

How Riverche got a Keeradak.
By: Riverche, 13521
For: Ancient Weapons and Hokey Religions

The Shadow Feast:

A Miraluka grabs a pink, swirled drink at the bar, swivels around and heads to a table in the corner of the room. She gently places the drink on the table and sits down in front of it. Another drink clanks down in the spot across from her. "Riverche, I heard you had returned," the familiar Zabrak voice said, "but I thought it was a rumor."

"Oh, why did you think that?" She inquired fingering her drink.

"I got a request for a stable spot for a Keeradak with your name on it. Last time I saw you, you didn't have any animals."

"Yah, I acquired her on my last mission for the Shadow Academy." River raised the glass to her lips to take a sip.

"So, tell me about it. Tell me about the mission. The report said nothing about the Keeradak."

"You have access to the report, read it. All that needs to be known is in it. Is this an interrogation? Am I in trouble?"

"No, no. I am just wanting to know as an old friend. If you left out the Keeradak, what else did you leave out? You know you can tell me."

"Alright, we were sent to Skako Minor to retrieve information on a droid that the Techno Union built, but never sold. When we arrived, our guide, a Skakain from the Union, showed us locations believed to be linked to the building and latter destruction of the droid."

"Wait the droid is destroyed?" The Zabrak pulled out a datapad. The report flickered onto the tiny screen as his fingers rapidly flicked through the pages of the document. "Ah, it is. Continue, please."

"This is an interrogation! You liar!" The Miraluka stood to leave.

He grabbed her arm, "Please sit. I need to know the truth as a friend, I'm not the one investigating this. It falls to another, which I drought will even look into it."

"True. Unless it is of high importance most investigators will go only by the report." She retorted, sat back down and continued with the story.

"One of the locations was a crater created by a large explosion. Vegetation creeped down the sides with vines laced over the remains of the basement in the center. After excavating the site for almost a week with nothing to show, we decided to move on. As we were backing to leave, one of the workers informed me about a cave nearby that may hold clues to what we were looking for."

"A Cave? There is no cave in the report."

"I know, it turned out to have no relevance to the mission, but you asked how I got the Keeradak. The cave has everything to do with that." The Miraluka informed the Zabrak. She took a sip before continuing. "The entrance to the cave was partially hidden by vines. Deep in the cave, water dripped into a pool broke the silence. Fungi grew along the rocky walls. On the

floor of the cave near a small pool, a small bag with halodiscs in the front pocket rested against a long, smooth metal rod with a point on one end.”

“Wait, halodiscs. Those could have been important. Why did you leave them out and you said the cave was not important to the mission?” The Zabrak interrupted.

“The cave isn’t important. The discs had a journal of a poor Poletec on them.”

“They could have had something important on them.”

“They didn’t. I had them translated. Can I continue?”

“Yes, please do.”

“I slung the bag over my shoulder. As my hand moved to the staff, it seemed to call to me. Wanting me to touch it, to run my fingers along its length and to fill the point. A small drop of blood formed on my finger under the pressure of the staff. At that moment, I felt like someone or something had taken over and I was just a passenger along for the ride.”

“A creature with a large bulbous head and many legs appeared in front of me. It moved towards the mouth of the cave and out into the nearby forest. I followed, outside the cave a large building stood where the crater had been moments ago. The forest swallowed the creature. I continued to follow and stabbed at it every chance I got. It made its way to a cliff where a Keeradak had made her nest. The creature started to attack the eggs, destroying one before I could catch up to it.” River finished her drink.

“Then what? Did you kill it? What happened?”

“Calm down. Where was I? Oh, yah the nest. I stabbed the creature just as the adult Keeradak returned. The spear went through the bulbous head and into the mother. I felt like the spirit in control thought highly of the Keeradaks almost like they were some kind of sacred animal. It leapt from the cliff, knocking me off balance. I felt the worker grab my arm to pull me back onto the cliff.”

“The worker asked what happened and I told him. I looked at the crater and described the building that I had seen. He explained to me that the Poletecs, who share the planet with them, worshipped the beast, but the Skakoans see them as a nuisance that needed to be gotten rid of. He moved to destroy the last egg, but I stopped him and took the egg with me. At the next site, the egg hatched and the resulting Keeradak, I think, thinks I am her mom or something.”

“So, what did you name her? Where’s the bag at now?”

“Lucille, she is always escaping. I kept the bag. It didn’t have that much in it: a few halodiscs, some food and a trinket box that doesn’t open.” River looked at her now empty glass. “I need more to drink. It was nice to see you again. Maybe we should do this again.”

“Until next time, then.” The Zabrak raised his almost empty glass.

The Miraluka started to walk away before responding over her shoulder, “Next time, don’t use a feast as an opportunity to interrogate me. I may not be as cooperative next time.”