel the Force-imbued power leaving him as his injuries combined with Force exhaustion to make him feel like he was going to blackout.

Just as he touched the speeder burning pain struck his hand. He looked down to see a round burn hole through the artefact and his hand.

Luna struggled to her feet on the far side of the clearing as Dooku went to mount a speeder with the Oracle in his left hand. With one smooth motion, she threw her lightsaber. The blade passed directly through the Oracle and Dooku's hand before she summoned it back.

Dooku slumped but managed to get the speeder airborne.

"This is going to hurt in the morning," complained Harry as he walked over cradling an obviously dislocated left shoulder and sporting a bleeding cut above his right ear.

Luna checked him over, 'You'll live, but you better sit down. I'll check the others."

Adi Gallia finished examining Kel he remained unconscious; "He will hopefully recover, but he appears stable for now. How is your shoulder, Harry?"

Harry frowned, "Have we meet Master Jedi?"

Adi shook her head, "No but both of your descriptions have reached the Jedi Council." She studied the two young Force sensitives. They were to her eyes too young. It was reckless no matter how skilled they were. Had they been Jedi they would still be Padawans.

Before Harry could reply, a high pitched whine passed overhead.

"Droids," warned Siri from atop the small hill. "We've just had a flyover, and I can sense a large number of them in the trees."

Luna helped Harry to his feet, "Dooku warned them. We should have expected this."

"We can't fight an army of droids like this," warned Adi.

Siri slid down the hill and made her way over. "There are droids everywhere in the woods. There is no way we can make it to our ship now."

Luna gestured toward the two women. "Harry can you apparate these two to the Lily. If you can, I'll get the wounded one, and we can get out of here."

Harry nodded. It was giving away one of their abilities, but there were not a lot of choices. Well, choices he could live with anyway.

Siri looked back and forth between Harry and Luna, "What is apparate?"

Harry motioned for the two Jedi to come closer, "A way out of here, I need you to both grab my good arm. You'll feel a squeezing sensation. It's a really good idea to not let go. As soon as Luna's gone, we'll follow."

The two Jedi were not that surprised when Luna and Kel disappeared. They knew something was
going to happen. However, when Harry asked them to grip tight, they did not expect the feeling of compression to be as acute as it was. The feeling passed quickly less than two heartbeats later they were standing in the cargo hold of the Lily.

Adi took a deep breath, "That was an interesting experience. I assume we are on your ship."

Harry gestured to the bulkhead, "Welcome aboard the Talia. If you like, you are both welcome to come to the bridge, or I can take to our sickbay. No doubt that's where Luna is now."

Siri looked around what she could see of the ship. It was new and looked to be a top of the line civilian ship. Whoever these two were they certainly had money. "I had better come to the bridge. It's only a short hop to where we concealed our ship."

Harry gestured to the left, "Our sick bay is the third door on the right. Now if you follow me Master Tachi."

Siri followed Harry to the bridge. She had definitely been right, the ship was new and as good a merchant ship as money could buy. Even the order didn't have this standard of fit out. Harry gestured for her to take the co-pilot's seat as he began working through a quick pre-flight check. When he turned to check a panel and winced, she remembered his wounded shoulder.

"Are you alright, do you need a hand?"

Harry gave an odd one-armed shrug, "I'm fine for now. I'll get Luna to fix me up once we are off planet. I've got a feeling we are going to be up to our arse in droids pretty soon." As he finished speaking, he gripped the controls and the Lily smoothly lifted off.

"Okay, so which way?"

Siri got her bearings and pointed toward a bend in the river, "We are in a clearing north of that bend in the river."

Harry kept the ship at minimum power for such a short flight. He was just about to lower the landing struts when the Siri cursed. He looked up from the controls and spotted what she had seen, smoke. The Lily drew closer and soon the source of the smoke was confirmed. The Jedi's ship was being torn apart by a large company of droids.

Pulling back on the controls Harry steered the Lily toward open space. "Looks like you are getting a lift with us."

BEEP

The tactical console beeped and Siri turned to the console, "You have multiple incoming ships."

"Not for long," replied Harry as the Lily rocketed in to open space. Reaching over he activated the comm unit. "We are about to jump to hyperspace."

As the Lily cleared the planet's gravity well, he finished his calculations activated the hyperdrive jumping to hyperspace.

oOoOoOo

Dooku hissed in pain as the Neimoidian Medical Droid began repairing his damaged hand. The little blond whore had destroyed the artefact when she hurled her lightsaber. His hand was repairable, but the Artifact was now nothing more than a hunk of inert crystal. He had once more underestimated
them. Well, not anymore the next time they crossed paths she and the boy would die.

He was pulled from his angry musings when his holocomm beeped and vibrated indicated an incoming call.

His Master would not be pleased.
A New Order by arturus

Synopsis: A renegade Jedi has a Force vision of a pair of powerful Force sensitive's and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

Disclaimer:

Disclaimer: All publicly recognizable characters, settings, etc. are the property of their respective owners. The original characters and plot are the property of the author. The author is in no way associated with the owners, creators, or producers of any media franchise. No copyright infringement is intended.

I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

There is a small tip of the hat to 'A Jedi’s Path' by Angeldoctor in the last section of this chapter. If you notice it there is no prize but you should reward yourself by reading his fantastic Harry Potter/Star Wars crossover. It is an excellent read that I deserves the kudos.

Last Time:

Dooku hissed in pain as the Neimoidian Medical Droid began repairing his damaged hand. The little blond whore had destroyed the Artefact when she hurled her lightsaber. His hand was repairable but the Artefact was now nothing more than a hunk of inert crystal. He had once more underestimated them. Well not anymore the next time they crossed paths she and the boy would die.

He was pulled from his angry musings when his holocomm beeped and vibrated indicated an incoming call.

His Master would not be pleased.

Chapter 16 - A New Order

HoloNet News

Senator's Disappearance Being Investigated

The investigation in to the disappearance of the prominent Senator Norist Mard's has taken a sinister turn as accusations are unearthed that his disappearance was 'official'.

Read more here

Republic Losses Grow

As more of the galaxy is dragged in to war the terrible losses among our loyal forces have once more come under scrutiny.

Read more here

oOoOoOo
Harry dropped the Lily out of hyperspace in to an uninhabited star system simply known on navigational charts as XVI-2302. Wincing as he moved his injured shoulder Harry turned to the Jedi sitting in the co-pilots seat, "Okay the sensors are clear so it looks like we've given them the slip. Master Jedi you can send your message."

Siri Tachi activated the holo transmitter and changed it to the frequency used by the Jedi, "Thank you Harry. You know I've got the ship at the moment you should get your head and shoulder looked at."

Harry nodded and winced again, "You know that is a terribly good idea. I'll get Luna to take a look until I can meditate."

Siri smiled as Harry stood and went aft to get treated. Then looked down as the transmitter beeped to show it had established a channel, "This is Master Tachi please put me through to the council."

A moment later the image flicked to the Jedi council room and the holo image of master Yoda appeared.

"Master Tachi successful your mission was?"

Siri straightened in her chair, "Yes Master Yoda but there were quite a few unforeseen eventualities," she went on to explain what had happened on the planet.

"Done well you have Master Tachi. A full report the council will need."

"I….oh hold on Master Yoda there is another message coming in flagged as priority," Siri changed channels to see a young woman who looked vaguely familiar.

"Who is this?"

"I am Jedi master Siri Tachi aboard the Lily."

"Is there some problem with Harry and Luna?"

Siri shook her head, "No Luna is treating an injured Jedi Knight and Harry has just gone to get some minor injuries treated. Would you like me to get them?"

"Please we have a situation."

A few moments later Harry and Luna were back on the bridge with Adi and Siri standing behind them.

"Keisha what is it?" asked Luna.

"Luna we have a refugee fleet that has been hit by slavers hiding in the asteroid belt. They've sent a distress signal but so far the Republic hasn't responded and with the Lily gone we don't have anywhere near enough firepower to drive the slavers ship off. Altis is putting a plan together but he wanted to check with you first."

"Keisha put Altis on," ordered Harry. "Luna I need to know how long to Haven at top speed?"

"Working," replied Luna.

Altis appeared next to Keisha, "Harry I'm readying the Wookie Gunner but we are outgunned here."
"Two hours Harry," reported Luna. "I can maybe shave a bit of that but not too much." She went back to the ships computer looking at ways to shave minutes off the trip.

Harry turned back to Altis, "Okay we will make a high speed run. Will the refugee ships be able to hide in the asteroids?"

Altis shook his head, "Not for long. The slavers have an older corvette class vessel but it's heavily armed and they are keeping up a constant stream of fire in to the asteroid field. Eventually they'll force the refugees to exit the field. Thank the Force they are on the opposite side of the field from Haven."

"One hour fifty minutes Harry," reported Luna.

"We're on our way Altis but we are just under two hours away so it looks like it's up to you to deal with this."

Altis spoke to someone off screen, "We'll use the Wookie Gunner as a distraction and the Talia to get a boarding party aboard the slaver." Altis turned again to talk off screen. "I'll have to go it looks like we've got quite a few volunteers here and I have also got another ship calling in. May the Force be with you."

Harry flipped the channel off but instead of the stand by screen he had Master Yoda appear on screen, "Master Yoda?"

"Trouble there is?"

Harry nodded, "A refugee fleet being hit by slavers near our….base. We are rending assistance."

"Assist we can," replied Yoda.

Harry looked over at Luna who shrugged, "We will assess the situation Master Yoda. Masters Gallia and Tachi are with us so they can report once we know more."

"Understand I do, may the Force be with you."

As soon as Yoda terminated the call the Lily surged in to hyperspace.

oOoOoOo

**Coruscant – 500 Republica**

Darth Sidious resisted the urge to lash out. Dooku was starting to try his patience with failure after failure. The former Jedi was powerful and skilled, the perfect figure to counter and challenge the Jedi until they were so stretched, so weakened that they could be destroyed. His other role had been to prepare the way for a more suitable apprentice.

The time to….replace Dooku had not yet arrived. Young Skywalker still clung to the lies of the Jedi. He was not yet ready to have his eyes opened to true power.

True the artefact would have aided his endeavours but at least it was destroyed and thus denied to his enemies. The warning of the Mah Vey had been unwelcome news. These Adepts appeared from nowhere to disrupt his plans and at the same time his ability to see through the Force had become strangely inconsistent. Now, thanks to Dooku’s incompetence they denied him the tool needed to scout them out.
Sidious sat back in his private office and meditated on how best to destroy this new enemy. Perhaps it was time to look other options.

oOoOoOo

Haven

Altis raised an eyebrow in surprise when a dozen Dathomiri led by Salara and Velath appeared in what was obviously full battle attire.

Salara stepped forward "We cannot stand by as this happens so my sisters and I are ready to assist you while the remainder of our clan will stay and guard Haven."

"The more the merrier," said Sirius as he walked up with Remus and Keisha. Both men were in battle robes with wands and lightsabers on their hips alongside blasters. Keisha however was dressed in the same style of black and grey utilities worn by Harry and Luna. She had chosen her lightsaber and a blaster.

Altis looked around and did a quick headcount. He had expected twenty but he now had thirty eight armed Force users. "You all know the situation. We do not have the fire power to fight off such a heavily armed ship and the Lily is at least two hours away. I've also contacted our other armed ship, the Chu'unthor but it is even further out that the Lily. So we are going to have to deal with this with what we have available.

I'm suggesting that we use the Wookie to disrupt the slavers while using the Talia to get boarding parties aboard the Slavers ship. To keep things simple we will split the boarding parties now. Before we do does anyone have any other suggestions?"

Salara looked around her sisters before nodding to Altis, "Your plan is workable."

Sirius shared a look with Remus before nodding, "We can get two people each aboard their ship if we can see where we are apparating to."

Altis gestured to Sirius and Remus, "Ron and Hermione have the Talia ready to go. We need two people each for Sirius, Remus, Ron and Hermione."

Salara nodded and quickly picked Velath and another Dathomiri named Sheras.

Altis turned to his long time second in command, "Ash you take the Wookie and enough people to crew her. Pick a flight crew for the Talia as well." Altis gestured to the rest of the Jedi and Dathomiri. "We need to secure Haven and prepare for injured."

Once everyone was moving Altis nodded to Sirius, "I'll go with you."

oOoOoOo

The Talia

"There," said the Jedi piloting the Talia. "The landing bay is probably the best spot if you want a clear field of view and….." The view outside shifted wildly as the Talia spun in space to avoid a stream of steady fire from the Slaver ship. "Sorry, it's getting a bit hectic hereabouts."

"Okay everyone, have a good look on the next pass," ordered Sirius. "Remus and I will apparate across first with Altis, Alyssa, Salara and Tharal." Tharal was an experienced Jedi that Altis had picked due to his excellent close quarter's combat skills.
Sirius looked over the people in the crowded cabin, "Once we arrive we will start clearing the area so the rest of you can apparate across with Ron and Hermione. I'd suggest that now is a good time to get your gear together."

**Hanger -The Reaver - Thalassian Slave Ship**

Zzhast V'Rall checked the door on the first slave pen before moving to check the second pen. Satisfied that they were in working order he moved on to checking the security system. The system had been purpose built and was designed to send a near lethal electrical charge in to anything touching the pens wall or roof. It all looked ready to go so he set the system to standby and turned to report back to the bridge. Hopefully, the captain would be pleased. If he was he might get his turn with one of the younger slaves. His journey to the main hatch was interrupted when two loud cracks rang out. He started to turn but a red light struck him in the back before he could see what had generated the noise.

Sirius lowered his wand and looked around the hanger. "Okay people, we need to move away to let the others Apparate in."

Altis gestured toward the hatch, "Tharal, Salara guard the hatches. I'm sure it won't be long before we have company."

Two more cracks indicated the arrival of Hermione and Ron with the last of the boarding party.

Altis stepped forward, "Let's keep this simple. We need the bridge and if possible engineering. Both locations should allow us to shut down their systems. I'll take one team to engineering."

Remus shared a look with Sirius who nodded, "Okay and we'll take the bridge."

Altis and Sirius quickly split their force in two before Altis gathered his team at the smaller hatch. "Remember that these people will not hesitate to kill you so we will need to be careful." With those last words of advice Altis led Tharal, Sheras and Alyssa through the hatch.

Before anyone could react the hatch opened and a storm of blaster fire erupted from outside sending them diving for cover or working furiously with their lightsabers to safely deflect the incoming fire.

Remus and Sirius started firing a mix of spells and blaster fire in to corridor as the others activated their lightsabers or raised their Force enhanced weapons.

"Get ready to go," ordered Sirius as he and Remus cast overpowered blasting hexes out in to the corridor. The moment the spells detonated the rest of the team rushed out in to the corridor. There were only three people still standing and all three looked somewhat disorientated but they were still holding their weapons so they were stunned and disarmed. Hermione checked the other two unmoving figures before standing and shaking her head.

Sirius gestured down the smoke-filled corridor, "Let's go."

The group moved forward quickly encountering no resistance.

Keisha was looking more and more nervous as they continued on, "I don't like this at all. They must know we are here."

Ron nodded, "I suspect they are probably preparing a welcome up ahead, which isn't great news for us."
"What's that?" Remus asked.

"What's what?" asked Ron.

Remus shushed Ron and stood listening intently, "Oh bloody hell, they're decompressing the corridor."

"Right then, we need to get out of here ASAP. If we move quickly enough…" Ron was cut off by Hermione.

"If it was me I'd set up an ambush on the other side of the hatch."

Sirius shrugged and gestured for everyone to get back, "The thing is that they saw us using blasters and Lightsabers. I'd guess that they don't know too much about magic."

Remus rolled his eyes, "Padfoot, you do realise that we are going to be suffocating soon don't you?"

Sirius flourished his wand, "Watch and learn Moony, watch and learn."

Sirius gestured and the door vanished with a loud pop replaced by hundreds of small blue figures. There were a few shots fired and then moments' later screams and several loud thumps. "James wasn't the only transfiguration prodigy at Hogwarts."

"What was that?" asked Salara.

Hermione was smiling broadly remembering an incident in her second year at Hogwarts, "They were Cornish Pixies. Come on I suspect the Pixies have cleared the way for us."

The corridor was a shambles with two unconscious figures on the floor being prodded by Pixies. Hermione was about to step forward when Keisha pointed up at the ceiling.

"Watch out Hermione they were rigging something on the ceiling."

"It looks like a net," commented Salara.

Keisha studded the large 'net'. "I think it's an Electroshock Net. Nasty thing is designed to give anyone caught under it a disabling electrical shock."

"Can we move past it?" Hermione asked.

Keisha shook her head slowly, "I don't know….I'd think so as they are underneath but I can't be sure."

Remus pointed his wand upwards and vanished the net, "More a charms man myself."

Sirius shrugged and made another gesture that ended his spell allowing the Pixies to fade away.

The Pixies had made a complete mess of the next section as well but there were no more bodies. The corridor ended in a heavy metal hatch that was closed. On each side of the corridor, there were three smaller hatches.

Keisha looked around, "I think that's the way to the bridge but these must be crew quarters…." She didn't get to finish as the smaller doors burst open flooding the corridor with heavily armed slavers.

oOoOoOo
Engineering -The Reaver - Thalassian Slave Ship

Altis spun deflecting a blaster bolt back at its source before Force leaping over the crumpled human to land in front of a heavy set Duros. His lightsaber was pointed between the eyes of the green-skinned slaver.

Altis was stony-faced as he forced the Duros backwards, "I would suggest that you surrender. My companions have already…..dealt with your engineering crew."

The Syphion – Outer Rim Territories

Asajj Ventress hissed in frustration as she massaged her protesting thigh muscles. Skywalker had managed to score a potentially crippling hit on her as she taunted him. It was only her superior skills that had allowed her to reduce the blow from crippling to painful. If she was honest with herself she would have to admit that the boy was growing more powerful every time they clashed.

Still, her mission was a success and the CIS had managed to force the Republic to commit forces to holding several outer rim worlds. A move that tied up potential Republic reinforcements and more importantly had cost the lives of two skilled Jedi masters. Pomuk Na-Quess and Vera Obb had been a challenge but in the end no match for her. Then Kenobi and Skywalker had arrived forcing her withdrawal.

A loud beep pulled her away from her ruminations. Turning her head she studied the bank of instruments that monitored communications channels. The highly sensitive instruments were picking up some civilian chatter. She almost ignored the message before she detected a second message that was from a second source but on a different channel. There was something…..

Reaching over she manipulated the controls trying to determine the sources of the communications traffic along with the content. After a few moments, she replayed a civilian distress call that came from a nearby systems asteroid field. The second transmission was encoded. Odd but not unheard of during wartime but she was still feeling that there was something important just beyond her grasp.

The system that was the point of origin for the communications was only a short hyperspace jump away and she had plenty of time until her appointed rendezvous with her Master's ship. Decision made she quickly entered the coordinates in to her navicomp before jumping in to hyperspace.

As her ship re-emerged back in to relativistic space her systems immediately began scanning for the same signals. Right at the edge of the asteroid field, she found the origin point. An old and heavily modified Corvette was firing in to the asteroid field while being harassed by what looked like a modified freighter.

Ventress considered the oddly one-sided battle. Given the difference in the ships battle capabilities, the smaller ship was doing well. In fact, there were two ships against the Corvette. The second was holding well clear of the firefight. Which was odd, why would it hold off?

Her thoughts were derailed when the smaller ship spun on its axis to avoid a burst of turbo laser fire. It was a skilled move that sent a faint ripple through the Force. Almost immediately the ripple dissipated as if it had never been.

Another Force echo touched faintly on her senses.

Something was wrong…..there was something interfering with her Force perceptions. She had been
taught to do something similar for her own Force presence but if this was something similar then it was being done on a massive scale. Such a display was something only her Masters Master was supposedly capable of. Did that mean that Darth Sidious was responsible or was there another powerful unknown Sith cloaking the system?


The ambush had the no doubt planned result of blocking the corridor with a wall of defenders while also effectively surrounding the attacking force. Normally such a defence would be deadly in such close quarters. Unfortunately for the slavers, it was a remarkably poor choice when facing Force sensitive warriors, magic users and Jedi.

Sirius ducked under a brutal knife thrust and decapitated its wielder with a flick of his lightsaber. He barely had a chance to take a breath before he had to sway to the left as a blaster bolt singed his hair. As he swivelled to face his attacker he saw Remus backhand the man in to a wall.

Ron had taken a simpler approach. He had cleared a small area around himself and then he simply defended Hermione and let her fell the enemy with a barrage of stunners and banishing spells.

Keisha, Salara and Velath were battering their way through the enemy crew following Sirius and Remus. Kesha's lightsaber was a blur as she blocked, cut and thrust. The Dathomiri followed cutting down those facing them with little difficulty.

The fight was short and vicious its outcome inevitable.

Salara lowered her sword when she realised that the slaver in front of her had thrown his weapon to the floor.

"Contact the bridge and tell them to surrender," ordered Salara. "If you cooperate you will be spared."

The crewman nodded and slowly gestured to a control panel on the wall. "I'll give you the code."

Salara sensed no deception but given the earlier trap, she wasn't about to take risks. "You key it in."

Sirius came and stood alongside Salara, "Altis just let us know that he has control of engineering."

Salara nodded and gestured for the crewman to open the channel, "Bridge we have control of engineering and stand ready to storm the bridge. If you surrender your lives will be spared."

The captain of the slaver ship seemed to realise that the game was over for now. Within minutes the bridge crew surrendered and had been transferred to the slave cells in the hanger.

Hermione quickly took over communications letting the Talia and the Wookie Gunner know that they had achieved their mission. She also sent a visual message to the refugee ships letting them know that the slaver's ship had been captured. The captain of a ship called the Demarske replied but seemed hesitant in agreeing to a rendezvous with them.

"I'm not sure if they believe me," Hermione said after the captain of the Demarske ended the call.

Ron shrugged, "Right well they'll soon realise the attacks have stopped. What will we do now? It's not like we can take this lot and the refugees back to Haven."

Hermione's brow crinkles as she considered Ron's question. "I think we can trust the Jedi to deal with this sorry crew. Still, I think we need to get all the facts before we make any plans."
"No injuries here?" asked Alyssa from the hatch.

Remus shook his head, "No, they didn't put up too much of a fight once we were aboard. Was anyone hurt in engineering?"

Alyssa walked all the way in and sat in one of the free chairs. "A few of their crew were injured and three were killed."

"So none of ours?" asked Ron.

Alyssa looked over at Ron and sighed, "No, none of ours." The Jedi Healer was obviously troubled by the necessary deaths of the slavers. In all twenty-nine slavers were killed.

Hermione looked over at Alyssa and was about to speak when she turned her attention back to the consoles. "There is a small ship stationed at the edge of the asteroid field. It's quite stealthy and its pilot is doing a good job of staying hidden but I'm getting some returns on the scanners when it moves. It's also actively scanning the area."

"A scout?" asked Salara.

"But for who?" asked Remus. "And how much has it seen. We don't want to compromise Haven."

Hermione was speaking softly almost to herself, "I don't like this. Something feels…..dangerous about it. It's almost familiar."

"Okay so what do we do?" asked Sirius. "Do we go after it?"

"Go after what?" Altis asked as he walked on to the bridge.

Hermione quickly explained while Altis studied the sensors. After a moment he looked up. "Let's send the Wookie and the Talia while we try to open communications. It could be related to the refugees or it could be a spotter for the slavers."

Hermione opened a channel to their two ships and explained what they needed before switching to a common merchant frequency.

"Unknown vessel this is the pilot of the commandeered slaver ship. We have taken control of this vessel. Are you in need of assistance?"

The Syphion

Ventress cursed as she began powering up her ship. Somehow the Corvette had detected her. It would be best to leave now and report this to her master. Spinning the ship on its axis she began to accelerate out of the asteroid field.

"It's doing a runner," Sirius reported.

Altis had been standing with his eyes closed reaching out with the Force trying to determine the pilot's intent. Hermione was about to ask him if he sensed anything when his eyes snapped open. "Stop that ship!"

Hermione immediately notified their two ships. The Wookie Gunner accelerated to cut off the ship as
the Talia did the same. The two ship looked like they were trying to box the ship in to prevent it leaping in to hyperspace.

"Ron, get this ship moving we need to help them," ordered Altis as he began bringing the weapons online.

"What is it?" asked Sirius.

"There is a Dark sider on that ship," explained Altis.

The small ship had to maneuver sharply to avoid the two larger ships and it was forced to turn back toward the asteroid field to avoid being boxed in.

On the bridge of the slaver's ship Altis aligned the weapons on the small ship as it moved through the outer edge of the asteroid field. Slipping in to a Force trance he concentrated on tracking its movement until he had his shot.

Ventress cursed as she was forced to maneuver back in to the asteroid field. The three ships outside the field were working together very skilfully to reduce her options to nearly zero. Still, she was by no means defeated. Changing course she began to weave through the asteroids toward the cluster of civilian ships. Bringing her weapons online she targeted the centre vessel. It was time to change the odds.

Deep in to his Force trance Altis sensed the dark siders change in purpose. The ship couldn't be allowed to fire on the civilian ship. He just needed one shot...there.

Ventress was thrown forward in her seat as her ship was struck on the rear shields. It was a heavy hit and even as she sought to respond something crashed in to the front of the ship with crushing force. She was about to roll the ship in to an evasive pattern when the Force warned her to move her head but she was a fraction slow and something struck her and she knew no more.

Altis saw the small ship flung forward by his shot. It tried to correct but the pilot either didn't see or failed to react in time to the real danger. The huge asteroid shuddered as the ship impacted head-on. Letting his Force perception fade he turned to the others. "We had better send the Wookie to see if the pilot survived."

The Lily

Luna was at the controls as the Lily exited hyperspace. Harry was in the co-pilots seat with Adi Gallia and Siri Tachi strapped in to the two spare seats.

At the edge of the asteroid field, there was a small flotilla. The Talia and Wookie Gunner were escorting a huge military vessel and several large transports.

Harry shrugged, "Looks like it's all over."

"Let's make sure," said Luna.

Harry opened a channel to the Talia and was soon put through to Remus who appeared to be on the bridge of one of the other ships.

"Good to see you Harry, you too Luna," Remus had a broad smile on his face.
Harry could see that "What's happening Remus?"

The smile grew wider, "We managed to board and capture the slaver's ship with no casualties on our side. Even the refugee ships didn't take too much of a pounding. There is, however, a situation that you might be interested in."

"Oh?"

"Let's just say that we caught ourselves a very interesting scout." Remus seemed to notice the two other people. "Perhaps we should discuss this later."

Harry nodded. "We'll dock in a few minutes. If possible it might be a good idea to have Alyssa available. We have a Jedi aboard who is suffering from Force exhaustion. At least that's what Luna thinks."

"Dock with the Corvette. We've made it our temporary command ship. After all, an Admiral needs a flagship."

"Admiral?" questioned Luna.

"Sirius has declared himself Admiral of the fleet," explained Remus with a wide smile.

Dooku frowned as he caught a faint ripple in the Force. Closing his eyes he concentrated….Ventress was in trouble. Confident in his mastery of the Force he tried to follow their link back to her and determine a location but even as he reached for it the connection disappeared.

Dooku opened his eyes in surprise. What had happened?

Dooku came aboard followed by Hermione who was carrying a large medkit. After introducing Adi and Siri, Harry and Luna went aboard the Slavers ship.

"Master Jedi I believe that you have an injured companion," prompted Alyssa.

Adi Gallia smiled warmly, "Indeed we do Kel Nar is in the ship's sickbay. If you don't mind Siri and I will tag along. I might not be a healer but I am interested in seeing the techniques used by different Force practitioners."

Adi led the way with Siri walking beside Alyssa and Hermione.

"Are you one of Harry's people?" Siri asked Alyssa.

"In a way I suppose. My former Master is one of Harry's allies. At the moment I'm the head healer and Hermione here is our head archivist."

Adi nearly asked how old the young woman was but didn't want to give any offence. "I'm sorry Hermione I assumed that you were an apprentice."

Hermione smiled, "No offence taken Master Jedi. I am the Adept's archivist. I don't know about head archivist as it's only me right now."

Alyssa laughed, "Don't let her fool you, Master Gallia. Hermione deserves her position. She is also one of our instructors."
Adi shared a look with Siri as they reached medical. "Kel is still unconscious. His readings are fine but Luna was a bit worried that he hadn't awoken."

Alyssa nodded, "Well I'll examine him but if it is exhaustion he is better to sleep it off. I'll take the supplies Hermione."

Alyssa and Adi disappeared in to medical and as the hatch closed Siri gave Hermione a small shrug, "Fancy a caf while we wait?"

A few minutes later the two women were sitting in the Lily's mess.

"I noticed that you wear a lightsaber," commented Siri.

Hermione smiled at the hidden question in the comment. "Yes, most of the Adepts use them now."

Siri fought to keep the frown off her face. A lightsaber in the hand of a poorly trained user was dangerous. "Have you had much training?"

"Harry and Luna started us off and Altis and his people have continued to develop our skills since they came among us."

Siri raised an eyebrow in surprise, "Jedi Master Altis is working with you?"

"Along with other Adepts, we really all work with each other," replied Hermione. "Do you know Djinn?"

"I remember him visiting the temple when I was a youngling. It was a great loss to the order when he ceased to be a Jedi."

Hermione considered the Jedi master for a moment before answering. "From what he has told me I don't think he ever really ceased to be a Jedi. He simply followed his conscience. He is certainly the leader of most of the Jedi amongst the Adepts."

"What of Harry and Luna, I thought they were the leaders of the Adepts?" Siri had been briefed on Harry and Luna and their small band of Force sensitive followers. Now that briefing looked wrong or at least out of date. Hermione seemed to be implying that there were others beside the Altisian Jedi.

"They founded the Adepts and they do lead the council," Hermione paused when a communicator on her belt beeped. Hermione raised it to her ear.

"Ron, okay I'll let Alyssa know and then head back across."

"Trouble?" asked Siri.

Hermione shook her head, "No, the Altisian Jedi's other ship is about to arrive. Before it does we are having a planning session to work out what to do with the captured slavers and the refugee fleet. You are more than welcome to attend if you wish to represent the Jedi council. I'll just let Alyssa know…Expecto Patronum."

Siri looked on open-mouthed a glowing silver creature appeared in mid-air to listen to Hermione's message. After nodding in understanding the creature swam through the air and disappeared in to a wall.

"What in the name of the Force was that?" asked Siri when she had recovered enough to speak.
Hermione grinned, "A messenger, come on we had better get moving. I'll explain later."

To say that Harry and Luna were surprised by the capture of Ventress was an understatement.

"Dooku is having a really crappy week isn't he," said Luna.

Harry nodded absently as he considered the unconscious figure in the medical bay. "Will she live?"

The Jedi healer with her nodded, "Yes she will."

"Make sure you keep a constant watch on her," ordered Harry.

"She is a dangerous individual," commented Altis as he walked over to stand with Harry and Luna.

Luna nodded sadly, "Yes she is but she is also a victim of the Sith's madness. If you look you can see that her aura is grey rather than black. She has been manipulated until hate is all she can really feel," with a sigh she turned away from Ventress. "Eventually she will turn from this path but until then she will remain a dangerous threat."

Altis gestured toward the hatch, "We have to make a decision about our next move and we have some more reinforcements arriving soon that we need to discuss."

Altis led them to a small cabin and closed the hatch before turning to his two allies. "We never spoke too much about my people's movements before Bespin. My people and I split from the Jedi order more than twenty cycles ago. Essentially we thought the Order were too rigid so we left and started our own Jedi Order. We allowed marriage and slowly our numbers grew. We also kept recruiting from among those Force Sensitives we encountered. Bespin was our main enclave. It was where many of those with families lived. Our training facilities were located elsewhere."

Harry sat silently taking in the information while Luna jumped straight in. "So you had separate training facilities?"

"We had an outdated dreadnaught class hull retrofitted for deep space and made the vessel in to a praxeum, a Jedi training academy. It is our biggest secret."

"Why didn't you tell us about this before?" Harry asked evenly.

"Before joining with you the other masters decided to keep quiet the existence of the Chu'unthor. Not even all of those who follow me know of the ship. With all the changes and challenges here on Haven; it seemed the right time for disclosure. I…I also have been troubled by some of the things I saw in the Force vision Vectivus showed me. The more we at Haven have trained together the more I have come to realise that you are right about pooling our knowledge and resources."

Harry grinned at the older man, "Fair enough I would have probably done the same. You know Sirius is going to be pushing to be at least a Commodore now we have two warships."

"I think we still need to have a council meeting. This changes a few things. We now have the ability to expand our search for Force sensitive recruits and we have a portable training ship. Ohh the possibilities," Luna was grinning back at Harry.

The two Adept's walked off toward the bridge bouncing ideas off each other as Altis trailed behind them with a bemused expression on his face.
Siri Tachi was trying to hide her surprise. She had been escorted by Hermione to a large room, which must have once been a bulk storage facility. Now it served as a meeting room.

Hermione had walked over to a tall redhead who was talking to a group of people in robes. The Altisian Jedi were recognizable in their brown Jedi robes. The others were wearing a mix of black and grey. Given Hermione's actions, she suspected that these were Adepts. Shifting her gaze to the left of Hermione she was just studying a group of heavily armed women when she sensed someone behind her.

"Master Tachi?"

Siri turned to see a young woman in black and grey utilities, "Yes...by the Force...I knew I recognised you on the comm screen before Padawan."

Keisha nodded politely, "It's good to see you again Master Tachi although I don't consider myself a Padawan anymore."

"I'm sorry but I don't understand," Siri replied but from Keisha's attire, she could make a guess.

"I think we are about to begin. Perhaps we can talk afterwards."

Keisha had just finished speaking when the hatch slid open to reveal another group of what Siri assumed, by their attire to be Altisian Jedi. They were followed by a greying Bothan and a tall human woman. Harry opened the meeting by introducing the two captains.

The Bothan, who was the captain of the Demarske explained how the fleet had been hired by the Senate to pick up refugees from an outer rim world that had been ravaged by seismic activity. They had been on route back when the slavers had struck.

After introducing those present the meeting was taken up determining the best way to get the civilian fleet safely back to Republic space. The discussion was well organised and it hadn't taken long to decide on an outcome. Harry had assured the two captains that they would be given an armed escort for the rest of the journey. The surviving slavers would also make the same journey but in their case, it would be so that they could be handed over to the Republic. Satisfied the two captains offered their thanks and left to ready their ships.

As the meeting broke up she found herself escorted over to a corner where Harry, Luna, Altis and two of the oddly dressed female warriors.

Luna smiled and gestured for her to approach, "Master Tachi these are some of our friends and allies." Luna named all those present including the two women who were revealed as Dathomiri.

"We wanted to let the Jedi know that we have managed to capture someone they will be quite interested in, Asajj Ventress."

Siri raised an eyebrow in surprise, "Was she a part of the attack?"

Altis answered, "I don't know. We found her when Hermione detected her ship in the asteroid field. She was injured but alive when one of our ships picked her up."

Harry took over, "We are happy to hand her over and transport you but her reputation tells me that we should be cautious."
"I will get in contact with Master Yoda immediately," Siri assured them.

Yoda made a gesture to someone. A moment later three more holo-images appeared next to Yoda as Mace Windu, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Shaak Ti joined him.

"Masters," Siri offered in greeting. "The Adepts have defeated the slavers and contacted the refugee fleet. I was invited to be a part of the meeting with two of the fleet's captains and it appears they intervened in time to avoid any losses to the fleet."

"Lucky the fleet was. Know do you how they did it?"

"Master Djiin Altis led a… diverse group that boarded the slaver's ship and overwhelmed the crew," reported Siri.

Obi-Wan leaned forward, "Perhaps using the Force teleporting trick they used on Geonosis."

Yoda nodded as he gnawed for a moment on his walking stick. "Hmm diverse you say?"

"There were a mix of Altisian Jedi, Adepts and what I am told are Dathomiri."

"An interesting group," said Shaak Ti.

"A growing group; first the Altisian Jedi and now the Dathomiri," added Mace Windu whose tone of voice left little doubt that he found this information cause for concern.

"There is another important thing Masters. The Adepts have captured Asajj Ventress," reported Siri.

Mace Windu was the first to speak, "When did this occur?"

"Within the last few hours, I understand that it occurred just after the Adepts had boarded and taken over a slaver's ship. They were scanning and somehow Ventress was detected and then caught. She was injured and they are keeping her sedated for now."

"Finally we have an opportunity to make a dent in Dooku's operations," mused Obi-Wan.

Shaak Ti leaned forward, "Perhaps we may even garner some intelligence around the Sith here on Coruscant."

"Decide we must on what to do now," said Yoda. "Dangerous Ventress is even as a prisoner. Careful we must be. Bring Ventress to the Jedi Temple you must."

Siri nodded, "I believe Master Gallia and I will be able to arrange transport to Coruscant. Knight Nar may also have recovered by the time we leave. Masters, there is one other matter. I have found Master Zor-Sha's Padawan."

"Padawan Keisha hmmm killed on Geonosis we feared she was," Yoda seemed to accept Siri's words with his usual calm but the other three Jedi looked less than impressed.

"Living with these Adepts I assume," said Shaak Ti.

"Yes she is. I had the opportunity to talk with her before I reported. She was badly injured on Geonosis when Zor-Sha was killed. Harry's people found and healed her."

"And what was their reason for not returning her to the Order?" Shaak Ti asked.
"When she was injured she…she was pregnant," explained Siri.

Yoda simply nodded while Windu and Ti looked disappointed.

Obi-Wan sighed and bowed his head for a moment before looking up, "Siri I sense there is more to the story."

Siri nodded, "Keisha has told me that Master Zor-Sha was the father."

A look of anger crossed the usually composed face of Shaak Ti, "Keisha cannot be more than fourteen. How could any master take advantage of a youngling and betray the Padawan bond so?"

Obi-Wan shook his head with a look of compassion on his face. "Sadly it is not the first time such has happened. As per the rules of the Order, she would have to be expelled. Perhaps, in this case, it is a good thing she was found by the Adepts. What of the child?"

"Her daughter is apparently fine Obi-Wan and safe back at their hidden base."

Yoda offered up a quick smile, "Hmm good to know the fate of Keisha it is. Tell her we wish her well you must. Let the council know when transport you have arranged."

The Lily – Luna's Quarters

Luna gently massaged Harry's sore shoulder. "You should enter a healing trance and focus some energy on that shoulder love. The Tendons are repaired but there is still some residual swelling."

Harry moaned as Luna worked the stiff muscles, "Mmmmm I will as soon as I get a chance. It's been a bit busy for the last day or two."

Behind him, Luna smiled as she let her hand caress his shoulders before trailing down his chest. With a small tug, she pulled him in to her arms and kissed his neck.

Harry sighed in contentment before leaning forward so he could turn and see Luna. "Hmm, I guess it's your turn now. Where are you sore?"

Luna stood and stripped off her robe, "All over Potter."

Bridge of the Chu'unthor

The bridge was growing crowded as more of the Jedi in the crew made their way there. Each wanted to see for themselves the new home of their order.

Callista Masana pushed her hair out of her eyes as she studied the readouts from her position in the pilot's chair. "We should be dropping out of Hyperspace in moments."

"Did Master Altis tell you any more about this Haven?" asked Hanna Balest. As one of the younger Jedi who followed Altis, she had been trained almost completely aboard the Chu'unthor. She had returned along with several others to do a turn as an instructor.

Callista shrugged, "Only what we saw in the holo-vid Hanna. Anyway, we'll see it soon enough."

Soran Thell chuckled from the co-pilot's seat, "Come on Hannah you're like a pittan that's eaten too
much sugar." The Corellian was a quick-witted handsome man who was not above poking fun at his peers.

Ravis Thesa rolled his eyes from the rear of the bridge where he was keeping an eye on the younglings gathered there to see the arrival to Haven.

"Master Thesa?" One of his older younglings, a Zeltron girl raised her dark pink hand. "Do we know if there are many males living at Haven?"

Ravis almost sighed. He had warned Altis that a Zeltron Padawan was going to be a problem. "I don't know Sahdra although I'm sure you'll find out soon enough."

Sahdra smiled widely, "I hope there are. I always like meeting new…friends."

Ravis winced and prayed to the Force that Sahdra would soon pass her trials and leave his immediate vicinity. At sixteen the Zeltron was already beautiful and remarkably candid about what benefits her friendship entailed. She had already worked her way through the male 'of age' Padawans on the ship and if rumour was to be believed a few of the female.

Much to his chagrin, she had recently been making un-subtle passes at both Soran and himself. A fact his pregnant wife Talliah had laughed about for hours.

An eight-year-old Arhan raised his long-fingered hand, "Master are we visiting or staying on the Chu'unthor?"

"Master Altis will be coming aboard soon to explain what is happening. Many of us will stay aboard. We may even get a few more younglings."

It appeared that not all of the younger children had considered that to judge by their excited expressions.

"How long until we arrive?" asked another youngling.

"Right about now," called out Callista as the streaking stars reverted to real space.

"It's an asteroid field!" exclaimed one of the Padawans.
Chapter 17 - A New Order

Synopsis: A renegade Jedi has a Force vision of a pair of powerful Force sensitive’s and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

Disclaimer:
All publicly recognizable characters, settings, etc. are the property of their respective owners. The original characters and plot are the property of the author. The author is in no way associated with the owners, creators, or producers of any media franchise. No copyright infringement is intended. I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

This chapter has a brief Star Trek reference so we need to acknowledge the owners of the Star Trek franchise as just that, they are the owners of the franchise.

Last Time:
“Master Altis will be coming aboard soon to explain what is happening. Many of us will stay aboard. We may even get a few more younglings.”

It appeared that not all of the younger children had considered that to judge by their excited expressions.

“How long until we arrive?” asked another youngling.

“Right about now,” called out Callista as the streaking stars reverted to real space.

“It’s an asteroid field!” exclaimed one of the Padawans.

Chapter 17 - A New Order

HoloNet Breaking News

Republic Forces Lose Key Systems

Concern in the Senate grows as reports clarify the latest losses in key strategic systems. A special report by senior government officials has highlighted a succession of catastrophic military failures. Well known Senatorial conservative Brymac Torr was scathing in his report and continued in his statement to journalists “The Jedi and the other military leaders need to be held accountable for the ill-conceived strategies that are costing civilian and military lives.”

Battle of Ixtlar fails to deliver decisive result

Republic fleet elements have defeated a CIS raiding fleet. However the CIS forces withdrew before
they could be destroyed. Causality figures are unknown at this time although Chancellor Palpatine's office has delivered a statement giving his full support to the leadership of the Republic fleet.

oOoOoOo

Bunduki – Pancerth Reach – Outer Rim

“The victory of the greater darkness draws ever closer,” warned a hooded figure its race hidden in the shadows of its cowl.

“This is not right……the Jedi all but destroyed most of the Followers of Palawa,” complained a second figure this one a human female.

“The Pelgrin Oracle has never been wrong,” warned the hooded figure. “Accept this we must. If we do nothing the Jedi will falter and fall. The Sith will rise and the death of our people will follow. We must break the chain as the Oracle warned.”

“This seems rather….convoluted,” said a third.

“The Oracle speaks clearly it is we who fail to understand. In my dreams I have seen what lies in wait beyond the Galaxy. Waiting for our moment of greatest weakness, it hates the Force and seeks the silence. We must do what needs to be done in the hope that we can forestall the worst of the prophecy. The agents of this new order are already amongst us building a bulwark against the darkness.”

The human female sighed, “I understand Grand Master but I do not see how we shall achieve this.”

“The chosen one shall be the guide.”

oOoOoOo
The Jedi aboard the Chu’unthor watched as the small fleet at the edge of the asteroid field grew closer.

Callista Masana gestured toward the screen, “There’s the Wookie just by the Corvette. That must be the Slavers ship. The other two large ships must be the transports.”

“Well looks like it’s all over,” said Soran Thell before turning to look at the holo-com. “And we have an incoming message.” He flicked the accept button and an image of Master Altis appeared.

“Welcome to Haven,” said Altis with a smile. “I’m pleased to report that you are too late. For now hold position until we get our other guests on their way.”

Soran nodded, “Of course Master.”

“We are going to send a pilot over to give you the coordinates to your destination.”

“We’ll organise it Djinn.”

“I look forward to seeing you all soon,” Altis gave the group another smile before his image disappeared.

Callista had been watching the monitors, “One of the merchant ships is on a direct heading. I guess that’s our pilot.”

“Security still seems to be an issue if they are unwilling to transmit coordinates,” said Ravis Thesa.

Callista shrugged, “Well Master Altis did report that Haven is a secure location. Guess we will find out more when they get here.”

oOoOoOo
Hermione and Alyssa stood behind Ron as he piloted the Talia toward the Chu’unthor.

Ron shook his head, “It’s bloody huge, one thousand meters. That is a floating village!”

Alyssa laughed, “Actually you are pretty close Ron. The Chu’unthor is where our younglings and Padawans live while they are being trained. Essentially it is a village. Like Haven we kept it hidden in our case in the upper reaches of the Gas giant at Bespin.”

“Did you train on board?” asked Hermione.

“Yes for nearly six years as a youngling before I was picked as a Padawan by Master Norva, then five training with him as a healer. He was a good man and made sure I stayed connected with my family. That is the biggest difference between us and the Jedi under the council. We encourage that connection. Our belief is that it means we are better rounded as Force practitioners and of course we now have our own children being trained. I’ve even done a stint as an instructor.”

Ron grinned, "It sounds like a floating Hogwarts. Okay I'll need some directions soon."

Alyssa pointed at a section of the huge ship, "The main hanger is just forward of the central control tower. See the strobe light marking it?"

"Got it, well should we ring the doorbell?"

Alyssa activated the com channel, "Chu’unthor this is the Talia may we come aboard?"

"Alyssa is that you?" asked a male voice.

"Indeed it is Soran," replied Alyssa with a slight smile.

"Well my day is getting better...ow what was that for Callista?" there was silence for a moment before a different voice took over. "Alyssa it's Callista you have permission. Landing bay doors are
Ron bought the Talia in for a smooth landing under the watchful eye of two figures in Jedi robes. After powering down the ship they lowered the ramp and walked down to meet an older man and a young blond woman waiting at the bottom.

The older man stepped forward and inclined his head in greeting, "Welcome aboard the Chu’unthor." His greeting was accompanied by a friendly smile.

Alyssa smiled in return, "Master Ravis, Callista may I present Adepts Hermione Granger and Ronald Weasley of Haven."

"A pleasure, if you don't mind we will head straight to the bridge. Perhaps you can fill us in on recent events as we make our way there?" Master Ravis gestured to the hatch.

On the way to the bridge Alyssa explained how they had defeated the slavers. Ravis raised an eyebrow when she mentioned boarding the ship but didn’t interrupt. When they reached the bridge the door opened to a crowd of people.

Alyssa grinned at the Padawans and Jedi crowded together on the bridge, “Okay everyone calm down. We’ll have to sit tight for a few minutes until our less welcome visitors have departed. Once we have clearance from Haven we’ll take you to where we can start transporting you all aboard. Haven’s council will meet tonight so if you want to find out what’s going on you’ll have to wait until then. For now introductions will have to suffice. My two companions Hermione and Ron are both Force Adepts who live on Haven.”

One of the Padawans walked over to Hermione and introduced himself followed by another. After a few minutes Hermione, Ron and Alyssa found themselves being introduced to everyone.

The Lily

Siri Tachi found herself staring at the huge starship just outside the asteroid field. Harry and Luna had explained that it was an allied ship but left it at that. The Jedi Councils information on the Adepts was now looking very out of date. They were apparently a much more diverse and well equipped
faction. Now they had at least one Dreadnaught class capital ship and the newly captured slavers Corvette. This was in addition to their fleet of transports and freighters. These Adepts had a doctrine that had attracted the renegade Jedi Master Altis as well as a clan of the isolationist Dathomiri. No this was no longer a simple break away sect but rather a growing power. A growing power that the Jedi knew little about, save speculation and conjecture. They certainly had mastered Force abilities unknown to the Jedi.

Her silent observation of the Dreadnaught was interrupted by Adi, “You look troubled Siri.”

Siri shrugged, “Just thinking about what we have to report to the council.”

Adi sat down next to her former Padawan, “You find the revelations concerning the Adepts troubling?”

“Yes I do. We have had minimal information about their aims and practices. Some of their leadership are teenagers. I know Master Yoda has interacted with them at certain points but…..well something just feels off.”

Adi nodded as she studied the younger woman’s face, “You are wise to question and doubly wise to acknowledge your lack of information. I too have some concerns, for years the order has worked to control other sects of Force sensitives. Not out of fear but rather out of concern for where skill but lack of understanding can lead. Too many fall to the dark side.”

“You fear that is what is happening here?”

Adi shook her head, “No…..at least I don’t think so. The council has mixed feelings on the issue of the Adepts but at this point we know too little to truly judge them. We know they have excellent sources of information, perhaps better than the council, as we saw on Barseg. That fact that Harry and Luna were already looking when we arrived implies that they were directed there. Are they tools for another or are they directed by the Force as master Yoda suspects.”

“I just wish that we could trust them….someone is coming,” warned Siri as she turned to look at the open hatch.

Keisha walked through the hatch carrying a data pad and paused, “I’m sorry am I interrupting?”
Adi smiled, “No, Padawan please continue with your duties.”

Keisha shook her head as her expression became neutral, “Master Jedi I am no longer a Padawan and indeed no longer a member of the Jedi Order. I am an Adept.”

Siri leaned forward, “Keisha you have not, to my knowledge been officially expelled from the Order. Perhaps…..”

“Siri,” warned Adi.

Keisha shook her head, “I am afraid that you misunderstand even if I was not expelled the council are bound to do so now that they know I live. But even if they chose not to I would not change a thing.” Keisha held the pad out to Adi, “Harry asked me to give you this. It’s got a photo and name if available for every slaver we captured.”

Adi took the pad and glanced at it before looking up. "Pass on our thanks to Harry. I believe that our escorts to Coruscant will be arriving shortly so we will be able to transfer the prisoners.”

“I’ll let Harry know,” confirmed Keisha before turning to leave.

Siri looked on the verge of saying something when the internal comm’s unit beeped. As she acknowledged the call Keisha ducked out the hatch.

“Err….hello the bridge?”

“Kel Nar?” asked Siri.

“Who am I talking to?”

“Jedi Nar this is Siri Tachi are you well?”

“Fine I think, I woke up with a blinding headache but it’s slowly passing. Where am I?”
Adi’s lips quirked up for a moment at the younger Jedi’s confused tone, “Stay where you are we shall come to you.”

Kel was dressed in a simple pair of pyjamas and singlet when Siri and Adi arrived in the medbay. Before he could ask Siri tossed him a bundle of clothes with his boots on top.

“Better get dressed before we talk Kel, “said Siri with a broad grin.

Kel opened his mouth to no doubt ask more questions when Siri tossed him his lightsaber.

“Go on get dressed then we’ll talk. You’ve woken up just in time to help out.”

Kel nodded, “Fine I’ll dress but you can explain while I’m dressing.”

Adi quickly explained the situation as well as explaining how he had ended up injured.

“Well I suspect I am lucky to have survived, so what now?”

“Now Knight Nar we get to escort the prisoners back to Coruscant,” replied Adi.

Kel winced slightly when she said Coruscant.

Adi saw it and stepped forward to place her hand on the younger man’s shoulder, “You did well to survive Kel no doubt the Force has other plans for you yet. Treat this as another trial on your life path. You made a mistake and you were overcome by a millennia old dark relic. The council will understand.”

Seeing Kel slowly nod Adi smiled, “Still we should get you a full medical check when we get you back to the Temple. No offence to our hosts.”
Darth Sidious read tomorrow's holo-news with a satisfied expression. More of his loyal senators were calling foul as the war continued. Their cries for more governmental oversight were slowly gaining ground among the neutrals. Ultimately such a move would undermine the Jedi's support and bolster his.

The Jedi continued unknowingly on their self-destructive course. A cold smile of satisfaction crossed his face before his eyes fell on to the small sealed container on his desk. The genetic sample from the Adept. The beeping of his personal holo-com drew his attention away from his contemplation of the sample.

Taking a moment to adjust his robe he sat in his personalised command chair and activated the channel. He was rewarded with a hologram of a kneeling Darth Tyranus.

"What do you have to report my Apprentice?"

"Master I have been unable to reach Ventress by the usual means and her ships tracking beacon has failed to activate."

Sidious frowned and extended his senses into the Force. Normally he would be able to sense the Force presence of his servants but recently the clouding of his senses had rendered this ability somewhat less that reliable. For a brief moment he thought he had her Force signature then it faded. He had not been able to gain any information other than the fact that she was alive.

“She lives but is hidden from my sight. Our enemies grow stronger my apprentice. Continue with our strategy I will deal with this.”

“Yes my Master,” replied Tyranus as the hologram flickered and then disappeared.

Sidious entered a long code into his holo-com and waited. It was inconvenient but using Ventress to hunt down these Adepts was not his only option. After a few moments two figures appeared and knelt.

“Report,” ordered Sidious.
"My lord the men are ready."

"Good I have a task for you. You are to find and kill two Force users. I will forward you what little we have of their movements and associates. This is a high priority task."

Both kneeling men nodded their understanding and Sidious closed the channel. The special setting on his personal holo-com deleted all record of the two conversations and began erasing all the records from the special network available to the office of the Chancellor. A moment later a beep indicated that the process was completed. Leaning back in to his chair he contemplated what other actions might be necessary to help the most secretive of his hidden servants.

oOoOoOo

Jedi Council Chambers

Mace Windu looked around the room at his fellow council members, "It is worrisome that we have found nothing further to identify the Sith present on Coruscant."

None of the other Jedi commented. It was becoming increasingly obvious that the Sith were both present and incredibly well hidden. There was enough evidence to prove they existed but nothing to reveal their location and identity. Then the first murder had occurred. A known smuggler called Moeirth had been caught with a hold full of what turned out to be stolen cloning technology by Republic security and arrested. He was found dead in his cell the next day. Killed by a single lightsaber thrust. The cloning technology was somehow spirited away from the heavily guarded warehouse it was stored in.

Then two Jedi knights were killed in the undercity investigating a lead in the investigation.

A Jedi master killed in the basement of the Senate house itself.

A full squad of Republic security, fully armed and alert killed by a single individual using, according to a single civilian witness a red bladed lightsaber. They had been responding to reports of a potential drug lab. By the time a team of Jedi arrived in support the building was on fire.
Plo Koon shook his head, "We are stretched to thin for this. With the growing theatre of operations for the war we now have Jedi spread out from the core to the outer rim. Something is wrong with all this. I fear our investigations have been anticipated and we are being manipulated. The sudden upsurge in widespread military actions along with the seeming foreknowledge of our operations is a real threat. Whoever this Sith is he is well entrenched in the upper levels of government."

The hologram of Master Yoda looked grim as it nodded, "Agree I do, cautious we must be. Right Master Koon is to raise this. Too much this Sith knows, a mistake he has made in this. Know we now do that our enemy attempts to manipulate us."

Kit Fisto leaned forward, "We are committed to the war we cannot simply walk away from it."

Mace was staring at nothing as he tried to determine the right course. "Dooku is leading the CIS militarily and a part of their political leadership. Now we have a Sith embedded in the heart of the Republic."

"Redouble our efforts to root out this Sith we must. The fate of the Republic at stake it is." Yoda said drawing nods of agreement from those present.

Republic Navy - Dreadnaught-class heavy cruiser Catalus

“We have arrived at the co-ordinates General Drallig,” reported the Clone deck officer.

“Excellent please hail the fleet and announce our identity,” ordered Cin Drallig before turning to his current apprentice. “Bene please prep our shuttle for departure.”

“Sir I have an open channels to Jedi master Djinn Altis and General Gallia,” reported communications as Bene exited the bridge.

“Give me Gallia first,” requested Cin.

A hologram of Adi Gallia appeared on the projector, “Master Drallig it is good to see you my friend."
You made good time.”

“We were overseeing the redeployment of the second fleet when Master Yoda contacted me. We were relatively close by and due to return to Coruscant. Have there been any further developments?”

Adi nodded slowly, “yes but I think that we will discuss that in person.”

Cin nodded, “Very well do you need transport to my ship?”

Adi thought about it for a moment before shaking her head, “I’m currently aboard the Lily one of the Adepts ships along with Siri and Knight Nar. I think it might be easier to rendezvous to collect the prisoners.”

Cin nodded, “I have Altis waiting to talk. I’ll see you soon Adi.”

Adi Gallia disappeared and Cin gestured to the comms officer who nodded and opened the second channel.

“Master Drallig it is good to see you old friend. I assume you are here to take the prisoners off our hands?”

Cin nodded, “Indeed do you need me to transport them aboard?”

“That would probably be the best option.”

oOoOoOo

“Harry, the Jedi have just arrived, “reported Sirius from the bridge. “Altis is talking to them now.”

“Understood I’m just about to dose our reluctant guest to see what we can find out.”
Harry turned back to Luna and Remus as they finished checking the bonds strapping Ventress to the steel table in what passed as the ship's medical facilities.

“She is as secure as we can make her,” reported Remus.

“Good, well I guess we try and see,” said Harry as he held up a small glass vial containing a clear liquid.

Luna grinned, “I’m glad Hermione had the foresight to add it to the list of potions.”

Harry opened the unconscious Sith’s mouth and placed three drops on her tongue. After a few moments Harry nodded to Remus who drew his wand and enervated the unconscious woman.

Ventress woke blinked slowly, clearly disorientated and still heavily affected by the large amounts of pain killers and sedatives in her bloodstream combined with the Veritaserum.

Remus studies Ventress for a moment before shaking his head, “Don’t muck about Harry I’ve no idea how long she’ll be conscious for before she slips back under. She has been doped to the eyeballs.”

Luna handed Harry a data pad containing the questions they had come up with.

Harry looked down at Ventress, “Who is your master?”

“Darth Tyranus,” replied Ventress.

“Is he known by another name?”

“’Count….Dooku.”

“Who is his master?”
“D….Darth Sidi….ous.”

“She’s starting to fight it Harry,” warned Remus.

“Is he known by another name?”

“Chaaaaacel…..lor……argh,” Ventress was writhing as she tried to fight the Veritaserum.

“Is the other Sith, Darth Sidious known by another name?”

Ventress convulsed again before going limp.

‘I was worried about that,” said Remus as he cast a diagnostic spell. “I’d say she was somehow negating the potion using the Force.”

Harry shook his head in frustration, “Damn I know it was a long shot but I was hoping for something more conclusive than that. I mean was she saying the Chancellor is a Sith or was it the Chancellors aide or his lover?”

“It doesn’t bode well if the Chancellor is a Sith,” said Luna.

“Doesn’t bode well, by Merlin Luna it would be a bloody disaster. The military, the police hell the Jedi answer to the Chancellor. It’s bad enough if it’s his aide or a friend.” Remus looked more concerned as he considered the consequences.

“Harry the Jedi’s shuttle has docked,” reported Sirius.

Harry stunned Ventress again, “Right we need to get Ventress bundled up ready to transport.”

oOoOoOo
Cin Drallig stood next to Bene as they watched the Clone troopers leading the restrained slavers in to the shuttle. As the last of them was led aboard he waved an officer over. “Secure this lot in the cells under heavy guard and then bring the full team back over. We’ll transfer the other prisoner by herself. I’ll not increase the risk by having other unfriendly prisoners aboard the shuttle.”

“Yes General,” replied the Clone.

“That’s the last of the slavers, “reported Sirius. ‘They are just bringing Ventress up now.”

“Is she still unconscious?” asked Cin.

Sirius nodded, “I believe so. We have been keeping her heavily sedated given her reputation. Even with her out of it we’ve increased the guard.”

The hatch slid open to reveal Altis, “Cin it is good to see you, you to Padawan Bene.”

Bene bowed her head in greeting but Cin hugged Altis, “It is indeed, I see you can’t stay out of trouble.”

“We try,” was the response from Altis accompanied by a slight smile.

“Well it shouldn’t have been too big a problem for your fleet,” said Cin with a smile of his own. ‘I thought you were out travelling the Rim dispensing aid to the needy not chasing down slavers.”

Altis simply raised an eyebrow in reply.

“Seriously my friend you have caused a few ripples in the council, along with your new recruits.”

Altis almost smiled at his friend’s lack of subtlety. For a master swordsman and battlemaster Cin could be marvelously blunt. “Say rather allies. The Force Adepts are an inclusive group that respect all those that use the Force as long as they are willing to work for the good of all.”

“Including Dathomiri, “enquired Cin with his eyes on a tall woman standing watch in the corner. ‘Or
so it has been reported.”

“Indeed we have Dathomiri counted among the Adepts. As I said we welcome all those working toward the good of all.”

“Wait we……have you joined these Adepts?”

Beside him Bene looked shocked and actually made a gasping noise before she schooled her features. Obviously the Padawan was shocked by a Jedi Master, even a renegade one making such a decision.

“Indeed we have but perhaps I should explain. I am a Jedi but that doesn’t preclude me working alongside others who are not. Hermione the Adepts archivist said something the other day, infinite diversity in infinite combinations. The Adepts believe that there is not just one path to understanding the Force. Many other cultures have their own insights.”

Cin mused over what Altis was saying. In many ways it flew in the face of the councils teachings. Unguided experimentation could be dangerous as those that sought answers for themselves oft fell afoul of the Dark side. This was something he would need to think about. An ill-considered knee jerk reaction here could sour their friendship. “Hmmm….. infinite diversity in infinite combinations, I like that very philosophical.”

Altis smiled, “Perhaps but Hermione assures me it came from a fictional entertainment program on her homeworld. Still it does sum up the Adepts desire to preserve knowledge of the Force. Cin I am being careful as are the other leaders of the Adepts to avoid the traps of the Dark side. I know the council has its concerns about our aims. At first I did as well but let’s just say that they quieted my fears.”

Cin looked ready to ask another question when the Hatch slid open with Harry, Luna and Remus following a floating trolley. Ventress was unconscious and heavily bound.

Altis introduced Cin and Bene to Harry and Luna. Remus left them to it as he kept a vigilant eye on Ventress.

“I mean no offense but you are both younger than I expected,” said Cin with a genuine smile.
Harry nodded politely while Luna grinned and winked at Bene who was obviously confused. Luna didn’t need the Force or magic to see that the Padawan was shocked.

“But….how did? I’m sorry I shouldn’t…..” Bene blushed as both Harry and Luna looked at her.

Luna took pity on the Padawan, “No need to apologise Bene. I suppose we are young for such responsibility.”

Before Bene could say anything Adi, Siri and Kel walked in to the hanger. Siri looked relieved, “Master Cin, I was hoping that we were not going to be late. We were waiting for permission to dock.”

Cin shook his head, “No we are still getting our other passengers aboard the Catalus. Master Windu said that you were injured Knight Nar. I trust you have recovered?”

“Yes Master,” replied Kel with a relieved smile.

A warning light came on above the outer doors as the shuttle reappeared and it soon appeared as it maneuvered in to land. Once the clones had disembarked Ventress was quickly loaded aboard.

“Well Master Altis I will take my leave. It has been a pleasure to meet you all. May the Force guide you my friends,” Cin followed by Bene walked in to the shuttle.

Adi walked forward and bowed her head, “Our thanks for your aid Harry and Luna. We truly appreciate your assistance with transportation and of course you help in saving our brother Jedi.”

“My pleasure Master Gallia,” replied Luna. “I’m sorry that we really didn’t get to meet you Kel Nar. Perhaps when we are next on Coruscant we can catch up.”

Kel bowed, “Thank you both for saving me.”

Siri smiled at Luna, “We never really got to discuss your abilities. Perhaps that next visit will give us the opportunity.”
Harry smiled as his arm went around Luna’s shoulders. “We wouldn’t miss it Master Jedi.”

oOoOoOo

Bridge of the Chu'unthor

Callista Masana looked up as the sensors showed the Republic warship jumping in to Hyperspace. “Our visitors are on their way.”

Hermione nodded, “Good we should be getting our order to move soon.”

“What are we waiting for?” asked Hanna Balest.

Ron shrugged, “They will probably want to check that the Jedi haven’t left behind any tracking devices.”

Soran frowned, “You distrust the Jedi?”

Hermione shook her head, “Not like you think. On the whole the Jedi are fine. They have however shown a great deal of interest in knowing what we are up to or in this case where we are going.”

“We are being scanned by the Lily,” reported Callista. “Looks like you are right the Lily is scanning every ship. I think…..What in the name of the Force is that?”

Hermione looked up to see a glowing silver stag approaching the bridge window. “Nothing to worry about it is just a messenger.”

Callista found herself flinching as the glowing silver animal passed through the bulkhead. It stopped in front of Hermione and spoke.

“Hermione it’s time to bring everybody home. Head to Haven.”
Hermione nodded and the patronus dispersed into silver motes of light. In the sudden silence Hermione had everyone on the bridge staring at her in surprise. The exceptions of course were Ron and Alyssa who were both grinning.

“The patronus charm is a messenger as well as a weapon against dark spirits. It is…”

Ron cleared his throat, “Love, now may not be the time for a discourse on the Patronus Charm.”

Hermione actually blushed, “Er sorry old habits and all that…..Right well let’s get moving.”

oOoOoOo

Haven

Harry stood and the large crowd gathered in the open garden of Haven slowly quieted. Every living resident of Haven was present having been instructed that attendance was mandatory.

“Welcome to Haven. For many of you this will be the first time you hear of Haven’s true purpose. Some of you have lived here for months training and sharing with the community your unique skills. Some of you have just arrived hours ago. This community is important, truly important for many reasons. It offers a place of sanctuary and for the first time in millennia a place of learning that does not enforce adherence to a narrowly defined doctrine.” As Harry finished speaking Luna stepped forward.

“My Master had a vision of a new order or Force adepts unfettered from convention who would act as the third party bringing balance to the Force. She saw a threat so terrible that it defied description. An evil so powerful that it would sweep all away in its path, an evil beyond the darkest Sith. Her visions showed her that the endless war between the Jedi and the Sith brought defeat ever closer. Skills and abilities vital to defending our galaxy were being lost. From this vision the Adepts were born. It is our task to preserve what can be preserved in this pointless war. For if we do nothing the darkness will win a victory so complete that we cannot comprehend it.”

Altis stood and joined Harry and Luna, “Even now the first steps down that Dark road have begun even as we try to avoid it. If the Sith win this conflict they will destroy the Jedi order. The Jedi will be all but extinct save a handful of survivors forced to flee from the newly risen Sith empire. Oh the Jedi may survive and grow again but by the time that happens millions of Force sensitives will be dead. Whole worlds of knowledge would be beyond reclamation.”
There was silence saving for people breathing and the occasional shuffle as someone shifted position.

Harry stepped forward once more, “we have not had the opportunity to share with you what only a few of us have had the opportunity to witness. CB-73,” Harry called over one of the droids that ran most of the automated systems. “Please take all those we discussed in to the waiting area.”

Altis, Harry and Luna had decided that only those over sixteen or Padawans would be able to participate further. So for a few minutes several droids came and carried or led the children in to the main complex toward the newly established play centre. Once the doors were closed Harry stepped back and a figure in a black hooded cloak appeared in his spot followed moments later by a woman in Jedi robes. Both had a visible blue aura. Almost immediately the more experienced Jedi recognised that the two figures were Force ghosts.

Darth Vectivus smiled as he pushed back his hood. Several of the Altisian Jedi looked shocked as they stood reaching for Lightsabers.

Altis stepped forward, “Hold Vectivus is an ally. He will harm no one.”

Vectivus inclined his head in thanks, “Once, in life I was known as the Sith Lord Darth Vectivus. For countless years my spirit has watched the endless wars in growing despair. I came to realise that light and dark are two sides of the same coin and there must be some sort of balance. The dark cannot be allowed to destroy the light nor the light the dark. I found this truth and then an even greater truth. Both sides of the Force are wrong. The Force is the Force. The ability to channel is part of our genetic makeup but it our choices that define good and evil. Because neither the Sith or the Jedi understand this we have destroyed those that do not fit our narrow descriptions. Harry and Luna spoke of a great evil in the future and they are right to fear it.”

Talia Tal-Shin stepped forward to stand by Vectivus, “We must preserve and grow our abilities. Both the Jedi and the Sith have failed to do this so this task has now fallen to you here.”

Vectivus raised his hands and the light in the garden seemed to fade slightly, “Let me show you the price of failure.”

Everyone present seemed to blink or twitch and find themselves in a blackened smoking landscape. The burnt out husks of building stood amid the remnants of battle. A figure in black armor stepped out of the shadows carrying a twisted staff of some dull black metal. It was human shaped but no human radiated such an aura of sickness and decay.
Coruscant.....the Jedi temple lay in a smoking ruin. Bodies lay untended as fires burned everywhere. Surrounding the perimeter of the Temple were the impaled figures of hundreds of Jedi........twist and....... 

An unnamed planet under a red sun.....A figure in black robes wielding a red bladed Lightsaber clutches his smoking left hand to his chest as he enters a cave. Another steps forward, ‘Well?’

“It is all gone.....nothing is left.”

“Then all is...” the second figure disappears in a bloody mist as dozens of black armoured figures burst in to the cave. The first screams a war cry but is cut down by a flash of green light........shift

World after world burnt and blackened.....with all life extinguished.

Shift.....backward...

Coruscant.....clone troopers march on the Jedi Temple led by a shadowy figure......another with a concealed face looks out over the burning city in satisfaction.

Scene after scene flash by those in the garden as see the galaxy weakened by internal conflict and endless cycles of war....ripe pickings for the darkness from beyond.

Gradually they all realise that they are back in the gardens of Haven.

Harry’s voice was quiet but it carried, “Only by unity and by ending the cycle of destruction can we hope to survive what lies in the future.”

oOoOoOo
Callista leaned back against the support pylon and looked down to see her hands shaking.

“Are you alright Callista?” Alyssa asked as she sat next to her friend.

“How can I be alright after….wait you knew?”

Alyssa nodded, “Some of it although that is the first time I’d seen the images. Master Altis shared what he had seen. Which was bad enough, but nothing compared to actually seeing it.”

Callista took a deep breath, seeking to centre herself and calm her emotions. “This Vectivus was a Sith?”

Alyssa nodded again, “Yes but a very odd one. Hermione uncovered a lot of his story. He was a Sith that was more an academic, a researcher. He committed no atrocities. He didn't attempt to conquer the galaxy, or wipe out the Jedi. He just existed and studied new ways to manipulate the Force. He wasn't a good man but he was a moral and ethical man. In the end he never let the Dark side destroy him and he died of old age surrounded by his family and friends. Hermione has extensive notes and has spent some time talking with his Force ghost and reading his notes. If you want to get the full version she would be happy to take you through it. But my point was that he is no threat to Haven. It is better to think of him as an ally. He even consents to teach occasionally but I would recommend you be ready, academic or not he is still a Sith and being dead doesn’t seem to have taken the edge off his skills.”

“So what is expected of us now, are we learning to use the Dark side? I’ll not set aside all I believe in for power or a seer’s vision.”

Alyssa smiled and took her friends hand, “Cally you don’t understand, not yet anyway. Harry and Luna are building something here, like a Praxeum but not just for Jedi. Every day we have sessions on different topics. I’ve run healing sessions and I’ve been learning about empowering weapons from a Dathomiri warrior as well as studying the healing lore of Hermione’s people. It’s about sharing the knowledge to stop it being lost. No one is being asked change their beliefs just their perspective.”

“And Master Altis is okay with this?” Callista asked as she tried to process Alyssa’s words.

Alyssa smiled and gave her friends hand a reassuring squeeze, “You should go and talk with Djinn and the others. Talk to the Dathomiri. Talk to Harry and Luna and see what they have to say and make up your own mind.”
Callista slowly nodded, “I will. Thank you Alyssa.”

oOoOoOo

Velath Cha kept a careful eye on Luna as she walked among the newcomers to Haven. Her mistress was wise and powerful but she was too trusting. Turning she glanced around the garden spotting Harry talking to Altis. Her mistress had chosen well. Harry Potter was powerful and skilled; no doubt he was an excellent shield mate and lover. Turning back to Luna she again checked to see nothing untoward was happening.

“Who are you?” asked a cheerful voice.

Velath turned to see a beautiful girl in Jedi robes with dark pink skin and sapphire blue hair.

“Sorry?”

“I like your tattoos what do they mean?”

"They are clan tattoos," replied Velath before turning away.

"My name is Sahdra by the way," the girl continued seemingly undeterred by Velath's less than welcoming behaviour. "They're quite artistic. I think they would suit me."

Velath turned back to stare incredulously at Sahdra, "You realise that they are the mark of a Dark side cult."

Sahdra looked excited rather than horrified, "Really?"

"Yes really," replied Velath turning away once more.

"Did they kidnap you and force you to marry a dark prince?"
“What are you talking about?” demanded Velath angrily as she spun around to face Sahdra.

“It would be a good story if you…..I’m sorry you seem upset.” Sahdra apologised her eyes wide.

Velath fought back a sigh. She had not meant to frighten the girl. “I’m not upset I am however busy.”

Sahdra smiled brightly, “Oh good I wouldn’t want you to be upset with me. I’ll just leave you to it then.”

Velath watched Sahdra walk off and was surprised to find herself a bit…flustered. There was something odd about the blue haired girl. After watching Sahdra disappear back in to the crowd she shrugged and resumed her close watch on Luna.

oOoOoOo

Soran sipped at the quite pleasant beverage as he watched people discussing the recent revelations as they sipped drinks or snacked on the variety of food at small tables. Spotting Hermione talking to Ravis Thesa he moved to join them but just as he stepped up Ravis moved off. Not realising Soran was on his way to talk to her Hermione took the opportunity to pick up a few segments of fruit and a refill for her drink.

“Hermione,” Soran said in greeting. He obviously startled her as she knocked her glass over spilling juice all over the table.

“Oh I’m sorry. Here let me.” Soran picked up several napkins to mop up the juice.

“Hold on let me,” said Hermione as she drew her wand and cast a cleaning spell.

Soran stepped back in surprise as the spilt juice disappeared, “How….how did you do that?”

Slipping her wand away Hermione smiled politely, “A simple cleaning spell.”
“A spell as in magic?” replied Soran with a grin and a raised eyebrow.

“That’s right,” replied Hermione.

“No really how did you do it?”

Hermione rolled her eyes and transfigured her glass into a kitten. Picking the tortoiseshell up and handing it to Soran with a smile, “Yes magic all though it might be more accurate to say that we have some different ways of using the Force.”

Soran studied the small animal with his Force sense but couldn't sense anything other than the animals life force. "That is incredible is it permanent?"

Hermione shook her head, "No or at least not usually. It takes a great deal of power to permanently transfigure something, especially something as complex as living material."

"What else can be achieved by magic?"

Harry looked around the garden with a strong feeling of satisfaction. All around him the residents of Haven were engaged in conversation. No doubt many of the interactions were tentative if not uncomfortable but they were still happening.

"It is going well, better than I expected."

Harry nodded as Altis passed him a drink. "We gave them a lot to think about. No doubt everyone will need time to process what they have seen before we can start the process of integrating everyone. So far your people have been the most adaptable but even the Dathomiri are circulating."

Altis took a sip of his own drink, “I think we need to give them tonight. Tomorrow will be soon enough to talk about the way forward.”

oOoOoOo
Dooku's Citadel

Dooku was alone in his private apartments.

Normally this was something he relished given the many plans he had in place. It was time to order his thoughts and extend his reach in to the Force to find the best path. Today it was different.

There was something wrong. Something was right on the edge of his perception. Shadows flitting about obstructing his vision, distracting, frustrating his attempts.

The disappearance of Ventress was one more failure that he had not foreseen. It could only be worse if she had fallen in to the Jedi’s hands and given her extended failure to report in that likelihood was frighteningly realistic.

A loud beep announced that a holo-call was incoming on his secure channel with a gesture he activated his holocom. When the hooded image of his Master appeared he quickly dropped to one knee.

“Rise my apprentice,” ordered Darth Sidious, “Report.”

“Master our plan continues to unfold as we planned. We have stretched the Jedi to the point that they are unable to effectively lead the Republic’s forces.”

Sidious nodded, “As I had foreseen, now what of your missing acolyte?”

“She has failed to report in.”

“I fear Ventress has now become a liability.”

“She is a resourceful agent…” began Dooku only to be interrupted by Sidious.
“Who it appears has failed so abjectly that she has allowed herself to be captured. She is a liability to our plans.”

Dooku knew what needed to happen to liabilities.

“I will see to it my Master.”

“Good. Now we need to distract the Jedi and draw their attention elsewhere. Contact Grievous and order him to attack beta designated targets.”

Beta targets were heavily populated Republic worlds that were designated as secondary targets due to a lack of military value. Attacking such worlds would sow chaos and force the Jedi to redeploy their already stretched forces or face increasing discontent among the populations of the Republic aligned worlds.

"It shall be done Master."

oOoOoOo

Fornow – Outer Rim Territories

Obi-Wan deflected a blaster bolt away from where Anakin was trying to override the complex security protocols protecting the planetary defensive networks control room.

"Things are becoming difficult here Anakin," reported Obi-Wan as more Battle Droids joined the attack.

"I'm working as quickly as I......there!"

Anakin ignited his lightsaber and joined Obi-Wan in the doorway. “We need to give Ahsoka time to get the system restarted.”

“I know Anakin but,” Obi-Wan had to duck as a shower of stone chips flew past his head. “Now
would be a good time for Rex to start giving us some fire support.”

“I think we are in trouble Obi-Wan….look up.”

Obi-Wan looked up to see six more CIS drop ships approaching their position.

“Come on Snips,” whispered Anakin.

Both men fought on doggedly as the enemies blaster fire grew heavier. Neither was panicking but their situation was becoming increasingly desperate. Ahsoka was taking a great deal longer than expected and as each moment passed it more CIS troops landed on the planet.

Obi-Wan was about to respond when he spun around lightsaber raised as a woman appeared from among the rocks. She was followed by an older man holding what looked to be a simply staff. Both were dressed in dark green robes.

The woman glared at Obi-Wan, “Put up your weapon Jedi we are here to lead you to safety while my people distract you enemy.”

Obi-Wan was about to reply when a Battle Droid jumped in to the trench landing next to the male. The middle aged man slammed the end of his staff into the droids neck sending it stumbling back before his second blow sent the head careening in to the stone wall. Obi-Wan slowly lowered his blade, “We are waiting for our…”

Ahsoka came running out of the door only to slide to a halt by Anakin’s side.

“Ahsoka” finished Obi-Wan.

Ahsoka didn’t react to the two strangers as she reported, “Master the power grid is fluctuating so badly that the system won’t restart.”

The woman ignored their conversation but when Ahsoka finished talking she gestured impatiently, “Come then, we have already saved what remained of your clone warriors and your position here is about to be overrun.”
Obi-Wan could sense thinly veiled hostility but no threat, “Who are you?”

“We are the followers of Palawa.”
Chapter 18

Chapter 18 - A New Order

Synopsis: A renegade Jedi has a Force vision of a pair of powerful Force-sensitives' and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

Authors Note Warning ….Here in this chapter is where we start going AU. All the little changes brought about by the presence of the Adepts have come to a head. So Canon purists beware you may need a sedative.

Disclaimer:

All publicly recognizable characters, settings, etc. are the property of their respective owners. The original characters and plot are the property of the author. The author is in no way associated with the owners, creators, or producers of any media franchise. No copyright infringement is intended.

I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

Last Time:

"Ahsoka" finished Obi-Wan.

Ahsoka didn't react to the two strangers as she reported, "Master the power grid is fluctuating so badly that the system won't restart."

The woman ignored their conversation but when Ahsoka finished talking she gestured impatiently, "Come then, we have already saved what remained of your clone warriors and your position here is about to be overrun."

Obi-Wan could sense thinly veiled hostility but no threat, "Who are you?"

"We are the followers of Palawa."

Chapter 18 - A New Order

HoloNet Breaking News

Chancellor announces new changes to Military Act

A number of minor changes to the Military Creation Act have caused a political storm. A number of powerful Senatorial voting blocs have already spoken out against it. The Chancellor's office has issued a statement defending the changes that they insist will lead to positive changes in how the military is ordered.

Read more here

Unconfirmed rumours of Republic units overrun on Fornow

Rumours have begun of a CIS victory on the Republic held world of Fornow. No details are
Luna smirked as Harry sat bolt upright in bed, "What?"

Leaning forward Luna kissed his forehead, "It's time to get up we have meetings this morning and we agreed to meet Vectivus for training in the caverns beforehand."

Harry stretched, "Late night."

"A good one though. I know it was important but it was still fun. We need to have some fun."

Harry pulled Luna into his arms and rolled her onto her back so that he straddled her, "I can think of some fun activities."

"Yes, yes I know what you are thinking but you have already slept in and we don't want to be late." Despite her admonishment, Luna was smiling.

Harry grinned, "Well there is always tonight."

"Don't get ahead of yourself Potter," said Luna with a smile. "Last night was very important because it showed that Haven is a community. People live here now it can't be all about training, study and planning."

"I know but so much depends on the newcomers. if we want to assimilate people in to the community we need to make sure that Haven becomes more than a Force Academy."

"True my love but the burden isn't ours alone."

Harry rolled off Luna and stood, "Well as entertaining as it would be I don't think we have time for a shower, even if we share."

"Whose fault is that?" asked Luna as she climbed out of bed. Walking across the room she began rooting through the drawers and tossing clothes on to the bed.

Harry picked up a shirt and pulled it on as he watched Luna strip and change in to fresh clothes. As she picked up on his attention she gave her bottom a wiggle and turned with a raised eyebrow and a smile. Her body may be spectacular but her smile was something that made him ache for her touch.

He'd never really known what people meant when they said they were enthralled until he realised his feelings for Luna.

"And I love you too," said Luna in reply to his unspoken feelings. "You are projecting your emotions my love."

Harry crossed the room and pulled Luna in to a tight hug, "Good, I want you to know how I feel."

Luna kissed Harry's neck before wiggling out of his grasp, "You are so getting some tonight Harry but for now stop ogling my bum and get dressed."
Harry staggered under the constant psychic attack Vectivus held him under before the pain disappeared.

Vectivus stepped out of the shadows where he had been invisible, "Good Harry but you allowed yourself to weaken for a moment when I touched your memories."

"That felt like my brain was on fire," commented Harry as Luna passed him a water bottle.

"It is a most effective attack and unlike the Force manipulation you knew as the Cruciatius, it does no physical harm to the nerves. It is not easily defended against even by a powerful Force wielder but it can be done. The best defence is to detect and then deflect the initial assault. If you can keep your enemy out then any Force based mental attack can be defeated."

"So it is like Legilimency," mused Luna.

"From what Sirius and Remus have told me the technique is similar. For now, I simply wish for you to try and enter each other's minds. Given your training an easy enough task but at the same time I want you to try and keep the other out."

As Luna and Harry began their mental duel Vectivus watched on observing through the Force as his students carried out his instructions. Soon both were sweating and he could see minute muscle tremors. At the same time, their Force auras began to flare which was an indicator of exhaustion.

"Enough."

As Harry and Luna relaxed and took a drink of water Vectivus disappeared back into the shadows only to return with a black droid. The Droid was made of a dull grey metal and moved with a grace not normally seen in humanoid droids.

"I want you to add practising your mental attacks and defences to your training regimen. Now I have a different task for you. This is ID-2, a Sith assassin droid and now one of your main training partners. ID-2 has been programmed to push you so you will need all your skills. Prepare yourselves."

Harry and Luna studied the Droid as it stood apparently awaiting the signal to begin. Without warning, ID-2 let loose a stream of what looked like Force lightning at Luna who barely managed to avoid the attack by throwing herself to the side.

Harry determined that the Droid was occupied attacking Luna so he ignited his lightsaber and leapt to the attack his Force enhanced speed making his movements blur. However, as his lightsaber descended ID-2 ignited a red-bladed lightsaber and parried the blow following up by smashing its metal elbow into Harry's face sending him to the floor.

Luna flung out a hand sending the Droid flying with a Force push before sending her own Force lightning arcing toward where the ID-2 had hit the floor. The Droid simply blocked the Force lightning with its lightsaber as it leapt to its feet and charged toward her undeterred.

Avoiding the Droids rush Luna Force jumped over its head only to very nearly be dissected by ID-2 as it slashed its lightsaber at her as she passing overhead.

Harry rolled to his feet with ringing ears just as Luna landed and attacked ID-2 with her usual lightning fast Ataru lightsaber strikes somersaulting backward when ID-2 pressed forward with a vicious series of blows. With another burst of Force enhanced speed Harry launched his own attack.
striking at the rear of the Droid as Luna landed in front of the Droid and launched her own attack.

ID-2 spun holding both of them off before leaping backwards over Harry to land in the shadows of
the cave and extinguished its lightsaber.

Harry and Luna were both breathing heavily as they scanned the shadowy recesses of the cave.

"Bloody hell it's good," complained Harry. Lowering his voice he stepped closer to Luna "I think we
need a new plan of attack. I'll engage it you blast it with magic."

"Sounds like a good plan," agreed Luna. "But what happens if we have to go in after it? I can't sense
anything in there."

Before Harry could answer ID-2 exploded out of the shadows, lightsaber held high as it charged
Harry forcing him to defend himself from the lightning fast blows the Droid was throwing at him.

"Reducto," incanted Luna as her spell shot towards the droid.

The explosive hex hit directly at the Droids chest, blasting it backwards. Harry immediately started to
follow but Luna called him back. Instead, she levitated the Droid, "Now Harry!"

With its ability to fight effectively Harry managed to land a blow on the droid's head, which
somewhat surprisingly seemed to resist the blow.

"Enough," called Vectivus.

Luna lowered ID-2 to the floor where the droid stood motionless apparently awaiting orders.

Vectivus smiled and nodded looking pleased, "You did well but I should warn you that ID-2 is
programmed to adapt. Each time that you fight he learns more about your styles and adapts to
counter you. I used him today because you are ready to start thinking about applying all your skills.
We have focused on developing new skills now is the time to hone them. ID-2 is going to help bring
those skills together. Although I suspect Altis, Sirius and Remus will insist that you continue your
studies."

Luna stretched her hands above her as she tried to ease her muscles. "We will have to get Velath
down here. She has made a good start with her lightsaber but she still defaults to a knife."

There was a small flash of blue light and Talia was standing next to Vectivus.

"I am so proud of both of you having achieved so much more than we could have hoped."

Harry and Luna both knelt as Talia stepped forward placing her hands over their heads. "My beloved
apprentices you have begun your great task but you must step a different path. Haven will be your
home but I fear that much sorrow and loss will come to pass before your duties allow you to dwell
here in peace."

"You have seen something Master?" asked Luna.

"Yes and no. Something is happening but the shroud of the Dark side obscures our enemies' moves.
"I should have sensed something," said Luna.

Talia studied her former apprentices face for a moment, "You are not omnipotent beloved even Force
based divination cannot see every possibility."
"Especially not with the Dark side clouding everything," added Vectivus.

Talia raised her hand and an image of a figure clad in black appeared. The figure was standing on a balcony overlooking a city view that could only be Coruscant. After a moment another figure appeared kneeling with their head lowered in a submissive gesture.

After a short conversation, the first turned away and the kneeling figure stood and turned to leave letting Harry and Luna see his face, Dooku.

The shadowy figure suddenly turned and looked around as if looking for hidden watches before making a twisting gesture. The image abruptly disappeared.

"That is as close as any of our allies have come to seeing Dooku's hidden master. But still, this tells us much. Dooku was or will soon be on Coruscant and there he will meet with what appears to be his master. Needless to say, this presents you with an enormous opportunity to identify the other Sith."

Harry frowned as he considered their newest intelligence, "This is getting complicated. If this unknown Sith is the Chancellor or someone in his employ what can we do? He is still the elected head of the Republic. Do we tell the Jedi and let them deal with this, assuming of course that they believe us."

Vectivus looked carefully at Harry, "Remember Harry we work to bring balance as this will preserve knowledge and lives. My vision showed the Jedi temple falling to the Sith. You saw how this emerging Sith's empire hunted down Force sensitives, treating them as a threat to its supremacy. This is what we work against because if this Sith succeeds he dooms us to an extra-galactic threat worse than the fevered imaginings of the most power-mad predecessors."

Talia shook her head, "That doesn't mean that your task is to confront him. That task may fall to another, for now, we seek only to counter the Sith to achieve that we need to know who we must counter."

OoOoOoOo

Altis ran a hand through his hair as he listened to Luna detail Talia's visit. "I think we may need a larger team on this one. Neither Talia nor Vectivus have ever steered us wrong. At least the Jedi Council are aware something is rotten on Coruscant. Force help us if we had to find a hidden Sith while the Order worked against us."

Luna shrugged, "I don't think we have any choice but to go. The question is who we take with us?"

"A small team," suggested Harry.

"I think so, we are not looking for a fight so we don't need a heavily armed strike force," said Luna.

"I can lend you some experienced people," offered Altis.

"And still have the people to do what needs to be done here?" asked Harry.

"With our new arrivals, I think things are well under control here. Last night was a great start. With the Dathomiri Matriarch and her elders along with the masters from the Chu'unthor we have more than enough people to order things here and continue the classes. You are both more than recruiters for Haven; Just as I am more than an administrator even if I don't begrudge filling that role. We all have duties outside of Haven that will take us away from here at times we have to trust that others can take our place as needed."
"Perhaps we may need a formal council after all," mused Luna.

Harry didn't look convinced, "I just worry that it will become another Jedi Council. Haven and what we are doing here is too important to allow that to occur."

Altis nodded slowly as he considered Harry's meaning, "Leave it with me, we have time to make these decisions. Now who were you thinking of taking?"

**Aboard a freighter - Outer Rim**

Obi-Wan Kenobi sighed as Anakin stalked past him, again. "Anakin you need to calm yourself."

Anakin turned to face his friend, "It doesn't bother you that we've been locked in here as prisoners since we came aboard?"

"They treated our injured and have seen to our other needs. I don't sense any danger despite their initial hostility," replied Obi-Wan calmly. "Ahsoka, Rex and the others are managing to get some rest you should as well."

Anakin looked like he wanted to argue but after a moment he sat next to Obi-Wan. "Have you heard of the followers of Palawa before?"

Obi-Wan nodded, "Yes but only as a historical group. I was led to believe that they existed around the time of the first great schism. They studied the Force and the effects of Midi-chlorians but from a different perspective to the Jedi. I think I remember something about the fact that they accepted non-Force sensitives in to their ranks. Anyway when the great schism occurred some of them joined with Xennor while some remained neutral. They ended up in a dispute with the Jedi council; I can't remember ever being taken through the details. Since then they have faded from history. About the only thing we remember them for now is that they were the creators of Teräs Käsi."

Anakin raised an eyebrow, "The martial art?"

"Yes they were the creators and apparently they reached heights of skill that we haven't been able to recreate even with the Force."

"So they are dangerous?" insisted Anakin.

"Anakin look beyond the surface, what does the Force tell you?"

Anakin closed his eyes and extended his senses, "They….they want something important from us and they want it badly enough that they have come to us regardless of their feelings about the Order."

The door slid open and a young man walked in, "Yes we do. We believe you will show us the path to the Adepts."

Anakin rose to his feet making no effort to hide his annoyance, "You were spying on us!"

"Hardly, you were just Force walking looking for our motivations. I sensed your mental…intrusion but allowed you to take the information anyway."

Obi-Wan sighed as he stood, "Anakin, calm yourself. I am Obi-Wan Kenobi, thank you, friend, for your help. Things were rapidly getting out of hand."
"I greet you Jedi Kenobi I am Ret. The elders have given me the task of seeing to your needs until we reach Coruscant."

Anakin looked somewhat sceptical, "Coruscant?"

Ret didn't seem fazed by the question or the tone. "Yes, Coruscant. We felt that the best course would be to return you to your council."

Obi-Wan considered the young man for a moment before clearing his throat, "Ret you implied that your people want to find the Adepts. I am afraid that the Jedi Council does not; to my knowledge have that information."

Ret smiled, "Ah but we have foreseen that the chosen one will show us the way to the Adepts. I am prepared to wait until that moment occurs."

Ahsoka, who had awoken when Ret entered but had remained silent rolled to her feet and moved to stand next to Anakin. Ret studied her a moment before seemingly dismissing her and turning his attention back to Obi-Wan. Ahsoka's eyes narrowed for a moment at the young man's apparent dismissal of her as a threat. "So you are just going to follow us around until someone gives you directions?"

Ret turned his gaze toward Anakin, "We hope that one of your council will be able to help although our elders believe that you are the Jedi chosen one. You will be our compass."

Anakin's expression darkened, "What do you know of the prophecy of the chosen one?" As he spoke his hand moved toward his lightsaber hilt.

Ret looked back at Anakin apparently unfazed by his response. "I am no expert but I have been told that it is one of several prophecies made concerning bringing balance to the Force."

Obi-Wan raised an eyebrow in surprise, "One of several? I don't believe that I have come across any others in the Jedi archives."

"Not everything is captured in your archives Jedi. There are entire cultures who have studied the many mysteries of the Force about whom you are ignorant. Amongst them are seers whose prophecies are constantly coming to pass. Small matters perhaps to the Jedi but to many others these unseen and unheralded events are of vital importance."

Obi-Wan tried not to react and silently willed Anakin and Ahsoka to remain quiet. Ret had just referenced the prophecy of the chosen one which was of vital importance to the Jedi not to mention the personal impact it had on Anakin. Making sure that his expression was neutral he kept his tone polite as he addressed Ret. "Forgive me Ret I meant no disrespect. The prophecy of the chosen one bringing balance to the Force is of great interest to me" And of course to Anakin as if Master Windu is right and it does apply to him, thought Obi-Wan.

Ret seemed to consider Obi-Wan's words before he slowly nodded. "I too should apologise my words were overly harsh. You should know that many among the followers of Palawa are…critical of the Jedi just as they are the Sith. From our viewpoint both your philosophies are flawed."

Anakin looked ready to say more but was interrupted by a loud alarm.

Ret frowned and turned toward the hatch, "That is the call to action stations. Please stay here."

"Wait we can help you," said Ahsoka.
Ret simply shook his head, "It may not be anything other than one of the ships we were to rendezvous with. Until we know what is going on it would be safer for you to stay here."

Once the hatch slid shut Ahsoka turned to Obi-Wan, "What do we do now?"

CIS Light Cruiser - Fist of Urkon

"Is it a republic ship?" asked the human in the commander's seat.

"No…it is an older commercial ship...armed but nothing to trouble even a scout ship," reported the Neimoidian officer at the sensor console.

"Still it's just outside the blockade area," the commander said to himself before speaking up to address the bridge crew. "We can't risk it. Prepare to disable it and ready a boarding party. If there are Jedi on board I want them captured. Communications open a secure channel to Count Dooku's command ship."

A Battle Droid manning the operations console immediately sent an electronic order and within moments a small shuttle was being prepped for boarding operations.

The commander straightened in his command chair as a holographic image of Count Dooku appeared in front of him. "Lord Dooku...I wasn't expecting..."

Dooku waved away the commanders words, "Report commander."

"We have intercepted a merchant vessel near our blockade area."

Dooku frowned, "A merchant vessel commander?"

"Yes sir I know it's not a military vessel but the report mentioned several merchants leaving the system after the battle."

Dooku nodded, "If there are Jedi aboard capture or kill them commander but make sure they do not escape." The image of Dooku flickered and disappeared.

"Sir," warned the Neimoidian officer as alarms began sounding around the bridge, "The merchant ship is maneuvering…it has increased in speed."

"Pursue it," ordered the commander. "And get the boarding party moving!"

"Sir it is closing with us...speed increasing."

"Open fire," ordered the Commander.

"Sir we are having difficulty targeting them. It is too quick. We have managed a few hits but they appear to have either glanced off their deflector shields or caused only minor damage."

"Target that ship with all main batteries I want it disabled or destroyed."

"Sir it…it has stopped and is resting against our hull."

"What…it...by the ancestors they may be attempting to board us. Get our droids there immediately!"
"Be ready," warned Obi-Wan as he felt a ripple in the Force warning of danger approaching. They had heard an explosion followed by some sharp maneuvering that almost overtaxed the artificial gravity. Now the ship was stationary they could hear the sound of blaster fire.

"That sounds like it is just outside," warned Ahsoka.

Suddenly a strange sensation passed over all the Jedi. It was like a surge in the Force travelling through and around them. The odd sensation passed as one of the clone troopers closest to the wall turned to Obi-Wan.

"Sir the weapons fire, it's stopped."

Obi-Wan nodded, "Until we know why I suggest that we remain on guard."

Anakin gripped his lightsaber hilt and gestured toward the door, "We are trapped like Womp rats in a pit here. We need to know what is going on."

Obi-Wan didn't seem convinced but nodded, "Very well, Cody secure the room we will scout out the situation."

Walking to the door Obi-Wan tried the door panel which immediately opened the hatch.

"It wasn't locked?" asked Ahsoka.

Obi-Wan glanced out into the corridor, "No it appears it was not but...well this is unexpected."

Anakin and Ahsoka both looked past him to see droids frozen in position or slumped unmoving on the metal deck.

Obi-Wan rubbed at his bearded chin, "I wonder what caused this?"

"A Force based power that essentially mimics an electromagnetic pulse. It basically fries their command circuits," said Ret as he walked out from behind the droids. "I thought I told you to stay put?"

"We were simply going to offer our assistance," said Obi-Wan in an apologetic tone of voice. "We feared that the ship was under attack."

"As indeed we are," replied a female voice as a small figure appeared from around the same corner as Ret.

All three Jedi could feel the Force presence of the woman whose youthful features were crowned in long silver hair. Despite her apparent youth there was something about her that hinted that she was far older.

The woman gave Obi-Wan a polite nod before turning to Ret. "We have to hold this junction while the others take the fight to them. If we can keep their boarding parties attention on us we will succeed." As she finished speaking eight Battle Droids rounded the corner weapons raised.

The three Jedi leapt forward, igniting their lightsabers as the Clone troopers raised their own blasters but before a shot could be fired all eight droids seemed to shudder before falling to the floor or simply stopping.

The woman frowned as she squinted at something on the floor, "Hmm the rune array is nearly depleted. Ret the next lot may well get through."
Ret nodded, "Right, Lerhra you had best fall back." Turning he studied the Jedi and clones behind him. "We will need to hold here if you wish to assist me you would be welcome."

The sound of more droids approaching had the Jedi and clones once more raising their weapons although Ret simply assumed an on guard position with both hands slightly raised. The first Battle Droids around the corner were cut down by the clones' blaster fire while the Jedi deflected their sporadic return fire. The next unit of Battle Droids fared the same but they were followed by a unit proceeded by two Droideka. Their shields allowed them to engage the Jedi and the clones and thus free up the Battle Droids to move in to better attack positions.

During the initial attack, Ret had moved to the rear behind the clones but he suddenly darted forward moving so fast he almost blurred. Sliding between the two Droideka he released a silver orb before rolling to his feet and striking out at a Battle Droid. His blow crushed the droid's chest plate sending it flying in to the droid beside it. Behind him, the silver orb released a burst of bright yellow light and the Droidekas shields flickered and failed. Without the Droideka the Battle Droids were soon dispatched.

"Do you have any more of those silver orbs?" asked Ahsoka.

Ret nodded, "Yes but not an inexhaustible supply. Like Lerhras' rune array they take time to make. If we are to succeed we need to keep their attention focussed here while the others do their work. The loss of these droids will mean they will send reinforcements."

Anakin gestured for Rex to come forward, "Rex we have to hold this intersection."

"I'll set up an overlapping field of fire…What can we expect from the other defenders Sir?"

Ret looked on seemingly amused at Rexc's question, "I am it."

Obi-Wan raised an eyebrow, "Without a weapon?"

"What makes you think I am unarmed?" replied Ret. "I am a Teräs Käsi master."

Obi-Wan realised what he had seen when Ret had struck the Battle Droid was Teräs Käsi. Ret's single blow had disabled it. The next squad of arriving Battle Droids again gave him a chance to observe Ret's fighting style. He fought with, punches, kicks and throws that appeared to be Force enhanced. His defences seemed to be his speed and an almost Jedi like awareness of what was happening around him.

This time the droids kept coming in an endless mass of metal and a storm of blaster fire. Just as the droids began to gain a foothold a silver flash signalled Ret had used one of his orbs.

Ahsoka checked on the injured Clones and then reported, "We lost Sprint and Vortex. Master, we can't hold here for much longer. We haven't had a chance to rearm since Fornow and their blasters are running on less than twenty percent in their power cells, some are less than ten."

Anakin looked over at Ret who seemed calm and unruffled despite a blaster burn on the shoulder of his tunic from a near miss. He looked back toward the passageway leading toward the hatch as a loud explosion sounded followed by another larger explosion that could be felt through the deck plates.

Lerhra reappeared along with two others a male and a female dressed in leather tunics. Both carried heavy wooden staves and the woman had a blaster strapped to her thigh. Lerhra gestured and Ret stepped closer allowing her to look at the burn mark on his shoulder. He pulled out his tunic and Lerhra nodded.
"Amelia and Jordis have succeeded in sabotaging their power plant. So we should soon be disengaging the magnetic clamp. Amelia, see to the Jedi's wounded. Ret we must return to the bridge."

"Of course Lerhra," Ret turned to the Jedi and the remaining clones. "I thank you for your help. I have other duties now but I shall return later."

Lerhra, Ret and the male who they assumed to be Jordis departed leaving behind her female escort.

"What did you do to their engines?" asked Ahsoka.

The tall woman frowned as she looked down at the Togrutan Padawan before relaxing and smiling, "We sabotaged their power plant and their regulators. That is why we needed to get clear as a cascade failure of the power systems has already begun."

Anakin nodded despite his distrust. The strategies they had employed had been quite effective. They might not be Jedi but they could certainly fight.

Obi-Wan, however, was watching Amelia with narrowed eyes. She seemed no less friendly than Ret but there was something about the tall brown skinned woman that seemed familiar. He had seen someone like her before. Then it came to him she was a Vahla.

Amelia turned to Obi-Wan and smiled slightly as if she had guessed his thought processes. "Have we meet master Jedi?"

"No, although I have…dealt with several of your people in the past Vahla."

Amelia continued to smile faintly as she gave Obi-Wan a slight bow, "Ah on behalf of my species I apologise. Now perhaps we should see to your injured?"

While Amelia checked over the three injured clones Obi-Wan pulled Ahsoka and Anakin aside.

"I must admit that I had not expected to see a Vahla among the Palawa still we must be careful not to leap to any conclusions about her intentions."

"Aren't the Vahla pirates and bounty hunters?" asked Ahsoka.

Anakin shook his head, "They are dangerous Snips. The Vahla are Force sensitives and have a strong connection to the Dark side."

Ahsoka gripped her lightsaber, "She could be a Sith?"

Obi-Wan extended his senses but could feel only a faint echo of the Dark side, "I doubt it although I would suggest that we be careful around her."

All three Jedi nearly jumped when Lerhra appeared standing behind them. None of them had sensed her presence in the Force, "Amelia Sto-Nar is no Sith but I am sure that you will not take my word for it. All are welcome among the followers of Palawa as long as they abide by our edicts."

Lerhra turned away from the Jedi, "Amelia, would you please see our….friends to their accommodations. The CIS ship has just suffered catastrophic containment failure and more importantly, the Norn has just emerged from hyperspace."

"Yes Elder," replied Amelia.

Lerhra nodded and turned back to Obi-Wan, "We are exchanging some personnel before resuming
our journey to Coruscant. I believe that we should be there in eighteen hours so I advise that you get some sleep."

Coruscant – Jedi Temple

A young Jedi Knight assigned to communications for the day knocked politely on the door frame of Master Yoda's chamber, "Master Yoda we have received a rather….intriguing message from a ship in orbit."

"Intriguing say you?"

"They asked for you by name Master Yoda and they claim to have Jedi aboard as passengers."

Yoda lowered himself in to a chair, "Speak to the ship I will."

The Jedi Knight manipulated one of the controls opening the correct channel before bowing himself out of the room.

An almost elfin figure appeared on the screen, "You look old Yoda, how long has it been?"

Yoda settled back in to his chair, "One hundred years Lerhra still young you look. But eyes lie not hmmmm."

Lerhra inclined her head acknowledging Yoda's words. "Indeed they do not. I have some of your people aboard my ship. I am here to return them to you."

Yoda studied the woman's image for a long moment before speaking, "Choices of long ago back to trouble me it seems. Seek something you do."

Lerhra laughed, "So trusting Master Jedi. Yes, I seek the fulfilling of a prophecy."

Yoda felt a wave of unease pass through him with her mention of a prophecy. "Plain words I seek much at stake there is."

"Plain words is it, very well our council has long seen a lack of balance in the Force. The blame for which can be laid at the door of your order. Now our seers see the fall of your vaunted order and the rise of the Sith. The cycle of imbalance will begin again.

But this time the Sith will seek to control or destroy. Force sensitives will be hunted down and either serve or be destroyed. Millennia's worth of knowledge will be lost and while this happens wars will wear the galaxy down. Eventually, the Sith will be pulled down but by then the galaxy will be so weakened that they will be easy pickings for a series of extragalactic invaders. Each one will weaken the links until a darkness will come that will be so all-encompassing that what little is left will be as ashes, the galaxy will be a smoking ruin. That is the future Jedi if I fail to aid the preservers."

"Endure the light will," countered Yoda but even as he spoke he was remembering the words of Qui-Gon. The Force ghost had warned of a possible future where the Jedi were betrayed and hunted to near extinction by one of their own. He had also spoken of the intervention of others. Were these the others he spoke of?

"There speaks pride not wisdom," Lerhra's rebuke was soft-spoken but it still affected Yoda.

"Claim to know much of the future you do."
Lerhra shrugged, "Know? No, I do not know. I fear the possibilities. That is truly what prophecy is, a possibility. Fate is not set in stone it is possible to circumvent an event but somethings are so large, so all-encompassing that all one can do is try to save what can be saved. You know as well as I that some possibilities are impossible to avoid."

Yoda frowned at the image of Lerhra as an insight occurred to him, "Fate you say hmmm. A Jedi there was that believed in the balance as do you."

"Talia….she spent some time among us learning from our elders although she never directly shared her vision with us. From what our seers have seen her actions may save many. Through her the preservers came into being."

Yoda knew the answer but he asked anyway, "The preservers Harry and Luna are?"

"Yes although hidden their movement has already grown."

"Seek you do to join them?" asked Yoda.

"Yes although the path is hidden from us."

"Yet seek me out you have. Know their location I do not."

Lerhra smiled but now it was tinged with sadness, "Another way shall present itself. Now Master Yoda, where shall I deposit your people?"

oOoOoOo

AN Chapter 19 to Follow shortly!

Many thanks to Rhynimy and XRaiderv1 for their Beta Work. Credit for such is theirs blame for mistakes is mine.
Chapter 19

Chapter 19 - A New Order

Synopsis: A renegade Jedi has a Force vision of a pair of powerful Force-sensitives' and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

Authors Note: Warning ....Here is the 2nd chapter of real AU. As I said last chapter, All the little changes brought about by the presence of the Adepts have come to a head. So Canon purists beware you may need a really heavy sedative. Warning Canon Character Death.

Disclaimer:

All publicly recognizable characters, settings, etc. are the property of their respective owners. The original characters and plot are the property of the author. The author is in no way associated with the owners, creators, or producers of any media franchise. No copyright infringement is intended.

I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

Last Time:

Yoda knew the answer but he asked anyway, "The preservers Harry and Luna are?"

"Yes although hidden their movement has already grown."

"Seek you do to join them?" asked Yoda.

"Yes although the path is hidden from us."

"Yet seek me out you have. Know their location I do not."

Lerhra smiled but now it was tinged with sadness, "Another way shall present itself. Now Master Yoda, where shall I deposit your people?"

Chapter 19 - A New Order

Republic Navy - Dreadnaught -class heavy cruiser Catalus

Cin Drallig woke as the Force rang like a bell. A moment later a warning klaxon sounded. Running to the hatch he opened it to a scene of chaos. The corridor was lit only by emergency lighting and there was a distinct smell of smoke. Emerging from their own cabins were Adi Gallia, Siri Tachi and Kel Nar.

"Masters!" Cin turned to see Bene headed toward him followed by several clones.

"What has happened?" asked Cin.

"Something has damaged both the primary and secondary power conduits," reported Bene. "There are no other ships nearby so Commander Tell sent extra clones to both engineering and I sent some to the detention area but with power down all the lifts are useless. We sent runners but we are still
waiting for reports."

Cin nodded, "Well done Bene and you as well Commander, Bene you are with me I want to check in on the detention area myself. Adi can you and Siri secure the hanger deck? Commander, I would suggest stationing guards on the hanger deck as well in case the prisoners use this as an opportunity to escape."

"Yes General," said the Clone Commander as he gestured calling several of his subordinates to him and began issuing his own orders.

Adi Gallia looked at Siri Tachi who nodded, "Siri and I can secure the hanger."

"Knight Nar, take the bridge and help the commander find out what exactly has happened. Keep us updated. "Come Bene I have a bad feeling that this involves Ventress."

When they reached the Detention centre they found that the prisoners had been shot in their cells. Several dead clones littered the corridors and when they reached the cell that held Ventress the door was open. Inside there were three dead figures in black.

Cin knelt by one the fallen figures in black and quickly searched the fallen figure. The figure had been run through by a lightsaber. A quick search showed that the second had fallen the same way. The last had a broken neck.

"These are assassins similar to those Bene and I saw on Bespin. They are dangerous servants of the Dark side that were part of an attack on the Altisian Jedi. Their leader wielded a lightsaber much like this one," Cin pointed to the attachment on the dead man's utility belt where a clip used to hold a lightsaber was empty. "I fear Ventress is now armed and somewhere on board."

Crossing to a comm unit on the bulkhead Cin tried it to find that the system was still down, "We need to start a search for Ventress."

oOoOoOo

Ventress silently cursed as she crawled through the maintenance duct. The assassins who had tried to kill her in her cell had come within millimetres of succeeding. That one bore a Sith lightsaber was all that she needed to know. She had been betrayed. Either by her master or by Darth Sidious the end result was the same. She was marked for death. That meant that she was on her own.

No doubt the Jedi were already searching the ship and if they hadn't already they would soon be putting the hanger desk under heavy guard. Her ability to cloak her Force signature meant that she would be hard to find with the Force. What she needed now was a plan.

oOoOoOo

Catalus – Hangar Deck

Adi Gallia watched as Siri Tachi gestured for several clones to follow her as she walked the perimeter of the hangar deck. Turning back to her own squad she pointed toward the dropships, shuttles and fighters lined up in the hangar bay.

"We need to secure these ships. Make sure that they are empty then secure them."

The clones quickly complied and she stepped back to supervise. A call of alarm followed by weapons fire had her running but just as she reached the gathered clones an explosion sent her tumbling and sent clones flying. Almost immediately a fighter lifted off firing as it did before its pilot
deftly steered it free of the hanger bay. A few clones fired at it as it passed but such small arms fire didn't trouble its shields. Seconds later it was gone.

Before Adi could call another order a shuttle exploded sending everyone back to the deck.

Ventress pulled the Clones helmet off as she quickly programmed the navcomp before jumping to hyperspace.

---

The Lily – Haven

Harry began the pre-flight checks as Luna spoke to Haven control.

"We suspect that we will be departing in thirty minutes control."

"Acknowledged," was the immediate reply.

"Harry… you okay?" asked Luna.

"All good here," replied Harry.

Luna sighed, "I meant with the team."

Harry nodded, "It will be good to have Sirius aboard although and Velath is your shadow so we couldn't leave her behind. No the team is fine there is just….something right at the edge of my perceptions, something elusive."

Luna closed her eyes and extended her Force perceptions searching for what Harry was sensing. Just for a moment, she felt something but when she tried to determine what or who it was the feeling disappeared. Opening her eyes she found Harry watching her. "Whatever it is I don't think it hostile. Well, we can't do much about it except keep an eye on it."

"True, it's just that it's giving me a headache trying to get a feel for it."

Luna rolled her eyes, "Then let it be. If it becomes a problem we will deal with it."

Velath stuck her head on to the Bridge, "Mistress the food is stowed and Master Sirius is aboard."

Luna smiled at her unofficial bodyguard, "Thank you Velath. Please lock us up and ask Sirius to come to the bridge."

Velath nodded before she disappeared back out the hatch.

A few minutes later she was back with Sirius and both were strapped in to their seats.

"Good to go Harry?" asked Sirius.

In answer, Harry nodded and took up the controls to pilot the Lily out of Havens dock and through the asteroid field to open space.

"Okay Luna, are we ready?"

"Course is laid in to the navcomp," acknowledged Luna.

"Hit it," ordered Harry and the Lily leapt in to Hyperspace.
High Orbit above Coruscant

The Lily re-entered relativistic space. After four separate hyperspace jumps it was a welcome arrival. To keep the Lily from being easily tracked Luna had plotted a rather indirect course from the outer rim. If pushed the Lily could make the trip to Coruscant in three days but Luna's course has seen the journey take a little over four days.

Harry handled the almost immediate query from Coruscant flight control before opening a channel to the private docks nearest to the Jedi Temple. A hefty docking fee later and they were descending into the Central Docks. A large private dock mostly used by minor bureaucrats and political staffers Central was an expensive proposition but the facilities and security were reputed to be excellent.

"So where do we start?" asked Sirius as they descended.

Luna shrugged, "I think we will need to talk to the Jedi sooner or later. Our suspicions about the Sith will certainly be of interest to Yoda."

"Given their actions I suspect that there are Jedi on the council who do not trust us," said Harry. "I'm all for talking to Yoda. I'd also like to see what we can discover for ourselves. We have some Force divination techniques not available to the Jedi that have worked well in the past."

Sirius frowned, "From what we know my money is on the Chancellor. Do we want split up for this mission or are we sticking together?"

"Stick together I think. At least for now," said Luna. "That way we present a united front."

"What about uniforms?" asked Sirius. Pulling his wand he brandished it and transfigured his shirt and trousers into an Eighteenth century British admiral's uniform complete with golden braid. "Suits me don't you think?"

Luna flicked her own wand and Sirius was now clad in a court jester's uniform, "Yes I do."

Once the Lily was secured in her berth and heavily warded Harry called the Jedi Temple and left a message for Master Yoda requesting a meeting. Minutes later Yoda himself called and organised a Jedi escort to bring them to the Temple.

As they waited outside the Central Docks all four were now in dark grey hooded cloaks covering their grey tunics and black utility trousers. They were also openly wearing their lightsabers.

Minutes after they arrived at the pickup point a large transport appeared dropping out of the stream of traffic above them. Harry turned to the others. "Alright, we have this meeting with Yoda and see what comes out of it. If we don't get anything we'll have to look at option B."

As they watched the transport landed and a familiar face appeared, walking down the ramp.

"Greetings friends," Obi-Wan greeted the waiting group with a smile and a polite nod. "Master Yoda has set aside a meeting room in the temple."

As they took their seats in the transport passers-by seemed to be having a mixed reaction to the presence of Obi-Wan.
'Have you noticed the looks?' asked Sirius after a group of blue skinned humanoids with red eyes had glared at the shuttle.

Luna nodded, "You can sense the animosity. If nothing else the war has certainly damaged the reputation of the Jedi."

The transport lifted off and they were soon working their way through the heavy aerial traffic before flying in to clear space and quickly descending. A large stone entrance in the temple led to a huge internal hanger. With deft control by the pilot, the transport soon touched down on a landing pad.

Obi-Wan led them through the Temple until they came to a small meeting room. Standing in the doorway was Yoda.

"Come in my friends, do. Sit you must much to discuss we have."

Harry, Luna and Sirius took seats while Velath stood behind Luna keeping a watchful eye on Yoda and Obi-Wan.

"News you have?" asked Yoda after settling himself on to a low chair.

Harry nodded but replied with his own question, "How are you investigations into the Sith coming along?"

"Skilled the Sith are at hiding themselves. Although looks it does that the Sith are here on Coruscant. Closer we get but slip away he does."

"Master Yoda," began Luna. "We have been given a vision of Dooku visiting the Sith here on Coruscant. We believe that vision will happen soon. Perhaps if a close watch is kept for him?"

Yoda studied first Luna and then Harry with a shrewd expression on his wrinkled face, "Hmm suspect someone you do."

"The Chancellor," said Sirius.

"Hmmm suspicions we have, proof we do not."

Obi-Wan looked pensive as he considered Sirius's words. "Anakin is convinced that he is a good man but there is something about him. I dislike politicians but this is something more than that in his relationship with Anakin. He praises him and pushes Anakin….I don't always like the directions this takes. We've argued about it on more than one occasion."

"Dislike proof is not. Dangerous his friendship is but useful it may yet be," said Yoda. "Thank you for this information I do. What plans now do you have?"

Luna raised an eyebrow, "Oh we are just here for a few days, shopping and such."

Yoda gnawed on his glimmer stick as he considered his next move. Should he tell them about the followers of Palawa? A sect about whose goals and indeed trustworthiness he held great reservations or should he wait and allow the Force to intercede? That the Adepts were here to shop and sightsee was patently untrue and they were not going to much trouble to hide it. Still, it gave him more time to consider the consequences of any potential moves.

Obi-Wan waited for Yoda to say something about the followers of Palawa but the elder Jedi failed to. Keeping his expression neutral he decided that Yoda must have good reasons for withholding the information. But by the time he said his farewells to the group of adepts at the doors of the temple he
was unsure of the wisdom of hiding the information.

"Master Kenobi, troubled you are," said Yoda as he stepped out of an alcove near the main doors.

"I am unsure of our course Master," replied Obi-Wan.

"As am I, Lerhra of Palawa I trust not. Old and powerful she is but a friend of the Jedi she is not."

"And these suspicions about the Chancellor?" asked Obi-Wan.

"Meditate I will but more vigilant I sense we must be. If a Sith Palpatine is…. grave fears for the Republic and the Jedi we should have. Concern I have for Anakin and the role the council will ask of him when hear of this they do. His loyalty already some question, whispers there are about his private life there are."

Obi-Wan frowned but said nothing of his suspicions about Anakin and his….relationship with Padmé. His former Padawan was discreet but it was inevitable that others would hear rumors. If the Jedi Council was forced to confront Anakin about his illicit relationship the outcome may well be tragic for all involved. He would speak to Anakin as soon as he returned. Perhaps he might sway his friend from the path he was treading.

oOoOoOo

Chancellor's Office – Senate House

"Anakin, please come in my young friend. Le'bray you are dismissed." Palpatine waited for the aide to leave before clasping Anakin's shoulder lightly. "It is good to see you back safely. After the reports began coming in from Fornow I feared the worst."

"We were lucky. A group of Force sensitives were on hand to rescue us after we were cut off."

"Force sensitives….hmm like these Force Adepts you told me about?"

Anakin shook his head, "No, another group that calls themselves the followers of Palawa. I wouldn't say they were friendly but they got what was left of the command out safely."

"Well then I owe them thanks. Perhaps I should investigate and see if they need any help. Such a fine deed should not go unrewarded. Now my friend I wanted to speak to you about a rumour that has come to my ears. A seat will soon become available on the Jedi Council."

Anakin grimaced, "Chancellor I can't really comment on the choices of the council."

Palpatine waved away Anakin's objection, "No, no none of that my friend. I have no wish to put you in a difficult position. It is just that I fear….well I fear that the war has strained my relationship with the Jedi Council. I begin to feel that they are less inclined to share their intelligence with the senate….or perhaps just with me." Palpatine said the last in a near whisper but Anakin heard it.

"I am sure the council wouldn't be withholding information," Anakin tried to reassure his friend; His tired, no worn out looking friend. Although a small part of him began thinking of the way Obi-Wan and some of the others voiced their distrust of Palpatine.

Palpatine smiled sadly, "You are a good man Anakin. You stand for justice and all those things viewed by many as somewhat archaic in this day and age. Come let us speak of happier things. Have you…."
A loud crash had Anakin on his feet lightsaber in hand, "Chancellor please get behind me."

"Anakin what is it?"

"Something we are in danger. I think we…” Anakin saw something smash the window but before he could call out there was a flash of white light and the world faded to darkness.

Great Plaza – Coruscant Government Area

"What the hell is going on?" demanded Sirius as panicked chaos began spreading across the huge open plaza.

Harry looked up as a fighter flew overhead firing at a large ship descending through the clouds. "An attack we need to get back to the Lily now."

"Look Harry," warned Luna who pointed to where another ship landed heavily between them and the docks. The ship was badly damaged but still intact enough to allow a large hatch open and begin unloading Battle Droids.

Harry cursed as he watched the first droids deployed firing across the plaza in to the crowd of fleeing civilians. "Alright Luna you and I will take the Droids. Sirius you and Velath deal with the civilians."

Sirius nodded and began running toward the largest group of civilians. Velath looked rebellious for a moment before following.

"Ready?" asked Harry.

"Race you?" countered Luna.

Obi-Wan Kenobi looked into the cockpit of the drop ship rocked from a nearby explosion. He waved and got the attention of the co-pilot, "Set us down in the plaza. It looks the separatists are targeting civilians."

"Yes General," replied the clone.

Obi-Wan studied the approaching battle below when he caught a glimpse of a figure deflecting blaster bolts away from the civilians. A second figure behind him gestured and sent a section of the metal balustrade hurtling toward a clump of Battle Droids knocking a half dozen to the ground. Relieved that Jedi were protecting the civilians he turned to study the huge CIS drop ship. The ship was still disgorging droids but two Jedi were there apparently trying to take the Battle Droids down before they could deploy properly. As he watched a Droideka rolled out of the Drop ship only to be struck by….by the Force that was Force lightning!

Obi-wan leapt clear of the ship as soon as it hit the ground, "Captain, take half the squad and take out those droids attacking the civilians. The rest come with me. We need to stop that drop ship deploying droids."

Not waiting for the clones Obi-Wan ran across the plaza deflecting blaster shots as he did so. Ahead of him a figure in grey cut down a droid before spinning to block a shot from a second. With a start, Obi-Wan realised that it was Harry.
Luna suddenly appeared by his side. Literally appeared with a loud popping noise, "Master Kenobi it's…..good to see you so soon." Luna blocked a blaster bolt and called out something that caused a blue Force bubble of some sort to appear around all three of them.

A hail of blaster fire splashed harmlessly against the bubble as Harry turned and spotted Obi-Wan, "Oh hi Obi-Wan. Luna as soon as the shield falters those two Droideka…. are going to be in position."

Luna looked around, "Okay I see them, Obi-Wan you need to go left. Harry go right and I'll deal with the Droideka. On three, one, two…go."

Obi-Wan rolled to the left as twin streams of Force lightning struck the two Droideka quickly overpowering the built in shields. The first was hit by blaster fire as Harry destroyed the second. A Battle Droid appeared out of the smoke to be cut down by Obi-Wan.

"There are more about to deploy," warned Harry. "I think it's time to end this." Harry pointed back up the ramp and cast two explosive curses at the mechanism unloading the droids. Two explosions followed and the huge metal arm ground to a halt.

"Have you got anything to blow this?" Harry asked Obi-Wan.

Obi-Wan called two clones over and quickly explained that Harry had disabled the machine. The first clone nodded and both disappeared inside.

"We should get back, Rex can be a bit over the top with explosives," warned Obi-Wan.

It proved sound advice.

"Wow the Weasley twins would have loved that," commented Harry.

A clone officer halted next to Obi-Wan, "General Kenobi, General Yoda has requested assistance at the entrance of the Senate house. Enemy droids have nearly breeched the outer defences and the Chancellors guard reports that he and General Skywalker have not been seen since the attack commenced."

"Need a lift Obi-Wan?" asked Harry.

"Is your ship nearby?"

"No but I can get you to the Senate building. Hold on," warned Harry as he took Obi-Wans arm and apparedated to the open area near the senate steps.

Obi-Wan blinked and found that he was standing beside Harry at the base of the Senate stairs. 'I'll never get used to that little trick.'

A moment later Luna, Sirius and Velath appeared with loud pops.

A loud explosion sounded and all five turned to see Masters Yoda and Windu leading a mix of Jedi and clones in an assault on Droids position. Obi-Wan immediately moved to assist but it was quickly apparent that the Jedi's assault had finished the Battle Droids.

Mace Windu frowned at the destruction around the entrance, "We need to find the Chancellor."

A Jedi behind Mace was speaking into a communicator, "Master we have fighters blockading the area and nothing has left the area since the attack began."
"So either the Chancellor is still in the building or he is being taken out on foot. We need to sweep the building," Mace began issuing orders to clones.

Luna stepped closer to Harry and spoke softly into his ear, "Harry I could probably scry for Anakin but I need a place to meditate."

Harry paused to consider before nodding, "Go back to the Lily with Velath. The minute you find anything let me know."

Luna nodded and took Velath's arm before disappearing.

Sirius raised an eyebrow in enquiry.

Harry glanced over to where Yoda and Mace were talking to several Jedi as they organised the sweep of the huge senate complex. "Luna's going to scry for Anakin. We should be close enough and it worked with Ron."

"Why not here?" Sirius asked quietly seeing here Harry was looking.

"The Jedi consider anything like this a Dark side ability and right now is not the time for a face off against them."

Obi-wan noted Velath and Luna's disappearance and walked over, "Is everything alright?"

Harry nodded, "Fine, Luna is just checking something out."

"Ah Master Kenobi, it appears the Oracle was correct."

Obi-Wan turned to see Ret, Lerhra and Amelia standing behind him but before he could say anything Lerhra stepped past him to stand in front of Harry.

"Harry apprentice of Talia I greet you on behalf of the followers of Palawa."

Harry studied the woman who looked rather like a slightly older version of Luna for a long moment. There was something about her a familiarity then it came to him and he smiled slightly, "It is nice to meet you face to face..."

Lerhra smiled back, "Lerhra, you are most perceptive Harry. We have much to discuss but that can wait till we are alone." Her eyes flicked to where Yoda was approaching.

Harry nodded and waved Sirius over, "We can do proper introductions later but for now Lerhra this is Sirius."

Lerhra nodded politely, "Sirius, for the sake of convenience my companions are Ret Do-Thal and Amelia, daughter of Lira."

With a soft pop, Luna reappeared with Velath. Luna looked exhausted while Velath radiated frustration. When Luna stumbled Velath caught her before she could fall.

"Mistress you should rest."

Harry could sense Luna's exhaustion and the fact that she still pouring energy in to something, "Are you okay Luna?"

Luna looked up and Harry grimaced. Her eyes were solid black, "I have Anakin...I am maintaining the link. He is barely conscious and is being moved in that direction several hundred feet below us."
she pointed south toward a cluster of huge skyscrapers.

Harry turned to look for Obi-Wan or Yoda only to find the diminutive Jedi standing next to him. Yoda was staring at Luna with narrowed eyes as if trying to determine what exactly he was seeing.

Luna turned her head to look directly at the Jedi Master, "Master Yoda you must act quickly. Dooku has them and is planning to take them off planet. He is telling Palpatine that their ship is waiting and someone called Grevious is in Orbit. We must act or they will escape."

"Gather a...umph."

Yoda was nearly knocked off his feet when Luna lunged forward grabbing him and Harry before apparating away.

Luna reappeared and crumpled to the floor at the juncture point of four tunnels. Harry cursed and quickly knelt by her side. She was breathing but unconscious.

"Well is young Luna?" asked Yoda.

"Just unconscious I think," replied Harry. "We must be near where Luna sensed Anakin was."

Yoda's ears twitched, "Coming people are."

"Damn it," hissed Harry gently before pulling his wand and disillusionsing Luna's unconscious form before moving her gently to one of the side tunnels.

"Where have they gone?" demanded Mace Windu.

Sirius shook his head, "No idea but if I had to guess I'd say Luna apparated them to where Anakin was."

Mace scowled and turned to a clone standing next to him, "Detain the lot of them."

Sirius shifted his weight slightly and twisted his wrist allowing his wand to drop in to his hand, "On what grounds?"

"For all I know you are responsible for this attack," replied Mace as clone troopers moved to surround Sirius and the rest of those behind him.

Sirius could apparated away but that would mean leaving the others behind. He could also shield himself from most attacks but that wasn't necessarily true of the others. Cursing silently Sirius smiled and then raised his hands.

Count Dooku signalled for the droids accompanying him to halt as he extended his senses. Ahead in the shadows of the poorly lit junction there were three Force signatures. He recognised, Yoda and Talia's two Padawans.

Behind him he could only sense the unconscious Skywalker and the subtle shadows around his Masters Force signature. So that meant that his old Master was not going to be receiving any further reinforcements.
"Master Yoda my old friend a strange place for meeting is it not?"

"Count Dooku," Yoda almost growled as he articulated his former Padawans name as he stepped from the tunnel. "Surrender you will."

Dooku chuckled, "I have the advantage Master Yoda if you persist I cannot guarantee the safety of the Chancellor and young Skywalker." As he spoke the droids not carrying the two unconscious men pointed their blasters at the two hostages. "The Chancellor will help me end the war."

Yoda's eyes narrowed as he considered the dark amusement in Dooku's eyes. There was something going on here that was not as simple as hostages.

"Well we meet again Sith," said Harry as he stepped out of the shadows near the wall. "You know I'm beginning to think you are following me around. How's the hand by the way. I know Luna would want me to ask."

Before Dooku could respond all hell broke loose behind him.

Anakin slowly returned to consciousness. With that understanding came the new awareness that he was upside down. In fact, he was being carried by something and was upside down. Opening his eyes he spotted droid feet. Okay, so Battle droids – he was being carried by Battle Droids. Suddenly a familiar voice, no voices were talking.

Dooku and Master Yoda…..straining his eyes he concentrated on trying to make out what was being said.

"....advantage Master Yoda if you persist I cannot guarantee the safety of the Chancellor and young Skywalker. The Chancellor will help me end the war." That was Dooku talking. He had been captured by Dooku. Oh by the Force that meant the Chancellor was captured as well.

"Well we meet again Sith...You know I'm beginning to think you are following me around. How's the hand by the way. I know Luna would want me to ask." Luna...In his befuddled state it took Anakin a moment or two but then he realised that the second voice must be Harry. He needed to act.....now.

Anakin's lightsaber leapt from his belt into his hand.

Harry saw a lightsaber activate and realised Anakin must be attacking the droids. With a flick of his wrist he activated his own lightsaber and launched himself at Dooku's droids.

Yoda having seen the same launched himself at Dooku in a blur. Somersaulting over the Sith while simultaneously attacking.

Harry banished two Battle Droids in to the wall with his left hand as he cut another down with his lightsaber. In the confined space of the tunnel, the droids were at a serious disadvantage against Harry and Anakin. In the space of moments they had cut down the Droids and Harry was moving to try and aid Yoda against Dooku.

Anakin knelt by Palpatine's side and quickly checked that he was uninjured.

"A..Anakin?"
"Don't worry you are safe now," Anakin reassured his older friend. "Master Yoda is here."

"Yoda…..Anakin don't leave me here," pleaded Palpatine as he clutched at Anakin's robes.

Anakin tried to calm the obviously confused man, "Calm yourself you are safe."

Dooku was in trouble now he was trying to fend off Yoda and Harry as they both kept a more or less continuous attack. He was searching for options when a glance at the wall showed an access panel for the doors. Summoning his rage and frustration he pushed back with the Force sending Yoda tumbling backwards into the wall in the right tunnel and Harry crashing into the floor of the left. With a deft manipulation of the Force, he activated the fire doors and sealed the side tunnels. His lightsaber then rendered the panel useless. The heavy metal doors would give him the time he needed.

Dooku drew a shuddering breath and quickly gathering his faltering strength as he straightened his robes. He had just to deal with Skywalker and then he could make good his escape. Darth Sidious had wanted the Jedi's suspicions turned away from his Palpatine persona and this 'foiled kidnapping'. Sidious wanted Skywalker to live…after all the Republic needed a hero and his Master wanted Skywalker brought to the Dark Side. As a Dark Jedi Skywalker would be a valuable 'front man' for their new order. But first, he had to 'duel' Skywalker before escaping.

Anakin stood and stepped in front of Palpatine as Dooku approached, "You will have to go through me."

"Easily done boy," Dooku unleashed a stream of Force lightning that Anakin was forced to deflect with his lightsaber.

"Anakin he will kill me…please," whispered Palpatine. His subtle manipulations of the Force were drifting around Skywalker. Lowering his inhibitions as he subtly encouraged his anger and his fear.

Dooku sent another stream of Force lightning toward Anakin as he gestured with his other hand summoning a destroyed droid sending it hurtling at Skywalker. Who managed to avoid the lightning and the droid and even had the audacity to launch a counterattack.

A strong counter attack.

The Jedi was battering at his defences forcing him to give ground but most dangerous of all was the sudden weakness in his limbs….it was if something was. No….Dooku Force pushed Skywalker away with what remained of his faltering strength and turned to his Master.

"Master?" in his shock at the unheralded betrayal he didn't see Anakin's next attack which took his arm off at the elbow sending his lightsaber to the floor.

"Good Anakin…but he is still dangerous."

oOoOoOo

Harry tried to open the door with the Force but it was simply too heavy and well secured. The unseen presence of Luna's disillusioned form gave him an excellent idea. He quickly raised his wand, "Enervate."

oOoOoOo

Anakin looked at the Chancellor in shock and shook his head in an attempt to clear his thoughts.
"Quickly Anakin before he recovers his strength," urged Palpatine lacing his voice with Force empowered inflections designed to weaken the targets will.

"No…wait….I-I don't understand?"

"Kill him…end the war Anakin, think of the lives you could save."

Anakin looked over at Dooku who had backed in to the wall clutching his smoking stump.

"I can't…the…wrong," Anakin felt like screaming as the pressure increased. He couldn't think straight. A vision of Padmé screaming assaulted him.

"Do it," hissed Palpatine.

Anakin moving mechanically raised his arm to strike.

"Good Anakin end the war."

As Anakin stood, trying to fight the insidious voice an invisible hand grabbed his wrist.

"Fight him Anakin."

"What is this?" demanded Palpatine.

"Finite Incantatem."

Yoda appeared in the passageway lightsaber raised, "True colours you have shown Sith."

Darth Sidious hissed and then laughed, "You pathetic freak, you think you and you half trained abomination can stop me. You will not leave here alive Jedi." As he said Jedi a lightsaber hilt dropped into his palm. "You will die."

"I think not," said Luna Lovegood as she fired a stunner directly into the back of the Sith Lords head.

oOoOoOo

"We must move quickly," warned Mace as four Jedi led Dooku away toward the Jedi Temple before he returned inside. In the building four more Jedi Masters watched the unconscious and manacled Palpatine. They had been using a small building near the edge of the great plaza to hold Dooku and Palpatine while the Jedi Council made frantic plans to deal with the situation.

Outside Obi-Wan joined Yoda as more Jedi arrived.

Yoda shook his head, "A political mess this is. In powerful positions too many of the Sith's cronies are. Almost impossible to convene a trial will be."

Obi-Wan nodded before looking around as a feeling of danger ripples through the Force. Before he could vocalise a warning a huge explosion rocked the area surrounding the building. Overhead a warship was coming in to view.

Amid the shattered rubble Mace Windu staggered back to his feet disorientated and stunned. He caught a glimpse of the shattered body of one of his fellow Jedi before sensing danger as a huge figure dropped to the ground behind him. Before the injured Jedi Master could react a hand lashed out and crushed his skull.
General Grievous reached down and checked the chancellors pendant before picking up the Sith Lord and walking outside where his Magna Guard and B2 Battle Droids were fighting against the few Jedi and clones not disabled by the initial bombardment.

Amidst the chaos, a heavily armoured shuttle landed and almost immediately lifted off.

oOoOoOo

**Holonet Breaking News**

*Jedi Overthrow the Chancellor - Confusion in the Senate*

News has just reached the press that the Jedi have launched a military coup. Shocked Senate officials have stated initial reports that the Jedi kidnapped and then tried to murder the chancellor. Several key Senators are calling for calm.

**Read Breaking News Here**

*Chancellors Live Broadcast of his address to the Senate Follow Y/N?*

"The Republic is in tatters. The Jedi have tried to overthrow the legitimate political body overseeing the Republic. Their bloody coup attempt has ultimately failed as I have survived and I will continue to fight on to restore democratic rule of this great and august Republic.

I earnestly request that every loyal member of the Republic do their utmost to oppose the new illegal forces now ruling over you.

As of this moment, I shall lead the government in exile. Fear not my friends I shall return and then we shall have justice.

Lastly, before any illegal use can be made of the Republics resources I hereby enact order 66. I declare the Jedi enemies of the Republic and I instruct all our loyal military forces..."

**Transmission interrupted**
Chapter 20

Chapter 20 - A New Order

Synopsis: A renegade Jedi has a Force vision of a pair of powerful Force sensitive's and sets in motion events that will see the rise of a new order. Her actions will have a profound effect on the future of many worlds.

Authors Note: Warning ….Here is the 2nd chapter of real AU. As I said last chapter all the little changes brought about by the presence of the Adepts have come to a head. So Canon purists beware you may need a massive sedative.

Oh and timeline wise I have brought forward events by approximately 7 – 8 months (by my reckoning) so Padmé is only just pregnant, and Ahsoka is still a part of the order…Oh and like I said AU WARNING.

Oh and thanks to all those that reviewed, favouritted and followed it drives me to give you more! Special thanks as ever go to my BETA XRaiderv1, who keeps me honest.

Disclaimer:

All publicly recognizable characters, settings, etc. are the property of their respective owners. The original characters and plot are the property of the author. The author is in no way associated with the owners, creators, or producers of any media franchise. No copyright infringement is intended.

I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars, and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its actual owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

Last Time:

General Grievous reached down and checked the chancellor's pendant before picking up the Sith Lord and walking outside where his Magna Guard and B2 Battle Droids were fighting against the few Jedi and clones not disabled by the initial bombardment.

Amidst the chaos, a heavily armoured shuttle landed and almost immediately lifted off.

oOoOoOo

Holonet Breaking News

Jedi Overthrow the Chancellor

News has just reached the press that the Jedi have launched a military coup. Senate officials have stated that the Jedi kidnapped and then tried to murder the chancellor.

Read Breaking News Here

Chancellors Live Broadcast of his address to the Senate Follow Y/N?

"The Republic is in tatters. The Jedi have tried to overthrow the legitimate political body overseeing
the Republic. Their bloody coup attempt has ultimately failed as I have survived, and I will continue to fight on to restoredemocratic rule of this great and august Republic.

I earnestly request that every loyal member of the Republic do their utmost to oppose the new illegal forces now ruling over you.

As of this moment, I shall lead the government in exile. Fear not my friends I shall return and then we shall have justice.

Lastly, before any illegal use can be made of the Republic's resources, I hereby enact order 66. I declare the Jedi enemies of the Republic, and I instruct all our loyal military forces…"

Transmission interrupted

Chapter 20 - A New Order

Senate Building

Padmé cursed as another explosion rocked the Senate building.

She didn't stop moving however even as a familiar face appeared around the corner, "Padmé thank the Force you are unhurt. We must get to the Senatorial bunker…"

"No Bail we must get to the Senate communications room."

"What, why?" asked Bail Organa in surprise.

"The Chancellor has just gone to air claiming that the Jedi have tried to overthrow him." Padmé thrust the data pad at her senatorial ally. "If we don't get a message for calm out it will mean another civil war, here on Coruscant."

Bail watched the clip in horror, "This went out?"

"Partly before something interrupted the signal. If this reached the clones, they could be taken in by the message. We need to appeal for some sanity while we figure out what is going on."

Bail straightened his shoulders and passed the pad back, "Let's go."

The panicked senators, aides and visitors were still streaming past as they pushed their way toward the media station. When they did reach it, the door was being guarded by a squad of clones.

"Senator Amidala, are you injured?" enquired one of the clones with officer's markings on his armour.

"No but I need to check something," replied Padmé.

The clone reached up and removed his helmet, "What's going on Senator?"

Padmé held up her data pad "Rex! Thank goodness it is you. The Chancellor has tried to broadcast a message, but it was cut off. I need to know how much got out."

"Okay Senator, follow me," said Rex as he reached over and keyed the doors access code.

The media centre was empty given that the Senate was not in session, so Padmé quickly located a control console. Normally hundreds of channels would be broadcasting but all showed the same message. Signal Failure.
"The transmitter array must be damaged," said Rex. "The separatists hit that area pretty hard." The clone studied the system for a moment before selecting a few screens. "There was a transmission supposedly live from the Senate. Although I'm not sure how since it's not in session. Most of the message wasn't broadcast although it did go out to some private feeds. Probably how you got it, senator."

"Thank the Force," whispered Bail.

"The inter-system broadcasts were a bit hit and miss," reported Rex. "Looks like the recordings were in a sub-folder and was queued to go out to all sectors but only about half went through once the execute command was entered."

"What was the point of origin of the command?" asked Padmé.

Rex studied the monitor for a moment, "A bit hard to tell but definitely not on the planet somewhere in orbit, probably a ship."

Padmé looked at Bail whose eyes were narrowing. "A pre-recorded emergency announcement supposedly from the Senate floor but in reality sent from orbit; something is not right here."

"Rex what is order 66?"

Rex stiffened and turned to look at the two senators, "Order 66 of Contingency Orders for the Grand Army of the Republic. If the supreme commander issues order 66, the Jedi are to be immediately eliminated." Rex's voice was flat and expressionless, like an automaton.

Padmé managed to form words amidst her personal horror and rising fear, "How….what is required for this order to be…be legal?"

"As with all general orders the chancellor must issue the order over the appropriate military channels with the correct encryption," replied Rex in the same expressionless voice.

"We must speak to the Senate, immediately," said Bail.

"What is happening?" asked Rex looking back and forth between the two senators.

Padmé took a deep breath before straightening her shoulders, "Rex we need an escort to the Senate offices. Our mission is of critical importance."

"Yes Ma'am," replied Rex.

Padmé turned to Bail, "We need master Yoda immediately."

oOoOoOo

**Great Plaza – Coruscant Government Area**

Yoda felt every one of his years as he looked down at the motionless form of Mace Windu. Obi-Wan knelt beside the fallen Jedi Master and closed the unseeing eyes before bowing his head in a silent moment of respect.

Yoda felt a wave of sadness and pain and clutched at his chest for a moment before the feeling slowly lessened. Before he could speak a clone approached and saluted, "General, the rest of the injured are being transferred to medical facilities."

When Yoda didn't reply Obi-Wan stepped in accepting the clones more detailed report on the
"Master Yoda?"

Yoda turned to see a young Jedi knight holding a communicator. "Master Yoda Senator Bail Organa is asking for you; he said it is urgent."

"Talk to him I will," replied Yoda as he reached for the communicator.

"Senator Organa."

"Master Yoda, I have grave news it appears that the chancellor attempted to issue orders that call for the clones to attack the Jedi."

Yoda's ears flattened and his ears narrowed as more proof of Palpatine's plans were exposed. "Clear much now is Senator. Plans we must make."

"I fear that some clone units not on Coruscant may have received his orders."

"Then arrangements we must make," said Yoda.

"Padmé and I are trying to convene the Senate," reported Bail. "But given the attacks we may have trouble doing so."

"A Sith, the chancellor, is," warned Yoda. "Be careful you must."

"A Sith," echoed Bail. "But...but how?"

"Establish that later we must now disaster I must try to avert if not already too late it is. Wish you luck I do Senator." Yoda passed the comm unit to Obi-Wan. "Contact the temple you must. Warn all Jedi not to be trusted the clones are."

oOoOoOo

Senator Padmé Amidala gestured to the civilian journalist who nodded and held up three fingers, then two.

"Citizens of the Republic we stand on the brink of an unprecedented crisis. Earlier today a raid was staged to abduct the chancellor. Separatist forces under the direct command of Count Dooku managed to spirit the Chancellor out of the Senate building. The armed forces of the Republic led by the Jedi immediately responded. What happened next is still unclear at this time but the result is that the Chancellor attempted to issue an order for our military to target the Jedi. As far as those I have polled are concerned, among whom are senior, experienced Senators there has been no justification for such an order to be issued. Indeed, many of my colleagues are of the opinion that such an order is legally questionable. Even in times of war such a momentous decision would need to be debated by the Senate. Senator Organa?"

Bail Organa stepped forward, "The fact that the order was issued in what appeared to be a sitting of the Senate is deeply suspicious as the Chancellor had suspended the session meant for today. So therefore this message must have been pre-recorded, or it is a masterful fake. Therefore at this time I am proposing that the Chancellor may be under duress or perhaps there may be some conspiracy at play. Secondly until the Chancellor's status can be determined I am going to call for an emergency quorum to hand power over to a short-term caretaker from among the ranks of senior senators. The protocol for this is well documented in the records if rarely used. Of course such an appointment must, by definition be for a fixed, short term not exceeding one hundred days. So as to not leave the
Republic leaderless in the interim the Loyalist committee will present to the Senate, a selection of nominated Senators. The Loyalist committee is made up of senior, experienced members of the Senate as well as the vice-chancellor, and we will be nominating bi-partisan senators to act in this emergency capacity. While our caretaker takes the reins of power, the Senate will be investigating the exact nature of recent events.

Senator Nas-Rey, one of the longest-serving and better known neutral senators stepped forward to stand by Bail's side.

"At this time we the senate appeal for calm while we investigate. Remember my fellow citizens that at this point nothing is clear. We must, therefore, seek answers. For now I beseech our military forces to stand down and keep vigilant."

oOoOoOo

"This is a travesty!" complained a furious looking Mas Amedda as soon as the holo-cameras shut off. "I am the Speaker of the Senate, and thus vice-chancellor and this appointment, should it be needed at all should fall to me."

Nas-Rey shook his head a stern expression on his wrinkled face, "And you are the right-hand man of an individual who tried to issue an illegal order. You cannot fill the position until we uncover exactly what happened."

"I agree," said Galen Derlin. A long time ally of Bail Organa he had been one of the first contacted for the emergency meeting. "There is a clear conflict of interest."

"You speak of illegality and yet these proceedings are illegal. The Chancellor has supreme authority in military matters and as such he can issue what orders he wishes."

Padmé frowned as she considered Mas Amedda, "The order he tried to give was designed to have the clones turn on the Jedi. Why would he issue such an order?"

"A lie, where is your proof?" demanded Mas Amedda. "This is treason."

"Treason you say...hmmm."

Mas Amedda spun around as Yoda entered followed by several Jedi masters.

"You have no place here Jedi," said one of the senators standing with the Vice-Chancellor.

"Hmmm, strange it is that the Chancellor such an order gave. Wonder I do what caused such a change in policy," said Yoda calmly. He gestured with his cane, and one of the Jedi pulled out a holo-com. "Mine this holo-com is. Prepared one must be and recorded an interesting conversation I did when to rescue the Chancellor we went."

Yoda nodded, and the Jedi activated the device. Most of those present frowned when the image showed a nondescript passageway. A moment later a familiar figure appeared.

"True colours you have shown Sith."

The Chancellor hissed and then laughed, "You pathetic freak, you think you and your half trained abomination can stop me. You will not leave here alive Jedi." As he spoke, a lightsaber hilt dropped into his palm. "You will die."

"I think not," said a voice from outside the image.
Yoda shut down the image and looked up at Mas Amedda, "A new side to the chancellor we see
hmmm? Wonder I must at his possession of a Sith lightsaber."

Mas Amedda didn't reply verbally, but his hate filled glare was fixed on Yoda.

Galen Derlin smirked as he raised an eyebrow, "Oh dear that does sound rather damning. However,
there is this thing, oft forgotten in this hallowed institution called the rule of law. Like his
predecessor, it seems that Chancellor Palpatine has some serious and I am sure you shall claim
baseless accusations to deal with. However, unlike the questionable removal of Chancellor Valorum
I shall be pushing for a thorough investigation. Until that has occurred, I shall vote alongside my
peers to elect a temporary executive. After all, we are in the middle of a war."

oOoOoOo

**Jedi Temple - Storage Room**

Sirius twirled his wand between his fingers and smiled reassuringly, "My dear Velath have faith.
Harry and Luna will no doubt be arranging our release as we speak. Besides if worse comes to worst
our Jedi hosts have failed to take my wand."

Velath's frown faded as she considered that a least one of her companions was armed. Sirius Black
was a capable fighter even if he was only a male. "As we wait here, my mistress is wandering
around with no one but Harry to watch her back. As powerful as he is I would feel better if I was by
her side."

Lerhra, Amelia and Ret shared glances as the young Dathomiri talked with Sirius. They were
pinning their hopes, indeed their future on the Adepts ability to weather the rapidly approaching
storm.

oOoOoOo

**Haven**

When Talia appeared in front of her Hermione almost dropped the three lore books she was carrying
to her desk from the archives.

"Talia?"

"Hermione you must gather the others and prepare. The Sith Lord has been exposed as Chancellor
Palpatine, and he has moved against the Jedi."

"Harry and the others?"

"Safe for now but the crossroad has been reached. We must prepare to withdraw from the Republic."

Hermione wanted to ask Talia for some sort of assurance that her friends would be safe, but the plea
would be meaningless. She had to trust in the Force and her friend's skills. "I will let the others
know."

oOoOoOo

**Garqi - Tadrin subsector**

Jedi Master Brin Shill didn't even see the shots that killed her. Protected by two clones her Padawan,
Larissa Quill managed to deflect a few blaster shots and even retreat a few steps before a stray shot
caught her leg and sent her to the ground. A second shot followed the first. The two clones were soon cut down by their comrades.

"It is done commander," reported the Clone Captain.

"Good gather the men and prepare to leave the planet. We have orders to rendezvous with the Chancellor's fleet."

Abregado-rae – Abregado System

Three squads of clones climbed aboard their drop ships and lifted off abandoning their former command post. Amid the smoking ruins of the former Republic stronghold, nothing moved for nearly an hour before a slab of rock rose up and dropped to the side.

Jedi Padawan Javit Cord crawled out from the small space that had saved him before reaching in and grabbing the inert body of his master. With a grunt of effort, he lifted his master and began moving slowly toward where their fighters were concealed in the trees. Hidden from Separatist forces the ships may have survived.

Serias - Sierianan System

Jedi Master Moris Tel-Thall ducked behind the smoking remains of a ruined Walker as blaster fire filled the air. Behind him, his squad of ARC clones hunkered down and began returning fire.

"A hot spot eh General," said the clone known as Sprinter.

"Sprinter try and take out that cannon on the ridge."

"On it sir," acknowledged Sprinter. "Inferno, give me some cover fire to keep the clanker's off my back."

The other clone nodded and began firing at the ridge line while Sprinter carefully aimed at the bottom of the control bubble of the separatist cannon. A weak spot it was where the power cells were only lightly armoured and susceptible to infantry assault. Releasing a breath he gently squeezed the trigger. His shot was spot on and almost immediately the heavy cannon froze in place. It wouldn't destroy the cannon but it was now out of action until the power systems could be repaired, "Got it General."

"Good work, now let's call the walkers in and clean out the enemy before they can redeploy." Moris studied the ridge line but the droids seemed to have pulled back or abandoned their fortifications. A tactic they had repeatedly used in the thickly forested hills.

"General?"

"What is it Havoc?" asked Moris without turning to look at the ARC teams captain.

"Something's up Sir, I can't raise General Jeisel."

"Are communications being jammed?" asked Moris.

"No sir...it's like no one is answering," reported Havoc. "Hold on the Commander is coming through
now.

Moris suddenly felt a tremor, a feeling of danger from the Force. Turning he saw Sprinter raise his blaster and shoot Havoc in the head. He immediately ignited his lightsaber and moved to stop Sprinter firing again, but the Clone had fired two more shots dropping the other two clones in the squad.

'Sir we need to get out of here now," warned Sprinter.

Moris could sense the truth in Sprinters words but didn't respond as the feeling of danger increased, "What is going on?"

"Sir clone command has announced that order sixty-six has been issued."

"What, in the name of the Force is order sixty-six?"

Sprinter took off his helmet and met Moris' eyes, "Eliminate the Jedi."

Moris again felt the truth in the clone's reply but found he couldn't answer as his thoughts spun around in confusion.

"We need to not be here Sir. When the squad doesn't report in, they'll send reinforcements."

"Why Sprinter?" asked Moris.

Sprinter shrugged, "You've saved my life more times than I can remember. I may only be a clone, but even I can recognise that something stinks. I'm programmed to obey, but I didn't hear the Chancellor issue the order so as far as I'm concerned clone command can kriffing well kiss my arse."

Moris nodded and gripped Sprinter's shoulder, "Then thank you, my friend."

Sprinter grinned and put his helmet back on and hefted his blaster, "Where to sir?"

'We need to get to a ship but before we leave, I need to know if Sian, master Jeisel is still alive."

Sprinter nodded before turning to look at the smoking tree line, "We've got an incoming ship."

Moris nearly cursed before he realised a familiar presence on the ship.

Sprinter raised his blaster but before he could, Moris placed a hand on his arm. "Hold your fire."

The dropship maneuvered into the clearing. Immediately two clones exited and scanned the area with raised blasters. A moment later Jedi Master Sian Jeisel followed. With a nod to the two ARC clones by her side, she waved Moris over.

The Devaronian Jedi Master had singed fur on the side of her face, and her robe was ripped but looked otherwise uninjured.

"It's good to see you Moris and is that you Sprinter?"

"Yes Sir," replied Sprinter.

"Let me guess some of your clones turned on you," said Sian.

"Exactly Sprinter saved me before I realised what was happening."
"I was lucky enough to have my dropship crew with me as I fought my way out," admitted Sian. "It looks like the Chancellor tried to order the clones to attack the Jedi. Luckily for us some of the clones are questioning the authenticity and legality of the order apparently it didn't come through military channels but was broadcast on the holo-net. Most of the regular infantry have obeyed, but it seems that among the ARC clones loyalty has won out over orders." Sian spotted the dead ARC clones and shook her head. "At least for some of them, now my friend we need to find a way to get off this world."

"And we need to do so quickly. Clone Commander Winter is thorough enough that he'll want our demise confirmed."

The loyal clones and the two Jedi climbed aboard the dropship that lifted off flying fast and low over the wooded terrain.

"What about the smuggler ships?" asked Sian.

"I thought they had mostly shut down their operations?" replied Moris. There had been a rather well-organised smuggling ring exporting illegally obtained local goods made from Brocca wood. It was rare and took hundreds of years to grow to harvestable sizes. As a result, the local government had outlawed its export. Stopping the smugglers had not been a wartime priority but the Republic forces had warned them to move on.

"Mostly they have but we have word of an abandoned logging enclave. Our scouts spotted a transport ship as well as the logging equipment."

"And the transport could be a way off world or at least a way to contact the temple," agreed Moris. Luckily the scouts had been right. The illegal logging enclave was well set up and in the centre of the clearing concealed under netting was a Ghtroc 580 freighter.

Sian gestured to the three clones, "Let's get the netting off and on to the drop ship. We need to start preliminary flight checks."

The smugglers were thorough, and the modified freighter was fuelled and well maintained. Within half an hour, they had lifted off.

The biggest problem facing them was if the Republic fleet was still in the system. If it were, they would have a small chance of avoiding capture.

"Looks like the fleet has left," advised the clone pilot.

"Good, as soon as we are clear of the gravity well plot a course to the nearest unaligned system," ordered Moris. 'I think we need to contact the temple before we decide what our course will be."

As the ship transitioned into hyperspace Sian finally pulled out a portable holo-viewer and passed it to Moris. Together they watched the Chancellor's speech.

"I wonder if our brothers and sisters were able to escape," said Moris even as he sensed a feeling of loss echoing in the Force.

An hour later they dropped out of hyperspace and contacted the Jedi Temple on a secure channel.

The news was not good. Many Jedi had been caught off guard as their clones turned on them. There were survivors, but most Jedi in the Outer Rim had perished. According to Master Shaak Ti, the Republic was struggling to deal with the increasingly apparent manipulations of the Chancellor.
Apparently the Loyalist committee was working to restore some sort of central command in the light of the Chancellor's apparent treachery but the negotiations were difficult. At this point, the Chancellor was effectively removed from power but a large part of the clone army was still following his orders.

"Alas, my friend the exposure of the Chancellor has not guaranteed his downfall. His creatures have a majority in the Senate. Grandmaster Yoda has instructed all Jedi to return to Coruscant along with any Clone units that have remained loyal to the Republic." Shaak Ti shook her head sadly. "We will need all the help we can get to unravel this mess."

Deep Space – Lytton Sector

Darth Sidious cursed as he viewed the reports from his agents in the Senate. The Jedi had somehow managed to sense some aspect of his plans. Not his entire plan of course but enough to derail elements of it and force him to make changes.

His enemies in the Senate many of whom were allies of Bail Organa and friendly toward the Jedi were working to end his term as chancellor. This could not be allowed of course but to block them he would need to be both subtle and forceful. He needed the clones they would form the bulk of his ascending Sith empire's military forces. Unfortunately his plan to be kidnapped and rescued to increase public outrage and give him the impetus for more drastic changes moving had been foiled.

Still not everything was lost. Let the Jedi have their minor victory. He would rally his supporters and those that had reason to mistrust the Jedi. Their role of defenders and guardians of justice had not endeared them to many of the powerful. Sidious smiled sadistically as he considered that the same powerful fools would support him to protect them from the Jedi. Little did they understand that they would lament that choice once he held the galaxy as his domain.

Looking up he finally acknowledged the figure kneeling at his feet, "Report."

"It appears that the message was not transmitted to the substation that serves the Core worlds. It was however transmitted to the other sectors," reported a figure dressed in black.

Sidious had already deduced as much, "And the effect?"

"In the areas that received it anywhere between seventy and eighty percent of clones have followed Order 66. The only significant...issue was with some of the longer serving ARC units."

"Send word that all ARC units are to be terminated as traitors. What of the device?"

"I have sent it via courier ship to Coruscant. The courier will deliver it to Mas Amedda disguised as a diplomatic pouch."

"Good, good and the others?"

"They should be in place to proceed within twelve hours."

The Republic would have no recourse but to accept his leadership once his 'replacements' were eradicated like the vermin they were. More importantly the bulk of the 501st would be in place to begin his final assault on the Jedi. Once the Senate was once more under his control, and the Jedi eradicated there would be little anyone could do to forestall his master plan. His only partly successful issuing of order 66 was a lesson learnt. He had miscalculated, and a simple piece of ill-luck had cost him dearly in the short term. However, once his forces regrouped he would outnumber
the forces, the Jedi could muster by almost eight to one.

"You have done well Dravian. Once the fleet units have joined us give the order to begin stage two of operation knightfall. They must be in place when I make the announcement of the return of the real government to the Republic."

"Yes My Lord."

"Oh and Dravian make sure Grievous and his separatists fleet are well away before the Republic fleet arrives. While I take command of the Republic, we must appear to be its saviours."

"I shall see to it, my Lord."

"Excellent, you are dismissed Dravian."

Dravian was a valuable servant, such a pity that his Force abilities were so substandard. As a former Jedi Padawan and then Agri-Corps drop out. Dravian hated the Jedi with a burning passion. Yes, it was a pity as the loss of Dooku and the derailment of his plans for Skywalker left him without a viable apprentice. His eyes travelled to where a single metal cryo-tube sat amongst his few personal effects. A sample he was warned to destroy by the mysterious Mah Vey. No, the risk was too high to pursue that course save as a last resort. He would seek a new apprentice elsewhere when time permitted. A smirk made his lips twist for a moment as he considered his situation, unique since the rule of two was implemented by Darth Bane. He had a pool of Dark side adepts, Sith assassins and many Force-sensitive agents to see to it that his plans moved forward. A new apprentice could wait.

Dismissing his concerns over apprentices Sidious turned back to consider how else he might turn matters to his advantage.

---

Holonet Breaking News

Core and Inner Rim worlds remain cut off from Holo-Net

Nearly 24 hours ago the Holonet service was interrupted during a live speech from Chancellor Palpatine. The full Holonet has remained offline despite repeated requests from the affected worlds citizens. A limited service is still available. Criticism from leading figures is squarely directed at the Senate and the Jedi.

Read More Here

Political Turmoil on Coruscant

Another day of political turmoil has dawned on Coruscant. Yesterday conflicting reports arose that the Jedi had launched a military coup aimed at removing Chancellor Palpatine from power. Loyal Senate officials have been calling for order while others call for a change in leadership.

VrekTurl, a representative of Mas Amedda, is stated as saying that those loyal to the Chancellor are working to restore him into his role. "If and I say if the emergency role is needed then why are the Jedi and their backers blocking the vote?"

Why is the planet still under this communications embargo?"

Read More Here
The Jedi Temple

"Losing support Senator Organa is," warned Yoda as he turned away from the holo-screen showing the live feed from the Senate floor.

"Even with the evidence we have Mas Amedda is gaining support among the more venal senators," said Shaak Ti.

Luminara Unduli shook her head, "Palpatine has fooled us all, and every move we make to support Organa appears to the Senate as a move against them. We lost over three-quarters of the Jedi in the Outer Rim worlds, and that figure would have been higher if a stray shot had not destroyed the holo-net transmitter. While Palpatine is free, we may not have seen the end of this."

Jedi Master Ki-Adi-Mundi straightened in his chair, "We are Jedi and while we live I will not give in to despair. We must throw our support behind those Senators loyal to the Republic. We will find a way to counter this threat."

"Obi-Wan thoughts you have?" asked Yoda as he swivelled in his chair to face Obi-Wan Kenobi.

"I don't trust politicians. Even the best of them have their own motivations. Palpatine may be guilty of betraying the Order but what evidence do we have? Already the truth is being lost amidst the politics. We cannot simply say that he is a Sith and expect the majority of the Republic to understand. Religious freedom is a tenet of the Republic's Constitution. We cannot say he has turned against us as his allies will simply say that there is a plot to remove him led by the Jedi. If the Republic fleet attacks Coruscant how long before the Senate is making deals with him to save their own lives?"

Shaak Ti shook her head her expression showing her concern, "If more Clone units join the Chancellor, and I expect they will then we will find ourselves in an untenable position here on Coruscant."

A young knight entered and walked directly to Yoda's chair, "Master Yoda your visitors have arrived."

"Good, enter they shall," said Yoda.

Not a few among the Jedi tensed as two figures in grey entered.

Harry walked across the room flanked by Luna. As he walked, he looked impassively at the seated Jedi. When he reached Yoda he gave a small nod, "Master Yoda may I enquire as to when my people will be released?"

"Released?" asked Yoda confusion evident.

Harry's impassive expression softened slightly as he realised that Yoda apparently was in ignorance of Mace Windu's actions. "Two of my people and three of our friends were detained by Master Windu during the attack. I would like to arrange their return to us."

Yoda turned to the knight beside him, "Find our guests you will. Of this I was not knowing Harry."

"I'll accept that Master Yoda as long as they are returned unharmed."

Harry's words got a reaction from quite a few Jedi in the room. With exchanged glances and some whispering from the gathered masters.
Yoda gestured for seats to be brought for Harry and Luna, "For your help owe you thanks we do."

"The Sith are a danger to us all Master Yoda," replied Luna.

"Your people are safe?" asked Obi-Wan.

Luna sensed the sincerity in his question and offered Obi-Wan a polite smile, "Our home is heavily protected Obi-Wan. The Sith are one of the reasons that we have maintained the secrecy around our location."

Ki-Adi-Mundi frowned as he considered the two young people before him. While they had proved useful, they were interrupting important business. "Perhaps your guests can wait in the outer chamber Master Yoda. We still have much to discuss."

"Allies Harry and Luna are in this, include them we should," argued Yoda.

Luminara Unduli gave her colleague a sharp look. Ki-Adi-Mundi seemed to have adopted Mace Windu's conservative agenda. "I don't doubt Ki-Adi that the Sith will target their people as well."

Harry tuned Ki-Adi-Mundi out as the Jedi master lectured his colleagues on the need to maintain the traditional standards of the Order. Beside him, Luna shifted slightly and sighed evidence that she too was feeling frustrated. Before anyone could interrupt, the door slid open, and a Jedi Knight led in Sirius, Velath, Lerhra, Amelia and Ret.

Velath immediately pushed past her Jedi escort and crossed to check for herself that Luna was uninjured. Somewhat satisfied she stepped behind Luna and began scanning the room for any threats.

Sirius rolled his eyes and gave Harry and Luna a nod before looking around the chamber with interest. The three followers of Palawa immediately crossed to stand behind Harry and Luna.

"More of your people, we may want to call for reporters and abandon any hopes for secrecy," said a Jedi that stood behind the seated Ki-Adi-Mundi.

"Enough," Yoda said loudly emphasizing his words by smacking his ever-present stick on the side of his chair. "Enough foolishness this is Palpatine's aim. Discord he would sow, distrust and fear. Weakened our order is and much to discuss and decide there is. Master Quay figures you have on the lost?"

Master Lim Quay stood and activated a holo-display. "From our latest reports we have lost four thousand six hundred and forty-three Jedi. Since the beginning of the war, we have lost over two-thirds of our number."

"Two-thirds, over six thousand Jedi Master, Knights and indeed Padawans have perished in the fighting. I fear Palpatine may have struck us a near fatal blow. If he comes here with the fleet we may be facing the end of the order," said Luminara Unduli her voice calm as she laid out the facts in clear terms. "We are vulnerable now, more vulnerable than we have been for millennia. We should be considering how to preserve the future of the order."

"Master Unduli speaks wisely. A plan we must have," said Yoda as the room fell quiet. Around the room, Jedi Master and Knights tried to wrap their minds around the situation.

Ki-Adi-Mundi stood and looked around the room, "We must stop Palpatine before he can return! We should attack, in force targeting Palpatine. If we cut off, the dragon's head the body will die. Once he is dead, his manipulations will unravel. The Senate can elect a new Chancellor, and they can order
the clones to stand down."

"Attacking Palpatine will, if we fail, give him a valid reason for his actions that he can parade in front of the Senate," warned Shaak Ti.

"Masters," announced a young Knight manning the communications console next to Master Lim Quay. "We are receiving a call from Senator Organa."

"Talk to the Senator we must," said Yoda.

A moment later a holographic representation of Senator Organa was projected into the centre of the room. "Ahh Master Jedi we have managed to organize an emergency sitting of the Senate. We have just enough in attendance for any vote to be legal even with Mas Amedda and Palpatine's cronies fighting us every step of the way. We should convene within the hour. I wanted to extend a welcome to the council to attend. Sadly we may need security given that right now we are not sure whose orders the clones are following."

"Numbers do we have?" asked Yoda, who looked deeply troubled rather than relieved with the Senators news of an imminent vote.

"I believe that we can do it although it will be very close. Those of us that are pro-democracy have been lobbying among the neutrals and the unaligned voting blocs. Palpatine did his cause no good when he turned on the Jedi. Even those senators who have always voted for Palpatine are showing some concern. If even ten percent of them vote against him, we have the numbers."

"Be careful you must Senator. Grave danger I sense," warned Yoda.

'I understand Master Yoda I have several of my people acting as my personal security. Senator Amidala has Jedi Skywalker with her as well.'

Yoda looked over at Obi-Wan, who was showing surprise at Anakin's presence with the senators considering that he was meant to be seeing the Temple's healers.

"Good send Jedi I will. Be there for the vote we will be," said Yoda before the Holo-Image disappeared. Yoda hesitated again as he studied the Jedi in the room along with the miss-matched visitors. "Master Shaak Ti to the Senate building you must take Jedi, as many as can be spared. Peaceful, the exchange of power, must be. Masters Ki-Adi-Mundi and Obi-Wan accompany Master Ti you must. Master Unduli and Master Jurokk stay you will and secure the temple. Luna, Harry you I would speak with."

"Do you sense something Master?" asked Master Jurokk the Jedi Temple Gatekeeper.

"The veil of the Dark Side clouds everything but loss, fear I sense...and danger approaching,"

Yoda dismissed the council charging those not given tasks to see to the Temples security. Once Jedi had filed, our Yoda sighed and sat back in his chair looking weary and almost frail.

"Worried I am, outmanoeuvred at every turn we have been. Clear it is that this has been long in the planning."

"Are you surprised at your blindness?" asked Lerhra but without her usual rancour. "The Sith have been in ascendancy and as they grew so has your ability to sense them diminished. Many of my brethren have felt the same disturbance."
Yoda silently studied Lerhra for a few moments before he sighed, "Fear I do that in a corner we now are. If fighting for the orders survival, then poor our strategic position is."

"Palpatine knows where you are and knows roughly what military forces you have available and he knows you are reeling from the blow order sixty-six delivered," said Harry.

"How, though, I mean how powerful can he be? We are assuming the he has managed to blind Force sedatives across half the galaxy?" asked Luna with an uncharacteristic frown. "I mean that doesn't seem possible."

"He has become a personification of the Dark side of the Force," said a voice from the shadows. A moment later Qui-Gon Jinn appeared. "Like many other Sith before him he has delved so deeply into the Dark side that his very biology has begun to change."

"You knew this?" asked Yoda.

Qui-Gon shook his head, "His identity, no he remained hidden until you exposed him, but I have seen others in the past that twisted and warped the Force to meet their desires."

"Destroy him we must," said Yoda.

"You cannot at this point," said Qui-Gon sadly. "Alone you could confront him old friend and perhaps fight him to a standstill but with nearly the full might of the Republic's military behind him?"

"What then, abandon the Republic we cannot!" said Yoda. "Corrupt the Senate may be but see sense it must."

"Perhaps but what if that fails?" asked Luna. "If you have to evacuate you need to have that plan and the resources in place."

"Have faith in the Force I do," declared Yoda.

Harry shook his head, "As do the Sith. I feel you are making a mistake Master Yoda but you must seek your own path."

"Help you can," said Yoda.

"To what purpose?" asked Talia as she appeared next to Qui-Gon.

"Saving lives, skilled your apprentices are Talia. Another path they may see."

"You cannot defeat the Sith at this point in time, and Harry and Luna would just be throwing their lives away along with the order," said Talia in a cold voice.

Talia walked forward to stare down at Yoda, "But there is still hope that the Sith can be beaten. To do that the Jedi must survive. With each Jedi that dies the future grows darker. Harry and Luna have been working tirelessly to avoid a future where a power worse than the Sith appears. In both that distant future and the now the pointless death of the remaining Jedi is a tragedy. In part that is why we are all here."

Lerhra had been watching Talia closely as she spoke, "I know you….I have seen you in my dreams." With a somewhat awed look on her face, she turned from Talia back to Yoda. "Yoda you should listen she speaks the truth. It is the same truth that had us seeking out Harry and Luna. Our Seers foresaw that the Jedi order would fall to the Sith, and almost every Jedi would be hunted down and killed. A handful would survive and eventually the Sith would fall to them. This destructive
cycle would see the loss of countless Force sensitives. Whole communities of Force users including my own would be doomed to destruction at the hands of the Sith. Their knowledge lost or even worse suborned by the Sith."

"Possible to avoid this future is?" asked Yoda quietly.

"No, at least not wholly but it is possible to save some of what would be lost," replied Talia. "A lot depends on your choices."

Yoda considered Talia for a long moment before slowly nodding in acceptance before his brow furrowed. "Tell me this before you could not?"

"Would you have believed us?" asked Talia.

"Understand I do but not simple what you suggest is. Not easy to persuade the council will be."

"Consider the consequences if you do nothing," said Harry.

Steps of the Jedi Temple

Harry turned to the others as soon as they reached the bottom of the Jedi Temple's stairs. "Alright, things are coming to a head here. We've done what we can to help, but I suspect that with the exception of Yoda our words have pretty much fallen on deaf ears."

"So we just leave?" asked Sirius with a frown.

"No we try and save what we can, like we have before but we can't win the war here," said Luna. "I should have just cut Palpatine's head off."

Harry's lips twisted into a smile, "True but would the Jedi and the Republic have believed us that he was a Sith? Even so it probably wouldn't have changed the outcome given that Palpatine could have trained any number of Sith like you saw on Bespin. For all we know he's got Sith in the Senate waiting to take over."

Sirius looked over the deserted plaza, "Things are quiet right now we should get to the ship."

Jedi Temple - Archives

For the first time since being chosen as a Padawan Yoda was deeply concerned for the future. He was not exaggerating when he had told the Force ghost of Talia that persuading the Jedi council that they were in danger of near extinction would be very difficult. However, there was more than one way to approach the issue.

"Master Yoda," said Jocasta Nu offering Yoda a polite nod. "How may I help you today?" The head Archivist was an old friend who had served with her on the Jedi Council.

"Jocasta speak privately with you I must."

Jocasta raised an eyebrow in surprise. She could sense Yoda's disquiet, so she simply nodded. "Kai, please inform the integrity committee that I will not be available for today's meeting and that you will attend in my place."
Jocasta's Padawan Kai Justiss bowed his head, "Yes Master." The Padawan quickened his pace toward the meeting rooms.

"This way my friend," said Jocasta as she lead Yoda to a small meeting room. Once they were seated, she gestured, and the door slid closed.

"Received a warning I have that attacked the temple may be. Concerned I am that the temple may be breached."

Jocasta blinked the only evidence that she was deeply shaken, "The Sith?"

"The Chancellor being exposed as a Sith, dangerous this is. Still controlling the majority of the military he is. If attacked the Jedi are …"

"Then the Sith could gain access to the archives," finished Jocasta. "You truly feel that this is a valid threat?"

"Yes."

Jocasta studied Yoda for a moment before her lips quirked upward for a brief moment before her expression returned to her usual calm, serene expression. "You haven't taken this to the council have you?"

"Would you?"

"No, even you would be shouted down by the idealists. I must admit that I have been concerned since the first reports of these return of the Sith. The archives are something they would want. What are we facing here?"

"Dire warnings I have received from the Force. Met I just have with others whose message is the same. Among them Lerhra from the followers of Palawa was."

"She still lives?" asked Jocasta with her surprise evident in her voice.

"Alive she is, joined with the Force Adepts she has."

"The mysterious apprentices of Talia Tal-Shin?" asked Jocasta.

"Talia's Force ghost was one of those that warned us."

"Ah, I see. I saw the transcript, the edited transcript of Qui-Gon's visitation that was added to the archives. The word edited was almost a curse word to the archivist. "I feel somewhat slighted that the full report was not included."

"Dangerous the information was…wise in hindsight we were to hide it. The Sith gain the knowledge they must not."

"There is much here they must not gain access to. To move the archives is a work of years Master Yoda. I sense your urgency but what can we do in what days?"

"Jocasta?"

Yoda and Jocasta turned to see Qui-Gon standing by the door.

"Wonders of the Force," whispered Jocasta. "Master Qui-Gon?"
Qui-Gon stood with his hands folded in his Jedi robe, "Greetings my friends I fear I will not be able to stay long. The ascendancy of the Dark side makes it difficult for us to interact for long. Even with your intervention the order is in grave peril. The Sith want the Jedi, and all other Force users exterminated or at worst crushed under their heel. There are few safe havens where the Jedi could go. Even the unknown regions are not safe. There is, however, an option in unknown space."

Jocasta looked puzzled, but Yoda looked at Qui-Gon with narrowing eyes, "Serra Keto's planet?"

Qui-Gon nodded.

"Great risk you implied there was," said Yoda.

"There are but the planet is one of the few where the Force adepts have managed to shroud themselves from Force perception so completely the we didn't know that they even existed."

"And that protection extend to Jedi it would?" asked Yoda.

Qui-Gon had faded away before he answered.

"This planet is was what was missing from the reports?" asked Jocasta.

"It is," replied Yoda.

"What are the risks you referred to?"

"The home of the Force Adepts we believe this planet to be. Risk their wrath if expose its location we do." Yoda stood and gestured, opening the door. "Find Serra Keto I must."

"And I will begin planning," said Jocasta as she stood with a look of determination on her lined face.

**Senatorial Offices – Senate Building**

Anakin knew he was going to get a lecture from Obi-Wan but at this point he couldn't have cared less. Padmé had been at risk, and so he was here, to protect her. It was a simple decision. Even now as she met with her senatorial colleagues, he kept her under near constant supervision.

He didn't stop monitoring the room when Ahsoka loudly cleared her throat, "Master shouldn't we be contacting Obi-Wan? I mean you are meant to be with the healers."

"Not now Snips. I can sense….something a disturbance in the Force."

Ahsoka fell silent for a few moments before speaking again, "Are you, okay master?"

"No something is wrong, Padmé is in danger."

"Is it the Chanc…Palpatine?"

"No Snips don't go there," hissed Anakin. 'Leave that traitor out of it.'

Unseen by her master Ahsoka winced at the pain and anger in that reply. Palpatine had been a friend to Anakin, and his 'friends' betrayal had hurt him badly.

She was about to offer her services as a messenger to the Temple when Shaak Ti and four other Jedi Masters entered the room along with a good half dozen Knights. "Master, Shaak Ti is here."
Anakin turned to see a group of Jedi gathered by the door while Shaak Ti conversed with Bail Organa. Seeing no way out of reporting Anakin made his way over to Shaak Ti just as Organa was speaking.

"…Our thanks, Master Shaak Ti we are however waiting for Mas Amedda and his supporters. He hasn't been responding to messages, no doubt he's trying to delay the vote."

"To serve what ends?" asked Shaak Ti.

"I have no idea Master Jedi, but I don't doubt that it is for some political point or other." While we are waiting Knight Skywalker has been doing an excellent job guarding us but given the current dangers a larger deterrence might be in order."

"It is our pleasure to serve Senator. Ahh, Anakin could I have a moment?"

Anakin nodded and walked with Shaak Ti to the far side of the room.

"Are you well enough to continue here Anakin?"

"Of course Master Ti," replied Anakin.

"Then your presence is welcome. Master Yoda thinks it prudent that we preserve the peace here until the Senate can make its decision."

Anakin felt a wave of relief that he struggled to not show to the very observant Jedi master. "What of the Outer Rim?"

Shaak Ti shook her head sadly, "At this point our losses are still not fully known. I fear that they shall rise as we hear from the survivors."

"And the Clones?" asked Anakin quietly.

"So far nothing, those here in the core and inner sectors are still following our orders. However for safety, now that the remaining clones have returned to their barracks I've borrowed some of the Temple security force to help us guard the Senate. If you are fit, I want you and your Padawan to maintain your watch here. The rest of us will sweep the Senate chamber before the vote. The vote must proceed safely if the Republic is to get back on their feet."

Anakin was about to nod when he realised what Shaak Ti had said, "Wait, who ordered the clones back to barracks?"

Shaak Ti realised that Anakin had not given the order and almost immediately understood that if the Jedi had not ordered their redeployment then someone else had, As Shaak Ti called out orders Anakin pulled Ahsoka aside.

"Snips you need to guard Senator Amidala. If anything happens, get her to the landing pad. I'll meet you there with….." Anakin traile off as another ripple of danger passed through him, "Master Ti?"

"I felt it too," said Shaak Ti.

oOoOoOo

The blast from the Senate building was huge. Debris was sent raining down the Senate steps to crash, in cases as far away as the great plaza.

Within moments of the blasts echo's dying away the Clone troops from the 501st legion marched out
of their barracks. Instead of Jedi officers they marched under the Chancellors representatives, two figures clad in black armour.

The Chancellor’s fleet was less than two hours away, and Clone Commander Appo had his orders. Order 66 had been delayed courtesy of the damaged transmitters, but Chancellor Palpatine had directly issued his orders to him relayed over a series of Republic cruisers. His men had accepted the order as they were bred to do and an hour after it was given they received their new Generals ship as it had landed.

They were to assault and then destroy the Jedi Temple, failing that they were to hold the Jedi there until reinforcements arrived.

oOoOoOo

Jedi Temple

"The clones are marching toward the temple. So far there hasn't been any fighting but civilians are staying well clear. It looks like the majority of the garrison save a detachment that is moving toward the Senate building," reported a Jedi knight when he reached Yoda.

Obi-Wan sighed and looked around at the gathered Jedi, "Then it is as we feared, the clones are still accepting orders from the Chancellor. His first steps would be to control the Senate, and we are one a barrier to that occurring."

Yoda drew a deep breath and straightened, "Arrangements I have made for younglings and Padawans to be saved. To the hanger, they should go. Master Jocasta Nu and her masters, waiting they will be. Time it is for some of us to go with them."

"Master?" asked Obi-Wan.

"Fall the temple will but not the Jedi with it. Prepared our evacuation is but, hold the Clones we must. Master Nu is setting the beacon, give co-ordinates to regroup it will." Yoda looked around the sixty-four masters who had gathered in the main atrium when the alarm sounded. The rest of the masters were either outside the temple or at the Senate House. "Time to escape this trap the others must be given."

The solemn nods showed that the Jedi in the atrium understood that they were to fight a delaying action.

"Obi-Wan to the Senate you must go lead our allies to safety you must," Yoda gestured to where Barriss Offee stood with Jax Pavan. "With Master Kenobi go. Transport we will send to the Senate landing pad."

oOoOoOo

Aboard the Lily

"Shit! "Exclaimed Sirius as the Lily rocked slightly to the sound of an explosion.

"There has been an explosion at the Senate building," reported Harry over the intercom. "And I can see blaster fire near the temple."

"It's begun then," said Luna sadly as she closed her eyes.

A moment later Harry ducked into the room, "Alright we need to be smart here. We see what the
situation is and if we can we help survivors escape. Lerhra can you and your people prepare the Lily?"

"Yes, of course," said Lerhra. "We shall have it ready when you return."

"Alright everyone needs to be disillusioned. Then we will apparate to the meeting room at the temple we met Yoda in."

"Wait," said Luna. "We need to get to the Senate building."

"What's happening Luna?" asked Harry as he sensed the rising anxiety Luna was suddenly projecting into the Force.

"The Sith are going there….there is something, someone they want."

"Okay change of plans we are going to the Senate building. Can everyone picture the entrance?" asked Harry.

Luna turned to Velath and tilted her head in enquiry. The younger woman had struggled with disillusionment spells when she had been taught.

"No I can do this mistress," said Velath as she drew her sword.

"Alright let's go," ordered Harry.

oOoOoOo

Senate Building

Anakin woke to a feeling of being crushed. As he tried to clear his thoughts and blink the dust out of his eyes, he realised that he was lying underneath something heavy, a person.

Whoever it was they were not moving. Moving carefully he slid the body off to discover that it was Shaak Ti. More aware now he quickly checked that she was alive….yes she was breathing, but unconscious and sporting a nasty head wound. He would need to…..Padmé!

The far side of the room was filled with rubble and not a few quite obviously deceased bodies….or pieces of bodies. Where had she been standing? Straightening he studied the rubble and began levitating the debris to the far side of the room. The next few minutes felt like hours but eventually he uncovered an arm….Ahsoka!

Moving quickly he uncovered Ahsoka, who was lying across Padmé, shielding her with her body. Evidently Snips had followed his orders to the letter. A quick check confirmed that both were alive.

"…Master?" mumbled Ahsoka as she stirred on the floor.

"Snips stay down your injured," said Anakin as he checked Padmé for injuries. She was bruised and cut but like Ahsoka, she seemed to have avoided any life threatening injuries. Satisfied that she was okay, he quickly cleared the rest of the rubble. He found another three survivors and quickly moved them to the centre of the room. Besides Ahsoka and Shaak Ti, the other Jedi were all dead alongside all the senators save Padme, Bail Organa and a Rodian senator whose name he didn't know. Now the challenge was getting help without knowing the situation.

The doorway was partially obstructed but still usable so he quickly checked the area outside the door. Thankfully the emergency lighting was working well enough to see. The western corridor was
blocked by fallen rubble, but the eastern corridor was still clear.

"…..down here Sir, I thought I heard something."

Moving quickly, Anakin ducked behind a fallen pillar and waited. He moved just far enough to be able to see who was coming. It was somewhat risky, but the dim lighting should hide his presence.

"Another dead civilian….there is nothing here," reported a clone that paused to turn a dead Senate worker over with his armored foot.

A second clone, an officer appeared followed by two more clones. "We need to check all these rooms."

The first clone checked the room on the other side of the walkway, 'Here is another one Sir….he's got a lightsaber on his belt."

The officer checked out the fallen Jedi, "A Jedi alright, well that's one less we need to worry about. Get an ID image and his lightsaber. Right, let's get moving."

The officer stepped forward to enter the meeting room when Anakin stepped out igniting his lightsaber and dispatching the command clone. Using a Force push, he smashed the two clone troopers into the far wall with bone crushing impact as he rushed to engage the last clone who was trying to bring his blaster up. The clone got off a single shot, which Anakin deflected before his head rolled across the floor. Working quickly he levitated all four bodies into the empty room across the corridor.

A sound behind him had him swinging around before he realised the Force signature of his old master, "Obi-Wan…..we have injured in here."

"There are wounded everywhere," replied Obi-Wan, who knelt to check the fallen Jedi in the corridor. With a sigh, he stood just as Barriss Offee and Jax Pavan appeared through the rubble.

"Master Kenobi there are a lot of clones on the landing platform, nearly a full company, and they have the transport surrounded," reported Jax.

"Well, that way is out. We will have to find another way," explained Obi-Wan calmly.

"We could make our way to the temple," suggested Anakin.

Obi-Wan shook his head, "It's far too late for that Anakin. Master Yoda has begun evacuating the temple. The clones are attacking at as we speak."

Anakin was shocked speechless by that piece of news. In fact, he didn't even hear the next thing Obi-Wan said.

"….make for the spaceport."

"Sorry, I missed that," admitted Anakin.

"I said that we may need to make for the spaceport if we are going to make the rendezvous with the rest of the order," explained Obi-Wan.

"Taking the injured with us?" asked Barriss.

"We certainly can't leave them here…wait," Obi-Wan held up a hand requesting silence. All four could hear the faint sounds of blaster fire.
"Barriss, Jax wait here with the wounded. Anakin and I will check it out,"

oOoOoOo

Harry leapt through the air deflecting two blaster bolts as he did. Below him, Luna and Velath charged the distracted clones are killing four. The remaining clones continued their barrage of fire that Sirius was deflecting away with a hastily conjured reflective shield spell. Harry charged in behind them engaging two just as Velath and Luna cut down the remaining clones.

Harry rubbed his shoulder in frustration, "Damn they are pretty damn good that first one nearly got me when he avoided my first strike. I wish we could have gotten past disillusioned."

"I don't think that we have time to avoid all the guards love," replied Luna with a smile.

"Well I certainly wasn't expecting to see you all here," said Obi-Wan as he appeared from amongst the rubble followed by Anakin.

"Luna felt someone here needed help," replied Harry.

Obi-Wan nodded, "We have wounded, and our transport is no longer an option."

Sirius grinned for a moment,"Right well we can help out on that front but I'm not sure about not helping at the temple. They are under assault by what looks like a bloody army of clones."

Obi-Wan considered not explaining, but he didn't want Harry and Luna's people rushing to the temples defense. "Believe me it is under control. We have begun evacuating."

Sirius shrugged apparently unperturbed by the lack of detail, "Excellent, okay Harry old bean what now?"

Harry looked over at Luna, who nodded, "Okay now we get the injured out of here."

Luna, Harry, Sirius all took one of the wounded and apparated back to the Lily, leaving Velath to secure the room alongside the two Jedi. A moment later they were back. Next to go was the last wounded senator along with Jax and Barriss.

When they reappeared, they immediately came under fire as more Clones appeared in the corridor. Sirius and Harry got shields up in time protecting the group, but neither was prepared for the blast of Force lightning that played over their shields.

"Sith!" warned Luna as she threw a blasting spell into the shadow at the end of the corridor sending debris flying around the clones and the hidden Sith.

"Go," ordered Harry.

Sirius grabbed Anakin and apparated away as Velath after a single worried glanced toward Luna did the same with Obi-Wan.

Luna and Harry were about to follow when two figures sped out of the dust.

Harry avoided and parried his way through another fast, vicious attack before going on the offensive.
He wasn't using any one lightsaber form but rather mixing his styles in an attempt to throw the Sith off. The man was a skilled opponent, but Harry had a few tricks up his sleeve. Blocking a lightning fact slash he willed his wand into his hand. On the next block, he cast a Reducto at his opponent's torso. The explosive hex was partly absorbed by his opponent's armour although it still did its work shattering his ribs and sternum, driving bone shards into his vital organs.

As Harry's opponent was blasted back, Luna beheaded her staggered opponent.

Even with his fatal internal injuries Harry's opponent fought to climb to his feet once more. Harry and Luna could both feel the rage radiating from the Sith as he tried, ineptly to channel the Force to keep himself alive. Whoever had trained him had apparently cut quite a few corners in teaching their student how to truly use the Force. Harry stepped forward raising his hand and summoning the Sith's lightsaber as he walked closer. The man was dying and would soon pass. Indeed his Force presence was fading as Harry considered him.

"Harry," warned Luna. "We can use him still."

Harry nodded and stepped back allowing Luna to approach the fallen Sith. Kneeling she looked into the dying man's eyes as she reached forward to lay a gentle hand on his face. Taking a deep breath, she established a Force bond and dove into his memories.

Harry kept guard as Luna gathered what she could before pulling out of the Sith's mind as he slipped away.

"Are you okay?"

Luna nodded as she stood, "Fine love establishing the link was too easy. We need to go now."

Harry nodded, and they both apparated to the Lily.

oOoOoOo

**Jedi Temple**

Yoda gestured, and the surviving Jedi pulled back into the temple atrium.

"Now," ordered Yoda.

Moving in almost perfect unison six Jedi Masters used the Force to levitate six massive stone columns they had prepared into place blocking the temple doors. Once the pillars were in place Yoda extended one hand upward and used the Force to tear down a large portion of the roof. The results almost entirely obscured the entrance.

Yoda leaned on his cane wearily, "To leave the time now is. Go, my friends, may the Force be with you."

Most of the Jedi left quickly following Yoda's orders, but two Masters remained.

Ki-Adi-Mundi looked down at Yoda and shook his head sadly, "I find it difficult to believe that it has come to this."

"Survive the Jedi Order will. Learn from this we must. Adapted the Sith have while we have held on to old values."

Master Stass Allie glanced at the wall of rubble, "What of the Republic?" The Tholothian Jedi
Master had a long burn mark on her robe that was still smoking.
"No use to the Republic we are if dead. Regroup we must," said Yoda.

Ki-Adi-Mundi looked around the familiar grandeur of the atrium before nodding. "Then let us go."

oOoOoOo

The Lily

"We need to get the hell out of here Pup. There are fighters doing flybys of the Senate building," warned Sirius from his position near the cockpit hatch.

"We can go now," said Harry as he slipped past Sirius and into the pilot's chair. "Luna, take over as co-pilot."

"On to it Harry," said Luna as she sat and pulled on a headset. "Okay everyone, get strapped in."

Sirius sat in the third seat as Lerhra strapped into the fourth.

Harry brought the engines fully on-line and lifted off quickly before sending the Lily rocketing skyward.

"The temple," said Luna.

Harry glanced downward to see the Jedi Temple. Smoke was rising from the main building. From the blaster fire, it was clear that the Jedi were not giving up without a fight.

"Look, there are ships pulling out," said Luna.

Transport ships could be seen exiting the temple escorted by Jedi starfighters. As they watched a flight of Clone V-19 Torrent starfighters closed in on a transport before being engaged by the Jedi escorts.

"Hold on," warned Harry, as the Lily was buffeted by a nearby explosion. "We've got two fighters pursuing us."

"I've strengthened our rear shields," reported Luna.

Harry spun the Lily through the enemy fire, "We are nearly clear of the atmosphere. Luna, plot us a course out of here."

"I've got the coordinates in. Once we've cleared the gravity well, we are good to go," replied Luna as the Lily rocked again. "Sod it…the rear deflectors are taking a battering."

"Sorry about that but these fighters are not….giving up," said Harry as he again spun the ship. Even with artificial gravity compensating they were pushed back into their seats.

"We have a cruiser approaching," warned Luna.

"Jumping….now!" called Harry as he pulled back on the controls.

oOoOoOo

Darth Sidious stood looking out of his office window watching the Jedi temple burn.
"My Lord?"

Sidious didn't turn away from the glorious sight but after a long moment he responded, "Yes Dravian."

"It would appear that the temple has been abandoned my lord. The Clones have breached the inner temple and found no one."

"I see and the Senators on the list?"

"All save Amidala and Organa are accounted for," reported Dravian.

"Good send for Mas Amedda and the clone commanders," ordered Sidious without once taking his eyes from the temple.

So the Jedi had managed to escape his net, for now. In the long run, it wouldn't matter. Their ranks were thinned out nicely and soon every hand he could control would be turned against them. He merely needed to be patient.

The ascendancy of the Sith was one step closer to fruition.
Chapter 21

A New Order - Chapter 21

All publicly recognizable characters, settings, etc. are the property of their respective owners. The original characters and plot are the property of the author. The author is in no way associated with the owners, creators, or producers of any media franchise. No copyright infringement is intended.

I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars, and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its actual owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

Oh and please remember – This is AU people.

Thanks must go to XRaiderV1 for his Beta Work.

Last Time:

So the Jedi had managed to escape his net, for now. In the long run, it wouldn't matter. Their ranks were thinned out nicely and soon every hand he could control would be turned against them. He merely needed to be patient.

The ascendancy of the Sith was one step closer to fruition.

oOoOoOo

Across hundreds of worlds, countless skirmishes continued as the Jedi withdrew.

On Jardeen IV, six Jedi perished at the hands of Clone's as they attempted to run the Republican blockade of the planet…the hills of Ubertica became the unknown memorial of a dozen Clones who fell to a single Jedi Master…on Homon a pair of Padawans managed to flee the relentless clones after their masters sacrificed themselves to enable their escape...On Kovarin III, six ARC clones fought their way out of an ambush escaping with their injured former general.

oOoOoOo

HoloNet Special Broadcast

In a statement delivered by the Chancellor, he has confirmed that valiant clone units have begun operations to place under arrest the Jedi responsible for the attempted military takeover of the Republic.

The Senate has made it clear that the lives of citizens are paramount. So until the threat presented by these Jedi and the rogue military units they command is contained the Senate has directed the military to continue policing critical areas.

Senator Mas Amedda made it clear that until the CIS surrendered the Republic would need to remain vigilant against separatist attacks. "The war is not over, and it will not be over until the forces moving against our beloved Republic have been suppressed!"

Read more here

oOoOoOo
Calaron Sector - Outer Rim Territories

Padawan Javit Cord cursed as he tried to lock down what exactly was wrong with his fighter. "A8 run another diagnostic on the flight systems."

His Astromech beeped forlornly as the translation appeared on his screen.

*Hyperdrive is offline – Attempts to re-route power have failed. Weapons fire has damaged the power converter*

"Can you fix it A8?"

*No*

"Well, that's just farking well excellent…fine, what about sublight?"

*Operational but with minimal power*

Javit resisted the urge to curse again, barely, "What is working properly A8?"

Javit felt the first touches of panic as the list; the short list scrolled onto the screen. "What's the matter with life support?"

*Falling power levels due to the system compensating for two occupants*

"So how long are we talking here A8?"

*Two standard hours*

"And the nearest habitable, friendly planet is…?"

*There is an unaligned colony within our range – There is, however, a Republic presence in that system*

"So we would be detected approaching, we are in trouble A8."

*I concur – Perhaps it would be advisable to activate our distress beacon*

"Which will give us away as well, how's Master Kel-Tor?"

*Vitals are weak but stable*

Javit took a deep breath before closing his eyes and extending his awareness into the Force. His meditation deepened and he let himself fall into the Force seeking the correct path.

oOoOoOo

"I sense something, a cry for help," whispered Jedi Master Sian Jeisel, who closed her eyes for a moment before reaching out to take the controls.

"What is it Sian?" asked Jedi Master Moris Tel-Thall.

"A feeling that we are needed, let the others know," replied Sian as she began making changes to the console.

Moris left the cockpit and entered the mess.
"Something that matter Sir?" asked Sprinter as he looked up from his meal. The ARC clone was still in his armour.

"Sian has sensed something, someone needing help," explained Moris. "We may be dropping out of Hyperspace shortly."

"I'll tell the lads," replied Sprinter, who took another mouthful before throwing Moris a casual salute.

Moris couldn't help but smile at the clone's antics. The ARC's were considerably more…well more individual than the standard clones. 'Thank the Force they were or things would be much more difficult,' thought Moris as he stepped back into the cockpit.

"I have a small ship, a fighter I believe on long range sensors," reported Sian.

Moris studied the sensor readings, "Looks like a Jedi Starfighter. Watch out Sian it's drifting."

"On it, I'm matching our rotation," replied Sian.

Moris tried hailing the starfighter, but there was no response. Sensors quickly told him why. "It's unpowered. We will have to get a mag-lock on it."

Sian grunted in acknowledgment as she began edging the freighter closer, starting the tricky emergency docking process.

oOoOoOo

"They are alive General, although General Kel-Tor is going to need medical attention soon if he is going to survive," reported Sprinter. "The Padawan is unconscious although medic thinks that it's due to the bad air."

"What about the fighter?"

"Dumped it with a scuttling charge set for forty minutes, Sir."

"Good work, keep an eye on our patients while we work out what to do."

"Will do Sir," acknowledged Sprinter.

"How are they?" asked Rian.

"Not good, Kel-Tor needs a decent medical facility," replied Moris.

"It's a long run to the rendezvous with the Order."

"What choice do we have?" asked Rian. "Anywhere we put down could put up a big red flag now Palpatine is back in charge. Alderaan and the other systems not supporting Palpatine are sure to be watched."

Moris sighed considering options. "Well, I…we have incoming ships. Four no five Republic cruisers…damn, it's a clone fleet."

"I'm getting us out of here," said Rian as she pushed the engines to full power. "Get the shields up. They'll be in range before we are ready to jump."

"On it," replied Moris as he raised the shields before flicking the intercom on. "Strap in everyone."
A welcome green light appeared on the console; the Hyperdrive was ready.

Before Rian could activate it, the freighter shook as a blaster bolt hit the shields. Almost immediately a second hit followed causing the lights to flicker.

"The shields won't take much more of this Rian," warned Moris as the lights flickered again.
"Go to hyperspace in three, two…go."

The freighter rocked again before leaping into hyperspace.

\[oOoOoOo\]

**Haven**

Hermione tried to remain positive as she considered the complete information blackout from Coruscant. The HoloNet was still broadcasting, but the content was clearly being heavily censored. There was little however that she could do but wait. The rest of Haven's fleet was either docked or deeper within the asteroid field, but the Lily was still unaccounted for.

"Anything?" asked Ron from the doorway.

"Not yet," replied Hermione. "I'm getting a bit concerned even though I don't sense anything. Well, the Force isn't infallible is it?"

Ron walked over and wrapped his arms around Hermione from behind, "Have faith Moine."

"We knew this was coming, but it doesn't make it any easier waiting to see if they are fine."

"We need to be ready for when they call," said Ron.

"I will be, we will be."

"Then let one of the droids take over here and let's get back to work."

Hermione looked up at Ron studying him. He had grown since his brush with death; he was stronger and wiser, "You're right."

"First time for everything," said Ron with a smile.

Before Hermione could reply an alert on the long-range communications console sounded. Hermione immediately activated the console and an image of Harry appeared.

"Haven this is the Lily. We are on route to a rendezvous. We have a number of guests on board; I don't want to go any further into it even encrypted. We'll get back to you soon."

With that Harry's image flickered and disappeared.

"Well, they are away from Coruscant. We need to let the others know," said Ron with a grin before he schooled his features adopting an exaggeratedly stern demeanour. "Trust in the Force young one,"

\[oOoOoOo\]

**The Lily - Hyperspace**

Anakin checked that Padmé was still asleep before closing the door once more and making his way
to the small mess area. Obi-Wan, Shaak Ti, Ahsoka and Barriss Offee were already sitting at the table eating and drinking.

"Where is everyone?" asked Anakin.

"Wisely taking the opportunity to get some sleep I suspect," replied Obi-Wan.

Shaak Ti nodded, "Wise of them indeed. How are the Senator's Anakin?"

Anakin shrugged as he poured himself a cup of something that resembled herbal tea. He sniffed it before shrugging and taking a sip. Deeming it acceptable he sat down next to Obi-Wan. "As you say Master Ti they are asleep save for Senator Organa, who is apparently talking to our hosts."

"I haven't seen anyone since Black showed us our berths. Has anyone else?" asked Shaak Ti.

"Not since I saw Luna earlier Master. I was getting a drink when she came in. She enquired if I needed assistance. When I said, I did not she left," reported Ahsoka.

"Perhaps we should seek out our hosts," said Obi-Wan.

"There is no need Master Kenobi we were just having a similar discussion," said Luna as she appeared followed by Velath. "We are about to drop out of hyperspace now that we are clear of the main hyperspace routes. We wanted to know if you wish to contact your people."

"Thank you Luna, that would be advisable. The coordinates I gave you are correct, but it wouldn't hurt to check that the situation hasn't changed," Obi-Wan said with a polite nod.

Anakin followed as Luna led Obi-Wan to the cockpit, although the bridge was probably a better descriptor. For a private vessel, the ship was certainly not short on room. Anakin had seen a great many merchant ships and had to admit that the Adept's obviously had serious financial backing.

As they reached the bridge, the ship shuddered slightly dropping back into relativistic space. Luna gestured, and Obi-Wan sat in the empty chair near the communications console. Harry was piloting the ship so Anakin took the opportunity to study the bridge; noting that the set out was standard even if the equipment was top of the line.

"Nothing within scanner range," reported Harry. "It's an unpopulated system so we shouldn't see any military traffic."

"What system are we in?" asked Anakin.

"Xenaphex system, none of the three planets has an atmosphere or any resources worth exploiting apparently," replied Harry. "Once you contact your ships we can rendezvous with them."

"What of your people are they safe?" asked Anakin. Given recent events, it was very likely that Palpatine would move against anyone who defied him.

Harry nodded, "Our people are well hidden and will likely remain so for the foreseeable future."

Anakin grimaced as he considered that he had no idea what the Jedi would do next. Somehow they had lost the fight for the Republic. The Sith now controlled the military and the vast majority of the known galaxy. He broke away from his dark musings when a familiar image appeared on the holo-projector.

"Good it is to see you Master Kenobi," said Yoda. "Escaped Coruscant you have?"
"Yes Master we are aboard a merchant ship," replied Obi-Wan.

"Alone are you?"

"No master, we are aboard adept Potter's ship."

"Ahh unexpected this is….co-ordinates I will need. A ship I will send."

Luna sighed and stepped into view of the holo-imager, "Master Yoda, I know you Jedi have reservations, but I would hope that we have built some trust here."

Yoda nodded slowly, "Trust you have earned, being cautious we are."

"Very well, we will transmit our coordinates,"

oOoOoOo

The transport that arrived was escorted by two Delta-7 Aethersprite-class light interceptors.

Harry watched the transport approach before turning to Luna, "Well we had better head down to the airlock. Sirius, can you take over here?"

"Right-o I'll keep your seat warm," said Sirius with a grin.

Harry and Luna were joined by Velath and the Jedi and Senator's as the airlock hatch slid open.

Master Cin Drallig stepped inside followed by his Padawan Bene, "Permission to come aboard?"

"Of course," replied Harry.

"Master Drallig, I wasn't aware that you were on Coruscant when we evacuated," said Obi-Wan.

Cin Drallig shook his head, "We were not, Bene and I were on our way back from trying to find Asajj Ventress when we received the coded message. We only joined the others a few hours ago. Now Master Yoda mentioned that you needed transport, quickly. How many are coming with us?"

Twenty minutes later the transport leapt into hyperspace followed by its two escorts.

"Well let's head home," said Luna with a smile.

oOoOoOo

Coruscant

"Your orders are to hunt down the Jedi. I want no survivors to go to ground and begin plotting rebellion."

"Yes my Lord," said the leader of the three cloaked figures kneeling before Darth Sidious.

"Soon I will be announcing the restructure of our glorious republic," the last was said with a twisted smile. "Once that is done, I will need the military to maintain order until my rule is well and truly established. I don't doubt that certain…rebellious systems will protest the transition. So you will need to conserve your fleet."

"I understand my Lord."

"Good, I shall advise the Military that you have been promoted to Admiral. That will give you the
rank to lead the military units you require."

"Thank you my Lord."

"Go now Admiral Sev'rance Tann and serve me as you so aptly served my former apprentice."

Sev'rance Tann rose to her feet, her red eye's glinting in the shadow-filled room, "You saved me, my Lord. I am yours to command."

Darth Sidious smiled coldly as the Chiss female turned and left followed by the two dark side acolytes. Dooku's former prize acolyte had been on the verge of death when she escaped her Jedi Killers. Somehow she had managed to reach a shuttle and survive long enough to heal herself. He had found her disfigured and still injured but powerful enough to be sensed in the Force. In a burst of inspiration, he had her transported to a medical facility and treated. A Force inspired investment of resources that was now paying dividends for his cause. Even if she was unsuitable as an apprentice, she made a fine left hand.

Sev'rance Tann suppressed her disgust as she strode towards her shuttle. Darth Sidious was like a well of dark side power. Much more so than Dooku had ever been, but he was also much more twisted. He was arrogant and in the end he saw her as nothing more than a tool. Still, he had given her back her life, and while she wasn't loyal, she was grateful. So, for now, she would do his bidding.

She would hunt down the Jedi. While she played at being a loyal tool she would learn how he had grown so powerful. Once she had acquired that secret, she would go her own way and leave Sidious to his scheming. The Force flowed through her and Sith philosophy aside the truth was that it was power that mattered, power and family. Once she had the power she could build her own family and eventually her own dark dynasty. To do that she needed a Force strong male to act as patriarch and her master was not fit for that role.

With a smile on her lips, Admiral Tann boarded her shuttle and sat back as it lifted off toward her fleet.

oOoOoOo

**Jedi Refugee Fleet – Deep Space**

"We must give the stragglers time to arrive. It will be unwise to leave a beacon."

Yoda looked tired as he waved his stick, "Unwise indeed Master Kollus. A refuge we may have but abandon the fight we must not. Refuge of the Jedi it must be. Padawans, trainers and our archives made safe they must be. Stay and fight some among us wish to do. The time to fight, come it will. Gather our strength we must."

Ki-Adi-Mundi shook his head in frustration, "And what of these Adepts? What is to stop them from gathering Force sensitives and recruiting them in our absence?"

"Some thought I have given this. Searchers we will leave. Seek out sensitive's to recruit they shall. Among our allies, they will live. Others that remain the Sith they shall oppose."

"Then we must decide on our roles," said Shaak Ti.

oOoOoOo

**Jedi Transport 4654**
"What will you do Anakin?" asked Obi-Wan.

"I will stay and fight," replied Anakin.

"As will I, we need to find a way to defeat the Sith."

"I will stay with you Master," said Ahsoka.

Anakin sighed, "Snips…Ahsoka you should stay. The Order could use…"

Ahsoka shook her head, "No way Sky guy I'm sticking with you."

"Are you both sure?" asked Obi-Wan.

Both Anakin and Ahsoka nodded.

"I don't think we'll be going alone. Master Mundi spoke to me earlier," explained Obi-Wan. "He's concerned about the adepts recruiting."

"I would love to know what their real story is. I mean what do we really know about their beliefs? Yes, they have helped, and I'm not saying that they are in league with the Sith. My concern is that they've shown that they are willing to ally with people like the followers of Palawa and Dathomiri witches." Anakin held up a hand to forestall Obi-Wan's response. "I know that I'm generalizing."

Obi-Wan stroked his beard for a moment before speaking, "We have yet to see any reason not to trust them, but I agree we need to know more about them."

"Have we asked?" asked Ahsoka. "I mean I've heard a lot of speculation but have we actually asked?"

oOoOoOo

The Lily

Harry awoke with a start having been dreaming of being in his cupboard under the stairs. As awareness of reality flooded in so did the realization that he was in his bunk. And he wasn't alone.

"Are you alright?"

Harry turned his head to see Luna lying next to him.

"Cupboard dream," explained Harry.

"Ah well would you like a glass of hot milk or mad, passionate sex?"

"Hmm decisions, decisions," murmured Harry.

"Now you get milk," said Luna as she sat up and walked out of the room. It took Harry a few moments to realize that Luna had just walked out of there cabin naked.

"She does this on purpose," said Harry.

Luna walked into the mess and poured a glass of milk. She gave Lerhra and Amelia Sto-Nar a smile and a small wave before disappearing back the way she had come.

"That was odd," said Amelia with a faint smile on her face.
Lerhra smiled and shrugged, "She has a touch of the seer. They are all a bit…unusual."

"True, she's also beautiful," said Amelia.

"I would advise against it, my friend. Her heart is already given."

"I know ah well the Force knows best," said Amelia with a grin for her old teacher.

oOoOoOo

"Morning Luna," said Sirius as he stood up from the pilot's chair and stretched. "Our next scheduled stop is...home."

Luna sat in the co-pilot's seat with a sad smile, "Perhaps but I...sense Harry and I shall not be there long."

Sirius' expression went from amused to composed, "I learned, after much suffering to take each day as it comes. Clichéd I know but true nonetheless."

"Wise words Sirius," said Harry from the doorway.

Sirius' smile was back as he walked toward the hatch, "I have my moments. Now I think I'll get a bite to eat and hit my pillow."

Harry sat in the pilot seat and quickly checked the readouts before turning to Luna, "What do you sense?"

"I keep seeing a darkness right at the edge of my perceptions. Nothing tangible but it's been growing since we left Coruscant."

Harry considered for a moment before replying, "Have you tried meditating on it?"

Luna's expressive eyes met his, and her doubt was clearly visible, "Yes, last night after you fell asleep. Whatever I'm sensing it's elusive. I wasn't even sure it was something until last night."

Harry extended his Force senses trying to catch a hint of what Luna was sensing. There was something...a flicker of a questing presence and a sense of emotion.

"Hatred...pure hatred," whispered Luna.

Harry could sense it now. It was as if whatever they were sensing was closer or had turned its attention toward them. As the feeling of menace grew, he tried to get some sense of what they were facing. The searching presence and something less defined, like an echo. Then without warning, he sensed Luna's presence.

"Harry break the connection it's trying to find us," warned Luna.

He immediately did so but not before he felt a wave of anger crash through the Force.

"What was that?"

"I think we caught a glimpse of Palpatine searching for us. Did you sense the other presence?"

Harry nodded, "Was it someone with Palpatine?"

"I don't think so. It felt much stronger but much further away," Luna had none of the usual humour
in her voice. "To be that far away and we could feel even an echo it was frightening."

"Even more so if it is actively helping the Sith," replied Harry.

"I take you felt it as well?" asked Lerhra from the hatch.

"Do you know what it was?" asked Harry.

"Know, no I don't know, but I fear that it is a small glimpse of our greater enemy and a glimpse at its power."

There was silence for few moments before Luna cleared her throat. "Should we warn the Jedi? I mean Palpatine was searching for something. We are just assuming it was us or we are his only target."

"No, you are right we are assuming," agreed Harry. "Perhaps it would be best to warn them. I'll drop us out of hyperspace and see if we can raise them with the comm's settings we have."

A few moments later the Lily dropped out of Hyperspace. Harry and Luna pulled up the communications logs but immediately found that Obi-Wan had removed the data files with the communication settings. As entirely reasonable as that was, it did complicate matters.

Luna began scrolling through files, "We may have dropped out of hyperspace too soon. There is no...Ah, hold on here it is. No, it isn't, bugger Obi-Wan did too good a job. I was hoping he had just hit the delete key but no, he removed the entire file."

Harry turned to look at Luna, "So what now?"

Luna turned, "Contacting them on general subspace is out. We have no idea where they are headed so we need to wait it out."

"Then we wait and let the Force guide us," said Lerhra.

"Or until Talia or one of the others on the otherwise who are willing to play messenger turn up," said Luna. "There is nothing more we can do here. Let's go home."

oOoOoOo

Haven

The Lily settled into her dock and after a few moments, the sound of her engines faded to silence.

Hermione smiled as the ramp began to lower amid a cloud of steam.

"It's good to have them back," said Ron.

"I know, busy as we've been I've still missed them."

"I wonder what the others are like," mused Ron.

"I suspect that we'll find out soon enough."

Remus Lupin waved, and Harry raised a hand in acknowledgment of the greeting. Once the hatch was fully lowered Harry and Luna led a small procession to where the welcoming party waited.

"It's good to see you all safe, I've..oooff get off Sirius," Remus found himself picked up and hugged
"Ah, Mooney nice to see you haven't burnt the place down," Sirius grinned as he let go of Remus.

"You oaf I wanted to do the formal greeting before you made a joke of it," turning back to the rest of the group Remus tried to get things back on track. "On behalf of the council, I welcome you to Haven."

Lerhra looked suitably impressed as Hermione finished giving the followers of Palawa a tour of Haven. "This is most impressive, to think that you have managed to bring together so many people and build this."

Hermione smiled and shook her head, 'We have all played a part."

"You are the Head Archivist are you not?" asked Lerhra.

"Yes, although it's far too grandiose a title as I'm the only one working full time in our archives."

Lerhra's polite smile changed into a grin, "Being an archivist is a calling, not a job Hermione. You should be proud of what you have achieved. I bet you have documented it all haven't you?"

Hermione couldn't help but smile as she nodded.

"My childhood friend was an archivist for one of the Republic's great independent centres for learning. Her love of knowledge defined her character throughout her life."

"I'm sorry I'm still learning about the greater galaxy, what was the name of the centre where she worked?"

"The Promovote Academy, sadly the academy is long since gone, but Reneaha and her colleagues managed to save most of the archives. Perhaps one-day copies of some of which will grace your archives."

"Perhaps," replied Hermione with another smile. Lerhra was very easy to talk to and while she would have loved to hear more about the archives of the Promovte Academy the time set for the council meeting was fast approaching. "I believe that the council meeting is about to start."

"Well, by all means, let us be on our way."

Remus smiled slightly as a wide-eyed Amelia studied the conjured chair,

"And anyone can do this?" asked Amelia.

"Well any Force user can, or so we have discovered. Most here are just beginning their training," explained Remus.

"That's incredible, my people have a strong connection to the Force, and we have never even considered using the Force like this." Amelia cautiously sat on the chair and then sank back into it. "Ohh and it's comfortable too. Will it stay like this or does the transformation fade?"

"Permanent transformation is possible but tiring and not used all that often. The bigger the transformation the greater the energy drain," Remus quickly conjured a single white rose. "Now I
created this from nothing, which is different from transforming something into something else. I put a fair amount of energy into the process so it should last for several hours."

Amelia took the rose and cautiously smelt the bloom, "It has a pleasant scent."

"They are one of my favourite flowers," admitted Remus.

"Would I be able to learn," asked Amelia.

"Any resident of Haven is welcome to attend classes," Remus explained before glancing at his watch. "I'm sorry Amelia, but we need to get moving. The council is meeting shortly."

oOoOoOo

Altis corrected the Padawan's feet slightly before nodding. The Padawan moved through a series of strikes and blocks before Altis once more corrected the Padawan, this time adjusting the young woman's grip. He watched carefully as she moved through the same sequence.

"Excellent work, did you feel the difference?"

"Yes Master Altis, it felt like the movements flowed more smoothly."

"Okay, Sena that is enough for today. I believe that you have another lesson soon."

"Thank you, Master," replied Sena before she walked toward the door pausing to give Harry a nod and a small wave.

"She looks to be a good student," said Harry.

"She wants to be a great Jedi and healer. I believe that Alyssa is her role model. It is good to see you again my friend."

"I wish that the trip hadn't been as eventful," replied Harry.

Altis shook his head his expression sad, "We knew this was coming. The fact that some Jedi survived is a testament to your interference. Had Luna killed Palpatine the entire Republic, perhaps even the Jedi would have turned against us. There is no way that you could have known the outcome. Even with the Force we are not omniscient."

"I know, but that doesn't make dealing with the repercussions any less dangerous," observed Harry.

"You need to keep perspective Harry. You have seen the same vision I have. The fact that some Jedi survived is a testament to your interference. Had Luna killed Palpatine the entire Republic, perhaps even the Jedi would have turned against us. There is no way that you could have known the outcome. Even with the Force we are not omniscient."

"I know, but that doesn't make dealing with the repercussions any less dangerous," observed Harry.

"You need to keep perspective Harry. You have seen the same vision I have. The fact that some Jedi survived is a testament to your interference. Had Luna killed Palpatine the entire Republic, perhaps even the Jedi would have turned against us. There is no way that you could have known the outcome. Even with the Force we are not omniscient."

"I wish that the trip hadn't been as eventful," replied Harry.

Altis shook his head his expression sad, "We knew this was coming. The fact that some Jedi survived is a testament to your interference. Had Luna killed Palpatine the entire Republic, perhaps even the Jedi would have turned against us. There is no way that you could have known the outcome. Even with the Force we are not omniscient."

"I know, but that doesn't make dealing with the repercussions any less dangerous," observed Harry.

"You need to keep perspective Harry. You have seen the same vision I have. The fact that some Jedi survived is a testament to your interference. Had Luna killed Palpatine the entire Republic, perhaps even the Jedi would have turned against us. There is no way that you could have known the outcome. Even with the Force we are not omniscient."

"I wish that the trip hadn't been as eventful," replied Harry.

Altis shook his head his expression sad, "We knew this was coming. The fact that some Jedi survived is a testament to your interference. Had Luna killed Palpatine the entire Republic, perhaps even the Jedi would have turned against us. There is no way that you could have known the outcome. Even with the Force we are not omniscient."

"I know, but that doesn't make dealing with the repercussions any less dangerous," observed Harry.

"You need to keep perspective Harry. You have seen the same vision I have. The fact that some Jedi survived is a testament to your interference. Had Luna killed Palpatine the entire Republic, perhaps even the Jedi would have turned against us. There is no way that you could have known the outcome. Even with the Force we are not omniscient."

"I wish that the trip hadn't been as eventful," replied Harry.

Altis shook his head his expression sad, "We knew this was coming. The fact that some Jedi survived is a testament to your interference. Had Luna killed Palpatine the entire Republic, perhaps even the Jedi would have turned against us. There is no way that you could have known the outcome. Even with the Force we are not omniscient."

"I know, but that doesn't make dealing with the repercussions any less dangerous," observed Harry.

"You need to keep perspective Harry. You have seen the same vision I have. The fact that some Jedi survived is a testament to your interference. Had Luna killed Palpatine the entire Republic, perhaps even the Jedi would have turned against us. There is no way that you could have known the outcome. Even with the Force we are not omniscient."

"I wish that the trip hadn't been as eventful," replied Harry.

Altis shook his head his expression sad, "We knew this was coming. The fact that some Jedi survived is a testament to your interference. Had Luna killed Palpatine the entire Republic, perhaps even the Jedi would have turned against us. There is no way that you could have known the outcome. Even with the Force we are not omniscient."

"I know, but that doesn't make dealing with the repercussions any less dangerous," observed Harry.

"You need to keep perspective Harry. You have seen the same vision I have. The fact that some Jedi survived is a testament to your interference. Had Luna killed Palpatine the entire Republic, perhaps even the Jedi would have turned against us. There is no way that you could have known the outcome. Even with the Force we are not omniscient."

"I wish that the trip hadn't been as eventful," replied Harry.

Altis shook his head his expression sad, "We knew this was coming. The fact that some Jedi survived is a testament to your interference. Had Luna killed Palpatine the entire Republic, perhaps even the Jedi would have turned against us. There is no way that you could have known the outcome. Even with the Force we are not omniscient."

"I know, but that doesn't make dealing with the repercussions any less dangerous," observed Harry.
"I think you look, beautiful Mistress," offered Velath as she brushed Luna's hair.

"Thank you Velath, but please Luna will do," Luna made sure that there was no censure in her voice. "Can you pass me the tool kit?"

Velath watched as Luna opened a small section on her artificial hand and made a small adjustment. Luna flexed her fingers a few times before replacing the tool and resealing the synthskin.

"Does it hurt?"

Luna shook her head, "No, not really, but it is annoying sometimes. Things feel different through the receptors so if I'm touching something with both hands, well it gets a bit odd."

Velath grinned, "What about when you are with Harry?"

Luna laughed and assumed a prim demeanor, "Well that is a circumstance where two hands are needed although having a much stronger hand is a problem sometimes. I don't want to damage anything."

Velath smirked, "I see, well he is a most impressive male."

"And has anyone caught your eye?"

Velath's memories shifted to an image of a woman...a girl with dark pink skin and sapphire blue hair. For a moment before she shook her in dismissal, "I haven't been looking, besides I have been pretty busy keeping you out of trouble."

"You are my friend, and I want you to be happy. Take some time to meet the others, make some friends and socialize."

Velath nodded, "I will, once you are safe."

Luna suppressed a sigh. Ever since finding her on Dathomir Velath had been dedicated to her welfare. She was an attentive student and was developing her skills quickly, but she had few friends even among the other Dathomiri. "How much time do we have until the council is scheduled to start?"

Ret watched as two women he took to be Dathomiri engaged in a vicious lightsaber duel interspersed with various Force based attacks. It looked highly effective.

"You are one of the newcomers, are you not?"

He turned to see a women dressed similarly to the Dathomiri studying him.

"Yes, I just arrived a few hours ago. I haven't intruded have I?"

"No, I was simply seeing if you needed directions."

Ret shook his head, "I was merely watching your training, your students are quite skilled."

"Ahh, you have had training yourself, Master...?"
"My name is Ret and yes I've spent much of my life learning Teräs Käsi."

"I am Salara of the Bright cave clan; I have not heard of Terra..."

"Teräs Käsi," corrected Ret. "It means steel hands."

Salara raised an eyebrow as she studied Ret, "I see and would you care for a spar, so I can see your steel hands in action?"

Ret smiled and offered Salara a deep bow but without breaking eye contact.

Salara nodded in return before launching a lightning fast punch aimed at Ret's chest.

Ret stepped in and blocked with his right and in the same movement lashed out with a punch with his left hand. Salara easily blocked the counter punch and attempted a knee strike.

The two fighters moved back and forth exchanging punches and kicks. Each of them was speeding up as their movements were increasingly augmented by the Force.

Then Salara stepped back, disengaging to end the furious session. "Very impressive, if it is permitted would you be willing to teach me?"

"I am not sure you need too much help Salara, you are a very skilled opponent."

Salara laughed and shrugged, "You can always learn more. A lesson I have had driven home since coming here."

"I would be honored, however if I may ask?"

"Of course," replied Salara.

"How did you anticipate the foot sweep?"

"Your shoulder shifted slightly as you adjusted your hip. Although in truth it was more luck than anticipation," explained Salara.

"I shall watch it in the future; unfortunately I need to attend a meeting. Perhaps later when can discuss this further?"

Salara nodded and watched Ret leave the room. He was a powerfully muscled and very skilled male…good looking too. Perhaps there was more to learn than she had anticipated.

oOoOoOo

"Firstly let me welcome Lerhra, Amelia and Ret as representatives of the followers of Palawa. They seek refuge after their seers have seen glimpses of a dark, oppressive future."

Altis nodded toward the three followers of Palawa, who were seated next to Harry and Luna and then took his place.

Lerhra stood and bowed toward Altis. "I thank you for your greeting. When our elders allocated this task to me, the task of reaching out to those we called the agents of the new order, those who stood against the darkness. For many centuries, our sect has hidden itself away. Hiding our secrets and hoarding our knowledge as our numbers dwindled. Then as our sect dwindled, we began to sense a change coming. Our seers began having visions of a dark, twisted future. Fearing what they saw, we started searching for these agents so that we could help preserve our beliefs and knowledge."
Harry stood and studied the gathered people of Haven before turning to face Lerhra. "Any who seek to preserve knowledge of the Force, who would work toward confronting the darkness many of us here have seen for ourselves, are welcome at Haven."

Yanra, the elderly matriarch of the Bright Cave Clan, stood and walked to stand next to Harry and Lerhra. "Haven is a place of strength and safety, be welcome amongst your sisters and brothers."

That seemed to be the signal for the people of Haven to step forward. Singly and then in groups people came forward and welcomed the three newcomers.

"That went well," said Luna as she wrapped her arms around Harry and rested her chin on his shoulder.

"Altis and the others have done well; I expected any cohesiveness to take longer to develop, to see it in my mind was one thing to see it in reality, it's inspiring."

"And a little disappointing," added Luna "Seeing it thriving, I had somehow expected us to be more needed."

"Does that make me arrogant?" asked Harry.

Luna kissed Harry's neck, just below his ear, "No, besides we've been away so much. We have a greater role to play my love, and we've just gotten started."

Harry smiled as he reached backward to grasp Luna's bum, "Do you think we can slip away then?"

Luna responded with a laugh and stepped back as she took Harry's hand. "While I believe that's an excellent idea beloved, perhaps we should mingle a bit first. We don't want a reputation do we?"

As Harry undid Luna's bra, he gestured to his left, and the door slammed closed. Two steps later Luna pulled her tunic off and helped Harry out of his. By the time, they reached the bed both only wore trousers.

In the corridor, Velath sighed and as quietly as possible pulled the slightly ajar door closed.

"You are jealous?"

Velath turned to see the Zeltron girl Sahdra leaning against the wall.

"What are you doing here?" demanded Velath as a scowl formed on her face.

"Watching you," replied Sahdra with an innocent smile.

"You sh….what, what do you mean watching me?"

Sahdra stepped forward, closer to Velath, "I like you, I like watching you…and feeling your emotions as you watch Master Luna. Loyalty and love are very similar emotions."

"My emotions, love," Velath was having trouble speaking as Sahdra stepped forward again bringing with her a hint of an alluring scent.

"I'm an empath, so I'm pretty wiz at sensing what's going on," explained Sahdra as she reached up to run a finger over the tattoo on Velath's face.
"Don't do that," said Velath as she stepped back, away from the Zeltron.

Sahdra looks crestfallen, "I'm sorry I didn't mean to upset you."

Velath was unsure what to say and before she could come up with something Sahdra smiled sadly and walked off, disappearing around the corner.

oOoOoOo

"How bad was it?" asked Hermione.

Harry took a sip of his butterbeer before answering, "As we flew overhead the Jedi Temple was under attack and burning, so pretty bad."

Ron shook his head, "Bloody hell, I know we'd seen it but...to know it happened outside of our visions."

Harry shifted slightly as Luna leaned against him, "And yet in some ways it was still a victory. Altis pointed out that we've seemingly managed to avoid the least desirable outcome of our visions. The Jedi order has survived and with it, their knowledge and history. We have groups of Force users being gathered here, safe from the Sith."

"And you saved a great many lives and even though Palpatine escaped he's been exposed now. We have gained more time to maneuver," said Remus.

Luna shifted slightly as her expression became serious, "I'm still worried, Harry. I have sensed Palpatine trying to find us, thanks to our training and the Force based wards protecting Haven we have so far escaped his search. Since Coruscant we've sensed something, an echo in the Force, another darker presence behind the Sith."

Everyone in the room knew what Luna was implying and for a few moments no one spoke.

Eventually Sirius broke the silence, "So what do we do?"

"We carry on, warn our people, but we continue our mission," said Hermione. "That the enemy was seeking us out is no surprise."

Harry smiled at his friends words. Hermione would deny it but since coming to Haven she had changed becoming more confident in her abilities and those of her allies. In her youth, she was hesitant now she was decisive. "I think you are right Mione, we don't want to fall into the same trap as the Jedi. We are not the enemies of the Sith, it's not our role to oppose them, we seek balance."

"And this shadowy presence?" asked Sirius.

"Has there been anything similar reported here at Haven? I haven't heard anything reported," said Remus.

"We need to check," said Luna. "It might mean that Harry and I are being targeted...Lerhra seemed to sense it as well."

"We are going round and round here; we don't know enough to decide on a course of action here and now. So as Hermione said we carry on with our mission and we be careful," said Harry as the others nodded. "The other thing we need to consider is what we do about the Jedi."

"Do we need to do anything?" asked Ron. "You've derailed the Sith's plans and prevented what
"It's a fair question," agreed Sirius. "I'm not saying that we wash our hands of them, but we need perspective here."

Harry closed his eyes embraced the Force letting it flow around his awareness as he sought guidance. Within the Force wards of Haven, he didn't sense any presence, that was as he had expected. Slowly he let his consciousness expand, finding connections in the flow of energy.

"Be careful beloved," said a familiar voice.

"Talia," whispered Harry.

"The dark ones cannot sense Haven, not while they have no physical presence in this galaxy. They must work through others..."

"Palpatine," said Harry "That's why we needed to identify the Sith."

"Yes, Palpatine has grown strong, corrupting others and twisting the Force into horrors even the maddest of his brethren would have been repelled by. Remember beloved he seeks to dominate or destroy...he remains a danger to all that you are destined to build."

"I am unsure of my path Master," admitted Harry.

"Protect what can be protected, preserve the knowledge, you must bring balance," whispered Talia.

Harry felt Talia's presence begin to fade.

"The dark ones are seeking to destroy everything about you...everything that threatens them. The Force, Magic...they seek an end to it all before it begins, they seek the source," Talia's presence faded altogether.

"Harry?"

Harry's eyes snapped open to look into Luna's.

"What is it?" asked Luna.

"I think we have a problem,"

HoloNet News Special Broadcast

Republic Senate Welcomes Chancellors Return

The full Senate has sat for the first time since the attempted coup led by the Jedi Council. Chancellor Palpatine has roundly condemned the attempt and has vowed to restructure the Republic to make such illegal actions impossible in the future. He has vowed that the restructure will guarantee peace and stability.

In the interests of public safety and order, the military continue to patrol Coruscant and some other important political hubs.

Read more here
Chancellor Tours Damaged Senate Building As Senate Calls For Decisive Action Against Rebel Systems

As Chancellor Palpatine toured the heavily damaged Senate building several prominent senior Senators have called for a decisive military response to the actions of several major systems that remain opposed to the legal government of the Republic.

Ludo Morth was quoted outside his ruined Senate offices, "The leaders of these systems must be made to see reason. The Jedi have manipulated these people and in all likelihood they continue to do so. I call on the Chancellor to deal decisively with these systems so that we do not have to deal with another situation like the separatists."

The Chancellor dismissed fears of another protracted war, "I shall attempt to resolve the political situation peacefully. Let these rebellious systems see our resolution as we enact trade embargos and other sanctions."

Read more here

Merchant Ship "Fairwind" – Jedi Refugee Fleet

"Be careful you must, dangerous the core worlds are now," warned Yoda.

"We will be as careful as we can Master Yoda," replied Obi-Wan Kenobi.

"Intelligence we seek Master Kenobi, time for action later it will be," Yoda addressed Kenobi, but his eyes traveled to Anakin and Ahsoka. "May the Force be with you," with that final benediction Yoda’s image flickered and disappeared.

"Why does everyone think Anakin and I are going to get into trouble?" complained Ahsoka.

Obi-Wan raised an eyebrow in amused disbelief before studying the navi-comp. "The course is laid in I believe. You have the rendezvous co-ordinates Anakin?"

"Memorized," confirmed Anakin.

"Me too," added Ahsoka.

Obi-Wan gestured for Anakin to take the pilot's seat, "Good so if we are separated make for there."

The freighter shuddered slightly, and several warning lights came on as Anakin begin bringing the systems on-line. "I'm more worried about this rust bucket making it to our destination."

"Master Triel insists that it's completely spaceworthy Anakin, we could hardly fly through Republic space in a Jedi ship," Obi-Wan replied as he sat in a spare seat. "Although I admit that I will be pleased to reach Alderaan."

Ahsoka sat in the co-pilot's seat and started checking the warning lights. "Nothing critical…it looks like the power distribution system more than anything else. I will get R2 to have a look."

A loud warning tone had sounded before the lights flicked, died and then came back on.

Anakin powered down the engines, "Right, there is no way I am activating the hyperspace drive before we have a look at the power systems….R2?"
It had taken nearly three hours before Anakin was satisfied that the power plant was stable enough to risk hyperspace. R2-D2 had eventually rewired most of the power distribution system.

With a nod to his colleagues, Anakin pushed the hyperspace lever forward.

Coruscant

Darth Sidious shuddered as he sat back in his chair. He had failed, once more to find any trace of his foes. Even with his control and his prodigious power he had been denied time and again. Whatever it was that hid them it was beyond his ability to pierce.

"My Lord?"

Sidious didn't need to turn in his chair to identify the speaker, "What is it Dravian?"

Dravian remained kneeling, "A report my Lord, it is unverified, but I felt you should see it."

Sidious turned and extended his hand summoning the data pad held by Dravian. The report was from an agent among the mercantile houses of the Outer Rim worlds. Some individuals that the agent had identified as possibly being Jedi had been spotted buying bulk foodstuffs. The agent had tried to enquire further before they took possession but had somehow failed to find out anything of value. Suppressing his anger at his agent's incompetence he considered the information.

There was no reason for the Jedi to be buying food; the Agricorps had supplied a large surplus. The date was prior to order 66...what did it mean? Had the Jedi been preparing secret bases unbeknownst to him?

"What do you believe Dravian?" Dravian was cunning and he had a great deal of knowledge around the Agricorps given his past.

Dravian shook his head, "The Jedi would have no need to buy supplies in bulk. So who else would have the money or need? Outer Rim merchants require hard credits so whoever it is had sufficient money to buy the goods and the ships to haul the goods themselves. These adepts have to feed themselves, I suspect it may be them. It is a pity that Trovas failed to follow through more thoroughly."

"Yes it is, see to it that he is not in a position to do so again," replied Sidious with naked malevolence.

"I will see to it, My Lord."

"Good, I want you to find me an answer Dravian."

"Yes My Lord."

Haven

"Bloody hell she meant Earth didn't she?" said Ron as Hermione finished explaining what had happened to the newly arrived Altis.

"It could mean Earth," admitted Remus. "The source...I'm not entirely sure what that means, though.
There isn't really a source of magic; you are born with the ability."

Altis ran a hand through his hair as he shook his head, "Perhaps it means something else but can we risk not acting?"

Luna looked worried as she considered what they knew, "Talia's vision was that Harry and I would form the adepts. The adepts mission is to preserve knowledge and hopefully, bring balance to the Force. With that knowledge and some balance, our galaxy will have a chance to defeat an enemy so destructive that we can barely comprehend it. What if that enemy were to find Earth?"

"Then we need to warn Earth," suggested Altis.

Hermione was the first of the Earthborn to respond, "It's not that simple beside a few people in the know, extra-terrestrial intelligent life is science fiction or at best a topic of scientific speculation. Not to mention that there is no central government….well maybe the UN but we would be laughed out of New York if we aren't locked up as lunatics. Even if we took proof of the greater galaxy, actually that might even be worse."

"What do you mean?" asked Sirius.

"I don't fancy be experimented on by the military, how about you?"

Remus looked thoughtful as he considered the situation, "The ICW might believe us but as a body it has little real power."

"Not to mention that it's populated by arch-conservatives," said Sirius. "If we were to take this to the ICW they'd wave the International Statute of Wizarding Secrecy at us and assume that our magic would protect us from some non-wizard threat."

"Tell Dad," suggested Ron. "He knows a lot of people in the ministry, and he gets on well with the minister. We might not be able to tell everyone at once, but we can start letting the right people know."

"And if Palpatine sends a fleet against Earth?" asked Hermione as she thought about her remaining friends and family still on Earth.

"Then we won't have a choice," said Harry.

oOoOoOo

"I wish you would reconsider Harry."

Harry turned to face Altis, "I understand my friend I really do, but I won't leave Haven less well defended than I need to so the Wookie Gunner stays here. The Lily will be fine."

"You will take on a few extra crewmates I assume," Altis conceded the point regarding additional ships. He had argued that they should take at least two ships to Earth.

A lopsided grin appeared on Harry's face, "I don't think that will be a problem, Luna's having to turn people away. At this point, I can't see us needing more people."

"Are you still taking Alyssa?" asked Altis.

"I think so; she is an excellent healer and a great ambassador for Haven."

"And as a non-human she will be very convincing for the non-believers," added Altis with a smile.
Once more Harry had proven just how perceptive he could be.

"There is that," agreed Harry.

"Well, I had better get moving as we've got a few issues with the Chu'unthor."

"Oh?"

"Nothing too bad; it is mainly just maintenance work that's backed up while everyone has been busy training here. Well, that and the deflector shields have been working hard to protect the old girl from debris. Callista and Ravis have been working on a repair schedule."

"Any other issues?" asked Harry.

"With the food production improving and with the bulk supplies we purchased that issue is dealt with, which was one of our biggest concerns. The Dathomiri have been a gift from the Force mainly because they count quite a few farmers among their number. The droids had been doing well with the hydroponics but having some experts...well you saw the meals, the variety."

"I did notice although I didn't realize."

Altis grinned and gestured toward the door, "No reason you should have, there's not a lot else and what there is will have to wait I think."

Harry turned to see Sirius, "Did you need me?"

"Remus does, he's been putting together a shopping list with Hermione. Apparently she and Alyssa have been talking, and now her wish list is reaching epic proportions. We are getting worried that we may end up needing a fleet of merchant ships, and she may bankrupt the Black family, not that I care about that. Anyway if we don't get it finalized there is no way we'll be ready to leave in the morning."

Altis laughed at Harry's expression before sobering, "I can see that your busy Harry, you need to be careful my friend. I have a bad feeling that the Sith will not stop with the retreat of the Jedi and Palpatine knows that we are out there somewhere."

In high orbit of Corellia – Cintar - Dreadnaught Heavy Cruiser Corellian Defence Fleet

Garm Bel Iblis Senator for Corellia although now it was probably the former Senator read the HoloNet news with a look of disgust on his face. Palpatine's grab for power was now apparent to any politically adept observer. Given what he now knew it was becoming more and more apparent that the recent war had been almost certainly orchestrated by Palpatine. The Jedi had been duped on a massive scale; by the eternal core the entire republic had been duped. It was only by being off world that he had avoided arrest or worse.

"Garm, the shuttle is just landing," reported his aide Lalida.

"Thank you Lalida, please have them escorted to the main conference room. I will be along shortly."

"Yes Sir," replied Lalida as she left the observation room.

There were decisions to be made and no amount of righteous anger would change the facts. After a few minutes watching Corelli through the oversized viewport Garm took a deep breath and nodded
to himself, it was show time.

"Garm, it is good to see you, my friend," said Senator Obal Nor.

Garm nodded, "I am relieved to see all of you safe when Coruscant fell I had feared you all lost or at best hostages."

"We were lucky if we had not received warnings from Senator Amidala and Master Yoda we would have been caught up in events," said Felica Solmarin. The older woman looked exhausted.

"Did any other of the Loyalists survive?" asked Obal.

"I received a short encrypted message from Bail Organa. He and Padmé were amongst a group of Senators evacuated by the Jedi," replied Garm.

"What of Mon Mothma?" asked Felica.

"She got off Coruscant I know that for sure although her ship was destroyed as it lifted off," said Garm. "Her bodyguard used the ship as a decoy."

"That says it all doesn't it, Palpatine is playing for keeps if he is openly attacking his opponents," said Felica in a resigned voice.

"What do we do?" asked Obal.

Garm activated a HoloProjector and an image of the sector appeared, "Prepare to fight but with subtlety. The Corellian Defense fleet won't be able to hold the system against a determined attack so we don't. We move what resources we can from each of our worlds, and we move to the unknown region or the outer rim and begin building a military force to fight Palpatine."

Felica frowned as she considered Garm's words, "Will that be enough? With the Jedi gone who will lead the military?"

"The Jedi have not abandoned you Senator Solmarin," said a voice from the doorway.

The three former Senators turned to see four Jedi entering the room. All four were clad in green robes, a fact not lost on three politicians.

"Green Jedi," whispered Obal. The Corellian Jedi had long been known as the Green Jedi due to the dark green robes that they had adopted. They were rarely seen off Corellia and while they acknowledged the Jedi Council they gave their first allegiance to Corellia.

The eldest of the four stepped forward and bowed, "On behalf of the Corellian Jedi enclave we pledge our service to you Senator Bel Iblis."

Garm had blinked several times before he answered, "I...I thank you, Master?"

"Master Hull," said the eldest before introducing the other Jedi as Masters Cortel, Tar Seras, and Hobban. "We have command of five Defense Force Dreadnaught and their crew as well as two battalions of reserves, all volunteers. Our cousins on Coruscant may have been blindsided but we are now forewarned."

"Have you been attacked?" asked Obal.

Hull nodded, "We had people embedded with the Clone troops mainly in the mid rim, over a dozen of our brethren, four returned to us."
"Have you been in contact with the Jedi Council?" asked Garm.

Cortel nodded, "Master Yoda sent us a message." He left it at that as he recognized the Orders need for secrecy around their relocation. Given the dire situation, they had followed the same example and moved their people into hiding.

Garm nodded and turned his attention to his data pad. It was time to start contacting his political allies and spreading the word.

The Burrow – Earth

Arthur Weasley hid his grin as he watched Fleur maneuver herself across the room. The Veela was fast approaching her due date and was doing so with less than good grace. Due to a quirk in biology Veela and many part Veela had a longer gestation. For a full Veela it was twelve months for part Veela it was anywhere between nine and twelve, Fleur looked to be going the whole twelve.

"Are you alright my dear?" asked Molly as she entered the room with a tea tray.

"Oui although I feel like the beach ball," complained Fleur as she sat on the lounge.

"Would you like a cup of tea?"

"DAD FLOO FOR YOU."

"There's no need to yell Ginny," scolded Molly.

Arthur shook his head and walked to the kitchen to find Ginny sitting at the kitchen table reading Witch Weekly and ignoring the head amidst the green flames.

"Arthur, thank Merlin," said a breathless Simon Taterby. Arthur's newest assistant was a recent Hogwarts graduate and a rather good fit being a half-blood who grew up in the Muggle world. "You need to come into the office, Sir."

"What's happened, Simon?"

"There's been a big flap with the Prime Minister's office. The Minister has asked for you to attend a meeting at ten."

Arthur looked at his watch and signed it was already nine; it seemed like a nice relaxed Sunday was off the agenda. "Alright, I'll be in the office in ten minutes."

"Molly have I got clean robes?"

Ministry of Magic – Mundane Relations Office

Arthur took a sip of his tea and sighed. Ministry tea was, well it was ministry tea and not a spot on Molly's blend. He managed another sip, and a bite of his crumpet before the newly elected Minister of Magic Amelia Bones walked in followed by the Rufus Scrimgeour the new head of the DMLE.

Amelia was an old acquaintance of Arthur and so didn't hesitate to steal a bite of his crumpet with an unrepentant grin, "Arthur sorry haven't had breakfast yet."
Arthur waved away her complaint, "Simon can you get two more cups of tea and some more crumpets please?"

"Right away Mister Weasley," replied Simon as he scuttled out almost relieved to be out of the room of top floor officials.

"He's new," explained Arthur.

"Ah that explains it," said Amelia while Rufus merely grinned. "Right well I'm sorry to call you in on a Sunday but we've got a situation brewing with the Mundane's." Amelia had been one of the supporters of the changes in the ministry and had been a co-sponsor of the bill that pushed through new bigotry laws. The term Mundane was gradually replacing Muggle as the polite term for the non-magical.

"Right well don't worry about that Minister, tea and crumpet will have to do."

"Well, we've certainly not called you in for something routine. I've had the Prime Minister asking if we have anything to do with these sightings."

"What sightings?" asked Arthur.

"These flying ships...I take it you haven't read the paper yet?" asked Rufus.

Reading select Mundane papers was now expected on Senior Ministry officials as Minister Bones would not accept ignorance of the non-magical as an excuse.

"My daughter in law is staying with us, she is quite a way along," explained Arthur.

Rufus nodded, he knew how that went his eldest was pregnant again. "Well apparently there have been sightings, credible sightings of...what's the word...ah yes unidentified flying objects. The Prime Minister wants to know if it's magic."

Arthur didn't know what to say to that, so he considered his options as Simon hustled back in with a tray.

"Simon is it?" asked Rufus.

"Yes, Sir."

"Have you got the Sunday Times out there?"

"Yes Sir I'll get it for you," Simon disappeared for a moment returning with the paper.

"Good man, thank you," said Rufus as Simon quickly left the room.

Arthur read the front page with a frown; it looked different but similar enough that he recognized the starship on the front page.

"So what do you think a prankster?" asked Amelia. She knew Arthur had experience dealing with just such pranks in the past. "Are you alright Arthur?" The red haired wizard had paled as he read the front page.

Arthur sighed and lowered the paper. He had hoped that he wouldn't be in this situation, but there was not a choice now. "Simon please establish the privacy ward."

Simon nodded and after a few moments the background sounds deadened and then disappeared.
Amelia raised an eyebrow as she peered at her subordinate through her monocle, "Arthur what's going on?"

"You know how I told you, Hermione, Ron and Harry were abroad studying?"

Once Amelia and Rufus emerged from the Pensive Amelia turned a gimlet eye toward Arthur.

"Why in Morgana's name didn't you say anything Arthur?" demanded Amelia.

Arthur winced, before straightening, "Well it was a bit outside of our jurisdiction."

Rufus laughed, "He's got you there Amelia." He quickly sobered however as Amelia frowned.

"Sorry...but well I'm not sure what to say...Aliens, Alien Wizards, the Prime Minister, Merlin the world is going to go crazy over this if it gets out."

"Right well we have to face the bloody Prime Minister in half an hour so what the hell do I say?"

Rufus shook his head, "As much as I hate to say it we might have to stall here. We don't want to start a panic."

Amelia opened her mouth and then shut it before sighing, "You are right we might have to lie to keep order here, at least until we have a better handle on events. Damn, I don't want to turn into Fudge!"

"Politics at its best," grumbled Rufus.

"How long will it take Potter to get here?" asked Amelia.

"Umm, I'm not sure. I can ask," explained Arthur.

"After the meeting, we'll all have a discussion. Right now you two can help me prepare for our meeting."

It was an agitated Hermione that knocked on Harry and Luna's door.

"Hermione, what's wrong?" asked Luna as she pulled the door open.

"We've got a problem."
Chapter 22

A New Order - Chapter 22

All publicly recognizable characters, settings, etc. are the property of their respective owners. The original characters and plot are the property of the author. The author is in no way associated with the owners, creators, or producers of any media franchise. No copyright infringement is intended.

I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars, and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its actual owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

I'm back in the saddle after a long and entirely unavoidable writing hiatus - so without further ado let's get the story rolling!

Warning: There is a brief, non-graphic reference to sexual assault and dark ritual in this chapter. It is not descriptive, but I feel that it's fair to warn readers.

As a special request for an avid fan of this fic, I've included a "Cast of Characters".

**Jedi (Known Survivors)**

Jedi Master Yoda
Jedi Master Cin Drallig
Jedi Master Stass Allie
Jedi Master Ki-Adi-Mundi
Jedi Master Shaak Ti
Jedi Master Kollus
Jedi Master Moris Tel-Thall
Jedi Master Kel-Tor
Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi
Jedi Master Sian Jeisel
Jedi Master Siri Tachi
Jedi Master Adi Gallia
Jedi Knight Serra Keto
Jedi Knight Anakin Skywalker
Jedi Knight Kel Nar
Jedi Master Moris Tel-Thall
Jedi Master Kel-Tor
Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi
Jedi Master Sian Jeisel
Jedi Master Siri Tachi
Jedi Master Adi Gallia
Jedi Master Tera Sinube
Jedi Master Luminara Unduli
Jedi Archivist Jocasta Nu
Jedi Knight Anakin Skywalker
Jedi Knight Kel Nar
Jedi Knight Aayla Secura
Padawan Kai Justiss
Padawan Barriss Offee
Padawan Ahsoka Tano
Padawan Bene
Padawan Javit Cord
Padawan Zett Jukassa
Padawan O-Mer
Padawan Norlan Quill
Padawan Marlyn Shay
An Additional 7 Padawan Learners
31 Younglings

**Haven – Named Residents**

Talia Tal-Shin – Force Ghost

Darth Vectivus – Force Ghost

Adept Harry Potter – Leader of the Adept

Adept Luna Lovegood – Leader of the Adept

Archivist Witch/Adept Hermione Granger

Wizard/Adept Ronald Weasley
Adept Keisha
Wizard/Adept Sirius Black
Wizard/Adept Remus Lupin
Jedi Master Djinn Altis
Jedi Healer Alyssa
Jedi Knight Ash Jarvee
Salara of the Bright Cave Clan
Yanara – Elder of Bright Cave Clan
Adept Velath Cha
Jedi Knight Callista Masana
Jedi Knight Hanna Balest
Jedi Knight Soran Thell
Jedi Master Ravis Thesa
Talliah Thesa
Jedi Padawan Sahdra
Ret – Follower of Palawa
Lerhra – Follower of Palawa
Amelia Sto-Nar – Vahla Follower of Palawa

Darksiders
Darth Sidious/Chancellor Palpatine
Aralina Silk – Deceased Sith Agent
Asaji Ventress – Sith Acolyte
Dravian – Dark Jedi/Sith Agent
Sev'Rance Tann – Sith Acolyte

Oh and please remember – This is AU people.

Last Time:
"Hermione, what's wrong?" asked Luna as she pulled the door open.
"We've got a problem."
Arthur Weasley made no effort to hide his relief as he walked into his kitchen after speaking to Ron and Hermione.

"Well, Arthur?" asked Amelia. It was not that she didn't trust her subordinate, but she wasn't sure why she was in his kitchen.

"How much do you know about muggle science?"

Amelia adjusted her monocle, "I've done the required accreditation training the same as you."

Senior members of the department of magical law enforcement were usually put through specialist training that was meant to help them understand the non-magical worlds policing. Most full blooded magical's needed it to understand the policing opportunities inherent with 'mundane' science.

"I...I'm not entirely sure how to begin explaining."

Amelia was by no means slow, "I'm assuming that this has something to do with the disappearance and return of Harry Potter and Luna Lovegood."

Arthur nodded, "There is a lot more to the story and believe me it's, well it's going to be hard to believe but well I'll let Harry explain."

Amelia watched as Arthur placed a large device on the kitchen table and began to manipulate what were presumably its controls. A few moments later a flickering image of Harry Potter appeared.

"Arthur.....Harry?"

The image of Harry gave a small, polite bow, "Madam Bones...I'd be happy to explain the technology, but we are rather short on time at the moment. Arthur tells me that there have been some sightings that you are looking at. Before we deal with the situation, I need to explain some things to you...."

Amelia Bones was, thanks to her job rather difficult to shock but as Potter explained she felt overwhelmed. Civilizations in space, alien refugees and what sounded like the start of a war. "So what do we do? If they truly have flying craft and advanced weapons as well as their version of magic I doubt we can easily stop them."

"Now for the good news, I think. If the fleet are who I think, you most likely are not looking at an invasion or anything nefarious. They truly are refugees or perhaps exiles. Either way they are looking for somewhere to settle."

"Can't we ask them to move on, go somewhere else?" asked Amelia.

"Of course and if I'm right, they should do so. I'd suggest however that you might want to meet with them," the image of Harry made a placating gesture as a frowning Amelia opened her mouth to speak. "I might not share all their beliefs, but the Jedi and I do share enemies. For them to survive they'll need assistance."

"What sort of assistance are we talking about?" asked Amelia. The Wizarding world was still recovering from Voldemort's recent rebirth and final demise and was not in a position to offer substantial financial help.

"I'm sure they'd welcome agricultural supplies and the like, but specifically they need warding where
ever they do settle."

"Warding?"

"The Sith, our shared enemy are capable of a limited form of scrying so basic warding should afford them a great deal of protection from detection."

Amelia considered Harry's words for a few moments before answering, "The goblins are expensive. They are the best but, well I'm not sure how they'll react to such a …unique offer Mister Potter. Basic warding magic is relatively commonplace, so maybe that might do. Although if we use ministry warders we might not be able to keep it quiet."

Harry's image turned to look at Arthur causing Amelia to raise an eyebrow in surprise at the sophistication of the device given that it obviously allowed Harry to see who he was talking to.

"Arthur, please use the Potter vault to pay for anything the Ministry may balk on," said Harry before turning back to Amelia. "I know I've explained but it truly important that we move quickly if the Sith were to find Earth it would be a disaster. Considering that they want the Jedi exterminated and if they discovered the magical world, it would be seen as a similar threat."

Amelia Bones was a survivor of two underground wars and had no intention of being dragged into a third conflict. "I understand Harry what do we need to do?"

oOoOoOo

Jedi Master Yoda listened intently to the message being broadcast on a number of channels in slightly accented basic. He had been looking at the data around the mysterious Force shielding scattered across the third planet when the message had started.

"This is minister Amelia Bones I am seeking to communicate with the fleet at the edge of our solar system; please respond... This is minister Amelia Bones I am seeking to communicate with the fleet at the edge of our solar system; please respond..."

With a slight adjustment, Yoda sat up straighter and opened a channel.

"Jedi Master Yoda this is."

A moment later the image of a middle-aged human male appeared, "One moment please."

"Thank you for replying Master Jedi," replied a familiar voice as his image appeared above the holocom.

"Harry...surprised I am," said Yoda as he considered the Force Adept.

"I have been asked by my government to discuss your needs."

"Your homeworld this is?"

"I'm sure that you had already deduced that fact Master Jedi," Harry calmly replied.

"Know our situation you do," said Yoda as he studied Harry's unsmiling image.

"Yes I do, and I'm willing to help you in ways you might not suspect, but there will be a price Master Jedi."

"A price," echoed Yoda with a frown as he unconsciously twisted his glimmer stick in his hands.
'Had he misread the young man?'

"You will lead your fleet away from Earth; my people are for the most part unprepared for such a meeting and would be unable to repel an attack from enemies that you would bring to their door. In return, we will offer you the support of our healers, raw materials and more importantly people who can create protections to hide you from the Sith."

"Extracted a price he did," said Yoda as he joined the senior Jedi that remained on board in the cargo hold that now served as their meeting room.


"Stay away from his home world we must for the aid we seek."

"I mean no disrespect here but how does a teenager speak for an entire pre-hyperspace civilization?" asked Siri Tachi.

Stass Allie sighed, "That has yet to be fully established, but it may not matter if he has alerted those he trusts.

Cin Drallig cleared his throat before giving his opinion, "I know that there have been doubts, but I believe that we can trust the adepts on this. Remember they have allied themselves with Altis and his people and they were at least partially responsible for our survival."

"Hmmm, allies I believe they are but risking much on their words we are."

"The future of the order," acknowledged Luminara Unduli, "Perhaps we should accept the terms. We needed the assistance and given our current situation we should be trusting the Force to guide our actions."

Yoda straightened, "Then accept we will, a new destination however we shall need."

Arthur Weasley watched the night skies nervously as he waited for the "shuttle" to appear.

"There it is," said Bill.

Arthur looked to where his eldest son was pointing up at the evening sky. The ministry wizards and witches that stood waiting were soon whispering as the bus-sized shuttle descended.

"Are you ready Arthur?" asked Rufus as the shuttle landed in the middle of the large field.

"As I'll ever be," replied Arthur as he squared his shoulders.

A few moments later a section of the shuttle folded down amid a cloud of steam in the cold evening air. Out of the steam three figures appeared, two men and a woman slowly walked down the ramp. At the bottom, the woman and one of the men halted leaving the final figure to slowly make his way over.

Jedi Master Cin Drallig bowed his head politely, "I bring greetings from the Jedi Council."

"oOoOoOo"
Cin Drallig could feel the Force swirling around him as he entered the tent, but he was still stunned as he entered a large furnished room. A room that could not have been contained in the small canvas tent. The Force or whatever they were doing it was Force based but unfamiliar.

"Please Master Jedi take a seat," said the balding man in his strangely accented Basic, Arthur Weasley he believed was his name had been the first to speak for his party. He radiated a kind of good-natured friendliness even as he tried to maintain a more formal demeanour in front of his apparent superiors.

Cin sat as the woman opposite him did the same.

"Master Jedi this is Minister Bones, the head of our section of the government," continued Arthur as he went to stand by the side of Minister Bones.

"Arthur, please take a seat, you are by far our most knowledgeable man on this," ordered Minister Bones with a smile and a gesture toward a seat.

"Thank you, Minister," said Arthur as he took the offered spot at the table.

Minister Bones leaned back in her chair as a no-nonsense expression appeared on her face, "I understand Master Drallig that your people are in search of a safe haven."

Cin felt a moment of relief; he had feared that he was going to be stuck with a political hack and mired for days in diplomatic talks. It appeared that Minister Bones was not so inclined.

"Arthur has been in contact with a friend that has explained your situation in detail. I will need to verify his information he has raised a number of very valid points," Minister Bones sat back in her chair and locked eyes with Cin. "I am afraid that if you had any intention of stopping here, well we would deny any such request. However, as I said we are not unaware of your situation and we will help in so much as we are able."

Cin studied the man and woman opposite him sensing their Force presence…they were guarded, as was to be expected but there was no deception there, no dark shadow. "I would be happy to share with you what I can Minister. May I ask with whom you have been communicating?"

Minister Bones raised an eyebrow, "Lord Harry Potter of the House of Potter is a friend and ally. A friend who is well versed in the larger world…ah well, perhaps that should be larger galaxy. I was lead to believe that you were aware of his contributions."

"We have met Minister," Cin nodded his head as he spoke acknowledging his awareness.

"Good that should speed up matters. I believe that you need to garner resources as well as see to the warding of your new home. Arthur has suggested that our warders may have the skills to assist you in the security aspects as long as you can provide for their transportation. I trust that you both will be able to reach an agreement. As for your supplies, there are ways we can assist there…"

Cin felt a sense of relief as Minister Bones outlined the help her people were willing to provide. Food, plants, preserved goods, as well as essential medical supplies, were certainly going to be helpful.

"…Now our astronomers have been looking over our star charts and comparing them with those from our mundane colleagues, and we have found a system that seems to contain a likely planetary body. I've had the department of mysteries look into it, and they agree that it is in all likelihood a viable planet. Now what was the name," the Minister looked down at her notes. 'Ah yes, Gliese 667 Cc.'"
Haven

Ron took a sip of his tea as he sat back on the lounge, "Dad will make sure they get the help they need without learning anything they shouldn't."

Sirius shook his head as he looked around the gathered group of friends, "Which is a good outcome, but it still raises the issue of the Jedi Council knowing where Earth is. If they decided that they needed new Jedi you can't tell me they wouldn't at least consider Earth's potential as a recruiting ground."

Luna lifted her head up from where it had been resting in Harry's lap, "We know, and we'll have to plan for it in case it becomes an issue."

Harry smiled as he focused on running his fingers through Luna's hair before shifting his attention to the others, "We need to keep our focus on our mission. We need to preserve what we can from the chaos."

Hermione nodded in agreement, "Haven is thriving, but Harry is right most of us can't sit here and let everything else go...well go to hell."

Ron grinned at his partner, "Language Hermione."

"Shut it you, I still think Harry's idea of small teams is the way to go. We can cover a lot more ground that way and still leave Haven running efficiently and well-guarded," stated Hermione. "With Palpatine in charge of most of the republics military, it won't be long before he's solidified his power well enough to begin tracking down Force sensitives not to mention the Jedi who remain. Things are going to get worse before they get better."

Remus sighed as he took a sip of fire whiskey, "We knew things would get bad, but it's not all doom and gloom. The Jedi escaping is no doubt a blow to the Sith. He knows they are out there somewhere, and that's got to worry him even with his victory."

"And we need to be out there soon too," said Harry

"So who do you think for the teams?" asked Hermione.

"I've got some ideas on that," replied Harry "We'll run them past Altis in the morning,"

Here's a quick breakfast.

"How many teams?" Altis asked Harry and Luna when they had finished.

"I was thinking three, for now anyway," replied Harry. "Luna and I will lead our team. I'd suggest that the other two to be mixed teams."

"Some of my people may be interested," mused Altis "I'd put a call out for volunteers however I think we both know that we will get more people than we need."

Harry grinned, and Luna rolled her eyes before her expression turned serious, "I think we have more than enough on our plates for everyone to be kept busy. These contact teams are critical but so is the work done here."

Altis nodded in agreement, "We can't let people forget that. So do you have a set plan?"
"Not yet," replied Harry "But we are working on it." In truth, Harry had been hoping for some insight from the Force but apart from a few vague feelings of urgency neither he nor Luna had received any guidance. Hermione had found some very interesting references in her growing archives but nothing solid.

Altis studied the two adepts for a moment before nodding, "I understand, in some ways we've been almost spoiled. We've received guidance again, and again…perhaps it might be a good thing for us to find our own way for a while. We will always have the living Force to guide us." Altis paused for a few moments before continuing. "I did have one request, however."

"Anything my friend," replied Harry.

"I have some Padawans who could use some field experience."

oOoOoOo

**Outer Rim – Clone Fleet**

Sev'rance Tann meditated.

She could feel her control of the Force strengthening as she focused on sensing the correct path…she welcomed the painful, burning sensation from deep within as her mind opened…

…Her 'Master' training a young man, using pain and pleasure he twisted his victim's perception with his mastery of deceit and manipulation…Praising his apprentice as he spoke of readiness to take his rightful place…

…A human male spun and gestured sending a ball of energy at a human female, who deflected it away with her lightsaber before leaping at the man, her long hair trailing behind her as she bore him to the floor. The wrestling soon turned passionate and soon they were making love…

…Obi-Wan Kenobi at the controls of a ship talking to Anakin Skywalker…

She tried to focus on her quarry, but the image faded…

…The blond human woman from her other visions writhed and arched her back beneath her dark-haired lover as she apparently climaxed…then looked directly at her and winked as her lips twitched into a smile…

Sev'rance returned to normal consciousness with a start feeling oddly aroused.

With a frown, she considered what exactly had just happened. The blond was likely the female Adept Sidious desperately wanted to be killed. Her lover was no doubt the other. To sense her though…she must be a Force seer or something similar if she could perceive a Force Vision especially while she was being entertained.

With a grunt, she rose from her knees and stretched. Regardless her meditations had not shown her what she had needed. Both the Jedi and the mysterious Adepts remained elusive. Sidious wanted results; it was what kept her alive, for now as he trained his true apprentice. The game was most complicated; he used her; she used him…for now anyway. Once she had enough power her search for a suitable patriarch would begin and then, once a suitable mate was found to provide her with Force strong children…well, then Sidious could burn for all that she cared. Her family would rise from the ashes and retake its rightful place among the ruling families of the Chiss Ascendancy.

"Admiral?"
Sev'rance reached out and touched the comm panel, "Yes Captain."

"Our probes have spotted a vessel that is on our watch list."

Sev'rance waited a moment, but the fool didn't continue, "And?" she prompted.

"It's a ship that matches a vessel that escaped a blockade in the Sierianan System. It appears to be drifting; the probes have reported that there is significant damage showing on the hull."

Sev'rance frowned as she considered her options. A single ship that may harbour a Jedi was not a guarantee of a lead but in the absence of any clearer guidance from the Force, it would have to do.

"Prepare my shuttle; I will see to this myself while you continue sensor sweeps and analysis of the probe data."

"Yes, Admiral," acknowledged the captain.

Sev'rance entered her private refresher and quickly stripped off her uniform and underwear. Her meditations had left her tired despite her ties to the Force, a situation that could impact on her effectiveness. Before stepping into the ultrasonic shower, she considered her naked form in the mirror. She was still lithe and well-toned. Her breasts were full, and her curves were still feminine, still attractive, strong and desirable ...yet she still bore the faint scars the Jedi had inflicted on her. She traced one darker blue scar that ran from her hip to her breast and remembered the burning pain, the fear and anger...as she dragged herself to a shuttle with her blood staining the ground. She had been close to death that day, but she had survived and she had learned well the lesson the Force had provided her. The strong survive, and the weak perish.

oOoOoOo

The Lily

Harry looked over at Luna, who nodded, "We are clear."

Harry activated the Hyperspace engines, and the Lily left the asteroid field concealing Haven behind. Their first jump was a short one, an uninhabited binary system that was far from most hyperspace routes.

"I've got this, go and get something to eat," said Luna.

"I'll get you something," said Harry as he stood and leaned over to kiss Luna on the cheek.

The galley seemed to be hosting the rest of the crew, "We all good?" asked Harry as he opened the cooler.

Velath simply nodded before returning to reading the maintenance manual for her newest possession, her lightsaber. Next to her, the Altisian Padawan Sahdra played with her long blue hair and watched Velath read.

Seated at the other end of the table Ret and Salara were quietly discussing fighting styles.

"Well team we are on the way," announced Harry. "This first jump will put us nice and out of the way of anybody who might be looking for us. We've got about two hours or so of downtime."

"Do you think we'll run into pirates?" Sahdra asked Velath.

Velath shook her head, "If the system we are headed for is uninhabited. I doubt we'll run into
anyone."

Sahdra looked a bit disappointed but the brightened up, "Do you want to train with your lightsaber? I'm wicked fast, and I'd love to help you learn."

Velath shrugged, "As long as we use training settings I suppose it would be okay. We can use the cargo bay."

The Zeltron girl smiled and stood up, "I'll go get changed!"

Salara raised an eyebrow as Ret grinned at her, "I think we have time now for a demonstration."

OoOoOoOo

**Outer Rim - Ghtroc 580 freighter.**

Jedi Master Moris Tel-Thall cursed as the engineering systems failed to offer even a glimmer of help. They had escaped the Republic cruiser they had encountered, but the damage to vital systems had obviously been bad enough that they dropped out of hyperspace only minutes before systems starting failing. Now they were in the orbit of a nameless planet in an uninhibited system identified only by an alphanumeric identifier. It was also a system that was suffering some sort of spatial disturbance that was intermittently buffeting the ship and frying more of the electrical systems.

"Sir?" asked Sprinter.

"Get everyone together," ordered Moris.

"On it General," replied Sprinter.

Jedi Master Sian Jeisel entered the cockpit with a frown creasing her feline face, "Sprinter getting everyone together?"

Moris nodded as he sat in the pilot's seat.

"Bad?" asked Sian.

"We've run out of options."

The Devaronian Jedi Master absently stroked the fur that was slowly re-growing on the side of her face, "I see then it looks like we must seek new alternatives."

"The long-range communications array is completely gone. We have limited short-range audio, but that's about all."

"Life support?"

"Maybe twenty hours and that is if we switch off everything else, and that's a generous estimate."

"Hmmm, what about the local system?"

"Devoid of life, nothing even close to being able to support life."

Sian nodded, "Then we must tell the others, my friend. We have no choices left, save to trust in the Force."

OoOoOoOo
Sirius Black grinned as the Wookie Gunner dropped out of Hyperspace after their first jump, "I can't believe you got us here in one piece."

"How, no sorry why does Remus put up with you?" asked Alyssa as she continued to check systems.

"Charm my dear Jedi, pure charm."

"Well, why don't you go and check in with the others?"

"I could do that from here!" complained Sirius.

"Your point is?"

"Ouch, but nevertheless I shall do your bidding," replied Sirius as he stood and offered the Twi'lek an extravagant bow.

The rest of the team was in the crew mess looking at a monitor that was showing what Hermione had managed to find in her research. Which Sirius knew wasn't a lot.

"Anything new?"

"No, although we may want to look over the older historical references from the archives. Some of newer ones are contradictory," replied Callista as she touched the screen to zoom in on an image.

"This image was taken on Tukara Three just over four hundred years ago by a Republic exploratory team."

The image was of a clearing in a forest where stood a large stone building its entire length covered with a huge carved stone fresco. As Callista zoomed in on a section of the image, it showed a long-fingered humanoid with a shield fending off a figure that looked to be attacking with lightning.

"You think its Force lightning?" asked Sirius.

"It could be but what's interesting is that Tukara Three and every other habitable planet in that system suffered some catastrophic event. Initial scientific surveys ruled out a solar event or any sort or system-wide change. Xeno-Geologists eventually decided that it must have been a solar event after all and that the systems two native sentient species must have been eradicated."

"I am sensing a 'but,'" said Sirius.

Callista smiled and touched the screen again, "But this was an image found by Hermione. It was taken by a republic mining survey ten years ago."

The same stone building appeared. The plant life was gone with nothing but grey, dead ash visible but the building still stood. Callista zoomed in once more.

"No fresco," said Amelia Sto-Lat. The Vahla leaned forward to study the image. "It's been removed not destroyed."

"So the question is by whom?" asked Sirius. "It could be rogue archeologists."

"It could be," admitted Callista. "But look at this."

A new image appeared, "This was taken by a security droid and circulated after an altercation"
escalated. A crewman from a merchant's vessel was saved from being stabbed in the back by this man. Note the hands and you can just make out the shield on his back. He apparently lifted the attacker into the air and threw him into a wall. Spaceport Security assumed he was a Jedi although he denied any connection and left before he could be questioned."

The alien shown had the same long-fingered hands.

"It might be," admitted Sirius. "I guess that is why we are here isn't it."

"We are about to make our next jump," announced Alyssa from the cockpit.

"You had better get back Master Alyssa doesn't sound pleased." said the youngest member of the crew.

Sirius grinned at the Altisian Padawan Lem Ravat. The teenager had accompanied Callista at the request of Altis. "Actually Lem, I think she's warming to me," Sirius wiggled his eyebrows.

Sev'rance Tann felt a ripple of warning in the Force as she was thrown forward as her shuttle reverted to relativistic space. Frowning she considered what the expensive scanners were telling her. There was some sort of electromagnetic interference being generated by the local star. It wasn't enough to be hazardous to her shuttles systems, so she ignored it and focused on the merchant ship that was slowly tumbling through space.

She studied the data on the screen once more. The ship certainly seemed a match to the one reported. A more detailed scan showed that there were faint life signs. Perhaps the crew might still live despite the lack of energy emissions. It was highly unlikely that they even knew that she was here given the top of the line stealth capabilities of her ship.

Considering her options, she paused as she felt another, stronger ripple in the Force.

Sev'rance Tann felt a ripple of warning in the Force as she was thrown forward as her shuttle reverted to relativistic space. Frowning she considered what the expensive scanners were telling her. There was some sort of electromagnetic interference being generated by the local star. It wasn't enough to be hazardous to her shuttles systems, so she ignored it and focused on the merchant ship that was slowly tumbling through space.

She studied the data on the screen once more. The ship certainly seemed a match to the one reported. A more detailed scan showed that there were faint life signs. Perhaps the crew might still live despite the lack of energy emissions. It was highly unlikely that they even knew that she was here given the top of the line stealth capabilities of her ship.

Considering her options, she paused as she felt another, stronger ripple in the Force.

The Wookie Gunner

Alyssa frowned at the turbulent exit from hyperspace.

"Woah, what was that?" asked Sirius.

"Some sort of interference from the local star…I think….Sith Spit hold on!" warned Allyssa the ship yawed as the artificial gravity tried to compensate. "It's coming in waves hold on I'm backing us off."

They were well clear of the system when the disturbances stopped.

"Ever heard of anything like this before?" asked Sirius as everyone crowded into the cockpit.

"Nothing that fits, the readings are very strange, look at this." Alyssa brought the image of an asteroid onto the scanner screen. "Watch what happens when the next wave hits."

The wave passed over the asteroid that was entirely unaffected.

"Why would it be unaffected?" asked Amelia.

Lem reached over and adjusted the controls, watching the data flow over the small screen before looking around, "It's only affecting technology."
Callista studied the readings, "You may be right Lem."

Alyssa shook her head, "Wait…look the interval between waves is increasing and…I think, yes they appear to be growing weaker too. That is odd; it can't be natural, can it?"

Callista readjusted the scanner to long range and began scanning again as she tried to confirm that the odd waves were 'receding'. "Oh…wait, we have one, maybe two ships inside the area affected by the waves."

"Can we tell if there is anyone on board?" asked Sirius as he tried to make sense of what the scanners were showing him. He had done flight training with Altis, but his lack of scientific training was a liability in this type of situation.

"I think so, we've got a ship…yes, we have a ship it is well within the area of effect. It is hard to judge if there is anyone aboard. It looks like it is almost entirely powered down."

"Do we know if it's a republic ship?" asked Amelia.

Callista shook her head, "Not without their identity beacon, although what readings I have are consistent with it being a merchant vessel."

While the rest of the crew talked Alyssa was studying the other readings, "The waves seem to be further decreasing in frequency and strength. I think we are seeing it dissipate."

"So we can get closer?" asked Sirius.

Callista studied the readings once more before answering, "If we are quick, logically the effect should take time to peak…we can approach, attach a salvage cable and maneuver to pull the ship free of the system."

oOoOoOo

Sev'rance Tann grimaced as she sensed the presence of other Force users, no doubt Jedi. Her shuttle was surprisingly well armed for its size, but she was currently not in any position to attack. Whatever the energy pulses were they had done extensive damage to her systems, in particular, the ships networked systems. At least her stealth systems remained operational. Time was of the essence now.

Closing her eyes, she concentrated and reached out to the Force to shape a bubble of dark side energy to mask her Force presence.

oOoOoOo

"It's working," said Alyssa as she carefully piloted the Wookie Gunner toward the edge of the system.

The ship rocked as the waves again began to increase in power, but it was clear that they would clear the danger area before the waves reached dangerous levels. Once they were clear the salvage cable was released. Then Alyssa and Callista carefully maneuvered the ship so that the airlocks connected.

Sirius gathered his crew as they made their final preparations, "Alright let's be careful, Amelia you and I will go first. We'll call in any casualties to Alyssa and Callista. Lem, you man the cockpit and keep an eye on things."

As the hatch opened Sirius and Amelia immediately noticed the stale air and the cold.
"Life support has obviously been off for a while look at the frozen condensation," said Amelia as they moved into the crew area.

Sirius raised his wand and cast the life detection charm, getting a faint result from engineering, "This way."

Amelia reported their progress to the others as Sirius led the way. When they reached the engineering section, they found it was sealed off by a closed hatch.

"It's warmer than the other bulkheads," reported Amelia.

"Let's get it open."

It took a combination of magic and strength to force open the sealed hatch. As it ground open, they were confronted by a pile of bodies. Sirius knelt and checked the first and was surprised to find a pulse.

"Get Alyssa here quickly we have survivors," he called out.

* * *

"...they rigged the life support systems to run off the remaining electrical power just in this room and used the residual heat from the power plant to stay warm." The image of Sirius shook his head.

"They were lucky, bloody lucky according to Alyssa. A few more hours and they would have had it."

"So what are you going to do now?" asked Luna.

Sirius shrugged, "That's the question isn't it, we could always drop them back to where the Jedi are holed up. Alyssa says they'll need proper medical treatment before they can go anywhere. Severe Hypoxia and hypothermia are just as dangerous here as at home. If we'd been aboard the Talia with a medical droid to help, Alyssa...one or two might have been okay to transport but this many we either need to get them to a trustworthy medical center or..."

"Back to Haven," finished Harry. "From where you are Haven's the best, safest option."

The image of Sirius nodded, "Well I guess we can get back to our mission later."

* * *

**The Lily**

"Are we ready?" asked Harry as turned to face the others.

"Whenever you are," replied Luna with a bright smile.

The others nodded, and Harry opened the hatch to reveal a clearing in what looked to be a forest of blue fern-like trees.

"Welcome to Voltis Three," said Harry with a gesture toward the trees.

Luna grinned at her partner, "According to the archives there were reports of an underground society of Force-sensitives. The local population is very leery of any Force users; they have been demonized by the population so it makes sense that they would hide."

"So we need to be careful about using our abilities," added Sahdra.
Ret considered the surrounding forest, "If they still exist how will we find them? From the sound of it the locals are not going to respond well to us asking for directions."

"I'm going to see if I can scry them out or at least get a sense of where to start asking questions," explained Luna. "All reports of the Force users here ceased almost five hundred years ago. At least that is what the records we could find are showing. There was even a study done by a republic Xeno anthropologist, but nothing has been found."

Salara looked thoughtful as she considered the briefing she had received for their mission, "Hermione's briefing mentioned that they had the ability to create illusions. Strange as it may seem to me but could they be hiding using this ability? Even the most powerful of the Dathomiri elders would struggle to maintain such power for long."

Ret shrugged, "I have heard of a similar skill used by the Fallanassi on Lucazec. They are known as the Adepts of the White Current and were recognized by their ability to immerse themselves in the Force and use it to hide from sight. Once long ago the followers of Palawa sought them and their knowledge out as part of our studies into the Force. We found them, but we were politely rebuffed as they were dedicated pacifists and unwilling to share their secrets. If those here are using similar abilities, we shall struggle to find them without Luna's skills."

oOoOoOo

Luna felt her consciousness-expanding as she embraced the Force.

The feeling of connection to the living Force was beyond her ability to articulate. She could see life as it flowed around her always moving, connecting and entwining with every other living thing. It was everything that was, or shall be and yet she instinctively knew that she comprehended a tiny component of the living Force. The barest hints of what the Force was...yet it was enough to allow her to seek out the answers she required.

The Jedi had never truly mastered what they called flow-walking Force scrying was a lost art among them, and the Sith's corrupted technique was dangerously flawed, relying on brute strength, bending...forcing the connection. Darth Vectivus had come close to perfecting the technique that Luna now used. She had the ability to open herself to the visions using Harry as an anchor to stop her becoming lost among the myriad paths that she would transverse.

Images flow past as she lets the Force guide her

...a native of the planet feeding a child...a merchant extolling the virtues of his wares...a guard is stealing a kiss from his wife as he ducked out the door...normality...order...An enormous animal like a cross between a bear and a tiger stalking an antelope-like creature among the fern trees...a shadowed figure peering into an alleyway...

Luna concentrated on the figure she sensed rather than saw...

...shadows wrapped around the figure as it moved forward seeking something, careful to avoid the lit places...

...A young woman carrying a basket of fruit looked around in fear as she sensed something...a predator in the shadows...

Luna frowned as she felt an echo in the Force of the twisted illusions that the hidden figure used to overpower the mind of his victim. She watched as a young man stepped out of the shadows and gestured for his victim to follow...
She watched as the last of the men finished with the brutalized young woman…unable to act as the last man slit the woman's throat, and each of her attackers stepped forward to dip their fingers in the blood and paint a symbol on their forehead…A cavern in a northern mountain…dark passages are running deep under the city…

She could feel her power waning, and so she reached out for her anchor and found him. His Force presence unique and comforting it was showing her the way home.

However, she needed more; she needed information so after making sure that her link to Harry was strong she headed north.

      oOoOoOo

Luna opened her eyes to see Harry watching her with an expression of concern on his face. She gave him a nod as she slowly rose to her feet. "Gather the others love I think we need to rethink our mission here."

      oOoOoOo
Chapter 23

A New Order - Chapter 23

All publicly recognizable characters, settings, etc. are the property of their respective owners. The original characters and plot are the property of the author. The author is in no way associated with the owners, creators, or producers of any media franchise. No copyright infringement is intended.

I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars and I make no profit from this work of fanfiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

I'm back in the saddle after a long and totally unavoidable writing hiatus - so without further ado let's get the story rolling!

Oh and please remember – This is AU people. Once again, thanks must go to my BetaXRAiderv1.

Last Time:

Luna opened her eyes to see Harry watching her with an expression of concern on his face. She gave him a nod as she slowly rose to her feet. "Gather the others love I think we need to rethink our mission here."

oOoOoOo

Republic Senate to be reorganised

The Chancellor has announced changes to the Senate stating the need for efficiency in the wake of the growing number of systems openly defying the rightful authority of the Republic.

Read More Here

Is the Republic no longer capable of being governed?

In the wake of the Jedi led rebellion several prominent Senators have called for the Chancellor to reorganise the political structure of the Republic. "We need a single strong voice leading us not a committee. The recent changes do not go far enough," said SenatorTujiofNarseen."

Read More Here

oOoOoOo

Gliese 667 Cc – 'Planet now designatedPraxia.'

Bill Weasley hesitated as he considered the large stone his fellow wizards set in place. This was to be one of the main ward stones and thus an integral part of the ward defences. It appeared to be aligned correctly, so he cast a setting charm locking the obelisk in place.

"Bill?"

Bill turned to see his father and sister emerging from the tents that lined the warded area.

"Master Yoda is looking for you," said Arthur as he gestured back toward the grouping of tents.
"Nothing urgent just some changes to the warding on the training grounds."

"Right, well I better go see him. What are you two up to?"

Ginny had been a late addition to the 'Refugee Mission' and one her mother had been concerned about. The youngest Weasley had volunteered to act as Arthur's aide as he oversaw the wizarding contingent. To her sibling's delight, and surprise she was doing an excellent job and had risen above the funk she had been in since she finished Hogwarts.

Ginny grinned, "We want to determine what else they might need to help out with their food supplies, so I am meeting with a committee looking at the problem. It's kind of interesting. I never knew that Professor Sprout's Herbology classes were going to be so important. If I could, I would get her and Neville Longbottom up here."

"Arthur."

Arthur Weasley turned to see Jedi Master Cin Drallig waving him over.

Arthur gave his children a smile, "We'll catch up at dinner, Master Drallig how can I help you?"

Bill watched his father and then his sister left and turned back to the rune-covered ward stone.

"Work quickly you do."

Bill turned to see Master Yoda peering up at him. Giving the house elf like Jedi a smile, he nodded. "I have a good team."

"True, true that is. A question I might ask?"

"Of course," replied Bill.

"More like you, skilled in this there are?"

Bill nodded.

"Interested I am, Shield us from our enemies this will." Yoda gestured with his stick at the tents and the first stone buildings of the Jedi Colony. "Difficult this would have been if withheld this help was."

"We've had our issues in the recent past...my family survived thanks to warding like this."

Yoda studied the redhead sensing some of the emotions in the man's voice.

"A story I sense here," said Yoda with a smile.

Alderaan – Commercial Spaceport

Anakin, Obi-Wan and Ahsoka were dressed as merchant spacers as they wandered through the busy spaceport.

"Do you think they got the Message?" asked Ahsoka.

"I suspect we shall soon find out," replied Obi-Wan as several uniformed guards walked toward them.
The senior guard, a captain, gave a semi-polite half bow to the group, "Captain, spaceport control has a few questions for you, if you would follow me, we can get it sorted out."

"Of Course," replied Obi-Wan.

The guards led them to a small meeting room where several more guards waited alongside Bail Organa.

"My friends it is good to see you safe," said Bail with a broad genuine smile.

"And you your highness," replied Obi-Wan with a polite nod.

"Please take a seat," said Bail as he waved them toward the seats. "I don't have too long before I may be missed. I'm not deluding myself into thinking Palpatine has no spies here."

"We need your help but mostly your advice," said Obi-Wan as he passed Bail a data chip. "Master Yoda wanted me to give you this. There are codes to contact the Order, should you need to."

Bail nodded and slipped the chip into his pocket. "How can I help you?"

"We are seeking any remaining Jedi, who may be trapped on Republic worlds. The council wants to evacuate those who wish to depart as well as establishing contact with our allies."

Bail smiled sadly, "I have two Jedi here, well in the palace. A master Jo-Wan and his Padawan Calik, apparently they made their way here aboard a merchant vessel."

Obi-Wan nodded, and Anakin and Ahsoka exchanged smiles, "That's good news; I'm hoping others managed to escape as well. Have you heard anything else Highness?"

"There are rumours that some systems have realised their peril and are looking to form some sort of alliance. The Corellians have been putting out feelers."

Obi-Wan stroked his chin, "Hmm the Corellian fleet has always been powerful and the Corellian Jedi will most likely assist them."

oOoOoOo

High orbit of Corellia –Cintar- Dreadnaught Heavy Cruiser Corellian Defence Fleet

Garm Bel Iblis turned to his aide Lalida. "Lalida please pass the word to the captain that we are ready."

"Of course Sir," Lalida used the console explaining things to the ship’s captain. "Sir the captain reports that the others have arrived."

"Thank you Lalida, please have them escorted to the main conference room. I will be along shortly."

Lalida nodded and walked to the other side of the observation room and contacted the bridge.

"So it begins," said Senator Obal Nor.

Garm shook his head, "No it's already begun. We are already traitors."

"The others will help," said Felica Solmarin. "Organa has already begun pulling together a political alliance."
Jedi Master Cortel stepped forward, "The Jedi Council has found a safe haven. Master Yoda may soon be in a position to lend us their support. He has hinted that there may be others that may also offer their help. For now, my people are spread throughout the fleet."

Garm nodded before returning his gaze to the observation port as his mind raced. They had a chance; maybe a good chance and he would not let it be squandered.

Wookie Gunner

Sirius cursed under his breath as the last of the crew of the damaged ship were transferred. The ship was pretty much a write off as the energy wave had wrecked nearly every system onboard.

"How bad?" asked Callista.

"Ship is a write-off, we'll need to get them to some decent medical facilities to be checked over. Some of them are in pretty bad shape."

"I'll plot a course to Haven if you want," offered Callista.

"I..." Sirius was cut off by an incoming comm signal.

Less than three minutes later Sirius closed the channel to the Talia and turned to Callista, "I'll go and tell the others. Get a hold of Haven and let them know we need to get to Harry's team, they've asked for support so we'll need to transport the injured to another ship as soon as possible."

Callista nodded and set to work as Sirius summoned everyone else to the ship's mess to explain the situation.

Two hours later a transport ship dropped out of hyperspace. The transport had been on a supply run and was the closest Haven vessel capable of taking on the injured for a trip to Haven. Altis was still trying to contact the Jedi Council even as the wounded were carefully transferred aboard.

Less than an hour later the Wookie Gunner leapt into hyperspace.

No one detected the small stealth shuttle that followed.

Harry studied the mountain range in detail. His viewer was set at maximum enhancement, and he could barely make out the entrance Luna insisted was there.

"I see something...okay it may be a hidden door but it's going to be difficult to approach without being seen."

"I know," replied a subdued Luna. She had been quiet since coming out of her vision. Harry could understand why.

"Well if the tunnels are out, and I agree that they are a death trap then we don't have much of a choice do we?"

"We can cover them once Sirius arrives but an assault led that way would take too long. We would risk them escaping," warned Luna.

Harry nodded conceding Luna's points, "I'm just worried about what we are going to find when we
get there."

Luna hid a shudder. "So am I."

"Mistress, Sirius has contacted us he will be here within the hour," reported Velath.

"Thank you, can you please gather everyone together," asked Luna.

oOoOo

"I'm getting a real Voldemort vibe here," said Sirius as Luna finished outlining the situation.

Luna gestured toward the mountains and the city at its feet, "Whatever is behind this cult they've certainly managed to twist their followers into committing these sorts of atrocities. From what I saw we are looking at some pretty dark ritual behaviour. You don't usually get that many people willing to do such without some kind of control being involved."

"So we shut them down?" asked Sirius with a frown.

"I think we need to," said Harry. "Open yourself up to the Force and tell me what you sense."

Sirius and several others closed their eyes for a moment before turning pale.

"Merlins balls what the hell is that?" asked Sirius.

"No idea," replied Harry. "It's like a blight in the living Force."

Luna looked uncomfortable as she stared at the mountain, "It's evil or as close as possible to evil as I've ever felt. Being this close to it is warping our Force perceptions."

Velath shook her head from her place behind Luna, "Even the darkest of my old sisters would have been repelled by whatever it is."

"You'll get no argument from me. Now I know it's there it's like a shadow seen out of the corner of your eye," said Sirius. "It's making me uncomfortable."

"Then let's work out exactly how we are going to do this," said Harry as he brought a map of the mountains up on his datapad.

oOoOo

Sev'rance watched her quarry through her computer-enhanced binoculars. The crew of the ship she had followed landed and met with a planetside group. They were obviously Force users, but they didn't feel like Jedi.

Lowering the viewer she looked around the rock-strewn landscape. There was something, right on the edge of her perceptions that she had become aware of since arriving planet-side. Looking back to the group below she considered what she should do. Attacking such a large group would be foolish, leaving to call in reinforcements would be wise given Darth Sidious's orders...but something was telling her that she needed to be here.

The group below started breaking up and splitting into groups, so she quickly repacked her equipment and prepared to follow the group led by a tall older man with long hair held in a ponytail.

oOoOo
Alyssa and Callista took point as Amelia and Salara and Ret brought up the rear. They had been carefully following a group of cultists that had emerged from a side tunnel. They were discussing collecting the last sacrifices for the master. A topic that had all four Adepts exchanging looks.

With a gesture to the others, Callista brought them all to a halt. There was a jangle of keys and some cruel sounding laughter followed by a scream.

That was all the Callista needed to hear.

"Go!"

Less than a minute later they had disposed of the cultists and were confronted with a room full of naked, terrified women.

"We have to get them out," said Amelia as she made soothing noises and stroked the hair of a barely teenage girl who was clinging to her leg.

"I know," replied Alyssa."There is no way I'm leaving them here."

Moving quickly they backtracked encountering only a pair of cultists who were quickly dealt with.

As they reached the Lily, the alarm was being raised.

oOoOo

Harry and Luna led Velath and Sahdra deeper into the cave network. The passages were lit by semi-regular orbs that appeared to be filled with some sort or bioluminescent worms. Between orbs, the caves and passages were mostly hidden in the darkness.

Once inside the adepts were split into three teams of four with each taking a different route through the caves trying to drive any cultists toward the central area that Luna had sensed in her vision. With no way of knowing which of the three tunnels were in use or the exact number of the cultists, it was decided that it was the best way to deal with the situation. If they encountered resistance that was too strong to deal with they were to apparate or portkey back to their ships.

So far they had neither sense nor sensed any living creature anywhere near their location.

Harry stopped walking and concentrated but sensed nothing...not even the Force presence of the others. 'Something is wrong, I can't sense anything through the Force."

"Neither can I," added Luna. "Although the other presence has grown stronger. No stronger is the wrong word, it has grown more tangible is more accurate."

Sahdra looked around in confusion, "I don't like this."

Velath held her un-activated lightsaber in her hand as she and stepped closer to Luna.

"There is something there," warned Velath as she went to ignite her lightsaber only for nothing to happen. Puzzled she looked down to check and try again but again it wouldn't turn on, "Mistress?"

The other three tried their lightsabers with the same negative result.

"Back up's," ordered Harry.

With undulating screams on their lips, six men charged out of the shadows.
Sev'rance ghosted through the near darkness following her quarry. There was something about the place...some perversion of the Force in the air. Even the ones she was following could sense it. The Jedi or whatever they were looked wary as they made their way through the darkness, cautious and sensible she thought with a sneer. From their discussions, she had pieced together they feared there was some dark cult in the tunnels. It was a challenge to stay unseen as the leader seemed to have very keen senses. Often sniffing the air or tilting his head as if listening.

She heard movement ahead down a side passage, so she moved to look what was there. After all, there was no sense in leaving potential threats behind her.

Moving more quickly she ducked into a cave with a sturdy wooden door. It had a simple but effective lock. Decision made she lifted the metal bar and slowly pressed the door open as she hefted her lightsaber.

A few moments later she left the room with fury playing across her features and her red eyes narrowed.

There had been bodies and one survivor moving feebly in the darkness. A young woman, barely past puberty whose battered body told the tale of her captivity far more vividly than any story she could have relayed. All six of the occupants had been used for sex. That much was evident from their condition and the physical evidence that remained. Used and then executed. Somehow the girl had survived the killing blow and had managed to drag herself to the door.

Sev'rance was a warrior; a ruthless, warrior who despised weakness but this...this abomination should not be. To kill in battle was one thing, to force information from a foe, to order a death...these she could do but to brutalize children so for no purpose.

Rage sparked within her and spiralled upwards...her senses heightened as she unconsciously reached a decision.

There would be revenge, but first, there was mercy needed, the mercy of a clean death. The girl was panting in agony as she looked pleadingly at her.

Sev'rance ignited her lightsaber and ended her pain.

It was time to hunt.

Sirius rolled away from an attack and cursed as the blade cut his arm leaving a burning sensation.

"Go, fall back," he ordered as he punched one of the cultists in the throat. "We're going to get overrun here." He pushed out with the Force sending several cultists flying.

They had unwittingly walked into a trap. There was some ward in place that interfered with their Lightsabers, and the presence that he had dimly felt before was now growing strong leaving his Force senses reeling.

The others pulled back as two more cultists charged at Sirius.

He decked one, but the other bore him to the ground. He saw stars for a brief, painful moment as his head hit the stone. Knowing to lose consciousness was to die he fell back on one of his oldest and most trusted attacks. Transforming into Padfoot and leaping at his attacker.
The man fell screaming as Padfoot savaged him before turning to find that the others had followed his instructions and left and that he was surrounded by a semi-circle of enemies. Growling and snapping his blood covered jaws he kept the stone wall of the passage behind him and began searching for an escape route.

His vision swam as he forced himself to concentrate on his enemies as they circled just out of reach with their long-bladed knives in hand.

Sirius was about to throw himself forward when a figure leapt out of the shadows taking down two cultists. Seeing his chance he charged forward.

Sirius saw the blue-skinned woman about to be run through from behind and without thinking he leapt taking the cultist down before crashing head first into the floor.

Sev'rance Tann finished off the last of the cultists and stared down at the shape-shifter. He was alive but unconscious; a long and bleeding cut ran along his side. She could just leave the light sider here, but tactically she was in a rather poor position. A disposable ally, especially one that could fight would be an advantage.

Using the Force she tried to channel energy into his wounds. She was by no means a healer, but Sidious had shown her some Force based tricks that could be used to heal injuries. After a few moments, he shuddered and then transformed back to his human form.
Sirius woke to find a tall blue woman leaning over him. He automatically let Padfoot fade away and transformed back to his human form. The shift hurt as he felt burning pain along his ribs. Looking up he was somewhat startled to see that the blue-skinned woman had red eyes that were locked on to his.

"You will live Jedi," said the woman. Her basic was touched with an exotic accent.

Sirius grinned, "Nice to hear and I'm no Jedi, we are called Adepts. My names is Sirius, Sirius Black."

Sev'rance was tempted to tell him that she didn't care but instead, she gave him her name, "Sev'rance Tann."

"So where to from here Sev'rance?"

"We both need help to survive this situation, I propose an alliance."

Sirius studied the woman letting the Force whisper in his ear, "Him...a Darksider, a Sith?"

Sev'rance raised an eyebrow as she prepared to defend herself, "And if I am?"

Sirius shrugged, "Should I be worried? As you said, this is a survival situation."

"I give you my word I will not attack you until we are both free from these caves."

"Fair enough, same here. No attacking until we are free and clear."

Sev'rance reached out and pulled Sirius to his feet, "We need to get moving, this many people will not be missed for long."

Sirius nodded and followed his newest ally as she walked away. She might be evil, but she had a nice butt. 'Merlin, Mooney's right I'm a pervert.'

oOoOo

Harry gestured, and the rest of his team moved forward.

They had been confronting armed defenders every few minutes, mostly in twos and threes. While they did not pose a threat it was a worrying indicator of just how many people were involved in whatever this was.

Equally as worrying was the growing sense of wrongness. Each step closer seemed to make the feeling grow stronger.

Sahdra looked around before peering down a side passage, "There is a room here, it's locked."

Luna stepped forward and studied the door before casting a spell. There was a click and then she carefully pushed the door open. Looking inside for a moment before turning back to Harry, "No survivors...why would they be killing all these women like this?"

Harry took a few deep breaths to calm himself, "We may never know why but I damn sure what to put a stop to it. Come on let's get moving."

Before anyone could stop here, Sahdra stepped forward and looked into the room before paling and rejoining the others. As she passed Velath, the Dathomiri put a hand on her shoulder and gave her a supportive pat on the shoulder.
This was the third room of dead women they had found since entering the caves.

"Stop," warned Luna. "There is something ahead...it's powerful."

The others halted and then slowly everyone began to sense the twisted presence approaching.

Then a figure entered the passageway.

It was almost twice the size of a human, but it was difficult to tell anything else as the figure was wrapped in an unnatural darkness.

"Watch out it's not a living being," warned Luna.

As they all considered the figure they were suddenly aware of a broken crackling laugh sounding only in their minds.

It appeared that it was telepathic.

Little wizard and witch...so far from home

It's vile 'voice' sent a wave of despair through the adepts.

Despair and fear assaulted them, each of the adepts felt the weight of its hatred as images assaulted them.

Velath found herself back with her mother, as a laughing Luna applied a whip striking her across her back. She is tainted, take her and make her your sacrifice...hands grabbed her as she was dragged onto her back...as Luna walked away...

Sahdra cried as she was thrown out of the Adept's order...Slut...no good...whore...she was pushed to the ground and slapped as she begged and begged...

Luna saw her father dying alone...Harry dead...Talia dead...Sirius dead...everyone dead and Luna was powerless to stop it...she began to scream...

Harry ran as fear overwhelmed him the shadowy figure...Voldemort back to full power...

Velath stumbled backwards and collided with Sahdra, her touch, her aura was like a bucket of cold water. The Zeltron was suddenly free of the waking nightmare. Gathering her strength she released a burst of emotion fuelled power.

A wave of the Force passed over the others and struck the figure.

Its 'hold' was suddenly broken, and the others begin pushing at the creature with the Force...but even with their combined power, they were barely pushing it back.

Luna suddenly realised what they might be facing, "It's a summoned creature...we need to find the summoning circle."

Sirius and Sev'rance were going ever deeper into the mountain.

"They are fools to light the way for us," commented Sev'rance as the passed another globe of light.

"I expect that they never thought that they would be in this situation," replied Sirius.
"The beast you shift into, what is it called?"

"On my world, it's called a grim, I call it Padfoot," replied Sirius with a grin.

"Can anyone master this skill?"

"Not everyone, but some Force users have the potential. Even with the potential, it can take a long time to master...hold on I think I can hear water."

Sure enough, the passageway soon opened into a wide cavern, a vast flooded cavern with a central island. There was a stone bridge, but it was on the other side of the cavern.

"Bugger it, here hold my hand," said Sirius as he extended a hand toward his companion.

"Why are you afraid of water?" asked Sev'rance with a smirk.

"Ah-ha was that a joke?" asked Sirius. "Well no, I just thought I could save us a swim."

Sirius tried to apparate only for it to fail.

Sev'rance raised an eyebrow, "Was something meant to happen?"

"Yes, it was, bugger looks like we are swimming."

The Chiss shrugged and began stripping off before noticing that Sirius was staring at her, "What I'm not wearing wet clothes afterwards."

Sirius nodded and bent down to undo his boots he was confronted with his companion's rear end as she unlaced her boots. Knowing that she was likely an enemy regardless of their current, temporary alliance did nothing to take away from her fantastic figure.

He should have looked away, but instead, he stood motionless as she slipped out of her pants and then her underwear. 'Damn...' thought Sirius looks like the carpet matches the...

"Ogle me and I will gouge out your eyes," warned Sev'rance without turning as she buckled her belt around her narrow waist and checking her weapons.

"Okay no ogling," acknowledged Sirius as he turned away to check his wand and lightsaber were securely on his belt.

The water was dark and cold, very cold, but they made good time. As they did, Sirius found his thoughts going to the giant squid of Hogwarts and then wishing he hadn't thought of it.

The island was littered with dead bodies, all women lying amidst the dark, dried blood.

At the centre of the dead was a circle of clear ground where a single figure knelt amid a pattern of circles and strange runes.

Sev'rance moved forward but was halted by Sirius grabbing her arm.

"Wait...this looks like something I...Morganna's tits it a summoning circle. Don't approach it."

"Is it dangerous?" asked the Chiss as she peered at the oddly unpleasant looking writing.

"Hell yes it's dangerous...they've summoned something. That's what the sacrifices were for, to appease whatever abomination they released here."
"We should question him," she gestured at the kneeling figure.

"Won't do any good if I'm right he was the focus of the summoning his soul has been destroyed to empower the...wait, I know how to destroy it. We need to erase the circle but once we've done that the summoned creature will be aware so the host will need to be destroyed as well."

"Can you erase it?" asked Sev'rance.

"Yes, once it's done get ready."

Sirius began scuffing the runes with his foot as Sev'rance drew one of the cultist's knives from her belt and positioned herself to destroy the host.

"Go, said Sirius as he erased another rune. Sev'rance had managed one step before she was blasted back into the water.

Sirius was knocked on to his back as the host rose slowly to its feet. The figure was very obviously dead, but it still stood and raised its glowing eyes to look at Sirius.

"Bloody...Reducto!" Sirius drew his wand and cast the first spell he thought of. Dust and gravel exploded upwards as the explosive hex struck the Host in the leg.

Sirius rolled to his feet as the battered figure of the host walked out of the cloud of dust. With another flick of his wand, he cast the most powerful explosive curse he knew as he threw himself backwards.

He flinched as gravel, stone chips and other debris rained down. The host or it torso at least was crumbling to dust along with sacrifices. After a few moments, there was no evidence of the horrors that had taken place, just dust.

Pulling himself to his feet with a wince he looked around and realised that he couldn't see Sev'rance.

Sirius looked around in a panic before realising what must have happened.

    oOoOo

Harry grimaced as a wave of exhaustion passed through him. Holding their enemy back was exhausting, nothing seemed to do more than lightly injuring it.

Then it screamed and within moments it began to crumble turning to dust.

"What the name of the Force just happened?"

"Someone destroyed its host," said Luna. "It has been banished back to whatever dimension it called home."

"How would they know home to do a summoning ritual? Were they using magic?" asked Harry.

"I think we need to find out," replied a grim-faced Luna.

    oOoOo

Leaping into the waist-deep water near the island Sirius began looking for any sign of his companion.

Then he saw a dark shape in the water, Sev'rance.
Summoning her body, he quickly pulled her up onto the island.

Damn, she wasn't breathing. Lily Potter had taught him CPR and Alyssa had given them all basic first aid training, so he quickly started work on clearing her airways and then getting her breathing.

After a seemingly endless few minutes, the blue-skinned woman twitched and took a deep shuddering breath then opened her eyes.

"Back with me?" asked Sirius.

"What?"

"We did it, destroyed the focus, Oh and you nearly drowned."

"You saved me...," whispered Sev'rance.

Sirius about to be witty but something in her red eyes made him answer honestly

"Yes, I think I did."

Sev'rance felt like laughing; she had beaten the odds again. Twice dead and yet she lived. She lay still for a while letting her strength return before she laughed quietly.

"Are you okay," asked Sirius as he sat up and looked down at her.

With sudden strength, she reached up and pulled Sirius down for a kiss as her hand reached around to his back.

"W...what," mumbled Sirius as she broke the kiss.

"You are handsome and strong Adept, no doubt you would be a good mate," her hand moved down further and cupped him.

"Hmm, perhaps a very good one...are you taken."

Sirius froze at the light pressure unsure what was going on. How had a rescue turned into this? "Ur no? I'm single..."

Yes very singular...she caressed him for a moment and smiled in genuine amusement at his sharp intake of breath.

Then their lips met again, and his hands shifted to her hips.

As the kiss broke Sev'rance hissed in displeasure, "I want you."

The next part was a blur as the blue-skinned chiss wrapped her legs around Sirius.

Sirius woke up from his doze to find himself alone on the island. 'Okay, what the hell just happened?'

Looking around, he spotted his lightsaber and wand on the ground next to him.

A loud whistle sounded, and Sirius looked up to see a familiar blue figure on the far shore.

"My current master wants you and yours dead adept but right now I couldn't care less – you have
shown me what I need to do. We'll meet again, Sirius Black."

Sirius could feel her eyes watching him before turning and disappearing into the tunnel.

"Bloody hell," whispered Sirius. "What just happened?"

oOoOo

Sev'rance climbed aboard her shuttle with a smile on her face. She had done it; she had beaten death once more.

The Force had once again shown her the way forward, and she had again survived and more. She had found someone who could raise her passions. She could still feel the slight discomfort from her exertions, a most pleasant pain that had left her both sated and wanting more ...she had almost stayed.

Almost.

Her smile faltered as she considered Darth Sidious. She had thought the Dooku would be a pathway to power. Then Sidious promised her the power she craved, the power she would need to fulfil her needs; it was a lie. A lie she recognised and planned for. She had planned to use his knowledge until his inevitable betrayal she knew was coming, she had after all seen a vision of her replacement being trained.

She knew that there was another path, and then the Force had shown her Sirius Black. He was strong in the Force, powerful and skilled. A Force strong male that would be suitable to father her heirs. Heirs that would one day rule the Chiss Ascendancy.

She would find him; now that she had felt him in the Force she could find him anywhere.

Lifting off she plotted a course back to her fleet. Yes, it was nearly time to leave Sidious behind but first, she needed a plan.

oOoOo
Chapter 24

Chapter 24

All publicly recognizable characters, settings, etc. are the property of their respective owners. The original characters and plot are the property of the author. The author is in no way associated with the owners, creators, or producers of any media franchise. No copyright infringement is intended.

I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars, and I make no profit from this work of fanfiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

I'm back and let's leave it at that.

Last time

She knew that there was another path, and then the Force had shown her Sirius Black. He was strong in the Force, powerful and skilled. A Force strong male that would be suitable to father her heirs. Heirs that would one day rule the Chiss Ascendancy.

She would find him; now that she had felt him in the Force she could find him anywhere.

Lifting off she plotted a course back to her fleet. Yes, it was nearly time to leave Sidious behind but first, she needed a plan.

HoloNet News Special Broadcast

Senate Calls For Chancellor to be granted New Powers

Senior Representatives called for the Senate to give the Chancellor new wide-ranging powers in an effort to bring order and peace to the republic. RuhabNor’tar, a senior senator from the Balkee, made comments that suggested he would be calling for even more changes. "The Republic cannot go on like this. These independents are attempting to destroy tens of thousands of years of work. They have used our political system against us. This must stop I am proposing that the Republic be given a new political future under a new constitution."

There has already been considerable discussion in the Senate regarding the proposed changes. The Chancellor's office has declined to comment, but there are reports that the changes will be put to the Senate in the next session.

Read more here

Ongoing Fighting Forces Military to Speed Up New Projects

Even as the Chancellor continued to dismiss fears of a protracted war news of increased military spending has been announced.

Read more here
Darth Sidious looked out over Coruscant and sneered in contempt.

"So many corrupt, ignorant fools all serving my purposes, even as they delude themselves that they control their fate," he whispered to himself.

The situation he had tried to avoid had occurred, and he had been forced to reveal his hand far earlier than he had anticipated, but such setbacks had been planned for. His master had taught him to have contingency plans prepared for even the most foolproof plan.

With a smirk, he looked down to where the faint burn scar was hidden by the sleeve of his robe. Such a trivial wound had been all he former apprentice had managed to inflict on him. Even his brutish 'brother' had not helped in his pitiful attempt to build a power base on Mandalore. For his presumption to mastery, he had died, painfully. How fortuitous that in doing so he had shattered the leadership of the powerful Mandalorian forces. It was a small win among the many setbacks of late but one he fully intended to take advantage of. Mandalore would fall under his control and would prove a fruitful recruiting ground for troops to replace the Clones. Yes, it was a win, admittedly a costly one set amid the failures.

Order 66 had failed; his Jedi purge had been thwarted. His ancient enemies had fled...oh he had no doubt that eventually they would be found and dealt with but such delays were galling. The Mah Vey were silent and his newest enemy, the Force Adepts, had disappeared back into whatever void they came from. The few leads his vast intelligence network had uncovered were not proving fruitful, even with 'special encouragement'.

Far more troubling was the unavoidable fact that his military losses were too high, clones and equipment were lost that he needed to complete his plans, but again while unwelcome, such setbacks were to be expected. He would be patient and rebuild his power and then, when the time was right he would destroy his enemies.

The future he foresaw was still his to take, what matter a few delays?

 oOoOo

Former Jedi Temple – Coruscant

"Director Isard, this way sir." The Clone officer led the way through the rubble that was slowly being cleared away by droids.

Armand Isard gestured for his deputy Malorum to follow before following the Clone.

Isard had to give the Jedi credit, what they couldn't take they had either sabotaged or outright destroyed. Eventually, they reached what had once been the Jedi Archives and the reason for their visit, the Jedi Data Bank.

"Have you rigged the generators?"

"Yes Director, there is power although the damage is..."

"Quite severe, I can see that. You may leave," said Isard with a small wave of his head before returning his attention to the interface. "Hm, see this Malorum, this is the work of a genius. They not only did the physical damage but set off an EMP device to make sure that anything of value left in the archive was utterly destroyed."

"Hardly something we should be lauding," said Malorum in a dry tone.
"I appreciate planning and critical thinking, skills many people lack. They did, however, leave something for us. Didn't they Probic?"

Malorum turned to look at the hooded figure that stepped out of the shadows fighting to keep the surprise off his face. Where had he been hidden?

"Yes they did Isard," said the figure who tossed a small object to Isard.

"Agent Probic was once a Jedi before he entered into our service. He has been a top-flight spy for us ever since," explained Isard. "This is the data log from the navigational records used to upgrade the Jedi Navi-comps. It may well tell us where they have hidden themselves and if not, well we may well have evidence of treason to implicate a great many systems."

oOoOo

Deep Space

Sev'rance grinned as she stood and stretched. After nearly three hours of Force meditation, she felt oddly refreshed as she made her way to the cockpit of her shuttle.

The shuttle systems were all operating normally, and a check of the nav-comp showed everything was as expected as far as her route and arrival time.

"You are a remarkable woman Sev'rance."

She spun to see a figure outlined in an odd blue light. She couldn't make out an identity thanks to the black hooded robe...her eyes narrowed as she realized her visitor was dressed much like Darth Sidious. "Who are you?" she demanded as her hand paused over her lightsaber. There was something odd here, even though she didn't sense danger there was a feeling of power radiating from the figure, which was odd because it looked like a hologram of some sort.

"Ahh, of course, my given name is unimportant but in life I was known as Vectivus."

Sev'rance studied the figure with narrowing eyes, "Is that a name I should know?"

The figure threw its hood back revealing a somewhat handsome, middle-aged human. "Given the fact that your master is an insane xenophobe who has failed to properly train you. I suspect that your understanding of Sith history is somewhat lacking."

"You are a dead Sith?" asked Sev'rance as she studied the figure. She remained on guard, she would be a fool not to, but she still sensed that the figure meant her no harm.

"That is correct but there is a lot I am not explaining right now given that time is a factor."

Severance's red eyes narrowed as she considered the self-confessed Sith, "What are you talking about?"

"Sidious has already ordered your death; he has no interest in a non-human general commanding his forces. You are to be the last challenge for his new apprentice before he is proclaimed a Sith. I am here to help you avoid that fate."

"Why?"

"I assume you mean why I am helping you?" asked the Vectivus.

She nodded.
"You are being given a chance to fulfill those dreams of yours, taking back control of your ancestral clan, being the matriarch with a strong man by your side...never being the weak one. Oh yes, I've seen your dreams, I've seen your hopes daughter of the Chiss. You seek power, strength but so far the Sith have thrown you the merest crumbs of knowledge all why they used you."

"How do you know this?" demanded Sev'rance. "And you haven't answered my question, why are you offering to help me?"

"I am one with the Force and I have been seeking out those like you, catalysts for change. As to what has happened, I have seen it before my dear, too many times but that is a conversation for later. You have a small window of opportunity to thwart Sidious and escape," Vectivus smiled "As for everything else you will just have to trust me."

"Trust you?" hissed Sev'rance.

Vectivus shrugged, "The choice is yours of course. On one hand, you return to your fleet where your replacement has already taken control of your forces and prepares to follow his master's orders. Or you take your chances, trust that your luck and skill will allow you to prevail but what then? You know your former master will not take you back; you have outlived your usefulness."

Sev'rance could hear, by the Force, she could clearly perceive the truth in his words. "What then I run to the Jedi or perhaps hide in the outer reaches?"

"Neither would serve. I will show you a place where your skills will be valued, where you can forge a path that will lead back to the Chiss Ascendancy," Vectivus smirked and raised an eyebrow. "Did I mention that Sirius Black is one of those that will be...ahh assessing those skills?"

Sev'rance could feel the Force shifting around her trying to tell her something.

"You can feel it can't you?"

"What is it?" asked Sev'rance as she tried to pin down the odd feeling.

"A nexus, a choice," said another voice. A woman appeared next to Vectivus. "You must choose Sev'rance. This isn't about light or dark or Jedi and Sith this is about life and those that oppose it, look," she pointed to where an image appeared of a figure cloaked in shadow.

A sharp pain clawed at her chest as she sensed the darkness, no the void that surrounded the figure. It was un-natural a blight on the Force.

"That," said Vectivus. "Is our enemy, a foe that wants to destroy everything in its quest for superiority, it wants the absolute destruction of everything it cannot control."

"Our galaxy has long been protected by the vast distance between our home and the area they control but they have found ways to influence events. A way to steer things so that we are weakened when they finally arrive and make no mistake they are coming."

The vision disappeared, and Sev'rance turned on the two figures, "I am no hero, look elsewhere if you are seeking a potential Jedi."

Vectivus laughed, and the woman smiled, "Oh no Sev'rance we don't need heroes we need a general."
Voltis Three

Harry glanced at Luna, who nodded and stepped forward to greet the planetary official standing with two armed guards by his side. Harry noted that six more guards were positioned across the street. There weren't any weapons being pointed at them, but they were being carefully watched. He turned his attention back to Luna and the three men.

"Officially the Primacy is less than pleased with off-world aliens interfering in what he is sure the council will see as an internal law and order matter," the middle-aged man smiled slightly. "Unofficially he sends his thanks...what you described and what our scouts uncovered is disturbing in the extreme. Then there is the fact that you returned twenty-three of our citizens. Their families will be relieved and for those that perished...well, perhaps our investigation will give them some closure."

"We are happy that we could be of assistance, unofficially, of course," said Luna with a nod.

"The Primacy is disturbed by the fact that some of these...deviants may have escaped. So to protect our people and to prevent their escape we are closing our spacedock and placing a blanket travel ban on our citizens."

"I see," replied Luna, who kept her expression neutral. "When will this come into effect?"

"It is already in effect," replied the official. "However given your aid the Primacy has made an exception for your two ships. You must, however, leave soon; if you require fuel or supplies, the Primacy has seen fit to cover any costs."

"We understand," replied Luna. "May I ask a question?"

"Of course," he replied politely.

"When came here looking for Force users to ..."

"I see that you will not be dissuaded," replied the official with a sigh. "Officially we consider Force users to be an internal matter. The primacy does not harbour any ill will toward them in fact like any citizen they will be encouraged to use their skills to benefit their fellow citizens. Officer Traveed?"

One of the guards gestured and his blaster flew up into his hand from its holster.

"You are not the first to come seeking here. We are well aware of those...gifted with skills. Most are employed within our military or police but there are a few independent citizens with such skills. We can respect your desire to recruit such to whatever cause you represent, but we are for the most part an insular society."

"I see," replied Luna. "I can understand that. I would suggest that you be on guard. Our motivations were good intensioned others may not be so inclined."

"We will, now will you need supplies?"

oOoOo

Harry stared out the cockpit window on the Lily catching a glimpse of the Wookie Gunner as it lifted off beside them. "Well, that was a bust."

"Maybe," admitted Luna. "The Primacy seemed to be aware of the situation, well his envoy did. Who knows maybe they'll find their way."
"Maybe," mused Harry sadly as their two ships left the planet's atmosphere.

"Lily this is the Wookie Gunner we are preceding to our next location, Hermione's picked out a planet that looks like it has a group of Force healers. Apparently, they rescued a crashed freighters crew and sent them on their way."

"Be careful Sirius," warned Harry with a smile. "Altis will kill you if you bang up the Wookie."

"Ha, we'll check in....well in about twelve hours."

"Okay, Lily out," replied Harry.

"They'll be okay," said Luna.

"Yeah...they will. So what's next for us?" asked Harry with a smile.

Luna put on a serious expression, "The Force will guide us."

"Okay, so where to?"

Luna shrugged, "No idea."

"Right...so..."

"You haven't cured him of his attempts at humour yet beloved?"

"Talia!" exclaimed Luna as she turned to see their former Master standing behind them.

"It is good to see you both my beloved apprentices."

Harry felt a wave of emotion as he went down on one knee and bowed his head, "Master."

"Please beloved, there is no need, you are your own master now, now up you too Luna. I have very little time."

Both rose to their feet to see a smiling Talia, "You have done well, far better than perhaps you realize but I am sure you both know that your mission has just begun. The Jedi and many others that would have perished along with their knowledge have been saved by your intervention. Our distant enemy is still a danger, but you have blunted the first attack."

Luna cocked her head to the side, "What now Master?"

Talia studied them sadly, "I cannot stay, I am needed elsewhere. There are others who need guidance if we are to succeed."

"Will we see you again?" asked Luna.

"Yes, although maybe not for a long time my beloved ones. You are more than ready to find your own way," Talia looked at both her former apprentices with pride.

"That doesn't mean we don't miss you, Master," replied Harry.

"Every single day," added Luna sadly.

"Love each other, be strong and remember together you can achieve anything," said Talia. "Your friends will help you on your way."
Talia held up a hand in farewell as she faded.

oOoOo

Harry took a sip of his tea before beginning, "Okay everyone I'm going to follow some sound advice and ask where to next."

Salara raised an eyebrow, "Do we not have a destination?"

"We have some ideas, but we want everyone's opinion first," replied Luna. "After Voltis we were going to play it by ear."

"What do ears have to do with our decision making?" asked Sahdra.

"It's an expression, I meant that we were going to let both the Force and events dictate our next destination," explained Luna,

"Oh, should we just pick a destination?" asked Sahdra. "I always wanted to visit a resort planet. Oh…we should go to Zeltron. It would be so much fun to show Velath around."

"While a pleasure planet is a great idea for a holiday destination let's call it Plan B for now," said Harry with a grin.

"Oh okay, I can have fun with Velath here," replied Sahdra as Velath turned pink and glared at the Zeltron.

"Moving right along," added Harry quickly. "Do we have any thoughts?"

Ret cleared his throat, "I had heard of a mystical cult in the Lybos system, we had considered investigating, but we lacked the resources."

"What do we know?" asked Luna curiously.

"Only that they seemed to have abilities that seemed to indicate that they may be Force users."

Harry raised an eyebrow, "Even though that sounds about right it's not a lot to go on. Okay so anyone else?"

"Master Altis told us that a lot of reports were just rumours and guesses, he heard stories about feats that sound like Force users, but that's about it," added Sahdra. "It was the sort of thing the Masters look for when we are looking for potential Jedi."

The others shared a look.

"What?" asked Sahdra.

"We overlooked something that obvious…damn," said Harry.

"I don't understand," said Sahdra.

Luna smiled at the young woman, "We've been debating how to find prospective students. The galaxy is a big place and we don't have time to go from planet to planet so we relied on what we could uncover in the archives and what the Force showed us now you have just pointed out that we could have saved a lot of time by asking Altis."

"Damn how did we miss this?" asked Harry.
Luna smiled and shrugged, "I guess that we may have overthought the issue a tad. Well, that and we became a bit too reliant on Talia and Vectivus giving us hints."

"That's probably what she meant when she said that we are ready to find our own way," said Harry. "Right well let's get to this, Luna drop us out of hyperspace and let's get in touch with Altis,"

oOoOo

"Are we sure this is a good idea?" asked Anakin as he turned to look at Obi-Wan.

"If we are to build working relationships with those that oppose Sidious then yes, we need to," replied Kenobi.

"Senator Organa did imply that Bel Iblis was the leader of the armed coalition," added Ahsoka.

"Remember our mission is threefold. We need to know what is happening while the council rebuilds. We also want to hinder the Sith as much as we can."

"And we should try to find the Adepts," finished Anakin.

Ahsoka shook her head as a frown creased her face, "The council still doesn't trust them even with all they have done to help us?"

"It is more accurate to say that the council doesn't understand what they seek," replied Kenobi. "They may not be our enemy, but that does not automatically make them our friend."

"You believe that Master?" asked Ahsoka.

Obi-Wan Kenobi stroked his fingers through his beard for a moment before answering, "My feelings tell me that they are friends, but my training tells me to be wary…I think we need to know what they seek."

"Well we are approaching the coordinates Organa's people gave us," said Anakin.

"As soon as we drop out of Hyperspace check for any sign of the Corellians," ordered Kenobi.

As the freighter dropped out of Hyperspace, they found themselves facing a fleet of ships.

Anakin grinned, "I don't think we'll need to look far Master."

oOoOo

Cintar - Corellian Defence Fleet – Outer Rim

Garm Bel Iblis fought to keep his expression neutral as he studied the three Jedi before him. "So I am correct in saying that the majority of the surviving Jedi are…unavailable for the foreseeable future?"

Obi-Wan sighed and gave a small nod to the obviously angry former senator, "I understand that you are gathering a fleet but, given recent events, we are in as much disarray as anyone in these turbulent times."

"And Organa and Mothma no doubt nodded and accepted your words…well Master Kenobi I am not so easily reassured. The mess that was the fall of Coruscant seemed to have happened under your noses as much as it did ours. The difference is that I'm still fighting. My allies," Garm Bel Iblis gestured to the Green Jedi Master standing in the corner and the woman in battered Mandalorian armour with the symbols of the Death Watch on it. "Are dedicating themselves to the restoration of
"We are not saying that we won't help only that we lack resources at this time," explained Kenobi. He saw Anakin move as if he was going to speak, but he saw Obi-Wan's small head shake and remained silent. Kenobi could understand the Former senator's frustration and things were unlikely to change soon. "Anakin, Ahsoka and I, however, will aid you as much as we can."

"I see, so when the council in a position to help what can we expect?" asked Garm Bel Iblis in the same calm tone of voice.

"As far as I know the council has not yet decided," replied Kenobi.

Garm Bel Iblis shared a look with Jedi Master Cortel. The Corellian Green Jedi nodded, and Bel Iblis continued, "Very well, I guess we'll have to settle for your promise and what little assistance you can offer."

"May I ask what a member of the Death Watch is doing here?" asked Kenobi.

"The Death Watch has offered an alliance. Their world had already sustained heavy casualties when it came under attack by Clone forces. I will not let their system fall without a fight and with Duchess Satine currently missing and the government in tatters the remaining Death Watch forces contacted us."

Obi-Wan raised an eyebrow in surprise, "It was my understanding that the current leadership of the Death Watch was not interested in events outside of Mandalore?"

"Pre Vizsla is dead, I lead the Death Watch now, and I will not let my people be destroyed," the figure hesitated for a moment before removing her helmet. "I am Bo-Katan." She gestured to her hip where a familiar black metal cylinder sat next to her blaster.

Kenobi recognized the Darksaber and a small frown appeared on his face, but he refrained from commenting.

"Bo-Katan and her people have committed themselves to our mission," stated Garm Bel Iblis.

"I see…I was not aware that Mandalore had been attacked or that the Duchess and her government overthrown," said Obi-Wan as he tried to hide the small spike of fear for Satine. The ruler of Mandalore was a friend.

"Why would you be Jedi?" said Bo-Katan grimly. "You used her…us to further your orders schemes and when you had finished you dropped your tool and left. The Jedi betrayed us just as readily as the Sith. I'll put my faith in my blaster."

"I can understand your frustration, but we must work together if we are to defeat Palpatine," said Jedi master Cortel. "We are looking at building a strong coalition here, and it is only right that your people are represented."

Bo-Katan was silent for a moment before giving Cortel a nod. Turning back to Obi-Wan she put her helmet back on before moving on to Garm Bel Iblis. "I have given my word, and I will abide by it."

"Thank you Bo-Katan. Master Kenobi perhaps you would pass our request on to the council."

Kenobi was surprised at the mix of vague familiarity and intense dislike he sensed whenever he looked at Bo-Katan. There was more going on here than he was aware of. "Of course and until they reply I place myself and my companions at your service,"

the republic."
Haven

Altis gestured, and the Medical Droid made its way over to the Jedi Master.

"Master Altis, the patients, should make a full recovery with Tri-ox therapy and Bacta immersion. There is a thirty-two percent chance that master Kel-Tor may need additional surgery but at this point, that would only be a relatively minor procedure."

Altis nodded, "Thank you, and please keep me informed if there are any changes."

"Of course Master Jedi," replied the droid before it turned back to its patients.

"Good news then," said Remus as he watched the droid work.

"Yes, but it does potentially present some new difficulties. We now have four Jedi here all of whom will no doubt want to re-join their fellows and who will, in all likelihood give the council far more information than I am comfortable with them knowing."

"There are ways to handle such a situation," Remus said quietly. "We could erase their memories and return them to the Jedi."

Altis frowned and turned to look at Remus, "I know, and it worries me that I am even considering it."

"There are some choices that shouldn't be easy," agreed Remus.

"I think we can come up with something better than knocking them on the head," said Keisha with a smile. "I've just spoken to Luna, and they are looking for you, Altis. It seems they overlooked a few things."

Praxia

Cin Drallig was rather curious as he followed Bill Weasley toward the small encampment of 'wizards' that were finishing the final touches to the Jedi enclave. Apparently, the government liaison, Bill's father Arthur had requested his presence.

"Master Drallig?" Bill gestured for the Jedi Master to enter the tent as he held the flap open.

Even after experiencing the spatial manipulation of the 'Wizarding tents' it was still an odd experience to see such a large space within the cloth structure.

"Ah Cin, come in, come in. Would you like some tea?" asked Arthur Weasley.

Cin had a lot of respect for the government wizard. His calm presence and genuine enthusiasm for his role was very different from most civil servants he had encountered. "Thank you Arthur tea would be fine."

Arthur poured them both a cup of tea before adding a dash of milk to both and a spoon of sugar to his own. "I know you don't have sugar, I probably shouldn't either according to Molly."

Cin smiled politely as he took a sip of his tea.
"Ah well best get to business I suppose. I've had a call come through on the Holo-comm Harry left me."

Cin raised an eyebrow in polite surprise, "For me, why would Mister Potter ask for me as opposed to the council representative?"

"Oh, sorry my fault there it wasn’t from Harry, it was from a Jedi Master Altis apparently he needs to drop off some Jedi they rescued."

Reator – Altisian Freighter

Wressel Morn stretched out his long legs as he checked the readouts from the freighters well-maintained engines. He and the droids had loaded up on Brixtar and left with no problems. Another three hours and he would be on to his last pick up and then on the way back to his wife and daughter. Altis would have to get one of the other pilots to do the supply run next time. Standing he moved toward the food dispenser, he should probably get something to eat before….the Altisian Jedi froze as he sensed something.

Something warned him to move, and he did…just in time to evade a head strike from a figure dressed in black. A second figure was aiming a weapon at him, so he launched himself forward with a burst of Force aided speed crashed into the figure sending it crashing headfirst into the bulkhead. Using his momentum, he grabbed an overhead coolant pipe and used it to swing around and land facing the original figure.

"Die Jedi," hissed the figure as it drew a red lightsaber and slashed at Wressel.

Wressel ducked under the swing and struck out with an open hand strike to the chest that knocked the figure back, giving him room and time to draw and ignite his own lightsaber and deflect the next attack.

"You'll die ar…," the rest of the threat was lost as the figure suddenly convulsed and fell to the floor accompanied by a buzzing noise.

"A94 report," ordered Wressel as he moved to disarm and bind his attackers.

The heavily modified 'loader droid' walked forward holding its improvised stun gun, "I have used non-lethal force, Master, to incapacitate your attacker."

"Good job A9, now let's secure these two and check that there are no more aboard," said Wressel was silently offering thanks that he had listened to his wife and purchased A94. The 'security' droid was worth every credit.

A thorough search of the Freighter uncovered a tracking device and what turned out to be an electronics 'spoof' designed to hide life signs from any internal sensors, not that the freighter had any. The two stowaways both carried no identification or indeed any other equipment save bottles of water and what looked like protein bars and red-bladed lightsabers, which was identification enough.

Contacting Haven was now a priority.

Mustafar
The Cabal that considered itself in control of the Confederation of Independent Systems was growing increasingly concerned. General Grievous had disappeared and was presumed dead and their ally Sidious had replied to their messages with a simple instruction to relocate their base to Mustafar and await his representatives.

Wat Tambor of the Techno Union shared a look with San Hill of the Banking Clan and gestured toward the door. San Hill nodded, and the two of them quietly left the control centre.

"You sense it to do you not?" said Tambor once they were clear of the guards.

Hill nodded slowly, "Things are not proceeding as we were promised, and these latest instructions make no sense. The entire leadership is here, without any military support."

Tambor's pressure mask distorted his voice and hid his face, but Hill could still see his eye's narrow. "I suspect that we have reached the end of our usefulness to Sidious."

Hill sighed and glanced back the way they had come, "The others?"

"Are venal, greedy fools."

Hill smiled coldly, "Nothing wrong with a bit of greed, but I take your point, my friend."

"I have been speaking with my agents," began Tambor, "The Republic will soon fall, and I fear that what will replace it will be far worse no matter what side you followed. As much as I hate to admit it Organa and Bel Iblis were right."

"We brought the war to our worlds in an attempt to stabilize our power; perhaps we would be wise to not call others fools."

Tambor seemed to shrug although it was hard to tell in his suit, "It doesn't matter now, we need to look to the future. What we bring will still be needed by those worlds opposed to the new regime. I will approach Organa with an offer to turn our droid army over to him."

Hill studied the Foreman of the Techno Union for a moment before accepting his words with a nod, "Very well if you wish it I will join you."

"I thought you might," replied Tambor. "Leave the others to plot and cling to Sidious and his lies."

"What of Grievous?"

"I don't know if the psychopath is still among the living but it might be best to make sure that he does not…ah, complicate matters." Tambor took out a device and entered a code. Seeing his companion's expression he held up the device. "A transmitter I have sent a code to a specially designed device that Grievous is happily oblivious to. As soon as he comes near a com relay it will detonate."

Hill smiled and gave Tambor a small bow, "Ingenious my friend. Will we take your ship or mine?"

Three hours later a division of Clone's led by Sith acolytes arrived in orbit and on the orders of Palpatine landed and killed every living thing on the planet.

Cintar - Corellian Defence Fleet – Outer Rim

Garm Bel Iblis frowned as he read the unexpected intelligence data as he finished he looked up at the others, "An unusual sequence of events don't you think."
Cortel rubbed his chin as he considered, "It is certainly an opportunity, one that will give our alliance a huge boost in numbers, but I cannot speak to its sincerity."

Kenobi frowned, "Tambor and Hill are survivors. I suspect that they realized that the Sith no longer needed them and fled, apparently just ahead of the clones."

"So could they be playing us?" asked Ahsoka.

Bel Iblis shook his head, "I don't think so, but we will need to be careful."

Anakin cleared his throat, "What about other CIS worlds? Surely they must realize that Palpatine isn't going to just forget about them."

Bel Iblis smiled, albeit only slightly. "Very logical Skywalker and yes I'm sure they do, but the war has hit them hard as well. I doubt many systems are ready to commit forces to our alliance without first having a chance to rebuild. I loathe Palpatine, but the man surely knew how to plan a campaign. Another year or two and everybody but him would have been on their knees."

"I will take a squadron to meet Tambor and Hill. Cortel I'll get you and Borden to come with me. That's more than enough of a show of force. We'll also have enough firepower to cut and run if we have to. Kenobi I want you to accompany a small relief task force to the Mandalore system, Bo-Katan you'll be with Kenobi. Get supplies to your people on Concordia so they can begin distribution. This is not a combat mission, as we would need the entire fleet to liberate the system. I need you to get supplies to the resistance and any local intelligence as quietly as possible and then pull out."

Kenobi frowned slightly, "Just before this meeting I received word from the council that I will need to rendezvous with some allies who have some Jedi that require medical assistance. Would it be possible for them to be brought here for treatment?" Kenobi could feel Bo-Katan's glare even with her helmet on.

Bel Iblis could understand why Kenobi was asking, given the situation the Jedi faced. "Perhaps Ahsoka Tano can receive your wounded people and report back to the council. We have several medical frigates so treatment wouldn't be an issue."

"I would think getting supplies to Mandalore would be more important than repatriating injured Jedi," Bo-Katan hissed out.

Bel Iblis cleared his throat, "I know you two have issues, but this is bigger than anything personal between you two. Can I still count on your assistance?"

"Of course," replied Kenobi.

Bo-Katan just nodded.

"The time to free Mandalore will come to Bo-Katan," promised Bel Iblis.

oOoOo

Coruscant – Bel Shoblis Industrial Complex

Armand Isard knelt before Darth Sidious silently awaiting acknowledgment.

"What do you have to report Isard?"
"We have the records my Lord and we are preparing them for both the Senate and the media. We also have the latest intelligence from our operatives on Mandalore. Our agent reports that Satine has disappeared, he suspects that she has fled to the insurgents that have been harassing our ground forces."

Sidious chuckled darkly, "Ah yes the Duchess plays her part so well, and the occupation itself?"

"Proceeding as planned My Lord," reported Isard.

"Have our agents reported on the hunt for the Jedi or these adepts?" Sidious asked.

"The Jedi continue to elude my net, and these adepts are like ghosts, my lord. The trails run cold even as we uncover them."

"Hmm well see to it that our agents understand the price of failure." Sidious paused and considered for a few moments deciding if any changes were needed. "Warn our people to be on the lookout for Jedi on Mandalore. If they are encountered do your best to take them alive we need information."

"Of course my lord."

"Go and do your duty Director," ordered Sidious.

After the door had closed, Sidious turned and activated a holographic diagram of a huge spherical space station. There were so many things that had to fall into place before construction could begin.

oOoOo

Altis considered cancelling the mission to repatriate the injured Jedi after hearing Wressel Morn’s report. One of their ships being targeted was concerning. The fact that it was done in a way that seemed to imply that they wanted prisoners was worrying. He had to presume that the Sith had been responsible, and that implied that the Sith were trying to find Haven. For now, he had sent a warning and recalled most ships. His people would need to be careful.

oOoOo

Ahsoka had seen Master Kenobi and Anakin depart for Mandalore moments before another section of the fleet disappeared into Hyperspace. Her mission was to see to the care of the Jedi once they arrived aboard on the Medical Frigate Hemoa-Sa.

She had followed Master Kenobi’s instructions and contacted the council via an encrypted channel to confirm where a Jedi transport would rendezvous with them. Master Yoda had given her the coordinates and time-frame before leaving her with a short, personal message for Harry Potter. Ahsoka went over the message again wondering what Master Yoda was thinking before she let it go. After all, Yoda was a Jedi Master and Council member.

"Jedi Tano?"

Ahsoka turned to see a crewman standing at the hatch, "Ma'am a ship incoming that claims to have injured Jedi aboard. Would this be the vessel we are expecting?"

"Probably Lieutenant, I had better verify with them."

The junior officer nodded, "Of course ma'am if you follow me I will take you to the comm's room."

oOoOo
HoloNet News Special Broadcast

Republic to be re-ordered

Grand Chancellor Palpatine addressed the people today after a closed to the public meeting of the Senate.

"In order to ensure our ongoing security and to secure victory in these trying times, the Senate today voted and passed a number of new bills and amended several key laws including the Security Amendment Act and Senate Emergency response act."

"The largest change, however, was announced amid a great deal of applause from the Senate floor. The Republic will be reorganized into the first Galactic Empire. We will rebuild and redefine our galaxy as we strive for safety and security, this new order, which I assure you will last for ten thousand years will continue to be served by the new Imperial Senate. We will have an Empire that will continue to be ruled by this august body and a sovereign ruler chosen for life. An Empire ruled by the majority, ruled by a new Constitution."

"These changes will help reunite the galaxy by ending this pointless conflict."

Read more here

Mandalorian Uprising being quelled by newly rechristened Imperial forces

"Having such an important sector of space being threatened by the explosive situation on Mandalore is not something the Chancellor….I'm sorry the Emperor, could ignore." Senator Whist from the security committee went on to outline the situation in more detail. "With the civilian government falling apart Imperial forces had little choice but to step in and assist Lord Almec the acting Mandalorian Prime Minister."

Read more here

Duchess Satine deposed or on the run from the law

Imperial investigators have uncovered disturbing evidence of collusion with both the CIS and the Outlawed Jedi Order among the personal files of the former ruler of Mandalore, the now missing Duchess Satine.

Senior Investigator Tortel only gave a short statement when pressed for information. "There will be a thorough investigation into these alleged files. At this time, I can only speculate as to what drove her to collude with those that sort to harm her own people."

Read more here

Harry and Luna looked at each other as they finished watching the delayed broadcast.

"Bloody hell, that's going to go down like a lead balloon," said Harry.

"He's cementing his power base, legitimizing himself…even though some systems have turned away from him, he still controls a great many planets and the infrastructure to rebuild. All we've done is gain some time." As she finished speaking, Luna shook her head sadly.

"Why Mandalore?" mused Harry. "They were neutral in the war as far as I know."
Luna considered what she knew before letting out a small sigh, "I'd be guessing love, but they do have a strong military culture or at least they did until the New Mandalorian sect came to power. I wonder if this is a way to get access to non-clone troops?"

"You may be right but what can we do? We are hardly equipped to fight a war."

"We could check it out?" offered Luna.

"Let's tell the others and get their opinion first but I agree," replied Harry. It would be worth, it even if all they could do were once again disrupt Palpatine's plans.

oOoOo

Given that they were pre-warned by the Jedi Council of the circumstances of the patient transfer, Remus and Altis were not surprised by the fleet that was at the coordinates they were given by the Jedi (via Arthur Weasley).

"Corellian frigates and…a Class C hospital ship. That will be our destination Remus," advised Altis.

"Unidentified transport, state your destination and purpose."

Altis responded without hesitation, "This is Jedi Master Altis onboard Haven one. We have injured aboard."

"Acknowledged, please follow our escort in Haven One."

Altis and Remus let the medical staff do their work as they efficiently transferred the injured Jedi to the ships medical ward.

"Master Altis?"

Altis and Remus turned to see a young Togruta with a lightsaber on her belt.

"Yes, ah Padawan Tano I assume," replied Altis with a smile.

"Yes Master," replied Ahsoka.

"Please, just Djinn or Altis will do. How can I help you?"

"Master Yoda wanted me to pass a message. He said that you would be able to pass it to Adept Potter."

"Hmmm, I can certainly get a message to Harry."

"Master Yoda wants to establish relations with the Adepts. He would like a face to face meeting."

oOoOo

Concordia Moon - Mandalore System

"Well this is distressingly familiar," said Obi-Wan Kenobi as he deflected another blaster shot before ducking back into the entrance way of the what had once been a Death Watch stronghold.

Bo-Katan ignored him as she laid down a barrage of cover fire to give her people time to pull back.

CRUMP
A rain of debris fell outside the entrance as the blaster fire stepped up a notch.

"That was the freighter," reported Lorvan one of the Mandalorians covering the other side of the entrance.

"Frak…okay," Bo-Katan quickly issued orders for her people to fall back before turning to Kenobi. "We'll pull back into the caves. There are two escape tunnels we can….”

"We have been taking fire from inside the base," reported one of the rear guards. "We are in danger of….." There was the sound of blaster fire and then nothing.

Kenobi took a calming breath, centring himself before turning to Bo-Katan, "Are there any other ways out?"

"No," replied Bo-Katan.

"Then we may…"

A massive explosion sounded outside as the blaster fire suddenly slacked off.

"Re-enforcements have arrived, they just took down the AT-TE," reported Lorvan.

"Must be some of our people," replied Bo-Katan. "Alright let's get moving we need to take out the clones before they get re-enforced."

With the AT-TE destroyed the remaining clones were no match for the two-pronged attack and were quickly overwhelmed and methodically cut down.

A Mandalorian in the blue and grey armour of the Mandalorian security forces landed in front of Bo-Katan and pointed to the south toward the thick forest, "We have transport hidden in the trees, but you will have to hurry. The damn clones have a much larger force on the way here."

Several armoured figures are loading the few supplies they had managed to unload into an armed speeder.

"Get moving Jedi," ordered their rescuer. "We have minutes at best."

Obi-wan broke into a run and quickly reached the tree line where almost two dozen Mandalorians were waiting.

"General or should that be Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi?" asked one of the waiting figures.

"I would suspect that Palpatine has revoked your commission Obi-Wan," said another Mandalorian, this one female. "I never thought I would be thanking you for bringing the Death Watch to my door." The woman studied Bo-Katan for a moment before nodding. "You fought well soldier, but this is not the time for reunions. We need to get to our camp before the start looking for us. Korkie, blow it."

"At once Mandalore," another Mandalorian acknowledged as he pressed a control pad on his arm guard.

CRRRUMMPT

"That was the old base blowing up, now we must go," said the female.

As Kenobi followed he wondered to whom the woman had been referring to when she said 'reunion'
and why he was sensing something familiar through the Force.

The trip to the Mandalorian soon moved underground in what initially appeared to have been a mine but had quickly become tunnels.

"This is new," stated Bo-Katan. "No wonder our agents couldn't find where they were."

"It's pretty basic," noted Kenobi as they passed another guarded checkpoint.

"It's rigged to be blown," explained the Mandalorian behind Kenobi.

"Ahh, that would explain the lack of equipment," Why allocate equipment that would be lost?

The rest of the trip was made in silence.

Eventually, the tunnel opened into a large cave that had been turned into a refugee camp.

"Mand'alor," called out a voice that had nearly every Mandalorian turning to look at the new arrivals.

"Kora I need a casualty report," said a Mandalorian as she stepped forward and reached up to remove her helmet.

"Bretan is already preparing it Mand'alor," said a woman with a datapad.

The helmet came off, and a head of long, blond hair was revealed as the Mandalorian turned to face Kenobi.

"Hello, Obi-Wan."

"Satine…," whispered Kenobi in shocked recognition of one of the few women he had truly loved.

"Sister," said a shocked Bo-Katan.

Okay this is pretty bloody bad," complained Harry as he piloted the Lily through a storm of weapons fire from the pursuing Clone Fighters.

Their arrival in the Mandalorian system had been almost immediately detected by the Clone fleet. The outcome of which was the squadron of fighters tailing them.

An explosion above the Lily showed that their main weapons were making life difficult for the clones.

"Come about to two three zero," ordered Luna.

The view out the cockpit window spun and a Republic cruiser appeared along with a few dozen more fighters.

"Ah Luna…this is worse," warned Harry as he rolled the Lily along its axis to avoid the fire from the cruiser that was far too close for comfort.

"Hold it, hold it…take us down now," urged Luna.

Harry complied putting the Lily through a dive that strained the inertial compensation systems. As he
did Luna strengthened the rear shields. Even that didn't help as an explosive shockwave hit the Lily from behind throwing it forward and putting half the systems off-line.

"What was that?" demanded Salara as she struggled into the cockpit and strapped into a seat.

"The cruiser just blew up," explained Luna. "I'd say that some of the Mandalorians are putting up a fight…they can't win, but they are going down swinging." Luna finished sadly as the Lily rocked again.

"We've got a problem people," warned Harry. "Main power is fluctuating."

"We don't want to be anywhere in the system when this fleet lands troops, but I think…"

"We don't have a choice," finished Harry. "I need to set the Lily down and check out the damage." Even with magic, you needed to have some understanding of what you were 'fixing'.

Luna's eyes lost focus for a moment as she sent her awareness out into the Force before she pointed at a moon on the display "Put us down on Concordia. The fleet will go after the capital on Mandalore first."

Luna finished sending a distress call to Haven and powering down the ship before walking out of the cockpit and down the loading ramp. Seeing the others gathered around she walked over to Harry. "I've sent the message and shut down main power. I can place a few wards on the ship they'll help hide it while we do repairs. Until we are ready to leave, we need to stay vigilant."

"I doubt our landing went unnoticed so I expect we may have visitors soon," added Harry.

"I'll scout out the area to see if there is anyone in the vicinity," offered Salara.

"I'll go with you," said Ret.

As the others started taking repair jobs, Harry and Luna walked away from the group.

"Okay so why are we here?" asked Harry. He knew he was somewhat unfair as Luna's Force based visions were not something she could call up on demand, but she was far more skilled and insightful when it came to what she did sense.

"I don't know…something called out to me. I think we are needed here for some reason. I need to meditate and see if it gets any clearer." Luna looked a bit doubtful as she looked back at the damaged Lily.

Harry reached out and pulled her into a hug, "I trust your vague feelings more than I trust most people's promises. We'll work out what and why."

"Thanks," whispered Luna before she kissed Harry's cheek.

Harry raised his voice, "Velath would you stay with Luna please while I start repairs."

Knowing Luna would begin her warding he walked back up into the Lily to find out what exactly was damaged.

"Jedi?" asked Obi-Wan.
"They are carrying lightsabers," added the scout.

"Were you expecting reinforcements?" asked Satine with a frown.

Kenobi heard the unspoken question, were they enemies? "No, but that doesn't mean they are not Jedi. After Coruscant, we lost track of a lot of Jedi, and we haven't found them all yet."

Satine accepted that, but her expression didn't soften, "We need to know Obi-Wan."

Kenobi nodded, he could understand her hesitation, "If your scout could show me I will check it out."

Bo-Katan replaced the power cell in her blaster, "I'll come as well."

Satine looked pained for a minute as she studied Bo-Katan, "Bo..I..we need to talk."

"Do we?" replied Bo-Katan as she turned and walked away.

"Satine?" enquired Kenobi.

Satine looked away from the retreating figure of Bo-Katan. "Bo is my sister although she may not choose to acknowledge that fact."

"Ah," replied Kenobi before Satine pulled him into a tight hug only to release him after a tight squeeze.

"Be careful Obi-Wan and please keep her safe."

oOoOo

Luna frowned before sighing and opening her eyes to look up at Velath, who was still standing guard over her. "We are about to get some visitors, can you go and get Harry and warn the others. Tell them that some of them are friendly."

With a sigh, she stood as Velath left and did a few stretches to ease her muscles. If things went as she envisioned, then she wanted to be prepared. Ah…there it was a familiar presence, without looking she called out, "I know you are there Obi-Wan."

"Luna? While it is a pleasure to see you again I must say I am surprised," said Kenobi as he walked out of the shadows followed by two armoured figures.

Luna stood up straight and adopted a haughty expression, "There are no coincidences with the Force."

Kenobi raised an eyebrow as he smiled, "Really?"

Luna grinned back, "Well it sounds Jedi-like to me." Her smile faded as she sensed Velath and Harry returning with the others following. "We will soon, however, have some decidedly unfriendly guests." Turning to Harry she gestured to the south. "We've got troops coming in from the south. I don't think they are looking for us, but they will soon find us and attack."

Harry hid a grimace, "Damn, I've repaired the systems damage, but the fusion generator will have to be restarted…how much time do we have?"

Luna shrugged, "It depends but they be here soon, how long do you need?"
"An hour max, maybe forty minutes if we skip over some protocols," answered Harry his expression grim.

Luna shook her head, "We don't have that long till they get here."

"I'll make some time," replied Harry as the others arrived led by Ret and Salara.

"I'll come with you," replied Luna. "Salara, Ret you had better come with us."

"Velath and Sahdra get the ship ready," he smiled at the worried looks on the faces of the two youngest members of his crew. "Be prepared to come and rescue us."

Kenobi turned to the two Mandalorians with him, "Go and warn the others that we have incoming enemy, troops. I'll stay here and help."

Bo-Katan shook her head, "I'll stay the Mandalorian resistance will need time to prepare and besides, we'll need a ship to get off world and ours got taken out,"

Lumod Garth enjoyed the fear his mere presence created. Even battle-hardened clones felt it although they did well to hide it. His master Darth Sidious had taught him the power of fear. He felt a twinge of fear for a moment as he remembered his failure to kill his 'predecessor' the Chiss woman. She had disappeared, and his master had not been pleased. So he remained a student rather than his master-apprentice until he could make up for that failure.

"Commander, have you found the insurgents?" he asked a clone in officer's armour.

"No sir, although it won't be long now; they have nowhere left to hide."

"Good, make sure you do not fail me, commander. I...." Garth paused as he sensed something almost familiar. There was a Force presence, maybe more than one. His face twisted into an expression of barely suppressed rage, "Jedi."

"Commander there are..." Garth leapt backward as a blaster bolt effectively beheaded the Clone commander next to him. He ignited his lightsaber deflecting another shot as he moved rapidly to the left where he could sense the Jedi and suddenly there he was...it was Kenobi. Excitement warred with anger as he rushed forward blocking shots. If he killed Kenobi, his master would forget his previous failures. As he charged forward, he drew his second weapon and concealed it in his left hand.

Victory was assured.

Kenobi gestured to Bo-Katan, Ret and Salara, who took aim at the approaching Clone troopers led by a figure dressed in black. The three of them immediately opened fire and took down the Clone Commander. As the three continued to fire, he advanced a few steps allowing Dark sider to see him. Almost immediately the figure in black charged forward oblivious to the fate of his troops.

Harry and Luna weaved forward, trusting their magic to hide their presence. When they reached the AT-TE, they used the Force to leap on top of the Walker as its turret turned to where Kenobi stood. With a single swipe of his lightsaber, the turret was disabled while Luna cut open the access hatch. Shouts showed that her actions had drawn the attention of the crew, but a blasting Hex silenced the voices and destroyed most of the interior. Harry pulled three rocks out of his pocket and threw them
to the ground before he transfigured them into three wolves. Luna did the same except she used brown bears.

"Two minutes," called out Harry as the animals moved to attack the confused Clones. Without waiting he leapt from atop the smoking AT-TE to land among the confused Clones and released his cloaking spells. Luna landed beside him and without hesitation, they both attacked cutting down the nearest Clones before moving with Force enhanced speed to attack another group. The battle-seasoned Clones soon began to counter-attack and Luna was soon shielding to protect Harry as he fought.

Luna cast the most powerful explosive hex she knew and sent armoured bodies flying, but it wasn't enough. There were simply too many Clones.

Kenobi swayed away from a deadly attack and countered forcing his attacker to give ground. The Dark sider was skilled, but his attacks were a mix of the more aggressive styles like Ataru and his defence was rather weak. Another attack and a quick counter saw Kenobi driving his foe back another step. The blows were still coming quickly, but it was obvious he had never faced a Soresu master.

He blocked another attack and went to counter when he sensed danger.

Something landed at his feet dropped by his opponent.

oOoOo

Harry saw a blinding flash of light and saw Kenobi stumbling backward. He surged forward sensing Luna casting another blasting hex before following. Even with a burst of Force speed, he knew he wasn't going to be in time.

oOoOo

Garth smirked as he kicked Kenobi in the stomach and then kicked the Jedi's lightsaber away. Blocking a blaster shot he stepped forward, the stun grenade had done its job as had his special contact lenses. He savoured his victory and redemption as he raised his lightsaber.

Only for something to punch into his back with brutal force and no warning.

oOoOo

Bo-Katan saw Kenobi fall and guessed that the weapon had also affected Ret and Salara, given their lack of fire support. She fired a bolt at the dark figure, but the shot was batted away. With a curse, she ran forward a step and ignited her jetpack slamming into the back of the Sith and sending them both rolling across the ground.

She slammed her helmet into her opponent face and tried to bring her blaster up, but he somehow got his hand on it and twisted it from her grip. Rolling backward she fired her flamethrower, but the Force user simply leapt over her attack and charged toward her. She redirected her fire but once more her foe evaded and charged in with his lightsaber held high.

Reaching down she drew her darksaber and activated it, just in time to block an attack that would have removed her head.

Two more blows followed and despite all her military training she quickly realized that she was outclassed.
Then the two other Jedi arrived and attacked the figure in tandem.

More blows were exchanged before the figure leapt backward landing near Kenobi and once more attacking the downed Jedi only to be hit by a torrent of what looked like lightning.

Luna let loose a burst of Force lightning that struck the figure, eliciting a scream before he was blasted backward.

"Let's go," ordered Harry as he picked up Kenobi. As he did the blaster fire increased, "Quickly before they regroup."

Ret and Salara were still looking somewhat out of it as Harry approached, "Luna take Ret and Salara back to the ship. I'll bring the other two."

Luna nodded and reached out to her shipmates before disappearing.

The clones were now advancing again and time was running out, "Come on we need to go."

"Behind you!" warned Bo-Katan.

Harry somehow managed to avoid the attack as the enraged Sith quickly followed up with another rage empowered attack. With a gesture, the Sith sent Bo-Katan flying backward.

Harry's eyes narrowed as he studied the still smoking Sith. "Now you are just pissing me off."

The Sith attacked, again and again, pouring his anger and hate into each strike. Harry could feel the Dark side being accessed by the Sith as he charged forward. Hate gave the attack power and speed, but it wasn't enough. Harry centred himself, letting the Force flow through him as he sidestepped the attack and decapitated the Sith.

Before he could move, he was spun around by a blaster bolt that struck a glancing blow across his shoulder. With a gesture, he summoned Bo-Katan, grabbed Kenobi's arm and apparated away.

---

**Coruscant – Emperor's private office (Formerly the Chancellor's Office)**

"Report," hissed Sidious as one of his Acolytes knelt down before him.

"My Lord, the alien has disappeared."

Sidious frowned, "And my apprentice?"

"Has command of the fleet," reported the Acolyte.

Sidious considered as he sat back in his throne-like command chair. He had hoped that the Jedi would be found, but they had once again eluded him. It felt like they had disappeared into nothingness…it was odd and frustrating, but it was something he had planned for. "Very well send word to my student that he is to bring the fleet home. I have more immediate uses for them. The Jedi can wait."

"As you command My Lord," acknowledged the acolyte as he backed out of the room.

This was a dangerous time for his plans with far too many variables for his comfort.

"Your plan was shortsighted," said a shadowy figure that appeared in the corner of the office.
Sidious frowned but hid his frustration that his hastily installed security equipment had failed to keep this unwelcome visitor at bay. "Ah, my mysterious friend, you have once again taken it upon yourself to seek me out. Perhaps this time you will give me something I can use."

"I warned you that these force adepts were a danger to you, and yet they still foiled your plans."
Chapter 25

Chapter 25 - Vignettes

Disclaimer:

All publicly recognisable characters, settings, etc. are the property of their respective owners. The original characters and plot are the property of the author. The author is in no way associated with the owners, creators, or producers of any media franchise. No copyright infringement is intended.

I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars, and I make no profit from this work of fanfiction. I am in the debt of its true owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

oOoOo

HoloNet News

Reordering of the Imperial Senate

The speaker of the Imperial Senate, Mas Amedda made a rare statement to reporters. "The Imperial Senate is set for a long overdue shake-up. It will continue to operate as a political body, but there will be new procedural rules. These will put an end to the incessant obstructionism that plagued its previous incarnation."

This statement came as rumours persist of illegal activities and warrants being issued for a growing list of Senators.

Read more here

Proposed Legislation paves way for Military Governors

Emperor Palpatine has suggested that he will be proposing new legislation to elevate Military Governors. It is proposed that their responsibilities will include not only the security of their assigned sectors but also a swathe of political responsibilities.

Read more here

oOoOo

Deep Space

Sev'rance stared at the shuttle's controls for nearly an hour after the spirit of Vectivus had departed. She was trying to centre herself as her thoughts raced. Frustrated she found herself caught in past memories.

His words around making a choice were resonating as the truth. She had always prided herself on her strength, and lately her ability to use the Force. As a child of a ruling family, her path had been set. Her education had been the best the Chiss could offer. Her training in the Chiss military had consisted of success after success. Yet she had never felt that it was enough. Then her family had been exposed for corruption and exiled. She had left Chiss space with her new lover Vandalor and
eventually met Dooku. He was to be her path to true power.

Yet less than a year later Vandalor was dead, Dooku and then Sidious had betrayed her.

She had been trained by Dooku; First as a Jedi, and then finally as a Dark Acolyte. Now but she now knew that she had been nothing but a tool to 'her masters'.

Vectivus had spoken to her of her dreams of a return to the Chiss Ascendancy. It had re-awoken her dream of becoming a powerful Force user with a strong male at her side. Once more her thought turned to rebuilding her shattered family with Force strong children. Was such a thing still possible?

Mere hours ago the memory of Sirius thrusting into her as she arched her back in ecstasy left her feeling confused. Now it focused her.

The past was gone, what did she want her future to be?

Vectivus implied Sirius was what sought and he was right, in part. She needed a goal of her own to focus on, to strive for.

She was a warrior, a General. It was time to find her cause.

The Force Adepts were elusive and if Sirius was indeed counted among their number he would be difficult to find. Nothing, however, was beyond the Force.

Sev'rance smiled as she set to work reconfiguring her communications. She would find him after all the Force was with her.

Concordia Moon - Mandalore System

"Well that went well," said Obi-Wan as the Mandalorian Medic put a Bacta patch on one of his cuts.

"It could have been worse," said Bo-Katan. "I could have had to carry you."

Satine hid a smile at the conversation between her estranged sister and Obi-Wan. The Jedi Master had been somewhat embarrassed to be rescued. Her eyes went to where the Force Adepts stood beneath their ship talking quietly as they seemingly ignored the Mandalorian guards surrounding them. The two leaders, Harry and Luna, looked far too young to be more than Padawans.

"They are quite the enigma," said Obi-Wan as he stood and readjusted his clothes.

Bo-Katan glanced over at the small group, "They're good fighters. The Sith damn near took my head off, but the boy took him down then got us out of there. That teleport trick of his would have been handy in a few fights."

"Who are they Obi-Wan?" asked Satine.

"An interesting question, they are known to the Jedi as Force Adepts. A former Jedi, Talia trained Harry and Luna. Since then they have been gathering any Force-sensitives they could to join their sect. With a great deal of success," explained Kenobi.

"Can they be trusted?" asked Satine.

Kenobi stroked his beard as he tried to phrase an answer, "They have not recognised the Jedi Council, although they have helped us on several occasions; enough that Yoda and the council
considered them friendly. Personally, I trust them to help but I have no idea they want in the long run."

"They look young," said Satine.

"They are young, but they are also rather skilled," Kenobi reassured her.

"They talking about us?" asked Harry.

"I'd guess so," replied Luna. "So what do we do now?"

"Well, we wanted to know what was happening on Mandalore. We might as well find out," said Harry as he walked over to Kenobi.

Satine studied Harry as he walked over toward her. His grey tunic still bore a darkened patch on his shoulder. A blaster burn, she realized with a frown. Even a near miss would require medical treatment. Why hadn't a medic seen to it?

"Obi-Wan, we have to stop meeting like this," said Harry with a grin.

Kenobi sighed theatrically before smiling, "It is good to see you, Harry, although rather unexpected."

"We wanted to check out Mandalore after we heard Palpatine was moving forces into position. It looks like we were right to think it was being targeted," explained Harry.

"Targeted?" asked Bo-Katan.

"We think that he wants control of the Mandalorians. Probably so he can rebuild his forces. Clones are good front line troops, but they take time to produce and train," replied Harry.

"We fear you may be right," said Satine.

Harry studied Satine for a second before offering a bow, "Duchess Satine?"

Satine inclined her head in acknowledgement, "I was, but now I serve as Mand'alor. What are your plans now that you know our plight?"

Harry studied the woman for a long moment before replying, "We are not an army Mand'alor Satine, but we shall lend what aid we can. We have access to resources that may help your people."

Satine gestured toward Kenobi, "Obi-Wan and my…Bo-Katan has brought word that there are others that would seek to assist us. What would you be offering that was different?"

"Perhaps Mand'alor if I were to have a better understanding of the situation I would be able to answer that," countered Harry.

"Mand'alore there are clones approaching the outer pickets," called out a Mandalorian in full armour. "We have less than thirty minutes."

"Is your ship ready to fly?" asked Kenobi.

"She should be close to it," replied Harry.

"Our ship was hit; I need to get word back to Bel Iblis about the situation here," explained Kenobi. "If Palpatine is going to step up the invasion we will need to get more supplies here as soon as possible."
"And if they now know the location of our base we will need to finish our relocation to our next position," added Satine.

"How many of your people did you bring here?" asked Harry.

"Twenty, the rest are already on the way to our new base," replied Satine.

"Right we can fit that many aboard the Lily," Harry Turned and waved to Luna. "Change of plans we need to get everyone aboard. Check with Velath to see if we are ready to fly."

"On it," replied Luna as she hurried up the Lily's ramp.

"As soon as we take off they may well be tracking us on sensors," warned Bo-Katan as she studied the Lily.

"Let's hope that there is enough traffic to disguise us," replied Harry.

Harry strapped himself into the pilot's seat and began prepping the Lily for flight operations as Luna began talking to Velath and Sahdra in engineering.

"We are right to go, Harry, main power is back at one hundred percent," reported Luna.

"Right-o, check everyone is aboard and let everyone know that they will need to strap in," replied Harry as he began powering up the ship.

"On it Harry," said Ret as he hurried aft.

"Obi-Wan make yourself useful and take Bo-Katan to man the turbo-lasers," suggested Luna as she concentrated on the co-pilots instruments.

"How are we going to avoid being spotted?" asked Obi-Wan.

"Don't worry," Harry said with a grin. "I have a plan."

Satine winced as the ship rolled unexpectedly. The gravity generators compensated but not enough. The wave of disorientation passed slowly as she considered just how badly her leadership would be affected if she threw up all over herself.

"We are nearly there," said Harry cheerfully.

Satine tried to answer as the ship began to corkscrew before levelling out. Instead, she concentrated on her rebelling stomach.

When she calmed her nausea, she risked looking out the window to see a large natural cavern beneath a cliff face. Somehow she had survived the journey to the new base.

"Everyone okay back there?" asked Harry as he landed the Lily in the mouth of the cavern.

"You...you idiot!" screeched Satine. "How...why did you do that?"

"We got here, nobody detected us," said Harry.
"You were barely above the trees…I saw a damn Strill, in a tree, ABOVE US," yelled Satine.

"Well that was exhilarating," said Obi-Wan as he re-entered the bridge.

oOoOo

"So what will you do now?" asked Obi-Wan.

Harry shrugged, "We continue doing what we can to help. The Adepts don't have an army, so I'm not sure what we can do to help the Mand'alore other than supply equipment and supplies. We could assist with their defences, but I'll not force them to let us help."

Obi-Wan scratched at his beard, "What do you mean about helping with the defences?"

"We can set up wards and other Force protections that should help keep their base hidden," said Luna as she walked up followed by Velath and Bo-Katan. "I was about to set up a demonstration for Satine."

"Would it be possible for me to watch?" asked Obi-Wan

"Of course, as long as Satine doesn't mind," Luna said with a shrug.

Luna's demonstration was pretty convincing as her spells hid the Lily from sight. Then she did the same the cave entrance.

"How…how did you do that?" asked Satine. "Is it a hologram?"

"Go and try and find the ship," suggested Luna with a grin.

Obi-Wan walked toward where the ship had been and paused before looking around in confusion. He walked back to Luna with a puzzled expression, "Alright what was that?"

"Obi-Wan?" prompted Satine.

"When I approached the ship I forgot what I was doing and remembered that I needed to speak to you. It was only after I moved away that I could remember what I had been doing," explained Obi-Wan.

Luna grinned, "Aversion charm and a couple of disillusionment spells. It makes you think you have forgotten something, or you have to do something, somewhere else. When you tie it to a disillusioned object you have a pretty good way of hiding things."

"This is Force based?" asked Obi-Wan as his mind raced. This was a Force application he had never encountered.

"Sure is," replied Luna. "The best thing is that I can create exceptions when I cast it. So you could specify that everyone inside at the time will remember, but only them. Everyone else would be affected. I might need to tweak it a bit."

Satine shook her head in wonder, "That is brilliant Luna. How long would it last and would it fool electronics?"

"It could be made permanent if that is the intent of the caster," replied Luna. "We know it fools electronics as we use it to protect our home."

"If it was permanent, what would it take to break the protections?" asked Satine.
"Technically you could cut the Force connection but to do that you would have to understand how it works," explained Luna.

"It would certainly help hide your base, but it's not like a shield," added Harry. "There is no protection from damage, so if they fired weapons at the Lily, it would still hit the ship and still do damage."

Satine turned away from the hidden cave and ship, "Still, it would be a useful addition to our defences."

Luna gave Satine a bright smile, "Don't forget that we can also help with your food and medical supplies although probably not until the blockade is lifted."

Satine smiled and nodded, "That would be appreciated."

"Not that I don't appreciate you helping Satine's people, but may I ask why?" asked Obi-Wan. The Adepts' had helped the Jedi and the Republic in the past, but he still had some lingering doubts as to their motivations.

Harry grinned, "Besides helping the Mandalorians and annoying Palpatine?"

Obi-Wan just raised an eyebrow.

Harry sighed, rather theatrically, "Fine, you would think that helping bail out your lot would earn us some trust. We are, as we have said before, seeking out Force sensitives to join or ally with our people. We are also looking to stop or at least hamper Palpatine and his little evil empire. This seemed like an excellent opportunity to do so."

Obi-Wan looked like he was going to speak again when Satine laid a hand on his arm, "Enough Obi-Wan. I thank you for any help you can offer. We Mandalorians are a proud people. I had once hoped that we may be able to move from war to peace, but that choice was taken from us. We, I would be a fool to deny you."

"How bad is it?" asked Harry as Bo-Katan joined the small group.

Satine gestured toward Mandalore, which dominated the sky of Concordia, "Pre Vizsla forced me to choose between civil war and my resignation. My political allies were caught unawares and so I refused and was imprisoned. While I was in prison Pre Vizsla was killed."

"By two Sith called Maul and Oppress," added Bo-Katan. "That was when I took the Night Owl's and any Death Watch who would not follow the Sith and got off Mandalore. I am a Mandalorian not a tool of the Sith. Once I have sufficient troops, I'll take back Mandalore." As she finished her hand dropped to the Dark Sabre on her belt.

Satine studied Bo-Katan for a moment before returning her attention to Harry and Luna. "Almec, the imprisoned former Prime Minister was running the government for the Sith. He is still in charge as far as I know, but the original Sith are dead."

"What …how?" demanded Bo-Katan.

"Another Sith, I now suspect it was Palpatine, killed them both. I only barely escaped the clones that came to kill me. Afterwards, I gathered what people I could and we began the campaign to win back our world," replied Satine.

"Can you win?" asked Luna.
Satine straightened and her hand fell to her blaster, "With things as they stand? I doubt it, still, we won't give up. If we want peace, we are going to have to fight for it."

Bo-Katan smiled, "And the Night Owl's will help. It would be a pleasure to serve you Mand'alore."

"No," replied Satine with a shake of her head. "I want you and your people off world. They'll need your experience and you need to build up our forces." Seeing Bo-Katan's frown, she quickly tried to explain. "I'll be fighting a guerrilla war; we will force them to tie up resources here until you return to liberate us...sister."

Bo-Katan looked like she was going to argue before simply saluting.

"Are you sure Satine?" asked Oni-Wan. This was a side of Satine he had never seen. She had fought for the peaceful path at every turn. To see her talking of fighting a guerrilla war was somewhat confronting.

"I must lead my people," replied Satine.

"Then we will help in any way we can," added Luna.

"I do have a...well, a situation that you might be able to help with," said Satine. "I'm not sure if this is something you will want to hear Obi-Wan."

"Well if you will excuse me, I will use the communications systems on your ship to let Bel Iblis know what is happening," said Obi-Wan with a smile. Given the enemy in orbit he probably wouldn't be able to get through with much more than an encoded data burst, but it was worth a try.

Once Obi-Wan had left, Satine spoke into her radio asking for their guests to be sent from the base, "They should be here shortly."

Harry exchanged a look with Luna as both wondered who the guests were that Satine didn't want Obi-Wan to see.

A few minutes later a figure in Mandalorian armour approached along with a short woman in civilian clothes. The young woman had long brown hair, freckled skin and was quite thin save for a rather pronounced baby bump.

She also had quite a powerful force presence.

Harry's eyes flicked down to see the lightsaber on the woman's belt. So she was likely a Jedi and the reason Satine was being cautious.

Satine gestured to the two newcomers, "Harry, Luna this is Darman and Etain of Clan Skirata. Don't worry my friends they are apparently trustworthy."

"We certainly are, how many weeks are you?" asked Luna with a smile.

"Twenty-four," replied Etain.

Satine cleared her throat, "I need to arrange transport for them."

"I'll stay, my clan is here," stated Darman.

"Bo-Katan will need help bringing our people together Darman," countered Satine. "You can help with that while you take care of Etain. She needs you, my friend."
Darman turned to Etain, "My love?"

Etain turned to study Luna and Harry before turning back to Darman, "They can be trusted. Our clan is safe for now, but Kal and the rest of our brothers are still out there, waiting to be liberated."

"Liberated?" asked Harry as he studied Darman's Force presence. Etain was like a beacon, but Darman was also familiar. "You are a clone?"

Darman tensed but before he could act Luna jumped in.

"Wow, so you've broken your programming? That's great."

Darman reached up and removed his helmet, "I...my squad and I were trained by a Mandalorian. I don't know if that was what made us different, but we had already decided to leave the Republic before Order sixty-six went out. Kal, my trainer and now my adopted father brought us here to Mandalore."

Etain offered a wan smile, "Unfortunately the Empire was right on our heels. Dar and I got married and now," she laid a hand on her stomach. "Well, I doubt I'm welcome back among the Jedi."

"Where ever they've run to," muttered Darman.

Harry laughed but quickly sobered as Darman tensed, "I'm not laughing at your situation it's just that you are the second pregnant Jedi I've been in a position to help. We can certainly transport you."

"Who was the other?" asked Etain curiously. She had been fairly busy with missions and hadn't heard any gossip at all.

"A former Padawan named Keisha," explained Luna. "She joined us rather than be expelled from the order."

Etain studied Luna for a minute before nodding, "We should both go Dar. At least until I have the baby."

Darman looked torn as Satine stepped forward, "Darman, you accepted me as Mand'alore and swore to my service. Please go with Etain. Have your child and help build an army to free Mandalore."

Darman saluted, "Yes Mand'alore."

Bo-Katan walked over to Darman and looked the taller clone in the eyes. "Clan Skirata is a clan of warriors. Honourable warriors, I would welcome your aid."

Harry shrugged and turned to talk to Luna, "This is going to be a bit awkward if we are taking Obi-Wan as well."

"I am not ashamed of my marriage or my pregnancy," said Etain.

"And there is no reason why you should be," Luna reassured Etain. "I think Obi-Wan may surprise you anyway."

oOoOo

The preparations to leave were pretty straightforward. The Lily was ready to depart and drop Obi-Wan & Bo-Katan back to Bel Iblis and his fleet. Etain and Darman were still undecided as to where they should go given the circumstances. Harry was fairly certain Luna would make the offer for them to live on Haven pretty much straight away.
Turning his attention to the scanners he frowned. The system was still relatively active and nearly all those craft were not going to be friendly. The Lily was pretty much top shelf as far as commercial vessels. Fast and well-armed but she was not a warship and would not stand up to concentrated fire from the ships in the system.

Harry closed his eyes and focused on the tactical situation. As he relaxed, he let his mind turn over the facts as the Force swirled around him.

There…his eyes flew open as he looked over the scanners. Yes, there was a gap in the blockade he could exploit. A direct course toward Mandalore and then a rapid course change, yes it was doable.

Flicking the intercom on he let everyone know.

oOoOo

**Meanwhile on Abushu IV**

Sirius Black cursed his wretched luck as he considered his situation.

He had volunteered to scout out a location that had been a possible location for a Force sensitive. The locals called him the mad sage and although they feared him, they still went to him for aid with the brigands and thieves that frequented this backwater colony.

Sirius had watched the older man chopping wood for nearly an hour before he approached. He only got as far as 'hello'.

Which is the 'how' of why he ended up in a muddy ditch, what had he done to deserve this?

He had tried to reason with the man, but that was hard as he was kept avoiding numerous projectiles being launched at him by the madly cackling man.

Holding his wand, he prepared himself. A quick stunner should do the trick. He stood and spun.

"Stu…"

oOoOo

"Back with me are you?" asked an accented voice.

Sirius opened his eyes to see the 'Mad Sage' sitting on a wooden chair. The man had a quite impressive smirk.

Sirius tried to shift position but found that, annoyingly, he was tied to a chair.

Sirius raised an eyebrow, "Is there a non-sexual reason why I am tied up? I really hope there is."

"Ha, funny," the Mad Sage smiled, "What is your name funny Jedi?"

"Sirius Black and I am not a Jedi."

"Really, Sith then?" asked the older man in a voice that had suddenly grown much colder.

"Nope, Force Adept," explained Sirius.

"That's a new one. So what do you want?"
"To try and talk for one thing," replied Sirius.

"Can't say that I am all that interested in talking but let's say I am. What do you want?"

"We are looking for Force sensitives to join our organisation," explained Sirius. "There is a war coming that will make this war look like two neighbours disagreeing over a fence. They want the Force stamped out. Our friend Palpatine is the first step down that road."

"Say I believe you, I'm not sure I do, why can't I just stay out of sight, stay off their sensors?"

"Palpatine wants it all," said Sirius.

"Frak, fine," the man gestured and the ropes slithered to the ground. "I can always tell when I'm being lied to, and you're not. I can't just up and leave, I've got relatives that need to be warned. If they can find me, they can find them."

Sirius rubbed his wrists, "I can give you a way to contact us. If you need to or if things go bad."

"Fair enough, let's talk."

Sirius smiled and began to explain.

oOoOo

Djinn Altis watched a nearby moon from an observation port as Remus approached him from behind.

"Djinn, Ashoka has the encryption set up," said Remus as he stopped to stand beside Altis, "An impressive view."

"It is indeed, ah well back to work," replied Altis.

"What do you think they will want?" asked Remus.

Altis shrugged, "Given their current situation, I'd suspect a call for some form of alliance. I very much doubt that they fully trust us but what choice do they have?"

oOoOo

Ashoka Tano almost rolled her eyes in frustration as Jedi Masters Sian Jeisel and Moris Tel-Thall went over their instructions, again.

"Are you clear Padawan?" asked Tel-Thall.

"Yes Master," replied Tano. "I understand, but I am unsure why we don't just ask Master Altis. After all, his people saved your lives."

Jeisel sighed, "I trust Master Altis, but these Adepts are still an unknown factor. And before you say it, Ashoka, I know they have helped the order. I am not asking you to do anything immoral; I simply want to take the opportunity to understand what their role is in these affairs. Master Yoda wants to open a dialogue with them anyway."

"Again we could just ask, upfront about sending an envoy," argued Ashoka.

Ashoka activated her comm and called Master Altis.
"It is good to see you again Djinn," said Jeisel as she studied the older man.

"It has been quite a while Sian Jeisel," replied Altis with a warm smile. "I don't believe that you have formally met Remus."

Remus smiled, "Remus Lupin, Master Jeisel."

Jeisel studied the human, taking in his facial scars before offering him a polite nod, "A pleasure to meet you, Remus."

"Thank you for accepting Master Yoda's request for talks," said Jeisel.

Altis nodded, "I would normally bring more of our advisory council onboard but for now it's just Remus and me."

Jeisel began working the Holo-comm, "I was intrigued to hear that you had joined in an alliance with these Adepts. No offence Remus, but I had always understood that you still considered yourself Jedi."

"I still am a Jedi Sian. The Adepts make no distinction between Force users. We accept any who can use the Force," explained Altis.

"Even Sith?" asked Jeisel.

"We have no Sith members, but we do have some Force users whose skills may be considered dark. Each one must abide by our charter or leave."

Jeisel frowned as her eyes narrowed, " Truly you would embrace Dark Siders?"

Altis sighed, "Sian you are adopting a narrow view. I said whose skills may be considered dark from a Jedi viewpoint. We have former Jedi, Dathomiri, Followers of Palawa and we are seeking out others. Our mantra is balance."

"It is a dangerous line to walk old friend," warned Jeisel.

"We have a growing, harmonious community where knowledge is shared. So far the worst we've had to deal with has been a few minor cultural issues," added Remus. "We are preservers of knowledge in the hope that it will not be lost."

Jeisel considered before nodding, "A worthy enough goal."

A holographic image of Yoda appeared above the workstation, "Ah, good it is to see you all."

"Master Yoda," acknowledged Jeisel.

"Hello old friend," said Altis.

"My thanks you have for listening you have Djinn," said Yoda. "Expected Harry Potter I had."

"He is away from Haven at the moment," explained Altis. "I am able to represent the Adepts."

"Acceptable that is," replied Yoda. "Request I have. A great help your Adepts have been. Closer ties I would form."
Altis nodded, "That makes sense Yoda."

Yoda's image paused as a frown creased his face, "Distrust your motives, some among the Jedi still do. Agree I do not, so persuade them I must."

"What do you propose?" asked Altis.

"Accept an envoy will you?" asked Yoda.

Altis raised an eyebrow, "I must say I didn't expect that. May I ask why?"

"Trust we must build," explained Yoda.

"I agree, but I will need to talk to some of our people," Altis was thinking quickly through his options and some of his concern must have shown as Yoda's image leaned forward.

"Ask this lightly, I do not. Dark days ahead there are if work together we do not," explained Yoda.

"If I may Djinn?" injected Remus.

Altis nodded and Remus stepped forward, "I believe that in part our hesitation is in regards to our ideological differences. We embrace a broader view of the Force than that espoused by the Jedi Council. We will not tolerate a disruptive influence berating the beliefs of others."

Yoda frowned, "Fear this is our aim you do?"

Remus shook his head, "Not really but would your envoy do if confronted with a Dathomiri Force user, or a Vahla? What would happen if your envoy wandered our archives and found ancient records of practices your order felt were dark?"

Yoda leaned on his stick looking thoughtful, "Understand I do, tolerance you seek?"

Remus nodded, "We don't need saving Master Jedi. There is also the matter of our home. At this stage, we believe that it remains hidden from Palpatine."

"Respect that we will," agreed Yoda.

"If you will give us a moment?" requested Remus before turning to Altis. The two Adepts walked a few paces away from the others. "This is an opportunity to get access to the information the Jedi have spent millennia hoarding away."

Altis hesitated before answering, "Remus, I fear that I'm far from unbiased in this. I left the order because I thought the no attachment rule was foolish. I never thought that one day I would be looking at them as the opposition. The question we have to answer is, do we trust them to keep our secrets?"

"We both have accepted that there must be balance. That doesn't mean that we can't work with them," argued Remus.

Altis gave Remus a wry smile, "You get to explain it to Harry and Luna."

Remus grinned, "Hey we can always obliviate them."

They returned to the workstation and Altis stepped forward, "I can offer a provisional agreement Master Yoda; subject to our council's approval."
Yoda actually looked relieved, "Good that is, Master Luminara Unduli perhaps, hmmm?"

"Master Unduli would be suitable," agreed Altis.

"Contact me when decided you have," said Yoda as his image flickered. "May the Force be with you."

"Well Djinn it looks like you are back in the fold, in a way," said Jeisel.

Altis shot Jeisel a look, "Hardly Sian, I parted ways with the council for a reason. Regardless of my status with the Council, I am still a Jedi. Both I and my people have allied with the Adepts. I can accept a better, closer relationship with the Jedi Council, but my loyalty is to the Adepts."

Jeisel looked puzzled, "You know I didn't mean it like that."

"Then what did you mean Sian?" asked Altis.

"Simply that you disappeared off the grid. We occasionally caught sight of you or your people, but you avoided any official relationship. Damn it Djinn your wisdom has been missed on the council. If we had more dissenting voices, we might have avoided being drawn into years of pointless conflict."

Altis studied Jeisel for a moment before nodding, "My apologies then for nearly taking your head off. I…what I have learned from the Adepts, well frankly it is astounding. The Jedi have been blind to our real potential. And no, I'm not talking about the Sith but rather just how we could have been using the Force."

"Now I'm intrigued," replied Jeisel.

"Come on I'll tell you a bit as we walk," said Altis.

 oOoOo

Mandalorian System

Harry pushed the sub-light engines well beyond the red line as he brought the Lily around in a sharp turn.

"We've got warning lights on the power converter," warned Luna.

Harry didn't acknowledge the warning as he let the Force guide his hands.

The Lily weaved through the incoming fighters and around the curve of a cruisers hull before bursting free of the blockade.

"Jumping to hyperspace," called out Luna as she activated the hyperspace engines.

The Lily leapt forward as stars began streaking past the cockpit window.

Harry let go of the manual controls and leaned back in his chair, "That was a lot closer than I had hoped."

"Well done love," said Luna with a smile. "We are safely away. We've got about four hours till we arrive in the Kidron System. Then we need to check in and decide on our course. I guess we need to drop Obi-Wan and Bo-Katan off somewhere."

"Impressive flying," complemented Kenobi as he climbed down from the weapons turret.
"We made it, that's a win. So Obi-Wan, where are we going to be dropping you off?" asked Luna.

"I will need to contact Garm Bel Iblis to get coordinates. If there is a cabin I would like to get some sleep. It's been a long few days," said Kenobi.

"Third door on the right," replied Harry.

"We will wake you up when we are out of hyperspace," added Luna.

The next hour passed quickly as Harry and Luna quietly worked through a detailed check on the Lily's systems.

"Do you two want a break?" asked Ret as he appeared in the doorway with a cup of tea.

"It's not a bad idea Harry," said Luna as she stretched. "I really want to meditate and see if I can determine where we are needed but I think cuddles and sleep is a better option."

Harry stood and gestured for Ret to take his seat, "All yours. What's happening with the others?"

"Salara is getting something to eat and then she's going to stand this watch with me. I think the others were going to try and get some sleep," replied Ret with a rare smile. "Velath and Sahdra are bunking down in the Med Bay. They were almost asleep in the galley."

Med Bay

Velath's nose twitched in her sleep as a stray lock of blue hair fell across her face. Neither did she stir when an arm snaked around her waist and a warm weight settled in behind her.

Luna snuggled back into Harry as she felt his arms wrap around her waist. Usually, she preferred slow, sensual lovemaking but neither of them had held back this time. Her lips curled into a wry smile as she realised that she might need to spend a little time in a healing trance if she didn't want to be walking funny in a few hours time. As she relaxed her senses extended, as they always did.

As a child, the random events she saw had sometimes frightened her. Talia's training had helped with that and now she had the mental ability to filter what she saw. As her mind wandered she unconsciously let the Force guide her and show what was needed.

On a planet, hidden away from sight figures in ornate armour trained...Lightsabers clashed as a woman looked on, occasionally correcting her student's footing. It was a familiar scene that reminded her of Talia. Luna felt a pang of loss as the vision faded.

Another place and a human limped across a barren plain. Dirty and clearly injured he nevertheless continued on not looking back to where a column of black smoke rose into the air.

A blue-skinned Chiss tossed and turned in her bed as her hand crept down, beneath her sheets. As she touched herself, a name was on her lips, "Sirius."

As she continued to drift Luna's mind slowly moved from vision to sleep she snuggled back into Harry's warm chest.
Having gained permission to contact Bel-Iblis, Obi-Wan quickly entered the codes and waited for the system to accept. Even with top-notch systems, it took several seconds for the encrypted channel to synchronize and open.

"We were beginning to get worried Master Kenobi," said the image of Bel Iblis.

"We did run into some trouble," Kenobi went on to give a concise account of the mission.

Bel Iblis frowned, "Where are you now?"

"We are in the Kidron System," replied Kenobi.

"Very well we are gathering our fleet in the Trulalis system. Once we have the old CIS elements tied in we will relocate. We should be able to rendezvous with you in a few days," Bel Iblis looked at someone not visible to Kenobi. "...Very well, Kenobi I'll have to cut this short. The next wave of CIS ships just arrived. You and Bo-Katan stay safe and once we have them, we'll send you the coordinates. Skywalker wants to talk to you."

Bel Iblis was replaced by Anakin.

"It sounds like you had an eventful mission Obi-Wan," said Anakin with a raised eyebrow.

"I think you would have enjoyed it," replied Kenobi. "Truthfully I am worried about the Sith Satine reported. We have always believed that there were only two, a master and an apprentice. The others, like Ventress, were little more than Dark Jedi. Now I am not so sure. I think the Council needs to find out what Palpatine has been doing. If he has been training Sith on mass..."

"Then we are potentially in big trouble," finished Anakin. "Dooku did enough damage."

"I'm going to see what Harry and Luna think. They have shown that they have good intelligence, maybe one of their sources knows more."

"Maybe, I better go Obi-Wan there is a meeting with Wat Tambor and San Hill in a few minutes," explained Anakin.

Once Obi-Wan had terminated the call he sat back in his chair. 'How large was the Sith presence? Surely the Council would have found out if the Sith were growing in number.'

His thoughts broke off as he sensed someone behind him.

"Master Kenobi, do you have a minute?"

Kenobi turned to see a face he had not seen for some years, Etain Tur-Mukan. "Knight Etain, I was worried you were avoiding me after I saw you come aboard."

Etain frowned and closed the hatch, "It is Etain of Clan Skirata now." As she spoke, her hand went down to her belly.

Kenobi didn't miss the meaning. Keeping his expression neutral he simply nodded, "I see."

"I'm not ashamed and I love Darman, but I felt I owed the council a formal explanation as to why I am leaving."

"I can pass on your message Etain," Kenobi assured her.

"Thank you, oh and Obi-Wan if you see Master Arligan, please let him know that I am well," said
Etain. Turning to leave she stopped as Kenobi gently laid a hand on her shoulder.

"You have nothing to be ashamed of Etain. I…I am beginning to realise that the Jedi, that my worldview may have been far too narrow." Seeing her confusion he gave her a reassuring smile. "Please do not feel you need hide from me while I am on board."

"Thank you Ma…thank you Obi-Wan."

As the hatch closed, Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi was left to consider what exactly he was going to report to the Council.

oOoOo

Haven

Hermione Granger resisted the urge to throttle her lover by the barest of margins.

"Ron, where did you put the wooden box with all the books I was adding to the inventory?"

Ron Weasley may not have been the most perceptive of men, but he did detect the tone of the question as opposed to the content. "They are over with the other boxes. I know which one it is and I only moved the box itself. I needed the bench to get dinner ready."

"Hmphh," mumbled Hermione as she went off in search of the box.

Ron grinned at his narrow escape and started peeling vegetables.

"Is it the one on top?" called Hermione from the next room.

"No, it's near the door," replied Ron.

A few moments later Hermione appeared with the box and set it on the floor. Sitting next to it she began looking through the dusty books, scrolls and loose pages.

"Anything interesting?" asked Ron as he placed the vegetables to the steamer.

"It is all a jumble. Next time I see Vectivus I'm going to find a way to give him such a slap!"

Ron grinned as he checked the chicken…okay, he knew it wasn't chicken, but it tasted like it, especially if you grilled it. Despite her complaints, Hermione was in her element putting the old records into some kind of order.

The door chime sounded and Ron didn't even bother asking he simply went and answered it himself.

"Hi Ron," said Keisha as she gave him a broad smile.

"Who has got bub?" asked Ron.

"I've got two of Djinn's Padawans looking after her," Keisha sniffed the air catching the scent of cooking. "Hmm, that smells nice."

Keisha truly enjoyed these dinners with her friends. Admittedly a bit of time not being a parent was just as welcome.

"We're just waiting on the vegetables. Come in and I see if I can pry Moine away from her work," Ron led Keisha into the main room.
Hermione was studying a small wooden box.Seeing her guests she put it down and stood to give Keisha a hug, "Oh, I'm sorry I lost track of things. Let me pack this away."

"What is it?" asked Keisha.

Hermione held the box up, "It clearly opens but I can't find the latch or any sort of release mechanism."

Keisha studied it and shrugged, "It looks ancient."

"It was with some works that are so old that I had to use some magical means to preserve them," replied Hermione.

"Have you tried magic," asked Ron.

Hermione shot him a look that went from annoyed to sheepish, "Actually that is a good idea."

She pulled out her wand and cast an unlocking spell.

The box swung open to reveal a silvery ball. Using her wand, Hermione levitated the object onto the table. "Nobody touches it until I've worked out what it does."

Hermione studied the ball, noting that it looked seamless and smooth with no scratches or other damage. Normally she would start casting diagnostic charms but perhaps this was a good time to try out her Force senses. After all, she had been working on it with the Altisian Jedi.

Focusing on the object she tried to extend her senses only to feel a…there was no word for it. Without realising it, she physically stepped backwards.

"Hermione!"

Hermione let her Force awareness end as she turned to Ron and Keisha.

"Are you alright?" asked Keisha.

"A bit startled it had a, well a malignant presence in the Force," explained Hermione. "I'm not sure what it does, but it is not benign. I didn't want to interact with it so I pulled back when you called out."

Ron and Keisha shared a concerned look, "Hermione you were standing there staring at it for nearly an hour," explained Ron.

Hermione shook her head, "No, it was only a few seconds."

Keisha gasped and pulled out a communicator, "I think we had better get a healer down here."

"No, I feel fine, maybe a bit tired," complained Hermione.

Ron was looking at Hermione with a worried, almost fearful expression, "Your eyes Mione, they turned black."

oOoOoOo

Bo-Katan slept for a few hours and then used the rather decadent, personal refresher in her cabin. She would never admit it, but the hot water flowing over her back was relaxing in a way no sonic shower ever managed to match. The soap and shampoo were very welcome as was the range of
other toiletries.

The Lily was a rather odd ship. It had six passenger cabins, which was more than was normal in a freighter but not that strange. However, to have refreshers in each was usually an expense Traders avoided. As a member of Death Watch, she had been used to communal showers and far more military and thus utilitarian facilities.

With a towel wrapped around her waist, she considered her dirty clothes with distaste. Actually hadn't there been a cupboard?

A small closet beside the door held several pairs of grey coveralls that looked like they might fit. It would do until she could find the laundry facilities. Pulling on the coverall revealed that it was a reasonably good fit and not too uncomfortable to wear without underwear.

Sitting on her bunk she quickly checked her armour and weapons. Satisfied they were in working order she strapped on her blaster and combat knife and went to find the other necessity, food.

The mess area was empty save for the Dathomiri woman Salara.

Bo-Katan gave her a nod of recognition. After all, she had fought and fought well on Concordia.

"Are you hungry?" asked Salara.

Bo-Katan nodded and Salara gestured toward the cold storage. "There is plenty of food and there is hot tea in the urn. I've got to take this to Ret."

Bo-Katan watched Salara leave before pulling out a plate from the cupboard. As she opened the storage unit expecting, the usual supplies you would find on a freighter she was surprised to find a virtual smorgasbord.

Cold meat, fruit, vegetables and a selection of other products filled the shelves. With a smile, she began filling her plate. Decadent or not any soldier appreciated good, fresh food.

"It looks good," said a male voice.

Bo-Katan turned holding her full plate to see the Former Clone soldier Darman looking over her shoulder. The Clone was dressed in a grey coverall and like her, he was barefoot.

"It is a fairly impressive range," admitted Bo-Katan.

"It's a pretty impressive ship, not what I expected," admitted Darman.

She sat and began eating as Darman began filling his plate. The Clone grabbed utensils and went to sit at another table.

"Join me," offered Bo-Katan.

Darman nodded and slid into the seat opposite her, "Thanks."

"How long had you been with the Mand'alore?" asked Bo-Katan.

"A few weeks, once I found out Etain was pregnant…my adopted father made it clear family and clan come first. I love her but well, being what I am…" Darman trailed off as Bo-Katan glared at him.

"Your father, Clan Skirata, that would mean Kal Skirata is your father. I've met him; he's a good,
reliable soldier. If he adopted you, that makes you a Mandalorian. What you were before is immaterial, it doesn't matter, but your wife and child do."

Darman straightened in his chair with his eyes locked on Bo-Katan.

"The Mand'alore assigned you and I a task," Bo-Katan continued. "So my first order is that you get Etain to safety. Then you are welcome to join your brothers and sisters as we plan to retake Mandalore."

"Thank you," said Darman.

Bo-Katan smiled, "Every soldier needs a slap upside the head occasionally, physical recalibration."

Darman laughed as he stared at the smaller woman, "Yes Ma'am."

"So what do you think of these Adept's?"

Darman shrugged, "All I heard was that they can fight."

"Oh yes, they can fight. They may be young, but they can certainly fight. I saw them in action, very impressive," Bo-Katan reassured him.

Darman nodded and asked her about the Death Watch.

When Etain wandered into the mess, she found Darman and Bo-Katan deep in a discussion about ground assault tactics.

oOoOo

**Planet Serenno – Serenno System**

A figure in a dark grey hooded cloak moved silently through the darkened passage. Eventually, it reached a steel bulkhead that blocked the way forward. There were no controls of any sort. With a gesture, the figure raised its gloved hand and the solid steel slowly rose up, disappearing into the ceiling.

Walking briskly forward the figure entered a large ornate room. Lightning from the storm lit up the enormous stained glass window before plunging the room back to near darkness.

With a curse, the figure paused and spun to see another figure standing in the shadows near a statue.

"You are looking well for a dead man," commented Sev'rance Tann as she activated hovering light droid.

In the new light, the figure threw back the hood on its cloak to reveal a haggard-looking Count Dooku.

"But not entirely unscathed I see," added Sev'rance.

Dooku looked down at the chrome of his artificial arm before returning his attention to the Chiss, "A temporary replacement my dear Sev'rance. It will serve until I can have a decent replacement made."

Sev'rance didn't take her eyes off Dooku, "I want information Dooku."

"We have been betrayed my apprentice," said Dooku in an even tone.
Sev'rance raised an eyebrow in surprise, "Apprentice…to you?" Her expression became scornful. "I don't think so."

Dooku hesitated before continuing, "Darth Sidious or Emperor Palpatine I suppose he styles himself now. He was at the heart of our, of your betrayal."

"Was he? Perhaps, but you master betrayed me first. You failed to teach me what I needed to know. You used me with no intention of ever making me your true apprentice." Sev'rance's voice had risen to a near shout before returning to normal. "It is fortunate for you that I want information far more than I want your head."

Dooku stiffened, "Have a care how you speak to me apprentice." As he spoke, he made a fist preparing to use the Force against the Chiss woman.

Sev'rance laughed scornfully, "Really that is all you can muster?"

Dooku had to get to his private armoury hidden near his office. There he could get his hand on his spare lightsaber. It had been a mistake to assume that his former home would be empty. With a thrusting gesture, he attempted to shove Sev'rance back into the stone walls.

Sev'rance leapt high into the air and landed much closer to Dooku.

"I have tried to be reasonable Sev'rance but it appears you are determined to die, so be it." Dooku sent a stream of Force lightning at his opponent as his face twisted into a contemptuous smile.

Sev'rance didn't even shift position as her lightsaber came up and deflected the attack.

Dooku cut off the attack and stared at the Chiss. He suddenly realised that he couldn't sense her at all. Seeing her advancing he sent another burst of Force lightning at her.

Again Sev'rance blocked and deflected the attack.

"You are growing weaker Dooku," taunted Sev'rance.

Dooku cut off the pointless attack and stared at his former dark acolyte, "What do you want?"

"What do you know of the Force Adepts?" asked Sev'rance.

"Why can't I sense you?" hissed Dooku as he glared at his opponent trying to determine if she was lying.

Sev'rance shrugged, "No idea." She advanced a few more steps. "Tell me what you know and you don't have to die."

"Oh yes he does," said a third voice as a shadow dropped from the shadows near the ceiling.

Assajj Ventress smiled at Dooku's look of frustrated hatred, but her smile faded as she took in the determination on the face of Sev'rance.

"Ventress, he is mine," said Sev'rance.

"He has betrayed us both sister. You want information I want him dead. We can have both," said Ventress.

"Yes, yes whoever wins shall become my true apprentice," intoned Dooku.
Ventress and Sev'rance both looked at him in disbelief.

Ventress lowered her lightsaber as she moved closer to Dooku, "Your apprentice?"

Dooku felt hope return as he turned his attention to Ventress, "Pass this final test, my apprentice."

Sev'rance advanced slowly her lightsaber held loosely in her hand as Ventress moved in front of Dooku.

Dooku felt a wave of satisfaction. He may not have been able to fight as he once did, partially crippled and without a lightsaber, but he could still control those weaker willed than himself. Once Sev'rance was occupied with Ventress, he would get what…burning pain lanced through his chest as Ventress reverse thrust her lightsaber through his heart.

"It looks like I passed the test master," hissed Ventress as Dooku fell backwards off her lightsaber.

"Why?" demanded Sev'rance.

Ventress smiled, "Because he betrayed and abandoned me one too many times. Now I am free."

Sev'rance cursed but slowly lowered her lightsaber, "Sith spit, I needed information from him."

"About?" prompted Ventress.

"About the Force Adepts and where they are located. I thought he or Sidious may have known. To be honest, I came here to ransack the place because I thought he was dead. I hadn't expected him to turn up."

Ventress laughed, "Oh this is rich."

"What?" demanded Sev'rance as her eyes narrowed.

Ventress reached into the pouch on her belt and pulled out a small data recorder. Without hesitation, she tossed it to Sev'rance, "I was holding this information in case I needed it but since Dooku is dead," she shrugged. "It's the coordinates for where I was captured. I believe that the Adepts are based nearby. Even if they are not, it's a starting point."

"Why give it to me?" asked Sev'rance, suspicion clear in her voice.

Ventress smiled, "As I said, Sister, I'm done."

"I owe you," said Sev'rance.

"Maybe one day I'll collect. Actually, here this is for you." Ventress tossed her a silver stone set in a necklace. It's called a void stone. It blocks certain Force abilities for a couple of dozen metres. I've got another." Ventress gave Sev'rance a nod as she walked out of the room without another backward glance.

Sev'rance looked around Dooku's palatial room and smiled in satisfaction. Ventress had been right about one thing. She too was free of Dooku and Sidious.

"I'm coming for you, Sirius."

oOoOo

Okay, there is another chapter for you!
It was, as stated a bit of a short 'interludes' chapter, but these stories do all tie together (wait and see).

I can already hear some faithful reviewers cursing the new characters BUT please remember Harry and Luna are out and about *recruiting*!

That being said, we are coming to the end of the 'recruitment arc' and the next should be shifting to a more action orientated story.
Chapter 26

Chapter 26

All publicly recognizable characters, settings, etc. are the property of their respective owners. The original characters and plot are the property of the author. The author is in no way associated with the owners, creators, or producers of any media franchise. No copyright infringement is intended.

I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars, and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its actual owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

Last Time

"Maybe one day I'll collect. Actually, here this is for you." Ventress tossed her a silver stone set in a necklace. It's called a void stone. It blocks certain Force abilities for a couple of dozen metres. I've got another." Ventress gave Sev'rance a nod as she walked out of the room without another backward glance.

Sev'rance looked around Dooku's palatial room and smiled in satisfaction. Ventress had been right about one thing. She too was free of Dooku and Sidious.

"I'm coming for you, Sirius."

oOoOo

Independent HoloNews

The question being asked by many worried sentients is 'when will the fighting end?'

The best answer we can give is no time soon. Months ago accusations that the Republic was becoming a dictatorship were dismissed as CIS propaganda. Now our reliable political sources tell us that the entire separatist conflict was engineered to destabilise the Republic.

Log in to secure news server to read more

oOoOo

Emperor's Private Rooms – Imperial Central Coruscant

Darth Sidious considered his situation with growing frustration. He had amassed vast power over decades of careful maneuvering, manipulation and discrete use of fear and violence. He had literally been on the cusp of victory when it was ripped away from him. Order 66 had been his ultimate weapon and a crucial linchpin in his plan. It turned his armies of clones into tools of betrayal that should have shredded the Jedi order leaving the survivors to be hunted down.

The situation now was almost the polar opposite. He was fighting a war on multiple fronts.

His largest threat, the Jedi had disappeared so completely that even with his resources he could find no hint of their hiding place. The few that hadn't disappeared were on their guard and unlikely to be easily caught.

The next problem was the powerful systems that were now opposing him. Under Corellian
leadership, they had begun building a powerful set of alliances that included almost a third of the now defunct Republic. While they could not match his forces, they were strong enough to tie him down to a long war.

Lastly were the Adepts, a group of Force users that seemed to be building a third side in the ongoing war for Force supremacy. Normally he would have crushed the movement like an insect, but they had somehow avoided his boot. Their presence had also brought him in to contact with a potentially far more dangerous ‘ally’, the Mah Vey.

What the apparently extra-galactic aliens wanted besides the Force Adepts destroyed was not clear, but they were very powerful and just as clearly not to be trusted in the slightest. They had promised to aid him, and yet that aid had been worse than useless.

"My Lord?"

Sidious didn't bother to turn; he knew who it was that knelt before him, "Report Dravian."

"It appears that some high-ranking members of the former CIS have allied themselves with Bel Iblis."

Sidious scowled, not that Dravian could see it, "Then I wish the former Senator good luck dealing with the cowardly idiots. Still, their treachery must not go unpunished. Put a price on their heads. Fighting off bounty hunters should keep them occupied."

"Yes my Lord."

Sidious paused before turning his command chair to face his minion, "You are hiding something Dravian."

Dravian cleared his throat, "My Lord there are confirmed reports coming from Serenno that Count Dooku's body was found in his former command post."

Sidious frowned as he considered the news that Dooku was now dead. He had suspected that his apprentice had survived and fled, "Hmm well the good Count had many enemies, the Jedi in particular."

"Yes My Lord," Dravian received the message to spin Dooku's death in to a Jedi Assassination.

As Dravian left, Sidious sat back in his chair. So Dooku was truly dead, unsurprising given his many failures. It was a pity that he had not had the personal pleasure of ending his traitorous apprentice.

Sidious found his gaze shifting to look at the ancient Sith statues that stood against his office wall. They were a testament to the Sith Order at its zenith. His own dear master has taught him the rule of two, and he had paid it lip service while he was an apprentice. Now he knew just how foolishly limiting it truly was. His brethren had crippled their potential with their adherence to such a flawed doctrine. It was a mistake he had no intention of repeating.

His would be apprentice was leading the search for the Jedi, secure in his misconception that he was his master's favourite. Sidious smiled cruelly as his thoughts turned to his newest initiates. Yes, there were some among them that held great promise, living weapons that could be used to hunt down the Adepts.

oOoOo

The Holocron of Jedi Master Kolu Thes shut down as Harry opened his eyes. When Talia had given
them, the two Jedi Holocrons both he and Luna had studied them. Initially, he had assumed that he had understood the Jedi Masters teachings but as his understanding of the Force grew so did the meaning of the long-dead Jedi masters teaching. It had been surprising at first, but now he simply acknowledged the value of the lessons.

His musing was interrupted by the chime announcing a visitor outside his cabin. He carefully slipped the Holocron back into its case before rising from his knees. Harry gestured, and the door slid open to reveal Ob-Wan Kenobi.

"I hope I haven't interrupted anything Harry?"

Harry shook his head as he slid the box into a drawer, "No, I had just finished meditating. How can I help you Master Kenobi?"

"I was wondering if we could talk. I've had a few questions I had been…saving up for when we next crossed paths."

Harry grinned as he gestured for Obi-Wan to enter, "I have to relieve Luna in about an hour, so I think I have time for some questions. Not that I promise to answer all of them. Take a seat."

Obi-Wan sat, waiting patiently as Harry got comfortable on the largish bed.

"I would like to thank you for your help. The situation was…difficult and your presence no doubt saved lives."

Harry nodded, "The attack on the Mandalorians was not something we could ignore. Palpatine knows he needs troops and equipment if he's going to stand against those systems that haven't stood by him. I don't have an army, but luckily we didn't need one."

"If I may ask, how did you know?"

"Believe it or not, we saw it on the Holonews and thought we had better see what we could do to help," replied Harry.

Obi-Wan looked stunned for a moment before he schooled his expression, "Really on the Holonews?"

Harry nodded as another grin formed.

"What will you do now?" asked Obi-Wan.

"Our mission stays the same Master Kenobi. Talia had a vision of what may come, and we are working to prevent it. There are thousands of Force-sensitives out there that your order never found, or dismissed. We will not be making the same error. We will save what we can from disappearing or being destroyed by people like Palpatine."

"And the current conflicts?" asked Obi-Wan.

Harry's expression grew serious as he considered what Obi-Wan was asking, "I am not going to sign us up as allies without consulting the other leaders. For what it's worth I am not against working with your people when necessary."

"And Palpatine's plans?"

"I think Palpatine is in trouble, but he won't go down easily, or quickly."
Obi-Wan nodded sadly, it was likely that Harry was right.

"Do you know when will rendezvous with your people?" asked Harry.

"In a few days was the best I could get. Things are apparently pretty fluid right now. Will that be a problem?" asked Obi-Wan.

"Not unless you have a problem with being on board," replied Harry.

"No, not at all, your ship is quite luxurious.'

Harry laughed, "Well it was the best we could afford. The Lily is our home for long periods of time, so a few home comforts don't go astray."

OOoOo

Etain enjoyed the fresh food and creature comforts on the Lily, but the one thing she knew she would miss was the blends of tea.

Holding her steaming mug up to her face she inhaled and closed her eyes as she let out an involuntary appreciative sound that was almost a moan.

"Enjoying that Etain?" asked Darman.

Etain smiled, "It smells so much like Vema fruit, it's remarkable."

Darman poured himself a cup of juice and sat down beside his wife, "How are you feeling?"

"Fat," complained Etain.

Darman laughed and leaned forward to kiss her cheek, "You look serene."

"Flatterer," countered Etain with her own laugh.

"I hope I am not interrupting?" said Salara as she walked into the galley.

"No, not at all," replied Etain with a warm smile.

Salara turned to the cooler and pulled out a tray of fruit. Selecting several pieces she dropped them into her bowl. She then poured a tea and walked over to Etain and Darman. "Would you mind?"

"Please," said Etain as Darman nodded.

"Thank you," replied Salara as she sat.

"You are a Dathomiri I believe," said Etain.

Salara nodded as she used her knife to slice up her fruit.

"And an adept?" asked Darman.

"I have that honour," replied Salara.

"What is it like?" asked Etain.

Salara ate a piece of fruit before answering, "Our home is a growing community. My clan settled there, and we haven't regretted it for a moment. There are all sorts of Force-sensitives living among
us and all of us share our knowledge freely."

"Jedi are taught that freely sharing information can be dangerous," said Etain with a thoughtful look on her face. "Not that I'm throwing stones. Now I've resigned from the order Dar and I are looking at our options," her hand dropped to her belly.

Salara nodded understanding even if she had not been a mother herself, "You should consider Haven. Both you and your husband would be welcome among the families."

Darman studied his wife for a moment before speaking, "Etain and I are members of Clan Skirata and we have commitments to both our clan and Mandalore."

Salara gave Darman a respectful nod, "There are many living on Haven with similar demands. Such ties would not mean you are not welcome."

"I should contact my adoptive father and report the situation if that is acceptable?" asked Darman.

Salara shrugged, "That would be fine just let Luna know, she's on duty at the moment."

Bo-Katan had paused at the doorway letting the conversation flow without interfering. After all, she was rather interested in the Force adepts and the doings of Clan Skirata. As Salara told Darman to seek out Luna she walked in, going straight to the urn of tea.

"Morning," she offered in greeting as she began pouring.

oOoOo

Mandalore – Kyrimorut (Home of Clan Skirata)

Kal Skirata frowned as he looked at the unknown caller designation. His caution wasn't exactly paranoia, especially if you took into account that he had been encouraging clones to desert the Grand Army of the Republic since before the order 66 fiasco. The recent attack by the newly formed Empire had only added to his daily precautions.

Finally, he answered the message only to raise an eyebrow at the code required to connect. Apparently one of his boys was calling in. A moment later a slightly fuzzy image (thanks to the Holo-receivers destroyed by the Imperials) of Darman appeared.

"Kal, I'm glad I caught you."

"Dar where are you?" asked Kal as he looked down at the signal strength. It wasn't anywhere too close.

"Kidron System, Etain and I have been given orders from the Mand'alore. She wants Etain and I to have the baby while we liaise with our new allies."

"New allies?" asked Kal with a frown.

"Bo-Katan, the leader of the Death Watch, arrived at our base with Obi-Wan Kenobi and a shipment of supplies from the Corellians. It seems our plight has been noticed."

Kal reviewed what he knew of Bo-Katan and the Death Watch. Bo-Katan had, at one time been a subordinate of Pre Vizsla. If she was in charge of the Death Watch Vizsla was likely dead as his reports had suggested. With that particular zealot dead, they might be trustworthy enough to work with.
"And the Jedi?" Kal asked Darman. "Are they back?"

Darman's image shook his head, "Not yet, as far as I know, Kenobi is working with the Corellians. Kal, there were some other Force users with Kenobi. They call themselves Force adepts."

"What happened?"

"They hit us pretty hard. The Adept jumped in and killed the Sith leading them. Once we'd cleared the base, the Mand'alore gave us our orders."

Kal frowned as he took in Darman's report. With the Imperials quickly taking control of Mandalore his clan was threatened. He had hoped to sit out the newest conflict while he worked on a cure for the former clone troopers and their accelerated ageing process.

"Are these Adept willing to ally with the Mand'alore?"

"I believe they are," replied Darman.

"And what does Etain think?" asked Kal.

"She trusts them…she believes that they are telling the truth."

Kal considered that piece of information carefully. Etain was difficult to deceive.

"Let me know what you think is relevant," ordered Kal.

"Yes father," replied Darman. "Once I've got a clean terminal I'll send you the latest."

Kal nodded to his adopted son as his image flickered and disappeared. He then turned his attention back to the most recent results on the genetic testing of his former clones.

Coruscant – Imperial Intelligence

Armand Isard hesitated before scrolling back through the data his people had recovered from the Jedi Temple. He had seen a reference to a set of spatial coordinates that looked familiar.

It took him nearly twenty minutes to find the reference he sought but when he did his lips twisted into a satisfied smirk. He finally had something solid to pursue. These 'Force Adept' were rather skilled at disappearing into the darkness once they completed their 'missions'. They did, however, leave some clues behind.

One of their ships had been spotted on Coruscant during the fall of the Republic. A similar ship that was again linked to the Adept identified in the same region of space as a Jedi aboard a Republic military vessel. It had logged the same ship as part of a rescue of a civilian convoy…and the capture of Ventress had occurred in that same sector?

"How very interesting," Isard said to himself as he opened a coded communications channel directly to Emperor Palpatine.

"What have you to report?" asked Palpatine.

"I believe that I may have a location for the Adept. There have been numerous sightings in the same region of space," explained Isard.
"Good, good send an adequate force to deal with them….and Director I want captives."

"Yes My Lord," replied Isard.

"We shall have to delay some fleet operations….but no matter. The traitors can wait."

The good thing about the Lily was the fact that its flight operations were largely automated. After coming on duty Luna did a thorough check that all was well and then, as she always did, closed her eyes, using the Force to look for direction.

As her sense of awareness expanded outward, she felt those on board the Lily. The easiest to identify was, of course, Harry. Their bond was strong and well developed like a golden chain. The others were like coloured points of light, some with larger auras indicating a stronger connection to the Force but all of them bright and healthy. She let herself go further, questing outward.

There was a planet covered in pinpricks of light…a ship…another planet…soon she began to lose the individual lights, there was simply too much to comprehend as her awareness was surrounded by an intricate web of light. With practised ease she let the Force flow around her connecting her to the universe. The Force would show her what was needed.

…Haven…the familiar Force presences of those that lived there…Hermione looking at a console with concern.

The asteroids that marked the MZX33291 star system being scanned by Imperial warships seeking out Haven.

An Imperial officer with a white streak in his brown hair, "We cannot detect anything My Lord, but if these Adepts are using some sort of cloaking technology, then scanning may not be enough. Destroying the field completely should flush them out…"

Divisions of Clone troopers preparing for an assault

An image of Talia appeared, a memory of a past lesson. "Remember beloved, attack is not always the best option….misdirection can show your enemy what he thinks he knows."

Luna's eyes snapped open.

Harry, Luna, Salara, Ret, Sahdra and Velath all in Harry and Luna's cabin made for a tight fit but given the nature of their discussion, a room that could be warded without bringing undue attention was more important.

"Won't the protections hide Haven?" asked Salara.

"From detection by sensors or a Force sensitive. They are not designed to defend Haven from massed weapons fire on the asteroid field," replied Harry. "If they destroy the whole field they wouldn't need to find Haven itself."

"Then we need to warn them to evacuate," said Sahdra.

"We could do that, but it would take time to do properly," warned Ret.

"We need Palpatine looking elsewhere. We need him focused on dealing with us," replied Harry.
"How?" asked Salara.

"We take the fight to him while the others find a way to protect Haven," concluded Luna. "If we are seen somewhere far from Haven we can hopefully redirect his attention."

"Would that work?" asked Ret.

"Hopefully, I don't think Palpatine has any idea of our numbers," replied Harry.


Anakin Skywalker hadn't worked with Green Jedi before so he hadn't known what to expect from the Corellian Jedi. He'd been pleasantly surprised to find that they were rather easy to work with.

"Anakin?"

He turned to see Master Hull, the senior of the Green Jedi contingent holding a cup of hot caff, "I thought you might need this. It's been a long day already and dealing with this lot has been challenging."

Anakin accepted the drink gratefully, "Thanks, Force or not I need the pick me up."

Hull laughed, "Truly they are far too fond of their own voices. Although neither Hill nor Tambor are idiots. They know they need this alliance now the CIS is breaking up."

Anakin took a sip of the caff enjoying its bitter taste, "I faced off against Tambor a few times. He's a realist, and he knows he's been played just like the Republic."

"And the Jedi," added Hull. Seeing Anakin's expression grow cold he quickly continued. "I mean no offence, we were just as taken in as the council was. Palpatine manipulated us all masterfully. In the end, we were luckier than we had any right to be that his plan didn't wipe us out."

"I used to admire him," admitted Anakin with a shudder. "I thought he was a good man. Obi-Wan fears that he was grooming me to be his apprentice."

Hull could sense the disgust in the younger Jedi's words, "But you avoided that fate my young friend. It probably doesn't help but remember, you are not the only one he deceived."

Anakin nodded accepting the older Jedi's words if not quite believing them.

"Can we still expect Master Kenobi to re-join us at the rendezvous?" asked Hull.

"He's still aboard the Adepts ship so until he contacts us I assume so," replied Anakin.

"You've encountered these Adepts before?"

Anakin nodded, "A few times."

"What are they like? Master Yoda sent us a briefing on them, but there wasn't a lot in it."

Anakin explained what he knew, sticking to the facts as Hull listened intently.

"So they were trained by a Jedi...that's a positive sign although I must say I share the Council's concern that they could easily be influenced by the Dark Side. We've had encounters with grey Jedi in the past. Trying to walk such a line can be very dangerous."
Anakin could understand that argument, in fact, he had made that argument, but he had to acknowledge that the Adepts had helped the order a great deal. "I admit that it's a concern but, despite the nature of their order, they have done nothing but help the Order despite their reservations concerning us."

"Reservations?" prompted Hull.

"I get the impression that they think the Jedi are rather limited and closed-minded," admitted Anakin.

Anakin raised an eyebrow as Hull unexpectedly laughed, "They wouldn't be the first to say that."

The Lily

"So you will still deliver us to the rendezvous?" asked Obi-Wan.

"Of course," replied Harry.

"Is the change of plans something we can help with?" asked Obi-Wan.

Harry considered the question before shrugging, "Palpatine looks like he may be trying to find our base of operations. It is protected, but there is some concern that he might find it. For now, we are still working out a course of action."

Obi-Wan could understand and given the fact that the Adepts had helped thwart Palpatine. They would be a target now. "If there is any way I can help let me know."

Harry nodded as he turned to leave. Bo-Katan was next on his list.

The Mandalorian was in her quarters along with Etain and Darman. She and Daran were doing sit-ups. They took the updated arrival time in their stride. Bo-Katan shrugged and then nodded, "Very well. I'm a soldier, so good food and a comfortable bed are no hardship."

Darman laughed, "Too right."

As Harry turned, Luna's voice came over the loudspeaker.

"We have just received coordinates for our rendezvous. Harry would you come to the bridge."

In the end, their arrival in the Meridian sector was moments after the growing coalition fleet led by Bel Iblis.

After identifying themselves, Harry flew the Lily in to dock with the Corellian flagship, the Cintar.

By the time they had landed in the hangar deck, a small welcoming committee had formed up to greet them. Harry almost grimaced at the sight of the Jedi surrounding Skywalker and Ashoka.

"Looks like Obi-Wan's a popular man."

Luna giggled as she shut down the ship's systems, "No weapons being drawn is a good start."

"True, although I vote we let him do the meet and greet," said Harry.
Luna frowned as she looked down at her casual clothes, "I think we need to get changed if we are going to be meeting people."

Anakin smiled as Obi-Wan walked down the ramp of the adept's ship. His former Master and friend looked uninjured and Anakin relaxed slightly in relief.

"It's good to see you Anakin," said Obi-Wan with a slight smile and an upraised eyebrow.

"It sounds like you got a bit more excitement than we had anticipated," said Jedi Master Hull.

Obi-Wan shrugged and glanced back at the ship before returning his attention to Hull, "You might say that. I think we all need to hear my report. Things are slightly more complicated than we had expected."

"I'll organise it," promised Hull as he nodded to Bo-Katan as she walked down the ramp to stand beside Kenobi,

Bo-Katan nodded in return, "I need to speak to my officers as well."

"Do you have injured aboard?" asked Hull.

"No, the Adepts took care of that, their ship is remarkably well equipped," replied Obi-Wan.

Hull looked like he was going to say something when a group appeared at the top of the ramp. To the Green Jedi, it was obvious all six were part of a unit. Each wore variants of black and grey. As he opened himself to the Force, he realised that all six were Force-sensitives...indeed, several openly wore a lightsaber on their utility belts. 'So these must be the mysterious Adepts,' he mused as he stepped forward.

"Welcome aboard the Cintar, I am Jedi Master Hull."

To his surprise, it was one of the youngsters that stepped forward to offer a polite nod, "Harry Potter and this is my partner Luna and my fellow adepts, Ret, Salara, Velath and Sahdra."

Hull smiled and offered a slight bow, "A pleasure to meet you."

"What do you make of them?" asked Bel Iblis as he talked quietly with Hull. The meeting was set to start in minutes and he wanted a feel for these 'adepts'.

"They are all Force sensitives, relatively strong as such things are measured. They seem non-hostile and according to Kenobi, they are the reason he and Bo-Katan are not captured or dead."

"So, potential allies perhaps?"

Hull shrugged, "I suspect that they have their own agenda. Which is not a bad thing per say but without more intelligence about their 'order' I don't know what to tell you."

"Kenobi hinted that Harry and Luna, despite their age are the leaders," added Bel Iblis.

"They are allied with the Altisian Jedi, a splinter group of Jedi. Who have been established for decades. Altis and his people did a great deal of good work. My initial thoughts were that they were a loose coalition of small groups working together...I'm beginning to question that now. Harry and
Luna have quite a Force presence regardless of the fact that they are the age of Padawans."

"Do we have a guess at their numbers?"

Hull shrugged, "Skywalker hinted that the Council were worried that they might be far more numerous than they were comfortable with. But, again we lack concrete data and my guesses would be just that, guesses."

"But they can fight?"

"It would appear so; remember they captured a slaver fleet so they clearly have resources to go along with their more martial skills."

"Nothing more?"

"Nothing solid, but remember if Altis and his group have allied with them there will be a reason."

Harry fought the urge to turn and look at the Jedi standing in the corner. The Jedi Master Hull had been nothing but polite in the 'debriefing' they attended but his constant attention was somewhat annoying. Having someone focus the Force perception on you was like having a constant whispering in your ear.

Bel Iblis had been something of a revelation. A competent politician and apparently, a reasonable strategist. It was clear that he wanted as many alliances as possible to fight the Imperials. Harry really couldn't fault his thinking there. If his alliance was going to survive it needed competent allies not to mention resources, intelligence and support from those familiar with the Force. He already had the backing of the Corellian Jedi but was, if Harry was reading matters correctly, receiving a less than encouraging response from the Jedi Council.

Yes, Bel Iblis and Hull's interest were understandable.

Harry sensed two familiar Force signatures and turned to see Altis and Remus approaching him.

"It's good to see you, Harry," said Djinn Altis.

"Nice uniform Harry," added Remus with a grin.

"What are you two doing here?" asked Harry after he had given both men a hug.

"Yoda's asking for a liaison," said Altis quietly.

"Really?" asked Harry.

Remus nodded, "He wants to mend fences I think."

"Who?" asked Harry.

Altis answered, "Master Luminara Unduli."

"Is she suitable?" asked Harry. The last thing they needed was a Jedi zealot on Haven.

Altis nodded after a subtle hesitation, "I've met her several times. She is a Mirialan Jedi master and a very skilled diplomat and negotiator."
"Good enough to take Haven in her stride?" asked Harry.

Altis shrugged, "She's unlikely to do anything to betray our trust for anything but what she believes are the right reasons."

"Damn, so the first hint of what she suspects is 'dark' and we'll be in trouble," muttered Harry.

"Maybe not," corrected Altis. "I believe that Yoda wants to improve our relationship. Luminara is no zealot, nor is she a fool. I sense that this is a genuine attempt."

Remus cleared his throat, "Not all Jedi would see it that way. Your old friend Jeisel automatically joked that Djinn was back in the fold."

"I don't think she meant it like that Remus," argued Altis.

"Maybe not but if we go ahead with this I will not hesitate to obliterate her and send her back to Yoda if she is a problem," warned Harry.

Altis grinned, "I knew you would say something like that, and I don't disagree. Haven is far too important."

"What are you and the others going to do now?" asked Remus.

Harry frowned and glanced over at Hull before speaking, "Luna had a vision. We need to go somewhere that we can talk without being overheard."

"The Lily?" suggested Remus.

"Let me grab Luna," added Harry.

oOoOo

"I think it is a good idea, I don't think we can ignore the Jedi order for an extended period," said Luna with a frown. "I'm just not happy with the timing more than anything else. My vision didn't give a timeline but I sensed that we don't have long to combat it."

Remus shrugged, "For what it's worth I think we would be foolish to not exploit the connection. Remember the Order now knows the location of Earth. We have a responsibility to protect Earth since we contributed to it being part of events."

"So we agree to it?" asked a frowning Harry.

"I'll keep a close eye on her but I think we need to at least give this a chance to work," said Altis.

"Fine, problem solved. Now how do we draw Palpatine's attention away from Haven?" asked Harry.

"I think your idea to be openly active, far from Haven will work. Especially if we make big enough waves," said Remus.

"It's a potentially dangerous move, provoking Palpatine but it should draw his attention from Haven," agreed Altis. "If the Wookie Gunner is also seen on a few rim worlds it should help."

"As long as we don't abandon our mission," added Luna.

oOoOo
Sev'rance smiled as she came out of her Force trance. While she had again failed to determine a location she had felt a brief moment of connection to a familiar Force presence. Sirius Black had been excited and hopeful as he had talked to an older human.

Even that brief moment of connection had been like a balm to her doubts. Sirius was out there, alive and well. She would find him and through him find her destiny.

A loud beeping interrupted her thoughts as she turned to look at the flight controls. She had reached the coordinates.

oOoOo

Haven

Hermione gestured and a droid walked over to her, "Ceesix send an alert to all our damage control teams to be prepared to act."

"The sensors say it is a small shuttle," reported Soran Thell.

"The Force and Magical based protections are still operating so they shouldn't be able to detect us" replied Ron.

"Still, we might want to consider taking precautions," suggested Hermione. "Luna's warning has me wanting to be a bit more vigilant."

"The ship is sending out a low powered transmission," reported Hanna Balest, one of the Altisian Jedi on duty in the control room.

"Play it," ordered Hermione.

An image of a blue-skinned woman appeared. She had obviously recorded her message sitting at the controls of a ship.

"…no hostile intentions. I am seeking one of your people, Sirius Black. I have no hostile intentions."

Hermione frowned, 'Hadn't Remus mentioned a woman Sirius had boasted about in his last holo-message being blue-skinned?' She was getting an odd feeling about the situation. Not dangerous but somehow important.

"Open a channel," ordered Hermione.

"Won't that give away our position?" asked Hanna.

"No, the wards still block that, but it will confirm that we are in the area somewhere," replied Ron with a curious glance at Hermione.

Hermione considered her order for a moment before nodding, "Open a channel."

"This is Hermione of the Adepts, I'll need more information than that I'm afraid."

The image flickered and disappeared before another replaced it. The same woman, a Chiss, Hermione realised.

"I seek Sirius Black and by extension your people Hermione."

Hermione frowned, "Why?" she asked bluntly.
"I wish to join your order," replied the Chiss.

"And Sirius?" prompted Hermione.

The Chiss smirked, "That's a more personal matter. I wish to…reconnect with Sirius."

"And will he want to reconnect with you?" asked Hermione as she ignored Ron's barely concealed laughter behind her.

"He saved my life," the Chiss looked smugly at the camera and raised an eyebrow, "So I should hope so. I am also undoubtedly the best sex he has ever had."

Hermione let her thoughts wander for a moment as she considered ways to kill Sirius or neuter him. "I see, we will send a ship to rendezvous with you. Maintain your current position."

The Chiss nodded and closed the channel.

"Sirius Black, ladies' man," said Ron with a laugh.

"Ron," warned Hermione as she turned to Soran Thell, "I'll need a ship prepped."

'I'll come with you," said Ron.

"Why Hermione?" asked Soran Thell.

"Something tells me she's important. Besides, if she is a spy or something we can always wipe her memory. And that is a lot easier to do if she is standing next to me," explained Hermione. "Oh, and someone see if they can get a hold of Sirius I would really like to talk to him, soon."

\[oOoOo\]

**The Cintar – Conference Room**

"We need to resupply the Mandalorians or we risk losing the entire resistance. They've got the people but they severely lack material resources," explained Kenobi.

"The last resupply mission failed," stated one of the newly arrived civilian advisors in the room. Selip Nor was representing one of the coalitions well-known politicians Mon Mothma.

"Bad timing and bad luck," answered Bo-Katan. "Now that the Mand'alore has a more secure base resupply will be easier."

"The Empire has committed a large force to Mandalorian space," added a Corellian military officer. "Even with an active resistance, we can't hope to take back the system without unacceptable casualties."

Fellin Harlon, the representative of Her Royal Highness, Queen Apailana of Naboo, cleared his throat loudly, "The Mandalorians are a militaristic people surely they can hold until we gather the forces needed."

Bo-Katan clenched her fist and went to speak but paused as a hand touched her shoulder. Turning she saw Darman shake his head. Relaxing slightly, she turned her attention to Bel Iblis.

"We need plans people. With the Droids and ships we inherited from the former CIS forces, we have more operational strike power but without more planetary bases we are going to have to hit and run…for now. That doesn't mean we abandon potential allies."
The planning meeting dragged on for some time but when it ended, Darman and a quietly fuming Bo-Katan left.

"Cowards," hissed Bo-Katan before Darman pulled her into a quiet corridor.

"Alor, you need to think calmly," warned Darman.

Bo-Katan paused; the use of Alor meant that Darman was calling her a leader.

"Yes they may be cowards but they are not Mandalorian. The Mand'alore needs help and we must get it for her. We have to work with these people."

Bo-Katan nodded, "You are right, thank you. It was just hearing them debating our future."

"You wish to be with the Mand'alore, fighting," said Darman.

Bo-Katan smiled, "I would prefer it."

Darman smiled, "So would I but we have other duties."

Bo-Katan took a deep breath, "Let's go speak to my second and then I want to find Harry and Luna."

oOoOo

Harry frowned as he considered the grim-faced Bo-Katan, "Do you really think they would let Mandalore fall?"

"For a long time, the Republic would have loved for us to disappear. But right now I am worried that they won't be the allies the Mand'alore needs."

"We are not able to supply troops since we don't have any but given the situation, the Mand'alore is in we should be able to help," said Luna.

"I am sure the Mand'alore appreciates the logistical support…" began Bo-Katan.

Harry smiled, albeit without any trace of humour, "You misunderstand, we will be supplying you but we will also be lending more direct aid as well."

As Harry spoke his hand fell to rest on the hilt of his lightsaber.

oOoOo

There was little Obi-Wan Kenobi could do to influence the leaders of the fleet as they debated the merits of various plans. It seemed that the consensus was leaning toward spreading the fleet over several outer rim systems to deny the Empire a target. The invasion of the Mandalorian system was, it seemed a rather low priority. Supplies would be sent but for now, the coalition was not committed to liberating Mandalore anytime soon.

Looking over at Bel Iblis he could sense that the Corellian wasn't happy with the rest of the coalitions politicians as he sat stony-faced next to the Corellian Jedi. He looked over to where Bo-Katan and Darman usually sat and noted that the space was empty.

Kenobi then looked around and frowned. The Adepts were nowhere to be seen. Standing, he walked over to a relatively clear area and called Anakin on his communicator.
"Anakin check to see if the Adepts are still onboard."

Anakin sounded puzzled as he replied, "Master Altis and Remus left an hour ago. I haven't seen Potter or his people."

Kenobi sighed, "The politicians are stalling regarding Mandalore and I think Bo-Katan has gone to the Adepts for help."

"What do we do now?" asked Anakin.

"Check out if the Lily is still docked," suggested Kenobi.

"And if it isn't?"

"Then we hope they know what they are doing," replied Kenobi. It had been so much easier to consider Satine a politician and thus someone to be wary of. But her bravery in making the stand to remain neutral in the war and her later decision to lead her people when the war came to them kept his esteem for her well and truly alive. This situation would be a lot easier without his emotional attachment to her but right now he wasn't sure he could put it aside.

oOoOo

The Lily

"When Etain and Darman left with Altis and Remus for Haven I expected you to be onboard," repeated Harry.

Sahdra shook her head sending her blue hair flying, "No, I need to stay with Velath and besides you'll need me."

Harry studied the Zeltron for a second before replying, "Master Altis might not approve of us taking you into a war zone."

Sahdra frowned, "I know how to fight, and I'm nearly ready for my trials!"

Harry opened his mouth to reply but Luna's hand on his shoulder stopped him.

"We'll discuss it Sahdra, now why don't you and practice your forms with Velath," said Luna.

Once the Zeltron had left Harry turned to Luna with an enquiring look.

Luna smiled brightly, "She really is quite competent and she's helping Velath get up to speed with her lightsaber drills. Besides, she's in love."

Harry shrugged, "I know, it's her age I'm worried about."

"She's not much younger than us love," countered Luna with a grin.

"True I suppose. We should probably get some training in as well. With everything that's happened I haven't taken the time as I would like to work on my own skills," admitted Harry.

"Well we have an hour or two now and I was thinking about one of the Force techniques Vectivus showed us."

oOoOo
Velath mirrored Sahdra's moves as the Zeltron demonstrated a block and strike technique. On the other side of the cargo hold, Salara and Ret watched on as the two young women worked together.  

"I wonder when Velath will realise that she is being hunted?" asked Ret quietly.  

Salara grinned and then shrugged, "She grew up among women, in close quarters. I don't think she's realised yet."  

"Ah, oh well I'm sure it will be a surprise then. Do you feel like a spar?" asked Ret.  

Salara nodded, "Lets."  

oOoOo  

**Outer Rim**  

The Wookie Gunner gently drifted almost powered down as the crew gathered in the cockpit.  

"Can you sense it?" asked Sirius.  

Amelia Sto-Lat wrinkled her nose as she stood, eyes closed trying to sense what Sirius was talking about. "There is something…unpleasant almost like a bad smell."  

Alyssa nodded, "That's a good description. There's something there alright."  

"Good, I'm not going mad then."  

Callista looked down at the controls, "We are pretty far from anywhere here. No populated systems in this sector."  

"I don't like this," muttered Alyssa.  

"There is nothing on sensors," reported Callista.  

"I can't sense anything other than a feeling of….darkness but it's pretty faint," reported Alyssa. "I've felt something like this once before. It was an artefact that was made by the Sith."  

Sirius shrugged, "Fine, mark down the coordinates and let's make the next jump."  

The Wookie Gunner leapt into hyperspace.  

Sirius yawned and scratched himself before straightening and stretched his arms overhead.  

"You look tired," said Amelia.  

"I am…I haven't been sleeping well," replied Sirius.  

"Oh, are you unwell?"  

"No…it's just something," Sirius trailed off before turning to look at the Vahla. "It's like I'm missing something."  

"Would this something involve little Sirius?" asked Amelia with a smirk and a pointed downward look.  

Sirius stared open-mouthed at Amelia.
"Oh don't give me that look Sirius. You are not my type or gender but I know that look. The Galaxy can be a remarkably small place so who knows, you might run into her again."

Sirius smiled and Amelia rolled her eyes, "Dear Goddess go and have a cold shower or watch a dirty holo or something."

Sirius looked thoughtful, "Good advice," he replied with a faux-serious expression as he walked off toward his quarters.

Amelia grinned at the human's antics before pouring herself a cup of tea. She had been worried about this mission given her people's issues with other Force users but so far it had been entertaining, even if she lacked suitable female company to occupy herself. With a wry smile, she sat in the mess area and sipped her tea.

Alyssa walked into the mess area and saw that the tea jug was still half full. With a nod toward Amelia, she poured herself a cup and sat at the table with the smiling Vahla.

"Mind if I join you?" asked Alyssa.

Amelia gestured toward the seat.

Alyssa shot her a smile as she sat, "I've been meaning to ask you about your training. I know you practice Teräs Käsi and I was wondering if you would like to spar?"

Amelia raised an eyebrow, "You know martial arts?"

"I've studied Echani martial arts," replied Alyssa.

"Then yes, I would be happy to," replied Amelia.

"Great, I..."

"Can everyone report to the flight deck, we've got an incoming holo from Harry."

oOoOo

"...so we are on our way to Mandalorian space," reported Harry.

"Need our help pup?" asked Sirius.

"I suspect the Mandalorians need supplies. Bo-Katan and Kenobi lost most of their relief supplies when the Mandalorians were hit. They could definitely use more."

"The Wookie can't carry all that much but we could do some good on the ground and that would only help us draw Palpatine's attention away from Haven," added Callista.

"Good, then we will see you when you get here. Sirius, I wanted to ask, would a disillusionment charm work or a ship?"

Sirius grinned, "Visually? Yes, Remus and Hermione didn't think it would work for sensors. You would need the Fidelius for that."

"Then I'd suggest that you disillusion the Wookie. Landing on Concordia probably won't please the Imperials."

oOoOo
The Lily, invisible to the naked eye, streaked through the clouds before descending to fly just above the tree line. Even though the Imperial blockade continued, there were far fewer ships. A rather worrying fact if you considered their fears that Palpatine might be searching for Haven.

The Mandalorian base was still safely hidden under its illusion as Harry carefully piloted the Lily into the protected landing area.

There was, of course, a large and heavily armed squad waiting.

Harry started shutting down systems leaving the greetings to Bo-Katan.

"Harry love, it looks like the Mand'alore is here," Luna warned.

Harry looked up to see the Mand'alore outside the cockpit window embracing Bo-Katan. "Well, maybe we should get everyone together and head out."

The Mand'alore reached up and removed her helmet as she spotted the Adepts leaving the Lily.

"Greetings my friends, Bo-Katan tells me you have come to help."

Harry bowed and the rest quickly followed suit, "Mand'alore my people stand ready to assist you as best we can."

Satine smiled, "Then let's go and consider our options. Bo-Katan you come as well."

oOoOo

Satine pointed at the holographic map and ran her finger along the mountain range to the south, "These are the P'Vel Mountains. Probably the most inhospitable land on Concordia and it's where we have established a hidden hanger. We have ten Kom'rk class fighter transports as well as several shuttles hidden there. These are what allow us to strike at Imperial forces on Mandalore itself. If they manage to find and destroy the base, we will have our ability to strike significantly diminished."

"Do they know where they are?" asked Ret.

"We don't believe so, although our spies on Mandalore tell us that they are looking for our bases," replied Satine.

"Would you like us to help ward...um protect the base?" asked Luna.

"Ideally yes, but I have another more concerning problem. One of the agents is missing and I fear she may have been compromised. Another agent is convinced she is under around the clock surveillance. If the senior agent has been captured or forced to flee, we have no way of finding her."

"We may be able to locate her," offered Harry.

Satine looked relieved, "Mirria was my aide before I was forced out of office. I asked her to stay and keep her head down. Unfortunately, she came across some information that was of great importance to my cause and that of one of my new allies."

Harry nodded in understanding. Satine felt responsible for the danger her friend was in as much as she needed the intelligence, "I understand Mand'alore, we will do our best."

"We might need to split into two teams," added Luna. "My team can ward the mountain base and your team can find Mirria."
"Hiding the base can wait. If the worst happens, we can defend it long enough for our people to escape."

"Do we know where Mirria was last located?" asked Luna.

"We do," Satine assured them.

"I think…" Harry was cut off by a soldier calling for the Mand'alore.

"Mand'alore a second ship, a Vee nineteen Torrent Starfighter just landed outside the base."

"Just one?" asked Satine.

"Yes, Mand'alore."

"I assume we are jamming its comms?" Seeing his nod she put her helmet back on. "Good capture the pilot and bring him here."

A few moments later a familiar face was led in by three heavily armed Mandalorians.

"Well this is a surprise, seeing you here," said Obi-Wan Kenobi.

"…and so I simply made my way here," explained Obi-Wan.

"So you didn't track us?" asked Harry.

"Not in so many words, no," replied Obi-Wan.

Ret looked like he was about to say something but Harry beat him to it.

"Alright, well nice seeing you again Master Kenobi."

The Adepts followed Harry out leaving Obi-Wan alone with Satine.

"Why are you here Obi?"

"To help, as much as I am able," replied Obi-Wan.

"Even if I don't want you to?" replied Satine coldly.

"I don't understand Highness."

"Where were you when the Sith came?" asked Satine.

"Your Highness…Satine, I came when I could."

Satine studied his face looking for insight before turning away, "I needed you here by my side Obi-Wan. People….good people died."

"I am sorry Satine. My duties were elsewhere I would have been here to help if I had known."

Satine turned back to look at him. Her eyes were moist but her expression was cold. "I loved you Obi-Wan and I know you knew it. Just as I knew it was hopeless," she held up a hand gesturing to forestall his reply. "Now I've been forced to give up my principles to save my people. Now I am the Mand'alore and I can't let myself love you. So I'll ask again why are you here?"
"Oh Satine," whispered Obi-Wan as he stepped forward pulling her into an embrace. "I may not be able to be what you want me to be but I am truly your friend. Where else should I be when you need help?"

Satine relaxed into his embrace for a moment before pushing him away, "Then General Kenobi I have a mission for you."

Obi-Wan took a calming breath and nodded, "How can I assist you?"

"I need the secret to the Clone troopers accelerated aging."

"Aging?" asked Obi-Wan.

"An ally had discovered that the Clones were created with accelerated aging. It's clear now that they were never meant to survive the combat service but if they did their lifespan would be less than a quarter of a normal human. We've discovered that they were also fitted with inhibitor chips but we know how to remove those. We still need to know how to fix the accelerated aging but we think we have found a source. A renegade Kaminoan scientist is now hiding on Mandalore, an agent sent a message to me."

"And this scientist has the information you need?" asked Obi-Wan.

"Yes, Obi-Wan you can't do this alone so I've organised a team to go with you."

oOoOo

"This is a larger team than I expected," said Obi-Wan as the civilian freighter Satine had supplied approached Sundari, the domed capital city of Mandalore.

Harry shrugged not commenting on Kenobi's small talk, "We are approaching their space dock."

"I'm sending our ID through now," added Luna. "Okay, we have our berth, Fifty-Six West."

Kenobi pointed to the left, "It's right on the perimeter of the berths."

"I'm bringing her in now," advised Harry.

Luna flipped on the internal comms system, "Places everyone."

Harry bought the freighter down smoothly and cut the engines, "We need to check in with the dock master and while everyone unloads the three of us will go to Mirria's address. We've got six hours until our scheduled departure time."

"Then we had best get moving," said Obi-Wan.

Luna pulled out her wand, "But first, let's be sure no one recognises you general."

Obi-Wan felt a strange twist in the Force and looked down at his suddenly pale skin. Turning her looked at himself in the cockpit glass and was shocked to see a much younger man. Red haired, with a smattering of freckles across his face.

"Well that will come in handy," he whispered as he reached up to touch his new face.

The three of them left the ship just as Ret began talking with the two dock workers approaching the ship. Following the signs, they made their way toward the administrative building before turning off and making their way out of the Space Dock.
"All good so far," said Harry with a grin. "Okay, Ben you had better show us the way to your sister's place."

Obi-Wan barely hesitated before hailing transport.

As they travelled through the outer areas of Sundari, it was increasingly obvious just how much of a presence the Empire was maintaining on the ground. There were clone troopers everywhere. The capital ships may have left but no one was fooled into thinking the Empire had abandoned Mandalore.

Harry was memorising landmarks as they travelled. With all the enemy troops on the ground any 'fighting retreat' would be dangerous. He smiled for a moment and fingered his wand. If need be, they could apparate back to the freighter.

The transport deposited them nearly two full blocks from the multi-storey dwelling Mirria had been living in. As they casually made their way along the raised walkway, Luna extended her senses trying to feel out the dangers with the Force.

"Here it is," said Harry quietly.

"Keep walking," said Luna. "People are watching."

They continued to stroll down the street passing a group of four Clones standing on guard outside what looked like a warehouse. Continuing on, they walked into a shopping complex and found a quiet corner.

"Did you feel it?" asked Luna.

Both Harry and Obi-Wan nodded.

"There is a Force presence in there, a dark one," added Kenobi.

"Anyone want to guess as to why a darksider is so close to our missing friend's apartment?" asked Harry.

Luna faced the wall and pulled out her wand. Focusing her mind on the picture Satine had shown her, she focused her senses on Mirria, "Point me Mirria."

Her wand spun to point but, more importantly, Luna got a sense of Mirria's location. One of the benefits of combining spells with her Force abilities. "She is in the warehouse and she is not alone but I can't sense much else."

Harry considered for a moment before looking over at Obi-Wan, "Do you trust me Obi-Wan?"

Obi-Wan smiled, "Why do I suddenly think I should be concerned?"

Harry grinned and gestured toward a shadowed alcove.

oOoOo

Agent Probic of Imperial Intelligence stepped away from the prisoner as she slumped into unconsciousness, "Revive her."

A Clone stepped forward and injected the battered woman with a stimulant.

As the Mandalorian opened her eyes, Probic grabbed her by the hair and forced her to look at him,
"You will break traitor."

Mirria shuddered at the cold menace in the agent's voice. She had already been subjected to a brutal interrogation and in her few brief moments of respite, her interrogator had made it clear that worse awaited.

Probic felt a wave of what was almost pleasure as he watched the fear grow in her eyes. She was close to breaking. Very, very close. Another round of beatings and perhaps letting a few clones use her and she would be begging to cooperate.

As he stepped forward raising his hand, he felt the Force being manipulated…very close by. Turning he studied the empty warehouse, "Check the perimeter and notify Ulyen that we may have a Jedi nearby."

His Clone assistant nodded and opened a secure comm channel.

Probic could sense the presence approaching. Stepping back into the shadows near the wall he used the Force to blur and distort his outline while he hid his own Force signature. He had been a Jedi before he found where true power came from and he knew their strengths and their weaknesses.

A few moments later the door opened and then closed.

Probic could feel the other…no the others. There were three Force presences in the room now.

The Clone seemed to realise something was amiss and raised its blaster only to slump to the ground in a flash of red light.

Help was on the way, Ulyen and his Sith Acolytes were moments away but it didn't feel like he was in control. The Force was sending Probic a distinct sense of danger.

As he watched, there was a shimmering in the air and three figures appeared. One older man and two youngsters, obviously Padawans not an easy fight but he could hold until help arrived.

oOoOo

The disillusioned trio had quickly and quietly dealt with the Clone Trooper guards and an unlocking spell had gained them access to the warehouse. The sole Clone hadn't even had a chance to fire.

Obi-Wan Kenobi cringed as he took in the battered form of Mirria. He felt a touch on his arm and then an odd wave of the Force passed over him. Seeing Harry and Luna he realised that he was once again visible.

Harry was tense as he looked around the room before focusing on one corner, "We have someone in the corner. They've hidden their Force presence but he's there."

"…Who?" muttered Mirria.

Obi-Wan gestured and the bindings holding her down fell open, "We are here to save you Mirria."

Luna swung around looking at the door, "We have more coming, all Darksiders."

"Get her out of here Obi-Wan," ordered Harry.

"Too late," said Luna as the doors were blasted halfway across the room.

Four figures all armed with red-bladed lightsabers leapt into the room as the doors hit the floor.
Probic smirked as he stepped out of the shadows, "I am Agent Probic and you will surrender."

Harry smiled, "I wouldn't count on it."

"We have you now Jedi. You can't beat us all and as we speak my troops are surrounding this building."

Harry looked over to Luna, who nodded. With a negligent toss, he threw a coin from his belt pouch to Obi-Wan. "Pick her up and go. Just say the Lily. We'll get the other one."

Obi-Wan looked confused but did as he was told before disappearing from the warehouse with Mirria.

"You can't hide from me Jedi," hissed Probic although the other Jedi had seemingly vanished.

Harry smiled as he activated his lightsaber. While Luna gestured and sent Force lightning toward Probic. Who only just managed to block the attack even as he was thrown backward.

"Sorry but we are not Jedi," added Harry. "We need to hold them, Luna."

The four Sith acolytes attacked Harry as Probic snarled out orders.

Harry swung his lightsaber blocking the closest as he snapped a stunning spell at the second.

Luna simply Force pushed Probic sending him staggering backward. As he fell back, Luna leapt into the air somersaulting to land next to Harry. As she landed, she struck out forcing the two Sith backwards.

For a moment the Sith hesitated then, as one, they charged.

Harry struck out with a fast thrust against his opponent who simply danced aside and countered with a slashing blow that forced Harry to block and take a step backwards. Using the back step Harry spun and lashed out at one of the Sith attacking Luna only for his attack to be blocked by the firsts lightsaber.

Luna was forced to block attacks from both Sith as they charged forward coordinating their attacks and nearly succeeding in trapping her between them.

As Luna blocked Harry felt rather than saw something speeding toward his head. Spinning he blocked with his lightsaber destroying a large metal bar. As the bar flew away, in two pieces, the two Sith attacked again.

Luna gestured and shadowy figures leapt from the walls engaging the two Sith attacking her. As they were distracted by the illusionary figures Luna struck running the first through. Spinning she prepared to attack the second when she was forced to block a fast moving attack from Probic.

Harry kicked out catching his opponent in the knee and sending him stumbling backward. Unfortunately, it cost him as Luna's opponent managed to catch him with a slash that caught him in his thigh. Burning pain caused him to stumble and he barely managed to block an attack from Probic that would have taken his head off.

"Separate, they are crowding us," ordered Luna as she used the Force to leap over two of the Sith.

Harry ignored the pain in his leg and gestured with his wand hand sending Force lightning at his opponent who was blasted backwards. Even as the Force lightning connected he parried a powerful
overhead blow from the second Sith.

Luna blocked a blindingly fast attack from one of the Sith as Probic began his own series of lighting fast attacks against her.

Luna and Harry were holding their own, barely against five fighters who had been trained to fight Jedi. As Luna fended off the leader, Harry decided to change tactics. He cast a blasting curse at the feet of the Sith, who were again readying to attack him. Both were sent flying backwards amidst a cloud of debris.

Luna smiled at the two remaining Sith as she cast her own blasting curse. Probic somehow avoided the worst of the curse but he was still sent stumbling away.

Harry sent a stream of fire at the only Sith who had regained his footing but the figure rolled away.

Probic snarled and sent Harry and Luna a look of hate as he strode forward, his red-bladed lightsaber swing back and forth. He launched a lightning-fast attack toward Luna and kicked out at Harry forcing him backward.

Luna deflected his attack and countered but she was slightly too slow and out of position and he caught her across the face with his elbow as she deflected his lightsaber. As she staggered back, he reversed his blow and attempted to run her through only to have Harry's lightsaber deflect his blade away.

The move, however, cost Harry.

Overbalanced, as he extended to protect Luna Harry, left himself open to a powerful blow from Probic, which he only barely managed to block.

With an almost feral look in his eyes, Probic kicked out catching Harry right on his injured thigh.

Harry was forced to drop to one knee as pain momentarily overrode his ability to suppress it.

Luna blinked away tears as she blocked an attack and responded with an aggressive Form VII attack that seemingly caught the Sith by surprise as his head toppled to the floor.

Still on his knees, Harry blocked a thrust and sent a stunning spell, at almost point blank range, at Probic.

Somehow the Sith blocked the spell but he couldn't have foreseen the blast of Force Lightning that struck him in the back and made him stumble forward in pain.

Harry didn't hesitate and drove his lightsaber into the Sith's chest. As he slumped forward, Harry pushed off on his good leg and let Probic hit the ground.

"We need to get out of here," said Luna. "Are you alright?"

Harry cast a healing spell and flexed his leg, "Good enough to get out of here."

"We need to…" began Luna.

Harry threw up a shield as blaster fire came lancing out of the darkness.

"You know I'm kind of thinking we need to get the hell out of here," muttered Harry as the tempo of the blaster fire picked up as more Clones arrived.
With a nod, Luna apparated away followed almost instantly by Harry.

oOoOo

The Lily

Obi-Wan hovered over Mirria as the Medical Droid did its work.

"She is stabilised but will need either immersion in Bacta or treatment by a Force healer. Given we have several Force healers listed as crew, I would suggest that solution."

Obi-Wan looked over at Salara. "You have Force healers?"

Salara nodded and looked over to where Velath and Sahdra stood waiting, "Sahdra how is your healing?"

Sahdra smiled, proud to have been called on, "I've studied with Hermione... well a few classes anyway. I can certainly help but I think we'll need Luna and Harry."

Velath shot Kenobi an unhappy look, "When they get back, they will help her."

Kenobi hid a sigh. The former Nightsister was almost fanatically loyal to Luna and had been incredibly unhappy to find that she and Harry had been left behind.

"I'm sure..." Kenobi flinched as the Force rippled to reveal a battered looking Harry and Luna.

Velath surged forward almost pushing Harry out of the way, "Mistress are you alright?"

Luna looked over to Mirria and the medical droid who quickly reported.

"Right then Mirria then Harry," said Luna as she pulled out her wand. "Velath, Sahdra come and watch this."

Luna walked the two young women (and the others) through casting diagnostic and healing spells. Kenobi was somewhat curious as to what exactly he would be seeing and his guess that it was a form of Force healing did not prepare him for the ease in which Luna healed the Mandalorian.

Less than ten minutes later Mirria awoke. She was tired and rather stiff but out of danger.

"You must help me get to Lih May, she is hidden away in a safe house but if they are on to me, they may have worked out where she is."

They soon had the location of the safe house but it was dangerously close to the site of their last battle.

"Even with disguises, it will be risky if there are any more Sith trained guards. The last lot was bad enough but that Probic was a damn good fighter."

Kenobi frowned, "I know that name, not the face but the name. He may have once been a Jedi."

"Great," muttered Harry. "Well, at least, he won't be bothering anyone else."
"There are entirely too many Sith for my liking. I think we can safely say that Palpatine has broken the rule of two," said Kenobi.

"Or he's being very fast and loose with its requirements," added Harry. "Maybe he does have just the one formal apprentice but these Dark Jedi and half-trained Sith warriors are no less a problem regardless of their supposed ranking."

"Talking about it might have to be put off until later," Luna reminded them. "The Imperials know we are here now it won't take them long to find us here."

"Then we need to move fast, Luna can you do my leg?" asked Harry before turning to look at Kenobi. "Feeling up to another go?"

oOoOo

**Imperial Command Centre - Mandalore**

Governor Fresk glared at the Senior Clone trooper, "They what?"

"Disappeared sir…we think it might be some kind of personal cloak."

Fresk ran a hand through his thinning hair, "Or they were Jedi. Send in the troops while I inform central command."

"Right away Sir," acknowledged the Clone officer.

oOoOo

Clone Officer B-46353 (Ransom) was an experienced soldier who had faithfully served a number of Jedi commanders before order 66. So he knew full well just how dangerous even a single Jedi could be. He also had seen Jedi die, they were dangerous but not unstoppable.

"Sir, there is something up ahead…it looks like a forward patrol was ambushed."

"Send a full…” the junior clone flinched as his officer slumped to the ground to expose a figure in the shadows wielding a lightsaber.

Ransom cursed and opened fire along with the rest of his patrol. He then ducked behind a wall to avoid the inevitable return fire courtesy of the Jedi's deflections. Sure enough, blasts exploded around him when the stopped he spun back into position. He was already firing as he saw the figure deflecting shots from the surviving Clones.

Then there was a burning pain in his neck and his world went black. Moments later the firing died out.

oOoOo

Harry grimaced as he touched the burnt spot on his jacket. These Clones had been good and had developed at least some tactics for dealing with Jedi.

"How far is it Obi-Wan?" asked Luna.

"Up ahead the building with the yellow door," replied Obi-Wan. Mirria had given very clear directions.

"I don't see any Clones," said Luna.
Harry closed his eyes and extended his senses. There were people around in and near their location but he couldn't sense any Clones or Sith nearby.

"I can't sense anything," offered Kenobi.

"Then we had better move it before any more Clones arrive," added Harry.

Gaining entry to the building was relatively simple thanks to an unlocking spell. The scientist, Lih May was where Mirria had left her.

"It is a relief to see you Master Jedi," said Lih May. She shuddered as she looked around the bare room. "I have been waiting for Clones to break the door down."

Harry looked at his timepiece, "Five minutes," he warned.

"According to Mirria, there are stairs to the roof. We should get moving," said Kenobi.

Luna pulled out a communicator, "Ret we are heading to the roof now."

oOoOo

Ret and Salara began preparing the Freighter for lift off the moment the others had left. Sahdra and Velath continued to organise their cargo containers at the base of the loading lamp to give anyone who may be watching something to look at.

Ret kept a watch on the entry to the docking bays and almost immediately noticed the arriving clones. He immediately keyed the mic and warned the others.

Sahdra and Velath immediately boarded and closed the hatch

"We are on board."

"Then it is time to leave," said Ret as he took off and headed toward the city.

 Almost straight away the started receiving warnings and orders from flight control. Which they ignored as Ret concentrated on reaching the safe house.

"Looks like they have some speeders following us," warned Salara.

Ret nodded as he pushed the freighter as hard as he could, "Keep an eye out for fighters."

"Ret we are heading to the roof now," warned Luna over the open channel.

"Good timing," replied Salara as she studied the scanners. "We have some Clones following us."

"Have the ramp down and we'll be as quick as we can," replied Luna.

oOoOo

**Imperial CR-20 Troop Transport**

Probic hadn't answered, and his fellow Imperial Intelligence Agent Malorum could only surmise that he was dead or at best incapacitated. It had been a camera that had discovered their targets. Obi-Wan Kenobi and two younger Jedi, probably Padawans; he would have to make sure he identified the promptly.
"Commander prepare your men for action."

"Sir we have reports that a Freighter has broken the flight prohibition and is heading into the city," reported the Navigator.

Malorum smiled coldly, "If I am correct that will be our target's transportation. Follow it in Pilot and prepare to destroy it once we confirm our targets are actually onboard."

As the CR-20 banked heavily, Malorum was lamenting the fact that the majority of the fleet's fighters had been redeployed. A few wings of fighters would have made short work of a freighter.

oOoOo

Harry and Luna led the way while Obi-Wan helped Lih May. Thankfully there did not seem to be any Clones on the upper floors and they soon reached the roof. At the access door, Harry and Luna both paused.

Something felt wrong…dangerous. Harry glanced over at Luna, who looked concerned.

"I think we might have some unwelcome visitors approaching," said Harry.

Luna raised her comm again, "How far off are you?"

"Two minutes," replied Salara.

"Well we can't stay here," remarked Obi-Wan.

"Here let me," Harry disillusioned Kenobi and Lih May as Luna did herself and then Harry.

"We walk out and straight for the Freighter get on board Obi-Wan and we'll follow," ordered Harry.

Harry went to the door and pushed it open, slowly.

The freighter appeared and lowered to hover above the building.

"Hurry it up, we have Imperials are less than a minute out," warned Ret.

All four were quickly aboard and Ret turned and went to full power in the direction of the exit.

oOoOo

Malorum frowned as the freighter suddenly sped up without having picked anyone up. They must have realised that there was no chance of making their pickup and bugged out. The ship would be tracked, but the real prize was still in the building.

"Commander land and search the building while the land-based units secure any exits. We have them trapped."

As the CR-20 landed, Malorum was already composing his message to Director Isard.

oOoOo

**Haven**

Sev'rance's eyes widened in surprise as the docking bay doors opened and she got her first look at Haven.
The sheer number of Force presences was almost overwhelming…everywhere she looked she sensed the Force at play. It was like finding another Jedi Temple!

"This way please," said the human…Hermione.

Sev'rance followed the young woman toward what looked to be some sort of command centre. Eventually, she led her into a large library. To Sev'rance, the whole room almost sang with the Force.

Hermione smiled politely, "You might want to turn the Force perception down a bit or you will get a headache. Most things in this room have been touched by the Force."

Sev'rance nodded and did as Hermione suggested. Slowly the sense of being overpowered faded.

"What is this place?" asked Sev'rance.

Hermione gestured to a chair, "Please sit and then I'll try and answer your questions."

Sev'rance sank into the chair but kept her attention focused on her host.

Hermione gestured around the room, "This is our archive, our library where we preserve what we fear may be lost otherwise."

Sev'rance raised an eyebrow, "These works are all about the Force."

Hermione nodded slowly, "In a manner of speaking, although some might argue that definition."

"Why do this, to what purpose?" asked Sev'rance.

"To preserve the knowledge and the unique perspectives it offers. To teach other paths to those that have been told only light and dark have validity."

Sev'rance didn't know what to say to that statement. Oh, she sensed that Hermione was telling the truth as she knew it but the truth didn't make sense to her.

"You found your way Sev'rance."

Sev'rance turned her head to see Darth Vectivus stand in the shadows of the room.

"You," muttered Sev'rance.

The Force ghost gave Hermione a nod, "Hermione, Sev'rance needs to see to believe. I will lead her to the caverns and show her what is to come."

"Is she ready to see it?" asked Hermione.

Vectivus smiled coldly, "She will be."

oOoOo

Sev'rance knelt on the floor as her legs refused to hold her weight.

"That was real?" she whispered.

Vectivus shrugged, "A look at what will come if the Adepts fail in their tasks."

"By the old gods I…I helped bring this into being!"
"And for that, you have paid," replied Vectivus.

"Were you lying, about Sirius about the future?"

Vectivus smiled, "You know the answer to that. You chose your own path from this point. What I showed you could be, if that is truly what you desire."

Sev'rance slowly raised her head, "I will serve."

"And through that service, you shall be rewarded," replied Vectivus.
Chapter 27

All publicly recognizable characters, settings, etc. are the property of their respective owners. The original characters and plot are the property of the author. The author is in no way associated with the owners, creators, or producers of any media franchise. No copyright infringement is intended.

I do not own Harry Potter or Star Wars, and I make no profit from this work of fan fiction. I am in the debt of its actual owners as they have been the creators of worlds of fiction that millions have enjoyed. All Hail to JKR and GL!

Last Time

Sev’rance knelt on the floor as her legs refused to hold her weight.

"That was real?" she whispered.

Vectivus shrugged, "A look at what will come if the Adepts fail in their tasks."

"By the old gods I…,I helped bring this into being!"

"And for that, you have paid," replied Vectivus.

"Were you lying, about Sirius about the future?"

Vectivus smiled, "You know the answer to that. You chose your own path from this point. What I showed you could be, if that is truly what you desire."

Sev'rance slowly raised her head, "I will serve."

"And through that service, you shall be rewarded," replied Vectivus.

oOoOo

Independent HoloNews

Error File Unavailable

Network not found

Imperial HoloNet News

Outer Rim planet Lothal announces joining the inspired Imperial Registration Program. The Program, which streamlines trade authorisations through the Imperial Trade Advisory, has promised fair trade agreements for member worlds.

Read More Here

Grand Moff Tarkin announces crack-down on 'rebellious systems.'

"We can no longer tolerate the destabilising influence of these systems who oppose order and good government," said Grand Moff Tarkin in a speech to the Planetary Advisors Council in the Imperial Senate. "Systems like Mandalore cannot be allowed to flaunt Imperial Law. With the exhaustion of
political means, we will now consider a military solution."

Hermione dreamed.

It was rather a nice one as a very attentive Ron ran his hands down her side as he nuzzled her neck.

Then she was somewhere else…a room, a familiar room, the Hogwarts library.

Looking around at the room and its shelves of books she shrugged away the nostalgia, "I'm dreaming."

"No, my host you are sharing."

Hermione spun around to see a tall figure standing behind her. The figure was indistinct, almost blurry.

"There is no need to fear, I mean you no harm," said the…woman, yes the voice was female as she realised that the woman's features solidified.

Hermione studied the woman both physically and through the Force. She couldn't feel any sense of deception, so she relaxed, slightly. "Who are you?"

The figure was humanoid, she was tall and willowy with dusky brown skin, long red hair and pale silver eyes. "My name…I had one once, but it doesn't matter now. For now, call me Spark."

Even though Hermione had never seen her before there was something familiar about her, "What is going on?"

The woman…Spark smiled, "I wanted to meet with you. This dreaming state is the best way."

"I don't understand," complained Hermione.

"The silver sphere my Host, I was residing within…you released me."

Hermione staggered back a step, suddenly fearful that she was dealing with another Voldemort, "You are trying to possess me."

Spark smiled and shook her head, "I swear in Vahl's name, I want you safe my host. Your power, your potential is amazing but fear not, I do not seek to replace you."

Hermione backed away a few more steps.

Spark sighed, "The sphere was destined for you…but not to entrap you. It was a way for one of my goddess's children to be by your side, to guide you, mother."

"Vahl…wait you are a Vahla. Mother…a baby…but why?" whispered Hermione as she tried to process what Spark was saying.

"To bring my people home," replied Spark as she smiled gently. "You are not ready yet. So sleep mother, sleep and forget."

oOoOo
Mandalore - Mandalore System

"The Emperor is not pleased," reported Malorum in a flat voice. "A great many fleet resources were committed toward the capture of these Adepts only for them to resurface here on Mandalore. Where they successfully disrupted a critical operation. Our orders are to find and capture these criminals. With that outcome in mind, we must find their base of operations."

"They must be based here, in this system," argued one of his junior officers. "Their ties to the Mandalorian traitors are clear."

Malorum frowned, "Perhaps, we still need evidence. Each of you will be given two full squads. Round up anyone who has come under scrutiny. We need names and locations, and we need them quickly. To support this action, the Moff will be declaring a state of emergency for the entire system."

"Sir, will we have a free hand?" asked one of his agents.

Malorum smiled coldly, "Yes, however, we need the veneer of legality if we don't want an even larger insurrection before the fleet returns. So no public executions, is that understood?"

oOoOo

Concordia – Mandalore System

Harry and Luna had barely landed before they were in transit again. This time to the P'Vel Mountains so they could ward the base there.

With the warding completed, they were flying the Lily back to the main Mandalorian base.

As he checked the navigational read out Harry grimaced. At the same time, he felt Luna stiffen beside him.

"Something bad is coming," said Luna.

"We haven't heard anything from haven since the fleet withdrew…I've got a bad feeling I know where they are on the way to," said Harry.

"Our plan may have worked too well, or the Emperor wants to kill two birds with one stone."

"But, regardless, we need to get back," added Harry.

By the time they had returned to the Mand'alore, all hell had broken loose.

"Think the Mand'alore is in the Command post?" asked Harry as a squad of Mandalorian troops ran past the Lily's ramp.

"Maybe, I don't think we need to warn them anyway," replied Luna. "I'm sensing a lot of concern."

"Mistress," called out a familiar voice and as they turned they could see Velath waving to them from a passageway.

oOoOo

"We have their fleet back in the system," reported a Mandalorian trooper.

"The whole fleet?" asked Satine as she pulled on her armoured gloves.
"Yes, Mand'alore."

Satine hesitated, "Their course?"

"Half for Mandalore and half heading here."

"Di'kutla," Satine swore under her breath as she turned to the duty officer. "Alert the section commanders, case Delta."

The officer acknowledged the order with a salute and walked over to the communications post.

"Mand'alore?"

Satine turned to see Harry, Luna, Obi-Wan and Bo-Katan walking through the doors of the command post.

"The fleet has returned, and it looks like they are splitting their forces to blockade Mandalore and Concordia," reported Satine.

"How can we help?" asked Harry.

"We may need to evacuate the wounded and non-combatants off the planet. If they are going to attack, we have hours, at best, to prepare."

"You are going to fight?" queried Obi-Wan with a frown.

"What choice do we have?"

"You cannot withstand even half the fleet. If you stay they'll simply glass Concordia from orbit," argued Obi-Wan. "You must see that Satine."

"I am their leader," replied Satine as she stiffened in anger. "My place is here."

"Your death and those of your warriors will serve no purpose Mand'alore," argued Harry. "Evacuate and build your forces before you return. Now is not the time to die in a blaze of glory."

Obi-Wan shot Harry a grateful look as he stepped forward, "Palpatine wants the Mandalorian people as soldiers. To achieve that, he needs you dead or under his control. By making a stand here, you are giving him what he needs, a way to control your people."

Bo-Katan stepped out from among the officers in the command post, "Mand'alore, the day is lost. Without fighters and capital ships, we have no way of countering their strike. If the Jedi is right, then they'll strike here hardest. They might even come for you. We can use that; create a diversion, a ruse while the bulk of our forces retreat."

Harry cleared his throat, "How many people do we have to evacuate?"

Satine hesitated for a moment before straightening, "We have eight hundred here and another fifty at our P'Vel Mountains base."

"How many can your transports hold?" asked Luna.

"Maybe a hundred if we push our life support to the limit," replied Satine.

Harry turned to Luna, "With expansion charms how many can the Lily take?"
Luna did some calculations in her head, "A hundred, on a short trip anyway."

"Mand'alore we have ships landing outside the base...they are Mandalorian," reported one of the controllers.

"Who could..." began Bo-Katan before she was cut off by the communications controller.

"We have someone trying to contact you Mand'alore."

"Put it on speaker," ordered Satine.

"...This is Kal Skirata of Clan Skirata, we are seeking the Mand'alore."

Kal was a greying veteran in battered Mandalorian armour who saluted before introducing himself, "Kal of Clan Skirata, it's a pleasure to finally meet you Mand'alore."

Satine smiled and returned the salute, "I have heard of Clan Skitara, warriors all."

Kal grinned and ran a hand through his hair, "I think, given the circumstances, that the pleasantries can wait. We had best get off this rock before we either get a lot of unwelcome visitors or blasted from orbit."

"How did you find us?" asked Satine.

Kal grinned and waved one of his escorts forward. The warrior removed her helmet and shook out her long red hair before grinning at Obi-Wan, "My turn to save your decrepit arse Obi-Wan."

"Scout?" said a very surprised Obi-Wan.

'Scout' bowed and then saluted Satine, "Jedi Master Tallisibeth Enwandung-Esterhazy at your service Mand'alore. I sensed Obi-Wan and gave Kal directions. Although we couldn't find your base through whatever weird Force protections you have in place, I could sense the old man."

"What...how...we thought you were dead," said Obi-Wan.

Scout grinned at the flustered Jedi Master, "Nah, just been lying low with Kal and the boys. I was on a raid with his crew when order sixty-six went out. They got me out, a bit chewed up but alive, and I've been with them since."

Satine looked a bit lost as Kal cleared his throat, "Scout warned us and one of my boys got word to Ordo. Things are coming to a head here, and right now we just don't have the numbers to fight and win. So I got together every ship we could and came here."

"We need to move just under eight hundred," said Bo-Katan.

Kal studied her armour before nodding, "We have enough room, but we'll need to get past their fleet."

"We'll distract them," volunteered Luna. "Get your people clear Mand'alore. Equipment can be replaced, lives can't."

"I'll stay as well," said Bo-Katan. "You're my lift anyway."

Kal was studying Luna and Harry, "You are the Adepts Darman told me about?"
Luna and Harry nodded.

Kal looked them both over before he nodded and turned back to Satine, "It's up to you Mand'alore."

Satine looked around her command post and took a deep breath, "Issue Gamma directive, we are pulling out."

Luna closed her eyes and let herself sink into the Force. Immediately, she began seeking out Force presences. Looking for the dark siders she hoped were present in the fleet. Almost at once she sensed several weak Force signatures.

They didn't sense her.

Amused at their ignorance, she increased the power behind her search.

Still, no sense of recognition, annoyed at whatever twit had half, no quarter trained the Force sensitive's in orbit Luna sent what could only be described as a surge through the Force that rang like a bell.

That woke them up and within moments, they were hiding their presences in the Force.

Opening her eyes, she looked up at Harry and the crew of the Lily, "That's pretty much sent them an invite."

Malorum glanced at the two Sith Assassins that were stationed with the fleet. They had been tasked with the capture or termination of the Adepts.

"You are sure it was them?" asked Malorum.

"Yes, Sir," replied the first. "Once their shield failed we detected their presence."

"Then prepare your men," ordered Malorum. "Now that the traitors have been flushed out the fleet is needed back on station."

"And the Mandalorians?"

Malorum may not be in the Emperor's inner circle, but Director Isard had made clear that the Adepts were the priority. After all, the system had, bar some guerrilla raids, already fallen to the Empire. "If you can capture the Mandalorian leader, do so, but your priority remains in place."

"Of course Sir."

Malorum hid his disquiet at the sense of malevolence that surrounded the two men as they left to lead their 'special' forces units. Even his own dark ambitions did not render their 'presence' more bearable.

"This is a bad plan," complained Obi-Wan, as the two shuttles approached their position.

"You didn't have to stay," pointed out Bo-Katan as she visually checked her equipment, again. The only visible sign of nervousness she was showing.
"They will, hopefully, take the bait," replied Harry as he studied the portable scanner screen that was still tied into the Mandalorian scanners. "It looks like they are not even going for the transports."

"At all?" questioned Obi-Wan. "I would have thought they would have at least tried. Unless…"

"Unless the base was not their target," finished Luna.

Harry grinned, "They are after us then, good. But why only two ships?"

Luna frowned, "I don't sense anything on the shuttles…nothing."

Harry lowered the scanner and raised his communicator, "And that should be warning enough. Ret, Salara stay in low orbit and warn the Wookie Gunner off if they arrive. Sahdra have you left the present?"

Sahdra's cheerful voice replied immediately, "Yes Harry."

"Then stay safe, we'll be up there with you soon."

"Here they come," warned Obi-Wan.

"Are you ready Luna?" asked Harry.

Luna nodded and then closed her eyes concentrating and drawing on the training Vectivus had provided. In the cave behind them, shadows began to lengthen and twist. After a few moments, they had solidified until figures in Mandalorian armour appeared, positioned around the entrance.

"There, they'll see people pulling back into the caves as we fight," explained Luna.

Obi-Wan raised an eyebrow in enquiry but didn't ask as he turned his attention back to the approaching enemy.

Harry, Luna, Obi-Wan and Bo-Katan stood ready as the shuttles landed on the other side of the clearing.

The two ships sat silently before the ramps slowly lowered releasing a cloud of cloaking steam.

"Gee, could they turn the drama up any higher?" asked Harry. "All they need now is a dramatic entrance."

Two red lightsabers lit the steam from within as two black-clad figures emerged followed by a dozen figures dressed in black armour.

"And there it is, wow. Bet they planned it," said Harry as he walked forward.

Obi-Wan shook his head hiding his amusement at Harry's banter as he took a few steps to the side, giving himself fighting room.

Luna made no attempt to hide her amusement as she followed Harry.

"You will surrender or die," called out one of the figures as he made a sweeping gesture with his lightsaber.

"No," replied Harry as he ignited his own Lightsaber. Beside him, Luna and Obi-Wan did the same.

Even from this distance, Harry could see the hatred on the face of the speaker, "Then you will die."
With a burst of speed, the two dark side assassins charged forward as the black armoured soldiers opened fire.

Harry and Luna raised their lightsabers and fired off blasting hexes only for the spells to do little damage to the black armoured figures.

As the Sith assassins closed Harry and Luna exchanged a glance. Luna pointed at the ground and Harry nodded. As one they pointed with their now lit lightsabers and cast explosive curses at the ground in front of the figures, scattering the soldiers. As they fell, Bo-Katan blasted off into the air and began firing at the downed soldiers.

Harry dove to the side as a red blade nearly decapitated him. He caught a glimpse of Luna fending off another but was then forced to concentrate on his opponent.

His attacker was vicious and incredibly fast. Even as he rolled to his feet, he was forced to block two more strikes. As he blocked a third and fourth strike he struck out with the Force attempting to blast his opponent backwards. The Dark Sider was skilled and managed to avoid most of the blow. Instead, he stumbled backwards a few steps.

It was enough room to allow Harry to cast a cutting curse.

The Dark Sider was struck on the shoulder and blood sprayed outward but didn't put him out of the fight, he snarled and launched himself forward.

Harry was forced to defend himself from a flurry of Force-enhanced blows before he got the chance to counter-attack. Pushing his opponent's lightsaber to the side he cast a stream of Force lightning directly into his face.

The Dark Sider screamed as he was thrown backward which allowed Harry to follow up with a stunner that blasted him off his feet.

Luna defended herself from her opponents blisteringly fast, Force assisted attack. Spinning away from a kick she sent a bludgeoning curse at his knee but missed as he leapt over her spell. His counter was brutal, and she barely blocked.

She managed to gain some space but an instant later he was back battering her defences. They exchanged blows again but this time he landed a kick sending Luna stumbling backward. She recovered just into to deflect a blow that would have taken her on the shoulder.

Then he was stumbling backward avoiding a stream of flame fired by Bo-Katan.

Luna shot her arm forward and launched a stunner at the charging figure, which it batted aside. Another stream of flame caused him to roll to the side and into Luna's second stunner.

Luna waved her thanks to Bo-Katan fired at the remaining armoured attackers.

Obi-Wan blocked blaster fire as he slowly backed away toward the caverns. Luna and Harry joined Obi-Wan as Bo-Katan landed behind the three Force users. The troopers were now pouring heavy fire toward them as they reached the caverns.

Bo-Katan gestured deeper into the caves, "The thermite charges are rigged."

"Then let's get out of here," suggested Harry.

oOoOo
Aboard the Lily in lower orbit

Velath was pacing around the mess. She was terrified that her mistress was going into battle while she stayed...safe aboard the ship. Without realising it, her Lightsaber hilt was in her hand as her fingers tightened around it.

"She won't be happy if you do something stupid," warned Sahdra.

"She's in danger," complained Velath. "I could apparate down there right now."

Sahdra nodded, "True, you could. But, before you do, think about it. Luna is incredibly skilled, and she has Harry, Kenobi, and Bo-Katan with her."

Velath fought against her fear for a few moments before nodding, "You are right but I don't like it."

"I know you don't, I wouldn't like it either," said Sahdra. "Now come on we had better get ready for when they arrive."

Velath slipped her lightsaber back on to her belt as she turned to Sahdra, "Thank you."

"You are welcome," replied Sahdra with a bright smile.

oOoOo

The Lily made sure to keep away from the Imperial ships as Ret pushed her sub-light engines. The rest of the Mandalorian ships had slipped away with surprisingly little resistance. The Imperials obviously had other targets in mind.

"We have two cruisers and fighters moving to cut us off," warned Salara. "They are out of position, but it will be close."

Ret nodded as he corrected his course to give them some more time, "I hope they get here soon."

A muted crack sounded and then Sahdra could be heard yelling that they were all aboard. Moments later Harry and Luna rushed into the cockpit.

Ret immediately gave up his seat, followed by Salara.

Harry ran his eyes over the controls and nodded, "Our course is already laid in. As soon as we are free of the gravity well, we will jump to Hyperspace."

The Lily rocked as its rear deflectors were struck a glancing blow.

"The fighters are in range," warned Luna. "Deflector shields are holding."

Harry spun the Lily on its axis as Luna reached for the hyperdrive controls, "Going to hyperspace...now."

oOoOo

Malorum watched the small ship leap to hyperspace before turning to the deck officer, "Any word from the landing party?"

"Yes Sir," replied the officer. "They have breached the defences and despite the base being rigged to self-destruct. It appears they found and recovered a great deal of data from their systems. It looked like it was all rigged but the charge in the command centre didn't blow."
"And the targets?"

"They were in a forward section of the complex when it blew," reported the officer. "With the thermite charges…well, recovery of their bodies may not be possible."

Malorum waved the officer away and looked down at the moon for a moment before turning and walking over to the communications officer. "I need a private channel to the Emperor."

The Mandalorian terrorists were broken, their base destroyed and it appeared that the Adept's had been trapped and killed. The Emperor had wanted them alive, if possible but if they were killed his master would want that verified. The failure on the back of the overall success would not be overlooked, and so this promised to be a very unpleasant report. Thankfully, none of the plans enacted here were his. That fact would keep him alive. After all, it was only logical to know who to blame.

oOoOo

"Well, that nearly went south," said Harry as he sipped his tea. "Their armour was at least partially Force and Magic resistant."

"I suspect that there was some sort of Cortosis weave, I struggled to penetrate their armour except at weak points," added Obi-Wan.

Harry frowned as he put his cup down, "Someone planned this attack based on what they've seen of us. We lucked out this time but sooner rather than later they'll even the playing field. The two Sith, or whatever they were, fought well. They've been taught to channel their hate and anger, but we didn't see any other sign they had been taught to use the Force more broadly."

"They could shield their presence in the Force," reminded Luna.

Ret leaned back in his chair and savoured the steam from his own drink, "So hide and fight…that doesn't say Sith Lord to me. More like a foot soldier."

Obi-Wan nodded slowly as he considered what he knew about the Sith and the Rule of Two, Master and Apprentice. It appeared that Palpatine had interpreted his orders rules quite liberally. They might not be Apprentices, but he had apparently trained a cadre to use the Force, in a limited way at least. "I should report this to the Council."

Harry shrugged, "Fair enough, feel free to let them know."

Salara leaned forward, "We should consider counters for any new tactics the enemy devises."

"Your blowing up the ground spell worked," added Sahdra.

"If they had used Cortosis blades as well as armour…well things could have gotten ugly," warned Ret. "I think we need to work on our unarmed combat training."

"Duly noted," replied Luna. "We'll work it in to our training sessions."

"I would like to be a part of that if it is possible?" asked Bo-Katan.

Obi-Wan watched on, listening intently as the crew of the Lily tossed ideas around. They may lack the traditions (and the bureaucratic hierarchy) of the Jedi Council but if anything it meant that they could change things quickly, evolving as they encountered challenges.
Coruscant – Emperor's Private Office

Darth Sidious looked out over the jewel of his empire. It was a view that should have filled him with satisfaction, pride, and power…but today it failed to elicit any emotion save anger.

Mandalore was in his grasp and with the Mand'alore neutered, her pitiful force routed he could soon begin building a force to replace the Clones. After his apprentice destroyed Kamino and its works, of course. He was not foolish enough to allow others to mass-produce an army. After all, the cloning technology of Kamino had already been added to that of the Spaarti's in his secret storehouse on Wayland. While he had no plans to mass produce Clones, the option to do so remained. Much more importantly Clones could be produced much quicker than the ten-year cycle developed on Kamino. Spaarti cloning cylinders could produce a viable Clone in a month. As long as you didn't mind the potential after effects.

He felt a presence approaching his door but waited until the door had silently opened to admit his newest apprentice. Turning slowly he studied the figure for a moment, watching the figure go down to one knee with a bowed head.

"I have come, as you ordered Master," said the figure.

"Rise, my apprentice," ordered Sidious as he walked over and sat on his throne like command chair. "And tell me about your mission Lord Tenebris."

"Kamino has been neutralised," reported Darth Tenebris as he stood, straight-backed in front of Sidious.

Sidious frowned, "That was quick work."

Darth Tenebris shrugged, "You had what you needed Master, so I ordered the fleet to bomb their cities from orbit. The Electromagnetic torpedos worked in the marine environment exactly as you had foreseen."

Sidious accepted the ruthlessness of his apprentice with a nod, "You have done well, and now I have another task for you. The Adept's were seen in the Mandalorian system. My agent believes that they were killed, you will find the truth and report back to me."

"Yes my Lord."

Sidious silently studied Darth Tenebris for a moment before continuing, "While you are on Mandalore, Dravian is seeking out the agents he believes the Adept's have been using to purchase supplies. I have reassigned two special units to him. His orders are to strike their logistics and cripple what left of their organisation."

There was a subtle hesitation as Sidious felt his apprentice's anger spike. A jealous hatred of any that threatened his place with his Master. Sidious almost smiled in satisfaction as the younger man fought to control himself, "Yes, Master."

Sidious sat back, hands folded in his lap, seemingly at ease, "And your dreams apprentice, do they continue?"

"Yes Master," confirmed Darth Tenebris.

"The woman again?"
Darth Tenebris stiffened, "Yes."

Sidious could once more feel his apprentices anger, and relished it, "Soon we will know where she hides my Apprentice. Then she will be yours."

Darth Tenebris shuddered as if in ecstasy as Sidious watched on.

"I will gift her to you," he added knowingly.

Darth Tenebris nodded his yellow-tinged eyes alight with unwholesome desire.

Sidious gestured in dismissal and watched his apprentice turn and leave. The Clone had a strong connection to the Force and a cruel, sadistic streak that justified the fear his presence instilled in Sidious's lackeys.

As he walked back to his own, far more Spartan room, Darth Tenebris let his dreams play through his mind.

A human woman, young, with curly brown hair, smiled at him. He reached out to touch her face, but the scene changed...naked she turned and beckoned him to bed. He caught a glimpse of himself in the mirror, looking as he did now before the dream faded.

Lust coursed through his body, he wanted her...so badly. He wanted her, and he would get her. She held answers that he needed.

He was sure of that. And, once he had those answers he would take her. She would be his.

Sidious was satisfied with his new apprentice. Darth Tenebris was gifted and thanks to his nature his moral suitability had been assured. He had failed, so far, to access the powers, his precursor had shown, but there were ways to force such things. Overall he was a successful experiment, perhaps he should..."You will burn along with the other deviants for this travesty," hissed the figure that had appeared in the shadows of his room.

Sidious hid his surprise and anger as he turned to see the representative of the Mah Vey, "I needed a new apprentice...to replace the ones lost pursuing your vague warnings."

"Do not place the fruits of your incompetence at our feet deviant," hissed the figure as it clenched a fist.

Sidious rose to his feet, eyes flashing yellow as lightning arced between his fingers. The Mah Vey paused and then gestured.

To Sidious, it was as if his connection to the Force was severed. For a moment, he faltered his fear rising before his anger surged replacing it. He raised his hand to send Force lightning at the figure when the Mah Vey disappeared.

He slumped back in his command chair. As he recovered from the encounter, he was already considering contingency plans should the Mah Vey return. As dangerous as the mysterious being was, he had seen a chink in its armour. When he had broken the Mah Vey's control he had seen a moment of fear. That told him that it wasn't indestructible...perhaps there were steps that could be taken.

oOoOo
Haven

Sev'rance glanced at the Force ghost, "Why have they brought me here again? I have seen your visions."

"To learn," replied Vectivus with as he approached. "I showed you what was coming and offered you a chance to achieve your own ambitions. Now I need to show you why Haven is so important and some of the things you need to learn."

An hour later an angry, slightly singed Sev'rance sat on the ground and glared at Vectivus, who shrugged, "Blame your past masters for their inadequate training."

"How are you doing this?" demanded Sev'rance as her muscles twitched from the dead Sith Lord's attack. "You are dead and manipulating the living Force requires a living focus."

"Indeed, in most cases it does. But, here the Dark Side is powerful. I can draw on its power. In this place, I can interact with the living Force as I did in life."

Sev'rance nodded, accepting the explanation as she climbed to her feet. "And these Adepts have learned about the Dark Side from you?"

"Many of those living here have begun to explore just what is possible with the Force," he gestured, and she felt her skin tingle and the remaining discomfort faded. "Healing, life, and balance are all things that exist in the Force alongside the more potent abilities. To not explore them cripples your understanding. It makes you ignorant and weak...in the end, I realised that truth. Power is empty without love, without companionship, you lose yourself to power for power's sake. The Sith do not understand this...the rule of Two crippled them, and they still don't see that their philosophy is flawed."

"Just as the Jedi code is?" asked Sev'rance.

Vectivus nodded, "Just as the Jedi's hallowed code is flawed. Light and dark need balance, growth and change. That is the purpose of the Adepts. To preserve and bring both change and balance to the Force."

"And the vision you showed me?" asked Sev'rance. "Will it happen?"

Vectivus smiled, but there was sadness on his face, "Years ago I found my consciousness returned to this plane. It was right here that I spoke with a disillusioned Jedi Knight and Force Seer named Talia. She shared her visions of the dark future I showed you. More importantly, she saw a way to fight against it by bringing balance to the Force. Talia's vision birthed the Force Adepts, who are a movement rather than another order."

"And Sirius is a member of this movement?"

"The child of his best friend, Harry Potter is one of the leaders of the Adepts and was one of Talia's apprentices."

"Do the Jedi know this, of this threat?" asked Sev'rance.

Vectivus shrugged although his expression was grim, "They have been warned, although they almost heeded the warning too late, still the Jedi survived. They are weakened and broken, but their fate is far less dire than it could have been."

"What if they...these Adepts fail?"
"Then the extra-galactic conquerors will come, and they will overwhelm us. Their first wave has already begun although it will be some time before we see it. We have time to prepare, but first, we need to make sure the Jedi and the Sith don't weaken us to the point that we are easy pickings."

"So one enemy at a time," said Sev'rance. It was a Chiss Military Academy truth driven home when she was a mere cadet.

"As much as is possible," agreed on Vectivus.

Sev'rance studied the Force ghost for a few moments before speaking again, "And what you said about Sirius…about us?"

Vectivus grinned, for a moment looking look a much younger man, "Yes, he is the man you are looking for although you might need to help him see that."

"Sev'rance?"

Sev'rance turned to see Hermione and Altis entering the cavern.

"I will take my leave then my student," said Vectivus as he faded away.

"Are you finished for the day?" asked Hermione.

Sev'rance nodded absently, her thoughts turning to Sirius.

"Would you like to join us for a meal?"

As soon as Sev'rance had disappeared into the amenities block, Vectivus appeared before Hermione and Altis.

"She is sincere in her desire to seek out Sirius," said Vectivus with a grin. "Both Palpatine and Dooku did little to develop her skills, save for those used in combat. She was already a gifted tactician thanks to her people's training."

"And her connection to the Force?" asked Altis.

"She is no Sith, at worst she is a Dark Jedi. She has a strong sense of honour and has a strong connection to the Force. She can be ruthless and cold but not without purpose."

"What happened?" asked Hermione.

"She's an exile, her family fell from grace, and she fled the Chiss Ascendancy. She was angry, driven by a need for revenge and a desire to rebuild her family's power. She was easy pickings for Dooku." Vectivus smiled coldly, "He appears to have been very good at twisting people…oh, and by the way he's dead. Ventress ran him through as Sev'rance watched. It was Ventress that gave her the directions here."

"So she is not likely to betray us?" asked Altis.

"I doubt it; she has turned her back on Palpatine and decided to find a new path. She has had several very close calls that started her thinking about her future. Meeting Sirius was simply another push in the right direction."

Altis stroked his chin thoughtfully, "I'm not a hundred percent comfortable with this."
Vectivus shrugged, "She will be fine my Jedi friend although you may want to warn Sirius that she sees him as her future husband," his lips turned up into a smile as he continued. "I suspect that she won't take no for an answer."

oOoOo

For Sev'rance, the last 48 hours were rather strange. She had gone from an object of suspicion to a guest. Although she had no illusions that the friendly treatment would end should she become a problem but the fact that it was happening was disconcerting.

"How is it?" asked the redheaded human, Ron.

Sev'rance looked down at her plate and tried what appeared to be a vegetable. It was surprisingly good with a subtle spicy flavour. "It is fine…thank you."

"I wasn't sure what you would like, so I went with something fairly simple," the human explained.

"What do you think so far?" asked Keisha before clarifying, "of Haven?"

Sev'rance paused as she considered, "You are stronger and more numerous than I had expected. In truth, I have not formed an opinion beyond that."

Ron smiled at the uncomfortable looking Chiss, "So you and Sirius, how did that happen?"

Hermione shot Ron a look, and his smile faded, "Ah, sorry wasn't trying to ah…pry."

Hermione cleared her throat, "Vectivus said that he encouraged you to come. Now you have had a few hours with him what do you think?"

"What he has shown me is intriguing and worrying although he is not what I expected after our first meeting," replied Sev'rance before she took a bite of a different vegetable.

"No, he surprised us as well," admitted Hermione.

"I believe it amuses him," added Sev'rance. "It is not important compared to the things he has mentioned. He has shown me that I was blind to the possibilities available through the Force and what awaits us all should we fail."

"We've all had that happen when we started here. It took me awhile to really comprehend the visions we saw," said Ron.

Sev'rance shook her head, "How could the Sith and the Jedi have been so…so."

"Blind, stupid, ignorant," finished Ron. "Believe me, the Jedi here have been asking themselves the same thing. As for me, I think that lack of perspective is exactly why we are needed. Same thing happened on my home planet. Those with M…the Force refused to deal with the problems in our society until it got so bad that they had no choice. If a few people hadn't stood up…well, I hate to think what might have happened."

Sev'rance studied the young man for a moment before nodding, "Ignorance can kill, and it doesn't excuse the mess the Jedi and Sith have made of things."

"Okay, enough politics," said Keisha. "I've only got a babysitter for another hour or two. Next course please!"

"You have a child?" asked Sev'rance as Ron left the table to return with another serving platter.
"Yes, a little girl," replied Keisha. "She was the first child born in Haven, although not the only one anymore."

Sev'rance could sense the truth in the young Adept's words and for the first time since she arrived, she felt a bit of her tension and fear fade away. Maybe, she too could secure her houses future here on Haven.

oOooOo

Aboard the Lily

"We'll drop out of Hyperspace shortly," announced Harry. "Obi-Wan can you and Bo-Katan come forward please."

Bo-Katan rolled off her bunk and pulled her boots on. She had managed a meal, shower and a few hours' sleep which was a pleasant surprise. No doubt this was about rendezvousing with Satine…the Mand'alore, she corrected herself. Once they had, they would need to find the Corellian fleet or choose another path.

She had made sure the Mand'alore had heard her doubts regarding the Corellian led alliance and its commitment to a free Mandalore.

She quickly left her cabin and made her way forward, through the galley and mess to the cockpit. Unsurprisingly, Harry was manning the Pilot's seat.

A few moments after her arrival, Kenobi appeared, looking like he too had just woken up.

"We'll be arriving in a few minutes," explained Harry. "I believe that you wanted to contact the Council Obi-Wan? Well, once we've set things up with the Mand'alore that shouldn't be a problem."

"Thank you, Harry," acknowledged Obi-Wan with a nod. "If possible I should contact Bel Iblis as well. He'll need to know what happened on Mandalore."

Harry shrugged, "Sure, that's fine. Ah, here we go dropping out of Hyperspace."

The Lily reverted to normal space where the fleet of Mandalorian ships waited.

oOooOo

As Bo-Katan and Obi-Wan spoke to Satine, Harry and Luna opened an encrypted channel to Haven.

"I'm glad you are safe," said Hermione's image. "At least you were able to save the people, that's what is important."

"Which raises an interesting opportunity," said Harry. "We have a force of Mandalorian soldiers, their families who need somewhere safe to live while they work out how to take Mandalore back from the Empire."

Altis leaned forward, "Do you mean to bring them here?"

Harry glanced at Luna, who shrugged, "We don't have a plan yet."

"Etain and Darman have been a good fit here," admitted Altis. "My only concern, apart from the obvious security-related issues, is the stretch on our resources. Even with what we imported in and what we grow eight hundred people is a lot."
"I have a few ideas," said Hermione. "Although it will mean another trip to Earth and a fair bit of money."

"Oh?" said Harry.

"Set up greenhouses and bring back some livestock. Or at least preserved meat. Wizarding tents or something like them would help as well."

"Put a plan together," said Luna.

"We have had another recent arrival," said Altis. "One of Dooku's former dark acolytes."

"What?" asked Harry.

Altis smirked, "She's looking for Sirius as a potential husband...oh and she's changed sides."

Luna laughed, and Harry soon joined her, "Trust Sirius to get himself into that sort of trouble. I'd love to be present when Sirius hears. Last we heard the Wookie had diverted toward Haven."

"Given that they are avoiding Imperial space you might even beat them back," replied Altis with a grin of his own.

oOoOo

Satine's image frowned, "We do not have an off-world base, and I am unwilling to force the non-combatants to seek refuge without protection."

"I am sure that the Bel Iblis will be able to furnish them with a refuge," pointed out Obi-Wan.

"I believe that there may be other options as well," added Bo-Katan. "The Adepts are already sheltering Darman and Etain of Clan Skirata. Given their commitment to helping free Mandalore and opposing Palpatine, I would think they would also be suitable."

"The Adepts, hmm I had not considered that. It is a good solution if they are amenable."

Obi-Wan hid a frown as he considered the resurgent militaristic Mandalorians allied to the Adepts. Surely that should be just the sort of alliance that would worry the Council.

"For now, we will rendezvous with the Corellian once you have the coordinates."

oOoOo

Obi-Wan's next call, made from the privacy of his cabin, was to the Jedi Council.

"Troublesome this is but help the people of Mandalore retake their world, we cannot. Just establishing ourselves we are," said the image of Yoda as the ancient Jedi Master shook his head sadly. "Support from many worlds Bel Iblis will need if hoping to stop Palpatine he is. In the end, help him we will have to."

"We will do what we can Master," replied Obi-Wan.

"Hmm, yes, yes, but caution you must show. Adepts have shown us the Emperor's jealousy, they have."

"Jealousy Master Yoda?"
"Fearful of Force users he is, destroys what he fears and hates he does," replied Yoda. "Why we must trust our allies, see this do you?"

"I don't distrust the Adept; I just fear that they are too new to the Force to truly understand the powers they are casually harnessing. For two young people, they have managed to build a powerful and very diverse network. Dathomiri, Jedi, the followers of Palawa. I don't sense any evil in them, but we have been fooled before."

Yoda smiled slightly, "No idea you have Obi-Wan. Harry and Luna's people...new ways to use the Force they have found. Never considered possible, what they casually do. Learn much, we have already."

Obi-Wan had to nod, after all, he had seen the Adept perform feats he had never seen before.

"Soon arrive Jedi Master Luminara Unduli will, our envoy to the Adepts she will be."

Obi-Wan inclined his head in acceptance. After all, Luminara was a good choice.

"Building trust her role is," added Yoda. "Hoping to keep contact with Harry and Luna's people we are. Connections we are building."

-oOoOo-

Bel Iblis led the delegation forward to meet Satine as she walked down the Lily's ramp in full Mandalorian Armor, although she was carrying her helmet.

"My Lady it is good to see you once more," offered Bel Iblis as he approached Satine.

"I am no longer Duchess Satine but Mand'alore of my people," replied Satine.

Bel Iblis accepted the correction with a nod, "Of course Mand'alore. If you are free, the representatives of the leadership of the alliance we are building are keen to meet with you."

Satine studied Bel Iblis for a moment before nodding, "Of course," turning she gestured to Bo-Katan. "Our companions may have insights to share so they can attend if they wish."

"Of course Mand'alore," conceded Bel Iblis.

The small group waiting in the conference room welcomed her warmly but as the meeting continued it was clear that the alliance was still trying to establish itself. The civilian delegates were jockeying for position as the military representatives tried to explain the situation.

"Even with the former CIS forces now at our disposal, we lack the ability to field enough forces to destroy those units reporting to the Empire. Right now, if we were to fight a single engagement we will lose, if we fight a guerrilla war, we will, in all likelihood, eventually lose. The Emperor has better trained, better-resourced troops at his disposal. We are doing everything we can to close that gap and yes, the CIS troops help but to win this we need more resources to draw on."

Bel Iblis resisted the urge to scream as the representatives argued with General Tharan about his 'interpretation' of the situation. Selip Nor, the mouthpiece of Former Senator Mon Mothma was trying to argue that more balanced leadership might be more attractive to the various unaligned worlds.

The Green Jedi Hull stepped forward, "While I can certainly understand your point Selip you need to factor in that right now General Bel Iblis leads our military forces. I would think discussing the plight
of the Mandalorian people would take precedence at this juncture rather than the composition of future leadership teams."

Bel Iblis nodded thoughtfully, "That is true Master Hull, The Mand'alore escaped the Imperial occupation of her system and I for one would like to discuss why the Emperor has made this move."

Tobak of Sullust, the newest 'advisor' sent by the systems Bel Iblis was trying to recruit, gestured toward Satine, "A good question, Mandalore held itself neutral in the latest conflicts. Why would the Empire target it?"

"Troops," replied Satine. "We believe he needs my people as troops."

"That is an interesting theory, and it would explain why he is tying up troops to occupy the system," mused Bel Iblis.

"What of Kamino, why would he not simply order new clones?" asked Hull.

"Clones take at least year to fully mature. Given their losses it makes sense that they will need replacements soon," said one of the Corellian Military officers.

"We need to find out, it could be a weakness we could exploit," added Bel Iblis.

"We should attack while he is committed and low on resources," said Selip Nor as he banged on the table. "This is an excellent opportunity."

Bel Iblis glared at the civilian, "An excellent opportunity, an excellent opportunity to what? We have a huge disparity of forces to contend with even if we only had to worry about the forces not tied up in the Mandalorian system. At the moment, we have a droid army that has to be re-programmed before we can use it. We have Corellian naval forces, but that is it for military units. The other forces we have with us either have limited military training or none at all. So, forgive me for saying that right now the only opportunity here for us is to gain breathing space."

"But the systems that have agreed to aid us," complained another man.

"Have yet to fully commit their forces," replied Bel Iblis. "On paper, we look better, but the reality is different. We need time, time to train, time to gather our forces and organise our logistics."

"But that gives the Empire time to build their forces," complained Selip Nor.

"And it gives us time to do what we need. As much as it is a distasteful set of choices, we must still make them. The Mandalorians will, I think, be a much harder sell than Palpatine suspects." Bel Iblis turned to face Satine. "I know you wish to retake your system but without the droid army and without logistics and support such a move is doomed to fail. In the next few days, I will be meeting with the leaders of several powerful worlds. If we can find common cause, we will be closer to having the numbers we need."

"So my people are to be left to their own devices?" asked Satine in a calm, even voice.

"For now," emphasised Bel Iblis. "We will do what we can to get relief supplies to your people, and we will continue to look for opportunities to help."

Satine could see the sincerity on the Corellians face, but it did little to cushion the blow. "I see, well then I thank you for your hospitality. I believe that I have heard what I needed to," replied Satine as she stood.
Bel Iblis sighed, "You are welcome to stay for our discussions Mand'alore."

"I must see to my people," replied Satine as her eyes shifted to look at Kenobi, who stood talking quietly to the newly arrived Skywalker and Ashoka. Kenobi looked concerned, but his attention turned to Jedi Master Hull, who began speaking to the Jedi contingent. Satine felt frustrated anger rising before a hand on her arm captured her attention. She turned to see Luna, who shook her head slightly.

oOoOo

Obi-Wan could see the frustration on Satine's face as Bel Iblis made it clear that he didn't have the forces in place to free Mandalore. For a moment, she looked directly at him before Jedi Master Hull asked him for his opinion on the situation. By the time he glanced back, Satine was leaving with her entourage.

oOoOo

"I will return," said Satine.

"To what purpose?" asked Harry.

"To be with my people," replied Satine. "I will not abandon them."

Bo-Katan shook her head, "And if you are captured? You are either dead or a hostage. Neither will see our people freed."

Harry nodded toward Satine, "I can understand your desire to share their burdens, but that isn't the leadership they need. Palpatine isn't going to allow civil disobedience and political protest. If we are right, and he wants troops, it will be via forced conscription with the rest of your people as the hostages. How many Mandalorians live off-world?"

Satine shrugged, "Thousands I would expect, why is that relevant?"

"Because they can be recruited to join your cause. You already have what's left of the Death Watch, your people and with even a few hundred you have a sizeable force," explained Harry.

"That won't be enough," replied Bo-Katan. "We would still need resources. A base of operations, ships…"

Harry grinned, "I can help you with that."

Satine nodded, "Then let us leave. Bo-Katan gather your people and get them onto my…our ships. For now, we will withdraw."

oOoOo

Harry found himself preparing to take on-board a dozen Mandalorian, former Death Watch members. The Mandalorian 'fleet' simply didn't have enough room for everyone.

"You the captain?" asked a young woman in Night Owl armour similar to Bo-Katan's.

Harry nodded, "Yes that's me, names Harry, how can I help you?"

"Well Harry, I've apparently got a berth on board. Where do I stow my gear?"

Come on I'll show you," replied Harry as he gestured toward the crew quarters.
"Actually, I'm just waiting for my husband, Grel. He's got the rest of our kit."

A moment later a man, also in armour appeared carrying two large cases, "Where to Pria?"

Harry grinned, "This way I've got a double room that should suit."

The cabin had been subtly magically enlarged to fit two double bunks, "I'm afraid that you'll have to share for this trip. There is a private, well a shared freshness through that door."

Pria shrugged before smiling and extending her hand, "It's fine, better than most transports. Pria, Pria of clan Wren, House Vizsla."

Harry shook her hand and then took her husband's, "Grel, Clan Wren, obviously. Nice ship. Hey, Harry…you the Adept Bo-Katan was talking about?"

Harry nodded and talked with the couple for a few moments before he excused himself heading back to the mess. So far he had nine Mandalorians aboard. Now he just needed the final three aboard and then just one more passenger.

"Harry Potter?"

Harry turned to see a green-skinned Mirialan female in rather dark Jedi robes and a headdress.

"Yes," inquired Harry.

"I am Jedi Master Luminara Unduli, I believe that you were expecting me?"

oOoOo

**Earlier – Main Docking Bay**

Luminara Unduli smiled in welcome as Obi-Wan Kenobi approached the ramp of her transport.

"Master Kenobi it is good to see you," said Luminara as she walked down the ramp.

"Master Unduli, welcome aboard," replied Kenobi with a genuine smile. "I'm afraid that we might need to hurry. The Adepts are transporting the Mandalorians aboard their ship and, given recent events, I doubt they will want to stay aboard longer than necessary."

Luminara frowned, "What has happened Obi-Wan?"

Kenobi explained about the escape from Mandalore and the 'political' situation with the Corellian fleet and their allied systems. The news that the newly forming Alliance had little interest in giving direct military aid brought a frown to Unduli's face.

Luminara eventually sighed, "And the Adepts have offered to transport and relocate them?"

"That appears to be the case. Duchess Satine…the Mand'alore has not fully explained her plans. I fear she is rather frustrated with both Bel Iblis and me even if she doesn't view this as a betrayal."

"And the position of the Adepts?"

"They have offered their support, and I suspect they may have offered a secure location where the Mandalorians can relocate. They didn't say anything in the meeting, but they stood with Satine and left with her," explained Kenobi.
"I see, well then I had best go and introduce myself. Do you wish to join me?"

Kenobi shook his head, "I need to meet with Master Hull and the Green Jedi contingent. He wants to send Jedi to act as ambassadors to the potential Alliance members. I'll come once I'm free."

Unduli accepted his words with a polite nod, "Very well if I don't see you before I go give my regards to Anakin and Ashoka. May the Force be with you Master Kenobi."

As she walked off, Kenobi hesitated a moment before turning and leaving in search of Master Hull.

oOoOo

"...I believe that you were expecting me?"

Harry grinned, "I'm glad you made it aboard, we are just about ready to depart."

"Indeed, well then my arrival appears to be most fortuitous. We will, of course, need to talk in more detail, but firstly, I believe that you have survivors from Concordia aboard. Do you have need of a healer?"

Harry shook his head, "No Master Unduli, The injured have all been treated. Although thank you for the offer. So, we have a cabin set aside for you. Unfortunately, you will have to share as we are pretty full. I've bunked you in with one of my people."

"That won't be a problem," replied Unduli.

Harry looked relieved, "Well then, let me show you where it is and then I'll give you a quick tour of the ship."

Unduli was pleasantly surprised by the size of the cabin and it's attached facilities. It was certainly larger than she had expected, even for a top of the line civilian freighter. The crew mess and its supply of fresh foods were another surprise.

"It must be expensive to stock so much fresh food," commented Unduli.

"A luxury that makes long trips more pleasant. We sacrificed cargo space for more crew quarters for much the same reason, but we think it is worth it. Everyone is pretty busy at the moment so I'll leave crew introductions until later. For now, I'll introduce you to Luna, my partner."

Unduli nodded and followed Harry toward the cockpit.

The Mirialan Jedi stepped into the cockpit to see a young human female running through a pre-flight checklist.

"Hello Harry and this must be Master Unduli."

"Luminara please, there is no need to be formal," suggested Luminara with a smile.

"I'll remember that. I'm Luna...Harry do you want to work through the pilot's checklist while I chat to Luminara?"

"No problem," replied Harry as he slipped into the pilot's chair.

Luna swivelled her chair around to face the Jedi Master, "Take a seat Luminara. We'll be a while yet."
Luminara sat in the third chair. As she did so, she let her Force perceptions extend toward the two Adepts. Not as an attempt to read them but rather to better understand the two young Force users. Both had strong Force presences, very strong. And while that wasn't always indicative of ability or capacity to use the Force it was a good guide. More importantly, she felt only the slightest traces of the Dark Side...just as many Jedi would feel. Given that some on the council feared that they were dabbling in dangerous waters it was a relief to find that they were not embracing the Dark Side. As she looked around the cockpit, she noted that it, like the rest of the ship, was fitted out with top end equipment. The best civilians would be able to buy. It certainly implied that they were well funded.

"Sorry," apologised Luna as she swivelled around returning her attention to Luminara. "We are getting underway soon, and I'm on co-pilot duty. Anyway, I'm done now."

"It was fine Luna," replied Luminara.

"Well then let's introduce to the rest of the team. They should be just about finished prepping."

Luna led the Jedi Master aft back to the crew mess. The Mandalorian's they passed watched impassively although Luminara could sense their unspoken hostility.

"Luna we've got all the passengers aboard, and we have been refuelled," said Sahdra as she walked into the mess. "Velath is just changing...oh sorry, you must be Master Luminara."

"Have we met Padawan?" asked Luminara as she tried to place the Zeltron.

Sahdra giggled, "I doubt it Master, and I'm Sahdra an Altisian Jedi...well and an Adept."

"I see, well it is a pleasure to meet you Sahdra," replied Luminara.

"Sahdra is a member of the Lily's crew as well," added Luna.

The next to arrive were Ret and Salara.

Luna stepped forward to introduce them, "Salara, Ret this is Jedi Master Luminara. She is the Jedi Council's envoy to Haven."

Ret nodded politely although Salara studied the newcomer with undisguised interest and a touch of suspicion.

Before anyone could say anything, further Velath walked in.

"And this is Velath," said Luna. "Velath, this is Master Luminara."

"It is a pleasure to meet you Velath," said Luminara with a smile for the younger woman.

Velath frowned, "Is this safe mistress?"

"We've agreed to forge better ties with the Jedi, and Master Luminara is their envoy," said Luna. "Besides I am sure that Adi Gallia and Siri Tachi not to mention Cin Drallig already have a good idea of where Haven is, even if they don't know the exact coordinates."

"It is our home, and it is my job to watch your back mistress," replied Velath as her hand fell to her lightsaber hilt.

Luna rolled her eyes but didn't say anything as Velath took up a position by her side. "Okay, so that is the introductions done. We will be lifting off in a few minutes. It's a pretty short hop, and we'll be meeting up with the rest of the Mandalorian fleet before heading home."
Obi-Wan Kenobi resisted the urge to curse as he watched the Lily lift off and maneuver out of the docking bay.

"Obi-Wan, what's the matter?" asked Ashoka as she finally caught up with him.

"I had hoped…it doesn't matter Ashoka."

Haven

Sev'rance faced off against her opponent, a Dathomiri, as the solidly built woman stood patiently waiting with her lightsaber held in the standard starting opening stance for Form II of Makashi. It was a very precise, graceful form that generally indicated a skilled duellist, at least to those who were beginners to lightsaber combat.

Dooku had made sure that she had learned it, given his mastery of the form. However, she had begun developing her own skills, especially under Sidious that were closer to Form VI. In the end, she found that she leaned more toward a blend of styles. Against opponents that were purists, it tended to be very successful.

With a grin Sev'rance moved to attack, her lightsaber flashing toward the head of her opponent. It was a simple attack and, as expected it was blocked, and a counter-attack launched. The Dathomiri had quick reflexes and her height meant that Sev'rance needed to be careful.

She attacked again this time with a more complicated attack that forced her opponent to give ground as she blocked a flurry of powerful blows. Sev'rance could sense the other woman's determination as she countered with her own precise attacks.

Sev'rance blocked the first few and swayed away from the last countering with a spinning attack that seemed to catch her opponent by surprise. Striking her across the back of the neck.

The low powered training mode did little more than give a slight burning sensation that quickly faded, and so her opponent did little but wince.

"Well fought," said one of the elder Dathomiri. The white-haired woman had been silently watching the bout from one of the benches set against the walls. "You are very skilled child."

"She is hardly a child, Elder Yetha," said Sev'rance's opponent, Rillia as she rubbed her neck.

"To me nearly everybody here are children," replied Yetha with a wry smile. "You have done well to turn from the Dark Sister."

Sev'rance frowned unsure how to respond.

Yetha laughed good-naturedly, "Ah Sev'rance you are thinking 'but I have not changed my path' are you not? The fact that you are here speaks to your hearts changes. You are a strong woman who desires to rule, to grow your dynasty to find a strong mate and produce strong children. There is no shame in that. Most of my people would not question such desires. But let us talk of that later. Now, that spinning attack…can you show me how you did that?"

Sev'rance ended up talking to Yetha and Rillia for several hours and found, to her surprise that they shared many beliefs.
Altis frowned as Harry explained what was happening. When Harry finished, Altis spoke up, "We are, even with magic, pushing the boundaries of what we can do. There are quite a few already complaining of the crowding. The Chu’unthor is, of course unsuitable, but we also have the Corvette we captured. Could we use that?"

Harry's image nodded, "We haven't really discussed what to with it. Giving it to the Mandalorians shouldn't be an issue. In fact, we should probably find a good surplus dealer. I'm not sure if we told you the story, but we bought the Lily for credits we earned from selling gemstones."

"Can you do that again?" asked Altis.

"Yes, we can. Food is a bit more difficult, but things like precious metals and gemstones are fairly easy. Although, I wouldn't want to try it on Lightsaber crystals. That much power running through a transfigured object wouldn't be a good idea. Same reason you don't conjure wand cores. Anyway, we can do the same again to get funds to outfit both our people and the Mandalorians. Damn, I should have thought about this earlier."

Altis smiled at his younger friend, "You can't think of everything Harry."

Harry shrugged, "I still should have thought about it."

"I have some connections that I will talk to, see what is out there. We probably need to be fairly discrete if we want to avoid appearing on Imperial scanners."

"Good, thanks, Altis. That should solve the transport issues. We still need to house the non-combatants and maybe some of their forces."

"We can handle a few hundred," replied Altis.

"We still need a long-term solution. We are recruiting so we will have others joining us," replied Harry. "We may need to look at a planetary base."

"We have a Survey database, civilian and pre-war, but it may give us some good locations to scout out. Where we choose has to be off the grid."

"Agreed," said Harry. "I'll speak to Satine and let you know Djinn."

---

The Wookie Gunner – on route to Haven

Sirius Black sat back and inhaled the steam from his cup of tea and let out a sigh of pleasure. The blend, which had some unpronounceable name, was as close to good old black leaf tea as it was possible to be. He would have to conjure Amelia some flowers for suggesting it.

"You are up early," said Callista as she walked into the Mess and poured herself a cup of tea.

Sirius grinned, "I wanted to get a head start on breakfast."

Callista rolled her eyes as she sat at the table, "Less than two hours and we'll be home."

Sirius looked over at his crewmate in surprise, "Home?"

Callista gave him a small shrug, "I'm on-board. Vectivus has made sure that we understand what is at
stake. Djinn and I spoke, at length about Bespin and...well, and everything that has happened. We might have lost a lot of people if we hadn't listened."

Sirius could understand her concerns, Merlin he had initially shared some of them. "It's all happening pretty fast isn't it?"

Callista raised an eyebrow, "Speaking of fast, I heard a rumour that you have a...friend waiting for you."

Sirius cringed, "I got a recorded message from Hermione and then another from Altis. Hermione didn't sound very impressed. It is rather weird I mean We only met that once and yet I find myself thinking about her at odd moments."

"Did you call back yet?" asked Callista.

Sirius looked guilty as he shook his head.

Callista couldn't help herself, she laughed.

Sirius adopted a hurt expression, "I'm glad my troubles amuse you."

Haven

Sev'rance felt like pacing. Instead, she closed her eyes and meditated. She could sense Sirius nearby...his Force presence was growing closer and more distinct.

"Are you alright Sev'rance?" 

Sev'rance opened her eyes to see Hermoine peering into the room.

"I am fine, I was meditating."

"Well, the Wookie Gunner is just coming into dock," said Hermoine. "Do you want to go down?"

Sev'rance hesitated then nodded.

The docking bay was busy as several ships were unloading supplies and it took a few minutes for them to reach the berth allocated to the Wookie Gunner. With every step, Sev'rance could feel him... it was almost overpowering her senses.

Then the crowd thinned, and there he was...talking with another man. Then he turned and looked directly at her.

Haven - Sirius's room

"So...you tracked me down," said Sirius as he handed Sev'rance a mug of tea and sat opposite her
Sev'rance nodded and took a sip of her tea. It was another of the odd blends the humans here seem to have in abundance. Still, it was good.

"Not that I want to question my astonishing good fortune and luck with the ladies but…well."

"Why?" prompted Sev'rance, "You were the catalyst that helped me break free. For that, I can never repay you."

"I see, well glad I could help but…Merlin, how do I say this, um, well our ah…tryst while spectacular and something I'll cherish but why me?"

Sev'rance sipped at her tea before answering, "I dream of returning to my people, rebuilding and redeeming my family. I thought that power…the Dark Side was the way, but I realised far too late that it wasn't. To Dooku and Sidious, I was a disposable weapon, a tool. I thought I could use them, blinded by my desire and thinking that I was in control. Then you showed me that there were other things out there, and when Vectivus showed me the truth my new path was obvious."

Sirius didn't know what to say as Sev'rance bared her soul to him. He could well understand the lure of the dark, after all, he had seen family and friends fall. Stepping forward he pulled her into his arms.

"I'm glad you made it here."

"Thank you," replied Sev'rance.

"So what now?" asked Sirius.

Sev'rance grinned, "Now you take me to bed."

"I like that plan," replied Sirius.

Ash Jarvee hesitated as he sensed danger. His hand dropped as his Lightsaber lept off his belt. Behind him, Padawan Jebeta Lah also reacted. Moving closer to the older Jedi as she too grasped her lightsaber.

"We need to get moving, we are too exposed here," warned Ash.

"Back to the ship?" asked Jebeta.

Ash was about to reply when he sensed an attack behind him. As he spun, he ignited his lightsaber and blocked a blaster bolt and then a second. "Jeb, head for the ship. I'll follow after I've dealt…” He blocked another series of attacks as Jebeta blocked two more "…this."

Jebeta hesitated before nodding, she glanced toward the nearest warehouse and then, with a burst if Force enhanced speed she took off toward the warehouse and their ship beyond. She didn't sense the two figures that moved to intercept her.

Ash blocked another shot and retaliated with a blasting hex that blasted apart the pile of containers his attackers had used as cover. Turning he sprinted toward the warehouse to help Jebeta as she engaged two Lightsaber wielding attackers.

Jebeta reached the shadows of the warehouse when she sensed a blow and managed to drop into a
forward roll to avoid a red-bladed lightsaber that would have taken her head off. She rolled to her feet and blocked the second attack even as she sensed another enemy behind her. Knowing that she was potentially in trouble and that Master Jarvee wasn't available to help she took advantage of one of her newly learnt skills. Concentrating on her quarters on the ship she could almost hear Remus teaching her fellow Padawans.

The three D's, Destination, determination and deliberation.

With a resounding crack, Jebeta twisted and disappeared just as a lightsaber struck her in the back.

Ash didn't even slow as he ploughed into the first of her attackers with a flurry of Teräs Käsi strikes that left his opponent crumpled on the ground. As his opponent fell, he was already spinning to block a lightsaber strike.

Facing off against the black-clad figure Ash immediately attacked. He forced his opponent back before casting an explosive hex at his feet as he threw himself to the side, behind the warehouse wall to protect himself from the flying debris.

Out of sight of his attackers; he apparated back to the ship.

The cargo bay was nearly empty, and he didn't waste any time rushing forward, knowing that Jebeta would have probably have headed for the cockpit.

Jebeta was motionless on the floor, just in the doorway of her cabin. Ash dropped to his knees to check her, but he already knew the Kiffar Padawan was gone. He closed her unseeing eyes and stood. He would have to see to her but for now, he had to get in the air. If their attackers knew enough to organize an ambush, then they probably knew which ship was theirs.

He skipped the pre-flight and launched the freighter into the air. He quickly maneuvered into the stream of civilian merchant ships and began entering the coordinates for a Hyperspace jump to a deserted system. There he'd check the ship for tracking devices.

That and prepare Jebeta for her journey home.

It wasn't the only attack and Jebeta wasn't the only casualty, just the first.

_oOoOo_

**Abrion sector - Outer Rim Territories**

Hanna Balest was getting worried as she waited, scanning the sensor console. Their payment, made electronically, had been accepted, but the exchange of goods was now going for way too long. Soran had landed first and should have been well and truly finished loading. Reaching for the comms panel she hesitated as a call came through.

"**Hanna…get out of here… it's a trap,**" warned a breathless sounding Soran. Blaster fire could be clearly heard in the background.

"**Do you need a pickup?**" asked Hanna as her co-pilot, A Dathomiri named Kreya, rushed into the cockpit.

Hannah ignored him and began descending toward the spaceport.

"**Negative…Rell's dead, just…go…I'm…urghh…**"
The comm line dropped out as an explosion sounded.

Hanna shuddered as she felt the connection she shared with the Corellian Jedi since beginning her training abruptly cease, "Soran…no."

"What has happened?" asked Kreya. "Do we need to rescue them?"

Hanna was surprised that her hands weren't shaking as she took control of the ship.

"He's dead…I suspect they both are, and we need to go."

oOoOo

Haven

Altis felt his hand tighten around the controls as anger coursed through him before taking a deep, calming breath. Two Padawans and a senior Jedi Adept lost to ambushes.

"Recall all our people. Send the warning that they might be tracked or tagged so that they search their ships," ordered Altis.

"They must have worked out the pattern, damn it," cursed Remus. "We should have realised this would happen."

"Maybe," admitted Altis. "There will be time to work it out later. For now, let's get our people home."
Chapter 28

Last Time

"Recall all our people. Send the warning that they might be tracked or tagged so that they search their ships," ordered Altis.

"They must have worked out the pattern, damn it," cursed Remus. "We should have realised this would happen."

"Maybe," admitted Altis. "There will be time to work it out later. For now, let's get our people home."

oOoOo

Haven

"What happened?" asked Sirius.

Altis didn't look up from the pad he was working on, "Ambushes, our people didn't sense anything until it was almost too late. I've recalled everyone I could reach and have got them double checking for any tracking devices."

"Bloody hell," muttered Sirius. "We'll have to find out how they hid themselves from us."

"They were cloaked," said Vectivus as he appeared against the wall. "Palpatine is a master at hiding things, Force cloaking. I suspect that we will find he has been training Sith acolytes and assassins in counter detection. He was focused on blocking the Jedi, now it seems he has turned his attention to our people as well."

"That's news I could have done without," said Sirius as he studied the screen Altis was working on. "How many people do we have away from Haven at the moment?"

"Too many…besides the crew of the Lily, we still have nineteen unaccounted for. Can we counter this Force Cloaking?" asked Altis as he turned to Vectivus.

"I have no idea," admitted Vectivus. "Maintaining this shroud should be leaving him exhausted. He's dulling the Force perception of thousands of Force-sensitives. I can't even begin to comprehend how he is doing it."

"Hold on," said Remus. "What if it's some form of warding?"

"Warding doesn't work like that Remus," argued Sirius. "He's not sitting in a warded location…" He trailed off looking thoughtful.

"What is it?" asked Altis.

"What if…what if he's found a way to clutter up the Force?" asked Sirius.

"Clutter, I don't understand," admitted Altis.

"He's not blocking people himself, well maybe he is, but he's got his flunkies out and about. Each
one is like, throwing up a false signal. Together they are creating some sort of, um Force fog," explained Sirius.

Vectivus frowned as he considered, "The oldest records of the Sith date back to the Old Republic wars. I know of nothing like it, on this scale in those records. Still, I wouldn't dismiss the idea just yet."

Altis looked around seeing the worried, frustrated faces, "This doesn't mean that he can't be bested. We can detect them and now we know they are looking for us, our people can be careful. I can't see this tactic working again now that we are aware of it."

"True," agreed Remus. "We know our wards work. Maybe we need to look at intent wards on our ships as well. Disillusionment charms and aversion spells will all help. We have options here and we have a lot of skills and experience to draw on, right here in Haven."

"I still think that getting everyone back safe should be our first priority," said Sirius.

**The Lily**

Harry tensed as he felt Luna's arms snake around his waist.

"Hey, love thinking?"

"Yeah, I…actually, I don't know what to say," admitted Harry.

Luna twisted around to sit on his lap, "You need to meditate Harry, clear your mind. I know you are worried but it is unrealistic to think we won't lose people."

"I know, that doesn't make it easier," said Harry but some of the tension drained from his shoulders.

"No, it doesn't," agreed Luna as she rested her head on his shoulder.

"We will need to rethink a few things, security and our logistics," said Harry. "The Mandalorians will need some sort of defence against being detected through the Force."

"Yes, it's a concern…but we will find a way."

Harry kissed Luna gently on the head, "I know."

"Harry…ah, sorry," Ret apologised and turned to leave.

"No, wait you are not interrupting anything," said Luna. "We were just talking."

Ret nodded and sat in one of the spare seats, "I've been going over the planetary survey Altis sent us. There are a few planets that would suit us."

"But nothing as secure as Haven," added Luna.

"Is it though?" said Ret. "With transport ships moving back and forth it is inevitable that someone will spot the pattern. Haven either needs to be enlarged and almost entirely self-sufficient or we need a second base of operations."

Harry sighed, "I've been thinking the same. There are magic based ways to grow crops back on Earth. If we could gain access to them we would potentially solve more than one of our problems."
'It would reduce the amount of traffic and lower the risks,' admitted Luna. 'We could also get help with warding. I'd like to ward some of the asteroids in the field. It would make it a lot harder to find Haven.'

Harry hid a wince. That plan likely meant using wizards from Earth. Ideally, he had hoped to avoid doing that. Earth's safety lay in being so far from populated space and he wanted to do all that he could to keep his homeworld hidden away.

"Let's get the Mandalorians back to Haven and take it from there. No doubt the others have plans as well," suggested Ret.

As Harry went to nod he felt a wave of pain and fear through the Force. He didn't know it, but at that moment nearly every Force Sensitive in this part of the Galaxy felt the same dark ripple.

oOoOo

**In Orbit of Dorin**

Darth Tenebris made a fist as he felt the disruptions in the Force that indicated a huge number of beings had perished. To the crew around him he seemingly looked on impassively. Internally he was relishing the destruction, the pain and fear.

"My Lord, we have destroyed the target. Will we target the Dor'shan spaceport?"

"Have any ships departed?" asked Tenebris.

"No, my lord," replied the ship's Captain.

"Then I have no need of the records it holds, destroy it."

"At once," acknowledged the Captain as he moved off to give the necessary orders.

The Baran Do Temple and its weak, cowardly sages were destroyed. Any survivors would be hunted down by his master's agents.

As he watched, the planet below suffered through another orbital bombardment.

oOoOo

**Tund**

Kevak stumbled along the path, clutching his broken arm to his side. His master and his fellow apprentice sorcerers were dead. Killed by soldiers with indiscriminate, brutal efficiency. He had only survived by luck and he certainly wasn't going to risk stopping until he had put some distance between himself and his former home.

The soldiers and Dark Side Assassins had, to put it simply, overwhelmed his brethren. His powers were no match for a hundred troops led by Force users and supported by what seemed like hundreds of ships.

Struggling along he eventually came to the cave he had been looking for. Slipping inside he nearly fell, courtesy of the wet stones before he managed to steady himself. He would need to somehow splint his arm before getting some rest. Then he would get as far away as possible until his attackers left.
Lucazec – Nuiiri Sector – Outer Rim

The Fallanassi or as they were also known, the Adepts of the White Current were a quasi-religious order whose beliefs revolved around their pacifist and non-conformist ideals. Their understanding of the Force, which allowed them to forge illusions and hide from others, was unparalleled, and once again it had saved them.

"They have departed Nisa," reported one of the Adepts.

"One of us has betrayed our people," said Nisa sadly. The Fallanassi respected free will and a being’s right to choose, but, as the ancient saying pointed out, your right to throw a punch ends at my nose. By endangering the other members of their community they had shown a profound lack of wisdom. The dark forces searching for them might have failed, turned away by their skilful manipulation of the White Current, but they no doubt would return.

"What should we do?" asked one of the men.

Nisa hesitated, "We shall seek out the enemies of the darkness. I will not fight but I will do what I can to help. Those who feel the same as me are welcome to help. Whatever you choose, I think our time here may be done."

Many of the Adepts nodded, accepting Nisa's words. The White Current was a potent defence but if there was a traitor they would not be safe, here or anywhere they travelled.

"We must meditate, find who among us has done this reckless thing," said one of the elder adepts, named Elsa.

Nisa nodded, "A viable plan Sister…" the sound of raised voices had all the Adepts turning in surprise.

Two Fallanassi men walked into the clearing dragging a young man with them.

Frowning at the use of physical force, Nisa stepped forward, "What is this Clorman Hatar?"

"We caught Yelt…he had a communicator and was talking to the invaders Nisa," reported Clorman.

"Yelt, what have you done?" asked Elsa her voice more sad than accusatory.

Yelt shook his head refusing to look at her. Nisa frowned and extended her senses into the White Current. There was something…cold and dark infusing Yelt. She could sense another's will pushing back against the Current…twisting and shifting. The taint was centred on a simple leather thong around his neck. Extending her arm, she directed the current to wash the taint clear. It resisted and for a moment she felt its hatred before, as it must, it gave way to the purity of the White Current.

Yelt collapsed to the ground, exhausted.

"He is free of whatever taint was trying to control him," reported Nisa.

Elsa shook her head sadly, "He deals with the merchants. Perhaps one of those did this to him."

Nisa walked over and pulled open Yelt's shirt. There, on his chest was a small silver ring on a leather thong, "This was empowered by the darkness…it allowed something to twist and control him. It has been cleansed but I think it should be destroyed."
Clorman took the thong from around Yelt's neck, "I will melt it down."

"Good, we should move quickly, if we are to survive."

\---

**Loskar**

Two dropships lifted off leaving the enclave, once populated by a group of Jal Shey a smoking ruin.

\---

**Susevfi – Suabi System**

Geith Eris ducked around the corner into a dark alley between two multi-storey warehouses. He quickly checked the alley, which thankfully was empty.

He was out of sight, but he could still hear the approaching Clones, "Kind of wish I had learned to apparate."

He had managed to escape his ship before it was destroyed and elude the pursuing Clones but he was still trapped in the Space Port. If…and it's a big if, he managed to get free of the Space Port what then? He didn't know all that much about the city but he could probably blend in.

Moving quickly, he made his way through the alley heading toward the residential area. Once he was safe, he'd make contact with Haven.

\---

**Kor Vosadii - Hutt Space**

Jedi Knight Yor Ghort stumbled as a blaster bolt got past his flashing lightsaber. He almost managed to right himself when a second struck him in the neck.

Moments later two Clones appeared. The first knelt and checked the fallen Jedi as the other kept his blaster aimed at the unmoving figure.

"He's dead," reported the kneeling Clone.

"Get a Holo of his face, and we can get back to the others," ordered the standing Clone Officer.

"Yes, Sir."

\---

**Susevfi – Suabi System**

Seina, now the Saarai-kaar of the Jensaarai clenched her jaw in anger before turning away from the smoking crater that had once been her home. The last hours had begun with an upheaval that had rocked her to the core.

Her master, Nikkos Tyris, a being she had believed to be a true visionary had been exposed as a traitor of the worst kind. He had betrayed his disciples…exposing himself as little more than an unwitting tool of the Sith. When the Empire had arrived on Susevfi, Nikkos had led his followers to meet with them.
In truth, he had led them to their deaths.

It appeared that the Sith did not want those who might question their tenets. Following the orders of his true masters, Nikkos had slain his first two disciples before they knew what was happening. Then even as the Clones opened fire to kill the others, her husband Heran had ordered her to flee with the surviving younger apprentices. Seina had fled, knowing that she would not see him or the other two with him again.

When the massive explosion had thrown them from their feet, she had felt Heran's passing. Knowing she didn't have time to grieve, she offered a silent prayer to the Force. Later she would meditate and face her grief and anger.

She was now the keeper of the hidden truth, the path of power.

Then she looked into the eyes of her son. He was terrified no doubt having felt his father's death but he still stood tall. At seven years of age, he had barely begun his training but he still stood ready. Her eyes shifted to the three apprentices with her. All three wore their armour proudly, standing straight and tall despite their obvious shock.

"Mistress?" asked Kylen, the elddest of the four at sixteen.

"We must flee, H-Heran and the others gave their lives for our escape," explained Seina.

"To the caverns?" asked Lita, the youngest apprentice at twelve. She had just finished making her first suit of custom armour.

Seina shook her head, "No, Nikkos betrayed us. Who knows what he told them. We will head for the mountains. We have our armour and our weapons. We will have to hide and survive until we can find a ship."

"A ship?" asked Kylen. "We would abandon our world?"

"Our time on Susevfi is done. Our enemies no doubt know all our secrets," explained Seina. "Our artifacts and Holocron's may be lost to us but we still have our honour, our training and our knowledge. We'll rebuild and continue."

oOoOo

Corellian Fleet – Wild Space

Garm Bel Iblis cursed as the intelligence reports kept rolling in.

"These targets were all Force sensitives," added Jedi Master Cortel.

"They are targeting Jedi?" asked Bel Iblis.

Cortel shook his head, "Not just Jedi."

"We've been preparing for operations against our fleet or our allies, and he's gone after Force users?" muttered Bel Iblis before he slammed his fist on the table. "Damn it."

"These are co-ordinated attacks, designed to weaken any opposition to the Sith. It is clear now that his move against the Jedi was only a part of his plan," added Cortel.

"We need to do something!" replied Bel Iblis with an edge of frustration in his voice.
"We can offer a safe haven…if we can get to them in time," replied Cortel. "I think I need to speak to Kenobi. This might…no, it will require more resources than we currently have."

Deep Space – Outer Rim

"Are you sure Amra?" asked an older woman in a deep blue dress. Turning she was revealed to be a Vahla.

The other Vahla in the room nodded, "Yes Mistress, our agents report that the attacks have begun."

"And Mother is safe?" asked the elder Vahla.

"She dwells in the Adepts hidden base. I can sense her and see through her eyes on occasion, but the location remains hidden. When she holds the song stone it is clearer," explained Arma. "So yes, she is as safe as we could hope for."

"Hmmm, I would rather her safe, here among her true daughters." The elder looked out the window at the stars. "Tell me about her seer."

"She is an archivist, an intellectual but brave and spirited. She is one of the inner circle, and her opinion is often asked," replied Amra. "She is a childhood companion of the two that have formed the Force Adepts."

The older Vahla smiled, "She is well connected, brave and spirited, that bodes well. But what of her passions, her beliefs?"

"She has fought and tasted defeat and victory. And she has a lover, a red-haired human," added Amra with a wry smile.

"Ah, touched by the flames…good. Mother will need his support, just as we will need hers. Inform our brethren that we need them to be vigilant. We shall not fall prey to the tricks of the Sith."

Praxia – Jedi Council Chambers

Yoda was unsurprised to find the other Masters on the Council waiting for him when he arrived.

"Master Yoda," said Cin Drallig in greeting.

The others in the room quietened as Yoda took his seat, "Set aside formality for this meeting, we should."

There was general agreement from the others.

"A series of grave disturbances in the Force I have felt," added Yoda. "How to act we must decide."

Coruscant

"It is done Master," said the Holographic figure of Darth Tenebris. "All fleet units are reporting success."
"Good, good…and the Adepts?" asked Sidious.

"There have been no reports of them appearing since Mandalore."

Sidious didn't believe that they were gone but they may have been hurt badly enough to retreat back to whatever abyss they had sprung from. No need to let his apprentice feel too successful, however, "That is disappointing…you will need to do better my Apprentice, if you wish to maintain my favour."

"Yes Master."

"Hand over control of the fleet and return to me. It is time for you to advance to the next level of mastery. The ascension of the Sith is at hand…and you are nowhere near ready to shoulder the responsibilities you must."

Tenebris tensed, it was only a slight shift, but Sidious was nothing if not a keen observer of others.

"Ahh, you are angry my young apprentice…I can feel it. So very angry, but so very unfocused. You need control, mastery of those weaknesses if you are to truly wear the mantle of a Sith."

"Yes Master, I understand."

"Then return to me Apprentice, and we shall see to your training…and your dreams, do they continue?"

"Less frequently…but they continue," admitted Tenebris.

Sidious leaned back in his throne-like chair. How easy to manipulate his apprentice was…he was like an open book. "Perhaps…perhaps greater control of your abilities will prove the key."

oOoOo

Haven

Hermione looked through the book with interest. As she read her left hand absently stroked the silver sphere that she was now using as a paperweight. The text described magical greenhouses. If she could replicate that here on Haven, it would enable a far greater crop yield...theoretically. With a sigh, she set the book aside. When the council had met earlier, there was a great deal of concern and confusion. Right now, the Haven council were discussing rescue missions for their missing people. They were also preparing for the influx of Mandalorians. Not to mention Merlin knew how many Force sensitives seeking a safe place to live.

As a part of the effort, she had posted herself in the library to research how to increase crop and livestock yields.

"Are you free?" asked Sev'rance from the doorway.

Hermione looked up to see the Chiss holding several books.

"I'm sorry, I didn't hear you come in Sev'rance, yes of course...how can I help you?"

"Keisha suggested that I ask you about organising some lessons if I am to learn how you wield the Force," answered Sev'rance. "Although, now might not be a good time with everything that is happening."

Hermione smiled, "We can make a start if you like. I can certainly help you with both the theory and
the practical elements. Take a seat.

Sev'rance placed her books on the table and sat down opposite Hermione.

"I think it would help if I explain how magic works. It's all about focus…"

The Lily

"If you wish we can wait in a nearby system," offered Satine.

"No need for that," replied Luna. "I'll contact Haven. At this point, I would suspect they are ready for us…Haven is pretty organised."

"Thank you," said Satine.

"Give us a few minutes Mand'alore," replied Harry with a nod.

Satine's hologram winked out.

"Right-o time to dial in," said Harry as he entered the coded channel.

Moments later Keisha's image appeared.

"Welcome back," said Keisha with a tired smile.

"Thanks, Keisha, so how are things?"

"We're ready as we can be," replied the former Padawan as she glanced to the left. "Altis is telling me that the docks are ready. The accommodations are prepared, and the council is ready to meet the Mand'alore."

"Well then we had better get organised at this end," said Luna.

"Right, we will see you all soon," added Harry.

Keisha bowed, "Of course Master."

As Keisha disappeared Harry sighed, "She's spending too much time around two former marauders."

As the first of the small fleet of ships began landing Haven's council stood waiting. The meeting between Mand'alore Satine and the council was far from formal rather it was friendly and low key. Yanra, Elder of the Dathomiri voiced the council's official invitation for any who wished to attend their session in the evening, during the communal meal.

"After all, you will be making your home with us. You might as well listen to what is happening here," added Yanra as she was introduced to Satine and her senior officers.

"A most remarkable community," commented Luminara Unduli as she found herself walking beside Altis.

Altis laughed, somewhat ruefully, "There was only a handful of us here when we first arrived. The original Adepts and well, most of this had not been lived in for years. As more and more people
came, we needed to get organised. To be honest, it was a challenge, but now we see the benefits of the charter we established."

"Charter?" asked Unduli.

"Haven is a place of learning and the charter reflects that. Nothing like the Jedi Council, more of an understanding of what is expected of those who live here and wish to share their knowledge with others."

"Master Yoda mentioned that you were quite positive about what is happening here. I can hear the enthusiasm in your voice Djinn," said Unduli. "I must admit that I have been looking forward to seeing the community you have built here."

Altis smiled at the Jedi master even as he shook his head, "Not just I, the Adepts started this. It was their vision that led to what you see here. I am proud to be involved, but I am by no means leading the Adepts. Despite their age, Harry and Luna are the leaders of the movement. Although the council does run the day to day operations."

Any further conversation was halted by the procession's arrival at the gardens.

After a brief round of introductions, the food was uncovered, and Unduli found herself talking to Salara, a Dathomiri Force Sensitive.

"You should eat," suggested Salara. "After the meal, we will most likely start the council session."

Unduli nodded and took a plate as she moved to examine the fare on offer. "An impressive selection given the nature of Haven."

Salara selected several items and turned back to the Jedi master, "There were initial difficulties with variety, but we have that issue under control. We always like to greet newcomers with a feast. Usually, we do this on the sixth day, but the arriving Mandalorians and other events apparently brought it forward a few days."

Unduli selected several vegetarian items before continuing. "Have you been with the Adepts long?"

"I was one of the first of the Bright cave clan to officially join the Adepts. Since then, the entire clan relocated here, and many of my sisters have now found themselves following their own path," explained Salara as she led Unduli to another table. "Even some of our menfolk are taking lessons and learning to use their gifts."

Unduli was well aware of the matriarchal nature of the Dathomiri. For their men to be allowed to take on roles traditionally undertaken by women was not entirely unheard of, but it was odd. "How did you meet them?"

Salara selected a bowl of what appeared to be citrus fruit before answering, "My Clan were facing extinction, and several of our elders began having visions. They led us to Harry and Luna."

"I would be interested in hearing the story someday," Unduli said as she followed Salara to a half-empty table.

"We can sit where we wish for now. We don't have any rules although we encourage everyone to mingle," explained Salara as she nodded to a Vahla who walked past talking to a human in traditional Jedi robes.

"I find it fascinating that so many Force users have come together in one place. The Jedi Council
knew that Harry and Luna were gathering adherents but not on this scale," commented Unduli.

Salara frowned, "Harry and Luna are not really recruiting. Not in the way the Jedi do anyway. They are seeking to preserve the knowledge, skills and often the culture of those that use the Force. The best way to do that is to share and spread the knowledge. Given the recent attacks, those just seeking safety may also end up looking to us."

Unduli looked thoughtful, "I can see the logic and although my training tells me that there are risks in learning…” she trailed off at the sounds of commotion nearby. However, before she could turn she was assailed by another, larger wave of grief and fear projected through the Force.

oOoOo

"What happened?" asked Sirius as he pushed past one of the droids to get to Harry and Luna.

A pale-looking Altis shook his head, "There was a surge in the Force, and they both collapsed."

"Has somebody put a call through to Alyssa?" asked Remus.

"No…I'm awake," muttered Harry as he tried to sit up.

"Are you okay?" asked Sirius as he knelt to help Harry.

"For a moment I was overwhelmed by pain and grief. Just like on the ship, only worse," explained Harry.

"The Sith have begun another campaign against Force users," said Luna sadly as she too opened her eyes. "Over a space of hours…thousands have died and this time it is so widespread we can't stop it all."

"How do you know Luna?" asked a shaken Satine.

"I felt it through the Force. We need to call the Council together," said Luna. "It seems that the Sith have managed to strike without any of us sensing the danger."

oOoOo

Corellian Fleet – Deep Space

Obi-Wan Kenobi woke to an overwhelming sense of loss.

Rolling out of his bed, he made his way to the freshener and splashed water on his face. After a few moments, he was awake enough to start and make sense of what he was feeling through the Force.

He and the others had been sensing ripples in the Force for the last few days and now something bad had happened, very bad.

"Obi-Wan?"


A tired and worried looking Anakin entered.

"I take you sensed a significant disturbance in the Force as well," said Obi-Wan.

Anakin nodded, "It felt like the fall of the Jedi Temple all over again."
"I think we need to make some holo-calls and see what we can find out," said Obi-Wan. "I've got a bad feeling that we won't like what we find."

Harry ran tired hands over his face, "These attacks, I fear, are only the beginning."

Altis looked just as tired as Harry, "We need to be thinking about how we are getting our people back safe."

"I'm worried about Earth," said Hermione. "What if the Jedi have been traced?"

"I think we need to find out. Ron, call and check with your Dad," ordered Harry.

Ron nodded, glanced at Hermione and left the room.

"What about our mission, does this change things?" asked Hermione.

"No, if anything finding these groups and offering them sanctuary is even more important now," replied Luna from the doorway. She was still looking pale, but she smiled sadly as she walked over to kiss Harry on the cheek before sitting in his lap. "I'm fine, really...it was just a shock."

"So what now?" asked Salara. "Because we still have to settle the Mandalorians and all the logistics around food supplies that come with that."

"Right now, we are approaching the point where we will have to start using magic. Haven wasn't designed for this many people," said Remus. "If we could make a run to Earth we could pick up some magical greenhouses, wizarding tents and the like. It would make things easier."

"Assuming things are under control on Earth, I think we should send a mission," agreed Harry. "I think we need to establish another enclave," said Altis with a thoughtful expression on his face. "We have the Chu'unthor, which is technically a capital ship and the Slaver Corvette. They could be mobile bases."

"We had considered giving the Mandalorians the Corvette. Once it's brought up to our specs it gives them some serious firepower and a mobile base of operations," said Harry. "The idea to use the Chu'unthor could work, but I don't want you feeling we've pushed you out of your Praxeum."

Altis smiled, "I forget that you haven't really received a tour yet. The Chu'unthor can safely house a thousand people."

Harry whistled, "Damn, okay then let's look at what can be safely replicated aboard the Chu'unthor."

"If we equipped it with some magical items the Chu'unthor could become another Haven," agreed Luna. "As for safety, I think the Fidelius charm would work, but I'm not sure how to cast it, Hermione?"

Hermione shook her head no; she didn't know.

"Then unless Remus or Sirius know, we need to go to Earth to find instructions," added Luna.

"Then we need to act in unison. We need to get our people back safe and we need to offer sanctuary to those that need it. We also need to prepare so that we are not caught out again. Haven must remain secret and hidden. Yes, the wards are working well but we need to be sure," argued Harry.
Volunteers were preparing to begin a search for survivors of the Emperor's purge.

At the same time, the Chu'unthor would be prepared for departure. While not out recruiting, it would be a training ground for Padawans until they were brought to Haven to continue their education. Sirius and Remus were casting every protective spell they could think of on the ship.

Satine and the Mandalorians were to be based at Haven, but they would have the Corvette to bolster their small fleet. More than half of the Mandalorians had volunteered to help with the rescue missions, and the people of Haven had gladly put them to work helping to prepare.

Hermione, Ron, Sirius and Remus would be heading to Praxia to pick up Arthur Weasley, and then on to Earth. Thankfully, a quick call on their secure Holocom to Arthur had confirmed no attacks on Earth. He was also more than happy to help them find what they needed.

There were still nineteen residents of Haven missing, and two teams would be dispatched to find their missing people. Altis and his crew would take the Wookiee Gunner while Harry and Luna would take the Lily.

After much debate, it was decided that Master Unduli would join Altis and his crew on the Wookie Gunner.

"You could argue that we are stretching ourselves thin, but I don't think we have a choice," said Altis. "The only other option is to split into smaller teams so that we could cover more ground."

"I know we could," agreed Harry. "And I know Jedi usually work in pairs, but until we have a better idea of what's going on I think we need to stick to larger teams."

"We might not be able to keep that policy going Harry," Altis held a hand up to forestall a reply. "I'm just saying that my people will soon need to do another search for younglings. We can't do that without spreading out."

Harry ran a hand through his hair, "I hear you Djinn, I really do, but I feel like things are just beginning. Our ability to sense the Living Force still feels clouded; the Dark side is stronger than it should be even given what's happened."

"It seems that Luna is not the only perceptive one Harry," said Vectivus as he appeared beside Altis. "Events are growing difficult to foresee. Soon it may become difficult for me to manifest outside the reservoir of dark side energy below us."

"How are they doing it?" asked Altis.

Vectivus shrugged, "I have no idea. It shouldn't be possible for a single being to affect the Force like this. We need to find out how he is doing it but if you want to secure the future of the Adepts then getting Haven secured is critical."

Harry and Luna walked into the mess to see that everyone else was already there, waiting. As Luna sat, Harry cleared his throat; "I know everyone is busy getting ready so I want take too long. We all
know the situation right now is dangerous. Palpatine may have been dealt a serious blow, but we have not stopped him. He still controls most of the Clones and the resources of the Core worlds. He has already begun striking against other Force users, just as we feared he would. So right now, we need to make sure those Force users out there have a safe place to retreat to. A safe place to learn and in turn pass on their skills and for that to happen, we need Haven."

Luna took over as Harry finished, "Haven has to be self-sufficient. Running food and supplies increases the risk that someone will notice. Those of us from Earth know that the wizarding world has things we need to achieve our goals. Our contact, Arthur, Ron's dad, will help us with any acquisitions and may even help us recruit specialists."

"I still have a fair bit of wealth tied up back home. Given the situation, I'm happy to use it. After all, it is bloody useless to us on Haven while it sits in the Black vaults," said Sirius with a shrug. "As Lord Black, I can clean out everything except what I'm leaving for Andy and her family."

Sev'rance was looking at him oddly as he spoke but didn't say anything.

Remus looked thoughtful as he sat forward in his seat, "What is our policy on recruitment?"

"Who are you thinking about?" asked Harry.

"Neville Longbottom, he runs a business dealing in magical plants. At least he was when I left," explained Remus.

Before Harry could reply Hermione jumped in, "He was doing very well. What if others want to join up? I know some of our friends might want to."

"You will have to take it case by case I think," replied Luna.

"You know," began Ron. "Bill and a few others might want to join us. Merlin, dad, would probably jump at the chance."

"Maybe," replied Harry with a shrug, "You need to speak to some warding experts, or hire them. Any other thoughts?"

"I would like to hit Flourish and Blotts for more books," suggested Hermione.

"I think buying up supplies from the Apothecaries would be a good idea as well. We may not be able to grow everything we need," suggested Remus.

Hermione's fingers danced over her datapad as the suggestions started to roll in.

"I think that I will accompany this mission if that is acceptable," said Sev'rance.

Harry was about to respond when Luna beat him to it, "Of course Sev'rance."

Ron looked tired as he dropped onto his sofa and closed his eyes.

"You look knackered," offered Harry as he sipped one of the exotic Herbal teas Hermione kept her kitchen stocked with.

"She's still at it, mate she's bloody tireless. If I didn't know better, I'd have assumed she was a droid!"

"Remember exam time?" asked Harry.
Ron smiled somewhat ruefully, "Yeah, she was pretty full on wasn't she?"

"Well, she did have to keep us motivated," offered Harry.

"True," Ron said as he opened his eyes to focus on Harry. "How are you doing now?"

Harry shrugged, "I'm worried to be honest. We are moving as fast as we can, but the bad guys always seem to make the first move."

"Chess references Harry, you must be tired. Things are heating up again aren't they?"

Harry nodded.

"Then once we have our people back safe we need to step up the training. Just as long as you don't go all Oliver Wood on us, no five in the bloody morning runs!"

Harry grinned at the reference to their old Quidditch Captain's legendary if ridiculously harsh training regimes.

For a few moments, life felt normal.

---

Susevfi – Suabi System

"I am the Saarai-kaar of the Jensaarai," Seina repeated to herself as she studied the two-dozen survivors. They were all that was left of their order.

She had, at one time been a Jedi Padawan. Then she had fallen in love with a fellow Padawan. Fearing being expelled from the order she had been fortunate to find Jedi Master Nikkos Tyris. When he had left the order, she and her lover had followed.

The following years had seen their order grow both in number and mastery of the mysteries of the Force…then everything had come crashing down. Nikkos was revealed as a traitor and his treachery had cost the majority of his "people" their lives. Now she was the only fully trained adult left.

"Saari-kaar?"

Seina turned to see her son Lanet in the entrance of the cave.

"Kylen has returned from the Spaceport in Yumfla," reported Lanet.

Seina nodded, "Good, send him to me."

"Yes Mo…Mistress." As he turned he missed his mother's proud smile.

A few moments later Kylen walked in. The youth looked different minus his armour, younger and less confident.

Kylen saluted, "Saarai-kaar."

"Apprentice Kylen, it is good to see you returned safely to us. I hope you have good news."

"Indeed Mistress," replied Kylen with a satisfied expression. "Our ships were not targeted, so they have survived."
"Were they being watched?" asked Seina.

"Yes Mistress, Clone Troopers were stationed at the spaceport. Their focus seemed to be on securing their perimeter."

Seina nodded, "They think us all dead no doubt. How many will we need to take them out, how many people will we need?"

"There are a dozen of them based on a landing craft. No more than six are patrolling at any one time. If we took out the landing craft and the sentries at the same time we could do it."

Seina nodded, "Good, inform the other apprentices. We will plan our attack. But first get something to eat and some rest."

"Yes Saarai-kaar," acknowledged Kylen.

Seina returned the salute and watched the young man leave before returning to the log she had been using as a seat.

"Seina, it has been a long time."

Seina spun around, her hand going to her lightsaber…only to pause at the sight of the translucent figure standing in the shadows of the cave. Outlined in blue light the figure stepped forward.

Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn stepped out of the shadows hands raised, "I mean you no harm."

Seina could sense a Force presence. Something was there that felt like the faintest echo of a person.

"Master Jinn?"

Qui-Gon Jinn nodded, "Yes Seina it is me…so to speak."

Seina gathered her wits and stood tall, "What do you want Jedi?"

Qui-Gon hesitated before answering, "To help, nothing more."

"You appear rather insubstantial Master Jedi, what are you, a hologram?" asked Seina warily as she circled away from the Jedi toward the cave entrance.

"I'm dead Seina, and in doing so I found myself at one with the Force."

Seina hesitated, not trusting his words or intentions, "How wonderful for you."

Qui-Gon seemed to ignore her sarcastic tone, "I know why you do not trust us Seina or indeed any outside your group. But you must trust me now, if you are to survive what is coming."

Seina stopped her slow circling and stared coldly at Qui-Gon, "Is that a threat Jedi?"

Qui-Gon nodded, "It is, but not one delivered by me. The Sith that attacked you controls much of the Republic. He means to wipe out every Force sensitive not under his direct control. You must gather your people and find those known as Force Adepts. With them, you will find sanctuary."

"Why should I trust you Jedi? Your vaunted council would consider us to be little better than Sith?"

Qui-Gon shook his head, "I wish you were wrong but for now, the Jedi would not accept you. Although the Jedi are changing and there will come a time where your people will help build a stronger more resilient order."
Seina laughed, but there was no humour in it, "Really…and why should I believe you and your tales?"

"Because you must, you can hear the truth in my words," replied Qui-Gon. "You may well find that the Force Adepts are more…ah aligned with your beliefs."

"And would these Force Adepts accept us?"

"Tell them that I sent you, seeking a Haven," replied Qui-Gon as he faded away.

Seina frowned and extended her senses in the Force but there was no remaining hint of Qui-Gon's presence.

"Am I mad to even be considering listening to him?" whispered Seina. She had to do something, she had to find safe haven somewhere.

With the ease of long practice, she began putting on her Cortosis armour.

---

**Un-named Higher Dimension**

Qui-Gon Jinn grimaced as his connection to the Force seemed to somehow weaken.

"It is almost painful isn't it?" said a second figure that stepped out of the ever-present, ever-shifting and flowing mist.

"How is Palpatine doing this?" asked Qui-Gon.

"You are not the only one asking that question and no, I don't know," admitted the being once known as Darth Vectivus. "But if it continues we will be all but cut off from that dimension. At the moment I can still take form in my former home but appearing elsewhere is difficult."

"From what I could determine the Jal Shey, Baran Do and most of the dark side cults have been hit hard. The Followers of Palawa, Pelgrin seers and the Fallanassi have all been able to avoid being destroyed. Talia and I have been trying to steer them toward Haven."

Vectivus frowned, "Where is Talia? I cannot sense her."

Qui-Gon sighed and ran his hand through his hair tiredly, "Still out and about. I do not know where she has found the energy to do so. You have your Force nexus but how is Talia maintaining herself in that dimension for so long?"

---

Despite her co-conspirators theories, Talia was most certainly feeling the drain on her remaining strength. Manifesting in this dimension normally required a great deal of focus and the careful marshalling of the Force. Even with her personal 'cheat', she still felt the constant drain.

Focusing on the distinctive feeling of her allies, she became visible to the trio of women, standing in a clearing near a Merchant ship.

Even as she materialised the three women turned to look at her.

"Talia, you have returned to us," said the eldest of the three with a friendly smile.
"Merress, I am pleased to see that you escaped unharmed," replied Talia with a genuine smile on her face.

"The White Current was sufficient to allow us to escape." The woman studied Talia with a critical eye as she spoke. "You look exhausted."

"I am," admitted Talia. "Even with preserving my strength, the current state of the Force makes manifesting draining."

Merress raised her hands and made a pushing motion.

Talia felt a wave of the Force pass into her and she instantly felt some of her exhaustion lift, "My thanks."

Merress waved dismissively, "There is no debt between friends Talia."

Talia gestured toward the campfire behind them, "You and your people will not be safe here, despite the White Current shielding you."

"We know, we will meet tonight to decide on our next move."

"Good, and have you given thought to my offer?" asked Talia.

Merress sighed, "Despite what has happened, we will never agree to supporting those who use the Force to maim and kill. Better that we pass into the Force than give up our secrets if they will be twisted."

Talia had expected that answer but was still disappointed. "I understand Merress. I just hope that you do not pay a terrible price for your principles."

Merress gestured for Talia to follow as she walked away from the other two women. "I thank you for your understanding my friend. Now, what of your crystals? We cannot leave them here."

"Can one of your people take them to Joha on Jedha?" asked Talia.

Merress raised an eyebrow, "Are you ready to take that step?"

Talia nodded, "I planned for such an eventuality. I just never suspected that I would need to do it... well, regardless of my wishes it has become necessary."

"You would give up the power you have gained?" asked Merress in a neutral tone of voice as she studied Talia.

"If the price is not being able to help at all, then yes I will."

Merress smiled, "Then you are wise Talia and you may yet survive having your wings clipped."

Lythos Nine

The Bounty Hunter Rodan Copral hissed in frustration as his sensory glands writhed trying to pick up the scent trail that ended abruptly at the water's edge. Normally he would be able to sense any trail on the far shore from where he stood but there was nothing.

Deciding to backtrack he turned and the world went dark.
Kalid's disillusionment faded away as he dropped the heavy branch he was holding. Moving quickly, he stripped the Bounty Hunter of his equipment and tossed the lot of it into the deepest part of the river.

Turning to the wooded area to his right, he raised his voice, "Alright we need to get moving."

From the tree line, eight hooded figures appeared.

"Is he dead?" asked Lyiera, the eldest of the eight former Jedi Agri Corps members.

"No, just unconscious," Kalid reassured them. "Quickly now, which way is it to your ship?"

Lyiera didn't hesitate, "We are not far now from the farm's storage area. The freighter is there along with the Agri-droids that were being sold off."

"I just hope it is spaceworthy," said Kalid.

Ura, one of the teenagers gestured back over her shoulder, "It is not like we have a choice. The towns are too dangerous and the Spaceport is under their control."

Lyiera cleared her throat, "The ship was old but still spaceworthy. That's why it hadn't been scrapped. It was to be a backup if we needed it at harvest time."

"Well we had better get moving," Kalid said with a look skyward. "We don't want to be seen by any patrols."

Kalid led the way, making sure to keep a watchful eye on the younger members of their party. Even if the ship wasn't spaceworthy the communications equipment would mean that he could send a coded message back to Haven.

They made good time, only stopping to avoid what turned out to be a Droid repulsor truck as opposed to a Clone patrol. The sheds looked untouched (and identical to the dozens of others dotted across the landscape. Lyiera had the codes for entry but despite her assurances that the shed wouldn't be monitored Kalid insisted that they not use the door.

Luckily the shed was free of Clones. And, as promised, a single light freighter sat amidst the deactivated agricultural droids.

Once everyone was aboard Kalid began a check of the freighter's systems, "Thank the Force, whoever decommissioned the ship kept it on a maintenance schedule. Everything looks to be functional. Give me an hour and we'll be ready to fly."

"Will it do?" asked Lyiera.

Kalid grinned, "It sure will. Now we just need the opportunity."

oOoOo

**Susevfi – Suabi System**

It took all Geith's skill, luck and newly learnt magical skills to get into the Spaceports control centre. Unfortunately, it had been guarded by several Clones.

That had made matters difficult.

Another hour had passed before he had managed to send the encoded message and nearly two more
hours had passed before he had managed to slip out of the complex.

He was almost free of the port when the first explosion tore apart a Clone transport.

Moving quickly he turned and quickly made his way back to where he could see the landing field. Several squads of Clones were firing at what looked to be a small group of figures wielding lightsabers. The latter were clearly trying to pull back but were pinned down.

Cursing he began moving again if he could get behind the Clones he might be able to distract them long enough for the others to escape.

Seina cursed their bad luck as another explosion shook the ground.

Overnight the Clones must have been reinforced and as a result, their plan to overwhelm them and escape was derailed before it had really begun.

Now they were fighting for survival.

She batted away another shot and risked a glance over to where the younglings huddled behind a rocky outcrop amid the tree line. If only they… wait, something had happened.

The fire against them faltered and then stopped altogether. Gesturing to the two apprentices beside her she surged forward with Force enhanced speed.

She cleared the small drainage ditch to see a figure, dressed like a merchant fleet officer cutting down a clone with a green-bladed lightsaber.

Turning the figure paused for a moment as if surprised before gesturing, "Come on there are still more reinforcements in the control centre. We need to get out of here."

Seina hesitated, before replying as she weighed up the likelihood of the 'Jedi' being an enemy, "I must go back, there are younglings hidden in the trees."

Geith resisted the urge to really curse up a storm as his luck went south, "Fark...okay so we need to get them out of here too. Can you pilot any of these? My ship was destroyed."

"We have a ship but I don't know if it has been compromised," replied Seina.

"Better than staying here," replied Geith before he grinned. "Besides if it's been tampered with we'll just steal one."

Seina stared at the Jedi for a moment before she turned and signalled to her people. A few seconds later they were quickly moving toward a ship in the long-term section of the landing area.

While they had no 'official' status with the government of Susevfi, they had, on occasion assisted in the defence of the planet and its population. Which was why the few ships that they owned were kept secured near the perimeter. Three old and heavily modified fighters were crowded around what looked to be an old light freighter.

"Seina?" asked Kylen as he approached leading the younglings.

"Get aboard the Star Ryder, the fighters are of no use to us, their range is too limited," replied Seina. She turned to look at the Jedi, "You as well Jedi."

Geith nodded and began helping the children get aboard, "Do you have a destination?"
Seina hesitated, remembering Qui-Gon's visit. "We have been given the name of a group."

Geith didn't need to consult the Force to feel the distrust radiating off of the armoured figure. "Hey look you don't have to tell me anything. But right now we need to get moving. The Clones are not going to remain clueless for long."

"You are a pilot?" asked Seina as she internally debated what she should do.

"I am," admitted Geith.

"Then you will assist me in the cockpit. Kylen, get the others securely seated."

The Star Ryder lifted off and rocketed skyward.

"Nothing following us yet," announced Geith as he adjusted the unfamiliar scanners. The freighter had, at some point been retrofitted up to military standard.

"Good, I am calculating a jump to an unpopulated system. We've used it as a training area before," explained Seina as she removed her helmet and placed it on the floor.

Geith was about to say more when the scanners began issuing alerts.

"Spoke too soon it seems. I have two fighter sized ships on an intercept course from the second moon," reported Geith.

Seina didn't bother replying as she finished plotting the course into the navcomp.

"They'll be on us pretty damn soon," warned Geith. "Twenty thousand, seventeen…"

"How long until they are in range?" asked Seina.

The ship shuddered and shook, "About now I'd say…shields are pretty minimal right now."

"That's it, we are clear of the gravity well, jumping to hyperspace now," announced Seina. The ship shuddered once again as she pushed the lever forward.

The stars outside the cockpit blurred as the freighter leapt into Hyperspace.

Seina checked her instruments before turning in her chair, "Alright, we are away. So Jedi, you want to explain your presence?"

Geith nodded, "Fair question. I was buying grain from the Ag market traders when the Clones appeared. They got my ship and I escaped. Hid out until I managed to sneak into the control centre to send a coded message to my people."

Seina frowned, "Buying grain? Why would you need grain when the Agri Corps supplied so much surplus?"

Now it was Geith's turn to hesitate. Whoever these people were they were not mainstream Jedi, not with the armour they were wearing. Considering that he belonged to a rebel sect himself he wasn't judging them for that. In fact, they felt rather like many of the Adepts, a mix between light and dark. So strong was the sense of familiarity that he didn't hesitate to trust in the Force.

"Ah, you are mistaking me for a Jedi attached to the Council. I am an Altisian Jedi and a member of
Seina froze as Geith continued, "Geith Eris." He introduced himself with an extended hand.

'Here is the moment of truth,' though Seina. "Seina, Saarai-kaar of the Jensaarai…what's left of us."

Geith shook Seina's hand, "Please to meet you Saarai-kaar Seina."

---

**Praxia**

Yoda felt a faint, familiar disturbance in the Force as he meditated in his room. With a sigh, he climbed off his cushion and picked up his cane. "Leave much to be desired their timing does."

Yoda reached the communications centre just as the Master on duty, Siri Tachi, was walking out.

"Master Yoda, I was just about to come for you," said Tachi with a smile.

"Visitors we have, hmm?" asked Yoda.

"An Adept ship is requesting permission to land," explained Tachi.

"Give permission we should Siri, no threat are they," advised Yoda.

Tachi nodded, "Should I send a welcoming party?"

Yoda shook his head, "No, meet them I will. Notify the Weasley family we must."

"I will Master Yoda," replied Tachi.

The air was quite cool, unsurprising given the late hour, as the aging Jedi Master made his way toward the well-lit but rudimentary landing pads they had created. Several days ago, he had received the first reports from their friends and agents in what was now "Imperial space". There were rumours of atrocities being carried out, and growing evidence of what amounted to a program against Force users. Several Jedi were missing, and while Yoda knew many had escaped, some had fallen.

When he had received a visit from Arthur Weasley, advising him that the Adept were coming to Praxia he didn't need to look too far for reasons that they might be coming. He watched the ship descending and shrugged, it wouldn't take long to confirm his suspicions.

Once the ship had landed, Hermione and Ron made their way over to Yoda.

"Master Yoda, it is good to see you again," said Hermione with a polite smile.

"Relieved I am to see you," replied Yoda. "For Force users, it seems dangerous the galaxy is becoming."

"You felt the attacks?" asked Hermione.

Yoda nodded, "Worrying it is. Too powerful Palpatine is and question I do, how this can be."

Hermione gave a slight shrug, "We are asking ourselves the same question."

"Lost much we have. Long in the planning Palpatine's campaign clearly was," added Yoda. "Helped save our order you did. But fear I do, that worse to come there is."
"Harry and Luna have been saying that for a while," added Ron.

"Know that I do," replied Yoda but the ancient Jedi's voice was more resigned than angry. "Strive to understand we must."

"Perhaps we should compare notes," suggested Hermione.

"To discuss, if you have time, would be worthwhile. Quickly things are moving."

"I fear that time is not our friend Master Yoda, but you are right. We will make the time," replied Hermione.

"Going to Earth you are, be there long will you?" asked Yoda.

"A few days, quicker if we can," replied Ron. "It depends on how quickly we can get what we need."

"Hmm, a few days I need, gathering intelligence I am."

Ron glanced at Hermione who nodded, "Very well, we will return here once we have finished on Earth."

The sound of someone jogging up the path had them all turning, "Master Yoda…Ron…Hermione, thank goodness I made…it, a bit breathless I'm afraid. Not as young as I used to be. I probably…should have apparated." Arthur Weasley was red-faced and indeed, rather breathless.

"Mister Weasley, we would have waited," chided Hermione. "Remus and Sirius are just finishing off readying your quarters."

"Didn't want to miss the boat, so to speak. I was having tea with Bill, Fleur and Ginny when your message came," explained Arthur. "Quite a rush to get down here."

"They're not coming with you?" asked Hermione. Remus and Sirius had been preparing cabins for four.

Arthur shook his head, "Bill wants to finish up the last of the warding for the buildings. Say what you will about the cost but the Gringotts warders are the best, very thorough and conscientious. Ginny has been helping him, so she decided to stay and help him finish up. Personally, I think she is enjoying the newness of everything, very different to Hogwarts."

"Fair enough, I'll make sure I see them both we get back. For now, we had best get moving," said Ron

oOoOo

**The Burrow – Ottery St Catchpole**

Molly Weasley was always nervous when Arthur was away from home. This trip was even worse considering the sheer distances involved and the fact that William and Ginny were with him. However, despite her anxiety, she was very proud of her husband and children. The Minister had even hinted at the possibility of an order of Merlin!

The news that he would soon be home for a visit was very welcome (Even if William and Ginny didn't come this time). Fleur was a remarkably understanding wife to accept relocating to the Jedi's planet, given the poor timing…Wait, was that a 'Spaceship'?
Molly watched fascinated as a large ship landed in the back paddock, near the orchard. She wiped her hands on her apron before taking it off and laying it over a chair. By the time she reached the gate to the paddock, the ramp of the ship was already lowered and several familiar faces had appeared.

"Arthur, oh my Ronald!"

Molly hugged her husband and then moved on to the others as they appeared.

After Molly had finished hugging her family and visitors, she and Arthur led them back to the burrow.

"You've done some work on the house Mum," said Ron as he studied the outside of his family home.

Molly chuckled, "Well, it did need some work and with Arthur's promotion we had a few galleons to spend."

"You got a promotion Dad?" asked Ron.

Arthur looked both pleased and embarrassed, "Um, yes, well…the Minister thought that the job I was doing needed a higher profile. So I was promoted to head up the new diplomatic department at the Ministry."

Ron laughed and walked over to give his father a one-armed hug, "Way to go Dad."

"Well the pay rise certainly helped in a lot of ways," added Molly. "Why don't you all take a seat and I'll make some tea. I'm sorry where are my manners! Remus, Sirius and…"

"Sev'rance," added Sirius.

Molly nodded, 'Sev'rance…you are welcome in our home."

The conversation turned serious as they moved beyond small talk.

"So this Sith Lord is dangerous then?" asked Arthur.

"Very," Sirius reassured them. "He might not be banging on the door right now but he's far too powerful to ignore and hope he never shows up."

"With a fleet," added Remus.

Arthur sighed and ran a hand through his thinning hair, "The Minister won't be happy. But, I suppose that it is better to know about these things than not."

"Earth's distance is your best defence. Bar us and the Jedi, nobody knows the coordinates for Earth as it is pretty far into what most of the galaxy thinks of as unexplored space. Being in the far reaches of the unknown regions, well…it means that the chance of accidental discovery is also very slim."

"Having worked with the Jedi, I believe that we can trust them," said Arthur. "But there is a lot at stake."

Remus shrugged, "I know that they will keep the secret because their safety depends on it as well. The statute of secrecy has unwittingly helped us on that score. With all the overlapping warding
hiding the wizarding world, it is incredibly hard to sense your Force signatures…sorry your magic through them all."

"Thank Merlin for that," said Arthur, sounding relieved.

Molly cleared her throat, "I don't think I like the sound of these Sith coming here."

"We are doing everything we can to avoid it Mum," Ron reassured her. "If they did you can be reassured we would do everything we could to stop them."

"We have some powerful allies Mum," added Hermione.

Molly's eyes went to the tall hooded woman beside Sirius for a moment. "Hmm, that's good," said Molly before turning to Hermione and changing the topic. "Hermione my dear girl you look well. I hope Ronald is treating you as you deserve."

Hermione blushed and Molly raised an eyebrow.

"Should I be preparing for grandchildren?" asked Molly with a stern look that was undermined by the amused glint in her eyes.

"I…um…er," Hermione's stuttering response trailed off as Molly started laughing.

"Mum!" complained Ron as those gathered around the table joined in the laughter.

A chime sounded and the Floo activated. A moment later, the head of Charlie Weasley appeared amid the flames, "Anyone home?"

"Charlie!" exclaimed Molly in surprise.

"Hi Mum, can I come through?" asked Charlie.

"Of course," replied Molly.

Charlie stepped out of the Floo brushing ash off his shoulders, "Bloody Merlin, Tom needs to clean out his fireplace."

"Language Charlie," scolded Molly.

Charlie, however, was focussed on the non-family members, "Ah, hello everyone."

Ron was the closest so he reached Charlie first, 'Hey Charlie, good to see you.'

Charlie grinned, "You're looking fit Ron…Hermione must be making sure you are getting plenty of exercise." He wiggled his eyebrows up and down, leaving no doubt as to the nature of his comment.

Ron turned bright red as Molly slapped her second eldest on the shoulder, "Charlie Weasley!"

Hermione glared but when Charlie grabbed her and kissed her cheek she started laughing, "Let go of me Charlie."

Charlie gave the others an exaggerated salute, "Lo, honoured guests."

He received a chorus of welcomes as he snagged a spare seat at the table, "So what's going on?"

"We're doing a supply run," explained Ron. "We are here to carry all the books Hermione is looking
Sev'rance lowered her cowl to show her face, "I am here to safeguard Sirius. I have plans for him. Thank you for welcoming me to your home Matriarch Weasley." The last was said with clear deference and an unspoken acknowledgement of her position of authority.

Molly looked a bit lost for words for a few moments before she smiled, "My pleasure my dear."

Hermione and Remus explained what they needed (and for Charlie an abridged version of why). When he finished Arthur nodded, "We'll need to speak to the Goblins. They have been helping with the warding on Praxia, but the Ministry requested that and it cost a fortune."

Sirius shrugged, "I can afford them. Do you think the Minister would be willing to make the request?"

"I'll check," agreed Arthur.

"First thing tomorrow, Ron and I should go and speak to Neville," added Hermione.

"What about recruiting others?" asked Charlie. "Fred and George have been badgering Dad and I know Tonks wants in. She was pretty annoyed when you all left and didn't invite her. She thinks you skipped the country to live overseas. And, there are others, Merlin I wouldn't mind helping out myself."

"There are no dragons where we are living Charlie," added Ron with a smile.

"Dora, why would she want in? I heard she was doing well with the Aurors," asked Sirius.

"Dunno about that, but last week when I ran into her in Gringotts, she was complaining that you had just taken off. Her Mum was wanting a word as well," explained Charlie.

Sirius winced, Andromeda Tonks was a lovely woman but she was a Black by birth and sometimes she reverted and the claws came out. "I had better call in on Andy before I leave. I probably should have explained why I gave her the Black seat in the Wizengamot."

"Sounds like a good idea Sirius," said Remus with a wide smile. "Although telling her before you did it might have been wiser."

Sev'rance frowned as she considered the conversation, "Among the Chiss, women and men are equal, although some families like my own were matriarchal in nature. Why would your cousin object to serving as your family Matriarch?"

"Mostly because the Black family disowned her for marrying a non-pureblood wizard," explained Remus.

"He shared the Force…your magic, and still they exiled her. That seems to be a rather foolish and illogical move. My children will be encouraged to find powerful mates. Making the family stronger," as Sev'rance spoke her red eyes remained fixed on Sirius."

"That's a marvellous attitude, isn't it Sirius?" asked Remus.

Sirius glared at his old friend before smiling nastily, "Yes it is, Andy always liked you Remus perhaps you can join me. That will make Andy think twice about murdering me. Spread the love a
Deep Space – Vahla Fleet

"Then where is mother?" asked one of the elders.

Amra gestured toward the holographic star map, "She has left the Adept's base and has travelled into the unknown regions. Her dreams are of her home…and her plans to resupply the adepts."

"A supply mission to their mysterious homeworld, not something to be concerned about," said the elder Vahla.

"The reports we have received from our agents is deeply worrying, Mother is a target and that is unacceptable. We should dispatch ships in the event that they are needed," said another elder.

"And we risk endangering her by doing so," argued a third.

The most senior gestured for silence, "The time is not yet right for us to interfere directly. Mother will lead us home; she will begin a new bloodline and become the true avatar of Vahl…but not yet. We must have faith that through her trials she comes to see and accept her role. It cannot be forced on her."

"And the cultists who are siding with the Sith?" asked the elder who had started the debate.

"That we can act on," replied the senior with a cold, deadly smile. "Inform our priestesses that any Vahla aiding those degenerates is an enemy of the people and are ashes to the eyes of Vahl."

Many of the elders exchanged looks as the ritual words were spoken. By giving that order, the senior had declared the heretics as enemies of their Goddess.

"It shall be done," replied Amra.

"We shall return home sisters and we shall take our place amid the new order. Nothing will hinder the Blessed Mother's mission."

"What of Amelia Sto-Nar, could she not be trusted to keep a close eye on Mother given her proximity? She now follows the ways of the Palawa sect but she remains loyal in so far as we can see."

"Hmm, that is something to consider Amra. A trustworthy set of eyes, close to Mother might be needed as things progress."

---

London

Sev'rance was interested in everything.

Normally, this would have amused Sirius but it was causing a lot of delays. The glamoured Chiss was stopping and examining everything that caught her eye.

"What is the purpose of this device?" asked Sev'rance as she studied a phone box. "I have seen several since our arrival."
"It's a phone box…ah a public communication device. We should probably get moving, Andromeda and Ted live just around the corner," explained Sirius.

"Very well, wait should we not cross at the marked crossing?" asked Sev'rance as Sirius began escorting her, firmly, across the road.

Sirius shrugged as he checked for traffic, totally missing the smirk on his companions face. "Only if there is dangerous traffic, Ah, here we are number fifty-seven."

Sirius took a deep breath and knocked on the door of the upmarket, three-story townhouse.

"Coming," called out a deep male voice. A few moments later, the door opened to reveal a handsome middle-aged man. "Sirius!...my God man, come in."

"Who is it Ted?" called out a woman from somewhere out of sight.

Ted grinned, suddenly looking a decade younger, "Jehovah's Witnesses."

"Again, I'll damn well give them a piece of my mind," a beautiful woman dressed in form-fitting witches robes appeared at the bottom of the stairs. "I…Sirius?"

"Hello Andromeda."

Andromeda Tonks hesitated, seemingly unsure before her eyes narrowed and her gaze shifted, for a moment to her husband before returning to their visitors. "Cousin Sirius, I'd invite you in but it appears Ted already has."

Sirius cleared his throat, "Yes…well, Andy…sorry Andromeda. I…that is Sev'rance and I…"

Andromeda rolled her eyes, "Oh do come in and sit down Sirius, and Sev'rance was it? You had best come through as well. Ted, can you Floo Healer Montgomery and let him know that I shall be late."

The Tonks house was a curious mix of the magical and non-magical worlds. A large Television sat next to a wizarding radio and their bookshelf held both spellbooks and mundane novels. Sirius, however, found his eye drawn to the Black family crest on the wall.

Andromeda saw where he was looking and sighed, "I never properly thanked you for re-instating me to the family did I?"

Sirius shrugged, "It was your birthright, Walburga had no legal right to disinherit you. I simply corrected that error cousin."

Andromeda sighed, "It's more than that Sirius, and you know it."

"You were the best of the lot Andy," replied Sirius.

Andromeda laughed, "That's not saying much. Bella was insane and Cissy's a bitch."

"I was surprised she didn't die alongside Lucius," said Sirius, his voice cold.

"She was never marked, oh she believed all that blood purity tripe but I can't see her having ever got her own hands dirty. Last I heard she fled, with what was left of the Malfoy money, to Romania."

Sirius accepted his cousin's fate with another shrug, "It's more than she deserves."
Andromeda nodded, "Which brings us back to your actions. By haring off to Morgana knows where you have lumped me with the Black family seat on the Wizengamot. Let me assure you, that I do not want it. Do you have any idea how many enemies our house has accumulated over the centuries? I'm not fighting for honour's sake, I'm fighting for my life, for the lives of my family. My presence on the Wizengamot has already cost my daughter her job."

Sirius cringed, "Sorry?"

Andromeda looked decidedly unmoved, "If I have to sit through another meeting where half the room wants me dead, I'll end up as mad as Bella."

"Well, er…what about a proxy?" asked Sirius.

"And who exactly is that going to be, Nymphadora?" demanded Andromeda. "No one we can trust wants the job Sirius."

Sirius shrugged, "You know what, find some cousin you hate and make them a proxy. Then you can go back to being a healer. I know you are pissed off with me, and I understand. You must know by now how little I care about our family legacy. You, Ted and Nymph are the only one's worth anything."

Andromeda studied her cousin as her expression softened, "What's going on Sirius? You and the others disappeared after Riddle died."

Sirius glanced over at Sev'rance who was sitting quietly watching. The Chiss met his eyes and nodded.

"Ted's here, can you get Nymphadora to come home? I don't want to have to do this twice."

---

Nymphadora 'Call me Tonks' Tonks, grimaced as she walked up the stairs after apparating into the backyard of her family home. Her mother's floo message had been unmistakably an order. Luckily, she'd been at home, lying about her flat watching Telly.

"Mum, Dad?"

Her father's voice called out from down the hall, "In the lounge Dora."

Snagging an apple from the fruit bowl, she took a bite as she walked to the lounge room. As she was about to enter she could hear several people talking but it didn't prepare her for the sight of her first cousin, once removed sitting on her mum's couch.

"Bloody hell, Sirius!"

"Language!" exclaimed Andromeda.

Tonks rolled her eyes and turned back to Sirius, "Seriously, Ha beat you to it, where have you been. Mum was going spare."

"We are about to find out," said Ted with a grin. "I'm guessing it's quite a tale."

Sirius nodded, "Tonks this is Sev'rance, I'll introduce you properly later. So it's like this, remember how Harry disappeared…"
Two hours later, there was awed silence in the room.  
"So you are an alien?" asked Ted.  

Sev'rance, now minus her glamour, nodded, "That is correct. I was born in the Chiss Ascendancy, far from this planet."

"And you are facing off against some alien Dark Lord?" continued Ted.  

"That's right Ted," agreed Sirius.  

"And the Ministry knows about this?" asked Andromeda.  

"They do," confirmed Sirius. "Well at least some of them, including the Minister."

"Well…I mean…bloody hell," muttered Ted. "It's Star Trek come to life."

"Alright, fine I admit what you are doing sounds important, but why didn't you tell us?" asked Andromeda.  

Sirius winced, "I didn't think of it."

Sirius's admission drew an amused snort from both Ted and Nymphadora. Andromeda, however, was looking at him with narrowed eyes.  

"You didn't think of it? Fine, well you had best start thinking now. When you leave we are going with you."

Sirius shook his head, "Andy, it's dangerous. Merlin, at times it's like the worst days of Voldemort but with the addition of weapons that could destroy Earth from orbit."

Now it was Andromeda's turn to grimace, "I hear you but..." She trailed off as she shared a look with her husband. "But, I haven't told you everything Sirius. A month ago someone tried to assassinate Ted and I as we were leaving the house."

Nymphadora leapt to her feet, knocking over a side table, "What?"

"Calm down Dora," injected Ted. "Your mother and I are fine."

"Fine…someone tried to kill you. Who was it, did you report it to the Aurors?" demanded Nymphadora.  

"Yes, we reported it, and no they didn't catch anyone. Although we have our suspicions," admitted Andromeda.  

"Who?" asked Sirius and Nymphadora at the same time.  

"Marcus Bulstrode, he's a cousin and a Pure-Blood fanatic, for all that his sister married a half-blood," replied Andromeda.  

"So obviously not a death eater," said Sirius.  

Andromeda shook her head, "No, but he was a sympathizer. He hasn't made any official efforts to get the Black seat but he's been talking."

Sirius grimaced, "Shite, I'm sorry Andy."
"Good, you should be. You can make it up to me by getting my family to safety."

Sirius shook his head, "It's not that easy, if you need help, I'll do what I can but it is not just my decision about taking you with us. I need to speak to people."

Andromeda studied Sirius for a few moments before nodding, "Very well, do what you need to."

"Hang on," injected Nymphadora. "Who said I'm going anywhere."

oOoOo

Remus couldn't believe just how many books Hermione was buying. After years of living frugally courtesy of intermittent work, he was used to a tight budget. Having the Black fortune available to him was...well it was pretty overwhelming.

"Remus, do you think we should get a few copies of Herpel's Enchanting?"

Remus turned toward Hermione and was about to answer when his pocket began vibrating. "Hold on a moment Hermione."

Pulling out his communicator, he flipped it open, "Remus here."

"Mooney its Sirius, I've got a problem here."

"What's going on?"

"I'm at Andy and Ted's. I really need to talk to everyone, who's with you?"

"I'm at Flourish and Blotts with Hermione. The others should still be at the ministry meeting with Arthur," explained Remus. "We'll be meeting back at Tom's for lunch. What's going on Padfoot?"

"Someone tried to kill Andy and Ted."

"What, when?"

"A month ago, they think it's one of the cousins angling to take over the house."

"Merlin...is everyone alright?"

"Andy's a bit shook up and a bit angry. Remus, I dumped this on her when I left Earth. Andy's asking, well demanding to go with us and Dora is about to pull her wand on everyone."

Remus winced, "Alright, I'll get things moving here. Just keep everyone there. Is Sev'verince still with you?"

"Yes, she is...I had better go. Dora's asking questions," explained Sirius.

"Right, say hello to Dora, from me."

"I will...wait what?"

Remus was grinning as he snapped his communicator shut, "Hermione, I'm just going to call Ron."

oOoOo

Ron was slightly impressed with the apparent changes to the Ministry. Minister Bones herself had met them as they arrived and led their small group toward the lifts.
"The ministry certainly looks different Minister Bones," said Ron as he studied the décor. "Last time I was here I didn't really have the chance to have a good look but I seem to remember it being a bit more...um dingy."

Amelia Bones laughed, "Well I'm pleased to hear you say that and I'll pass on your comments to the House Elves. I let them run with a design theme."

Ron hid a grin wondering what Hermione would have thought of the Ministry employing House Elves. A few seconds later his amusement faded, there was something...odd right at the edge of his senses. He let the Minister's talk of Ministry redecoration flow past him as he extended his senses into the Force. There was a definite sense of something resonating with the Force. Neither light nor dark it didn't feel like a living being but neither did it feel like a Force-imbued object. Focusing he sensed it was beneath him, far beneath. There was a slow throb...almost a heartbeat. Then it was gone.

"Actually, Arthur I am glad you are here," continued Amelia. "Hobson, from International Relations has been in talks with his counterpart in America. Apparently, they have had some questions from their military about odd sightings from one of their observatories. The Americans and the ICW are asking questions and as Hobson isn't read into our...ah special projects I might need you to step in."

Arthur nodded, looking thoughtful, "Tricky Minister, but I'll look over what Hobson has. Ronald, you and Hermione might be able to give me some advice on what they have. If that is alright with you Minister?"

Amelia smiled wryly, "I'd be a fool to turn down their expertise. But before you run off I would like to talk to you all."

The minister's office was a rather well-appointed room with several large bookcases and a large table surrounded by chairs. Once they were seated, her secretary came in and served tea before disappearing out the door.

"Sorry for the secrecy, but there has been some serious repercussions stemming from the fall of Riddle and the subsequent changes to the political landscape. Some of them were expected, but some have been a rather nasty sequence of surprises." Amelia nodded to Arthur. "The darker pureblood families who supported Riddle were decimated. So we managed to push through a raft of changes that began dismantling the protections the purebloods had built themselves. It was going well and then we began hearing rumours that members of the wizengamot were being approached. Although threatened is a more accurate description."

Arthur was frowning now, "I heard rumours before I left."

Amelia sighed, "At the time I had the DMLE investigate. There were a number of high profile arrests and we levied some significant fines. The rumbles died away but it is now clear that they simply abandoned the public forum. Rufus Scrimgeour began an investigation and he began to suspect that there was more to it than just dissatisfied purebloods. But even a full investigation didn't give us anything we could legally pursue. I suspect that the darker Pureblood families that are left are trying to consolidate what power they still hold."

"How can we help?" asked Ron.

Amelia shook her head, "You can't, at least not directly. More than anything, I want your advice. Politically, I've been putting forward laws that are designed to make the ministry more attractive to non-purebloods. Because of the bias built into our laws and departmental rules, it was very difficult for half-bloods and Muggle-born to climb the ladder. I've tried to change that. I'm trying to build a
merit-based system. That means that some Purebloods who have been good, honest employees are now looking for career opportunities in a much more competitive workplace. It also means that more muggleborn Wizards and Witches will be looking for jobs in the wizarding world." Amelia sighed. "We are creating a new, fairer system but in the long term it just won't be enough. One of the options we are looking at is establishing a new wizard enclave."

Rons's face lit up, "Wow, blood…I mean Space Wizards!"

Arthur looked at his boss in surprise, "An enclave on a new world?"

Amelia nodded.

"Wow, that's a pretty amazing idea Minister," said Ron with a great deal of unfeigned enthusiasm.

Amelia smiled and inclined her head toward Ron, "Thank you, Mister Weasley. However, it is an idea that needs a fair bit of expert input."

"Dad is probably your best bet Minister," said Ron without hesitation. "As I understand things he has been pivotal in helping the Jedi survivors establish themselves of Praxia."

"I agree, but I also want your group's input. This will be one of the largest undertakings ever completed by the Wizarding world. Political reasons aside, I truly believe that we are approaching a crisis. There are less new wizards and witches staying in the Wizarding world. Technology is rapidly changing and I am convinced that within a few generations the Wizarding world will be exposed."

"You are thinking about moving the magical world off planet!" exclaimed Ron.

Amelia nodded, "We are aiming to have something in place, should the need arrive. Even if the worst never happens the establishment of an off-world colony will, I think only be of benefit to everyone."

Ron considered the Minister of Magic, noting the determination in her eyes. She was practically radiating calm determination. She was almost the polar opposite of Fudge. "That seems like a very wise plan Minister. I'd be happy to offer whatever advice I can."

Before Ron could say anything else his communicator vibrated, "Please excuse me Minister, I need to take this."

"Of course," replied Amelia as she waved off his apologies.

Ron flipped his communicator open, "Weasley."

"Ron it's Remus, Sirius wants everyone over at his cousins."

"Why, what happened?" asked Ron.

Remus quickly explained.

"Right, Remus we'll finish up with the minister and make our way there."

"A problem Ronald?" asked his Dad.

"Maybe, we have another stop to make after we finish up here."

"Everything all right Mister Weasley?" asked Amelia. "We can postpone the meeting if we need to."
"Important but not urgent Minister, please continue," urged Ron.

An hour later, Ron walked his Dad to his office, said goodbyes (with a promise to call his Mother) and left the ministry.

"What happened?" asked Ron, after calling Remus on his communicator.

"Someone tried to assassinate Andromeda and Ted Tonks and they've asked for Sirius to take them with us when we leave," explained Remus.

Ron grimaced, "Bloody hell," he lowered his voice and continued. "Assassinate them? Who was it?"

"They think someone wants the Black family under their control," explained Remus. "We had best hold off discussing things until we get to Sirius."

"Hold on I can see you and Hermione," said Ron as the other two came in to view.

"You made good time, how did it go?" asked Remus as he and Hermione walked toward them (Ron noted that Hermione was carrying two book bags).

"Well enough, although the Minister has asked for our help. I think we'll need to find the time to assist them. I'm not sure Harry will be all that happy about another commitment here when we are already stretched," replied Ron. "But, we can work that out later. Let's sort out Sirius and his relatives first."

Apparating wasn't really an option as only Remus had been to the Tonks residence. However, the house was only a short cab ride away.

"I'll hail a hackney carriage," offered Remus.

"What in Merlin's name is a hackney carriage?" asked Ron as he looked around for a horse and carriage.

Hermione rolled her eyes. Even after all these years and exposure to the heights of technology Ron was still worse than useless in the non-magical world on Earth, "A taxi Ron."

Remus waved down a Taxi and gestured for the others.

Once they had all climbed in, Remus gave the directions and they were soon making their way through the London traffic.

Just over Thirty minutes later, they pulled up outside the Tonks residence.

"Right, let's go," said Remus as he led the way to the door. All three of them paused for a second as they felt the now familiar tingle of wards as they reached the steps.

Remus knocked and a few moments later the door swung open to reveal Nymphadora Tonks, "Wotcha Remus, hello Ron and Hermione of course, come on in."

The Lily
"How... no why the hell, did I agree to have a squad of Mandalorians aboard?" griped Harry as he stepped over another crate of armaments.

Luna shrugged, "The Mand'alore was pretty insistent. I suspect she thinks that she owes you Love. Besides, we may need the firepower."

Before Harry could say anything else, a Mandalorian in full armour (save her Helmet) appeared from one of the berths.

"Alor, I think we've been given officers' quarters," complained the Mandalorian.

Harry sighed, more from the reference to his status as an officer than for the interruption, "No, those are the only quarters we've got, sorry."

The Mandalorian grinned, "Really, mar'eyce!" She ducked back into the room talking excitedly as the hatch shut.

Luna was smiling as Harry turned to look at her, "Hey, we've made someone happy today."

"Mistress," called out Velath as she appeared from around the corner carrying a half-dozen Teräs Käsi fighting staffs. "Sahdra wants to know where you want the extra medical stores. The med bay is nearly full."

"I'm going to start the pre-flight, Luna, my love, you're in charge of logistics," said Harry as he left. He totally missed (ignored) the dirty look Luna shot at him.

Eventually, they got underway and the Lily soon leapt into Hyperspace heading toward the first of the planets where their people had disappeared.

---

"How many jumps?" asked Ret.

"Three," replied Harry, as he stood up from the pilot's seat and stretched as Ret sat. "Luna wants to check to see if there have been any messages before the second jump."

"Go and get some sleep Harry," suggested Ret. "Salara is going to join me after she grabs something to eat."

Harry nodded and walked aft toward the cabin he was sharing with Luna. When he entered, the sound of her quiet snoring told him she was still asleep. He could jump into bed but food sounded like a pretty good option too so he left and made his way to the galley.

Unsurprisingly there were a few people eating or simply talking quietly. Two seated Mandalorians nodded in greeting as he walked to the cooler.

There was, as always a good selection so he grabbed a piece of fruit and poured himself a juice. Turning he saw Salara gesturing him over to her table.

"What's up?"

"I wanted to thank you including me in your crew," replied Salara.

"You've earned your place here Salara," Harry reassured her. "You were one of the first to embrace what Haven means."
Salara smiled as Harry continued, "Besides, I think Ret would beat me senseless if we left you behind."

"I see why Luna complains about your sense of humour. Ret is a strong man and a skilled fighter. It is only natural that I would seek his company to learn from him."

Harry held up his hands, "Hey, I agree. A strong handsome man."

Salara's glare was ruined by her smile, "True…now I had better see how he's going."

The Dathomiri carried her plate to the washer and quickly made her way forward.

Harry smiled to himself and let the background conversation and ambient noise flow around him. Closing his eyes, he felt himself relaxing. A few breaths in and out and he was entering a meditative state. As always, the process of entering a meditative state opened his connection to the Force.

There was a sense that his usual awareness was somehow blunted. The same taint that he had felt before was still affecting his perception. Curious, he sought to pierce the 'fog' that surrounded him. For the briefest moment, he felt something…a degree of feedback before the fog rolled back.

But he didn't let go. He tried to follow the feeling, the brief connection. To trace it back to a source but it was soon lost.

"…Harry?"

Harry opened his eyes to see Luna studying him.

"Sorry to interrupt, we've dropped out of Hyperspace on schedule and we have Djinn on the com."

The Hologram of Altis gestured and a star map appeared beside him, "I just received a coded transmission from Obi-Wan. Corellian spies have reported to Bel Iblis that most of the Empire's fleets have mostly pulled back to space he firmly controls. However, they have garrisoned a number of worlds."

"Mandalore?" asked Luna.

"They still have a significant presence both in orbit and on the ground according to the reports. I'll send the full brief through to you."

"Any ideas on why he garrisoned the worlds he has?" asked Harry as he studied the star map.

"According to Yoda, a large number of them had links to Force-sensitives," replied Altis. "I am a few hours out from the first system I had to check. Apparently, the Clones pulled out after the shot up a large section of one continent. We'll investigate and let you know."

"Be careful," said Harry.

The former Jedi Master grinned and saluted before signing off.

Ret frowned as he studied the star map. "Some of these worlds are old CIS worlds but others," he pointed to several systems. "Like these, are mid rim. These were worlds that supported Palpatine. We know he was after Force sensitives and he got a lot of them. So why keep forces he needs tied up?"

"Why would he weaken his forces?" asked Luna.
"To gain something else...there has to be something we are not seeing," mused Harry. "All this clutter in the Force could be hiding something."

"Something big," added Luna.

Harry gestured to Mandalore on the Star map, "When he invaded Mandalore we thought it was for troops to replace or supplement the Clones. The attacks on Force sensitives seemed like it made sense, at least from a Sith's perspective. Breaking the Rule of Two, Dark Side assassins...it all means something that we are just not seeing yet."

"Talia's vision was about bringing balance to the Force. Not just for balance but because she foresaw a time when a foe would arise that sought to snuff out the Force completely. Palpatine wants to destroy what he doesn't control. Vectivus implied that his people are poorly trained. What if that is so that they can't beat him?" asked Luna.

Harry nodded, "So he remains in power...clearing the board of potential enemies so that he reigns supreme. That sounds about right, but it feels like we are missing something, something important."

"I..." Luna was cut off by the 'incoming message' alert from the communications equipment. Turning she studied the display before typing a response. "It's encrypted using the Altisian code, audio only."

The others waited patiently as Luna worked. Eventually, she looked up, "Wow, that's a pretty complicated bit of code. Okay, let's hear what it says."

"This is Geith Eris, code G E Six Three Seven U Susevfi Suabi System."

"That's the code for a requested pick up in enemy territory," translated Luna.

"Geith...he was one on the missing Freighter pilots on the food run. Susevfi, how far off are we?" asked Harry.

Ret made some quick calculations, "Three hours."

"Anyone closer?"

"No," replied Ret after checking the other flight schedules.

"Plot a course," ordered Harry.

oOoOo

Geith shook his head as he slid out from underneath the Hyperdrive's housing, "It's basically fried. The motivator and the hypercoil are both burnt out along with most of the power conduits. We must have taken a hit as we jumped and had a power surge through the key systems."

Seina frowned, as she studied the readouts, "Can you fix it?"

"Not without parts, if we had time, maybe we could rig something up," explained Geith.

Seina could guess at the unspoken words, "Time we don't have."

Geith nodded, "Sorry, but we have enough time to send a request for assistance."

"How long?" asked Seina.
"Twelve hours before we have to start turning off essential systems. If we start shutting things down now we can maybe stretch it to twenty hours," explained Geith.

"Fark," Seina muttered under her breath.

"Yep, fark," agreed Geith

"Will your people come?"

"Eventually, if my message got through they may already be on the way. If you want I can put another coded distress call out."

Seina hesitated as she considered the Jedi opposite her. The Force was telling her that he was being honest with her and that he was trustworthy. The trouble was that she was trusting him with not only her life but those of the surviving Jensaaari.

"Tell me about these Force Adepts," instructed Seina.

Geith nodded, "I'd be happy to but before I do there is one more thing I can suggest. The trouble is that I don't know if it will work. If it doesn't I could make matters worse."

Seina looked unamused, "Worse than this?"

"I might be able to use a Force trick to repair the broken parts enough to last another few jumps. Trouble is that I've never tried it on something as big as this."

Seina could sense the truth in his words but couldn't fathom how he might do something like repair components. "Show me."

Geith nodded and looked around, "Okay, here." He picked up a bent and discoloured metal plate. "This was off one of the coolant tanks." He grasped his lightsaber and concentrated on the piece, "Reparo."

Before Seina astonished eyes, the metal bent back into shape and the discolouration disappeared, leaving the metal plate looking almost brand new.

"What…how? Was that the Force?" asked Seina.

"Yes, just not the way we usually use it," explained Geith.

"And you can repair the ship with this?" asked Seina.

Geith grimaced, "Ah, maybe…I haven't really done anything as big as this. There are some among the Adepts that can."

"I see, do you think you can do it?" asked Seina.

"Maybe, I think I need to meditate on it," replied Geith.

Seina studied the Jedi, sensing his concern. "Maybe your people will get here before it becomes an issue. Even if we can get sublight engines back we can make it to one of the nearby systems. Regardless, I don't like that we are so close to the Suabi System. If they are still looking for us we don't have long before they find us."

"All factors to consider," agreed Geith. "I'll seek guidance from the Force."
"Alright everyone settle down," called out Amelia Bones from the head of the magically enlarged table in the Weasleys backyard. "Firstly I'd like to thank Arthur and Molly for the wonderful meal at such short notice. I feel a bit guilty talking business."

Molly blushed and Arthur inclined his head in thanks.

"Lord Black or his representatives have, I believe, spoken with each of you regarding his requests. So I won't be going over them here. Instead, I want to talk to you about the future and the future of the Wizarding world in particular. The assistance we supplied to the Jedi refugees has raised a number of questions that we had not even considered. The foremost of these was the now very real possibility of off-world wizarding enclaves. I believe that Master Yoda and the Jedi Council would welcome an enclave on Praxia.

There is also the option of our own, standalone exploration and settlement to consider. Given the ever-increasing risk of exposure, I think now is the perfect time to start considering our options. Regrettably, this broader universe is not without perils. Harry Potter himself warned us of those dangers and we would be fools not to heed that advice. So I am proposing that any colonies we create are situated far from the more heavily populated systems…"

The Minister dropped much of her formality as she spoke and by the time she had finished most of those present were looking interested as they spoke to others around the table. When a break was called Sirius took Andromeda's arm and led her a few steps away from the others gathered around the small table laden with drinks and pastries.

"What do you think Andy?" asked Sirius.

"I think Amelia's being very ambitious but in a good way," replied Andromeda with a smile. "Ted will be annoyed he missed the speech."

"I wanted to ask you if you still want to come with us. Given Amelia's plans, you could be a part of it, if that's what you want."

"So, you won't let me be a part of your plans?" asked Andromeda.

Sirius smiled ruefully in defeat, "If you want in I'll clear it with the others. I just hope you are prepared for how different it will be. There is a lot to learn."

"I don't think I'll be the only one asking," said Andromeda as she gestured toward where Charlie and the twins were gathered around their father.

---

The Lily - Suabi System

The Lily re-entered relativistic space at the edge of the Suabi System and immediately proximity alarms sounded in the cockpit.

"Bloody hell, it's a fleet," cursed Harry as he sent the Lily into a corkscrew spiral to avoid a Dreadnaught-class heavy cruiser and a swarm of ARC-170 starfighters.

"Deflectors are up, we have company closing on us," warned Luna.
"I see them," acknowledged Harry. "Prepare to jump out of here."

"They claim the system is interdicted," reported Luna. "It's a blockade."

The Lily rocked as two shots grazed their rear deflectors.

"The Cruiser is closing," warned Luna.

Harry sent the ship into another series of evasive turns, "There are too many of the bastards, we're nearly encapsulated here."

In a space battle encapsulation was bad news as it effectively allowed your enemy to fire at you from every angle. A tactic that quickly overloaded even the best shields.

"Give me a minute Harry, I'm almost finished the calculations," said Luna, fingers flying over the Navcomps controls.

The ship was thrown forward by a massive hit and immediately alarms began to sound.

Luna, who had been thrown forward, was bleeding from a cut on her forehead as she turned to Harry, "Shields are nearly gone Harry, that was the Cruiser. Another hit like that and we are done."

Harry didn't respond instead he let the Force guide him. Twisting and turning he flew the Lily through the seemingly impenetrable storm of weapons fire.

With the Force guiding him he spun the Lily as the huge cruiser came up behind them firing as it came.

Then they were in Hyperspace.

"Harry?"

Harry came out of his nearly meditative state.

"Good flying," said Luna as she touched the bleeding cut just below her hairline.

"Here hold still," said Harry as he cast a healing spell on her forehead. "How's that feel?"

"Better, we need to…"

The Lily lurched and dropped out of Hyperspace.

Luna was interrupted by the alarms sounding. Then the lights flickered before dimming dramatically. Both turned to their controls to see what was happening.

"Whoa," muttered Harry. "What the hell was that? We've got systems down all over the ship."

"Alor Potter?"

Harry turned to see a Mandalorian at the cockpit hatch.

"Internal comms are down Alor. We have injuries back here and power is fluctuating," reported the female warrior calmly.

A grim-faced Ret appeared beside the Mandalorian, "It was either an Ion cannon or some other form of EMP weapon. I've seen them before. If we are lucky, it's fried half the electronics on the ship. It
will take time to sort out what's working and what we can fix. Good news is that life support and backup power must still be operating, at least for now."

"Right, let's triage our people and check the ship," ordered Harry. "Luna you start with the injured. Call me if you need me. Ret, you are with me."

Thirty minutes later the news was grim.

The Lily had been hit with either an ion cannon or more likely, a new form of EMP weapon and Ret hadn't finished with the bad news.

Ret held up a small, flat disk, "We sent an astromech droid out to survey the damage. It found three of these, so far. They had already begun transmitting before R-Six disabled them."

"So they may know where we are?" asked Luna.

Ret shrugged, looking grim. "Maybe, no idea what the range is."

Even with magic to repair things the Lily was in a bad way. Nearly every electrical component, even shielded ones had taken damage. Some were so damaged that they were overloading almost immediately.

"So what are our choices?" asked Luna. "Can the ship be fixed?"

"The short answer is yes, although we need to put her down somewhere to do so. There are a lot of things on board that will need to be taken apart to be fixed and checked," explained Ret.

"Can we land her safely given the damage?" asked Salara.

"We can although it will be risky," warned Harry. "If one of the systems fails when we are in atmosphere…well I'm sure you can see what I'm saying."

"So what now?" asked Velath.

"Now, we find a suitable planet or moon in this system," said Luna. "Hide the ship and hope we can get the Lily fixed before they find us."

The planet below was habitable, if rather cold and the entire southern landmass looked to be unpopulated.

"The sensors are all but useless but as far as I can tell we should be able to safely land the ship," reported Harry. "The other planets are either outside the green belt of the local star or they are dead planets. The fifth planet is really our only choice."

Luna peered at the grainy image on the screen, "We don't have much of a choice do we?"

"No, no we don't," muttered Harry before raising his voice. "Velath, get everyone else into the escape pods. With the inbuilt crash systems, they are the safest place to be."

"I'll get them moving…when we go to land, I'd rather stay with you Mistress," said Velath.

Luna smiled as she reached out and gently cupped Velath's chin, "I understand, you may take the third seat in the cockpit. But first get the others to the escape pods."
Velath nodded, "Of course Mistress."

Harry was busy checking systems, trying to determine what worked that he would need for a successful descent. After a few minutes, he turned away from the controls with a grimace. "The Lily is holding together for now. But the sooner we get moving on this the better."

Harry nursed the ship through the bumpy ride through the upper atmosphere and things were going well until they lost nearly half the available thrust as the sublight engines fluctuated. It was now a desperate race to get the ship down safely.

"Brace yourselves," yelled Harry as the tundra-like landscape filled the cockpit window.

"I'm not sure it's enough love," cautioned Luna.

Harry reached up and activated an override, "I'm jettisoning the escape pods, at this altitude the chutes will deploy automatically if thrusters fail. Velath…"

"My place is here. Escape pods are all away," confirmed Velath.

"She's getting difficult to hold on course," reported Harry.

"Velath grab the survival kit behind you," ordered Luna.

The ride on the Lily became much worse. Velath, holding on with one hand, did as she was instructed and pulled a hard-shelled backpack out from a compartment on the bridge.

"I have it."

"Get strapped in" ordered Harry as he fought with the controls.

Luna adjusted the settings on her board, "We're slowing. I've put everything I can into the deflectors."

Harry didn't answer as he immersed himself in the Force, using every bit of control and skill he could muster to keep the nose of the Lily up, bleeding off speed. Then ahead of them, there was open grassland.

"I'm taking her in," announced Harry as the ship descended. Then they hit the ground, the ship skidded, skimming the frozen ground like a rock on a pond. Once, twice….three times, four times and then they were down. The Lily slowly settling at an odd angle as the Deflector shields shut off.

"Well that was exciting," said Luna in a bright cheery voice.

The damage was bad, but nothing that couldn't be fixed.

Harry finished inspecting the underside of the Lily as Luna held the ship off the ground with the Force. With a gesture, he summoned the scattered rocks building rough pedestals for the ship to sit on.

"Ease her down Luna," instructed Harry.

The Lily settled on to the new stone pedestals, settling slightly but finally sitting safely in place.
Luna took a deep, shuddering breath and stumbled forward a step even as Velath reached out to steady her.

"I'm fine Velath, just a bit winded so to speak. How bad is it?" asked Luna.

Harry grinned, "Structurally the hull isn't too bad at all. With lost a few sensor pods but nothing critical." His grin faded a bit as he glanced in the open hatch. "I suspect she has more damage to systems than we'd like."

"So not too bad," agreed Luna.

"No, not too bad. A few days, maybe a week at worst."

"We are receiving a communication," Velath advised them as she pulled out comm from her utility belt. She activated the device and a small image of Ret appeared.

"It's good to see you all," said Ret. "How's the Lily?"

"A bit banged up but in one piece," replied Harry. "Have you had any contact with the others?"

"I've got them with me, our pods were grouped fairly close together," reported Ret. "We've got a lock on your position and...hold on," Ret's image flickered, as it appeared to look up and around. "Something just did a flyby...I...not Repub..."

The image flickered and died.

"Right, Luna disillusion the Lily," ordered Harry as the Force began sending him signals of approaching danger.

Even as he finished speaking, the sound of engines could be heard.

Luna quickly cast the spell and Harry gestured for them to move underneath the ship. As they peered up from underneath the Lily, a transport appeared from behind the clouds. It didn't look military, in fact, it was an older model ship.

The ship circled and then began to descend. As it did, Harry, Luna and Velath took up their lightsabers.

Harry studied the ship as its ramp lowered to the ground. There was a strong Force presence on the newly arrived ship, no several strong and familiar Force presences. As he watched three figures walked down the ramp, stopping halfway. The lead was a huge figure, dressed in what looked to be some sort of leather armour.

The other two were dressed in what looked to be mismatched clone armour.

"I know you are there Jedi, I can sense you," said the huge figure. "Your little trick may fool my eyes but not my other senses."

Harry turned to look at Luna who raised an eyebrow.

"I am losing my patience, come out Jedi or I will dispose of your friends, one by one."

The figure turned and called out something in some unknown language and one of the Mandalorians that had been on board the Lily was dragged out by two humans and thrown down the ramp, "I get paid a bounty on Jedi, so no reason to keep this one, eh."
The figure raised drew a blaster and took aim at the apparently unconscious woman.

"Distract them," ordered Harry as activated his lightsaber. "Once I'm among them get the others out."

Luna sent a stunner at the man that missed as he managed to get out of the way.

With a loud pop, Harry appeared behind the man with a blaster cutting him down. As the other two raised their weapons, he was already on them. At the top of the ramp, Luna and Velath appeared and cut down the two surprised men, then ran inside.

Harry however was forced to block a barrage of shots as his two opponents opened fire.

They might not be Clone warriors but they were fast and accurate. With a gesture, Harry pulled one guard forward, into the path of his companions weapon fire even as he sent a blasting curse into the other's chest.

Far from fading the feeling of approaching danger was growing.

With that, he rushed up the ramp.

Sensing the others he quickly made his way aft. Using the Force to open the hatch he came face to face with Luna and Velath.

"The pilot and one other guard are dead. The others are safe, out cold but safe," reported Luna. "It looks like they have been taken down with some sort of stun device. I'd try and wake them but I think we need to get out of here, quickly."

Harry nodded, "I can sense it too."

They quickly began transferring everyone to the Lily. As Velath levitated and unconscious Ret onboard the distinctive whine of engines could be heard.

"Oh bloody hell," complained Harry. "I guess they did track us."

Overhead six dropships were descending.

 cloning commando Blackout grimaced beneath his obscuring Helmet as the figure in red and grey. He had no trust in Bounty Hunters, and this one, in particular, was a nightmare.

"We are two minutes out, and nothing from your people Sing," Blackout told Aurra Sing.

Sing shrugged, "They are already dead then, no great loss, they were amateurs and they did their job." She studied the monitor for a moment before turning to Blackout. "Deploy your men to attack Commander. We are facing Jedi here so we need to overwhelm them quickly. Don't give them time to think."

"I know how Jedi fight Bounty Hunter," Blackout replied stiffly.

"Good, then don't botch it, Clone," said Sing.

Blackout turned away from the Bounty Hunter and switched to his company's private channel, "Alright listen up, we've got Jedi grounded below so we are going in hot. Assuming that we get the chance, I want them taken out quickly."
Blackouts transport was the last down and by the time he had boots on the ground his experienced troops were already in position. Frowning, he studied the bounty hunters ship. There were five bodies visible from where he stood but there was no other movement. A strange distortion but no movement…wait, what was he thinking? Shaking his head he went back to studying the Bounty Hunters ship.

Beside the Clone Commander, Aurra Sing was using the Force to try and work out where her quarry had disappeared to, given that Hovat and his crew had made contact with them and nothing had left the area. She glanced at the clone to see him shake his head and then refocus on Hovat's ship.

Something was wrong with the scene below, she just couldn't quite put her finger on it. She looked around the area again…yes, Hovat's ship was there…wait, "Commander scan for heat sources."

Blackout shrugged and ordered one of his troopers to scan the area below.

"There are two large heat signatures, and power readings showing. But we can only see one ship," reported a Clone beside Blackout.

"What is it a cloak of some sort?" asked Blackout.

In reply, Sing growled, "It's a stinking Jedi using some sort of mind trick on us."

"Well, there are ways to find out," muttered Blackout before raising his voice. "Do you need your man's ship?"

Sing shrugged, "Not particularly."

"I want heavy weapons fire dispersed across the entire area around that ship," ordered Blackout.

Harry watched the Clones from the relative safety of the Lily.

"There's a Force user out there, a very angry one," said Luna. "She's frustrated but I'm pretty sure she knows we're here."

"Then we need to take these Clones and our new friend out fast," suggested Harry.

"Normandy, I'd suggest that we apparate behind them, but there are too many and they are well spread out," Luna looked thoughtful for a moment before she smiled. "I've got a plan."

Sing watched the Clones set up a trio of Z-6 rotary blaster cannons. The Clones worked with practised efficiency that marked them as professionals. Sing turned back to see something move among the rocks. She was about to point out the movement when a Clone pointed to a different cluster of rocks behind Hovat's ship.

"There they are!" announced the Clone as he opened fire.

"There," shouted another Clone as he swung away from the area below and opened fire. "They're trying to flank us."

"Where are the targets?" demanded Blackout.

Sing swung her sniper Rifle up so she could look through the scope. There was movement in the
rocks but on the other side of the clearing. She tried to get a shot but then she felt a shiver of warning and rolled to the side as lightsaber blade slammed into the dirt beside her. Looking up she saw a familiar face.

"Kenobi," hissed Sing.

Kenobi saluted her and swung his lightsaber at her, forcing her to roll away even as she drew her own lightsaber.

Blackout cursed as he watched Sing and about half his men fighting nothing.

"What is going on?" he demanded.

A cracking noise behind him caused him to turn, "What…" he managed before he was beheaded by Velath.

The confusion amongst the Clones made them easy targets in that first thirty seconds. A junior officer tried to restore order but by then it was too late.

Harry swung one of the Z'6's toward a group of Clones and opened fire. He managed to take down quite a few before their return fire forced him to start blocking.

Velath spun, blocking a shot before she cut down another of her opponents. Harry couldn't help but notice that her style was very much like Luna's but more aggressive. His observations were cut short by two Clones that sent a stream of blaster fire his way, forcing him away from the tripod mounted blaster. He sent one Clone spinning to the ground with a deflected shot and managed to catch the other with a blasting curse. He was turning back to Velath when the Force warned him to move.

Even with the warning, he was thrown forward by the blast from one of the dropships.

Luna's control over the Force projections she was using was beyond impressive, but it was not something she could maintain indefinitely. Apparently, she was starting to lose focus and some of the affected Clones were breaking free of the illusion.

Before he could close with the ship it's turret and cockpit were hit by a succession of blasting curses. A quick look showed Velath tracking the next dropship with her lightsaber. Luna's protégé was handling the dropships so he turned back to the Clones and the Force sensitive with them.

The remaining Clones were sheltering behind some of the larger rocks sending blaster fire toward both himself and Velath. Concentrating, he apparated behind the Clones and immediately attacked.

A wide sweeping attack cut down two of them as he kicked out smashing his foot into the third Clone's helmet with a Force enhanced kick that sent the Clone to the ground. As he began to turn something smashed into him, sending him tumbling to the ground.

Rolling to his feet he turned, just in time to catch a kick to the chest that sent him stumbling back and losing a hold of his lightsaber.

"Time to die Jedi," hissed Aurra Sing as she leapt at him igniting a red-bladed lightsaber as she did.

Harry managed to avoid the attack with a burst of Force enhanced speed but it was a near thing, so near in fact that it had left a scorch mark on his back.

Using the Force, he attempted to push his attacker backwards but the woman avoided it and charged toward him once again. This time he sent Force lightning at the woman. Clearly, it was an attack she
had not expected because it caught her in the chest and blasted her backward to smash into the rocks.

Harry gestured and summoned his lightsaber back and glanced around the unmoving figures that littered the ground, "What a waste."

"Master Harry," called out Velath. "The others are waking up."

oOoOo
Chapter 29

Chapter 29 – A New Order

Last Time:

*Using the Force, he attempted to push his attacker backwards but the woman avoided it and charged toward him once again. This time he sent Force lightning at the woman. Clearly, it was an attack she had not expected, because it caught her in the chest and blasted her backward to smash into the rocks.*

*Harry gestured and summoned his lightsaber back and glanced around the unmoving figures that littered the ground, "What a waste."*

"*Master Harry," called out Velath. "The others are waking up."*

oOoOo

**Imperial HoloNet News Service**

**Loyalist Worlds Announce Recruitment Drive**

Admiral Jirad of the Imperial Naval Academy announces new recruitment drive on loyalist worlds. "There are real incentives for those citizens who wish to serve," explained Admiral Jirad. "Thanks to the ongoing conflict with several systems that are now engaging in terrorist strikes we are looking at expanding the fleet. Loyal citizens can apply at any Imperial Information station." [Read more here]

oOoOo

Geith resisted the urge to indulge in some multilingual swearing. Systems all over the ship were failing and he didn't have the parts or time to fix them. There was an option, magic. He just wished he had paid more attention to Hermione's lessons. He knew that she had advised caution fixing complicated components because you might not fix everything with one spell. He just couldn't remember the details. However, things were now grim enough that he was willing to try.

Blinking away the lingering, acrid smoke of burnt out components he touched his lightsaber to the power conduit and cast the mend spell.

He studied the conduit as closely as he could. It looked repaired.

Looking to his left, he could see a pair of small, booted feet. "Seina, can you please try the power systems again?"

There was a long pause and then the sound of beeping and alarms…that stayed on.

"How does it look?"

Seina's face appeared as she bent over to look under the heavy console, "We have power to life support."

Geith grinned at her, "Never doubted it for a second."

Seina raised an eyebrow before disappearing. "It's holding too."
"Then we've got a fair bit of work to do."

oOoOo

At least everyone was back on his or her feet, thought Harry as he looked over the crew of the Lily.

"Alright everyone we need to move fast because I have no idea how long it will be until we have more unwelcome visitors. Ret, Velath can you secure the Clones. Make sure that they can't cause us any problems. Then check out whatever data they have on them. Check their ships as well. Whatever we can safely get. Everyone else split into two teams. We need to check the Lily and the other ship to see if they are spaceworthy. We also need to start repairs and check for anymore tracking devices."

Everyone got the message that haste was needed.

They began by summoning the trackers.

Ten minutes later, the news was not good.

"How bad is it?" Harry asked Luna as she returned from engineering.

"Pretty bad," replied Luna. "There are hundreds of systems with thousands of components that are all damaged. Back on Haven, we could fully fix it in hours. Here, maybe two days."

"We don't have two days," replied Harry.

"If we fix it with magic and we miss something, well one mistake could kill us all," argued Luna."I think we need to leave the Lily."

Harry grimaced, "I know, we've got maybe an hour."

"Maybe less, I can sense growing danger all around us," said Luna.

"Damn it," muttered Harry. "Right get everyone aboard the freighter."

Luna nodded and hurried off.

Harry studied the Lily before silently admitting that they had, indeed run out of time. Given that disillusioning, the Lily was not foolproof and they didn't have the time to repair or strip the ship, there was really only one option.

Whoever was in orbit would, by now have realised their people had failed. Luna had clearly passed on his orders as his crew began moving gear into the freighter. Moving quickly, he made his way to the armoury. Luckily, he got there before the two Mandalorians had finished emptying it.

"Hold on, I need a few things."

oOoOo

When the freighter lifted off and headed skyward, a series of huge explosions tore the Lily apart.

oOoOo

A grimacing Luna finished entering co-ordinated into the nav-comp and turned to Harry. "What a piece of second, no third rate rubbish. Assuming this flying piece of junk doesn't explosively decompress, we are clear to jump to hyperspace once we are out of the gravity well."
Harry glanced at the control panel and mentally catalogued the alarming number of amber and red lights. "So, great just a small fleet to outrun."

"Actually...no. There are only a few fighters and what looks like a gunboat...a bit hard to tell really, these sensors are rubbish," reported Luna.

"Why would...they must be searching the entire system!" exclaimed Harry. "There was a Force sensitive planetside who sensed us, but the clones are doing a textbook search of the system."

Luna didn't reply as she stared blankly ahead before shaking herself, "Harry their fleet has just appeared in lunar orbit."

Harry acknowledged the warning by changing course. "We're nearly there."

Luna frowned and began flipping switches, "We have got some minor power fluctuations...nothing that should impact the jump. This really is a bad ship." She began changing settings on the control panel. "Hope we don't have to make another jump in this heap."

"We're clear," announced Harry as they left the Gravity well behind. "Jumping to Hyperspace...now."

oOoOo

"Our situation has only marginally improved," observed Luna as she fanned the acrid smoke away from her face.

"You were right, it's a heap of crap," acknowledged Harry as he shut the panel he was peering into. "The good news is that it was a secondary system that blew. Looks like the previous owner was too tight to get equipment fixed properly. It was bypassed, a real hack job."

Luna smiled, "Good, well I'll go check on everyone."

"And I'll get in contact with home."

It was a few moments work to check the communications equipment. It was top of the line, military spec equipment. A few moments later he prepared a secure, scrambled channel to Haven. Except it wasn't working. Short Range was fine but longrange was offline. Frowning he ran a quick diagnostic.

*Enter Command Code*

Bugger.

Harry quickly studied the system trying to find a bypass. However, it was soon clear that they didn't want people to make any unauthorised long distance calls.

Opening a channel, he sent an encrypted message. It probably wouldn't reach any Haven-based ships but it didn't hurt to try.

oOoOo

Geith grinned as main power came back online. It was just holding around sixty percent but that was enough, "Seina?"

"Engines, life support, deflectors...hyperdrive. It is all back online," announced Seina over the comm.
Geith patted the power plant, "Right, I'm coming forward."

Moving through the ship, he passed a number of Seina's people. Most acknowledged him with polite nods. Considering all the suspicious looks he had initially received, it was rather a large improvement.

In the cockpit, Seina was checking systems helped by one of her Jensaarai students.

"Still holding?" asked Geith as he walked in.

"Twenty-two percent with every critical system running," reported Seina.

Geith looked pleased, "Better than what we had expected. That will get us to where we need to go."

Seina straightened, "Then as Saarai-kaar of the Jensaarai I ask for your assistance."

Geith bowed, "I would offer my assistance freely Saarai-kaar." He somewhat ruined the formality by grinning. "But first, I had better call Haven."

"Of course," replied Seina.

Geith adjusted the controls of the comm to the correct settings and entered the correct code.

After a few moments of silence, there came a slightly distorted reply, "This is Haven control."

"Haven, it's Geith Eris…and friends."

A moment passed and a familiar voice sounded, "Geith, it's good to hear your voice."

Geith smiled, "Master Altis, good to hear your voice too. I have some refugees aboard a banged up freighter called the Star Ryder. I've made some repairs that should be enough to get us back home."

"If you are sure. We got your distress call but haven't been able to contact you or the crew of the Lily."

Geith frowned, "The Lily?"

"You haven't made contact with Harry. They responded to your distress call in the…ah Suabi System."

Geith winced, "There was a blockade fleet in the system, we escaped but were badly damaged in the process. If the Lily jumped into the system they may have been hit as well."

"Sith-spawned timing," muttered Altis. "We have a lot of missing people right now, so we might be short-handed on another rescue. You are closest but in a damaged ship."

"We can do a scan at least," argued Geith. "If they got away they may need help."

"Are your passengers able to help?"

Geith glanced at Seina, who nodded. "They are."

"Then do what you can, but don't risk more lives Geith. Altis out."

Geith closed the channel and turned to Seina, "Thank you."

"The Jensaarai owe you and your people," replied Seina.
"Right, we need to plot a search grid…"

Kylen looked up from the sensor results as the comm indicated an incoming message. The screen showed that it was on the channel the Jedi, Geith had been using. Logging the time, he summoned his Mistress and the Jedi to the cockpit.

"What is it Kylen?" asked Seina.

"A coded message, same channel as you used before," explained Kylen.

Geith entered his code and the message played.

"This is Harry Potter aboard Freighter Three Gamma Five Nine, cod Six Three Seven Yityl system."

"Right, messages," Geith quickly retransmitted the message to Haven. He made sure to inform Haven control that he was going to start a search for the Lily.

"What is main power looking like?" asked Seina.

Kylen studied the engineering panel for a moment; "Everything is online, although we have limited power reserves."

"Then we had better lay in a course for the Yityl system."

"I wouldn't recommend heading home until we can fully check for any sort of hidden beacon or tracking device," advised Ret.

"On their own ship?" asked Luna.

Ret gestured toward the comm unit, "They were either slavers or bounty hunters. Or maybe both, such scum often take precautions."

Harry winced, "So if we head home, we could be leading the straight to Haven."

"Well, then we need to do what we can. This system has an asteroid field that we can hide in. It should confuse sensors," suggested Salara.

"Good idea," agreed Harry. "We also need to get some rest while we can. I suggest we stand down anyone we can and let them get some sleep. And before you ask Luna, you are going first."

Despite her token protests, Luna fell asleep straight away.

As she entered a deeper sleep, she began to dream.

…Luna watched as a figure in black knelt before a life-sized hologram.

"The plan is in motion Master," reported the kneeling figure.

"Good, and the assets?" asked the hooded figure.

Luna realised that it was Palpatine.
"Dead, as you foresaw Master."

"Bounty Hunters are crude tools my Apprentice, but even a poor tool can be of use. Take half your squadron and the 501'st to Jedha, secure the Temple and await my orders. The other ships are to redeploy to the outer rim. If you are correct, then we shall soon confirm the location of these Adepts and our assault can begin."

The kneeler looked up and Luna felt a wave of shock.

It was Ron Weasley…at least physically. She had never seen Ron wearing such a malevolent expression.

"And I shall lead the assault. Then she will be mine…as you promised," said Ron's doppelganger.

There was silence for a moment before Palpatine responded. "As I promised Apprentice."

The Hologram winked out and the kneeling figure laughed, "Soon…"

Luna watched, horrified and fascinated as doppelganger Ron stood and turned to her. His eyes were studying the area of the room where she stood.

"Ah the Adepts pet seer…Luna Lovegood is it not?" His voice was calm, controlled.

Not that Luna was comforted, she was far more concerned about how was he sensing her in a dream?

"Don't worry, I can't see you Luna. I am however quite skilled at sensing the hidden. I can sense your presence in the Force. Perhaps, if I tried hard enough I could glean your location. But you are lucky, hunting you down to kill you would waste time and I have so much to do."

'I need to wake up,' Luna told herself. Repeating it like a mantra.

"I'll be seeing you and your friends soon. But here's a little gift to remember me by and a taste of things to come," he smiled but there was no humour in it, just cold, sadistic pleasure. With a theatrical gesture, he pushed a button on the device he wore on his wrist.

"I've been seeing to the extermination of vermin of late. Nevertheless, I did manage to ah, acquire a few treats. My master is generous like that," the last was said with a great deal of sarcasm. "You should consider this payment for spying on your betters."

The door slid open and two black uniformed clones dragged a naked girl in, threw her to the floor and left.

Luna watched on helplessly as 'Ron' used the Force to pick her up by the neck.

"This is former Padawan Lyvette of the Jedi Order. She has been most helpful…after she was shown what happens when she was not," he made a fist and the now struggling girl began choking. "Sadly, for her, she has almost outlived her usefulness."

Luna's anger grew as he watched the girl's struggles lessen as she began to fade into unconsciousness.

"I could kill her of course. My Master has made it clear that those who can't be turned to endeavours that are more useful should be terminated. I could just snap her neck," he turned to look toward Luna. "But where is the fun in that. She still has a use. After all, as a loyal citizen, she should be
pleased to entertain the troops." His sinister leer left little doubt as to his meaning.

'No,' whispered Luna.

'Ron' laughed, "Ah...I caught a bit of that despair. How it must hurt to know you are powerless to stop it. Don't worry I'll give you the same, personal attention when we meet in person. Remember my name woman, I am Darth Tenebris."

Luna tried to gather the Force to do something.

Then she was awake, with a concerned looking Harry looking down at her.

oOoOo

"It was Ron...or at least a clone of Ron," explained Luna to the adepts who had gathered in the small cabin.

"Damn, Palpatine must have taken a DNA sample when Ron was captured," said Harry. "This could be bad."

Ret cleared his throat, "Worst case scenario is that this Tenebris is, as he claims, a Sith. One with Ron's abilities. Not good, but Ron isn't the most powerful among us. Did you actually see him use magic?"

Luna shook her head, "No."

"This feels like a set up for a trap," said Harry. "If this Sith knew you were listening, while tell you anything, why say anything?"

Salara grimaced, "To make us go looking for him."

"We may want to do that anyway given that he's after someone on Haven," added Luna.

"I suspect he's a clone. He's Force sensitive and he may have the capacity to use magic but that doesn't mean he's got any idea how to. That just makes him a Sith. A threat, but a normal one," stated Ret.

"A Sith wearing my old friends face. We need to warn Haven and we need to make sure of its security before any of our ships head home. As for Jedha, besides it's historical and religious significance why target it? The Jedi have been gone from there for thousands of years," questioned Harry.

"There are large deposits of Kyber crystals, for lightsabers. However, that doesn't make sense. There are other ways to get them. Why take over the temple?" asked Luna.

Harry sighed, "We are going to end up going there aren't we?"

"If we know it's a trap we have the chance of avoiding it," said Ret.

"Well then, we have to get moving. First thing is communications..." began Harry.

oOoOo

Velath glanced at the comm and then looked at the channel and then the encryption information on the screen, "Mistress."
Luna appeared in the open hatch, "What is it?"

"We are being hailed by a ship over the encrypted channel," she reported.

Luna didn't hesitate, reaching out she opened the channel, "This is Luna."

"Good to hear a friendly voice," came the cheerful reply. "This is Geith Eris aboard the Star Ryder. We got your message Luna. Do you need immediate assistance?"

"Not right now, however you do have excellent timing Geith. Our comm's are restricted so I need you to send out a warning to all our ships. They need to stay away from Haven. We have reason to believe that some of them are being tracked. We're not sure how."

"Acknowledged, I'll send it now. There was something else. I have some passengers onboard."

Harry and Luna watched as Geith brought the Star Ryder alongside their battered freighter. After a few moments, the airlock cycled to green and opened.

Geith stepped out, followed by a woman in red armour.

Harry stepped forward, "Welcome aboard Saarai-kaar Seina."

Seina nodded politely, "Just Saarai-kaar or Seina, Adept Potter."

Harry smiled, "Then just Harry will do."

"And I'm Luna," said Luna with a wide smile.

"I believe that we may need to dispense with the pleasantries given our situation," said Seina.

"Good advice," agreed Harry. "Given the fact that there is a possibility the ships are being tracked, we need to find somewhere to set down and either check the ships out or get new transport. If we can we should try and get in contact with whoever else is out here."

"And we need to get your people to safety before we head to Jedha," added Luna.

Seina frowned, "I agree that my younger charges should be somewhere safe. However, your enemy is now mine. They took nearly everything from us, from me. If what Geith has told me is true then I will help you, as best I am able. My honour demands no less."

Harry silently studied Seina before looking at Luna, who barely hesitated before nodding. Geith looked like he was about to protest when Harry bowed to Seina, "I accept your offer Saarai-kaar."

After In the end it was decided that they would relocate to another system in the Outer Rim. Even with magic, they needed time to repair both ships. The problem was finding the right planet.

"The outer rim is dangerous at the moment with Palpatine trying to hunt down Force Sensitives. We need somewhere that won't attract attention," said Harry.

"What about the Kissmaano System?" asked Seina. "It's only got one populated world and that's mostly mining camps. The other three are marginal, desert worlds. No native populations and very little activities. One of my… former students had family that mined the system."
Luna pulled the system up on the computer. "It looks good. No ties to the Republic or the CIS. It was all private enterprise. The third planet is probably our best bet, far enough away from the mining colonies that we shouldn't encounter anyone."

"Are both ships capable of making the jump?" asked Harry.

"The Star Ryder still needs some minor repairs but it is spaceworthy," reported Geith.

"This heap of junk…well, it's spaceworthy, just," said Ret. "It will be fine to jump but after that, we need to pull apart some of the systems."

"Well let's get moving everyone," said Luna with a smile.

They had just made it back to the cockpit when he received word from Geith on the Star Ryder that Altis had called regarding another ship of refugees in their vicinity.

"Way things are going we are going to end up with our own fleet," muttered Harry. "Fine Geith, tell Djinn that we are moving to the Kissmaano system. Can they make it there?"

A moment later Geith came back on the line, "They're in an old transport. Kalid, found eight former Jedi Agri-corps youngsters of Lythos Nine before they could be killed."

Harry remembered Kalid, he was a solid, smart Altisian Jedi, "Sounds like he did well. There will be more like them, if we are lucky. Although, I fear that too many never got the chance to escape."

"I'll get things moving here Harry, Star Ryder out."

Harry sat down and considered this new information as he began programming the Hyperspace jump. Luna began running systems diagnostics, checking that the repairs they had made were holding.

"I'm done," said Harry as he turned to Luna.

"Everything essential is operational," reported Luna.

Harry reported their status and then watched as the Star Ryder disappeared into Hyperspace. Activating the Hyperdrive, he watched as the stars streaked past.

"We can't take all these people to Jedha," said Luna.

"I know, considering the situation I was thinking a group of five. You, me, Salara, Velath and maybe one of the Mandalorians."

"What about Seina?" asked Luna.

"Do we want to risk her? She's the leader of her people," argued Harry.

Luna shook her head, "Something tells me that we'll need her."

Kissmaano III (or the planet of stink as it was dubbed by Sahdra) was a barren desert world with large wind-eroded peaks. And yes, it stank. Like rotting fish heads. It was not clear what caused the all-pervading stink and so they did their best to ignore it.
When working outside Luna had used Bubblehead charms, which made it more bearable although the interior of the freighter still stank.

"I can see why nobody lives here," commented Sahdra as she and Velath carried a partially disassembled sensor pod up the ramp.

Velath nodded in agreement, as she gestured toward the hatch control, using the Force to open the hatch.

"Look!" exclaimed Sahdra.

Velath turned her head to see where her partner was looking. A light freighter was descending.

Kalid grinned as soon as he saw the welcoming party. Waving he hurried over followed by eight teenagers aged between maybe eleven and seventeen.

"Wow, this place farking stinks!" said Kalid as he reached them.

"It sure does," replied Luna. "But it is deserted."

"There is that," agreed Kalid before he straightened and assumed an attentive pose. "Adept Kalid reporting."

Harry gestured toward the Star Ryder, "There is a lot to talk about. Let's get inside and away from the smell."

Harry and Luna briefed Kalid, who agreed that they needed to find out what was happening on Jedha, despite the risk it was a trap. The 'loss' of Haven as a safe destination concerned him a great deal. "We've got two shiploads of children that are also our concern. I had hoped to take them to Haven or maybe arrange transport to the Jedi. What do we do with them now?"

Harry pulled up a map of the Kyber Temple and the surrounding city, "I think most of us will have to stay here, with some protection of course. A small team might be the best option as far as Jedha is concerned. We're not going there to start a war."

Geith frowned but nodded, "A small team might be best, but what about backup?"

"A backup team is not a bad idea given that we have suspicions it might be a trap. But, we also need to consider how many people we are risking," said Luna.

"Maybe a second team on the ship?" suggested Salara. "Like we did on Mandalore, and if we take Kalid's ship it shouldn't have any connection with us."

Earth - London

Sirius Black was less than happy when he saw the number of people waiting in the Tonks' dining room. Turning his head slightly, he whispered to Remus and Sev'rance, "Who are all these bloody people?"

Amelia Bones stood and walked over, "Alright, settle down. Sirius, these are the warders, healers
and spell crafters that have been assisting the Jedi on Praxia. Each of them has played a vital role in that project. Along with Grobak,” she inclined her head toward a thin Goblin seated beside Charlie Weasley. "From Gringotts, we have every major person here. All of them have been handpicked for the next stage of our project. In six months, we, with the help of the Jedi, will be establishing a colony on Praxia. Our plans are to learn what we need to enable us to go even further afield."

Sirius looked surprised, "That's quick."

Amelia nodded, "I know, but something is telling me that trouble is coming between the magic and non-magic communities. I'm doing my best to keep a lid on things but the Prime minister is less than pleased with the Ministry. Unsurprising given the number of deaths the ministry has covered up in the last ten years."

Sirius scratched his chin, "It's ambitious, but it does sound like a good idea."

"We'll help as much as we can," added Remus.

"I had hoped you would. Although, with what you have shared with us I understand that you might well be tied up elsewhere," said Amelia with a warm smile. "I do have one thing to offer. Hermione told Arthur that she is after books on magical healing."

"Hermione was keen to seek out new resources," said Sev'rance.

"Well, I have a proposition that might help us both. I will lend you a magical healer, staff and equipment. They'll help Hermione and your own healers and in return you prep them for their new life."

Sirius hesitated, thinking that it was an attractive offer. "Pending approval by the adepts leadership I accept."

"Good," said Amelia with an amused look. "Oh, look here she comes."

Sirius, Remus and Sev'rance turned to see Andromeda walking over with Ted trailing behind her.

oOoOo

"It looks like an amazing ship Remus," said Ted as Remus gave the Tonks' family a tour of the ship.

"It is, first time I travelled in one of these beauties I kept pinching myself," admitted Remus with a slight smile.

"Will Sirius be okay?" asked Andromeda.

Remus grinned, "Oh I'm sure he will. Once he gets over the fact that you pranked him. We will be leaving as soon as the last of the supplies get stowed away. Until then you are free to use the common area or your cabins."

In his cabin, Sirius was not, in fact sulking.

"Are you sure about this Sirius?" asked Sev'rance.

"I trust Amelia," replied Sirius. "Putting my family Lordship on Andromeda was a mistake. This is a better way. I maintain the Lordship and give Amelia the right to vote my seat. Just as many absentee Lords have done over the years. It's legal and they hardliners won't let it get repealed. After all, they might want to use the same law someday."
"And if your governing council objects, or changes the law?" asked Sev'rance.

"Then I will bring the full might of the House of Black against them," replied Sirius.

Once everything was on board the Talia they lifted off under the cover of darkness. Protected by the best concealment spells possible.

For those that hadn't been in space before it was a rather thrilling experience.

"Shouldn't we be floating around and whatnot?" asked Ted. "Every time I've seen astronauts on the Tele they are."

Hermione laughed delightedly, "Actually that's an excellent question. The ship has artificial gravity."

The Med Bay was another revelation.

"So you are a robot?" asked Nymphadora.

"And a healer?" asked Andromeda.

"I am a medical droid, designated MK Sixty-seven. Although I believe the crew refers to me as MK."

"Amazing," said Andromeda as she studied the droid closely. "Are humans among those you treat?"

"Yes, they are. I am programmed to be able to treat over twelve thousand sentient life forms," replied the MK.

"That many?" whispered Ted.

"The galaxy is a big place," said Hermione with a smile.

"Hermione can you come to the cockpit please," Ron asked over the intercom.

"Excuse me for a moment," said Hermione as she ducked out of the Med Bay.

A minute later, she was walking into the cockpit.

Hermione arrived to see Ron studying the Navcomp, "What's the matter?"

"We got a subspace message from Haven, pretty heavily coded and it checks out. It's a warning to stay away from Haven," explained Ron. "There are some coordinates for a rendezvous for any stranded ships."

"Something must have happened," Hermione offered as she sat in the co-pilots seat and listened to the message. "Kissmaano III in the Kissmaano system. Well, that's fairly out of the way."

"Should we drop our passengers home?" asked Ron with a concerned look aft.

Hermione bit her lip as she thought, "No, let's get everyone's thoughts before we do anything."

Sirius frowned as they listened to the message. When it finished he cursed under his breath. "Well, we knew that they were looking for us. That's why we made this trip."
Remus nodded in agreement, "True, I suppose that it's good news that Haven is safe for now. I'm more worried about those of us away from home."

"Could we return to Earth?" asked Ted.

A frowning Sev'rance shook her head, "I'm not sure that is needed or wise. If they are trying to locate Haven, the warding should divert them. That's why Harry and Luna were being 'visible' to our enemies, misdirection. We could ruin things if we go back to Haven now. Moreover, if we return to Earth we run the risk that they might actually be able to find us. I doubt it, but I was not privy to all Palpatine's secrets. No, I think the rendezvous is the best first step. We gather our people, assess the situation, plan and act. A rushed response could be fatal."

"Andy…" began Sirius before Andromeda interrupted him.

"Whatever the situation, you could probably use our help," said Andromeda in a tone of voice that made it clear she wasn't asking permission.

They reverted to real space as close to Kissmaano III as possible.

Hermione quickly scanned the system. "No ships in the system."

Remus shook his head. He had been sitting, eyes closed trying to detect anything in the Force. "A faint sense of something on the planet below. It could be our people."

"Guess we call in or we find out when we land," said Sirius.

Remus rolled his eyes as Sev'rance poked Sirius in the ribs. "Or we could just call on a secure channel."

Hermione opened a secure channel and announced their presence.

"This is the Talia, calling any Haven vessels in range. Code H G Two nine eight Kissmaano System."

A moment of silence followed before a familiar voice replied, "Welcome to Planet Stink Hermione. I'm transmitting the coordinates now."

"Good to hear your voice Luna," said Hermione with a smile.

"Planet stink?" Remus asked

"Merlin's balls, it bloody stinks!" exclaimed Sirius as the hatch opened.

"You get used to it," said Harry from the bottom of the ramp. "Or use a bubblehead charm."

Sirius opened his mouth to reply before gagging and casting a bubblehead charm on himself and then Sev'rance.

Hermione rushed down the ramp to hug Harry, who was then replaced by Ron.

"Good to see you mate," Ron paused as he stepped back sensing Harry's concern. "Harry…what's going on?"
"We need to talk," replied Harry. "I've got Luna rounding everyone up."

oOoOo

On the Star Ryder, Andromeda, helped by her husband and daughter, was giving all the younger passengers a physical examination. She had insisted after hearing how they had come to be on board.

While she worked, all those from Haven were gathered in the Talia's mess. Luna explained her encounter with the Sith clone of Ron and their plan to investigate Jedha.

"It's a trap," said Sirius. "Why else would he give us his location? He wants to lure us there."

Sev'rance looked thoughtful as she laid a hand on her lover's shoulder. "Perhaps, it is indeed likely but it is the us I am unsure of. I don't think Sidious or his new lackey have any real concept of our numbers. If they are trying to bait a trap, it may be for Harry and Luna."

It was Luna's turn to look thoughtful, "You may be onto something. If we arrive with a larger group than they are expecting we may derail their plans."

"Maybe," mused Harry.

"Well I'm all for stopping some nut wearing my face," said Ron. "But are we ready to fight a war. He sounds like he's got a lot of troops, ships and Merlin knows what else under his command."

"I'm not planning on flying in guns blazing Ron," replied Harry. "The thing is, Jedha isn't that heavily a populated world. Most of the people live in the city built around the temple. If we can get into the city and hide our Force presence we should be able to move about fairly freely."

Luna was looking pensive as the others spoke.

"Luna?" asked Harry.

"I feel can the Force warning me...we are missing something. However, I can't sense what it is. I need to meditate," Luna stood and walked out of the mess toward the cabins followed by Velath.

Sahdra went to follow but Harry frowned and waved her off, "I'll go check on them."

He found Velath standing guard outside the room he and Luna had once shared when using the Talia. Harry nodded toward the hatch.

"Yes, Mistress is inside," reported Velath.

"Please make sure we are not disturbed," ordered Harry.

Velath nodded, then stepped aside and opened the hatch.

As Harry walked in the hatch it slid shut.

"Luna?"

"I need to try and see what's going on. I'm going to use the Dark Sight technique Vectivus taught me," explained Luna as she sat, eyes closed on the floor in the lotus position.

"That's dangerous Luna, especially now," warned Harry in a neutral voice. He knew Luna would not have suggested the dangerous technique if she had not thought matters urgent. With the Force still obscured by the Dark Side, allowing herself to become a dark side conduit was very risky.
"I know love, but none of this adds up. Our mission is to preserve the balance. To protect those that use the Force. To preserve their knowledge...I am becoming concerned that amid our victories that there is a...a war being fought and we are fighting blind."

Harry sat on the floor opposite Luna, "We know he is somehow hiding things."

"But why?" asked Luna. "I could understanding hiding himself from the Jedi but why hide now? There must be something else. The Force is whispering to me, danger is coming. I need to try."

Harry slowly nodded, "Then I will stay and guard you."

Luna smiled, "Thank you, love."

Luna let herself embrace the Force. Around her, she could sense the flow of the Force. Beside her, the glowing star that was Harry was almost overwhelming. However, studying Harry's luminous Force projection was not her goal. For a moment, she took in Velath outside the hatch...then the others in their group and their various levels of brightness...then she was floating in space.

Concentrating she let her senses expand outward...pushing against the shadowy, darkness that seemed to obscure and hide so many things. Everything remained clouded, hidden from her sight. She let her anger and frustration flow, used it to empower herself. To push at the murky darkness.

There...for a moment, something was there. A shape, a sphere...then it was gone.

Her anger flared, she would not be defeated. With renewed vigour, she pushed against the darkness. It resisted...it was like trying to hold oil or vapour. The more you held tight, the more it slipped through your fingers.

For a moment, she saw a hooded figure, moving down a crowded street. Beside...her, yes it was a woman...beside her shadowy figures appeared and disappeared. For a moment, she felt a familiar connection, and then it was gone.

She tried to regain clarity even as a ripple of pain passed through her.

There was something watching her. Something far, far away. Malevolent, hate-filled...but frustrated. Reduced to watching and manipulating events. The enemy...the enemy she had glimpsed in her visions. She knew it and then dismissed it...for now, it was simply a distant threat.

The darkness returned pressing in around her.

She felt her anger spike...she would wipe the darkness away...rip control away from Sidious.

No...wait...she can sense it now. The cloud of dark side energy that seemed to lay over everything. It has been orchestrated by the Sith. For centuries, no for thousands of years they have manipulated events. Allowing dark elements to infiltrate society...to slowly build the Sith's power. Drawing on the growing darkness to power their plans. A build up so gradual that the Jedi did not see it coming, did not realise what they were sensing. It hid that the Dark Side was growing stronger. Corruption, crime, war...all orchestrated by the Sith. That is why Palpatine broke, no abandoned the Rule of Two. It was no longer needed. The Sith had come close to ascendancy.

That was until Talia had received her vision. She then began building an order dedicated to balance.

The balance between good and evil was...shifting. Palpatine sensed it, believing the time was finally
right. He moved to remove the greatest risk he could see. The Jedi.

Important but they had deduced much of his motivations. She was still missing something…a threat she couldn’t quite perceive.

Frustrated at her failure she considered her dilemma. Dispelling the Dark Side energy appeared impossible. Any small part of it she managed to disperse was simply replaced, instantly. She tried to centre herself, but her frustration and anger were making it difficult. She could feel her 'self' being overwhelmed by the darkness and at that moment she realized that she had walked into a deadly trap.

'Luna…'

Seemingly from a great distance, she could hear Harry, calling out to her.

Harry watched as Luna fell into a Force trance. While she appeared outwardly calm, at peace. If he looked at her using the Force it was a different story. The Dark side was swirling around her, a maelstrom of Dark side energy.

Whatever was happening, Luna was channelling more and more of the Force.

Reaching out to her with the Force he could sense her anger and frustration as well as her fear. The Dark energy seemed to be flowing into her, overwhelming her connection to the light side.

It was so unexpected that Harry froze, unsure what to do.

'Harry…trap'

Luna's faint call for help had him moving again. Vectivus had warned them of the dangers of the Dark Side. Yes, it was a tool but one that was addictive. If you were not careful, or if you tried to draw too much you could be overwhelmed. Someone had baited a trap and Luna had been caught.

A Jedi would likely have been unable to do anything but Harry wasn't a Jedi. He understood that the Force was in balance, needed to be in balance. Throwing himself against the trap, trying to match it would be a mistake. He had no real idea how it had been done, only the result before him.

Therefore, if he couldn't disarm the trap he would need to remove Luna.

Gathering his power, he focused on Luna. Vectivus had shown Harry a technique that could be used to disrupt or even sever a person's connection to the Force. If he could reach her through the Force bond they shared, he might be able to pull her out of the trap.

As he concentrated on Luna, he was vaguely aware of raised voices outside the cabin. Dismissing the noise, he focused on Luna and the connection they shared. The moment he felt her, he formed a Force bubble around her.

As he held the Force bubble in place, he shifted its structure making it impervious to the Force. He wouldn't be able to hold it for long.

The Force maelstrom seemed to lessen, growing less violent. With a gesture, he summoned Luna to him.

"I agree with the Medical Droid," said Andromeda. "You are exhausted Luna and despite the fact
that the burns have healed you need time to recover."

"Healer Tonks is correct, your system has been adversely affected. You will need a good nights rest," added MK.

"Understood," replied Luna. "Right after our meeting, you can tuck me into bed."

"What happened?" asked Remus.

"I found out what happens when you try to use a Dark side scrying technique to bypass the Sith's cloak. It's a trap; somehow he has feed enough power into it that it's like a Dark side storm. When you try and push through you act like a lightning rod. If I hadn't have been for our Force bond, well I might not have made it." "So he clearly doesn't want anyone seeing what he is up to," said Sirius.

Sev'rance frowned, "And we are back to how could he have done something like that? He's powerful, very powerful, but a galaxy-wide shroud that has enough power to kill. That is beyond my comprehension."

"I've been thinking about all this. Our mission is to preserve knowledge of the Force and to help bring balance," said Harry. "We know Palpatine has broken away from the rule of Two. We know he has maneuvered and manipulated the Senate into allowing himself to become Emperor. And, we suspect that he has begun a war against Force sensitives. This cloak he's using must have been designed to stop other sensing him or divining his plans. Well, it succeeded. Yes, we made a difference. Yes, we have helped keep him from totally dominating the Galaxy. But the reality is that he controls a vast fleet, the majority of the Clones and has control over thousands of planets. Think about all those resources, all that infrastructure."

"The Alliance control a fair region of space and they have their own fleet," said Remus as the others shared looks', wondering what Harry was leading up to.

Harry nodded, "That's true but all that gains the galaxy is a stalemate. Neither group has the power to win outright."

"What are you saying Harry?" asked Hermione.

"I think he's got a plan. Something he is building to. That's what we need to find out. Luna's foray against whatever it was failed, but to my mind, it did confirm that whatever he's done there has to be a reason."

Sev'rance found herself nodding, "That actually makes sense. Sidious is a planner, a manipulator. Why let these rebel worlds build their strength? Why take out the Force sensitives before his enemies' strongholds? He's planning something and he's making sure that nobody can find out."

"Until it's too late," added Sirius.

"So what do we do?" asked a worried looking Dora.

"We play to our strengths," replied Harry. "We can use what many consider to be both 'sides' of the Force but our biggest advantage is magic. It has levelled the playing field. Palpatine has no idea what it can do, no realistic idea anyway. He can't plan for what he doesn't know about."

"That surprise factor won't last forever," said Luna.
"No, probably not but, right now it's an advantage we can't overlook," replied Harry.

Ron grinned, "With our Force training and our magic we should be able to find what he's hiding."

"Luna and I have been taught to fight with the Force and magic. And most of you here have begun walking the same path but we need to face some facts. We, and I include Luna and I in this, are nowhere near the skill level of our Master. Talia could have wiped the floor with us. She probably still could. There are plenty of Jedi and no doubt others who could kick my butt. If we were Jedi, Luna and I would probably be Padawans in the Temple. Skilled Padawans or at best Knights." As Harry finished he looked around those gathered in the Med Bay.

"Well that's a downer," commented Sirius.

Luna smiled tiredly, "It's not all bad news Sirius. Harry's right but I think he's missed a few factors. We also have the benefit of a wide range of people with much different understanding of the Force. Our unarmed combat training is far better than most Jedi received. The sheer amount of information we have access to is staggering."

"So what about Jedha?" asked Ret who had been sitting quietly, listening.

"Despite the risk," said Harry. "I do believe that we need to know what's happening there. There are a lot of references of uses for Kyber crystals beside lightsabers."

Hermione nodded, looking worried. "Some really nasty Sith weapons recorded in the Sith records used Kyber crystals. We most certainly don't want those monstrosities in anyone's hands."

"Not even ours," agreed Luna.

"We also need to decide what to do about Haven. If we are going to have to curtail our trading runs then we need to get what we have on the Talia there as soon as possible," added Remus.

"Plus all the young ones we have with us need to be protected. Regardless of what else happens, we need to leave a reasonable guard Force here," argued Sirius. "I'd be happy if we could get them somewhere safe. Merlin, I'd be happier if I was somewhere safe. My point is that they are non-combatants."

"Some of them were in the Agricorps, Should we contact Kenobi?" asked Salara.

"Maybe," admitted Harry.

"If we could get the children aboard the Chu'unthor, they would be safe," offered a rather subdued Sahdra.

"Maybe, but how do we get them to the Chu'unthor? It would be difficult not to mention risky to the children on board both ships," replied Harry. "Here is what I think. We contact Haven and let them know the situation. For now, we leave the non-combatants here, with enough resources and guards to wait things out safely. Then a team will go to find out what's happening on Jedha. Something tells me that we need to act soon."

oOoOo

The team going to Jedha was decided on, even as Luna slept in one of the cabins. Harry, Luna, Velath, Sirius, Sev'rance, Seina and two of Bo-Katan's Mandalorian warriors named Pria and Grel. They would be taking the newly repaired and heavily magically shielded Star Ryder and departing as soon as possible.
Harry left the mission prep to Sirius and pulled Seina aside for a quiet conversation, "It's a safe bet that this will probably be a trap. As I understand things your people have recently been targeted by the Sith."

Seina smiled, "And you are wondering why I would wish to accompany you on this mission?"

"To put it simply, yes that's exactly what I am asking," replied Harry.

Seina leant against the wall, studying Harry. "The Jedi, Geith told me about your Adept. About what you are planning. Our…my trust has been shaken by my former leader's betrayal. If I am to seek sanctuary among your people and trust my children to you then I must measure your temperament and your trustworthiness."

Now it was Harry studying Seina, "Can I trust you?"

"I give you my bond Adept Potter," replied Seina.

"Then I give you mine, Saarai-kaar of the Jensaarai."

Jedha - Jedha System Mid Rim

Jedha City was old. So old in fact that many claimed that it had some of the oldest structures still in existence. And it showed.

Sirius whistled as they passed over an immense fallen statue, "This place must have been spectacular at its height."

To the surprise of a few Sev'rance was looking reverently at the ruins, "It has been a spiritual haven for those wishing to understand and connect with the Force for millennia. The Kyber Temple itself has long been seen as one of the birthplaces of the Jedi."

"There are two Venator-class Star Destroyers in orbit and I can see at least four Low Altitude Assault Transports," reported Luna.

"Well right now it looks like the Temple is crawling with clones. Even with the ship being disillusioned, landing too near the Temple will be risky," added Harry.

Luna looked up from her scanner and pointed toward the western edge of the city, "There is a small docking facility near the warehouse district."

"Okay," replied Harry as he flew the Star Ryder to the western end of the city.

"Doesn't look like they have many troops down this end," said Sirius. "Considering what they had around the temple."

Harry did a medium altitude fly over and when they didn't see any Clones, he brought the Star Ryder down, landing in the nearly deserted landing field.

"Well we are down and nobody is shooting at us," said Sirius with a nervous smile.

Harry grinned at his godfather, "Well the day is young."

A few minutes later, the team gathered in the mess area. Harry, Luna and Sirius drew their wands and quickly cast sensory charms followed by disillusionment charms. It was odd; looking at your
teammates when they were slightly see-through but it served its purpose.

Harry cleared his throat, "Alright everyone, the Clones seem to be concentrating on the Temple. So, we should be able to get close enough to determine our next step. However, before we go remember, disillusionment is not foolproof. You can still be heard and if you bump into someone, they'll feel it. You leave footsteps and they'll be seen. So, do not take it for granted. If we get separated, make your way here. If we get separated and can't make it back to the ship, use your emergency portkeys. Do what you need to survive."

Sev'rance stepped forward next, "Also remember that at least one of our enemies is Force sensitive. If he's around he may well sense you despite the fact that we'll be hiding our Force signatures."

"Any questions...No, then let's go."

Getting to the other end of the city was a seemingly simple task but it turned out to be remarkably complicated. The streets, while not packed were reasonably busy and narrow. So moving as a group was proving difficult. After nearly two hours, they were approaching the Temple district.

"There are a lot more Clones ahead Mistress," said Velath, who had returned with Sirius after scouting ahead. "They have two heavy weapon posts covering the entrance to the Temple and what looks like two more on the wall."

"And they are keeping the gate shut and the square in front of it free of people," added Sirius.

"Then we find another way," replied Harry.

Before he could say anything else, Luna turned to look down an alley near where they stood. "We are being watched."

Harry extended his senses for a moment before sighing. "Luna, you really are a lot better than me when it comes to passive detection. There's quite a few of them and their location is being masked somehow."

Luna closed her eyes and concentrated on what the Force was telling her, "I suspect that not all of them can sense us. I sense caution and frustration but not hostility."

"So maybe not enemies," muttered Sirius.

A tapping noise alerted them to someone approaching. A moment later, a man appeared at the mouth of the alley. He was dressed in grey robes and carried a staff. He looked around and tilted his head as if listening. After a moment he smiled, "Ah there you are. I have a message from an old friend."

Harry signalled for the others to wait as he stepped forward. The man simply stood waiting as Harry approached. As he drew closer he realised that the messenger's eyes were a clouded blue.

"You mentioned a message," said Harry when the man was a few steps away. He made sure that he kept out of range of the staff.

The man gestured with his left hand toward the temple, "The Clones have taken the temple and the defences you can see are just the beginning."

Harry considered the blind man for a moment, "I thank you for the message friend."
"The man smiled, seemingly amused. "Oh, that wasn't the message. Just some…friendly advice. No, the message is that your old friend wants to meet you."

"And you are the guide as well as the messenger?" asked Harry.

He nodded, "Your old friend has vouched for you and your people. It's not far and we should get away from here, soon. The Clones will not sense you but there are Darksiders in the temple."

"Let me speak to my people," replied Harry before he walked back to the others.

"So?" asked Sirius.

"He claims that he's a messenger from an old friend. Apparently, this friend wants a meeting. He also warned us that there are a lot more defences inside. And he hinted that there are Darksiders in the temple."

"A helpful friend them," replied Luna.

"I sense no deception from him, but he could be a dupe," added Sev'rance.

Harry looked up at the temple wall, "I think I'd like to know who this old friend is and what they know."

"There is something going on here," said Luna. "I feel like I should trust our instincts."

Harry looked around the group and didn't see any objections, "Let's go. And friendly or not let's be on our guard."

oOoOo

Their guide led them deeper into what was clearly an older area of Jedha. The streets were narrow, sometimes too narrow to walk more than three abreast. There were more people on the streets but their guide somehow steered them clear without issue. Eventually, they came to what looked like a private house.

"Your friend waits inside. I will wait here with your people while you meet. Besides the risk to your old friend, the house is not really big enough for all of us." He then patted the worn sandstone step and sat. "Well, are you going in?"

"Mistress," warned Velath. "You two should not go in alone."

Luna shook her head, "No, probably not but on this occasion, I think I'll break that sensible rule. Harry and I will be fine. Keep a close watch Velath."

Velath looked unhappy, but she nodded.

Harry glanced at Luna, who nodded. Reaching out he knocked lightly on the peeling paint of the door.

"Come in," said a male voice.

Harry pushed the door open and they walked into the darkened room.

oOoOo

"Greetings," said their apparent host. A human male in what was probably late middle age. "I would
normally offer you refreshments but I don't doubt you are eager to know why you were sent a message. My name is Joha, I was once the chief archivist of the Temple...although I've been retired for many years now. But you have not come to hear my story." He gestured toward a narrow set of stairs leading upward. "An old friend of mine asked that I get a message to you. Gave me the time and place. She was always quite gifted like that. I knew that the Force flowed strongly in her. You should go, she is waiting for you."

Harry looked puzzled as he looked up the stairs. He could sense nothing, no Force signature, nor any sense that there was anything living upstairs. He was about to ask Joha what was going on when Luna gasped and paled.

"No..." whispered Luna before she took off up the stairs with a burst of Force-enhanced speed.

Harry blinked in surprise, "Luna wait!"

Taking the stairs as fast as was safe, he hurried after her. Bursting through the door he was confronted with a sobbing Luna embracing a woman in light grey robes.

Frozen in shock he did nothing but stare as a very familiar Force presence burst across his senses.

"Come in beloved, there is much to discuss."

"...Talia?"

oOoOo

"So you cloned yourself the same way you cloned Harry and Luna?" asked Sirius.

Talia nodded as she gently ran her hands through Luna's hair, "That's right. I had foreseen that I might perish before I finished my apprentices' training and prepared. Although, if I had truly comprehended how much I was giving up to return, I might have hesitated."

"Even for us Master?" asked Luna in a quiet voice.

"It was you and Harry and my concern for you that drove me to plan for the worst. But...well, being one with the Force was not something that can easily be dismissed. The power to go anywhere, see anything. To feel life flowing through you was intoxicating but ultimately hollow. When I realised how much I had left in your hands. You have both achieved far more than I could have hoped but there is still much to do. So I set events in motion, I planned and prepared before returning. Hopefully, along with what you have achieved, we will have done enough."

"An amazing feat," said Sev'rance quietly.

Talia smiled sadly, "I have but used the skills and knowledge of others. The knowledge to do what I have done has long existed. The problem was that few had ever made the connections."

"But why wait until now Master?" asked Harry.

"I have only been up and around a few days beloved. Joha was the final step and he only managed to revive me hours before the Clones arrived in Force. Luckily, he was able to move me here to his house. I had seen you coming here to confront the Sith and I made my plans once I was able."

"Why didn't your messenger just tell us it was you?" asked Harry.

"Guardian Chirrut? I believe that he enjoys being mysterious," replied Talia. "Truthfully, Joha and I
are worried about who might be listening. While many of the faithful hate the Clones, there are always beings that will look to profit and curry favour."

"So what now Seer?" asked Seina. "Do you not know what is to happen?"

Talia shook her head, "No, I don't. Whatever Palpatine is doing is also clouding the higher dimensions. I had and still have no idea where to look. Guesses but nothing more than that. Even as I speak my memories of the higher dimensions fade. That is another task I set myself while awaiting your arrival. I was recording my insights."

Seina and Sev'rance shared a glance before the Chiss bowed respectfully, "It is a great sacrifice you have made Adept Talia."

Talia smiled sadly as her eyes turned to Luna and Harry, "Perhaps, but I paid it gladly. Now, my friends, you were right to come here despite the risk. We must find out what is happening and I believe that the Temple may hold some of those answers."

"Do you know a way in?" asked Sev'rance.

Talia smiled at the Chiss, "Yes I do."

oOoOo

**The Sewers beneath the Temple**

"Well this is clichéd," commented Sirius as he grimaced, prodding something floating in the foul smelling water. "Thank Merlin for the Bubblehead charm."

Harry grinned, amused by his Godfathers antics despite the dangerous situation. It was an odd feeling.

"You're happy she's back…it's like a weight has been lifted off your shoulders," said Luna. "I know, I feel the same like I should be skipping."

Harry nodded, admitting Luna insight was probably right. The loss he had felt had been a weight he had not been fully aware of.

"Later, we'll both need to meditate on our feelings. Until then we need to focus," said Luna.

Sev'rance, who was in the lead, stopped and raised her hand signalling the others to stop.

"What is it?" asked Sirius.

"The tunnel ends," reported Sev'rance.

Talia walked forward and studied the wall with a palm light. "Ah, there it is." She reached up and pressed on a section of wall. There was a faint grinding sound and a section of the sandstone wall swung inward. "It is a maintenance passage. It leads to the lower sections of the temple. If we are separated return here and follow the passage out. We came via the right passage, the left leads outside the city proper to the water reclamation plant. Remember, once we are in the temple proper we will encounter clones and perhaps prisoners."

Harry looked at Sirius who nodded.

Sirius pulled out a pouch of coins and started handing them out, "These are portkeys that will transport people to Joha's basement. If you come across prisoners use these."
Harry looked over at the two people he knew least, "The further in we get, the better our chances so let's be subtle."

The two Mandalorians grinned and Pria holstered her blaster, pulling out a vibroblade. "We can do stealthy Alor."

"We try and find out as much as we can about what they are doing in the Temple and then we get out. No heroics," ordered Harry.

"And the Sith?" asked Velath.

"If we find him...put him down," replied Harry.

Harry looked over at the two people he knew least, "The further in we get, the better our chances so let's be subtle."

The two Mandalorians grinned and Pria holstered her blaster, pulling out a vibroblade. "We can do stealthy Alor."

"We try and find out as much as we can about what they are doing in the Temple and then we get out. No heroics," ordered Harry.

"And the Sith?" asked Velath.

"If we find him...put him down," replied Harry.

The first sighting of the enemy was in a corridor, two clones and a droid setting up what looked like a power supply unit. Two stunners and swift lightsaber strike dealt with all three.

"We need to Question them Harry," ordered Talia. "Revive one and we shall see what we can learn."

Harry bound the clone with conjured ropes and then removed his helmet and wrist comm. Then he revived him.

"What.." the Clone looked confused for a moment before realising his predicament. He studied Harry with narrowed eyes, "You won't get anything out of me Jedi."

Talia squatted down beside the Clone, "It is your choice of course. If you want to co-operate, well and good. But, your compliance is not required." Talia reached out and touched the Clone's temple with two fingers. She closed her eyes and the Clone began moaning. After a minute she withdrew her fingers and turned to Harry, "Stun him again I have what he knows. They are stripping the temple of kyber crystal and shipping it off world. He has no idea where."

"And the Sith?" asked Harry.

"He's seen him and several of what he call's inquisitors. No doubt Sith acolytes or Dark Jedi. Mostly they have stayed in the most secure part of the compound, the temple building."

Seina, who had barely spoken since their arrival in the underground raised an eyebrow, "Impressive. At most I can read emotions or flashes of memory."

Talia nodded, "When we have finished here I'll show you the technique."

"Why do they need so much Crystal?" asked Sirius. "Are we still thinking Sith superweapon."

"Perhaps, there were many that used kyber crystals, none of which I really want to see in Palpatine's hands," replied Talia.

"You haven't seen anything?" asked Harry.

Talia stiffened slightly, before relaxing, "No Beloved, I have seen nothing since I returned. Now come, we must make haste. The Clone made it clear that there are regular patrols. It will not take long for the absence of these to be discovered."

Harry felt a twinge of concern. Talia's reaction hinted that she was worried about something. Now, however, was not the time for that conversation. "Master, if we disillusion ourselves it should hide us
from visual detection."

Talia hesitated then nodded, "Wise advice, please do so."

oOoOo

Darth Tenebris gestured and the two figures in the shadows approached.

"The Adepts will be here soon, see to it that they are herded into the main temple."

"Yes my Lord," replied the older of the two with a nod.

The younger simply nodded.

Once the two would be Sith had left, he turned back to the huge window that overlooked the city. He knew that he was probably sending his master's servants to their deaths…not that he cared. He simply knew that his master would be displeased. Unless, of course, word of their death was accompanied by the defeat of his enemies.

He had meditated for many hours and his ever-growing mastery of the Force had allowed him to perceive a vision of Potter and Lovegood, here in this room. The Force had shown him the possible outcome and he wouldn't squander it. With them gone he would be able to take possession of the woman that haunted his dreams. The servant of Potter that would be his to break. His to strip of her secrets. Powers that not even his master understood. Once they were his, then his Master would fall by his hand…and he would be the Master.

"My Lord?" asked a Clone from the doorway. Tenebris hid his anger at the interruption and signalled the Clone officer to continue. "We have lost contact with several patrols in the lower levels."

Tenebris' fists clenched, "Initiate plan Beta."

"Yes My Lord," replied the Clone with a salute.

As the Clone left, Tenebris closed his eyes and extended his senses. His Master had taught him how to detect Force signatures and he fully expected to sense his enemies but felt nothing. Feeling a surge of anger he used it to power his search…for the briefest of moments he sensed something before it faded.

There were many ways to hide your presence, mostly Dark side in origin. This would complicate matters. Not knowing your enemies numbers was not ideal. Still, there were ways to counter such tactics and his current plan should still work. Turning, he departed for the main temple, he had a trap to prepare.

oOoOo

They were encountering more and more Clones as the reached the higher levels of the Temple. In addition, that meant that it was becoming increasingly harder to keep their progress hidden.

Without their magic and the Force working together they have been facing some very stiff opposition. As it was, they were having to avoid larger concentrations of troops to avoid having a pitched battle.

Harry frowned as he considered their path, "Something tells me we are being herded toward a trap. The easiest way forward always leads toward the temple."
"I sense two Force signatures ahead. I suspect they are a part of the trap you suspect," said Seina.

"So, do we spring the trap?" asked Sev'rance.

"I doubt he expects all of us," said Luna thoughtfully. "If Harry and I were to spring the trap, perhaps with Sirius and Velath, then the others could be there as back up. Allowing us to elude his trap and spring our own."

Talia smiled, her eyes clearly showing her pride. "A bold plan."

Luna gestured toward the stairs leading upward to the Temple courtyard. "Just remember, we really need to question this Sith."

oOoOo

Darth Tenebris closed his eyes as he knelt amid the rubble of what had once been a slightly larger than life-sized statue of Kyber crystal. It had been removed along with every other piece of crystal, larger than his fist, which had been held in the temple. His Master should be pleased. His final task was approaching the temple, just as he had predicted.

He didn't need to look to know that his Master's servants were in place outside by the door. The Clones were set to unleash a storm of blaster fire once their targets were revealed. It would be too much to hope that they would be killed but they would be stretched. Then they would face the two lesser Darksiders.

If they survived, they would then have to survive a true Sith Lord.

oOoOo

Luna studied the enemy formation before slipping back inside the stairwell. Harry then took his turn. "Well that looks like a whole lot of fun," said Harry. "We'll need to get to those doors fast. We can't let them pin us down. Everyone take a look and then we'll decide."

Sirius went next, and then one by one the others studied the waiting ambush.

"Ideas?" asked Harry.

Sev'rance looked thoughtful for a moment before stepping forward, "We exit and give the impression that we are going to go straight up the middle. Instead apparate straight to the doors. A shielding charm should deflect their fire. Only the Force sensitives might be a problem. So, take them down fast. Which leaves us the Clones to deal with."

"Master?" asked Harry as he looked over at Talia.

"You and Luna are the leaders here beloved," replied Talia. "I am just another fighter." Seeing Harry's expression she sighed. 'We need to talk after this is done with.'

"Yes Master," replied Harry.

Seina gestured toward the stairwell, "They know we are coming and no doubt have a plan. Sev'rance's plan should confuse them as will our numbers. We also have two ranged weapon specialist who can fly. I would suggest that we first place them on the roof of the temple. That will give them a height advantage. If you concentrate on the two Sith and the Clones by the door I believe Talia and I can deal with the rest of the Clones."
"We can do our part Alor," said Pria. "They have built their defence to hold off a direct attack by Jedi. If we take out the gun emplacements first, the Clones defence is in trouble. With the sort of numbers they have in place, a fighter with a melee weapon is far deadlier in close quarters than a Clone with a blaster. We'll take out the emplacements then start picking off the Clones from the roof."

"Then we are decided?" asked Harry.

"Any questions?" asked Luna. "No, then let's finish this."

oOoOo

Darth Tenebris felt an odd disturbance in the Force and then four strong presences…very close by. Somehow, they had hidden from him. Despite his training, despite his power, they had somehow deceived him. No doubt, the same way the woman in his dreams evaded his Force sight.

He would have to tear it from their minds when this was over.

He smiled as the sound of weapons fire reached him. Standing, his lightsaber leapt into his hand. It was time to end this.

oOoOo

Clone Commander Tyro cursed as the Jedi disappeared. "Cease fire and switch to helme…"

His head fell to the ground as Harry appeared beside him.

The two Darksiders leapt into action striking at Harry. He blocked and spun away as Luna appeared behind the closest Darksider, blocking his attack. Sirius and Velath appeared beside each other striking at the Clones surrounding them.

As the Clones were thrown into chaos a Clone Captain tried to restore order only to be dropped by a shot from the roof.

Any clones that did get a shot off found it blocked by Sirius or Velath.

One of the Darksiders seemed to realise that he needed to do something to break up the attack.

Velath spun away from her opponent's blindingly fast attack. As she moved, she cast a stunner that struck him in the throat and blasted him off his feet and into the path of Sev'rance. The Chiss appeared and cut the Sith in half even as she used the Force to knock back a dozen Clones.

Harry ducked under his opponent's Lightsaber as Luna batted away Blaster fire. Continuing the turn, he struck out with a spell, "Confringo."

The Darksider managed to block the Blasting Curse but was still sent crashing back into a group of Clones attacking Sev'rance.

Meanwhile, Talia and Seina were taking advantage of the confusion to take down their enemies.

That seemed to be the tipping point.

Less than two minutes later, it was over.

Harry tensed as he felt a very angry, hate-filled presence approaching. He was about to warn the
others but their expressions told him that they felt it too.

Falling back from the door, they waited for their enemy to appear.

The Temple doors swung open to reveal a hooded figure in black, "Well it seems that I have underestimated your people Adept. Or perhaps overestimated my Master's slaves…oh well. I shall have to deal with you myself."

"That's an audacious boast," commented Sirius.

The figure reached up and threw back his hood. To those that knew Ron, the face may have been familiar but the yellow eyes and the naked hate were startling. "Is it?"

With a gesture, the Sith sent Sirius flying backwards into the stonewall.

Harry retaliated with a spell but his target had moved, so fast that he lost track of him for a moment. Which was long enough for him to take a kick to the wrist that sent his lightsaber flying followed by a blow to the temple that sent Harry crashing to the ground.

Luna danced away from a lightning-fast swipe and retaliated with a thrust that would have skewered many opponents but he had already moved away from her attack.

Stepping back into range for Velath to attack. The Dathomiri immediately took the opportunity and attacked. Before her blow could strike, she was contemptuously thrown backwards into Luna, sending them both crashing in to the unforgiving stone.

While the speed of the Sith's attack had been shocking. The ease in which he had downed four trained fighters was shocking.

To add to the confusion more Clones were now arriving. Forcing Talia, Sev'rance and the Mandalorians to turn and confront them.

Darth Tenebris smiled as he walked toward the fallen, his lightsaber trailing across the stone floor scaring the polished surface. As he approached he ignored the sound of renewed fighting, his Clones would keep his enemies occupied.

His smile faded somewhat as a figure in red armour cut off his approach.

"You have still to face me Dark One," said Seina as she raised her lightsaber.

Tenebris smiled and again attacked with Force enhanced speed.

Seina blocked the attack and countered, forcing Tenebris to defend himself.

"You did well against the children. Let us see how you do against a fully trained Jensaarai shall we."

Tenebris attacked again spinning and striking again and again. His lightsaber held in two hands as he tried to overpower his much smaller opponent.

Seina managed to block all but the last strike, which should have run her through and pierced her heart. Instead, Tenebris' lightsaber spluttered and deactivated. For the briefest moment, shock appeared in his eyes before he felt a burning sensation as her blade sliced through both his wrists.

"Cortosis armour," explained Seina as she spun like a dancer and attacked the Sith's knees.

Somehow the Sith managed to avoid the blade and stumble back a few steps.
Seina stalked forward, her eyes never leaving her opponent even as she battered aside blaster fire.

Tenebrous backed away, eyes searching for an escape. His plan had failed and now his life was at risk. If he could reach his ship, hidden in the temple complex he might escape…why had the Clones stopped firing?

A quick glance told him why. They were dead. Now he had three able-bodied opponents closing in on him. How had this happened? Fear was now replacing anger as he sensed his Force enhanced speed and strength faltering. He had to escape. If he could get to the…he felt a flicker of warning but it was too late. Red light filled his vision followed by darkness.

Leaning against the wall as he tried to lever himself up, Sirius Black lowered his wand.

Harry opened his eyes and realized that he had a thumping headache.

"How are you feeling?" asked a familiar voice.

"Got a bantha sized headache Master," muttered Harry as Talia's concerned face appeared, looking down at him.

"Hmm, you are not alone there beloved. The Sith had far more skill than we anticipated and did quite a lot of damage before he was captured."

"What happened, are the others alright?" asked Harry.

"They are recovering," Talia replied before explaining what had happened.

"I'll have to thank Seina," said Harry. "Where is the Sith?"

"We have him sedated and securely held. Do you feel well enough to stand?" asked Talia.

"I think so," replied Harry as Talia helped him stand up. After a moment of dizziness, he was fine.

"Then let me take you to the others. They questioned the Sith with the aid of one of Sirius' potions. Some of what he said is disturbing."

Talia led him to the mess where the others sat drinking tea and caff as they talked quietly.

As he entered, Luna's face lit up, "Harry!"

Harry found himself surrounded by the others.

"It's good to see you up," said Sirius after pulling his godson in for a hug. "We healed you up but even with magic head injuries are dangerous and you coped quite a wallop."

Sirius was replaced by Luna. Who not only hugged him but kissed him passionately, ignoring the others in the room.

"Talia, said you had some developments while I was taking a nap," said Harry he took a seat beside Luna.

Sirius patted the pouch he wore on his belt, "We questioned the Ron clone with Veritaserum. He's got some pretty impressive mental defences but we did get what was going on in the temple. Palpatine needs the Kyber crystals for some sort of superweapon he's building. The Clones have
been stripping the temple and the mines below of nearly every scrap of it they could. Good news is that we helped put a stop to that." Seeing Harry's confused look, he quickly explained further. "As we were fighting inside, the Temple Guardians attacked and drove off most of the Clones. They blew up two of the freighters on the landing field and the Clones withdrew after that. Even their fleet has left."

"We also managed to save fourteen prisoners. We found them locked up in the temple," added Sahdra.

"So that's the good news, what about the bad?" asked Harry.

Sev'rance took over the explanation, "They have already taken several huge shiploads of crystal. We've shut their operation down, for now. But, it appears that they already got what they wanted as they have left the system."

"Does the Sith know where it's being shipped to, where this weapon is being built?" asked Harry.

Sev'rance shook her head, "It is being shipped to a new base in the deep core. The weapon hasn't been built yet. It sounds like Sidious is making sure he has what he needs in place."

"And unless things have changed dramatically, the Core is where his strongest supporters are and where his most powerful fleets are based," stated Sev'rance.

"Damn," muttered Harry. "We need to think about letting Kenobi know so he can spread the word."

"About the clone," began a rather subdued Sirius. "I checked him against the readings we have for Ron. He's a match and he's also a wizard."

"Which raises some issues we need to consider. The Sith cloned Ron, there is nothing stopping him cloning him again and again," added Luna with a grimace.

"Can he be saved?" asked Harry.

Talia frowned, "From what I have sensed the Clone lacks empathy, almost completely. He is unable to empathise with the pain of his victims at all. Essentially he only has contempt for others' feelings of distress and would readily take advantage of them." She shook her head sadly, "He has been turned... no, programmed to be a killer. Worse, he is Force linked to Palpatine in a way that allows him to link with him. There is little to nothing of Ron in him. The only memory of your group he holds is of Hermione. Somehow, he has retained or been given an image of Hermione. To him, she is his reward... a toy to break and make his. He is a dangerous being Harry. Despite what he might know he is far too dangerous to keep alive. There is nothing of your friend in him beloved."

Harry accepted that with a nod, "Do we have what we need from him?"

Sirius, Talia and even Luna nodded.

"Then put it out of its misery," said Harry.

"I'll do it," said Sirius grimly before leaving the room.

"What now?" asked Sev'rance.

"Now we regroup with the others. We need to decide what we do next," said Harry.

The others agreed and left, preparing the ship for departure. Except for Talia who signalled for Harry
and Luna to come with her.

She led them to a small cabin and once they were inside she sealed the door.

"What is happening?" asked Luna.

"We need to talk," said Talia.

Sidious cursed as his link with his apprentice was severed.

The clone had, in many ways, lived up to his expectations but had still failed. At least it had secured the Kyber crystals. Thankfully, the Clone had known next to nothing of his true plans so it could give away nothing to his enemies.

Sidious glanced at his monitor; he would have to make the time to adjust his replacement. The downloaded memories of one of his most talented Sith had clearly helped shorten the training period. Perhaps this time he would try one of the adjusted genetic sequences…they may well give his tool an advantage.

Talia sat on the small metal chair while Harry and Luna sat on the bunk.

"My beloved apprentices, I have something to discuss with you. When I had a clone prepared and left it here on Jedha I also made regular copies of my memories. The last being a week before I apparently died. Once I was able to manifest on this plane I planned to find you again and continue your training. When I was in that state my ability to see the future…well it was a series of revelations. Still, I stuck with my plans. I continued to help Force sensitives prepare. I worked to guide you and others. It was then that I realised the trap I had failed to see. The darkness that we plan to foil was still out there. The Sith's plan to conquer the known galaxy was exposed, the Jedi saved, many Force sensitives were saved…but the cost was high. Earth and its multitude of Force sensitives risked exposure. The Sith Lord revealed that he had abandoned the rule of two. His personal power was growing despite his setbacks. His clouding of the Force was hampering my efforts to counter him."

"We have had our successes," argued Harry with an edge of frustration in his voice.

"Truly, you have done far more than I anticipated. But we must acknowledge that despite the success of Haven, once again the balance was teetering."

Luna studied her Master, "What happened?"

"I saw that despite my and my allies efforts we were still being reactive rather than proactive. Palpatine has found a way to blind those that could sense what he was doing and despite my new circumstances I was still as blind as I was on this plane of existence. When I realised that, I decided to enact my plan to use my clone," explained Talia.

Harry and Luna shared a look.

"We are just happy to have you back to lead us Master," said Harry.

Talia shook her head, "Beloved you two will be leading the movement."
"But…" began Luna.

Talia smiled gently at her students, "In returning I have found that I have lost some of my abilities. The most obvious being my ability as a seer."

Luna gasped, shocked, "How, why?"

"The Force is in balance Beloved, there is always a price to pay. It was the price I paid. A price I was willing to pay," Talia's smile widened. "I can still use the Force but many things that I developed through practice and meditation have been lost."

Luna was still pale as Talia leant forward and took her hands in hers, "Do not grieve for me Luna. Any cost I paid was worth it. I have returned to you both."

Harry took a deep breath, pushing aside his concern for now. "So we are again at the point of deciding what we must do."

Talia grinned, "I had a great deal of time to think and plan and I made sure that Joha recorded my observations before he activated this clone." Releasing Luna's hands and reached into a pouch on her utility belt and removed a metal sphere. "This is a recording of what I told Joha." She passed it to Luna with a nod. "Keep it safe Luna, just in case. Now, your plan to draw Palpatine's eyes away from Haven was the best course at the time and it appears to have worked. So, we will need to continue to keep his focus away from Haven. Remember that our core mission has not changed. We are preservers, agents of balance. Haven is one part of that. An important, vital part but just a part. There are Force sensitives out there that are at just as much risk as those you have interacted with. I would take your plan and combine it with your, our, mission. We will help those we can, warn the others and thwart Palpatine. By doing that, my beloved apprentices we will keep his resources tied up looking for us."

"He has a fleet Master," argued Harry. "We have maybe a dozen ships."

"We have allies that have their own fleets. You have not seen what I have seen. Palpatine's final blow was meant to cripple his enemies but that hastily delivered blow fell well short of the mark. Too many of his enemies are alive and well. His orchestrated war failed in ways he never saw coming and those enemies are just starting to flex their muscles," Talia laughed at Harry and Luna's surprised expressions. "You helped make all this possible. Before my Clone was activated I saw Garm Bel Iblis rallying his forces for a strike against Palpatine's infrastructure. He and his allies now have a fleet that nearly matches what Palpatine can muster. Yes, there have been setbacks and losses but we are in a far better position than we might have been."

As Talia finished, speaking there was a faint flash of light and Darth Vectivus appeared beside Luna and Harry. Throwing back his hood he studied Talia with a faint smile on his lips, "There you are… as beautiful as ever and is that body a touch younger Talia?"

"And you remain a flatterer Vectivus," replied Talia.

"Ha!" replied Vectivus before his smile faded. "So, you are back among the living…do they know?"

Talia nodded, "Yes, I have explained."

Vectivus nodded, his expression showing his relief. "That was wise. Now you must tell me what has happened."

Talia, Harry and Luna filled Vectivus in on recent events.
The Force Ghost grinned, "Ah poor Sidious. He has no real idea of just much trouble is on the horizon. I am concerned with what the weapon he plans to build will do. But, I think we will let Qui-Gon and the Jedi hunt that down. I am sure the Corellians and their newly acquired Droid armada would love to blow it up." He turned to Harry and Luna. "So you plan to continue your mission?"

"Yes, we do," replied Harry.

Vectivus nodded, "Good, I sense that it is the right choice. It is hard to see what the future holds these days but I don't doubt that Talia's suggestions are wise. Keep up your training and remember we are servants of the living Force and guardians of Balance. We are not battling the Sith because they are dark but because they are dangerous."

oOoOo

"Are you sure?" asked Sirius as they gathered in the Star Ryders mess.

Harry glanced at Luna and then nodded. "We take small teams out and we do what we can to help. If we come across those that seek Haven then we send them there. The supplies you have brought should be enough to reduce the risk."

"And the teams?" asked Sev'rance curiously.

Harry stood a bit straighter, "As we originally planned, we go with mixed teams. Let's draw on our strengths, our diversity. The council has managed Haven wisely, it should continue. Djinn Altis can continue the training of those that seek Jedi training and Vectivus will no doubt continue to make sure that knowledge is balanced with his own teachings. Hermione will continue as our archivist and I believe that Andromeda Tonks is champing at the bit to look over our healers' program."

Luna turned to Sev'rance, "As far as teams go I have a role I would like you to take Sev'rance. While our diversity is a strength we need to consider how we harness that strength for battle. Work our what we need, what training is required and the council will help you make it happen."

Sev'rance nodded proudly, "I will do it."

Harry then walked over to where Seina stood with her people.

"You are, of course, welcome to live on Haven with our people. You saved our lives Seina, Saarai-kaar of the Jensaarai. That is a debt we can owe you."

Seina nodded, "I would like to see this Haven. There I hope the Jensaarai will be safe. Once we are established, I would like to join your mission."

Harry bowed, "You would be welcomed Seina."

"Well, since we have divested ours ships of tracking devices I believe that for now, it is time to return to Haven," said Luna.

As the meeting broke up, Sirius walked over to Harry.

"So, where do you want me?" asked Sirius.

Harry grinned, "I think you had better check in with Sev'rance first, don't you?"

Sirius remained serious as he studied Harry, "She will understand."

Harry shook his head, "You should stay Sirius. See if your road is truly one you will walk together."
Besides, I think she'll need help building our forces up. We need a few more ships if you want the rank of Admiral back. Plus, I want you and Remus working on funding our little enterprise. Luna and I replicated gems but for what we need we might need other avenues."

"What we need?" asked Sirius.

"We'll need our own ships and whatever else Sev'rance comes up with. And no doubt some of those we will need to buy," replied Harry. "You might want to liaise with the Mandalorians as well. They'll no doubt need equipment."

Haven

The return of Talia was a shock for those that had known of her and her demise. She was friendly and polite but otherwise ignored questions about her reappearance.

Harry and Luna left Talia talking with Altis and several of Haven's council and retired to their room.

Luna let Harry close the door before she pounced on him, pushing him back onto their bed.

Talia grinned as she felt her link with her two Beloved apprentices shudder and deepen. Letting the connection dim she returned her attention to Altis as he introduced members of the Council.

Loyalist Vahla fleet – in orbit of an unnamed world at the edge of Wild Space.

The Vahla fleet may have lacked true capital ships or a cohesive class of ships but it did not lack numbers. One hundred and sixty ships and still growing.

Not many spacefarers even suspected that the Vahla had such cohesion. Which was not surprising considering the nature of the foolish Cultists that sullied their people's names. They were raiders, bounty hunters and assassins. Thugs for hire. Destructive and secretive they did not work well with others.

Not many who were not of the people even noticed the sudden decrease in the cultists' activities. At first, not even the cultists had noticed. However, that changed.

The Loyalists quietly took out cell after cell of the worst of them. Those judged redeemable were co-opted into the gathering of the people.

The message was going out. Their Mother-Guide had been born and soon the time would come when they would return home.

"Have we contacted our potential guardian?" asked the Elder as they gathered around the holographic image of the Blessed Mother-Guide.

A younger Vahla bowed respectfully. "We have sent a scout ship to seek out Amelia Sto-Nar. An agent reported that she is with her mentor Lerhra of the Palawa as they seek out those of her people that survived the recent attacks against Force sensitives."

"Lerhra of the Palawa still lives?" asked the same Elder. A touch of surprise in her voice.
"Yes Elder."

"That is surprising. Leehra…hmm Mother has very interesting allies. Still, we must have a guardian in place. I fear that the darkness we sense is a threat to all that we hope will come to pass."
Chapter 30 – A New Order

Last Time:

A younger Vahla bowed respectfully, "We have sent a scout ship to seek out Amelia Sto-Nar. An agent reported that she is with her mentor Lerhra of the Palawa as they seek out those of her people that survived the recent attacks against Force sensitives."

"Lerhra of the Palawa still lives?" asked the same Elder. A touch of surprise in her voice.

"Yes Elder."

"That is surprising. Lerhra…hmm Mother has very interesting allies. Still, we must have a guardian in place. I fear that the darkness we sense is a threat to all that we hope will come to pass."

Imperial HoloNet News Service

Imperial Borders holding against terrorist aggression

In the Imperial Senate, the Emperor has made it clear that loyal Imperial systems will benefit from border vigilance. Attacks by former CIS forces along with separatist terrorists have cost many lives. To ensure the safety of our citizens he will be establishing sector fleets that answer directly to Imperial Governors.

Read more here

Independent Holo-News Network

Building numbers of refugees flee Imperial Space

Systems loyal to Republican ideals have managed to hold back Imperial forces.

With much of the core and mid rim under Imperial rule thousands of refugee’s flood into the outer rim.

Read more here

Wayland – Hidden Cloning Facility

Opax Calor was a scientist and a willing servant of his master, Darth Sidious. His vital mission was to work on ways to refine the cloning process. Even though he had advanced on the existing techniques, he was still falling short of what his master required.

Frustrated he turned away from his work screen. There had to be a way to better control the process. Advances in Spaarti technology and refinement of techniques were making a difference but not
enough to cancel out the genetic recombination problems. Or the ongoing issues with the flash training of the small percentage of viable, Force Sensitive clones. What success he did achieve he then had trouble replicating consistently. What good was a Force Sensitive clone with a host of enhanced, grafted abilities if the clone succumbed to insanity?

An alarm sounded, and he glanced at the Holo-com. The code told him who was calling, and he promptly accepted the call.

“My Lord, how may I be of service?” he asked the image of his master.

“Report Doctor,” replied the image of Darth Sidious.

“My experiments continue, I am working on variant combinations of the new genetic material. However, inconsistency is still an issue My Lord. I believe that we have proven that the mental instability issues can be solved, by refining the process. However, I have yet to find a solution for the low number of viable Force Sensitive clones. Theoretically, a genetically enhanced clone grown to adulthood with a flash memory transfer should have a very high success rate.”

“I have faith that you will find a way Doctor. I have more interest in you producing a viable genetic mix. Being able to create a Force Sensitive clone is the top priority. Being then able to create clones from that template is the ultimate goal. Do you require any further resources?”

“No, my Lord I believe that I have everything that I need,” replied Calor.

“Good, I will be looking at your results with great interest Doctor.”

As the Emperor terminated the connection Calor knew that there was an unspoken demand for those results. Displeasing the Emperor was not wise. Turning back to his work screen, he accessed the information he had compiled on known cloning process. They may well be something that he missed.

OoOoOo

Haven

Harry walked down the ship's ramp to where the welcoming committee stood waiting.

“Welcome back Harry,” said Altis as he shook hands with Harry.

Next, Harry got a kiss on the cheek from Keisha.

“It’s good to see you back,” said Keisha with a smile. “We’ve had a few surprises while you were gone.”

Harry grinned, “Guy’s you haven’t seen anything yet.”

Altis nodded and turned his attention to the group existing the rather battered ship. An odd bunch, several Padawan aged children and a figure in dark red armour. His attention was drawn to a hooded figure walking down the ramp with Luna.

“Djinn, it’s good to see you…in the flesh this time.”

Altis frowned, puzzled at the familiarity he sensed. He could sense that the figure was Force Sensitive and the Force was hinting that he knew her.

He could sense…amusement as the figure threw back her hood.
By the time the other ships had disembarked their passengers and cargo, Djinn Altis had hastily set up a meeting of the Haven council. However, Harry and Luna had insisted that they get as many people together as they could. Luna had explained that they had several announcements to make.

So, an hour later, nearly the entirety of Haven’s current population gathered in the garden meeting area.

After the initial greetings, Harry stood and gestured to where the newest arrivals were standing with his crew. "Our mission to rescue our people and keep the Emperor's forces away from Haven led us to an unlooked-for victory. The revival of my Master, Talia." Talia stepped up to stand by his side, nodding to those gathered. "It was Talia that set both Luna and my feet on the path that helped bring about Haven."

Now Luna stepped forward, "We will have our usual community meal this evening so that everyone can meet all our newest guests and residents. For now, let me introduce another important member of our party. Seina, Saarai-kaar of the Jensaaari."

Seina who was standing with the rest of the Jensaaari gave a polite bow to the crowd.

"We also have several Jedi from the Agri-corps who we shall hopefully be reuniting with their brethren. We also have the Tonk's family, who are family of Sirius but just as importantly all three are trained magical's and Andromeda Tonks is a trained healer."

There was clearly a lot of interest in the crowd. Training in ‘Magic’ had been limited thanks to the availability of material learning resources and more importantly teachers. There were also a few, mostly Dathomiri, that were curiously studying the martial-looking Jensaaari. No doubt sizing up potential training partners.

“Lastly,” added Harry. “We need to discuss what recent events mean for our ongoing mission. Mand’alore Satine and her people will, for the most part, be based here when not using their cruiser to help liberate their homeworld. Thankfully, we now have new equipment and supplies to ensure that there are no supply or overcrowding problems. A welcome event, but also one that means our re-supply teams can go back to their normal duties or join what we are calling the exploratory teams. These mixed teams will be the eyes and ears of Haven as we seek out Force Sensitive’s and offer them a place here. Anyone who would like to join these exploratory teams is welcome to put down their name at the control centre.”

Haven – Library/Archives

Jedi Master Luminara Unduli was finding it difficult to maintain a calm centred demeanour. She had been briefed, of course, but the reality of Haven was not something she had been prepared for.

During her first days, she had seen Force techniques that the Jedi Council had never imagined. While she was nowhere near as skilled a healer as those Jedi that followed that path, she knew enough to be aware of just how staggering the advances she witnessed were. Moreover, that was just one of the wonders she had seen.

A part of her was worried that any report she made would not be believed. Another wondered just how much Yoda knew about the Adepts.
“Master Unduli?”

She put her musing aside and turned to see a youngster, dressed as a Padawan, standing at the entrance to the study room.

“Yes Padawan…?”

The Padawan smiled, “Rona Solad, I’m one of the Altisian Jedi. Although I’m living on Haven now while I await my trial.”

The Mirialan Jedi smiled, “It is nice to meet you Padawan Solad. Now, how can I be of assistance?”

“Adept Hermione has located the codex you had enquired about, and wondered if you were free?”

“I certainly am,” replied Unduli. “Is she in her office?”

“She was when she sent me to find you Master,” replied Rona.

Unduli made her way to Hermione’s office and found the Adept’s Archivist looking through a large book.

"Ah, Master Unduli, please come in," said Hermione when she spotted the Jedi master. "I've found our copy of the Mirialian healer's codex. It was one that I haven't had a chance to read but I knew I had seen the name on my list."

Unduli smiled as she considered the long-lost codex, “An astonishing find. The Jedi Archives only had references to the codex.”

"The previous owner of most of our collection had rather eclectic taste," Hermione looked down at the book and ran her hand over the binding. "Handwritten and bound books are far too susceptible to damage. Would you like a copy?"

“Indeed, thank you,” replied Unduli with real feeling. Given the Orders recent losses, knowledge such as this was of vital importance. “I know several Jedi healers who will be ecstatic to discover it is still in existence.”

“That’s part of what we do here,” said Hermione with a smile. “Knowledge is important and making sure it is not lost is important to us.”

Unduli studied the young human, noting that she was very young for her role. “I understand that you are responsible for teaching as well as your archivist duties. That must be a challenge.”

Hermione’s smile widened, “I’ve always been a bookworm…a book lover. As for teaching, needs must Master Unduli. I enjoy the archive work as much as the training. There is something about expanding a student’s horizons that makes it rewarding.”

Unduli nodded, “That is true. I have instructed younglings and a Padawan. Watching them grow is quite rewarding. Indeed, perhaps I should inquire if I could assist with your training.”

“I’m sure Remus will welcome your help,” replied Hermione. 

oOoOo

“I’m sure that we’ll get more than enough people to round out the teams. We just need to decide on the team sizes,” said Sirius as he sipped at his Corellian Brandy.
Remus looked thoughtful as he held his steaming cup of tea. “I think that we should look at the teaching side as well. We need to start engaging some of the more advanced students to teach.”

“Luminara Unduli offered to help with the teaching,” Hermione reminded them.

Talia shrugged, “It is not a bad idea. Master Unduli will certainly be able to help with the lightsabers instruction and I suspect that she might also be able to help with Djinn’s Padawan’s and younglings.”

“What about the Tonks family?” asked Ron.

“I suspect that Andromeda will be busy with the healers. Ted and Nymphadora would certainly have the skills to teach. I’ll speak with them tomorrow,” promised Sirius.

Harry looked down at the list he had made on his pad. “We need to replace the Lily and get a few more ships. We can’t rely on just the Talia and whatever Djinn can spare. What he and his people are doing is also important.”

Luna snuggled into Harry’s side, “Getting credits is easy enough. We simply need to transfigure enough precious stones or metal to sell. Spread it out enough and you shouldn’t lower prices.”

“What about ships? We can hardly go to Kuat Drive Yards and order a half dozen cruisers.” Ron paused when Hermione didn’t laugh. “Hang on what’s going on?”

Hermione pulled out a datapad, “Sullust does a healthy trade in salvaged ships. Mostly non-military of course, mainly freighters.” Seeing Ron's confusion, she explained further, "I realised that sooner or later we would need more ships. So, I researched where we could get them."

Ron adopted an exaggerated, fearful expression, “Sometimes you are scary Moine.”

“Ha, ha,” replied Hermione with a mock glare aimed at her lover. “We should be able to get enough ships. We can even get the shipyards to retrofit them to our specifications.”

“Then we can add a raft of magical defences. I’ve been thinking about some of the things I think we can include that should make for some formidable defences.” Remus said confidently.

“We need a decent sickbay in each of them. Having decent medical facilities and magic will also save lives,” added Harry.

Hermione looked down at her notes, "I think one of Djinn's people might be the best one to act as a buyer. Young people buying starships is odd enough that someone might take notice."

“And the team sizes?” prompted Talia.

Harry looked thoughtful, “I think we need smaller teams. Maybe four to a team?”

“What smaller?” asked Sirius.

“Resources,” replied Harry “We can’t afford to have just two large teams out there and while I don’t want to put our people at risk we need to be out there.”

"In some ways, the Adept's have grown too quickly. Nobody is at fault, events drove the growth but that doesn’t change the fact that we have not used our resources to the best of our abilities." Talia paused and looked at those gathered around her. "We need to think long-term. Our mission will not be over in months but rather decades. We need to have a team dedicated to creating trade goods to sell so that we can buy the ships and other equipment we need. Those among us who are magic
trained need to remember that the magic laws that bound you on Earth are non-existent out here.”

Sirius laughed ruefully, “We should have thought of that. Well, better late than never. Remus and I can put some plans in place.”

"Thanks, Sirius," replied Harry with a smile. "So, what do we think about mixed teams?"

“I think we need to try out different mixes,” suggested Luna. “We need to see what works. We can always bulk out teams if it’s needed. I am sure the Mand’alore would lend us troops if we asked but do we need Mandalorian troopers on each mission?”

“Why not appoint team leaders and let them decide?” suggested Hermione.

oOoOo

Harry looked around at the dozen faces in the room. "Good Morning everyone, you all volunteered for off-world teams. Firstly, thanks." Said Harry with a smile. "Secondly, you have been selected as team leaders. That means that each of you will have a ship and a small team. We are suggesting about four per team but that's up to you. What I would like is for each of you to put together a team and a wish list for any equipment you think you might need. Just so you know, Sirius and Sev'rance will be building up a rapid response team whose job it will be to provide more military firepower if it is required. Any questions?"

oOoOo

“Eight weeks,” replied Remus.

“Really?” asked Harry.

Remus grinned, "Believe it or not but Ted Tonks has done the math. He's damn good at transfiguring and he has a good head for finance. His plan makes sense and it's something we can do more than once. So we create or transfigure trade goods and sell them on multiple worlds for other goods or credits. The selling and the buying will be spread out. This not only stops market price being impacted but it will also make it harder to pin us as the buyers.”

“Hmmm, so assuming it goes to plan we have eight weeks to train and plan before our first ships get here?” asked Harry.

“Maybe less,” admitted Remus. “If we plan things out we should be able to refit and upgrade the ships as they come in. That means we could have the first ship ready in a week or two.”

oOoOo

Talia blocked Harry’s attack as she Force pushed Luna toward the wall. She didn’t get the chance to pursue another attack as Harry took the momentary pause to cast a blasting curse at Talia’s feet. Talia leapt high into the air to avoid the attack and Harry found himself once more on the defensive. Talia may have lost some of her skills, but she was still a very difficult opponent.

As Harry defended against a string of attacks, Luna climbed to her feet and sent a tripping jinx toward Talia who clearly sensed the attack and Harry found himself once more on the defensive. Talia may have lost some of her skills, but she was still a very difficult opponent.

As Harry defended against a string of attacks, Luna climbed to her feet and sent a tripping jinx toward Talia who clearly sensed the attack and again took to the air.

Harry and Luna were once again able to attack together and soon had Talia defending herself. Using co-ordinated attacks, they slowly pushed her back toward the wall.

Talia gestured, using the Force to push her opponents back only to have Harry counter the attack.
For a moment, Master and Apprentice were equally matched, before Luna cast a bludgeoning curse that caught Talia in the shoulder and sent her flying to land on her back.

“You have both clearly been working on your spellcasting as an attacking option,” said Vectivus from where he lingered near the wall.

“Indeed,” agreed Talia as she sat up rubbing her shoulder. She climbed to her feet and made her way over with a broad smile on her face. “Indeed, they are dangerous unpredictable opponents. However, I do believe that there is still work to do on with harnessing combat orientated Force abilities.”

“But overall my beloved apprentices you have far exceeded my expectations, well done. Now go and shower you stink,” said Talia with a smile.

Harry and Luna both bowed before walking hand in hand toward the exit.

“They have come far,” said Vectivus.

“Yes, they have, but truly they have taken but the first steps toward true mastery,” said Talia.

“Give it time Talia. They have done all that has been asked of them and with hurdle they face they grow stronger.”

“Have we done enough?” asked Talia.

Vectivus frowned, "Enough? Perhaps but I have foreseen that we still have time to…ah, season them. Saving what they can, will give them the experience they need.”

Talia shot her ally a dark look, “They are still young.”

“But by what measure? They are ready to face the challenges that await them, and they will grow as they do so. We must trust in the Force.” Vectivus smiled, “After all you have given them plenty of time have you not.”

Talia turned to face the Force Ghost. She knew what Vectivus was hinting at. "It was necessary and no they have not yet realised that I have amended their genetic structure.”

“They won’t thank you for it,” warned Vectivus.

“I didn’t do it in the hope of thanks. I did it because it was necessary,” replied Talia, but without any heat. This was an old argument that they had never resolved.

Vectivus sighed loudly, “True I suppose. Will you go with them?”

Talia nodded, “Yes, I will stay with them.”

“Then may the Force be with you Talia,” said Vectivus as he faded away.

‘Time for a shower,’ thought Talia as she followed in the footsteps of her apprentices.

oOoOo

The first two ships to arrive back to Haven were both purchased from a reputable dealer on Sullust. Both were used ships but there the similarities ended.
The first ship was a Corellian freighter. It was a standard HWK-290 light freighter. It had been a courier vessel, operating in the Outer Rim. Unfortunately, for its previous owners, the company that owned it was wiped out during the recent war.

The second ship was a DeepWater-class light freighter. Mon Calamari designed and built as a general-purpose transport. It had been heavily modified and had received upgrades across the board. A Class 1.0 hyperdrive with a Class 4.0 as a backup, it also had top of the line (for a civilian ship) sensor suite and shield generator. Its original dual laser turret had been upgraded to a quad-turbo laser mount and it had seen a significant amount of armour added to vital sections of the ship.

As soon as Luna set eyes on the ship with its sleek lines, she had claimed it.

Then it was simply a matter of fitting the ship out. There were magical enhancements as well as more mundane refitting such as the new med-bay and the addition of magically expanded storage areas. The ship itself was very well designed and could be operated by a single crewman. With the modifications they had in mind, it could comfortably handle ten people.

“So are we still thinking five people?” asked Harry.

Luna nodded with a satisfied smile on her lips, “I think so, us of course and I’m thinking Velath, Sahdra and Talia.”

“Djinn will be okay with Sahdra?” asked Harry. She was after all still a Padawan.

“I’ve already spoken to both Sahdra and Djinn. She is ready to face her trial. She has acquitted herself well with us and Djinn is considering if he should Knight her or not. He’s worried, concerned that she is wanting to be an Adept more than a Jedi. She hasn’t quite realised that the two things are not mutually exclusive.”

“And Sahdra?” asked Harry.

“She’s confused. She has worked her whole life to become a Jedi and now she has what she perceives as another choice. I think she’d make a good Altisian Jedi and I know she would be an excellent Adept. She has got a flexible mind and she has excelled at her magical training.”

Harry trusted Luna’s judgement. She was good at reading people. “Okay, so Sahdra’s on the team. The modifications should only take a few days…then I think we need to restart our mission.”

"I know what you mean. Haven is in excellent hands and things are progressing as well if not better than we could have done ourselves," said Luna. "I've already got the first mission for us. Returning the Jedi we picked up to Praxia."

Harry nodded then grinned, “You just want to see Yoda’s face when he sees Talia.”

“Guilty as charged,” admitted Luna.

Talia smiled as she considered her two apprentices asleep in their bed. Harry in sleep shorts and Luna naked and sprawled over Harry. She could sense their contentment and it touched her. Of all the things she had set in place, their love was something she had not contrived. It had developed and blossomed on its own.

Love grounding a person was something that modern Jedi had never understood. It didn’t weaken a person. No, it gave you greater strength…something to fight for.
Despite the challenges they had and would again face, the danger and the loss they still had each other. Talia had sacrificed a great deal to ensure that her beloved apprentices had the time to fulfil their mission. Now she had to make sure they had the skills.

As she contemplated Luna’s eyes opened and she smiled up at her master, “Master, good morning.”

“Good morning Beloved, I can see you have not wasted your sleeping time.”

Luna blushed a little bit as she smiled, “Well he’s been such a good boy.”

Talia grinned.

“I’m right here you know,” complained Harry.

Luna rubbed her knee up and down his thigh, "Oh, I know."

“I’d protest, but I’d be lying. Good morning Master,” said Harry.

Talia laughed, amused by their antics, “As amusing as this is, I need you to join me in the training chamber. Although, I believe that I can wait a few minutes while you, ah freshen up.”

Ten minutes later they entered the large cavern where Darth Vectivus had first tested and then taught them.

Waiting beside a stone pedestal was Talia. Who urged them forward, "Come, my beloved apprentices. I have something for you both."

Harry and Luna stepped forward as Talia laid a hand on the small metal chest on the pedestal. “I have thought long and hard about something that would indicate your affiliation. So I spoke to Sirius and Remus and we came up with this.”

She opened the small chest and presented Luna and the Harry with a silver pin. The pins were tri-cornered, made of three overlapping arcs with pointed outer sections that resembled a three-cornered knot. "It is the Celtic symbol, the triquetra. In the magical world, it is often used to indicate the balance between creation, preservation and destruction. A symbol that captures what we stand for."

“It’s beautiful,” said Luna as she studied hers.

“One will go to every Adept, a symbol of what we stand for.”

Harry attached his to the collar of his jacket, “It’s a good idea.”

Luna nodded, “It is, thank you Talia.”

“You both have made me proud. I have made more pins for those you decide have earned them,” explained Talia as she handed them the box.

Harry and Luna exchanged a glance and Luna opened the box, pulling out a pin and attaching it to Talia’s robe.

“Without you Talia there would be no Adepts,” said Harry.

Talia smiled, “Thank you, now let’s train. Today we will be concentrating on using illusions in combat.”
By the end of the month, it was becoming clear that unlimited funds were not going to solve all their issues.

Amelia Sto-Nar and two Altisian Jedi Adepts had been acting as buyers through a shipyard that specialised in refitting.

"There just isn't a lot out there that is suitable. We'd actually be better to buy new but that means dealing with a shipyard and that means records." Amelia had been hesitant about her team coming under scrutiny. "There were some rather worrisome people on Sullust. Workers paying just a bit too much attention. I had a rather bad feeling about it, so we left and made a few stops to check for tracking devices. I think we may need to set up a front company. That would give us a reason to buy ships"

“But doesn’t that just mean having to hide our relationship with the company. Our ships are going to be seen, such a ruse would not be possible for long,” warned Altis.

“So, we need to go back to buying ships as private citizens. Credit is not an issue, and as long as we spread out our buying and avoid imperial world we should stay off their radar. We have enough credits to buy anything short of a military frigate and enough to pay for the dealers to look the other way,” said Ret.

“I’m still concerned about the authorities and their sudden interest in buyers Ret,” argued Amelia. “You didn’t need the Force to sense their eyes on us.”

Altis frowned, “And, if that is happening on a world in the Outer Rim, then we do need to be careful.”

“What is the problem with starting a transport business?” asked Ron from where he was sitting quietly, listening to the discussion. “We have the money and we can easily make trade goods to sell. Maintaining a cover as merchants should be easy enough.”

“That’s true Ron,” agreed Hermione. “But what if we went one step further and actually started a business. Base it away from Haven and we have the perfect excuse to buy and maintain ships.”

“That might work,” mused Amelia. “I’d advise you use different buyers next time. I’m sure my team are on someone’s file already.”

So as Harry, Luna and the crew of the newly named ‘Ravenclaw’ prepared to leave Haven, there was already a new mining company in the works.

The Ravenclaw was a good ship. Different to the Talia and the Lily in many ways but still comfortable thanks to the thorough work of Remus and his ‘refit crew’.

“It will be a little bit tight with our passengers, but everyone will have a bed,” Said Harry as he watched the astromech droid that had come with the ship, R1-T6 or T6 as he was called by Harry, roll up the ramp. The Droid had been thoroughly checked for any malicious programming and had come up clean. T6 had also been a huge help refitting the ship as it could work faster than a human crewman. It had even been remarkably unfazed by Magic as it had seen Force users operate before. “I’m sure T6 has things well in hand and now the Medical Bay is finished 2-1B might stop complaining.”

The other droid on board was a 2-1B Medical Droid. It had either been programmed with or had developed a rather irascible personality. Harry had been reprimanded for not ordering enough
medical supplies. Despite the well-stocked Medbay, 2-1B was unhappy and had let the ‘Captain’ know. Harry rather doubted, and indeed hoped, that they would need all the equipment the droid had ordered.

“Adept Harry?”

Harry and Luna turned to see Lyiera, one of the Agri-Corps people who were being returned to Praxia.

“Just Harry will do,” replied Harry with a smile. Lyiera was an Arkanian, the first that Harry had met and showed none of the arrogance or air of superiority that her people were often accused of.

Lyiera inclined her head accepting the correction, “I have just spoken to Master Unduli who advised me to ask if you would like our assistance as crew. I and several of the older children should be able to help.”

“We should be fine, but thank you for asking,” replied Harry but on seeing her resigned expression he continued. “We could use your help with the room allocations. You know your people better than I.”

Lyiera had a look of resignation on her face as she nodded. It was clear that she had expected to be assigned a lesser role.

“Lyiera,” Luna reached out and took Lyiera’s hand. “Harry isn’t questioning your ability. We really do have enough crew to fly the ship.”

“I know I’m not a Jedi…” Lyiera’s voice trailed off as Luna gave her hand a squeeze.

“Proper Jedi, Pffft…what has that got to do with anything? Can you use the Force?” asked Luna.

“Of course, I’m just not very strong,” replied Lyiera.

“What a load of bollocks, who told you that?” asked Harry. “Not everything is about power. Skill and training will often even things out.”

Luna pulled out her wand and tossed it to Lyiera.

Lyiera caught it and look quizzically at them.

“Well go on, give it a wave,” instructed Harry with a grin as he remembered Mister Ollivander.

Lyiera looked sceptical as she waved the wand. When a spray of flower petals flew everywhere she dropped it in surprise. She managed a startled, “What…”

“That was the Force used through a foci and you were more than powerful enough for that.” Explained Harry as he gestured and summoned Luna’s wand. “Yes, there are incredibly powerful Force users out there. But, that doesn’t mean that you can’t harness your connection and achieve great things. I believe that the Jedi on Praxia are learning to harness foci. Perhaps you should ask Master Yoda.”

Lyiera went to check the room allocations with a thoughtful look on her face.

Harry handed Luna back her wand and grinned as she vanished the flower petals.

“You didn’t offer her a place here?” said Master Unduli as she walked over from where she had been standing in the shadows of a powered down loader droid.
Harry didn’t look at all surprised as he turned, “I don’t think she’s ready but who knows what the future holds. She would be welcome here.”

“I can sense…frustration. You disapprove of the Service Corps do you not?” asked Unduli, careful to sound interested rather than accusatory.

“It would be more accurate to say that I think the Jedi have realised what is possible for those they discard as not good enough,” replied Harry.

Unduli calmly considered her words before replying, “I don’t know if I agree that the Service Corps was for those we discard. They did good, needed work.”

“Perhaps their service needs to be reconsidered,” said Luna. “There are a number of different ways they could serve. Look at Djinn’s people. Even those that have no Force sensitivity are a part of things. The followers of Palawa are another example, more than half of their masters of Teräskäsi are not Force sensitive. The Antarian Rangers have assisted the Jedi for over six hundred years. And we, Master Unduli, hold a very different view to the Jedi.”

“Which is part of what I am here to learn Adept Potter.” Unduli smiled wryly, “And to be honest, I believe that exposure to your homeworld has many of our more traditional Masters rethinking some of the Council’s edicts.”

Harry gave her a polite nod, "That's good to hear because if they are to survive, the Jedi must change Master Unduli."

“You seem very sure of your analysis,” replied Unduli.

Luna smiled sadly, “I am a seer Master Unduli. I have seen what the future holds if there is no balance. Because Palpatine, or Darth Sidious if you prefer, will seek to destroy what he cannot control. In doing so he will doom this galaxy to fall beneath the might of an enemy that hates the Force, in all its aspects. We interceded and stopped him from wiping out the Jedi. We did that not just for the Jedi or to minimize the loss of life but because if we fail countless lives will be lost to this enemy.”

Unduli shivered as she felt the truth of Luna’s words. What had she not heard of this? Grand Master Yoda had mentioned that the Adepts were formed as a result of a Force vision, but this was…well, madness. "Does the Council know?"

"We and our allies have warned the Council," replied Harry. "The problem is the filters, through which the Jedi view the universe. They have changed over the millennia…to the point where Jedi have drifted away from a more balanced understanding of the Force.” Harry shrugged his shoulders, "Admittedly the Sith did the same. Both of your orders forgot what the original Je’daii taught and now the galaxy is paying for it.”

Unduli looked thoughtful as she considered their words, “I would like to discuss this further. Perhaps when you return?”

“I look forward to it,” replied Harry.

Sirius and Sev’rance looked studied the large group standing in a rough semi-circle around them. They were a mixed group that was made up of most of those that had come to Haven.

Sirius glanced at Sev’rance who gave him a nod and a smile. Clearing his throat, he touched his
wand to his throat, "Sonorous."

He felt the slight tickle that told him that the charm had worked and stepped forward, "Thank you all for coming. Today we begin training as a military unit whose goal is to protect Haven and support the Adept teams that are in the field helping Force Sensitives. First, we are going to be…"


Once the Ravenclaw jumped into Hyperspace, Harry set the Auto-Pilot and turned to Luna, “She looks good.”

Luna looked up from the control surface and grinned, "She does indeed. So, we've got a three-hour stint and then our second jump. T should be a fairly straightforward flight. Not a lot out here, which isn't surprising considering we picked a fairly unknown route."

“True, so are you really okay with leaving Haven so soon?” asked Harry.

Luna shook her head, “No, not really. I think we’ve done our part there for now. Djinn, Sirius and the others can keep things moving. We need to be out here.”

“Wise words Beloved,” said Talia as she entered and took one of the spare seats. “I believe that we can help the most by following the will of the Force.”

“It’s good to have you back Master,” said Harry with a sly smile as he continued. “Although I miss the directions.”

Talia laughed, "Indeed, have no fear Harry. Luna is remarkably sensitive and despite the clouding of the Force, we still have allies out there. In fact, after Praxia I believe that we shall make the time to visit an old ally of mine. Her people have a unique perspective on the Force."

“I look forward to it,” said Harry. He didn’t ask anything more as he knew his Master quite well. She would share when she deemed it necessary.


Praxia – Jedi Council Building

It was a far cry from the Jedi Temple, but it served its purpose as the focus of the Jedi’s efforts on Praxia. Yoda rather liked it.

“Master Yoda?”

Yoda turned to see Tera Sinube. The Cosian Jedi Master was walking slowly toward him, leaning on his cane with his newest Padawan trailing behind him. Looking worried for some reason.

“Master Sinube, pleasure to see you it is. You as well Padawan Lis,” said Yoda with a smile for the young girl who looked shocked that Yoda knew her name.

“I wanted to catch you before you headed in,” said Sinube, referring to the scheduled Council meeting.

Yoda could sense Sinube’s concern as much as he could the Padawan’s growing concern. “Well free I am.”

“Perhaps a meeting room,” suggested Sinube.
A small meeting room was found and Sinube gestured closing the door.

“Master Yoda, my Padawan has made a rather interesting discovery. Lis, please share with Master Yoda what you have found.”

Lis looked worried but straightened, Her Padawan braid swinging at the abruptness of her straightening. “Master Yoda, I was… talking to Gin, Um Ginny Weasley… one of the Earth Force users. She was showing me a trick with her wand and I copied her actions and words and managed to… to copy what she had done.”

Yoda raised a brow in surprise, “Interesting this is. Their wands are strange, difficult to master without training.”

Lis glanced at her master who smiled and nodded, encouraging her to continue.

“Master Yoda I was holding only my lightsabers,” reported Lis.

Yoda hesitated, considering her words, “Hmmm, a feat indeed Padawan. Done well you have. Replicated your feat, have you?”

Lis nodded, “Yes Master.”

Yoda nodded, “Consider this I must. Be careful you will until consequences I have considered.”

“Go and get your breakfast Lis and then join me in the library,” ordered Sinube.

“Yes Master,” acknowledged Lis as she bowed and left, shutting the door behind her.

“Interesting is it not,” said Sinube with a grin that lit up his elderly features.

Yoda chuckled, “Indeed it is my old friend. Elusive magic has been, in short supply have been wands.”

“As I understand it they are foci, a task which the crystals in lightsabers also complete. I think that Lis may have stumbled onto something that we should discuss with our Wizard friends,” suggested Sinube.

“Hmm, ask I will. Meeting with Bill Weasley we are today. Discussing warding on ships we are. Add this to the agenda I will,” promised Yoda.

"Thank you, I would be interested in discovering if the connection is more than a coincidence. I spoke briefly with Miss Weasley, without pushing for information I did observe that she was not all that surprised. She thought it odd that Lis used her lightsaber, instead of a wand, but not that it happened. That suggests that she really does equate the Force with their magic."

“A Force ability I think it is. Some arts, easier to others they are. Evidence this is so young Lis may have found. But, not the only evidence it is. Feel the wards many can. Feel this Magic many have reported.” Yoda shook his head. “Careful we must be. Our relationship with these wizards, new it is.”

Sinube raised a hairy eyebrow, “And these Adepts, they wield a similar power do they not? We know that at least some of their number come from Earth. It is all evidence to consider.”

The two elderly Jedi parted ways and Yoda continued toward the Council Meeting room. This time he reached the doors before he sensed a presence in the Force. Turning he saw Jedi Master Cin
Drallig walking toward him.

“Ah, Master Yoda. We have received a message from a ship approaching the system. It is the Adept Potter, he has several rescued Service Corps people that he wants to return to us. They are asking permission to land,” reported Drallig.

Yoda had to admit that sometimes the will of the Force was not all that subtle. “Very good Master Drallig. Permission we give. Inform the council I must.”

oOoOo

The Ravenclaw

“Looks like quite a welcoming committee,” said Harry as he brought the Ravenclaw in to land.

“They’ve been busy,” added Luna. “Look at the number of buildings they have. Hermione and Ron said it was shaping up in to a town. Oh, look Bill and Ginny!”

Harry spotted the two redheads as he set the ship down. No doubt they would catch up later. He was far more intrigued to see Yoda, Cin Drallig and was that Siri Tachi?

Luna was smiling as she announced over the intercom that they were safely down.

Harry stood and stretched before turning to see Luna holding a grey robe, “Really?”

“They got dressed up, so should we,” replied Luna.

oOoOo

Yoda watched patiently as the ramp lowered.

First to appear were five figures in grey hooded robes. Behind them were a group who had to be the rescued Service Corps people. Yoda had to admit that he was relieved that they had survived and been rescued. He had been embarrassed to admit that the Jedi Council had not prioritised the safety of their Service Corps brethren and he had feared that many had been lost when the worlds they were on had fallen to the Sith.

The hooded figures advanced and stopped. The first to throw back their hoods were Luna and Harry. The next two were young women, a Zeltron and ah, yes Luna’s bodyguard the Dathomiri. The fifth figure took a step forward and lowered her hood.

Yoda’s eyes widened slightly and beside him Cin Drallig let out a surprised expletive as they came face to face with a woman they believed dead.

“Hmmm present you are, surprising this is as considering dead you were,” said Yoda.

“Master Yoda, it is a pleasure to see you again,” said Talia with a polite nod.

oOoOo

“An interesting story no doubt you have. Share it will you?” asked Yoda as he sat back on what looked like a custom-made chair.

Talia sighed, "Master Yoda, the entire story would be too long, but the short version is that I had help. An ally had access to advanced cloning technology and so when I foresaw my death before my apprentices were fully trained I made use of it as a fall-back plan. A plan that I had never really
expected to use. As a Seer, once I had become one with the Force my abilities grew exponentially. I could guide my apprentices and ensure that they were trained. Unfortunately, circumstances grew dangerous enough that I had to forego much of that power. The price of my new life."

"You still have access to the Force?" asked Jedi Master Adi Gallia. Cloning Force Sensitives had been believed to be nigh on impossible.

"I do indeed," confirmed Talia. "The process is a secret held by a Force Sensitive sect that I am sworn to silence on. But I can say it involves using Khalodian memory crystals."

"Amazing," admitted Yoda. "Surprised I am but welcome this development I do."

"We are thankful," added Luna.

"Indeed, as we are. Many lives your actions have saved. Wrong I was to dissuade you," said Yoda. "Will of the Force this must be."

When Yoda didn’t say anything else, Adi Gallia sighed and stepped in. "May I ask a question?"

"Of course," replied Talia.

"Why the secrecy, why not warn the order earlier?" asked Gallia.

Talia sighed and shook her head, "Because it would not have been heeded. The Jedi High Council would not have listened."

Gallia’s eyes narrowed, "I understand that you have issues with the Jedi, but you cannot believe that we would ignore such a serious threat."

Talia shrugged, "Prior to the Sith Palpatine, who would have believed such a thing was possible. The Jedi believed that the Sith were gone. That they would never rise again. Only a few," she looked at Yoda. "Were questioning, asking themselves if the Sith were truly gone. Well, the answer was no. The Baneites who followed the rule of two had learned discretion. They hid away and began adapting to exploit the weaknesses they knew existed. Then along comes Sidious, who clearly has re-interpreted the rule of two. He has trained hundreds of Force Sensitives to be his soldiers, spies and assassins."

Drallig shot Gallia a warning look before speaking, "I believe that we have seen the result of our ignorance. We escaped destruction by the narrowest of margins. In no small part due to your follower's intervention. So I, for one, are willing to believe that you acted as you interpreted the Force's guidance. I have seen and heard reports of your Adepts and their actions. For the most part, I am relieved that they have been able to intervene when we could not."

"We are keepers of the balance Master Drallig," added Luna. "We are looking to preserve life and the unique knowledge of the Force that exists outside the Sith and the Jedi. But most of all we are preparing for an enemy that seeks to destroy all those that use the Force."

"Both Qui-Gon and I warned you Master Yoda. You cannot defeat the Sith at this point in time. But there is still hope that the Sith can be beaten. And yet, with each death of a Force Sensitive, the future grows darker. The Adepts have been working tirelessly to avoid a future where a power worse than the Sith appears." Talia looked around the room at those gathered. "I had a vision, where the Jedi order fell to the Sith. It was the first step down a dark road where so much knowledge was lost that when a greater enemy came along we were crippled."

"Much thought, I have given this. Believe I do that possible to avoid this future is," said Yoda with
quiet conviction.

"The Adepts work toward that possibility Master Yoda, there must be balance," said Harry.

"Not just returning our people are you?" asked Yoda.

"No, we are also continuing with our mission to seek out Force Sensitives," replied Harry.

"Hmmm, worthy that goal is. A Question have I, if I may?" asked Yoda.

"I'll answer if I can," agreed Harry.

"The Force used by the wizards it is, learn it can Jedi?" asked Yoda. He went on to explain about Padawan Lis and her discovery.

Harry, Luna and Talia shared a look before Harry replied. "It is possible yes, although not every Jedi will be able to harness it. Just as not all will be equally adept."

"Agreement to teach us we seek," replied Yoda.

"That might not be possible right now Master Yoda. Although, I suspect that the Ministry might be able to help with tutors. I will ask Bill Weasley and see what he thinks," promised Harry.

"Good relationship, we have developed with your people. Of great value was the warding of Praxia," Yoda mused aloud.

Harry grinned, "Just so you know, Lyiera was able to use a wand…makes you think doesn’t it?"

---

Bill Weasley’s Room – Ministry Building – Praxia

"It's good to see you Harry," said Bill Weasley as he shook Harry’s hand. “You too Luna.”

Bill Weasley looked tired but very happy, "It's been pretty busy these last few months. With the Ministry looking at off-world sites, learning how to crew the ship the Jedi supplied us and finishing off everything else that needed to be done. It has been a long few months."

“I’m surprised that the Ministry has moved this fast,” said Luna.

“It hasn’t really. The Minister has been pushing to get things moving. Dad’s loving it,” said Bill with a smile.

“How is Ginny enjoying it?” asked Luna.

“She’s been an outstanding assistant. But, I think I’ll let her fill you in. She should be here any minute.”

Ginny duly arrived and serious matters turned to family gossip and speculation about the future. Both Harry and Luna were pleased to hear that Ginny was doing so well. She had befriended a number of Padawans and several of the younger Knights. Her hard work and her grasp of the Jedi’s technology had not gone unnoticed either. Amelia Bones had her slated in as crew on the ‘Merlin’. The Transport ship that the Jedi had traded to the Ministry as a training ship.

“That’s amazing Ginny!” exclaimed Harry.
Ginny grinned as Luna pulled her into a tight hug. Harry was pleased to note that she had grown into a confident young woman. It seemed a long way from the blushing, stuttering Ginny he had first met.

“Where are you headed now?” asked Bill.

“We have our own mission Bill,” Harry reminded him. “And it is about time we got back to it.”

Seeing a flash of disappointment appear on both Ginny’s and Luna’s faces, Harry quickly added a caveat. “Although we may be here a day or two while we plan our next trip.”

The Ravenclaw

Harry lay, enjoying Luna’s warmth as she snuggled against him in their bed. Making love was, well fantastic but it was this intimacy that meant the most to Harry.

“Hmm…Harry?”

“Yes, love?” asked Harry.

“Talia suggested a night to ourselves and then for me to meditate. It must be hard for her, losing some of her connection to the Force,” Luna hugged him tight as she spoke.

Harry kissed the top of Luna’s head, “Well, we have a few hours before we need to take our watch. I could probably do with a few hours of meditation, after a shower of course.”

Talia, Velath and Sahdra had already left the ship. So Harry and Luna ate a quick breakfast before returning to their cabin.

For Harry meditation was about centring himself and letting the Force flow around him. It was both relaxing and it always left him feeling energised.

As a seer, Luna often found the Force showing her a montage of images. They were not always meaningful, but meditation helped her sort through the ripples her sight showed her.

…a man in Jedi garb talking to a Twi’lek pilot on the bridge of a starship…

…two children, playing their ball hovering between them…

…a huge moon with an oddly regular crater…

…a man in a white uniform, walking toward a shuttle clutching a datapad…

…Hermione reading a book in the library…

...troops in Mandalorian armour fighting Clone Troopers in a forest…

…the smoking ruins of a village with bodies strewn across the ground…

…Sirius embracing Sev’rance from behind, kissing her neck…

…A female Zabrak summoning a blaster into her hand as she turned…

…spells lashed back and forth as two witches duelled in front of a crowd…
...Anakin Skywalker smiling as he held a pair of newborn babies...

...An icy, cold world orbited by twin moons...

...a battered shuttle descending into a snowstorm...

...a ruin amid the snow...

...shivering children in a vast, freezing cavern. Two older humans telling stories, keeping their spirits up...

...children crying out as red lightsabers ignited in the shadows ...

Luna opened her eyes and looked over at Harry. Who was looking at her with some concern.

“What is it?” asked Harry. He could sense Luna’s reaction to whatever she had seen.

"Some Darksiders, I think they were about to kill some children. It was pretty grim."

“Something in the now or the future?” asked Harry as he reached out and took her hands.

“The future, I think. I’m not sure where the planet is, but there were Sith there.” Luna went on to describe what she had seen.

Harry shook his head, “Maybe an ice planet or perhaps just winter. You should ask Talia, she might know.”

Luna sighed as she massaged her temples, “I hate the dark ones. I know we can’t stop everything but knowing doesn’t make it any easier.”

Harry studied her carefully. Force Seers were often driven mad by what they saw and were often unable to change. Luna looked tired. Tired and clearly still impacted by what she had seen. Luna was rather empathetic and when mixed with her Seer abilities...well they both had to work to keep her balanced.

“Let’s go see Talia,” suggested Harry.

oOoOo

They found Talia outside, conducting an impromptu training session with Velath and Sahdra. Both young women were sweating as they moved through a series of attacks and defences. Harry had to smile. Talia had often conducted the same exercise during their training. It looked easy, but you did it after a long run.

“Hold it their ladies,” ordered Talia as she spotted Harry and Luna. “I think another lap and then you can freshen up.”

Velath and Sahdra both took off, running what looked like a lap of the Jedi colony.

Talia watched the two young women for a moment before turning to study Luna, “They are diligent students, a credit to you both. Now, we all sensed your emotions a few minutes ago. What happened?”

Luna explained, and Talia listened looking thoughtful. She asked Luna to describe the ruins and was soon nodding. "I would guess it was Ilum. It is a planet in the unknown regions. There was once a Jedi Temple there and it is still a source of lightsaber crystals. Although, I would have assumed it
was evacuated in the aftermath of Order Sixty-Six."

“Could Palpatine have occupied a planet that far away?” asked Harry.

“I doubt it,” said Talia. “But that doesn’t stop a raid to gain control or indeed destroy a strategic asset.”

Harry was about to comment when he paused and frowned.

“What is it Harry?” asked Luna.

"We think that he's training up a small army of Darksiders… he is killing any Force Sensitives that he doesn't control. So, where are the recruits coming from?"

Talia grimaced as she considered, “You may be right Harry, but it is just a guess until we find out.”

Harry accepted his master’s wisdom with a nod, “I’ll start prepping the ship.”

Jedi Master Cin Drallig could sense his Padawan on board the Adepts ship. Not that he was overly worried. Padawan Bene was currently off duty and had mentioned that she was going to visit Miss Weasley. No doubt the Witch was visiting her friends. He had been seeking her to ask if she wanted to accompany him to see an exhibition duel between two wizards. The Ministry had been rather good allies over the last few months. He was reaching for his communicator when Harry walked down the ship's ramp.

“Master Drallig, are you looking for Bene?”

Harry quite enjoyed the company of Master Drallig. He was a rather dry but friendly man who came across as a rather practical, competent individual. Harry had met him previously but had not spent much time with the man. Bene was a pretty, polite and serious young woman. She was however quite curious about the Adepts and their beliefs.

Luna, Ginny, Bene and Sahdra were talking in the Galley as Master Drallig, Harry and Talia made themselves drinks and sat at the smaller table.

“It’s good to see Bene relax a bit,” said Cin with some amusement. “She is an excellent Padawan and will no doubt make a fine Jedi. But, she is far too serious.”

Harry raised an eyebrow, “That seems an odd comment from a Jedi Master.”

Cin smiled slightly before taking a sip of his tea, “I know, we should all be grim and serious. I’m serious about training the next generation of Jedi in swordsmanship but I know that she is still a teenager. I think the Order sometimes forgets that the younglings need to grow into adults.”

Talia laughed, amused. “Why Master Drallig where is the dreaded Battle master known as the Troll?”

Cin sighed, “It helps establish suitable attentiveness to my lessons, but I wish I had never been saddled with that nickname. I suspect your old friend Qui-Gon may have first coined the phrase.”

“You are more relaxed than I remember you,” admitted Talia.
“That may be true. With all the tragedies that have befallen the Order. Some good has come from
events,” confessed Cin quietly. “The Council has begun reassessing old traditions with a view to
what changes might need to be made. I freely admit to being conservative but seeing how your
people do things. I am not the only Master looking to the future. Take young Ginny and her family.
All of them, even her prankster brothers would make fine Jedi. Arthur is, I believe, a friend. I look at
him and I see a family man who is a staunch a defender of the light as any Jedi. His family lend him
strength.”

Talia nodded thoughtfully, “I believe the same. Djinn’s people are no less committed with families
around them.”

"Talia and I know a former darksider who found her way back to a more balanced viewpoint thanks
to forming an emotional connection to a good man. If the order is to survive, I suspect that change is
inevitable," said Harry.

“Bene and her peers may well see change. It will be interesting to watch. What of you Harry?” asked
Cin.

“Luna and I are partners and I know I fight all the harder because she is by my side.” Harry’s eyes
went to Luna as he spoke.

Luna grinned as Bene admitted that she was surprised by life on Praxia. “It’s very different to living
in the Temple. Master Yoda has been encouraging us to mix with your people Luna. I’ve made quite
a few friends while the enclave was being constructed,” she smiled at Ginny who nodded.

“True,” admitted Ginny. “Most of the Padawan and younglings were a bit standoffish at first. But
they’ve loosened up quite a bit.”

Sahdra smiled, flashing her white teeth. “So, come on, share all those steamy scenes in the Padawan
quarters!”

Bene’s cheeks were pink as she looked down at the table.

“Sahdra!” protested Ginny.

“Seriously, there are some hotties among the Padawan here. Not that I’m looking for myself, I’m
taken,” Sahdra announced proudly.

“A boy back home?” asked Ginny.

Sahdra laughed, genuinely amused. “No, a girl here. Velath is my lover.”

Ginny’s eyes widened slightly before she could school her features.


Sahdra smile widened, “It’s great. Velath is beautiful and while Zeltrons may have a reputation, we
are loyal to our one. If we are lucky enough to find them.”

Ginny smiled at Bene’s discomfort. The Padawan was quite sheltered and clearly had never had
much to do with people like Sahdra. Sahdra however, was pleased the Bene had asked. It allowed
her to wax lyrical about her beloved Velath.
The next ten minutes were very educational.

Ginny was mentally taking notes. Luna simply looked amused and Bene shell-shocked as Sahdra launched into a detailed description of her lovemaking with Velath.

“…and then she did this thing with her…What’s the matter?” Sahdra looked around at the mix of amused and shocked expressions.

“Too much information Sahdra,” explained Luna. “But I am glad to hear that things worked out for you two.”

oOoOo

**Haven**

Sirius managed to bring his Lightsaber up to block the purple blade of his attacker's Lightsaber inches from his throat. With a slight shift of his feet, he changed position enough to be able to push the Lightsaber away. He simultaneously thrust a hand toward his opponent, pushing her back.

Sev’rance grinned, showing white teeth as she nodded to Sirius. “Much better. You are getting better at combining attacks.”

Sirius nodded as he considered her feedback, “I am feeling more comfortable using a weapon in combination with magic or the Force. I must admit that going for my wand is a hard habit to break.”

Sev’rance rolled her eyes, “Sirius you are a deadly opponent. This isn’t about not using magic. I just want you to have some variety in your attacks.”

“I know…” Sirius trailed off and then perked up. “Hey, I’ve just realised that Altis is running tonight’s session. Do you feel like eating in, you know a home cooked meal?”

“Perhaps, who do you know that is cooking?” asked Sev’rance with a raised eyebrow.

“Ha, I’ll have you know that my steaks are renowned on Earth.” Sirius gave a dismissive wave. “But, if you are so inclined you may cook.”

Sev’rance laughed, “Boiled vegetables it is.”

Sirius was about to retort when his comm alerted, followed immediately by Sev’rance’s.

"Sirius here," said Sirius as he tapped the wrist-mounted device.

“Sirius, we need you and Sev’rance up in the control room. We’ve had one of the transports reports picking up a distress signal from Abushu four. Keisha says they asked for you by name,” reported Remus.

Sirius blinked and then a look of recognition appeared on his face. “Abushu Four, I think I know who it is. He’s a Force Sensitive we contacted. I left an emergency contact with him just in case.”

“Well looks like he needs help,” replied Remus. “Do we need to organise a rescue team?”

“He didn’t strike me as someone who would call in if he didn’t need to.”

“Right, I’m on it,” reported Remus.

“We are on our way up,” said Sirius.
The control room was fairly busy most of the time. It acted as the command centre for Haven and it was from here that they tracked their people who were away from Haven. Tonight, it was even busy than usual.

Djinn Altis, Remus, Salara, Ret, Keisha and somewhat surprisingly Bo-Katan, were all waiting when Sirius and Sev’rance arrived.

“Ah, Sev’rance, Sirius we were just looking at the available teams and briefing everyone,” said Keisha. Although young, she was the duty officer for the shift and so it was her job to brief everyone.

“One of Djinn’s transports returning from the Calaron Sector picked up a call for assistance. The transport isn’t in a position to conduct a rescue and forwarded the message to us on a secure channel.” Keisha reached over and activated the Holocom.

A grainy holo-image of an older man holding an old blaster pistol appeared.

“Sirius Black...I hope you were telling the Fraking truth about a safe location because I’ve just had Clones kick my door in. I got out, but they’ve rounded up my family and friends. I need some help here,” he looked around and then crouched down, bringing his comm close to his scowling face. “Because otherwise, I’m going to have to go after them by myself...and that’s just going to get me killed, them too. I’m on a secure line so you can get me when you arrive...Don’t let me down Black, Wend out.”

“Bugger,” muttered Sirius. “I know him alright. He’s the Force Sensitive I offered sanctuary to. I assume we are going?”

“It’s your call Keisha,” said Djinn Altis. “You are the duty officer.”

Keisha frowned and then nodded. "I agree, Sirius we need to make good on your offer. Remus, which team is on standby?"

"Team One," reported Remus. "Bo-Katan has offered Mandalorian troops. Just in case you need the firepower."

Team one was under the direct command of Salara. Her second was Ret and she had a mixed team of Dathomiri and Altisian Jedi. Who were, so far, one of the most effective teams. Adding a squad of Mandalorian warriors to that would make the rescue team quite formidable.

Sirius looked over at the armoured figure of Bo-Katan, who nodded. Yes, quite formidable indeed.

“Sev’rance and I will lead the operation, Salara is your team ready to go?”

Salara nodded, “We are just prepping the ship.”

“We may need a healer for this one,” suggested Sev’rance.

“That is a good idea,” acknowledged Djinn Altis. “I’ll put a call into the Med Centre.”

Sirius looked at Sev’rance who raised an eyebrow as if to say what are you waiting for?

“Let’s get moving people. Keisha can you get our ship to send a message saying we are on our way,” ordered Sirius.

oOoOo
Obi-Wan really didn’t approve of foul language but right now he really wished he could unleash his tongue on the bureaucrat sitting at the desk. “It was my understanding that this had been sent through to Garm Bel Iblis.”

The human behind the desk shrugged, “There are other requests ahead of yours Master Jedi. The arrival of Senators Mothma and Organa has caused a change of scheduling for the committee negotiating with the former CIS leaders.”

Obi-Wan was seriously considering using the Force to persuade the man when he felt a hand on his shoulder. Turning, he saw Master Hull.

“Obi-Wan, I think you might want to see this. We have some training suggestions that may have merit,” Hull gave a slight shake of his head and then gestured down the corridor.

Obi-Wan nodded and followed.

Once they were out of earshot, Hull sighed. “I sense your frustrations my friend.”

"Nothing is being achieved here. It's the worst of the Senate come again. Politics overriding the common good." Obi-Wan knew he wasn't acting with his usual reserve but all the Jedi's losses and it came back to this, politics. The various politician's abandonment of the Mandalorians had shown him that there were problems but to become bogged down in politics, as the Sith strengthened their position was almost criminal.

“Your frustration is understandable Obi-Wan, but it does not help you deal with the bureaucrats or persuade those that need to act if things are to change,” explained Hull. He gave the younger Jedi a look of understanding rather than judgement.

"I hate politics and have little trust in politicians," admitted Obi-Wan.

“Then your place is not here Obi-Wan,” Hull raised a hand to stop Obi-Wan replying. “You are a skilled Jedi Master Kenobi and a good man. But your dislike of politics does you no good here. Garm Bel Iblis is another good man.” Hull’s mouth quirked into a smile before his expression grew serious again. “This is his battleground. Those of us that wish to see Palpatine stopped must unite. Mon Mothma, Bail Organa…Force even Wat Tambor and San Hill have roles to play. There are other Jedi who are more at home with politics. Get one assigned here and take Skywalker and Tano with you. Go and help your friend Satine and keep an eye on these Adepts.”

Obi-Wan hid a wince, “This isn’t about the Mandalorians.”

Hull actually laughed but quickly sobered. "Obi-Wan, I've been married for twenty-seven years. My wife is a Jedi Master in her own right and both my children are Padawans, serving the Corellian people. I know what that look is you get when she is mentioned. Much like young Skywalker and Senator Padmé Amidala Naberrie."

“…” Obi-Wan trailed off.

“It will be sometime before this alliance to restore the Republic gains momentum. Until then, go and help your friends. Search your heart Obi-Wan. Understanding it and who you hold there will give you clarity.”

Obi-Wan was about to deny Hull's words but he could still recall the look on Satine's face as help for her people was all but refused. He did have feelings for her and this was something he would need to meditate on. "I will have to speak with the Council," advised Obi-Wan.
Hull nodded politely and walked on.

Obi-Wan made his way back to his cabin and to his surprise he found both Anakin and Ahsoka waiting for him.

“What is it?” asked Obi-Wan.

“We just received a very unexpected message on my personal channel,” replied Anakin. “You really won’t believe who it was from.”

Obi-Wan raised an eyebrow, “Oh?”

Anakin typed a code into his holocom and then played the message.

The familiar figure of Assajj Ventress appeared.

“The hair is a new look,” commented Kenobi.

“Suits her,” added Ahsoka.

Ventress shook her head, “I have no doubt that Skywalker or Kenobi has just said something that they think is amusing. I have two pieces of intelligence for you…no charge, as the bounty hunters say. Dooku is dead, I killed him after you Jedi did such a poor job of it. This time I made damn sure of it. The second thing is that Darth Maul is alive. He’s running from Sidious with a pirate crew and his new apprentice. We had an encounter with them in the Unknown Regions and Maul tried to recruit me.” Ventress smiled coldly and her hand went to the hilt of one of the lightsabers she wore. “I dissuaded them and left. I already had what I came for on that frigid world and had no desire to return there. Besides, I am done with the Sith and the Jedi.”

With that, the image flickered and disappeared.

Obi-Wan frowned as he stroked his bearded chin, “I must say, I had not expected that.”

“She could be lying,” said Anakin, but not with any conviction.

“Perhaps, but I think we should investigate. Maul surviving is something the Council needs to know about,” offered Obi-Wan.

“But where do we start?” asked Ahsoka.

Anakin looked thoughtful, "She said a frigid world and that she already had what she came for and touched her lightsaber…could she mean Ilum. It is in the Unknown Regions."

‘It’s a starting point,” agreed Obi-Wan. “Why so vague a warning though?”

“She said ‘we’,” mused Ahsoka. “What if she has a ship with a crew. She could be trying to send a subtle warning or hiding that she is helping us.”

Obi-Wan nodded, “Anakin, Ahsoka please prep the ship.”

oOoOo

The Ravenclaw on route to the Unknown Regions

After leaving Praxis, life on board the Ravenclaw had once again returned to its shipboard routine. The lack of a hyperspace route meant that a lot of the calculations were essentially manual, although
aided by the Force.

It was commonly held that travel outside defined Hyperspace ways was dangerous in the extreme. And, for those without experience, it could be deadly. However, it was possible. The Jedi Exploration Corps had spent thousands of years surveying and charting the galaxy. Specially trained Jedi used the Force to help find the safest routes and while specialists their skills could be learned by other Jedi.

Both Luna and Harry had been taught many of the techniques by Talia.

As Talia had explained, “It was slower than a Hyperspace route but much more discreet.”

“Harry, do you need anything?” asked Sahdra as she stretched.

"I'd love a tea," replied Harry as he continued to check off the coordinates. "But I'll get one after I finish here."

Sahdra nodded, “Bed sounds wonderful. How long on the next jump?”

“Luna said four hours,” reported Harry.

“That’s not too bad…How did you two take to learn to navigate like this?”

“A while,” admitted Harry. “As Seers, both Talia and Luna were much more accurate than me. Still, if you want I’ll teach you.”

“That would be great Harry!” exclaimed Sahdra enthusiastically.

For the next four hours, Harry stepped Sahdra through the basics of extending your Force perception in such a way that you could visualise what lay ahead on a prospective path.

Sahdra looked tired and somewhat subdued as the Ravenclaw dropped out of Hyperspace. “Wow, that was a lot harder than I had thought it would be. But, I could sense it, just like you said. Thanks Harry.”

“Not a problem, do you want to go and wake the others. We are just outside the Ilum System.”

Sahdra nodded and ducked out of the hatch. As she left Harry began scanning the surrounding space.

oOoOo

Ilum – A Mountain Cave

Darth Maul looked over at his companion and hesitated. His new apprentice was a Dathomiri. At fourteen she was young, but she was far from helpless. After escaping from Palpatine's clutches, he had returned to Dathomir seeking allies. He had found her there, in the ruins of a Nightsister village. Naked and bleeding after having escaped from a group of slavers that had purchased her.

Most of the witches were gone. Killed or taken to be interrogated and then killed, if they were lucky. The younger girls had been sold as slaves.

Somehow Ena had survived and escaped.
His apprentice had a strong connection to the Force. Just as he had been shaped into a Sith, she had been inducted into her dark sisterhood. She had shared some of her trials with him and he had to admit that they were not unlike his own. And yet she had retained her capacity for loyalty. He could sense it, his bond with her was strong. It was solid and real amid the anger, the rage that Talzin and the Nightsisters birthed in the young woman.

It was a puzzle. His training told him to exploit the ‘bond’ to use her. But, he held back, hesitated. Why?

Darth Sidious…no, Palpatine. He would not give the man who betrayed him any honorific. He had clearly failed to seize full control of the Republic. Indeed, from what he had seen Palpatine’s grand plan had failed. What did it mean for him, for his plans?

Since encountering Ventress, they had come across two Sith trained killers. They had been barely adequate fighters, but they clearly had training. Luckily one had survived their encounter long enough to be questioned. Palpatine had been training others, soldiers, inquisitors and assassins…the rule of two was clearly not being followed. Another lie from his former master.

“Master, you should eat something.”

Maul turned to see Ena, who was holding a bowl of steaming soup. Maul nodded and took what was offered as he watched her fill her own bowl.

“As we close?” asked Ena.

Maul considered for a moment before nodding, “I believe so. The source of the information was less than forthcoming with accurate directions.”

“We should have forced Ventress to tell us,” offered Ena.

Maul shrugged, eyes narrowing. “She is no threat and may potentially be an ally.”

“All, we are seeking alliances?”

“We have few friends brother,” Maul reminded his apprentice.

“We don’t need friends. We have each other Master. We are clan.” Ena said the words with conviction. She truly believed in his…in their cause.

Maul slowly nodded, “The Force is our ally, but we do need resources if we are to seize our place. There are others out there that hate Palpatine. We can use them to help us.”

Ena accepted that admonishment and returned to her soup. Although he eyes stayed on him.

Maul, however, was considering his own words. If the Rule of Two was a lie or at least now disregarded as obsolete, then…then what?

Maul considered his current self-appointed mission. His questioning of Palpatine's half-trained thug had given him the probable location of several Jedi. On a planet that was of interest to the ‘Emperor’. He had thought to kill the Jedi himself. To send a message to Palpatine. But now, well now he had another option. If Palpatine could mould his own pawns…then so could he. Could he replicate his apprentice's loyalty? Could he create his own Force Sensitive guards?

He considered this thought as he drank the broth his Apprentice had made.
His training under Darth Sidious had been built on fear of punishment. Compliance meant a chance to be free of punishment. His Apprentices training had been just as brutal. It was not their training that shaped their bond of loyalty. It was their connection. The young Dathomiri girl saw something in him beyond a chance for power or revenge.

Maul finished his meal and saw that Ena had also finished. “We should rest before we confront the Jedi.” The had spent the day studying the Temple from a distance.

“Are we to return to the ship?” asked Ena with some distaste.

Maul frowned, despite her violent rejection of the slightest advance Ena had been the target of unwanted male attention on the ship. He needed the crew to fly the ship and man the weapons. Once that need had passed, he would give his Apprentice the reward of killing them all.

“No, we will stay here,” replied Maul.

Ena shivered and nodded, seemingly pleased. “Thank you Master.”

“You must stay warm. The cold can kill,” warned Maul. He knew that Ena would have had little exposure to sub-zero temperatures on Dathomir.

“Y-yes Master.”

"Come sit next to me Apprentice. Together we will stay warm. Later I will teach you to use the Force to ignore such discomfort but for now, come."

Ena eagerly followed his directions and was soon pressed up tightly against him.

Maul sensed her relief and swirling emotions. Her growing attraction to him was something that he had yet to deal with. But for now, he let her share his warmth.

There were lessons to be learned here.

Crystal Caves - Ilum

Jedi Master Garen Muln grimaced as he shifted his weight on his injured leg. He had barely managed to make it to Ilum after his clones turned on him. His ship damaged beyond repair he slowly and painfully made his way to the ruins of the Jedi Temple on Ilum. He had little experience with healing (save through Force Meditation) and had been unable to do much about the injury to his leg.

Still, he had made it and in doing so received a rather large surprise.

There had been eight younglings and a Padawan already sheltering in the crystal caves.

They had been a part of a training creche returning to the Jedi Temple when they received a warning. It had almost come too late. The pilot, Jedi Master Tenek had managed to avoid the initial attack by their own escorts. The Clone pilots of the Z-95 Headhunters had doggedly pursued the Jedi’s armed transport, hammering its shields. Tenek’s Padawan had finally managed to clip one of the fighters spun into its wingman. The final Headhunter managed to get a solid hit on the bridge, killing Master Muln, before being taken out.

Padawan Lenna, a light green Female Twi’lek, had somehow used the auxiliary controls to bring the damaged transport down safely. Although the transport would never fly again.
Now, the nine survivors were under Master Muln’s care and he was growing worried.

They had managed to hide from a crew of pirates or perhaps bounty hunters led by Asajj Ventress of all people. Oddly, only Ventress had entered the crystal caves and she had left carrying only a small bag.

After that lucky escape, he had begun to worry. The last thing he had heard before crash landing was that the Jedi were to rendezvous at a specific encoded location. Unfortunately, he lost communications before that data was transmitted.

The Padawan and the younglings were not stupid. Indeed, Lenna had approached him with her own concerns about their next move. She had been trying to get a jury-rigged Holocom working. With what she had, it was a near impossible task. Without resupply, they had maybe another month, six weeks at best of e-rations. Then they would have to hunt.

“…Master Muln…there are people in the Temple!” warned one of the older Younglings from the mouth of the cave they were using.

"Uli is it? Good make sure everyone is the rear cave. Lenna, you are with me." Muln got stiffly to his feet and limped toward the cave mouth. "Lenna, I want you out of sight until we know who it is. Hide and don't fight unless you need to protect the younglings."

When he reached the entrance to the cave network in the Jedi Temple he almost gasped as he felt the presence of two dark siders.

“Sith, Leena go and hide with the others. I will try and deal with them,” ordered Muln.

“But Master…”

“Now Leena,” insisted Muln.

Mun took a deep breath and centred himself in the Force. Uninjured he might have stood a chance…as things were, well he could buy Leena some time.

The two Sith approached cautiously, studying the temple. The larger of the two figures had almost immediately noticed him. Muln could sense the Dark-siders eyes on him.

“Look my Apprentice, a Jedi,” said the taller of the two as he halted just a dozen steps away. His voice was quite normal, almost conversational.

“There is nothing here for you,” said Muln.

The figure threw back his hood and was revealed to be a tattooed Zabrak, “Oh, but I disagree Master Jedi. You are protecting a prize of immense value to me.”

Mun silently cursed as his Lightsaber fled in to his hand.

The smaller Sith moved forward but was halted by the hand of the other.

“Calm yourself Apprentice. Master Jedi, I am sure that you will doubt anything I say. But I will try anyway. I mean no harm to your younglings. I will even transport them to safety, far from the Republic, or should it be the Empire?”

“You will have to kill me before I let you have them,” replied Muln.

“Ah, well then perhaps we shall speak later,” replied the Sith.
Muln tensed, waiting for the attack. Then he sensed it, danger. He barely had time to react before the world went white.

Maul opened his eyes and blinked a few times to clear the white spots. The Corellian shock grenade had done its job. As had the small flying droid that had dropped the active grenade behind Muln.

“For now, secure him in the outer temple,” ordered Maul as the flying droid returned to sit on his shoulder. “Make sure that he cannot escape as we may need him alive to ensure their co-operation.”

Ena nodded and dragged the unconscious Jedi toward a side room.

As his Apprentice carried out her duty, Maul was studying the cave entrance.

The Force Sensitive children would be his to ‘rescue’. Those that survived training would become his cadre of Sith warriors and the genesis of his own Sith Order. Sidious had lied to him, used him as a tool…now it was his turn. And he would not be repeating the mistakes of his former Master. He would build loyalty, he would build his own Empire in the image of the Sith Empire of old.

“The Jedi is secure,” reported Ena. “And there is this.” She held up a communicator. “The Pirates report a ship in orbit, a small one.”

Maul frowned and concentrated, extending his senses as his Ma…as Palpatine had taught him. He could sense five Force users coming nearer.

“I fear that we will have company soon Apprentice,” warned Maul. “I think it’s time that we complete our rescue mission.”

Harry frowned as he sensed a presence in the Force. Actually, quite a few presences. The one that was searching using the Force was certainly a darksider.

“We need to land near the Temple,” instructed Luna.

Harry nodded, bringing the Ravenclaw around to land next to the ancient building.

“I can sense something…over there,” said Harry as he shut down the Ravenclaw.

They quickly discovered an unconscious and quite badly injured middle-aged Jedi. He had been secured, by binders to a huge metal pillar.

“He’s alive just unconscious,” reported Talia.

Luna pulled her wand and attempted to revive the stunned man to no effect.

Talia clicked her tongue as she touched the Jedi’s temples, “He is suffering from neural shock. He must have been hit by a shock grenade or stunner. He’ll be out for a while. I’ll get him back to medical on the ship.”

“I can sense several Force signatures but there is something distorting my senses,” said Luna.

“It’s the nature of the caves,” said Talia as she levitated the unconscious Jedi. “I will not be long.”

A few minutes later Talia returned, “He’s safe onboard with the Medical droid.”

Harry and Luna led the way followed by Talia, Velath and Sahdra.
The cave complex was not small nor were there any marked paths.

“Can you sense it Harry?” asked Luna.

Harry had been contemplating just what he had been sensing. It felt familiar to the cavern used by Vectivus. “The Dark side of the Force is strong here. Not as much as on Haven but enough to potentially affect us. Everyone needs to be careful. Concentrate and be aware of your surroundings.”

Talia and Velath both nodded. Sahdra looked less confident but she nodded and followed.

Harry could still sense the Force signatures ahead. The two Dark-siders were slowly approaching the group of Jedi.

Harry used the Force to follow the Sith’s trail but after finding himself again at a dead end here swore and turned back to Talia. “Damn, it’s impossible to tell how far ahead they are. Talia do you remember any shortcuts?” asked Harry.

Talia shook her head, “No Beloved, I was a youngling when I came here. Although I do remember travelling quite a way before reaching the inner caves.”

“Mistress, there is a power cell here,” reported Velath. “It’s fairly old but still pretty warm. It cannot have been here too long.”

Luna walked over and examined the cell. “I think it’s from a light. Good work Velath.”

“Come on, let’s go. We need to get to the children,” urged Harry.

Maul hesitated for a moment before moving to the right-hand cave. “This way Apprentice. We must hurry as I believe some uninvited guests have entered the caves.”

Ena nodded, “Yes Master.”

Maul could sense the Jedi ahead. Young and terrified, trying to be calm and brave…oh it was gratifying to be proven right. What a gem was buried beneath this mountain.

“It will be your doom my fallen apprentice.”

Maul spun to see Darth Sidious emerge from the Shadows. He lightsaber leapt into his hand as he prepared to fight. Then burning pain assaulted him…it was like his internal organs were on fire. It was so overwhelming that he could barely remain standing.

"Yes…now you know the true power of the Dark side. Mine alone to command," Sidious cackled gleefully, enjoying Maul's agony.

“Kill the Jedi failed apprentice and I might be convinced to let you live…”

Maul staggered, falling to one knee. Not in respect, but rather because he could no longer stand. “No,” he whispered. “No, it will not end like this.”

"The Jedi hiding here…they will die. You…will die as will your Apprentice. Although perhaps after I have given her to the Clones to use once more something may be made of her. Your little rebellion has failed. The Galaxy is mine!” crowed Sidious.

Maul sensed the Emperor slowly approaching him. Summoning his strength, he hauled himself to his
feet.

The Emperor raised his hands, fingers spread and already crackling with Force Lightning…and paused.

“…Master…free…”

It was a whisper, a familiar voice.

“…Fight it…”

Maul felt his Apprentice by his side. He could feel her presence but not see her.

“…Master…love…please…”

“You are not real,” hissed Maul as he gathered his scattered wits. This was an illusion, a trick, a trap. Once he realised what it was the image of Sidious faded back into the shadows.

“Master!”

Maul turned to see a concerned Ena watching him.

“I am myself. It was a Force illusion,” Maul reassured Ena.

“Is it the Jedi?”

Maul shook his head, “No, I think it is the nature of this place. Like the power sources for the lights draining, there are traps here for the unwary. Come, we must both hurry and be cautious.”

oOoOo

Harry could sense the shifting eddies of the Force as he concentrated. The Crystals in the caves amplified and changed how the Force flowed. Similar to the cavern Darth Vectivus used, this place was a Force Nexus.

“This maze was used to test younglings. They would have to use the Force to navigate and their training and mind to determine the nature of this place,” Talia explained what they were sensing.

“So it will play on your fears,” advised Luna. “We have trained for this with Vectivus. We all know how Force illusions work.”

“Yes Mistress,” replied Velath with a confident nod.

“Those exercises were tricky, I kept getting distracted by Velath appearing naked with a… mmmphh.” Sahdra voice was muffled by Velath’s hand over her mouth.

“We are good Mistress,” Velath reassured Luna.

Luna grinned, “Good, Harry will you take the lead?”

Harry rolled his eyes and took the lead.

oOoOo

“Anakin, I’m reading a ship near the Temple,” reported Obi-Wan as their ship came in to land.

Anakin looked over the readings, “It’s hard to tell with all the interference.” Anakin adjusted the
sensors and the readings changed. “Ah, that is better. It looks like a merchant ship. A DeepWater-
class light freighter. Mon Calamari built, they are a good ship. It's powered down but its transponder
is broadcasting that it is a merchant ship.”

“Here, that is rather a big coincidence,” replied Obi-Wan.

"I…hold on, there is another ship. Quite a distance from the first. No transponder" reported Anakin.
"And there is a crash site a bit further away."

Obi-Wan frowned as he considered what they knew. “If there are survivors they might have sent a
distress signal. We could be looking at rescuers,” argued Obi-Wan.

“Or pirates, smugglers, slave traders.”

“You are a ray of sunshine today,” replied Obi-Wan.

Anakin sighed as he lowered the landing gear, “Sorry Master.”

Obi-Wan grinned at the dig, “Very well, put us down near the Temple.”

Anakin activated the intercom, “Snip’s we are about to land.”

Ahsoka finally reappeared wearing a heavy winter coat. Seeing their looks she rolled her eyes, “Hey,
I’ve been here before. It’s cold.”

The three Jedi could sense something from the civilian ship as soon as they got close.

Anakin’s eyes went to the ship, “Obi-Wan?”

“I sense it too. Come on,” he urged as he led them to the other ship.

They reached the ship and found the hatch closed. Anakin’s hand went to his lightsaber but Obi-
Wan shook his head. Touching the com-panel he opened a channel.

“This is Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi. May we be of assistance?”

“Master?” queried Ahsoka.

“Greetings Master Kenobi. Are you here to retrieve your companion?” asked the artificial voice.

“Master?” queried Ahsoka.

“Greetings Master Kenobi. Are you here to retrieve your companion?” asked the artificial voice.

“Our companion?” prompted Obi-Wan.

“We have an injured Jedi aboard. He has been treated for a poorly healed linear Femoral fracture
and burns. He is currently being treated for Neural shock but remains unconscious. As this is within
the normal range of humanoid reactions, I have simply monitored the situation waiting for my
crew's arrival.”

“I see, well thank you for his treatment. May we come onboard?”

“That would have to be approved by a crew member,” advised the Droid. “As Captain Potter is not
onboard, I am afraid that you will need to wait.”

“Wait, Harry Potter?”

“That is correct.”
“What are the Adept’s doing here?” Obi-Wan asked, not really expecting a reply.

“The Ravenclaw is currently engaged in rescue operations.”

“Rescue operations, hmm who are they rescuing?” asked Obi-Wan.

“I am sorry, that information is not available.”

“That was interesting,” remarked Obi-Wan. “Rescue operations, I suspect that our Adept friends may be here for the same reason as us.”

“Except, they may not realise that they might have some unfriendly visitors here with them,” said Ashoka.

Anakin at the temple, “That looks like their likely goal.”

Maul hissed in displeasure as he considered the unconscious and in at least one case, badly injured, children strewn around the large cavern.

The Younglings and their Padawan protector had put up a good fight but their cause had been doomed from the start. He had even given them a chance to surrender. Now one was severely injured and his plan to get the children out would need to change somewhat.

“Are you alright Ena?” asked Maul.

Ena was clutching her abdomen as she nodded, “It is not too bad Master. I am sorry for injuring him.”

Maul shook his head, “You had no choice Apprentice. He was seeking to kill you. Contact the ship, we will need to get them onboard via the cave we found.”

Ena immediately complied, pulling out her communicator and issuing instructions.

Maul suddenly stiffened. He could sense people approaching.

“Ena, we must hurry,” ordered Maul before he turned his head to instruct his Droid.

Their training had helped them bypass the Force based illusions in the caves but even with their abilities, it took time to navigate the twisting tunnels.

“I sense them just ahead,” warned Harry.

The others spread out, holding their Lightsabers.

Harry walked into a larger cave and paused at the sight opposite him.

A heavily tattooed Zabrak stood waiting on the far side.

“You are too late Jedi.”

Harry studied the figure before raising an eyebrow, “I can still sense them.”

“Oh, they are not dead. But they are safely in my custody.”
“And was this by choice?” asked Harry.

The Zabrak shrugged, “I could not leave them here for Palpatine with only a crippled Jedi as a guard.”

“How altruistic,” replied Luna. “But I suspect that you have made some false assumptions. The first being that we are Jedi and the second that you have the right to abduct young children.”

The Zabrak seemed to pause as he considered Luna’s words. Then he did something rather unexpected, he laughed.

“So you are the Adept. The ones that have disrupted my former master’s plans. I would shake your hands, but I fear that I must depart.”

Luna felt a sudden warning of danger through the Force and called out a warning. She managed to raise a shield before the world went white.

Maul considered the unconscious Adept with a great deal of curiosity. They were mostly younger than he had expected.

“She sensed the danger,” said Ena before cursing under her breath and moving to one of the other Adept. “I know this one Master!”

Maul followed her over to a teenager with long hair and some very distinctive markings. “Well, that is a surprise.”

“She was a Nightsister Initiate a few years ahead of me…I thought her dead, having fallen in battle with the Bright Cave Clan before they disappeared.”

Maul let his senses extend into the Force. These Adept were neither dark nor light. The Force seemed balanced within them. Something his former Master told him was impossible. A smile formed on his face as he considered what this meant. There were other paths to walk…oh how he wished he had been there to see this lot best Palpatine. Standing, he gestured to his apprentice, “Come Ena, we must depart before our crewmates get ideas.”

“What of these?” she asked, gesturing at the Adept.

Maul’s smile grew as he sensed some unwelcome presences approaching, “Leave them. Don’t worry my Apprentice, I suspect that we will meet them again. Until then, let them be a thorn in my former Master’s side.”

Obi-Wan Kenobi hadn’t known what to expect when he entered the cave. Five unconscious Adept had not been it.

Harry awoke with a blinding headache. He opened his eyes to see a smiling Ahsoka Tano looking down at him.

“Adept Potter is awake,” reported Ahsoka.

At the sound of footsteps, Harry turned to see Obi-Wan Kenobi entering the room.
“How are you feeling Harry?” asked Obi-Wan.

“Like I was heavily stunned and then trampled on,” replied Harry as he sat up with a wince.

Obi-Wan watched him some concern, “Take it easy my friend. Corellian shock grenades pack a nasty punch.”

“The others?” asked Harry.

“All fine, still sleeping off the effects,” Obi-Wan reassured him.

“The younglings?” asked Harry,

Obi-Wan and Ashoka shared a look before Obi-Wan sadly shook his head. “Gone, not dead, just gone. I suspect they have been taken off world.”

“I don’t think he wanted to kill them. He claimed that he was rescuing them from Palpatine,” said Harry.

“A tattooed Zabrak?” asked Obi-Wan.

Harry raised an eyebrow and nodded, “What an amazing guess.”

Obi-Wan frowned as he stroked his beard, “Maul… I had hoped Ventress was lying.”

“Who is he?” asked Harry as he massaged his temples.

“What would Maul want with younglings?” asked Harry.

“Not to kill them.”

They all turned to see Luna, standing supported by Anakin.

“How do you know Luna?” Obi-Wan asked.

Luna shrugged, “I don’t know, but logically he had us cold and could have killed every one of the younglings. But he didn’t.”

“Even knowing he was here, he slipped through our fingers,” complained Anakin.

“You knew he was here?” Harry asked Anakin, eyes narrowing.

“We were warned that Maul would be here. We didn’t know you would be,” explained Obi-Wan apologetically.

“So what now?” asked Ahsoka.

“Now we track Maul down,” said a grim-faced Anakin.

oOoOo

“Nothing,” admitted Anakin with a silent curse.

Obi-Wan sighed, "I was afraid of that. This deep in the unknown regions he could have gone in any direction. After all, he had what he wanted why would he stay in the vicinity?"
Anakin closed his eyes and let out a long, frustrated growl.

“You know they never said why they were here,” said Ahsoka.

“Harry and his people?” Obi-Wan asked.

“We were warned by Ventress, how did they know?” asked Ahsoka.

Obi-Wan considered the question for a moment before speaking. "Both Talia and Luna are Force Seers, so it is entirely possible that they saw something occurring here. As I understand things, their visions are not always clear."

“Then they might know where he is going!” exclaimed Ahsoka.

“Maybe, but I assume that they would inform us if they did,” replied Obi-Wan.

“Would they?” asked Anakin softly as he held up a hand to stop Obi-Wan replying. “I’m not saying that they are bad guys, but they do have their own order.”

“Their fate is no longer your concern Obi-Wan,” said a familiar voice as Qui-Gon appeared by his side.

All three Jedi stared at the Force ghost.

Qui-Gon rolled his eyes, “Not even a greeting for your old master?”

Obi-Wan bowed, “Master…I was simply surprised by your presence."

"No doubt, I cannot stay here long. Taking this form is taxing. You were here, as were the Adepts because you needed to be here. Your presence here started a sequence of events that none could have foreseen."

“But we failed,” said Ahsoka.

“Yes, and yet from these events will come great good,” explained Qui-Gon.

Anakin shook his head in disbelief, “Great good, from letting Maul abduct and kill younglings?”

Qui-Gon seemed to look off into the distance, considering something they could not see. “There is a darkness coming. A great and terrible enemy that seeks to extinguish the Force. It is what Talia saw a glimpse of…many of us who have crossed over have seen the barest hint of its power. If those that use the Force are fractured, if the Jedi and the Sith continue as they have…this galaxy will not have the resources to fight when that enemy comes. The Adepts were formed to protect the balance and to preserve knowledge of the Force. What happened here today is a part of that bigger picture.”

“Are you saying Maul has a role to play?” asked an incredulous Anakin. “He’s a Sith…he killed you!”

The Force ghost shrugged, “I am not saying you shouldn’t check things out. Just don’t be too put out when you can’t find them. As for Maul, what he was is unimportant. What he builds though…”

With that Qui-Gon dissipated into a blue mist and was gone.

“What the Frak just happened?” demanded Anakin.

oOoOo
“So that’s it, we give up?” asked Harry.

Vectivus shrugged, "You won't find them. Maul's learned the value of discretion. He already knows how to suppress his Force signature."

“What’s going on?” asked Talia.

“A new twist,” replied Vectivus with a smirk. “One that nearly no-one saw coming.”

Talia’s expression indicated that she was not impressed.

“Fine,” added Vectivus. “Maul has had an epiphany. He’s going to start his own Sith Order.”

“And this is a good thing?” asked Luna with a raised eyebrow.

Vectivus smirked, “In the long run...yes.”

“Are you being deliberately unhelpful?” asked Talia with a glowering frown.

“The Jedi won’t give up because we say to,” said Harry.

Vectivus grinned, “Oh, it wouldn’t hurt to find out where Maul has taken them. Your...special friend should be able to help. As for the Jedi, I suspect they are getting a lecture from Qui-Gon as we speak. Aren’t you lucky you got me?”

Before they could reply, the Force ghost faded away.

“He takes far too much amusement in the fact that I can no longer curtail his cavalier attitude,” complained Talia.

“Okay, what now?” asked Velath.

Talia shook her head, “Until we can get a lead on where they might be, there is nothing we can do. We have other tasks we can turn our attention to.”

Harry shook his head as he stood, “Sitting around worrying is counter-productive. We all need to rest to recover from that damn Corellian grenade. We can talk to the Jedi in the morning.”

“Good advice Harry,” agreed Talia with a smile.

Luna winked at Harry, “Yes, I’m sooo tired, can you carry me back to our cabin?”

Harry frowned and darted forward and picked Luna up, putting her over his shoulder.

To the amusement of the others, Harry carried Luna off to the cabin.

Sahdra grinned at Velath who scowled back at her, “Don’t even think about it!”

Sahdra looked downcast for a moment before replicating Harry’s actions. As she carried off a protesting Sahdra, Talia was left chuckling to herself at the table. Finishing her tea, she stood and made her way to her own cabin. Harry was right, they could all do with some rest.

oOoOo

Obi-Wan took a sip of the excellent tea Luna had offered before replying, “I agree, without a destination we have no way of knowing where they are headed.”
“What about the Terminus system? If they are headed out of the unknown regions, odds are good that they’ll pass through the Terminus system,” suggested Anakin.

The Terminus System and the planet Terminus were located at the edge of the Outer Rim where the Unknown Regions began. Given its location, it was a surprisingly busy trade and exploration centre. It was positioned at the crossover of two Hyperspace routes, the Corellian Trade Spine and Hydian Way and was a refuelling and resupply point in the Outer Rim. It was also a major port for exploratory missions for both academic and commercial reasons. Many mining corporations had private compounds based in the area.

It had been an independent system during the Clone Wars and was still considered a ‘free port’. To maintain their independence, they relied on a strong planetary defence force and two dozen heavily armed orbital platforms.

"There is a chance that what passes for Planetary Traffic Control may know something. Although how inclined they will be to help remains to be seen," added Anakin.

Obi-Wan set aside his empty cup with some regret, “Master Muln has awakened and has raised concerns around the caves. If Maul knew where they are. Then we must believe that Palpatine does too. The Council will need to be informed.”

Talia frowned and rubbed her temple, “There is something we are missing…I can sense it.”

Harry looked concerned as he watched his former master. The loss of some of her abilities must not have been an easy adjustment. He hated seeing her frustrated like this. “Perhaps it will come to you Master.”

“Perhaps,” replied Talia. “But, I have no memory of Maul being a factor.”

Luna was looking thoughtful as she sipped her own tea. Then she suddenly straightened, “Wait, could this be the Butterfly Effect?”


“A Mathematician and Meteorologist from our home planet called Edward Lorenz came up with something called the Butterfly Effect. He used it as a metaphor to explain how minor events, seemingly insignificant things could influence later, larger events. Live a storm or a hurricane being impacted by a small insect flapping its wings weeks earlier,” explained Luna.

“I don’t see what insects have to do with things,” complained Anakin.

Luna rolled her eyes, “It doesn’t really but the metaphor was used by my people to explain the impact seers can have on events. A seer has a vision of a child being killed. Using this knowledge, the seer prevents the death. A good thing but the seer has no idea if what they have altered is for the best. We know that there is a great danger coming. Our, and our allies, visions have also seen this. So, we prepare…but every time we intervene we change events.”

“Hold on, that means that we might have done something that caused events to occur differently…events that haven’t happened yet?” asked Ahsoka.

Most of those in the room considered that, puzzling out what had been said.

“This sort of thing gives me a headache,” complained Anakin.

“We have to trust that the Force will direct our actions toward the correct path,” said Obi-Wan.
‘I’m sure Maul is thinking the same thing,’ thought Harry.

“Then we head for Terminus?” Anakin asked, a frown on his face.

“Luna’s insight has me thinking,” replied Talia. “I think I need to consult an old friend. She has a unique view.”

Obi-Wan raised an eyebrow, “A joint mission perhaps?”

Talia smiled, “Why not, I’m sure you’ll find it educational.”

“Where is this old friend located?” asked Obi-Wan.

“She was on Lucazec but Palpatine’s attack on Force users also impacted them,” replied Talia.

Obi-Wan raised an eyebrow in surprise, “Surely you don’t mean the Fallanassi!”

A look of surprise appeared on Talia’s face before she schooled her expression. “You know of the Adepts of the White Current?”

Obi-Wan realised that it wasn’t just Talia staring at him. “They are a rather interesting and secretive group. I encountered them by accident when I was a Padawan. Qui-Gon and I were stranded on Lucazec after our ship was forced down. Eventually, we were approached by the Fallanassi who assisted us until we could make contact with the Council. Qui-Gon was fascinated with their abilities, even though they would not teach us how they were manipulating the Force.”

Talia smiled, amused. “Yes, they can be quite difficult to persuade. I’ll admit that they were more friends than teachers.”

“Is your friend still with them now?” asked Harry. Talia had mentioned meeting with an old ally on their way to Praxis. He’d have to ask her later if this was the same person.

Talia grinned, amusement clearly showing. “No idea, but I have sent a message. I should hear back soon.”

”Another Force Sensitive?” asked Luna.

Talia shook her head, “No, Lena is an information broker. Probably one of the best. She’s one of the most connected individuals I’ve ever encountered. If anyone knows something she’ll help us find them.”

oOoOo

Almost as soon as the Jedi had left, Talia received her call.

“Looking good old friend,” said the slightly grainy image of ‘Lena’. “Sorry about the poor-quality image, I’m using quite a bit of encryption.”

Lena was beautiful, in fact astonishingly beautiful. Tall and slim with fine features she wore her long dark hair back in a loose ponytail.

“You clearly got my message quickly,” replied Talia.

Lena shrugged, “Merress said it was important. After she explained that you were back among the living. I’m glad the technology worked as you planned. I wasn’t convinced it would.” She looked like she was about to cry for a moment before she composed herself. “I was worried.”
“Another favour I own you Lena,” said Talia with a smile.

“One day I’ll make a point of collecting again. Wow, these two are your beloved apprentices?”

Talia nodded, “Luna and Harry.”

Lena smiled broadly and then winked, “I can see why Talia kept you both under wraps. How selfish of you Talia!”

Talia sighed, shooting Lena a dirty look. “You can ogle later Lena. I’m after any hint that you’ve picked up in your net about any new Darksider bases.”

“I’ll look, you heading my way?” asked Lena.

“Yes, with some Jedi we picked up,” warned Talia.

“Jedi, really? Well, they are welcome here if you are willing to vouch for them. I’ll try and find what’s out there.”

“Thanks Lena.”

Lena’s image shrugged, “Hey, if your wonder Apprentices can help me, I might even come and help out. It’s been a while since I did a tour.”

Talia frowned, looking concerned. “You want me to tell them?”

“You might as well, they’ll work it out soon enough.” Lena leaned forward, showing off a fair bit of cleavage and her image disappeared.

"She seems nice and friendly," said Luna.

Talia ran a hand through her hair, still looking somewhat worried. “I have known her for quite a few years and she has never offered to leave the Fallanassi.” Talia seemed to collect herself. “She helped me find the cloning technology that helped save you and in the end myself. Then she helped me track down several important Holocrons. In many ways, she is as responsible for the birth of the Adepts as I am.”

“So she is some sort of recluse?” asked Harry as he tried to process Talia’s revelations that there was another hand in the evolution of the Adepts.

Talia paused, then nodded. "In some ways, I suppose that she is. I meet her as a Padawan…well, I meet her via the Data web. We grew to be friends…when I left the order I sought out her help. She has access to vast amounts of Data and I needed help finding the places and people I had seen in my visions. It was with her help that I found Vectivus and what would become Haven."

“So why have we not heard about her before?” Luna asked gently. She could sense that this was a difficult topic for their usually unflappable Master.

“A friend,” replied Talia.

“Who is Lena, beside a friend?” asked Harry.

Talia looked down and her long brown hair fell forward obscuring her face. “It truly is not my story to tell beloved, but I understand your caution and curiosity. Along with Vectivus, she has been pivotal in helping me prepare for your arrival. As to who she is, well her true name is L1-PD.”
“She’s a droid!” exclaimed Luna.

Talia nodded, "Lena was a prototype. She was created to be able to pass as a human. She has synthetic skin and other features that allow her to pass as a human. However, what really makes her special is that her Sentience programming was altered to allow her to develop and grow as a companion and as an individual. The scientist that built her fled the republic which had just introduced strict laws against what she was doing. She raised Lena as her daughter. After she died, Lena travelled for a long time. Eventually, she found her way to the Fallanassi and she has lived with them since."

“How old is she?” asked Harry. The laws on Artificial Sentience had been around for a long time.

“She has been operational for nearly four thousand years,” replied Talia.

oOoOo

Un-named Planet – Border of Outer Rim Territories and Unknown Space

The Planet they landed on was several hours of flight away from Terminus and according to their charts it was devoid of higher life-forms and lacked any important resources.

It was a rather pleasant and temperate world. It did lack sentient life, but it had a large and diverse ecosystem. They saw no sign of the Fallanassi but, as they approached their co-ordinates they had spotted a large starship situated between rocky outcrops. It was painted dark grey and blended with the rocks save for several large communication relays.

“That’s Lena’s ship,” said Talia with a smile. “Put us down near there.”

“What class of ship is that?” asked Sahdra. “It sort of looks like a transport.”

“It’s an old Traveller Class science ship. We had better call in instructions to Kenobi,” advised Talia.

Sahdra put on a headset and called the Jedi ship which had followed them from their last location.

Talia activated the holocomm, inputting a code before the image of Lena appeared.

“Talia! Good to know it’s you. Okay, the defence grid has registered you as friendlies. Bit’s will meet you outside and escort you in. Not that you need it honey, I’m more worried about the Jedi. Even though you vouched for them.”

“See you soon Lena,” promised Talia.

oOoOo

The journey had been interesting and their newest member, Master Garen Muln, had recovered and had been briefed in on the situation.

“And you believe them?” asked Muln.

“They’ve always been honourable in my dealings with them,” replied Obi-Wan.

“I remember Talia from when I was a senior Padawan. I was always worried that she’d struggle to fit in. I guess she found her own way to follow the Will of the Force. So do the Adepts believe that this contact can help?” asked Muln.

Anakin nodded, “Talia is confident. We can also try Terminus. However, it is a busy Free Port, we
might not get anything there either.”

Muln looked pained as he stroked his greying beard, “I wish I could have done more.”

“We’ll find them Master Muln,” Ashoka reassured the older Jedi. “With both us and the Adepts on the case.”

Looks like they are going in to land,” reported Anakin.

oOoOo

Bit's turned out to be a rather odd looking droid. A rather hulking frame with seemingly mismatched arms and legs. "Welcome, I am Bits, if you would follow me, I will take you to my mistress." Despite his rather odd appearance, the droid had a pleasant, friendly voice.

Anakin was studying the droid, "Um, Bits, was it? Do you mind if I ask your function?"

Bits cocked his head to the side, "I am an upgraded service CC-One droid. Please follow me, I will take you to my mistress."

“Problem?” asked Obi-Wan.

Anakin shook his head, he would explain later.

Bit led them to the main hatch, when it slid open a beautiful woman with dark brown hair stood waiting for them. “Talia!”

Talia smiled as the woman ran down and pulled Talia into a tight hug.

“Hello Lena,” said Talia as she kissed Lena on the cheek.

“Mistress your guests have arrived,” said Bits with what sounded suspiciously like amusement.

Lena giggled, “It’s okay Bitty, I can see that. I’ll be fine, could you please check on Lidia.”

“Of course, Mistress,” replied Bits and disappeared into the ship.

Lena released Talia and turned to the others, “Where are my manners. My name is Lena and I welcome you to the Ascent, my ship and home.”

Talia introduced the others and Lena politely greeted each person. No one failed to notice that she seemed more reserved with the Jedi. Once the introductions were over she took Talia by the hand and dragged her onboard.

“Make yourselves at home. Bits will help if you need anything. Come on Talia, I’ve got something to show you!” exclaimed Lena as she dragged Talia off.

Luna laughed out loud, “Wow, she’s like a force of nature, Isn’t she?”

Obi-Wan shook his head, “You are aware that she is an artificial life-form.”

Luna sighed and turned to Obi-Wan, “Will that be a problem Master Kenobi?”

“No, of course not. I am simply making you aware of my observation.”

Anakin shook his head, a look of surprise on his face. “I’ve seen humanoid droids but this one takes
the cake. If you couldn’t use the Force you wouldn’t know she wasn’t human.”

“She is her own being,” said Luna.

Anakin raised his hands, “Hey, I’m not casting aspersions here. Just commenting on an amazing bit of work.”

"We mean no disrespect Luna," Obi-Wan reassured Luna.

“She is a friend of Talia and that’s how I’ll treat her,” said Harry. “I advise you to do the same.”

The door to Lena’s room had barely shut when Lena pounced on Talia. Talia barely had time to react before Lena’s warm, soft lips were on hers.

A few moments later, Lena leaned back, “I’ve missed you lover.”

Talia smiled and ran her fingers down Lena’s cheek, “I have been busy since being revived.”

Lena shuddered and caught Talia hand, bringing it to her lips. “It doesn’t matter you are here now.”

Talia laughed, “We’ll have to rein it in until we can get some private time.”

“I think that idea stinks,” said Lena as she kissed Talia again, her hands sliding down Talia’s back to cup her bum.

Talia moaned and leaned into the kiss before pulling away. “Lena…it’s important.”

Lena sighed and gave Talia a squeeze before releasing her. “So is making love to you until you pass out.”

“Later,” replied Talia in a husky whisper.

“Very well, business it is,” agreed Lena.

“It’s all coming to a head,” said Talia. “My visions, my quest…the war. Things have begun.”

“As you had foreseen,” said Lena. “And your students?”

“Have exceeded all my expectations,” replied Talia with a touch of parental pride.

Lena grinned, “I have been trying to slice all the major parties. It’s a work in progress, but I’ve seen lots of hits on your apprentices. People, slicers, are looking in to them. From what I can see there isn’t much to be found.”

Lena shook her head, “Gone, poof…I’m not sure if he’s using the Force or he’s just good at hiding but he’s not popping up anywhere you might expect.”

"Not what I needed to hear," replied Talia with a touch of frustration.

“Sorry Love, I’ll keep looking…” Lena trailed off and her eyes grew distant for a moment. “Hey, have you got an op going down?”

“What is it?”
“Imperial forces are reporting that they have engaged Jedi and Adept forces on Abushu four,” reported Lena.

Talia frowned as she considered. The communications equipment they had on the Ravenclaw would not reach Haven directly, she’d need a repeater. “Lena, can you get a message to Haven?”

“Easily…done,” Lena pointed to a Holo-com on the wall.

oOoOo

Abushu IV

Sirius sent a blasting curse into the wall where several Clones were attempting to set up a heavy weapons emplacement. The Clones were blasted off their feet and before they could recover four Mandalorian troopers had dispatched them. With that, the firefight was over. Wend had given them the position of the Imperial camp where the prisoners were being held and interrogated. Luckily, it was not in one of the larger cities but rather a small town. The Clones had been expecting an attack but clearly not an attack led by Force users and highly trained Mandalorians.

“Point me Wend,” his wand pointed in the direction of a large stone building.

He looked over to Sev’rance who was issuing orders to Team One and made his way over.

“…have no doubt called for re-enforcement. We need to move quickly to secure the area and get these people out. Team One, that’s your job. Sirius and I will go with and do the extraction. Team Two, be ready to come and get us if we need it.”

“I suppose it is too much to hope that we won’t have company soon,” said Sirius.

“Assuming that the enemy commander is competent, we have at best ten minutes before more troops or fighters are on to us,” replied Sev’rance. “Our ships pack more of a punch than a merchant ship but they are not ships of the line. We also want to avoid having to run a blockade.”

Sirius looked uncharacteristically grim, ”Then we had better hope things go well. Wend is still in the area of that building. Which matches the coordinates he gave us.”

“Then we need to go,” said Sev’rance.

Team One advanced quickly down the street. Following behind were the squad of Mandalorians. It was clear that the building was still defended when blaster fire lit up area.

From behind cover, Sirius again cast the point me spell. His wand was now pointing straight ahead and downward. “I think the prisoners are in the basement.”

Sev’rance nodded and called instructions to the Mandalorian squad leader, “Lay down cover fire, Sirius I want the front of the building gone.”

Sirius sighted along his wand and concentrated, calling on his magic as he poured power into his intended spell.

“Confringo!”

The blast was large enough to blast open the stone building along nearly the entire wall.

“Go!” ordered Sev’rance as she leapt to her feet and ran toward the building with Force enhanced speed.
With a curse on his lips, Sirius ran after her.

Rubble and bodies were everywhere and there were several fires already burning.

“Over here!” called one of the Dathomiri. She pointed with her lit lightsaber at stairs leading down.

One very brief firefight later, they reached the rooms being used to hold the prisoners.

“Get them all out, we’ll sort out who is who once we are out of here,” ordered Sirius.

It took several long minutes to get the crowd of frightened, and in some cases badly injured people to the extraction point.

Sirius was about to order Team one to pull out when he sensed danger. Turning, he saw three figures approaching through the smoke and dust.

All three were dressed in black armour and carried lit, red-hued lightsabers.

The Mandalorians opened fire but were soon dodging their own blaster bolts as the newcomers battered away their concentrated fire.

“Get them aboard,” Sirius ordered the Mandalorians. “We have this covered.”

A Dathomiri and an Altisian Jedi attacked one of the three together, forcing their foe to defend himself.

Sev’rance engaged the second, leaving Sirius with the third.

Sirius faced the approaching Dark-sider with his wand in his left hand and his Lightsaber in his right, held in the classic opening stance of Form II, Makashi. Without any change of expression, he sent a stunner toward his opponent even as he launched an attack.

Sirius had been a fair magical dueller, as such he knew a great deal about footwork. This naturally led him to Makashi. It felt natural for him and as he blocked the lightsaber coming at him, he instinctively countered.

His opponent was forced to retreat a few steps. Not that his expression of almost frenzied hatred faltered. With a scream, the Dark-sider launched a flurry of fast, brutal strikes.

All his training, all those hours with the Jedi and then Sev’rance paid off. He turned aside the attacks and next counter-attack left a smoking scorch mark on his opponent's right cheek.

His was about to press forward when he felt a warning from the Force. Spinning around he somehow managed to deflect a blaster bolt and still get his lightsaber up to block his opponents attack.

“Sniper!” warned Sev’rance.

Now Sirius was forced to give ground, as his opponent launched into another Dark-Side empowered series of attacks.

Somehow, his opponent avoided the blast, leaping high into the air before falling lifelessly to the ground.
Sirius was puzzled until he saw the knife hilt sticking out of the Dark-siders eye.

“Where’s my family Black?” demanded Wend as he appeared from behind a wooden building, another throwing knife in his hand.

“Oh my ship,” replied Sirius as he turned back to help his companions, only to see The Dathomiri dispatch her opponent and help her Altisian companion to his feet. Sev’rance was stepping over hers, who was laying in two pieces on the street.

“Let’s go!” ordered Sev’rance. “Move it people.”

Imperial Fleet – Flagship "Devastator"

Darth Sidious managed to not kill the messenger. But it was a near thing.

“I see Admiral…you may leave.”

The Admiral fled, perhaps aware of just how close to dying he had come.

He needed to know who had been on Abushu IV. He needed to know who the Chiss leading the assault was, although he had his suspicions that he knew all too well the identity of the Chiss in question.

If it was Sev’rance and she had joined the Jedi or the surviving Adepts…that was problematic while his forces were stretched so thin. Sev’rance was a competent commander and while she was no match for him, she was still a big potential problem.

He turned to look out the large observation deck window, not seeing the stars but searching for a solution. He had to admit, Order 66 had been a failure. Oh, he had dethroned the Jedi from their position of pre-eminence and in doing so strengthened his own position…but too many had survived. Among them some of his most resolute enemies. He had taken control of the Republic but not without opposition. Now, with the losses he had suffered he was forced to face the reality that he could not expand further.

He held the Deep Core, Core, perhaps two-thirds of the Colonies Region, maybe half of the Inner Rim and Mid Rim. The rest was heavily contested. His most secret project, his personal battle station, would change that but to complete it would take decades. Initially, he had been using Geonosis but with the Out Rim so volatile he moved construction to the Deep Core. A calculated move that should preserve not only secrecy but also ensure that he could directly control the construction zone.

To hold what he had was his first priority. He had to keep his enemies as weak as possible. He needed to ensure that other Force users did not strengthen his enemies. He had to tie up their fleets and limit their ability to strike against him. His plan to eliminate the Jedi and then identify and train pliable Force Sensitives was not as successful as he had hoped. His nascent Inquisitors, his agents that would track down and destroy Force Sensitive enemies, were not ready. His Dark Jedi and Sith trained warriors were not enough…it was vexing.

He needed a new Apprentice. He needed new hands to do his bidding. To lead a strike force designed to target and harass his enemies, to spread terror and fear would work toward his goal of gaining the time he needed.

Until then, he would need to secure his new ‘borders’ and seek out the inevitable weaknesses among his enemies.
He relaxed slightly as he realised that he had time.

Please drop by the archive and comment to let the author know if you enjoyed their work!