An Indomitable Infatuation

Mack left the Hall from the briefing completely rattled. *Steal an entire Star Destroyer?!! How are we supposed to pull THAT off?* “I guess I’ll have to give *him* a ring on the holo”, Mack sighed outloud.

Mack hurried down the corridors to his personal quarters, lost in deep thought, he bumped into a familiar face without paying attention. “Oof! You ok Mack?”, said Taurus. “Sorry about that”, replied Mack, “it’s just this tall order from Legion Ordo…”

“Yes, it is a tall order, but not impossible, Young Acolyte.” Taurus said in a calm voice. “I have complete faith in your abilities and that of the Secret Order.”

“Thanks buddy, I appreciate it. I just need to call someone I didn’t think I would ever see again for help.” said Mack. “I’m sure it will be fine, but remember, no killing”, said Taurus.

“I know, I know. I’m not a complete animal”, Mack said with a smirk on his face. Taurus chuckled, knowing that Mack was only teasing, given his appearance, patted Mack on the shoulder and continued about his way.

Mack got to his quarters and Nebula was chirping away at him. “Yeah I know that already”, he said to the astromech. A slew of chirps and whistles came in response. “Keep that up and I’ll wipe your memory banks!” Mack retorted. Nebula rolled backwards and spun her dome head with a low whistle. “I accept your apology. Now, if you would be so kind as to send a message for me.”

“Captain, you’ve got an incoming transmission. It’s an Imperial code. Should I tell them to shove it?”

“As much as I’d like to indulge that impulse, we don’t need that kind of attention. Go ahead and patch it thru”

“Aye Captain”

The holoprojector swirled to life and Mack’s face appeared. “Well, well, well my dearest brother. To what do I owe the occasion?” said Jo Udar.

“I’m working on a project and I need your help, Jo.” said Mack

“And why should I help you? And before you say something real sappy like ‘*We’re family’,* I will cut this transmission if you even utter those words” Jo said with a sharp tone.

“Awww, don’t be like that. I thought you missed me”

“Tick Tock little brother, time is money and you’re not exactly a paying customer”

“But what if I was?”

“But you’re not. Bardo, get this sorry excuse of a mynock off my holo”

“Ok! Ok! I have the credits, just hear me out.”

“Now you’re finally speaking my language runt. Spit it out, what do you want?”

“I need your help hijacking a Star Destroyer, I have all of the access codes an-”

Jo cuts off Mack immediately, “YOU WANT TO DO WHAT?!! You’ve gone and completely lost your damn mind! Haven’t you?! Steal a Star Destroyer!” Jo starts laughing, kicking his feet. “You’re pulling my leg, aren’t ya?”

Mack continues, “No brother, I’m being dead serious. I can’t go into details about it, but I will make it worth your time”

“Oh, you bet your sweet mechanical arm you’re gonna make it worth my time! I ain’t cheap you know and I ain’t cutting you any special deals just because we’re related!”

“Yes, yes, I know. Meet me at these coordinates so we can go over the plan. Mom would be so proud of us, you know”

“Stow it!” and with that, Mack’s face disappeared from the holoprojector.

Bardo walks over to Jo and taps him on the shoulder. “Hmm?” responded Jo, rubbing his chin with one hand.

“Captain, are we really going to go through with this? It sounds like a suicide mission to me or at least a very, very long time in an Imperial prison.” asked Bardo.

“Yep, if I know my brother, he’s probably a little smarter than a Nexu, but he wouldn’t call me for no reason. If this job goes sour, I’ll take it out of his hyde.” said Jo. He sighs, “Alright, let’s go steal a Star Destroyer.”

“Aye Captain,” said Bardo. The ship spooled up its sub-light engines and hurried towards the rendezvous point.

Meanwhile in a distant part of the galaxy, the Mandalorians of the Red Sun begin making their own preparations for the attack and capture of the VSDII Indomitable. In the war room, aboard their dreadnought, there's an eerie silence as their leader, Osik Cuun speaks. “Brothers

and Sisters of the Red Sun! Tomorrow morning we will be capturing a Star Destroyer! There will be great honor brought from this and Mandalore will smile upon us.” The room was still silent, save for a few beeps and chirps from computer systems as the Mandalorians continued to listen intently. “Our target is the Victory 2 class Star Destroyer, Indomitable. It is currently stationed in the Minos Cluster, in Emperor's Hammer territory.” There were a couple of murmurs at that point. “Yes, the same Imperial faction. But worry not, we will be victorious as the Star Destroyer will be lightly guarded. It will be as easy as the Verd’Goten.”

Mack and Jo just stare at each other across the table at the spaceport cantina. “This is absolutely insane, even for me, little brother” Jo stated. “So we're just going to waltz in there and take the Star Destroyer? Oh! And my favorite part, ‘no killing’ and if that's not enough, the Red Sun Syndicate will probably be there too?!” Jo said, obviously irritated at the thought of such an idea.

“Yeah, I know Jo. I know. But I also know that you and your crew can get it done. With my help of course to get onboard and to the bridge.” says Mack. A few whistles from Nebula. “And with Nebula’s help too.”

“I swear to you Mack, if this thing goes belly up, I'll disintegrate you myself!” scowled Jo.

“You know that would break Mom's heart” Mack snickered. “OW!!” Jo had kicked Mack’s shin under the table. “I told you to stow it!” Jo said, clearly displeased.

“Ok, just so we're clear, we will be posing as a technician crew to recalibrate the scanners. I already have the clearance codes to allow us to dock.” Mack explained. “Jo, you and Bradlee -”, “It's Bardo” Bardo interjected. Mack rolled his eyes but continued with the plan, “BardO will need to get the docking locks disengaged. Otherwise, we won't be going anywhere once we get the engines fired up. R6 will be ‘enlisting’ the help of some of the other service and maintenance astromechs that are aboard the Indomitable.”

“And how exactly is ‘she’ going to do that?” asked Jo.

“I'm glad you asked. Considering we do a lot of repairs ourselves to my own fighter, as well as a few modifications, the ship's engineers have given us a lot of leeway and have given her a few admin privileges to redirect other maintenance droids as needed to help expedite repairs. Meaning, she can backdoor a few droids and give them new directives to follow.” Mack pauses and scans the room.

“What is it?” Jo asked, reaching for his blaster. Mack holds out his hand to calm his brother.

“It's nothing…. I just thought I felt like we were being watched.” said Mack.

“Well don't scare me like that and get that scared look off your face.” Jo said.

“I know… but let's wrap this up.” said Mack. “So, as far as dealing with any personnel or security, like I said before, no killing. They’re all friendlies. And there is the possibility that the Red Sun Syndicate will be there as well, attempting to do the same thing we’re doing.”

“So we can take them out though, right?” chimed in Bardo.

“No. Nobody dies today during this job. Not the EH personnel and certainly not the Red Sun. If anyone dies because of anything we’ve done, the consequences will be… extreme.” Mack replied, staring off into the distance, with a look of horror on his face.

Jo clicks his tongue, “Well, just from that look, I know this is serious…” he places a hand on Mack’s shoulder to bring him out of his trance and Mack forcibly puts a smile on his face. “We’ll get that Star Destroyer bro, believe you me. And we won’t kill anyone.” Jo continued.

“You promise?” Mack asked. “I promise and so does Bardo” Jo replied. Bardo rolls his eyes and scoffs, “You just had to suck all the fun out of this job, didn’t you? But yes, I promise. Not because you’re his brother, but because I know *he’ll*”, Bardo gestures to Jo, “chain me to the hull and fly through the atmosphere.”

“And don’t you forget it!” Jo said teasingly.

“Alright, well, let’s nab ourselves a Star Destroyer, shall we?” said Mack.

Deep in Emperor Hammer’s Space, in the Minos Cluster, the ship yard where the Indomitable was docked was quiet. The Victory 2 Star Destroyer was like a sleeping gondark, with several zero-g maintenance crews and Tug units buzzing around it like gnats. Seeing the sparks from their welders, it was like an uncoordinated light show around the hull of the ship. Aboard the ship, it was quiet, with only a few stormtroopers on their routine patrols around. Their footsteps being the only sounds being heard within the corridors, save for the occasional chirp or beep from onboard computer systems or distant chatter from maintenance engineers working within access panels. A lambda class shuttle exits hyperspace near the ship yard. “Lambda Class shuttle, please identify”

“Alright, it’s showtime kids” Mack said, “This is shuttle Indigo, maintenance techs for recalibrating long range sensors, over”.

“Shuttle Indigo, we don’t have you on our roster for approved technicians.” replied the shipyard comms.

“Are you freaking kidding me? I told them to get us assigned BEFORE sending us out here and for this very reason. Ugh… can I at least send my clearance codes to say that I was at least here?” Mack said.

“Standby Indigo…. Go ahead and commence transmission”

“Transmitting now. Code Alpha-Alpha-One-Three-Sixer-Seven”

“Transmission received, Indigo.” There was a momentary silence, “Shuttle Indigo, you may proceed with docking in the hangar bay and may proceed with your work.”

“Copy that, en route now” and with that Mack turned off the comms.

“Well color me impressed little brother” said Jo.

“That was the easy part, as soon as we’re in the hangar, just follow my lead,” said Mack.

The shuttle entered the hangar of the Indomitable. Only 2 stormtroopers met them in the hangar. Weapons holstered. The loading ramp opened up and Mack and Jo came down dressed in typical maintenance crew attire. Nebula follows behind them and Bardo carries a heavy looking case on his shoulder behind her. “OH! I wasn’t expecting an escort!” proclaimed Mack.

“Standard procedure, sir” replied one of the stormtroopers. Mack and Jo gave a quick glance at each other.

“Ok, well then, by all means, lead the way.” said Mack.

The group makes their way to the turbolifts and Mack reaches out with the Force to the stormtroopers and whispers “*We’ve got it from here”.*

“You’ve got it from here.” said the stormtroopers in unison.

“*Return to your post.”* says Mack, both stormtroopers step aside and walk away from the group.

“Alright, Nebula, would you please do the honors?” said Mack. The R6 droid comes forward whistling a tune it made up. She connects with a com port and within a few seconds, she starts beeping and chirping at Mack.

“What is it going on about?” asks Bardo.

“Well, **she** says that she’s pulled up the work order manifesto and has assessed the overall condition of the Indomitable.”

“Okay, so what?” says Bardo. Nebula lets out a low beep, followed by a string of regular beeps. Mack snickers to himself.

“What’s so funny?” asks Jo. “Well, she said Bardo better watch his tone with a woman before she makes him one,” Mack replied. Bardo’s eyes widen and he takes a step back away from the droid. “She also says the hyperdrive is currently offline and the reactor is in a low power mode. Just enough power for the lights to be on and that’s it.”

“So, now what do we do?” Jo asks, arms crossed and looking less than enthusiastic of the development of this new information.

“We stick with the plan.” Mack looks at Nebula, “Pull up the schematics for the ship please”. Nebula complies and a holo image of the Indomitable appears before them. “Zoom in to our current position.” The image shows a 3D side view of their placement. “Ok, we’re here, on deck 7A. You and Bardo will need to go to decks 10C and 10H to gain exterior access to the ship and get to those docking clamps. Once there, set the thermite gel on the joints.”

“Shouldn’t you be the one out there doing that?” questioned Jo “Considering you’re the one with the specialized training?”

“I would, but I know my way around a Star Destroyer and I can ‘fake’ my way a lot better than either one of you.” said Mack

Jo shrugs his shoulders. “Meh, worth a shot. Alright Bardo, let’s suit up.”

“Whatever you say boss” says Bardo “But you still haven’t said what we’re doing about the reactor and the hyperdrive.”

“Nebula is already on it. She is sending in a couple of astromechs to get the hyperdrive back online and to get the reactor up to the power level we need in order to get out of here. Keep your comm links on, because timing is everything.” said Mack

“Very well then” says Bardo and the 4 of them split up.

“And no killing!” Mack reminded them.

Aboard the crusader class corvette, a group of Red Sun Syndicate Mandalorians prepare to make their assault and capture of the Star Destroyer. The corvette hurling through hyperspace, exits outside of the sensor range of the shipyard. “We’ve arrived and they’re unaware of our presence.” says Ori Ehn.

“Good, power up the cloaking field device and take us into dock with the Star Destroyer.” announced Osik Cuun. The hum of the cloaking field could be heard throughout the ship. The corvette powered up its sublight engines and raced its way toward the shipyard and the Indomitable.

Nebula gave out a loud shrieking alarm that startled Mack causing him to accidentally shock himself on a wire harness within an access panel. “What the hell Nebula?!” he yelled out.

“Just what do you think you’re doing?” came a voice behind Mack. He spun around to see two actual maintenance crew workers standing over him.

“There’s a problem with a relay circuit here that I’m working on.” bluffed Mack

“On whose authority? Because it looks like you were trying to hotwire that blast door to the bridge.” says one of the maintenance crew workers.

“Don’t tell me you’re gonna give me a hard time about doing **my** job! And why would I try to hotwire the door? We’re all on the same side here, aren’t we?” Mack continued to bluff.

The two workers weren’t buying his bluff and he could tell. Just then, his comm link went off. “Hey Mack! Got that thermite gel all set, but I’ve got some bad news for you.” Mack’s eyes widened and he shrugged his shoulders at the maintenance crew. The crew members looked at each other for a second in bewilderment of what they just heard.

“I guess the nexu is out the bag, huh?” said Mack, coming up from a crouched position uppercutting one of the crew members. The other crew member threw a punch at Mack landing squarely across his jaw, knocking him back against the blast door. The first crew member, still dazed from the uppercut, tried to get up on his feet to assist in detaining Mack but was quickly intercepted by Nebula using an electric arc from one of her arms. Completely stunning and incapacitating the young man. He let out a scream from the pain before hitting the ground. The second crew member went for a low kick to Mack’s groin, but he caught the kick and sweep kicked his leg from underneath of him. Both men hit the metal floor hard, struggling to gain control of one another in a grappling match. “Hey… um Mack… did you hear me?” Jo’s voice over the comm link. Mack was eventually able to gain control and put the man in a submission hold until he quit resisting and his body became limp. Mack quickly let go and checked for a pulse. “No dying today sir. Nebula, give me some steel rope.” Another compartment opened up on Nebula with what looked like a towing cable that would allow the droid to pull small objects. Mack bound the two men’s hands behind their backs and to each other. He picks up his comm link off of the floor and clears his throat. “Luxury yacht and resorts, how may I help you?” Mack jokingly said.

“Hardy har har. While you were sleeping and slacking off, Bardo and I got our job done. Where the hell were you??” Jo’s voice was clearly irritated.

“I ran into a little problem on my way to the bridge, but it’s under control. Now, did I hear you say there was a problem?” Said Mack.

“Yeah, I did. There’s a Red Sun corvette about to dock and breach near the bridge. So needless to say, you’re about to have some company.” Jo replied.

“OH WHAT THE FRAKKING DUNG EATING KOWAKIAN MONKEY LIZARD HELL?!!” shouted Mack.

“Do you kiss mother with that foul mouth?” Jo said teasingly.

“Arrrgh, you got me there. Just hurry up and get inside. I have an idea.” Mack said.

Aboard the bridge of the Red Sun corvette, the Osik Cuun was barking out orders to the other Mandalorians. “As soon as the landing pads connect with the hull and the docking tube extends, transfer power from the cloaking field and begin jamming their comms.”

“Yes sir” said one of the Mandalorians from their terminal. The corvette touched down on the back of the upper section of the Indomitable. The entire ship shook and landing pads magnetized to the star destroyer to keep it from floating away. The hum from the cloaking field machine stopped. “All long range communications are jammed.” said Ori Ehn, “Docking tube is extended and Kad Garriss and his boarding party is on their way.”

Jo and Bardo just made it back inside from the exterior of the Indomitable and began getting their zero g suits off when alarms started sounding throughout the ship. “Oh what now? So much for the element of surprise.” said Jo. They put on their maintenance disguises and started grabbing their weapons from the case they brought with them. “Keep it set to stun, for Mack’s sake” said Jo. “Seriously boss? If we get in a firefight, they’re not exactly gonna be tickling us.” retorted Bardo. “Yes, I’m very serious. These troopers aren’t looking for us. So we can blend in for now. It’s the Red Sun I’m worried about. I’d rather not get a death mark put on me.” said Jo. Six stormtroopers ran past Jo and Bardo without even giving them a second thought. “See what I mean?” said Jo. Bardo rolled his eyes, “Ok fine. Let’s go”.

The two of them hurried to Mack and Nebula’s position where they heard a fire fight going on. “Jo! Come in!” Mack hollered into the comm link. “What is it runt? We’re on our way to you.” Jo replied.

“I’m not at the blast doors to the bridge. I’m in the adjacent corridor. Troopers and Red Sun are shooting it out.” Mack said.

“Copy that, be there in a sec” said Jo.

The fire fight continued raging on, with neither side giving ground to the other. “So what’s the plan here, oh fearless leader?” asked Jo.

“Well while you took your sweet time getting here, Nebula has already redirected some of the maintenance astromechs to the reactor to get it warmed up and going, and also a couple to the hyperdrive to bring it online,” said Mack. “We need to get the stormtroopers to back off and allow the Red Sun to gain control of the bridge for us.”

“Did you hit your head? Isn’t that counter productive to what we’re doing?!” protested Bardo.

“Not entirely, the Red Sun is going to fly the Indomitable out of here, but we’re not going to be going where they think we’re taking us. As soon as we’re clear from the shipyard they’ll start spooling up the hyperdrive. Nebula will lock down the controls and change the hyperspace coordinates before the jump.” said Mack.

“You seriously are insane” said Jo “And what’s to keep us from hypering into a planet or a star making changes at the last second like that?”

There was an explosion near them that knocked everyone off their feet. “Just trust me! Ok! I need you two to flank the stormtroopers and stun them and leave the rest to me” Mack said.

“Fine then, but if I die, I’m gonna kill you!” said Jo. He and Bardo circled back around and were behind the group of stormtroopers in a shootout with the Red Sun. Jo mouthed to Bardo *“One, two, three….”* and the two of them began stunning the stormtroopers from behind. The Red Sun boarding party took notice of the fact that they were no longer under fire and took the opportunity to advance their positions towards the bridge. Keeping their weapons and their sights trained on where the stormtroopers were firing from, one of them put a device on the lock controls to the blast doors which beeped after a couple of seconds and the blast doors whooshed open. The Mandalorians flooded onto the bridge of the Indomitable and quickly closed the blast doors behind them and secured the area. “We’re on the bridge and in control.” said Kad Garriss.

“Good, now get me my Star Destroyer back to our territory.” said Osik Cuun. “As you wish,” said the boarding party leader. “The reactor is at 75% and the hyperdrive is operational” called out another Mandalorian from a terminal. “Are we able to disengage the docking clamps from here?” asked Kad Garriss. “I will try brother” said Jorad Eldar, the Mandalorian started punching in commands to the terminal to get the docking clamps disengaged. At that point in time, there were what looked like multiple explosions around the docking clamps and the Indomitable was free from the shipyard. Kad spun around and looked at Jorad, even though you couldn’t see his face through his helmet, you could tell he was not happy. “What was that?!” yelled Kad, “If this ship is damaged because of you, I will kill you myself!”

“I…I don’t know. I promise it was not me.” Jorad said.

“There aren’t any hull breaches, Kad” said another Mandalorian.

With a heavy sigh, Kad responded “Very well then, take us out of here.” The Indomitable creaked and moaned as it slowly began to leave the shipyard. The corvette detached from the back of the Indomitable and flew ahead. “We are going ahead of you, Kad. See you soon, you

have done well." said Osik. The corvette zipped into hyperspace. "Are we clear of the shipyard?" asked Kad.

"Yes brother Kad" said Jorad.

"Punch in the coordinates for Red Sun space and let's get out of here before we're unable to" said Kad.

Jorad began typing away at the terminal for the Nav computer, but it wasn't responding and kept giving an error message.

"Did you forget how to pilot Jorad?" Kad said irritably.

"N-no! The computer… it's not responding at all now all of a sudden." replied Jorad.

The Indomitable began turning on its own and Kad began looking around the room, "What is going on? Who is changing our course?!" he cried out. Just then, the starfield began to warp around them and the Indomitable hurled itself into hyperspace. Kad stomped over to Jorad's station and grabbed him by the throat. "Where are we going?" he said angrily.

"I-I do…" Jorad gasping for air, Kad relaxed his grip. "I don't know brother. The computer locked me out and I have no idea where it is sending us."

"Then figure it out" Kad said, "better yet, go shut down the hyper drive to bring us out of hyperspace."

Jorad got up from his station and went to the blast doors. They wouldn't open. He pressed the open button numerous times and it wouldn't open. Kad stomped over to the doors and shoved Jorad out of the way. Pressing the open button himself and the doors still remained closed. Kad cocked his head to the side, completely confused about what was happening but quickly figured it out.

"We've been had," he said softly.

Mack's voice came over the door lock intercom, "Our dearest guests, please make yourselves comfortable during our flight."

"Open this door immediately and surrender yourself! This Star Destroyer belongs to the Red Sun Syndicate now." commanded Kad.

"Yeah ... .about that…. I don't think so." Mack said, reaching out through the Force to touch Kad's mind.

"And why is that?" Kad responded.

“Well, mostly because **you don’t have a choice** in the matter.” Mack said vindictively.

Kad suddenly started to feel panicked “B-but why? Who are you?” he muttered.

“Why don’t **you relax**? Hmmm? No harm will come to you or your people, but I **cannot allow you** to take this vessel” Mack said.

The room was slowly beginning to spin to Kad. “*We cannot take this ship?”* he said to himself. Jorad looked puzzled at Kad and was trying to figure out why he was losing his tenacity. He grabbed Kad by the shoulder and said “Hey! Snap out of it! We’re still in control here.”

Kad slowly turned his head to Jorad and shook his head ‘no’, “No… no we’re not in control here, Jorad” he said, “Don’t you see? We’re trapped in here, going Mandalore knows where. How are we in control at all?!”

“Hey! Didn’t I say you need to relax?” Mack called out through the intercom.

“To hell with you! Once we get out of here, you’re dead!” yelled Jorad.

Mack gave a heavy sigh through the intercom, “Ok, well I suppose it was going to come to this anyway.” Mack turned to Nebula, who was connected to another comm port, “lower the oxygen in the room. They all need to take a little nap.” Nebula gave an acknowledging beep and began lowering the oxygen levels on the bridge. Within a few minutes, all of the Red Sun Mandalorians were knocked out on the deck.

“Ok runt, we’ve stolen your Star Destroyer and bagged a few Red Sun Syndicates as well. And we didn’t kill anyone. I expect payment ASAP.” Jo said. “With extra!” chimed in Bardo.

“Yeah, yeah, I know. I do appreciate your help with this.” Mack stated “But there is one other matter that needs to be addressed.”

“Oh? And what’s that, runt?” Jo asked.

“Well, where we are going, you cannot know about…I’ll have Nebula drop us out of hyperspace and you take the shuttle and get out of here. With your payment ofcourse.” said Mack, and looked past Jo, “with extra”. Giving a thumbs up to Bardo.

“You’re not gonna do one of those weird Jedi mind things on us, are you?” Jo asked nervously.

Mack chuckled, “No, not this time”

“This time!?!” Jo said alarmingly. They both laughed and shook hands. “It was good to see you again, runt, but no more crazy ideas or quests.”

“That’s a fair deal. Don’t spend all your credits in one place.” said Mack, “I certainly owe you for helping me with this.”

The Indomitable dropped out of hyperspace and the Lambda class shuttle Mack, Jo, Nebula, and Bardo arrived in, left the hangar and the star destroyer sped off into hyperspace once again. The shuttle with only Jo, Bardo and their credits for the job took off into hyperspace in the opposite direction of the Indomitable.

“Hopefully we didn’t get a mark on our backs for this job, boss,” said Bardo concerningly.

“We didn’t, Bardo. If there’s one thing about Mack, he’s an honest kid.” says Jo as the shuttle flies through hyperspace. “He’ll always do right.”