Mack and Nebula

First Flight

Six months ago, Mack had a Secret Order mission to Odessen, where he found the remains of an abandoned base. He was slightly confused as to who's base it was exactly, it was obvious it dated back to the days of the Old Republic, but the remains of Imperial and Republic personnel and droids were everywhere. As well as banners for both factions. Was there an attack? Did they attempt some sort of truce or an Alliance?

"If only these old bones could talk" said Mack. Nebula let out a series of beeps. "You picking something up?" asked Mack. Nebula gave an affirmative 'Boop'. "Well, lead the way girl. I'm pretty sure this place is abandoned and no one is here" said Mack.

As the duo continued to explore the base, Mack continued to reach out with the Force to sense any sentient beings but could only sense wildlife that was keeping its distance from the pair and faint whispers in the Force of the beings that once populated the base. Nebula was locked onto a faint power source and was leading them through the base. They made their way down to a hangar and it was mostly empty, save for a few containers with obsolete and expired supplies. The fauna had overgrown into the hangar and thick roots bore through the ancient computers, rendering them useless.

"Well, whatever the Grand Master wanted from here, is either long gone or destroyed. We should head back to the shuttle, "said Mack.

Nebula gave a negative beep and rolled towards the edge of the hangar. "Hey! Be careful Nebula! We don't know how stable any of this is!" warned Mack. Nebula, still locked onto the faint power source, stopped in her tracks right at the edge of the hangar and began bouncing back and forth, and began whistling a happy tune. Mack came over to see what the commotion was all about. Looking out of the opening of the hangar were multiple landing pads. All of them were vacant except for one. On it was an Imperial craft, hidden by the natural growth of tree foliage and vines wrapped around the ship.

"Interesting. Is that what you were locked onto Nebula?" asked Mack. Nebula gave an affirmative series of whistles. "Alrighty, let's go check her out then." said Mack

They made their way over to the ship and got inside. Aside from a thick coating of dust on everything and cobwebs, the interior of the ship was in fair condition. Mack went to the control panel and the lights were dim but clearly the controls were operational.

"Nebula, see if there is a port you can plug into and see if we can get any information out of this thing" Mack commanded.

Nebula wheeled over to a port and promptly plugged in. After a few moments, the monitor at the control panel sparked to life.

- *Imperial Fury Class Interceptor*
- *Running diagnostic checks……*
- *……*
- *Power supply 2%*
- *Hyperdrive - Inactive*
- *Shields - Inactive*
- *Hull Integrity - 75%*
- *Life Support - 12%*
- *Auxiliary Systems - 5%*
- *Catastrophic Failure of Primary systems and subroutines. Seek immediate repairs.*
- *Weapon Systems - Offline*
- *Targeting Systems - Offline*

Mack crossed his arms and let out a heavy sigh. “Well, all things considered, she’s not in bad shape and it could be much worse. Good job Nebula. Download any data that you can find and shut everything down. Last thing we wanna do is fry the computer.”

Nebula continued to pull whatever data she could then disconnected from the port and gave a series of beeps and whistles. “Yeah, I think you’re right” replied Mack, “She could be space worthy again. In the right hands, it will definitely be something to see pop up on the scanners”. Mack chuckled to himself, “Send a message to the Grand Master, we’re done here. Request for a tug to this location, we have something worth taking.” Mack stared off back at the base, the faint whispers he was hearing through the Force suddenly stopped. Nebula made a low whistle, noticing that Mack was lost in a trance. Mack was unresponsive until Nebula bumped into him and he snapped back to his senses. “Stay here with the ship Nebula, I will be right back” said Mack. Nebula wheeled in front of him in protest with a few short beeps. “I’m fine, I promise. There’s something in there I need to see and I need you to be safe. Send that message and I’ll be back in two shakes of a Gundark’s leg” said Mack.

Nebula reluctantly moved to the side allowing Mack to pass. Mack disembarked the Imperial craft and went back inside of the base. The whispers came back, louder even, calling out to Mack. Following the corridors from where they came through before, there was an opening he hadn’t noticed before on the first time passing by. Thick vines covered the opening, making it difficult to pass through and with no give to push them aside. Mack powered on his vibrosword and cut away the thick vines exposing the pathway. Stepping through, the air was stale and very still. Almost as if time had stopped in this area of the base. Mack followed the path until he reached a cavern. It looked like some sort of temple or place of meditation with inscribings on the walls and pillars. There were writings of both Sith *and* Jedi on the walls. “I’ve got to show the Grand Master this” Mack said to himself. Taking out a device, he powered it on and placed it on the floor in the center of the large cavern. Lights shined out from it and began

scanning the room. Mack continued to search the room himself, the whispers in the Force began to get louder and louder with every step he took towards the head of the space. There was an altar with a natural skylight above it. Mack approached the altar and the whispers became a singular voice, "*Strength, Passion, Power, Peace, Knowledge, Compassion".* Mack touched the altar and it responded to his touch, the center opened and a holocron rose from the center. Mack stared at it for a moment, taking in its beauty and could sense the power that was inside of it. He held the holocron and thousands of images rushed through his mind all at the same time.

"What are you doing?" asked a voice behind Mack. Caught completely off guard, he spun around at the ready and what stood before him was a Force Ghost. It spoke again, "What are you doing, Mack?"

"Who are you? First of all." Mack retorted.

"I am Sanna Rae, of Voss and of the Alliance" said Sanna Rae, "I am the keeper of this place. What is it that you seek?"

"Well, um… My master sent me here to find something of importance to him. And it appears I've found it" Mack stumbling over his words. He had never seen a Force Ghost before but had heard of them in his studies at the Shadow Academy. "What's in this holocron?" he asked.

"It is an amalgamation of the greatest minds brought together for a common good" answered Sanna, "Sith, Jedi, warriors, and scholars. It is our greatest accomplishment to help guide the galaxy and bring about peace and understanding and prosperity."

"I see…so what happened then? This base is abandoned. Did you fail in your task then?" questioned Mack.

"Quite the opposite, young one. Much like water, the Force flows and over time things change. Our time was not the time for that change, but perhaps now is the time." replied Sanna, "I can sense your thirst for knowledge and power, but you also have peace and self-control within you. You may take the holocron. Learn from it. The Force has chosen you and my time is done. May the Force be with you." And with that, Sanna Rae's Force Ghost dissipated.

Mack went back to the Imperial Fighter where Nebula was waiting for him. "Well, I just saw a ghost." said Mack. Nebula let out a whistle, followed by a series of beeps and boops. "Yep, everything is okay. Let's get back to our shuttle and go home. We have a lot of work ahead of us" answered Mack.

6 Months later

“Alright Nebula, start the flight checks. Let’s see what the *Demon of Spear* can do.” Mack said to his astromech companion. The control panel flickered to life and with a new clearer display and automated voice:

“Welcome Major Mack Udar, Commander of Spear Squadron, Quaestor of House Palpatine. Beginning System Diagnostics”

- *Power Supply - 100%*
- *Hyperdrive - Operational*
- *Shields - 100%*
- *Hull Integrity - 100%*
- *Life Support - 100%*
- *Auxiliary Systems - 100%*
- *All Primary Systems and subroutines operating at nominal and acceptable capacities.*
- *Weapons - Online and fully charged. Missile Launcher capacity - 100%.*
- *Targeting Systems - Online*

“The *Demon of Spear* is ready for flight”

“That’s what I like to hear! Mack to Eos ground control. Requesting clearance for take off.” Mack said into the comms.

“Eos Ground Control to Warden Mack of the *Demon of Spear*, clearance granted. Shall we release the training drones again?” replied the ground control officer.

“Oh you better believe it and get ready for a show!” Mack howled.

The Imperial Fury Class Interceptor lifted off with the grace of a Carrion Deathbird and the engines purred like a pack of Nexu. The *Demon of Spear* hovered above the treeline for a few moments before fully transferring power to the engines and speeding off into the distance. A swarm of training drones launched and took pursuit.

“Alright Nebula, prepare the lateral cannons. You know the routine.” commanded Mack. He brought the ship about to bear down on its pursuers. “Targets locked! Fire!” whooped Mack, Nebula let out a shrill and the laser cannons began firing. Three of the drones exploded and the others dodged out of the way of the barrage of laser fire. The Fury Class Interceptor corkscrewed through a group of drones launching missiles as it flew by. Four more drones burst into flames as the others turned about and began pursuit again. Mack pulled back on the flight stick and sent the craft flying out of the planet’s atmosphere and into space. The remaining training drones followed suit and began firing their smaller lasers at the ship, though not

effective enough to do damage, but was still used for the necessity of training. The ship spun and danced through the vacuum of space with the drones matching its movements in an attempt to keep up. Eventually, Mack was able to outmaneuver the drones pursuing him and destroyed them one by one. “Alrighty, weapons are good I say. What do you think Nebula?” asked Mack. Nebula gave an affirmative beep and whistle. “Let’s see what this hyperdrive can do then, hmm?” said Mack. It took some convincing and a lot of credits, but he was able to get his hands on a custom built hyperdrive for Light Stock Freighters and fitted into the *Demon of Spear*.

“OK! Coordinates set, jumping in 3….2….1¼…..1…..” Mack finished the countdown and pulled the lever, launching the ship into hyperspace. Space and stars warped around them as they flew down the mystical magical tunnel. In moments, they were at their destination, the Carrida System. “Well looky there, we made it and in one piece. How’s everything looking on your end Nebula?” said Mack. Nebula gave a reassuring whistle. “Good deal,” replied Mack “let’s head home and call it a day then.” The ship turned about and jumped back into hyperspace, arriving safely at Aurora Prime.