



# THE KLOSTOM

The rodent wanted feeding and it scurried past you keeping its good eye firmly fixed upon the morsel that you had given it. The other eye darted around making sure that all was in order. This ship of the void was her ship, the others had come and gone and the only one that could possibly lay claim to the Vorzt was St Talzen but he had been captured and imprisoned inside the bent fossils.

The crew had changed and the lights once again lit the dim shadows of the bulkheads. The morsel was good, far better than the usual scraps.

The com link sounded and Xion had the helm.

“Commander priority sub space beacon on direct intercept. Its transponder is armed, ARK Tallion signature detected.”



“ARK Tallion, well you must have made an impression or they are desperate, either way this could be good for us. Just be cautious we no longer hold military affiliation.”

The fast track drone had been retrieved and the data acquired.

The halo sphere had gone red and a trajectory to the Rellium system now plotted. A transponder signal had been detected and ARK Tallion requested that we investigate. This far out Vorzt was the only vessel capable.

“Good they requested our help and we can comply in this instance. Yes, yes I see it, look it’s one of ours let’s just be careful she has no lights showing and some of her pods have been deployed.”

Vidiance manoeuvred the Vorzt up to her rear, her blind spot or as near as could be.

“Frigate class confirmed it’s the Klostom, reported missing in the Ardina sector, what is she doing here? Her port deck is exposed, debris still spilling out into the void.”

You launched the drones and a full sensor sweep was now underway.

“We can’t override or hack her systems without ARK Tallion permissions, she is a drifting hulk and we will have to wait for the scans to finish.

We all watched as the drones slowly made their way into the vessel, the halo sphere mirrored the results in real time.

Some type of toxin, most of the crew lay dead and frozen exposed to the void.”

Xion recognised the coding from his time on the colony outreach program back when he was still an adept.

“Karina what do you make of this?”

“DNA coding sequence has broken down intrusion detected; yes I agree looks like some kind of biomass tech. Commander no boarding on this one she will have to be quarantined.”

“Understood, we will get as much information as we can, before we surrender it to the ARK.

“Commander we are at the bridge.”

The drones could not gain entry past the shielded doors that had been shut effectively isolating the bridge from the rest of the ship.

Command Choice ...

Use a quantum probe to infiltrate the barrier and scan the bridge. Invasive penalties could apply.

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Conclude your report dispatch drone and notify ARK Tallion of findings.



You chose to initiate the quantum probe and access the bridge.

“Pushing the boundaries was always your style so yes we are here and we have the means so why not? Let them frown, those of the shallows.”

The probe had rematerialised inside the bridge and the scans had started.

They had sealed the bridge using all bio protocols; an organic living coating protected the area from all known organisms. Nothing would survive intrusion. The scans had started to construct the bridge on the halo sphere.

“Very clever, look the pods had been transported to the bridge...”

“There alive, Karina is this possible. Are they still alive?”

Silence as the crew waited for a reply, the scans still building a picture.

“Yes barely. Essence is still alive but commander we have to act now otherwise it will destabilise and well they would be gone to us. Conventional activation might work but the degradation is a problem, simulators are showing a twenty six percent fail rate.”

“Any other options available to us?”

“Interesting that ancient essence we acquired, I have ran it through the simulator and it is a positive match, less than 1 percent rejection.”

Karina paused.

“Commander this essence is untested and there could be unforeseen consequences. Talusa and I have been exposed to it through the dust on the moon of Astor. Technically we are in quarantine breach, using it could compromise us with ARK Tallion.”

Xion had used the probe to override a consol.

“Commander we can now open the sealed doors.”

An ionised plasma pulse ripped through the vessel killing off any and all organic life still alive at the cellular level, the bridge the only area exempt from the organic annihilation.

The door slid open breaking the living coating that had protected the ships bridge from the exposed decks, two suited legions and Karina entered the bridge and naturalised the protective coating.

Six crew members have been revived and are now in your med bay.

“All ready commander.” St Vidiance had brought up the virtual red button that would consign the Klostom to the eternal void.



Vorzt had been removed to the far end of the system and the crew watched as the Vodyani frigate exploded, a burning white flash her only legacy as she rejoined the eternal void.

The data drone had been dispatched priority ARK Tallion. She crumpled into a micro singularity and was already exiting into the core worlds where she would unpack and deliver your report.

Vorzt had left the system the slipstream guiding her on towards the outer limits.

“They will not like you destroying their property, even though it was to protect against the unforeseen. Still it was for the best the organism that had infected her had been eradicated and she had become a tomb; salvage would have been disrespectful so you had consigned her to the void, a fitting resting place for a Vodyani war ship that had been captured from the United Empire after the Matara skirmish.”

“What have you got there? I see, interesting, I had overlooked that little snippet of information. St Nuleon of the house of Dragar, one of the survivors, the expedition leader on the ill fated attempt at accessing le passage du vide.”

Acquired hidden knowledge cartographic.

Karina was satisfied that the survivors were all in good health, they would remain here until cleared, the bio sphere contained and secure. She had also accessed the survivors data blocks and discovered the one who was responsible for her father’s capture, and left to rot in that stinking lair inside the Bent Fossils.

In this place on this world be your own person



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Colin Foster. 2019