Mendes Family Reunion

Kelly couldn’t believe it, her parents were here, on Aliso of all places. The Left Wing of Dread had mixed feelings, on the one hand, she was glad to see her mother again. She wouldn’t admit it to anyone but Kelly missed her. The same could not be said for her father, the man who walked out when Kelly was but a miniature human, barely able to understand why daddy had to go away. Of course, Kelly had been shaped more by that one single act than she had by any of the time spent living with her mother. How would she even talk to them after all these years? There was no need to worry as her mother ran up to her and embraced her eldest daughter.

“Kelly! It’s so good to see you after all these years. How are you doing?” The older woman was holding back tears of joy, she had wanted to find her daughter for years but had never been able to afford to pay someone to track her down. She had only arrived because she received a mysterious private shuttle ticket provided by persons unknown. Not that it mattered anyway, she had her daughter in her arms and that was all that mattered.

“Mum! I’m good, things work well for me here. I even have a job as a Professor, where I teach and grade exams on leadership. The pay sucks but it’s more than you make. How’s the neighbourhood? I imagine you’re getting close to being the wise old woman. Oh, I almost forgot to mention, I have plenty of friends, though to varying degrees. The demands placed on me as a leader mean I can’t be the good girl you raised, even if I wanted to. All I want is to make sure that for getting my power from so-called ‘darker’ emotions I’m not wanted dead.” Kelly briefly summarised her life her life as it was currently.

“What am I even doing here? I was promised credits for getting on that shuttle, so pay me or I’m gone.” Kelly’s father was still as uncaring as he had been in her youth. The man’s desire for credits was a greater motivator than getting to see his daughter again. He had robbed her of time and attention her entire life. The disinterest was clear on his face, there hadn’t been any change in his behaviour but his face was showing the signs of ageing. He was only 40 but looked as if he was in his mid-fifties.

“If Mum wasn’t here I’d-” Kelly started.

“You’d what?” The old man interrupted.

“Both of you cut it out. Kelly, I understand if you can’t be good all the time, but will you at least try? For me? As for you, you should be apologising to our daughter for ruining her life. I loved you once, but when you left it was clear you never loved me or our children.” Kelly’s mother was kind to her daughter but uncharacteristically incensed at her ex-husband. It was certainly a sight Kelly had never seen before.

“Get out of here. If it weren’t for Mum you wouldn’t have a choice.” Kelly calmed enough to avoid straight up killing her father, though he could still have an ‘accident.’

“Thank you, Kelly, I know it must’ve been hard for you to do but sometimes the right thing isn’t always easy. Her mum had come down from a state of anger too and the pair hugged each other tightly, it had been too long and they made arrangements to see each other more regularly.