

Shuttle slowly approaches the derelict vessel, Shuttle pilot is prepared to dock at one of back airlocks. A simple mission where extraction of hardware is needed. No life signatures were detected on board with long range scan and the ship seems to be abandoned.

Two Haliverns were tasked with this extraction. Military aerial ace and special soldier Oberon and Engineer, Scraper and Demolition specialist Calabash.

Calabash is still completing tests and equipping accessories on her exosuit. Two multipurpose hands with tools and manipulators, lights on both shoulders and pieces of armor on her body above overalls. Series of pistons and motors on her suit to enhance movement and manipulation. Helmet with info visor and small plasma pistol. A series of lucky charms, drawings and other decorations can be seen on her suit, helmet and tools.

Calabash:

"Soooo, you are that guy who is here to protect me on this extraction mission?" *Calabash loudly asks Oberon.*

Oberon:

Oberon turns to his colleague and calmly answers. "Me? My name is Oberon and yeah, that's what I'm supposed to do here. But I'm pretty sure there will be nothing dangerous at all. Just another boring mission".

Calabash:

Calabash smirks and says. "Well derelicts are like surprise eggs. You never know what is inside until you crack them open. But I bet it will be empty yea. Why does your organization care so much about their hard drives anyway?"

Oberon:

Oberon is taken by surprise with her asking about sensitive information she isn't supposed to know anything about and answers. "Oh? I don't... I... You better tell me why you don't care about your wings at all? Don't you know what's the most important part of a Halivern's body?"

Calabash:

*Taken away by questions she answers nearly daily or weekly she responds. "Hmm my wings? *She looks at both power tools and heavy exosuit. "I care about my wings, and I use them to work with my tools. I'm not immobilized, I can still walk and with an exosuit running is much easier too. You are one of those scared for not flying? Or will you be one calling me crazy for my work? She smirks and puts her tongue out at Oberon before smiling."*

Shuttle continues its docking procedures, approaching the airlock and locking to it.

Oberon:

Oberon was surprised by her question and he answered fast. "What? No. I don't think you're crazy. Not yet. But it hurts me to see you're not using your wings properly".

Calabash:

Calabash, happy with his response, loudly laughs and then speaks. "Hahaha, and how will you fly in the corridors of space ship man?"

Calabash starts to increase her volume of speech until she starts yelling really loud and posing her tools towards the shuttle ceiling.

"I will show you how to cut through thick steel and walk through walls! I can be the menace!" While she poses and roars suit tools shoot flames and burn the ceiling of the shuttle a bit.

Shuttle pilot:

Shuttle pilot, scared of what Calabash is doing to his shuttle, yells very loudly.

"HEY, KEEP IT DOWN IN MY SHUTTLE!"

Calabash seems to be in the moment ignoring the Shuttle pilot.

Oberon:

Oberon stops Calabash from her shenanigans and asks to get her attention away from it.

"And you're also hiding your legs behind this... this... thing. The Halivern lady should be proud of her beautiful legs, just like a Halivern guy should be proud of his", *Oberon looks at his own knees.*

Calabash:

She without a second thought responds to him and stops flaming the shuttle ceiling.

"I'm proud of my legs, that's why I protect them! I have plasma cutters, sometimes I need to move in acidic environments, heat, and not safe places. I want to keep them beautiful and safe." *She smiles and then smirks at Oberon.*

Oberon:

Oberon pauses and then responds provocatively.

"Alright. But I believe you don't want to look beautiful".

Calabash:

Calabash shrugs and goes into a neutral face while responding to him.

"There is always someone saying how I should look or what I should do. Very traditional species we are. But looking different and wearing what others refuse is what makes me money, as I'm doing a job no one else is willing to do." *She proudly responds to Oberon.*

Oberon:

Oberon listens to her monologue and then uninterested says.

"Let's see how good you're at doing your job".

Calabash:

Calabash smiles and wiggles closer to Oberon's head and says while nearly whispering.

"I'm the best!"

Shuttle is completing docking procedures and finishes locking onto ship airlock.

Oberon equips his cannons on his shoulders and checks his personal tablet pc.

No new information from HQ or about the mission, but he notices that his close proximity bio scanner detects something in ship Airlock.

Calabash is preparing to enter the ship as soon as the shuttle docks and opens the airlock.

Calabash:"Well, let's do our work and then get some hot chocolate.

Oberon: "Wait. Let me enter there first. After all, it's my work here. But I'm still sure there's nothing really dangerous inside".

Calabash looks at Oberon, a bit annoyed, and then steps aside.

Shuttle docks and airlock opens, the outside door to ship airlock is jammed and will not open automatically.

Shuttle pilot:

"Seems like a ship outside the airlock door is stuck, either you cut through it or try to open it manually Obi."

Oberon:

"Alright. I have this"

He takes out an universal key for alliance vessels that releases hydraulics and allows sealed doors to be opened in case of emergency. He holds the gadget with his toes. He searches the airlock door for a moment and finds a small latch. Opening it reveals a small hole into the door. He inserts the key into it and turns it clockwise two times. Door hydraulic hisses and unlocks the door. Airlock computer is not singing a No-Seal alarm and the door can be opened freely, showing that the system is off, fried or this door was disconnected.

Calabash:

Calabash looks at his universal key with slightly jealousy as civilians are forbidden from having these without special license.

"Ohh I forgot state employees have all these fancy tools at hand." *She smirks.*

Oberon:

While working with the door control panel Oberon asks.

"Do you like missions like this? I hate them. Too boring and no room for flying. Awful".

Calabash:

"Honestly? I do like them, I can make my own fun and I will not fly in this suit anyway. Also, have you ever been chased through a space ship derelict by a group of wild dogs? As that was super awful, I had to set a really pretty carpet aflame to get rid of them.

Oberon silently connects his hacking gadget with the door's control panel. It quite easily breaks the security of the panel as the mainframe of the ship is disconnected from this panel. He clicks and the door starts opening.

Oberon:

Quite surprised he responds,

"It was easier than I expected".

Emergency lights in ship airlock create dim light. Oberon can notice some kind of reptilian body in a spacesuit, but something is wrong with it. Seems like Zedts species!

Calabash:

"Yea, I expected to use my drill or cutter, anyway, do you see anything?"

Oberon:

"Umm yeah. I see... something" *He tries to take a closer look to see if that Zedts is alive. Oberon comes closer and notices that body was completely crushed by something, it is one the emergency spacesuits from airlock front rooms, glass on helmet is shattered and the Zedt is long dead. Airlock inner door shows signs of shooting but the weapon is nowhere to be found.*

Calabash:

Calabash, caught by surprise to see a dead body already in the ship, squeaks and says.

"Ohh shit another mummy, probably fried life support or something."

She puts on her oxygen mask forgetting that if there would be no air they would be already sucked out or not capable of breathing in dangerous atmosphere.

Oberon:

"Alright. I forgot my oxygen mask in the shuttle. Am I doomed?"

He smiles and looks at Calabash.

She looks at him and smiles, taking off her mask realizing that the atmosphere is breathable. "I don't think so, it is three steps behind you, or you can take this." She smiles and hands him a portable oxygen bottle and a mask with a neck strap. Then she walks into the ship.

"Hmm what kind of alien species is this, and its space suit seems to be broken. Ohh those are Zedts!" She points at a crushed reptilian.

Oberon: *"Wait. Have you heard that... noise? From there" He points at the door with his left wing. Doing a prank on Calabash.*

She looks up, a bit scared, then drops her stone face trying to mask her fear before beautiful Halivern like Oberon. "Probably hydraulics! Ehm, yes, hydraulics probably! Hard to hear about this thing..." She knocks on her helmet.

Oberon:
*Oberon smiles and asks.
"So? Let's go?"*

Calabash:
"Yea!" She points at the inner ship airlock doorway as the door panel seems to have some message on it.

Oberon looks at the dead body before approaching the inner door and looks like he's waiting for that body to explode or come alive.... Or maybe he's trying to hear more noises from the inside of the vessel. He stays still for about 30 or 40 seconds. He can hear only something similar to very soft beeping from behind the inner door.

Calabash starts to move nervously after ten or so seconds as she gets impatient and probably bored, making noises with her exosuit and all gadgets on it.

Oberon ignores noises made by his co-worker and after waiting he goes to the door panel. As he looks at the panel it says ERROR VAL43 - UNABLE TO CONNECT TO SHIP MAINFRAME.

"Do... Do you want me to cut through that... you know, door?" Calabash impatiently asks.

Oberon:
"Maybe first we should make sure that it won't open in, umm... other ways" He smiled again.

*She smiles too at him and responds with. "Well I will leave you with it then."
Panel error message can be closed easily with a cross, and the door has the same emergency latch with a hole as the outside door.*

Oberon:
"Let this thing open it for us." He tries to connect his gadget to the door's control panel. The door clicks, hydraulic clamps release. The airlock red light goes to live and starts rotating, a sound warning can be heard as the door is about to open. Calabash prepares a plasma cutter on her left wing and large power drill on the right one, standing in some kind of unprofessional pose as prepared to face whatever is behind that door.

Calabash:
*Calabash nervously speaks out loud.
"Another surprise egg, there we go, I will kill wolves if I see them!"
Oberon wasn't impressed by Calabash's words and unprofessional defensive pose. He stays very close to the opening door.*

Door opens and the smell of rotten flesh is in the air. In front of Oberon is a Zedt helmet with a darkened visor and a couple of bodies in spacesuits around, beeping coming from the wrist computer of one of the dead reptiles. There are signs of combat, shooting and walls, ceiling and even floor has significant crushing damage, boxes and equipment scattered around and the room is filled with seemingly randomly placed boxes. This room has three doors, one in front and two to the sides.

"Hooooi this is more than a fcking pack of wolves! They shoot each other!" Calabash looks a bit scared and surprised at the same time. Afraid to go inside a bit.

Oberon:

"Alright. It's not what I really expected but I still think that there's nothing dangerous for us" He steps into the room and then turns his head to Calabash. "See? Nothing dangerous! Let's go".

Calabash slowly steps in and starts looking around on the bodies and all the boxes.

"Sooo, we need to find a ship navigation computer, black box and Hard drives. We should go to some technical tunnels or hallways." She says with a lower tone while still looking around.

Oberon: *"Oh! That sound again! Not this annoying beeping but something like... falling metal pipe maybe? From there" He points on one of the doors with his right wing.*

Calabash: *"Where?!" She screeches and jumps a bit and points her tools towards the door. Her heavy jump shakens the floor.*

Oberon:

Oberon, surprised by the heavy landing of Calabash after jumping, says.

"Ohh... Please don't turn this vessel into debris before we finish our mission!" And before she starts to react, he adds: "Which way to go now?"

Calabash:

"He... well probably..." She takes out her personal computer and starts looking at blueprints of different ships. "Give me a few moments!"

The Shuttle closed its airlock and the Shuttle pilot said through the radio. "I will stay here, you can open the shuttle door with your key card Oberon!"

Meanwhile, Oberon takes a closer look at corpses, trying to find their weapons. He notices that all corpses lack their weapons, even built-in ones are gone, some of them are crushed like noodles and some of them are sliced, one of the corpses is missing its head which is the "helmet" in front of the airlock door.

A very soft bang can be heard from the direction of the right door, Calabash didn't seem to notice.

Oberon:

"How odd, I can't find any... Hey! Another sound! Have you heard of it? Do you ever hear anything?"

Calabash:

"Huh? Hey I think you are just pranking me at this point man!" She then ignores it and continues looking through blueprints of different ships of this class and type.

Oberon:

"Something is happening there. The only one question, should we even care? Or we should focus fully on our mission instead". He says as he gets closer to the right door.

When approaches the door, he notices that it is closed but not locked, he also notices that an emergency hydraulic release was used.

Calabash:

"Yea, let's complete this mission, but give me more time, I want to be sure I know where I'm going." She says while checking blueprints of ships.

Oberon opens the door. In the next moment after the door is fully open, something bright and flashy moves behind it in the hallway inside and starts pointing laser at Oberon. Thanks to his skills and reflexes, he wasn't injured this time. He quickly raises his wings to use them as a shield. Outer side of his armor is covered with nanites that create a large force field to be used as a shield when needed.

When Oberon stabilized his pose and blocked incoming projectiles, he noticed that an old ceiling tesla turret shot its lightning at him. It was completely consumed by his suit and now is reloading.

Calabash:

"What is going on?! What are you doing?!" She squeaks loudly, surprised and scared by the loud noise of lightning.

Oberon:

"Oh, now you finally hear something, right?" Oberon responded angrily. "What am I doing? I'm trying to stay alive!" He yells at Calabash who is still standing near the airlock looking into her computer at blueprints.

Calabash:

"Oh fuck!" She hides behind one of the boxes and starts tinkering with her tools to get the nail gun working.

The Turret is emitting sounds of its capacitors completing the charging circle.

Oberon's shoulder guns are made using advanced technology, he can control them with his thoughts, aim and shoot without moving his body. And even more, he can control them from a distance, when not equipped, up to 50 meters. Now he tries to aim his cannons at the turret and shoot. Probably it's not the best idea but he has no time to think, he should do something as soon as possible. He shoots the turret with high precision and the old tesla turret dies easily, making a very noticeable beep that echoes through the entire long hallway.

Calabash:

"I will try to make my nail gun overclocked so i can destroy stuff, give me a moment!" She yells at Oberon. "Ohh, it is already destroyed. Good shooting!"

Oberon looks at the destroyed turret, lowers his wings and says. "Alright. Now there's really nothing dangerous... anymore".

Calabash:

"If there is one turret, there should be more!" She says vigorously while looking at Oberon.

Oberon stops and listens, noticing Calabash is mostly standing and waiting. He can hear from the opposite side of the hallway some banging sound, and see doors there open slightly.

Oberon:

"At least now we know what happened to those poor Zedts, they were shot by this turret... or maybe not?" *He notices the bang from the opposite side of the room and looks at that distant door. On the ceiling of the room behind the hallway he notices a pair of eyes looking at him, a shadow. When the creature notices him looking at it, the shadow closes the door as soon as he looks. Probably just a ghost... Or illusion...*

Calabash:

Calabash unfreezes and sets her stone face again.

"Well probably ship security system error. Thing is that I don't have the right blueprints. As this ship is probably custom built, or at least from the inside."

Oberon:

"Haha, of course" *He isn't really laughing but looks worried.* "And? What's next? Where should we go now?"

Calabash looks from behind the crates, then looks at it and shapes a manipulator and crowbar on her wings to open it.

Calabash:

"I would say the middle door, that can take us to the main tunnel."

She opens the box and Oberon realizes it is a cooling crate, made to keep content cold.

Calabash:

"Wow, that told me I can keep what I find aside from what the state wants, and what do you want." *She looks pleased and surprised.*

Oberon:

"Do you mean this junk?" *Oberon looks unamused.*

Calabash:

"Yea!" *She replies as she takes out a container with reptilian liver and then hearth.* "How much do you think these sell for?" *She asks Oberon.*

Oberon:

"No idea... Depending on who you're selling to. I believe some species would find it a... delicacy" *He shrugs, showing her that he's not really interested in body organs.*

She puts them back, closes the crate and marks it. Oberon can notice Calabash look, she is considered going through all crates here, and there are probably more than 50.

Calabash:

"Hmm..."

Oberon:

"Alright. You said the middle door, so let's go there! Don't waste your... my time".

Calabash:

"Oh yea, but I think you are more scared then worried about time. " *She mocks him as she is trying to mask any signs of fear, and trying to pick on Oberon to feel better subconsciously. Middle door seems to be opened too, just smashed shut without locking.*

Oberon slowly gets closer to the middle door and asks: "What do you know about mutagens and bacteria?"

Calabash:

"Nothing much, I know my cousin wanted some changes and I heard she went to space to shady Haliverns. But I got my body and beauty through hard work."

Oberon:

"I see" Oberon responds while thinking and then he continues to think to himself: "She doesn't know anything about it".

Oberon opens the door silently.

Calabash:

"Aren't mutagens special immunity boosters?" Calabash asks confusedly not knowing anything about them.

Oberon still doesn't say a word and raises his wings, ready to protect himself and Calabash from any danger that can come from behind the door. As it opens and a large anti-vehicle cannon turret sits on the ceiling of the hallway aiming at him.

Calabash screams and nearly falls to the ground, but manages to gain some stability thanks to her suit. She jumps away to the left as she notices that turret.

Oberon starts to aim the cannon but then realizes that it's too large for his guns. Also such a large cannon must be more deadly and Oberon isn't sure that his force field can save him this time. He jumps away to the right, quickly hiding behind a crate.

The Turret sparks to function and scans the area in front of it. Then waits loaded for any targets.

Calabash:

"I mean, that is the most common way in ships from this manufacturer."

"But why the fck they need so many weapons in the hallways? They have just a bunch of organs. On what mission do you contact me again?"

Turret beeps as it scans more deeply for targets.

Oberon:

"Believe it or not but I didn't expect any turrets here, at all. By the way, my guns are useless against this one".

Calabash:

"I got an idea!"

She takes out a termite charge.

"Do you think this will work?"

Oberon:

"If I knew there are turrets, I'd take my rocket launcher... Do I think this will work? But what... what is this?"

Calabash:

"This is my emergency termite grenade to cut through metal things!" *She yelps and shows it again to Oberon.*

She is trying to figure out how to throw it in there. Oberon notices that her exosuit and her experience with combat and throwing will hinder her throwing ability though.

Oberon:

"Umm, alright. I have no better ideas anyway. It's your turn!" *He pauses for a moment before saying. "Do you need my help with that?"*

After a couple of seconds Oberon notices that Calabash pretends that she didn't hear his question and is still gonna throw it herself.

Oberon:

"Umm, I see how you hold it and your posture... We need to make it out alive and if you fail this throw there will be no other way to destroy this turret. Maybe I would throw it better... I'm more experienced at this than you", *Oberon asks very seriously.*

Calabash looks at him, then in charge and then throws it to him. Turret slowly moves in the direction of the flying object and then stops when it disappears. "You will use it better than me I guess, it is from the army I heard, I found it in derelict. So you should know how to use it."

Oberon:

"Alright. Let me do some math..." *He turns to the turret and slowly steps out of the crate. Then he jumps, flaps his wings and quickly flies in the direction of the turret, makes a flip in mid-air and throws the grenade. Right after that he lands and hides behind the wall. It all took him only about 3 seconds.*

Turret targeting system barely recognized him at the last second and didn't have time to do anything. Grenade managed to land on the targeting mechanism of the turret and started to melt it away.

Calabash looks at Oberon with stars in her eyes. Finally a Halivern who speaks highly of flying but can actually fly like an elegant creature with good skills. She gazes upon his strong wings and legs and then looks at the tail. Stopping when he lands next to her, hoping he didn't see her looking like a child on gifting day.

Calabash:

"That was awesome, my friend thinks she is fast, but you are really fast."

Oberon blushes a little bit and says. "Umm, thanks. Let's go now. I hope there will be no more turrets".

As both go through hallway to next door, Oberon notices that this door is actually still locked, and sign next to it says:"Main Hallway"

Oberon:

"I believe it's the right way. We're close to our goal. Can't wait to see you doing your work".

Calabash:

"Yea let's go! So far you are doing your job well!"

Oberon opens his mouth to say something but then changes his mind and walks silently.

Calabash:

"Hey, spit it out!" *Calabash squeaks angry and impatient. As she was hoping he would comment on how beautiful or smart she is.*

Oberon:

"I didn't really expect to do anything here. They actually asked me just to make sure you're doing your job right".

Now he looks even more worried, as if he just said something that he shouldn't really say.

Calabash:

"Well they told me it is simple in and out, and I'm expected to extract sensitive data from a mining company that was doing tax fraud. *She said confused and a bit scared.*

"I wasn't told to expect military operations or what is this. And you were supposed to be a notary to make sure I'm not looking at data, not military professionals. Or are you militarily professional???" *She asks Oberon, scared and more distressed.*

Oberon:

"Uhh... I don't.." *Oberon rolls his eyes but Calabash can't see it because of his goggles,*

"Well, let's just finish it already. I think we're close, probably our goal is behind next door".

Calabash:

"No! This ship is long and we need to go to the middle or front part for black box and for the computer we need to go under the bridge." *She is saying it as taking out her computer and looking at different blueprints.*

"But you are super cool, let me say that!" *She looks at Oberon and smiles as she is saying that.*

Oberon gets a call from the federal ship they boarded the shuttle in.

Oberon:

"Really? But I thought I'm just a regular Halivern...", *After that he answers the call.*

Mission Control:

Sazory calls from the ship. "Oberon come in!"

Oberon:

"How soon?" *Oberon asks comically.*

Mission Control:

"Haha, our funny Oberon, but now all fun aside. Your colleagues managed to catch one smuggler and get information from him. Ship that you boarded was supposed to smuggle experimental bio-engineered creatures for a very rich Zedt. That ship was also supposed to smuggle nuclear material, weapons and organs." *Sazory responds.*

Oberon:

"Uh oh, it sounds very... illegal". *Oberon responds.*

Mission Control:

"You need to get to that navigation computer as highest priority and forget about black box.

We need...."*static*

"Ye..."*static*

"Col...lec..."*static*

Oberon:

"Umm, hello?"

He turns to Calabash and says: "Our goal just got easier to do. We don't need black box anymore".

Oberon disconnects as his radio is unable to contact the ship, there is heavy interference emitting from within the walls and some kind of jamming device somewhere, something used by smugglers to get around federal communications and coordination.

Calabash:

"Huh? Why? Every mission needs a black box for investigation." *Calabash points out.*

"It is in law I think."

Oberon:

"Are we here to discuss laws? Let's hurry up working on our mission instead." *Oberon urges.*

Calabash:

"Yea, let's go, but then you owe me an explanation and hot chocolate."

Main hallway is very long and goes through the entire ship. They notice a few hatches every 15 meters.

Calabash:

"So for computers and hard drives we need to go to the right and find stairs up."

Oberon:

"Yeah, the navigation computer is our highest priority here. By the way, I believe there's a jamming device somewhere, it would be really helpful to turn it off... They wanted to tell me something. Maybe something important or maybe not", *He shrugs but doesn't stop walking.*

Calabash:

"A jamming device?" She takes out some makeshift device, turns it on and it starts beeping. She walks around with it and tries to find the place where beeping is strongest, looking around with it. Device looks like some kind of small portable radio or geiger counter.

Oberon:

"Should I ask you what that device is?" Oberon asks with a bit of confusion about another device that Calabash pulled out.

Calabash:

"That is my own creation! It is a receiver that is telling me how strong the radio signal is in the direction I'm looking." She answers him with high energy in her voice and is happy that her machines are being put to good use.

Oberon:

"Alright. Now I'm watching you doing your work... Interesting".

Calabash walks around for a bit with the devices. Walking through the hallway and trying to find where beeping is loudest and more frequent. After a while she stops in front of a panel in the wall. Turns off the device, points at the wall and loudly yells. "Here!"

She starts opening that panel on the wall.

As Calabash is working on that wall, Oberon notices movement at the opposite side of the ship at its front. Something big moved on the ceiling.

It has caught his attention, he turns to it, trying to take a closer look and ask himself quietly.

"What's that? Another turret?"

Thing moves very hastily, then a cobra-like head appears from the vent closer to Oberon, for a moment it gazes on Oberon. It has a sharp, large hood on a snake-like head. Then it hides as fast as it appeared. Oberon has no time to take a closer look. He thinks to himself. "What the...? For a moment I've seen a... Nope. It can't be true. They are not supposed to be here. Probably a ghost or illusion or maybe even a hallucination".

Calabash:

"Hmm? What? I found that jammer!" She responds without even looking at Oberon while tinkering with something in the wall after opening the panel.

Oberon:

"I see. Do you believe in ghosts? I think I just saw one..." Oberon asked cautiously.

Calabash:

"Oh yea I believe in ghosts!" Small explosion happens behind Oberon from the place where Calabash stands. "Yes!" Calabash yells.

Oberon turns around a bit scared and asks. "What..... just happened?"

As Oberon looks behind him at Calabash, he sees how she is holding a bunch of cables and a jammer box, smiling like a little kid with a toy.

"It is now disabled!" She yells happily as Oberon notices that the radio works again.

"Finally some good news. Ummm, thank you... What's next?" Oberon asks.

"I think we need to go there!" She points at the door on the left side of the long hallway, probably 50 meters ahead.

Mission Control:

"Oberon! Oberon, come in! Sazory nervously worried he called Oberon.

Oberon:

"Yeah, I'm in." He responded.

Mission Control:

"Thanks to the stars you picked up! That ship started some of its secondary systems!

Someone is probably still on board! Get the computer and hard drives and leave immediately! That ship was transporting genetically modified people as slaves or curiosity, mutagens and bio weapon! Try to avoid any contact with biological material!"

As the message is coming through, he notices that movement in the ceiling again and Calabash decides to go ahead.

Oberon:

Oberon thinks to himself: "Alright, It's not a ghost nor an illusion. It's real and alive. But it's not... It's just a random biological experiment. Sure!", and then he says to Calabash:

"Wait. Stop! Stop right there! Don't move! I take my words back, this mission is very very dangerous!" He's ready to aim his guns at that mysterious 'ghost' on the ceiling.

Calabash:

"Ehh, I expected it to be dangerous. But I will not lie to you. I was never part of an actual military mission, I never shot real military grade guns, and I was expecting an empty ship with few death and broken systems."

Creatures in the ceiling disappeared into air vents and its movement can be heard through the ceiling of the hallway away from Oberon and Calabash.

Oberon:

"We are not alone here, someone is still alive and probably hostile, very hostile. We need... Just tell me where's the computer? Computers and hard drives are our only goal now. Lead the way! Hurry up!"

Calabash squeaks, moves to left, right, panicked and then runs towards the door.

Oberon sighs and then jumps forward and flies this way too.

Calabash rushes towards the door, dashes in her power armor good 40 meters. Oberon notices that one of the ceiling hatches started opening next to him with a small machine gun turret.

"This door!" She screams and then uses her power claws to force open the door and behind it is a different hallway and stairs down, door on left, and the end.

Calabash notices the stairs down and angrily squeaks. "Curses, we need stairs up!"

"Wait for me!" Oberon yells as quickly aims his guns at the turret and starts shooting. He still keeps flying.

Turret breaks after the third shot and creates a very loud low pitch sound.

Oberon feels disoriented for a moment because of that unexpected loud sound. He almost hits Calabash.

Calabash:

"What was that?" She yells and nearly slaps Oberon on head with her heavy power claw, but thanks to his deflection, the hit was avoided.

Calabash:

"What did you do?"

Oberon:

"Probably just saved your life... Well, nevermind. What did you say about stairs?"

Oberon just realized he's standing very close to Calabash, closer than ever.

Calabash:

"Yea, oh well, thank you. But what was it?" She notices Oberon being close and looks at him from wing to head, leg to chest.

Calabash:

"Did I ever tell you, you look good up close? But I think we should continue searching for stairs up."

Oberon:

"Ummm, alright. Why does your heart beat so loudly? I can hear it now".

Calabash:

Calabash looks a bit to the side, trying to assemble a good lie or sentence.

"Because I was moving fast and I went into overdrive!" She puts on her confident face.

Oberon:

Oberon notices it and says: "Don't you mind a personal question? You can ask me a personal question too. Fair's fair!", he takes one step back.

Calabash:

"Well ask, I'm trying to be open to others." *She takes out personal computer and looks at blueprints again.*

Oberon:

"Don't take it wrong, I'm usually tolerant to Halivern mutations but...", *he paused looking at her expression*, "How does it feel? Your horns and your nose. You should get rid of them. I believe modern surgery can fix it easily. They can fix your nose and remove your horns and turn you into a normal Halivern!"

Calabash:

Calabash pauses for a moment and looks a bit put off by his remarks, but then goes into her normal face again.

"You know, these mutations make me unique, I'm no mere sheep to follow what the masses want and I have no business in going to it. My whole childhood my parents were forcing me to do things I didn't want, I got picked on, laughed at and so on. But my horns saved my neck from falling sharp metal and my nose was mine. And look, now I have more money and a better job than both of my parents and my whole class combined!" *She yells the last word out loud.*

As she monologues, the creature in vents started moving elsewhere, away from her screaming.

Oberon:

"Let me say it honestly. You're weird, really weird. I've never seen another Halivern like you. You're right. You're unique, maybe too unique. Now it's my turn to answer your question".

Calabash:

Calabash stopped for a moment thinking about the question and then asks: "Why are you so stubborn on the idea that everyone should be a carbon copy of the others? I get this too many times. It is not funny, are you traditional too or is there room for acceptance? You are weird too in a way, not many Haliverns fight this good!"

Oberon:

Oberon feels like he was misunderstood: "What? All Haliverns are unique because of their personality, their tastes and preferences. But mutations are... unnatural. I prefer Halivern's natural beauty".

Calabash:

"So you are saying I'm not beautiful? :p"

Oberon:

Oberon shrugs and says: "Your nose says it. Not me".

Calabash:

:-:
"Well, at least I know you lack the guts to tell it out loud. But at least you know how to fight."

Oberon:

"Alright. But... your nose, something is really wrong with it. Were you born like this? What did your parents say about it when you were a baby? Oh... sorry for another personal question..."

Calabash:

Calabash freezes for a few moments, grasping on anything around her, but with Oberon close it is hard to look anywhere else. "Ehh, they... were... not ... happy? Yea, it is, from birth!"

Oberon:

Oberon looks at her nose closely and says: "I see. I guess they tried to fix your nose... Right? I think I see some.... traces on it".

Calabash:

"Eeh... maybe, I don't know why we are digging into my..." a loud bang can be heard from somewhere and she pauses. "Hey we need to work..." sighs and look Oberon straight in his eyes "My nose is this fucked up because one of tools I was using in old work hit me too it and nearly amputated it. They added screws, metals, and it made it longer and overall uglier. Doctor that can fix it in my area is one of my old rivals and I don't trust her... And we should go through the doors there!" She points at the opposite door from one she opened before and hides her personal computer.

Oberon:

"Oh, really?", he feels confused for a moment and then says quickly: "You should have said that before... You just made me feel awkward.... Can I take my words back now? You're not ugly... maybe beautiful, in your own way".

He quickly runs to the opposite door, trying not to look at Calabash.

Calabash:

"Hey, calm down strong guy, you saved my life already and didn't say anything super mean, I heard worse, you just give me an apology and I will be happy. :p" As she is speaking she approaches the opposite door and starts opening it.

Oberon:

Oberon thinks what to say while checking his guns, ready to aim and shoot if needed.

Shuttle pilot calls Oberon on the radio:

"Hey, you are back, Obi?"

Oberon:

"I just want this mission to end as soon as possible".

Calabash:

Calabash is cutting through the door as it was sealed from the opposite side.

Shuttle pilot:

"So you are in the airlock?"

Oberon:

"I wish I was there... our mission isn't completed yet. We're still in the hallway".

Shuttle pilot:

"I have a biological reading in the ship airlock next to the shuttle."

Oberon:

Oberon feels surprised for a moment and then worried, he says: "What? Lock your doors! Now!"

Oberon quickly turns around, jumps and flies along the hallway. He is very fast at flying!

Calabash:

"Where are you going?" *She was a bit scared while working on the door.*

Shuttle pilot:

"Door is closed and locked!"

Oberon quickly approaches the airlock, and is ready to aim and shoot his guns, if needed.

Oberon sees some kind of cobra naga in teared clothes with a universal door key about to open the shuttle. Naga has a handheld railgun and slowly turns at Oberon, slowly putting the gun down.

Naga:

"Hey, hey hey, I'm not hosstile, here I'm placing thissss down."

Oberon feels confused for a moment and then realizes it's a Qaargghang. Snake head with a cobra hood. He was thinking about it before but thought it's just impossible, because... It's a Qaargghang! One of those creatures that all good parents are telling their kids to avoid. This one looks a bit different, though. Oberon thinks this one is a bit weaker than a regular Qaargghang and a bit smaller. Maybe it's just a baby? No. A teen? Maybe... Young adult? Most likely! After a couple of seconds Oberon realizes that the naga was talking. Not just talking but speaking Galactic language with almost no accent. Oberon knows that Qaargghangs usually don't speak Galactic language at all or speak it very badly. Oberon thinks to himself: "it's weird, it's all very weird"

Qaargghang turns with her full body towards Oberon, think long body that seems to be more for beauty then function, large breast, hourglass shape, very long tail and dark color on her skin. She puts the weapon down and pushes it towards Oberon, as she does that, Oberon notices that she is hurt on her right side under arm.

Qaargghang:

"Hey pssst psssst, I will not harm you, not you. You are a Halivern, right?" *Her voice shifts to more crude in the last sentences and then she starts coughing.*

Oberon:

Oberon feels confused: "I... We... Ummm, hello?", he feels helpless against a Qaargghang, even a wounded one, "How did you get here? What are you doing here? Are you gonna kill our Shuttle pilot and steal our shuttle?"

Qaargghang:

Qaargghang stops coughing and then looks back at Oberon, her voice goes from crude to clean in her sentence: "I wasss kidnapped by a group of piratess, after a combat where I killed about 17 of them they bessted me and placed me into very resstrictive equipment and drugged me. Then I was ssssleeping, but when I woke up, I wasss here, changed to... this new body and... yea, irony right? But they made me fassster, prettier I guesssss, and able to sspeak better." She is slithering closer to Oberon. "I think they wanted to sssell me as sssex sslave or maid or sssomething. But they made a misstake, a deadly one, they didn't ssecure me well. And yesss, I want this shuttle to get home. Those of mine would be uppsset to know that your alliance sstopped me from getting home."

Oberon:

Oberon is shocked: "Haven't you noticed us before? Me and another Halivern. How did you bypass those turrets? You said you're not hostile but what about that railgun?"

Qaargghang:

Qaargghang pauses, probably waits for more questions and then speaks: "I reprogrammed thossse turrets, they were holding me close to their ssecurity sysstem. And I noticed you, playing with doorsss and arguing, your friend is very loud, like a good prey."

Oberon:

"I see. You can attack us and steal our shuttle or wait for us to finish our mission and we'll leave this place together".

Oberon isn't sure it's a good idea but it's better than being killed and probably eaten by a Qaargghang.

Qaargghang:

"Leaving together ssoundsss like a good idea, but you are telling me your alliance will not kill me or imprisson me?"

Qaargghang:

"Ssso you want to lie to your higher ups?"

Qaargghang seems to be not feeling well, her pose is getting more and more rested.

Oberon:

"I think they won't believe me anyway if I told them that I was talking to a Qaargghang and still alive", he pauses, "Are you feeling okay? What about their wounds? I don't know Qaargghangs anatomy well but I would say it doesn't look okay".

Qaargghang:

"Boy, I'm wounded, changed, and I wasss never, thaaaat much aggressssive. I have a deep wound in my sside that hass not healed well for the passt two days."

Calabash on radio:

"Hey, is everything alright? I think I found the right floor."

Calabash's strong voice can be heard echoing through the ship.

Qaargghang:

"Your loud friend again, ahh, they made my hearing a bit better and she yells sssooooooo much, gods..."

Oberon:

"So... Would you please just wait here for us? I hope it won't take us long to finish our mission".

Qaargghang:

"What guarantee do I have that you will not leave me or kill me?"

Oberon:

"How can we leave? The only way to leave is there", *he points at the door with his right wing,* "Kill you? More likely that you'll kill us, like you did with those guys", *he points at dead bodies on the floor, with his left wing.*

Qaargghang:

Qaargghang looks around and then at him and says: "Yea, probably, but you look like a much more experienced creature." She slither closer to him a bit.

Oberon:

Oberon feels very uncomfortable, he is scared of Qaargghangs but this lady doesn't seem to be hostile and also looks kinda attractive to him. He tries to escape her, saying: "Alright, I'll be back... soon", then he jumps towards the hallway and starts flying.

She lets him go without any trouble, after a short flight he meets up with Calabash.

Calabash:

"Oh, hi there! Where have you been so long?"

Oberon:

"I finally found another living creature here. That one my friend warned me about. Wait a second... What did he say? This ship was transporting genetically modified people as slaves".

Calabash:

Calabash paused for long, fear visible in her eyes and concern about her life.

"A..a..aa..another I.I.I...I..living creature?", *she pauses*, "And I was told they were transporting ores and were committing tax fraud!", *she takes a deep breath and asks*: "One of those Zedts from the crew is alive?"

Oberon:

"Not that one, another species... I won't tell you which one, you won't believe it anyway. Let's finish our job here first and then you'll see her. I believe you'll be shocked then".

Calabash:

"Is it another wolf?" *She asks as going up the stairs.*

Stairway continues many floors above but next floor door says: "Computing"

Calabash:

Calabash yells: "Here!" and then starts working on that door.

She forces the door open and the Zedts robot turns on Oberon and Calabash.

Robot:

"WARNING! Unauthorized entry detected!"

Robot doesn't seem to be armed but goes to the room control panel.

Calabash:

"Ohh I want its core!"

Oberon:

Oberon feels confused: "Really? So I can't shoot it, right? But... we should stop it. Now!"

Calabash:

Calabash runs towards the robot to be immobilized.

Oberon:

"What are you doing?!!!"

He feels surprised and confused at the same time, feels that he should do something as soon as possible but not sure what exactly to do.

Calabash:

Calabash jumps on the robot trying to wrestle it to the ground. But she is struggling hard as the robot approaches the control panel and starts clicking something on it.

Oberon:

"What's going on there? Are you okay? Should I shoot the robot?"

Calabash:

Robot continues clicking and Calabash yells: "Yes shoot it, it is overloading the reactor! I see it from here!"

Oberon shoots the robot and hits but this shot didn't do much damage. Robot still keeps working. Oberon realizes it and shoots both his cannons at the robot, then again and again until the robot turns into a pile of rubble. Unfortunately, even under heavy fire, the robot manages to complete his work on the panel. Several distant explosions are heard inside the vessel.

Ship announces: "WARNING! All main reactor stabilizers are now non-functional. Emergency stabilizers are not functional. Reactor will go into super critical state in t-2 minutes."

Oberon:

Oberon is about to panic and says loudly: "Quickly extract hard drives and drop all your heavy gadgets, you're about to fly as fast as possible to save your life!"

Calabash:

"But my exo-suit is expensive!"

She goes towards computers to extract what is needed.

More explosions are heard throughout the ship.

Ship announces: "WARNING! Main engines 1, 3, 5 are now non-functional."

Oberon:

Oberon checks if his radio is still working but doesn't yet ask the Shuttle pilot to open the door, because of the Qaargghang lady.

Radio is working but the Shuttle pilot is now calling.

Shuttle pilot:

"Oberon, man there is someone opening the door via emergency latch!"

Mission Control:

"Oberon, the vessel you are on is breaking apart, its main reactor is about to go critical! Evacuate now!"

Oberon:

Oberon says to the Shuttle pilot: "I don't... you... well, just don't panic and try to survive for next 60 seconds, or so", and then he says to Calabash: "Please hurry up! Just do it! Now!"

Calabash:

"I'm working on it!" She is already holding a navigation computer.

More distant explosions are heard throughout the vessel.

"What the fuck is this it is a fcking Qaargghang in my shuttle! Oberon! Oberon! Help!" Pilot yells in panic into the radio.

Oberon responds to the Shuttle pilot: "I said don't panic, smile to her and let her come in", then to Calabash: "You have about 30 seconds to do it!" Shuttle pilot is crying on the radio.

Calabash:

"I'm on it!" She is holding a computer and 3 out of 4 hard drives.

Much closer explosion occurred probably in the room next to this one.

Oberon:

Oberon turns off his radio and says to Calabash: "Give them to me, you're already holding something heavy. Now it's time to leave this place. I mean, right NOW!!!!!"

Calabash:

Calabash hands him hard drives, even the last one and takes the computer and is prepared to go. "Oke let's go!"

Oberon:

Oberon quickly puts all the hard drive into the bag on his belt and is about to go downstairs.

Close by, an explosion let's shrapnels fly in all directions. Calabash notices Oberon's weaker armor and jumps between him and the explosion. A quite loud metallic sound and electrical discharge can be heard. After that some liquid started leaking from Calabash back. Her suit then goes: "Warning, battery charge low!"

Calabash:

"No, nonono nooooo! Something hit my battery!"

Oberon:

"Take it off now! Forget about it. I think your life is more important than your suit!" Oberon yelled urgently.

Calabash:

Calabash's suit depowered and she flops on her side as all components cease to function.

"I.. I.. can't, it is too heavy! Hey, you have those things, take this computer and go! I will find my way out of this..."

Her suit is leaking battery fluid and hydraulic fluid.

Oberon:

"What? I won't let you die here! Let me help you!" Oberon said and ran to Calabash.

Calabash:

Calabash seems to go into panic as she can't move at all. Her complete immobilization is driving her insane.

"REE..RELEASE... CLAMS, IN FRONT! PLEASE!" She screams at Oberon

Oberon quickly moves next to her and uses his toes to help Calabash get out of her suit by releasing locking clamps on her chestplate. As the suit releases its locking mechanism, body, wing, leg and holders unlock and Calabash crawls out of her suit.

Oberon:

"Oh, now you look more... natural. Your wings are so beautiful! Now use them to leave this place as soon as possible! Let's goooo!", he stands up, quickly goes downstairs and about to fly away: "Try and keep up!"

Calabash:

Calabash squeaks and runs, then flies. She is a surprisingly good flier, not the best, but decent. Both of them fly through hallways and room towards the shuttle.

More explosions happened when they reached the shuttle.

Oberon is faster at flying than Calabash, so he reaches the shuttle's open door first.

Qaargghang is looking around him as he approaches. Oberon quickly enters the shuttle and says to the pilot: "Get ready to start! Now! Get ready to close the door as soon as another Halivern enters it!"

Shuttle pilot:

"Roger that!"

Qaargghang:

"What did you do there?" Qaargghang asks, confused.

Oberon:

Tired Oberon says to the Qaargghang lady: "Just trying to stop crimes. I thought you'd leave without us. You're still here waiting for us. Why?"

Qaargghang:

"You weren't hostile, and were nice to me, and I was left stranded so I know how bad that is..."

Calabash:

Calabash approaches the airlock when the pilot is starting the engines and preparing for take off. She flies into the shuttle failing to slow down and bashes hard on the wall. Airlock closes and then the shuttle starts flying away.

Oberon:

"Hurry up! This thing is about to boom!"

Shuttle is flying as fast as possible away from the exploding ship.

Shuttle pilot:

"I'M ON IT!" Stressed pilot yells.

Calabash:

Calabash stands up and looks around, noticing Qaargghang she squeaks in fear and jumps on Oberon and yells: "Why the fck we have this monster on board, how, why, DON'T KILL US!" Calabash yells at Qaargghang in fear.

Oberon:

Oberon blushes and says: "Well... She's friendly. That's all I can say".

Qaargghang:

Qaargghang seems to be annoyed by her yelling and words.

Calabash:

"Friendly?!?! They eat children and kill planets just for fun, one of them can kill up to a thousand Haliverns!" She hugs him more tightly.

Oberon:

"Don't worry, there's nothing dangerous for you, as long as you're with me", he hugs a little bit too, with his wings.

As they fly away, an enormous explosion happens behind the shuttle as the cargo ship goes up in flames.

Oberon holds Calabash in his wings, looking into her eyes as she is getting lost in them. They both gaze at each other for a few seconds and then Calabash moves her snoot little bit closer and Oberon joins. Right before the kiss Calabash stops, turns her head back in the direction of Qaargghang and loudly says. "Oh I forgot that robot AI core..." Calabash says and produces a bunch of sad noises.

Oberon just sighs, but he knows he can spend more time with Calabash when they get from this shuttle into somewhere else. But he thinks his hearing is worse after her constant yelling so he thinks to himself. "I will need to tell her to yell less or make some, different action to lower her volume a bit." He looks back at Calabash and hugs her more, before letting her go, as he can finally see her wings because they are not trapped in large, ugly metallic coffins that Calabash calls power tools, he enthusiastically looks at them.

Qaargghang:

Qaargghang gives them a moment while she is looking at them and then when they end their hugging politely asks. "What are your plans with me now?"

Oberon:

Oberon happily looks at Qaargghang and calmly answers. "First we'll enter our main ship, then we'll hide you there for a while." And after a short pause he adds. "Or maybe my bosses already know about you and are waiting for us there".

Qaargghang:

Qaargghang thinks for a moment and then says. "If that was a set up I would love to have a gun." She said bit worried.

Calabash:

Calabash reacted nearly instantly, still scared of Qaargghang she yelled. "Nononono, no guns to angry creatures!"

Oberon:

Oberon thinks to himself as he looks at Qaargghang and then asks. "Where's your railgun? I don't want you to shoot our people but I also want to help you to avoid them."

Qaargghang:

Qaargghang responds with a smirk to Calabash. "Then you will not get one!" And then turns at Oberon. "That Shuttle pilot took it..." Calabash thinks for a moment about the Qaargghang response and then gets it. "Hey, I'm not angry!" She angrily yells really loud.

Oberon yells loudly too. "Oh! My ears! Calm down! Now!" Calabash nervously. "I'm calm..."

Qaargghang really annoyed responds. "Can you PLEASE, stop yelling?!" Then Naga looks at Calabash and says. "If I would ever consider killing you it would be just to make that girl shut!" After hearing that Calabash swallows and then looks scared.

Oberon:

Oberon asks the Shuttle pilot: "Where's her railgun? Give it to me." he insists.

Shuttle pilot:

"I don't think it is a good idea chief!" Pilot responds.

Calabash walks slowly away from Oberon to the shuttle tool drawer with additional equipment. She is still looking distastefully at Naga as Qaargghang is looking at Calabash like she is not trusting her.

Oberon:

Oberon notices those two and says. "Oh, come on! Everyone! Listen up! Let's just sit there and crack some jokes... Or play chess, I don't know", then he looks at the Shuttle pilot:

"Except for you. You just make sure we're about to enter our main ship." *He completes saying it while pointing at the pilot.*

"Roger that! We will probably be there in 5 minutes." *Pilot responds.*

Calabash:

"I must say. I expect Qaargghangs to be uglier, but this one is supermodel!" *Calabash says with a bit of jealousy.*

Qaargghang:

"Thank you, I guess?" *Qaargghang answers confused.*

Oberon:

Oberon notices how they started getting along and says happily: "Yeah, now it's much better. Two pretty ladies have a sweet talk."

Qaargghang:

"You don't look bad either, both of you."

"Still... Thank you for not being immediately hostile."

After a bit of travel back to the main ship from their mission, shuttle docks in the hangar. Oberon notices there's no one around besides automata taking care of ships and hangers. It's weird. He signals to the others to wait in the shuttle and carefully leaves the shuttle, looking around trying to find any hidden enemies or turrets. There's no Alliance forces or regular personal but then suddenly Sazory appears. At first he only sees Oberon and says 'Hi' but then he also notices the Qaargghang and Calabash inside the shuttle with the pilot behind them. He points at the Qaargghang and says: "You! Follow me!"