

Axio Transit Tram

Planet Nancora

"Ma'am, we received a message from Echo Squadron." One of the soldiers said walking over to his Captain. "They have taken an enemy soldier into custody who managed to break through defense lines of Station Cresh."

"A Force-sensitive?" She asked rising from her seat.

"No Ma'am," the soldier replied now forced to look up at her. "They also report that though said soldier disabled several Partisans of Echo Squadron while breaking through their defense lines, she surrendered herself as soon as she was within Station Cresh.

"She... surrendered? Why should she have done that?" the Captain demanded to know.

"I'm sorry ma'am, she hasn't explained herself to anyone since her capture."

"Fine, when will we arrive on Station Cresh?" the Captain asked.

"About to head Station Cresh in ten minutes ma'am."

"Excellent, inform Echo's Squad Leader that I want to see and question that prisoner myself." the Captain said, dismissing the soldier before taking her seat again for the time until the tram would reach Station Cresh.

Axio Transit Station Cresh

Planet Nancora

Uniformed troops walked continuously over the station – loading, unloading, surveilling, guarding. Even here several levels below the stations top level where the trams stopped this constant activity was visible. Hands bound behind her back, Kara 'Blaze' Zallow was guided through a collection of identical corridors until they came to a halt before a door with a large viewport in its upper half. She was guarded by five Soldiers of the Liberation Front, one ahead of her, one on each of her sides and two behind her. The one in front of her stepped to the side, working the control panel next to it to open the door. The door slid open, revealing a simple single person bench – by the look of it this was not a holding cell but an interrogation room.

She was guided unceremoniously into the room and placed onto the seat. However when the

soldier to her left worked her jumpsuit, prying it open to take her ID-tags, she used the situation to headbutt him with her helmet. "Crazy bitch." He cursed before slapping her squarely over the face with the back of his gloved hand.

"Take her helmet too." He ordered another soldier while taking care of the thin trickle of blood running down his lip. "You two stay and guard her."

Kara lowered her aching head, smiling – the pain was worth it.

The tram stopped on the most upper level of the station and opened its doors. The captain followed by a phalanx of Partisans marched out in tight formation, heading straight for the nearest lift and down deeper into the station and from there to the detention area.

On her way, the Captain was intercepted by Echo Squadron's leader introducing himself while guiding her and her entourage to the room where the prisoner was held in custody.

"There she is. Like I said to your Second in Command, from what I experienced, she is highly trained. Deception. Infiltration. Extraction." The Squad-leader said when they had reached the door's control panel.

"I'd say Special Forces." He continued when the doors had slid open. "Her name is Lieutenant Colonel –"

"Kara Zallow." The captain finished the Squad-leader's sentence before stepping past him into the holding cell then noticed the prisoners gear on another bench next to another Partisan standing on guard. Walking over to the assembled weapons she continued. "It seems like sleeping with your boss hasn't worked out for you this time."

"Chelsie Crimson," Kara replied smiling at her former comrade. "are you still jealous that I have gotten the promotion you have been so much after?"

Chelsie laughed loudly. "Why should I? There has been so much happening since our time on Korriban."

"You mean since you defected from TalEx?" Kara demanded.

"I did not defect. I made a decision." For a brief moment Chelsie lost her composure, shouting at the other woman. "I decided I would never ever let my or the fate of those serving under me be

determined by some space monks for whom our lives weren't of more value than a bullet from our weapons."

"And I would do it again." she continued more leveled this time while again focussing on Kara's gear, her Westar-35 in special but then noticed a specific item missing. "Is this all the gear she had at her side when you took her into custody?"

"Yes ma'am." One of the guards replied, straightening at giving the answer.

"Kara, tell me, where's that nasty droid? What's the name you had given it?" She said again turning to the bound woman while digging her own memories. "Sparks, right?"

"Obviously not here." Kara said, playing the innocent.

"Fine then." Chelsie decided to play the other woman's game – for the moment.

"You know all I have been jealous about all those years we worked together was your Westar, I hope you don't mind me taking it, since I think you won't need it anymore." She continued, taking the Westar-35 Blaster from the bench, sheathing it onto her belt before turning to leave.

Once outside and behind the closed door, Captain Chelsie "CC" Crimson turned to the Squad-leader. "She's known to be working with a ID9 Seeker Droid, find it, until then treat her with the uttermost care, for as long as the droid hasn't been found, she's bound as dangerous as if unimpeded."

"Yes, yes ma'am." the Squad-leader stuttered before putting orders through his comlink.

Sparks watched the scenery from within a ventilation shaft right above the cell holding his master, the focus of his large central photoreceptor constantly shifting between the women. For as much as he wanted to immediately crash into the cell and free her when she was dragged into it, the droid hesitated as he was part of a much larger plan, and until now, everything had happened according to it. Accessing the mission relevant data in his memory core, he once more accessed the taller woman's data file:

Name: Chelsie "CC" Crimson

Rank: Reaver (Former TalEx Colonel)

Status: Defected from the Taldryan Military

Classified: High Priority Target

Like the other times the droid had accessed the file, he skipped the other personal details like the woman's familiar history and military achievements as well as her personality as these weren't of any value to him before again assuming his crouched waiting position near the ventilation shafts exit port just outside the holding cell, to wait until the target had left the detention area again.

Eventually the woman and her companions had finally exited the detention area, he sliced the exit ports access panel and hovered down into the corridor and into view from within the holding cell.

Kara smiled mentally when she saw Sparks hovering outside her cell. Giving him a barely invisible nod, the small, but more than anything reliable droid dove from the viewport and started to slice the door. Time to get ready.

Kara rose from her seat, ignoring the Liberation Front soldiers training their weapons on her.

"I'm sorry, I gotta need to shake my legs free." She said putting up her most innocent smile, convincing them to lower their weapons again when the door slid open and Sparks hovered in, beeping furiously while instantly shocking one of the soldiers. Using the distraction of the moment, Kara slammed herself into the other Partisan, pinning him against the wall before he could raise his blaster rifle again. Taking a step back, she hit him hard with a knee kick against his liver, knocking him out.

Once the Partisan had sunken to the ground, Sparks began working her handcuffs, freeing his master.

"Thanks buddy." Kara said once she was finally able again to freely move her hands and regain her gear. "Now let's get back to the mission. Can you slice the system to find Chelsie?"

Sparks beeped in response setting off to hover over to the nearest dataport and slicing into the stations system.

Back on the stations transit level, Chelsie Crimson went straight for a crate holding her specialized gear including her personalized DRK-1 Probe Droid which she even had been using back in her time before she had joined Rath Oligard and his cause. Activating it, she gave the droid a simple yet important order: Find the intruding droid.

The droid gave away a deep sonorous, almost growling beep before hovering away to fulfill its orders when Echo Squad's leader straightened himself next to her. "Captain Crimson, I regret to

have to inform you that the prisoner has escaped."

"She did what?" For the second time in less than an hour the normally calm and leveled woman lost her composure for the fraction of a second.

"I, I take full responsibility for this, but it seems like the droid you had mentioned was already within the station by the time you and I went into her holding cell." The Squad-leader said, admitting his failure.

"Then what are you waiting for, mobilize the Squadron!" She shouted.

"You found her?" Kara said after the droid had finally given a joyful beeping after several others that indicated continued failures in his slicing. "Show me what you got."

Sparks beeped in confirmation and shifted the informations displayed on the nearby screen to show a real life footage of the tram level of Station Cresh when the wailing klaxons of the alarm set off.

Kara instinctively drew her blaster, aiming to both sides of the corridor to make sure they were safe. "Alright, Sparks, we will still proceed with our mission objectives, you will cause faked alarms while I'll go for Chelsie."

The droid again beeped in confirmation, disconnecting himself from the system before setting off to cause the faked alarms, while Kara herself went for the closest lift.

With the alarms going on, the civilians and technicians that were buzzing the uppermost levels of Station Cresh immediately broke off from their duties and headed for their designated shelters. Only five minutes later the tram level was secured and transformed into a temporary command center allowing Chelsie "CC" Crimson to relay orders to each and every soldier within the station. Like the civilians and technicians, her soldiers have responded to the alarm with the uttermost precision and efficiency and were now searching the entire station in four-man teams to find the intruders leaving only herself along Echo Squadron's leader in the makeshift command center.

Reports came in every other minute with a new sighting appearing in a different sector every time the previous one was reported cleared, Chelsie had been a professional soldier for too long to not realize from the very beginning that someone was fooling the internal sensors as it was a common

tactic for TalEx infiltration specialists. However until her Probe Droid hadn't found and disabled Kara's own droid or until the Taldryanite herself was found, there was nothing her Partisans could do except reacting to the reported threats while searching the entire station head to toe.

From her vantage point near the doors of the lift, Kara had no difficulty observing the scene while staying relatively well covered. Carefully she took aim and unleashed a single bolt from her blaster pistol, taking out the single remaining Partisan along Chelsie.

However with shooting the Partisan, Kara exposed her position to Chelsie, who immediately took cover behind one of the working stations.

"Ah I knew it would have been only a matter of time until you would come for me." Chelsie called out from her cover while taking off her helmet before drawing her blaster rifle and firing a volley of blind-shots at Kara's general direction.

"Don't feel honored CC, you got something that belongs to me, and I won't leave this place without it." Kara replied, repeating the move of the Liberation Front leader.

Eventually they circled each other while repeating the same tactical maneuver, dashing from cover to cover while firing blind-shots at each other. By the time both had emptied their clips, they had drawn the circle around each other so close that they were now covering on opposite sites of the same row of crates. Shifting for her Scout Blaster, Kara dashed over her cover and threw herself onto her back, firing at Chelsie's direction but hit nothing but the plating of the crates, as Chelsie had thrown herself into a barrel roll in the same direction Kara had jumped. Coming up behind the Taldryanite, Chelsie turned and answered Kara's move with a volley of shots from her DC-17 Blaster. Rolling over the ground Kara evaded the blaster bolts, before coming up again firing back at Chelsie, who herself now rolled spun around decreasing her profile to avoid being shot while firing in a spreading arc at the estimated direction she thought Kara would use to dodge Chelsie's blaster fire. Instead Kara did a barrel roll coming up face-to-face with Chelsie who threw her blaster away in favor of charging for Kara, forcing her into close quarter combat.

Kara's specialist training responded within the blink of an eye, making a knife of his hands, she drove her right at the taller woman's throat. But like Kara, Chelsie was a seasoned warrior. With a sweep from her left, she batted Kara's right out wide, then seized the woman's arm by the wrist, shifted her own weight closer to Kara, and rotated herself into a toss. Kara anticipated the move, rode the toss into a roll and came back up again. Chelsie followed with a set of powerful sidekicks, low, high, mid. Kara dodged the first pair, then blocked the last and followed by driving her fist into Chelsie's exposed nose. Blood began to pour from her nose and ran down onto her lips. Chelsie countered, making use of her larger reach to punch at her throat, making Kara recoil from the other woman. Chelsie followed, driving Kara against a railing, protecting people from falling onto the trams rail system. Chelsie feinted a low kick but went for a kick straight at her chest, sending her

over the railing and onto the rail system. Kara came up again breathing hard, that last kick really had power behind it. Chelsie jumped over the railing blood still pouring from her damaged nose. Regarding each other from about two meters distance, the two women began circling each other again.

Chelsie watched for an opening as they circled, when she saw one she simply went for it, using the advantage of her size to take Kara down. Kara jumped to the right to avoid the takedown, but Chelsie was the quicker, pinning the smaller woman again against the railing. Kara tried to free herself with a short elbow against Chelsie's lower ribs. Grunting Chelsie released her grip on Kara, giving her more room to work.

Kara unleashed a short kneecappers against the side of Chelsie's knee where the armor-plates weren't overlapping. Then dove under and around her before throwing her back down. The both lay on the ground now, Kara squirmed atop Chelsie, coming in fast and elusive, her fists and elbows where everywhere.

Desperate, Chelsie reached for Kara's arms but she was the quicker this time. And then Kara made a mistake, allowing Chelsie to coil up her leg between her and Kara to shove the other woman into a toss – or so it seems. Eventually Kara again turned the toss into a roll, coming up onto her feet and dashed for cover.

It was only then that Chelsie not only realized that the Westar-35 she had taken from Kara was gone but that there too where two cylindrical shapes attached to her chest plate. Cursing to herself she tried to pull them off but the detonators shape didn't gave her much to pull at. Turning she saw Kara standing a few meters away facing her, the remote already in her hand. Then there was only blinding light and heat as the detonation tore her apart.

Turning from the remains of both the rail system and her former comrade, Kara turned to see Sparks hovering up to her from the edges of the station. Opening a commchannel she said: "Noctis, this is Blaze, mission accomplished. Cresh has been disabled. I'm ready for pick-up.

"This is Noctis. Good job Blaze. See you at the rendezvous point."

The End.