

Gerald, a wolf from Mashu, stared ahead at their objective the ruins of Elmore one of the major coastal seaports for his country. His second in command, Nilk Bocaj, a lioness from Musa, sat next to him watching the other two members of their team intently. Their communications specialist, Oyrok Gnat, a rabbit from Yuan, was busy checking his com equipment, knowing that he would be calling in strikes against the enemy before the day was through. Finally the explosives expert, Olop Ocam, a bear from Gama, spent the ride meditating, attempting to cleanse his thoughts for combat.

The vehicle suddenly slammed to a stop at the edge of a cliff overlooking the burning and ruined city that once was the crown of Mashu's economic strength. The city still had tall buildings standing and homes that were only superficially or partially destroyed. But even the worst disaster that had ever befallen the city had not done this much damage.

The driver, a local militia member, stuck his head out the window to shout, "As far as we go Pack Leader!" Gerald nodded and patted the roof of the cab as a sign of appreciation before hopping out of the vehicle, his team members followed his lead dismounting from the vehicle soon after. "Good hunting sir!" The driver shouted while saluting the Pack Leader with a traditional clenched paw over the heart.

Gerald returned the salute and then readied his weapon signaling his team to follow him down the Cliffside. The vehicle sped away as the commandos repelled down the cliff to the outskirts of the city below them. When they all arrived at the bottom Gerald pointed to a nearby mostly intact house, "That will be our FOB for this mission. Gnat, Olop, set up a perimeter defense, Bocaj, you're on over watch." The team nodded, knowing their roles as they carefully made their way into the abandoned home.

The team burst through the door, clearing the home room by room. Once they were sure the area was clear they went to work, the rabbit and bear began building barricades and rifle slots in case of attack while the lioness made her way to the roof, carefully watching the surrounding area for enemy activity. The wolf found a large table to spread out his tactical maps and begin developing a plan for their intel gathering mission. They were part of the first spec ops groups to begin gathering intelligence on their planet's new enemy, heading into unknown situations with nearly no support. He knew it was a dangerous but necessary mission and knew he was the right commander for the job.

"We're set up sir! Area cleared and fortified! Sensors and trip wires in place as well!" The bear saluted his new commander, his tone formal to the point of sounding stuck up.

"Olop, we're in the field. I don't expect you to spit shine your buttons for inspection every morning so drop the formal stuff." The wolf said while he still studied his maps.

Ocam Olop narrowed his eyes and nodded, "I understand, but even in combat a soldier of Gama is expected to be a professional."

Gerald dropped the map and looked into the bear's eyes. "I don't need professionals; I need fighters, dirty, nasty, sneaky fighters. We're spec ops, not regular military, our jobs aren't just killing but

murdering, stealing and kidnapping. We're criminals in uniform and I expect you to act that way, understood specialist?" The wolf's expression barely changed as he stared down Ocam.

Ocam nodded, tersely saying, "Understood, Pack Leader," before turning around and walking away. The bear was chosen by Gerald because of his expertise and combat record so he knew Ocam would follow orders until the end. It wasn't until after he met the explosives expert that he learned of the stick up his ass and the attitude that grated against his hospitality.

Oyrok shook his head as the bear passed him, "Sorry about him sir. You know bear's, always willing to shove an axe in the head of their enemy while only taking a shit if their superior allows them too."

"If that's the case Olop must be able to hold it in for weeks..." The wolf joked as he rifled through his vest pocket to produce 2 cigars, offering one to the rabbit.

"For me, why thank you sir!" Oyrok smiled as he took the cigar from the wolf, producing a lighter from his own vest pocket and lighting it up with ease. The rabbit had worked with Gerald before, during a peace keeping mission in Musa. The wolf respected and trusted the communications specialist enjoying his laid back attitude when it came to the dirty business involved in their business.

"What do you think of Mrs. Pride?" Gerald asked bluntly to the rabbit as he puffed on the cigar.

"Lt. Bocaj? She's better than most Pridlings I've seen. Hell, I heard she was the best shot in the world, but you know Sierra Bravo, not always to be trusted." The rabbit continued to puff as he looked at the maps. "We are heading out tonight?"

"Do you know many successful heists that took place during daylight?" The wolf said as he continued to puff on the cigar.

"Is it a Sierra Gama?" The rabbit asked looking intently at Gerald.

Nodded as he removed his cigar, "A good ole' snatch and grab."