

Never trust an Oos

- A short story in the Permaneo Humanus universe -

By Daniel Ygrelius

Suddenly a sound was heard from a box on the control panel and a red light flashed in the dark cockpit.

Sonjj Frak woke up from her deep sleep and stared dazedly at the object that called for her attention.

"Hmm... Finally here." she said in a daze and pressed a button on the instrument panel in front of her that activated the ship's autopilot. "Nice to be able to sleep in a real bed for once." She stood up with a yawn and stretched.

"Time to inform the others and prepare the cargo." she said tiredly and walked out of there. Sonjj Frak was a Bolirok who came from the planet Bol-shaa. Their culture was unique in that the females were tall and muscular and this made them the preeminent life form there.

Bol-shaa was located close to a blue star and that made the climate on the planet very unforgiving. The immense heat from their sun meant that large parts of their civilization lay deep underground and this meant that they had developed a very good night vision.

The females had a deep burgundy skin color and were almost two meters long. They were naturally hardened from the harsh climate and could adapt to the most demanding circumstances without any problems. The eyes were crystal blue and when a bolirok was in dark surroundings, their eyes began to glow brightly. That wasn't all and behind those special eyes telepathic abilities were hidden that helped to make them the dominant life form on the planet.

The males, in turn, had the same skin tone as the females but were shorter and much paler. They lacked the telepathic powers that the females had and were not as strong by themselves.

The only thing they were good for in their culture was impregnating the females, nothing else.

This very dynamic and the fact that the females were the dominant life form on Bol-shaa shared great similarities with the civilization found on the distant planet of Kortaar.

Sonjj felt excited inside as she walked through the ship. This was because she and the others had just arrived at one of the most fabled places in the galaxy, namely the enormous pleasure dome of Kva'um Doo.

In the universal language of Batonn, Kva'um Doo meant something like 'The place where beautiful and successful life forms can earn a lot of credits and mate without any problems'.

To this place individuals of all kinds were attracted. Gamblers, swindlers, lovers, murderers, famous holo-actors, wanted persons but above all else, music lovers. Namely, this place was very famous for its music scene and extremely famous artists performed here on a regular basis.

Koloob Tri'ss, who was one of the most famous singers in the galaxy, was on her long tour and tonight she would be performing in one of the largest entertainment domes on the station.

The station itself was huge and everywhere there were hotels, game rooms, concert halls, restaurants, hologram cinemas, mating areas and everything almost exploded in a sea of glittering elegance and colorful neon.

Sonjj woke up her crew and reminded them to hurry up with the loading. She wanted to finish all the boring paperwork as soon as possible so she could rub shoulders with the rich and famous in the galaxy.

It was especially important that everything went smoothly now because, thanks to the Koloob Tri'ss concert, security on the station was higher than normal.

Looloo Caps came up to her and flashed a wide but greasy smile. He proudly declared that he was the first one to finish the loading work and asked if there was anything else he could do for her.

Sonjj sighed slightly at this because Looloo Caps was a bit special. He was an Oos and they were notorious for always trying to ingratiate themselves with authorities of all kinds. He was quite overweight and looked more like a walking cone of pale flesh that protested at every movement.

The skin was wet and largely covered with secretions from sweat and other unidentified body fluids that made most of them recoil in disgust.

No Oos that Sonjj had met during her lifetime had ever stood up for themselves and all were the same, namely extremely cunning and false.

Looloo stared hopefully at her with two large eyeballs resembling those of a fish, expecting some kind of praise.

- "Yes, yes. Well done, Looloo." she sighed wearily and stretched. "Please collect my access papers so we don't get arrested on the spot, will you."

He nodded in agreement while his rubbery mouth cracked open with a big smile.

About forty minutes later the loading was completed and the papers were handed to one of the guards at the check-in station. Everything went smoothly and no one there stared suspiciously at Sonjj or her crew.

What awaited them now were three days where everyone could just relax and enjoy a very well-deserved vacation.

The mission they had just completed had been extremely stressful for her and she shuddered inwardly when she thought about it.

They had just come from the planet Grishh-Ta-Dorr where they had delivered a shipment of illegal Gunnda eggs to the King of the Southern Province. They had received half a million in Daal tokens for the work and needed it if they were to enjoy a three-day vacation on Kva'um Doo.

The tokens were the currency used at Grishh-Ta-Dorr and they were also highly sought after at Kva'um Doo as they could be used as gambling currency there.

To get the eggs in the first place, they had to go to the planet Sloh near the S'ro sector.

This was a relatively uninteresting place in the galaxy had it not been for the fact that it was the home of the enormous Gunnda larvae.

The larvae were thick with a circumference of around ten meters and could reach an impressive length of several hundred meters.

The larvae, being extremely voracious, ate everything in their path so Sonjj and her crew had to be very careful when they were in their territory.

In addition to this, they were extremely vigilant about the eggs they laid and they could only be found deep down in damp caves on the planet.

Sloh was the only planet in the galaxy where the larvae lived and because of this they were protected and stealing their eggs was very illegal.

This had caused the price of gunnda eggs to skyrocket, making them extremely valuable and sought after on the black market.

Sonjj and the others managed to make it all the way to the eggs without being detected by either the larvae or the security forces that regularly patrolled the vicinity of the planet.

Now all that remained was to steal the eggs, which would have been a piece of cake if not for the fact that the larvae covered the eggs with their own feces.

The reason for this was to protect the eggs from predators and to give them enough heat to hatch.

For a long time, the smugglers struggled through the black and smelly mess and eventually managed to get their hands on ten eggs. It may not sound like much, but each egg weighed over two hundred kilograms and was as big as Sonjj herself.

Not long after their departure from Sloh, the theft of gunnda eggs had been discovered by the security forces and they had somehow managed to link Sonjj Frak to the illegal act.

This had made her wanted in large parts of the galaxy and had caused much trouble for Sonjj and her crew.

She had long wondered how they managed to figure out her involvement in all this, and for a brief moment Sonjj feared she had a spy in her crew.

- "Oh! That's just nonsense." she thought and shook off the thought with a slight shake of her head.

Now that the mission was finally completed, she was tired and grumpy, and every time she breathed she felt the terrible stench of the larvae's droppings.

She closed her eyes and produced a deep sigh.

After all this, she would certainly take every opportunity to enjoy herself, especially in such an exotic and lavish place as Kva'um Doo.

After Sonjj and the others had acclimatized somewhat, everyone went to their respective rooms and got ready for the evening's festivities.

Once in her room, Sonjj threw off her smelly clothes and examined her muscular but slender body. A thin layer of sweat and feces covered her burgundy skin and she got ready for a much needed shower.

As the warm water jets massaged her naked body, she noticed something. A wide range of extremely exclusive products were at her disposal in the shower. Among them was Kva'um Doo's own brand 'Boh-Bah Biss' which smelled sweet and wonderful and the effect from it was something like an explosion from a fusion grenade crossed with an orgasm.

However, she was very surprised that they had Sarukah Bas's infamous parasite shampoo among the beautiful bottles.

The latter contained lots of tiny, flesh-eating parasites that made the body clean and soft, but it was best known for the fact that some breeds could die from this cleaning product. This is because the parasites ate through their skin and consumed them from within, causing an extremely painful death.

Sonjj was not feeling particularly adventurous today, even though she had fought her way through meters of gunnda feces, so she chose a different and more harmless brand of shampoo and got herself clean and fresh for the evening.

After the necessary shower, she dried off and put on her evening suit. This looked very luxurious with hundreds of mirror-like fragments glittering glamorously in the room.

When she was done, Sonjj checked her hidden plasma shooter that she had strapped on the inside of her thigh because you could never be too safe. Even on Kva'um Doo, there were individuals you'd rather not meet while inebriated.

To this group she counted the Carper breed, which was known for their extremely volatile temperament. If a carper became aggressive when drunk, it would have to kill something to calm down and would not stop until its bloodlust was satisfied.

Sonjj shuddered but quickly shook off any thoughts of carpers or gunnda feces and went out into the hall outside to meet up with the others.

The rest of the crew were already there and looked excited, and when everyone had gathered they made up a plan for the evening.

- "Once we get down to the gambling area, you can do whatever you want as long as you stay out of trouble." Sonjj said firmly, staring at everyone with a stern look. "We don't want to get tangedled with the security guards here. Especially since I'm now wanted in most of the galaxy after our last mission."

She paused for dramatic effect and continued after a few heartbeats:

- "If you're going to gamble, do it sensibly, no high stakes or anything like that, and if anything happens to you, press the alarm button on your internal pager and one of us will come for you. Is everyone clear on that?" she asked and received unanimous positive nods from the crew in response.

With the plan in place, they made their way to one of the elevators in the mile-long corridor.

The floor they walked on was made of red carpet and it gave their fingers a static charge far too easily when they touched any kinds of metal.

The walls, in turn, were covered in gold and silver and beautiful ornaments adorned the sides of every door and entrance in the corridor.

Two wide and exclusive elevator doors opened with a damp hiss and they stepped inside. She pressed a button and the elevator quickly descended to the ground level where all the gambling houses in that district were located.

The inside of the elevator had a fresh smell and music, in the form of Koloob Tri's latest hits, was playing in the speakers.

In front of the crew, a large glass wall extended its exclusive dimensions to them and outside they could see, in front of a sea of stars, how big the space station actually was.

Further away on the station, they could see large hangars where various craft were being repaired. In another area, everything from huge luxury yachts to sporty Jeer'dann fighters, were parked that belonged to the most affluent of elites.

Sonjj watched as the dark repair bays was illuminated by myriad, irregular welding flashes that stung the eyes.

About twenty cargo ships were traveling between the different districts and the activity on the station was at its peak.

On one side of the station, they saw how large cannon towers were set up and these protected Kva'um Doo from pirates so that the guests there could feel safe and spend a lot of credits without having to worry.

Just as the party had become accustomed to the view, it was suddenly replaced by bare metal walls rushing past outside at a rapid pace and the inside of the elevator went completely dark.

Sonjj's crystal blue eyes immediately lit up in the darkness and she looked around at the others and smiled slightly.

Shortly thereafter, a soft computer sound was heard in the speakers and the elevator had now reached its final destination.

At that moment, the doors opened for them and the party made their way to the lobby outside.

Immediately they emerged into a chaotic mess where life forms from all corners of the galaxy could be seen and heard.

The first impression was very overwhelming to them and none of the crew had ever seen so many races and individuals gathered together in one place.

In the sea of lifeforms, they noticed Bizzlos from the Urai system, Jabber'dans from the Deka nebula, and shadowy rogues of all kinds and races.

At first Sonjj felt disoriented in the crowd and didn't really know which way to go, but after seeing the brightly lit entrance sign to one of the famous pleasure domes further away, she was on the right track again.

She cheered and gestured to the others to follow her.

Once inside the first dome, they were greeted by loud dance music combined with light effects from lasers and crystals that created an unprecedented atmosphere.

A smaller dance floor was right in front of them, providing a long-awaited preview of the evening's activities.

With a confident gait, Sonjj walked up to one of the many bars nearby and ordered a drink to get in the right mood.

She watched the bartender move around in a hurry to serve way too many drinks to annoyed and refreshed guests even though it had six arms working constantly.

As she studied the bartender, she noticed something interesting. A heavy plasma launcher was safely hidden under the counter and she hoped that their visit to Kva'um Doo would continue without any problems.

After a long while, Sonjj got the much-needed drink she had ordered and with it in her right hand, she turned and studied the dance floor.

Not much was happening there yet and everyone knew that the real entertainment could be found further inside the pleasure dome so Sonjj swallowed her drink and headed for one of the exits further away.

Meanwhile, Looloo Caps walked over to one of the gaming tables hidden behind a corner and tried his luck there.

Many people had gathered there and what was on offer was a very popular game called Q'ranggo. This game consisted of you having a small ball in your hand that you would hit a small hole in the wall with.

The hole, in turn, changed position after a few seconds so you had to be quick if you wanted to succeed.

The ball was also equipped with an electric charge. If you waited too long without doing anything, it would give off a strong shock so that you dropped it, thus losing your game round. You could play as long as you hit the hole with the ball and didn't drop it.

The gathering around the Q'ranggo table was now in ecstasy because the stakes were sky high as the person playing was known for his immense skill at the game. There were those who were foolish

enough to undertake a challenge with the master but that didn't change anything. They all lost quickly and humiliatingly easily.

Hucca D'nacle, as the player was called, was an individual Looloo recognized well.

Sensing that he had what it took to win, Looloo nonchalantly plowed through the crowd to challenge the champion. Once there, he introduced himself with a sly smile and challenged him to a game.

The latter hardly believed his own eyes and stared in disbelief at Looloo's naïve fish-eye globes. Ooses were known for their oily personality and after a moment's thought, Hucca accepted the challenge.

The game started at 50,000 daise and only now did Looloo feel a little uncomfortable knowing he only had around 10,000 daise on him. He quickly shook off any insecure thoughts and stretched his body. He couldn't lose. He was much better than Hucca. There was definitely no doubt about that. A couple of painful minutes later, Looloo had lost over 60,000 daise and with a dark feeling inside he trembled for the future. How on earth was he going to get out of this?

Suddenly, he saw a large and imposing security guard patrolling a bit further away.

Looloo breathed heavily and had an idea. If he went over to the police and told him about his problems, the officer would surely help him get out of the trouble he had just got himself into.

This philosophy was not shared by Hucca who tapped him hard on the shoulder and demanded his payment of 68 950 daise.

Looloo was brought back to the harsh reality and immediately became scared and pitiful.

- "Uhh! Y-yes, about that... You have to excuse me while I collect your profit from the credit machine over there. W-wait here and I will immediately take care of it." he stammered anxiously. He was granted permission to do just that and Looloo hurried away towards the officer as discreetly as he could. Once there, he produced a distasteful smile of the worst kind and stretched his arms out to the sides.

- "Ah, good evening, officer. My name is Looloo Caps and I am a very well behaved individual. Now it so happens that I owe Hucca D'nacle over there 68,950 daise. Why don't you tell him that I don't have to pay, hmm?"

The officer stared at Looloo in both amazement and disbelief and shook his head coldly.

- "Bah! All you Ooses are completely useless!" he shouted with venom in every syllable.

"You're always trying to pander to authority. The only thing you're good for is slave labor, nothing else. You damned Kreetloons!"

Looloo was devastated that his plan to befriend the police was quickly squandered. He wanted the officer to like him. Suddenly he had a new idea.

- "Eh, mr. Constable. A well-known smuggler is here on Kva'um Doo. Interested, hmm?" he grinned confidently.

This plan worked and the policeman was immediately interested and encouraged him to continue.

- "Only if you think I'm a good Oos and help me so I don't have to pay my debt to Hucca D'nacle." Looloo demanded with a sly smile.

After a positive nod from the officer, he continued.

- "It is true that Sonjj Frak is here. I know this because I am part of her crew."

He was about to continue making a fuss about this when he was suddenly interrupted.

- "Sonjj Frak!" the constable shouted firmly and stretched himself up. "Show me where she is at once."

Meanwhile, further away, Hucca saw Looloo and a large police officer moving away from him. He was naturally upset by this and immediately rushed to Looloo's side.

- "Don't think that you're getting out of your debt, Oos." he hissed menacingly.

- "Hah! I no longer have to pay you." he snapped, nonchalantly sticking his nose up in the air.

"I have police protection, so there."

The officer heard this and turned to Hucca D'nacle.

- "Is this the Oos who owes you 68,950 credits?"

Hucca answered the question with a positive nod and the officer looked at Looloo with a satisfied smile.

- "You can take Looloo and do whatever you want with him after he shows me where Sonjj Frak is." he said and laughed mockingly.

A normal person would have refused to cooperate by now, but since Looloo was an Oos and the police had such high authority, it was impossible for him to resist. The search began.

Ten minutes before this, Sonjj had left for another part of the pleasure dome. She gracefully navigated between the drunken guests and eventually entered a dark passageway.

The only light she could see there were horizontal rows of dim lights along the walls.

Her eyes began to glow again and she slowed down.

A bit further on, a drunken, two-legged creature was thrown out of one of the music rooms where several dance floors were located.

The entrance that the person was lying by gaped open and gave off a bright light that flashed intensely. Sonjj became curious about what was inside that room and immediately went there.

She stood at the doorway and peered in and all she saw was a wall of white smoke bathed in a pulsating cobalt blue light.

She walked into the room to the beat of the music and looked around.

Sonjj was a bit disappointed by the bland sight and was about to leave when dark and beefy shapes suddenly appeared in the fog. They moved sluggishly and jerkily and failed fatally to dance to the music. She raised an eyebrow and recoiled when she realized who the large creatures were.

- "Carpers! And they're drunk." she gasped and quickly looked for the exit.

She trudged through the fog as discreetly as she could, doing her best not to be spotted by the drunken carpers.

She glanced behind her and was relieved to see that no one had detected her presence there.

Sonjj exhaled and continued towards the exit, still looking behind her, when she suddenly walked into the wall.

Annoyed by her fumbling behavior, she quickly looked forward and realized that the wall she had entered was very special. It was green and consisted of a combination of leather upholstery, black body hair and sweaty, smelly flesh.

She was standing right in front of a carper that was colossally drunk and she could hear it breathing heavily and agitatedly. Its breath had a sticky quality to it and it smelled of rotten carcass with every exhalation.

The smuggler felt panic take root in her and she quickly looked for somewhere to go to escape the beast.

Sonjj knew very well that her life was in danger. If the carper got hold of her, she would meet a very brutal death. It would tear her to pieces and it would be a very bloody affair indeed.

She stared the colossus straight into its red, insane eyes and swallowed nervously. What would she do now?

The beast's powerful facial features revealed a hard surface that could probably withstand mostly anything, and she felt alone and helpless where she stood.

Suddenly the carper clenched its right hand in front of her in bloody triumph and hissed angrily.

Sonjj quickly pushed herself up against a nearby ventilation pipe, feeling small and pathetic in front of the green wall of flesh.

Just as the carper was about to attack, a small crowd suddenly appeared further away and this fortunately attracted the colossus' attention for a brief moment.

She now saw her chance and put her escape plan into action.

Sonjj ran towards the doorway with all her might and she would not stop until she could lose herself in the dense crowd outside the pleasure dome.

Unfortunately, the carper spotted her escape attempt and immediately ran after her.

Sonjj felt the adrenaline pumping through her body as she ran for her life. She looked behind her as she ran and was horrified to see that the beast was closing in on her.

She emerged into the dark hallway outside and continued her mad dash forward.

She was about fifteen meters away from a glass entrance where another dance floor was located, but she felt there was a much greater chance that the carper would catch her before she made it there. With a few meters left to the new dance floor, Sonjj realized that she wouldn't be able to outrun her pursuer in time, so she stopped with a jolt, turned around and pulled out her plasma shooter. The carper roared forward with a bloodlust that was terrifying to watch, and Sonjj realized that a shot from her weapon would probably only make it angrier. Still, she took the chance and fired a couple of shots that hit it right in the chest.

The beast flinched but continued forward as if nothing had happened.

Sonjj saw the colossus' eyes pulsating with anger and before she could react, she collided with the creature and was thrown through the glass door and out onto the dance floor on the other side.

The music was drowned out by the crash and shards of glass sailed out everywhere on the polished floor that Sonjj and the carper were on. The smuggler stood up dizzily and looked for her pursuer when she suddenly heard a familiar voice nearby.

- "There she is. Get her!" an excited Oos shouted.

- "What!? Looloo? What the hell are you doing?" she shouted.

- "Well! You know. The policeman here has a higher status than you so I had to show him how good and accommodating I can be." he boasted mischievously.

- "Looloo! You damned pig!" Sonjj hissed, showing hard jaw muscles. "You're going to pay for this, you bastard."

At the same time she saw how the carper had risen up further away and it was now getting ready for a new attack.

Sonjj took a deep breath and concentrated like never before. She was in mortal danger from the insane carper and if that wasn't enough, Looloo had also reported her to the police authorities on Kva'um Doo.

Considering everything she was wanted for, it would be devastating for her if she was caught now. She had to escape from there somehow. The only question was how?

A chilly stalemate ensued with everyone eyeing each other suspiciously, and without warning Sonjj put her plan into action and ran towards one of the exits of the entertainment dome. Immediately, a swarm of plasma shots were fired at her, all of which missed their targets.

The carper also gave chase to its prey but it was not as lucky as Sonjj and was hit by several shots that penetrated its massive body.

The colossus fell to the floor with a thud and lay still as a thick, green ooze seeped out from under its body.

After a frantic flight, Sonjj arrived at an opening she had not seen before. She abandoned her original plan to head for the exit and chose the new entrance instead.

She squeezed through a large door with great difficulty and then hurried forward with the plasma shooter in her hand.

Sonjj entered a dark tunnel with several rooms on either side, all trying to drown each other out with their cacophony of sound.

Sonjj decided on the third door on her left and quickly ran into it.

Once inside, she suddenly found it very difficult to breathe and wondered where she had ended up. It turned out that she had entered one of the special dance rooms where only races that could live in a toxic atmosphere were located. The gas stung violently in her nostrils and she tried to hold her breath as best she could while looking for another way out.

The room was packed with dancing creatures of all kinds and the sight reminded her more of a dark and moving landmass in the gloom.

With incredible speed, Sonjj made her way through the crowd and eventually reached the other side of the room.

She strained to see anything in the poisonous atmosphere. She blinked away tears from her eyes and felt increasingly drowsy when she suddenly noticed something interesting.

- "A way out!" Sonjj gasped inwardly and hurried towards a dark service corridor further away.

Driven by the toxic gas, she plunged out into the new corridor, filling her lungs with much-needed oxygen.

Sonjj was resting her hands on her knees, breathing heavily when suddenly a violent explosion was heard in the next room. The music stopped abruptly and panic spread like wildfire among the guests.

She quickly stretched up and rushed out of there.

She ran through the dark hallway, where the walls were covered with several blacked-out computer panels, looking for a way out.

After a while, Sonjj came up to a massive metal door that would not open from her side. She was trapped.

With a pounding heartbeat, she turned around and stared off into the direction she had just come from. None of her pursuers had found the service entrance yet, but it was only a matter of time before they did.

She couldn't just stand there and do nothing, so with renewed courage she ran back towards the opening again.

Suddenly, one of the searching police officers stood in the middle of the opening further away and peered inside.

Sonjj immediately stopped running and hardly dared to breathe because she didn't know if the officer saw her standing there in the dark.

The police officer turned his head back and forth but did not see anything interesting.

He turned around and was about to leave when one of the panels next to her suddenly came to life. A strong red light shone brightly in the darkness and now Sonjj wished she had not chosen to wear the dress with the many mirror fragments.

To her silent frustration, the light attracted the police officer's attention and he looked suspiciously into the aisle again. Sonjj stood completely still, hoping that the light from the panel would disappear, but it was already too late.

Immediately, the officer picked up his communication device and called the rest of the force.

Sonjj knew she had been spotted so she immediately looked for alternative escape routes from there. After a brief scan of the area, she noticed a hatch in the ceiling above her that led to one of the station's many service tunnels.

Sonjj climbed the adjacent wall ladder and tried to push the hatch open, but then noticed a thick lock hanging from the opening, preventing her escape attempt.

Immensely annoyed by all the setbacks she had faced so far, having come to Kva'um Doo to relax and enjoy herself, she jumped down again and pulled out her plasma shooter.

Pointing it at the service hatch above, she squeezed the trigger and fired a shot. The locking mechanism blew up and red-hot pieces of metal rained down everywhere, contaminating the floor of the service tunnel.

With the lock finally gone, she climbed back up again and pushed the door open with all her might. The policeman over at the opening noticed this and immediately pulled out his gun. With a fierce energy, he fired several shots and, by sheer luck, she avoided the police's precise shots by a hair's breadth.

Once inside the narrow service tunnel, she crawled forward as fast as she could, but the special dress she was wearing didn't help.

"-Argh! I have to get to my ship and get out of here before they shut down the bridge. Groot! Must contact the others and warn them of Looloo's treachery." She thought feverishly and moved forward through the tunnel.

With much effort, she retrieved her communication device and punched a special button combination on the front. It beeped and one of her crewmembers responded firmly.

"-Quick! You must get back to the ship immediately." she said breathlessly. "Looloo has ratted us out."

"-What?" the voice in the communications unit gasped in surprise. "Are you serious, Sonjj? Bah! That damned scum. Yes, I'll tell the others right away. Stay calm, we're coming."

Satisfied with the conversation, she put the device away and continued through the metal maze. After a while she came up to a ventilation grille that let out a faint ray of light into the dark tunnel. Holding her breath, she looked down through it and saw one of the corridors below.

It seemed quiet down there so she carefully lifted the grate and watched for any threats.

What she was looking down on was one of those endless corridors with the nasty red carpeting and nothing threatening was visible as far as the eye could see.

After waiting a while, Sonjj plucked up the courage and jumped down to the floor below and pulled out her weapon. She knew which way the ship's hangar was and hurried down the corridor with her senses on high alert, watching every intersection she passed for potential enemies.

It was better to be safe than sorry because she couldn't know if anyone was lurking there.

It was far too quiet here. There ought to be more activity than this, she thought suspiciously, and was walking towards a crossroads when a large and burly policeman suddenly appeared in the distance.

He hadn't noticed her presence yet and was heavily armed with a class II plasma rifle. He stood silently looking around while listening intently to a communication device attached to his armor.

"Hmm... That plasma rifle would come in handy now." Sonjj thought slyly, staring intently at the police officer.

Sonjj's breathing became slow and rhythmic and she focused all her thoughts on the policeman. Her eyes penetrated his body and essence and she eventually fell into a deep trance. After a moment of intense observation, she finally found herself inside... his mind.

"I control you now." she said calmly, focusing her eyes even more on the officer. "Load your weapon."

The officer blindly obeyed and did as the voice inside his head said.

"Now point it at your head." Sonjj commanded and the police followed her directive without any protest.

The officer pointed the heavy plasma rifle at his head and just stood there.

"Now squeeze the trigger." she whispered suggestively.

Her mental victim did as he was told.

He squeezed the trigger of his weapon and immediately afterwards there was a violent explosion where blood, pieces of bone and burnt flesh was scattered all over the corridor.

Sonjj was released from her mental grip and smiled triumphantly to herself.

With the threat neutralized, she ran to the ruins of the headless body and grabbed the weapon.

The sound of the plasma shot would surely attract a nearby patrol, so she didn't waste any time and hurried on towards her ship.

A few laborious minutes later, Sonjj reached the end of the hallway where the entrance to the hangar was located. She slowed down and crept forward the last bit, carefully peering around the corner.

"The hangar is empty. Good!" she thought and exhaled. "Then I'll just..."

Suddenly her plans were interrupted by a dark discovery. On the other side of the hangar, she saw a patrol of four heavily armed police officers carefully watching the area.

She grunted irritably to herself and pressed herself against the adjacent wall.

"Lesk! How am I going to get to my ship now?" she hissed between clenched teeth. "And where are the others?"

She cautiously peered around the corner again and tried to use her telepathy but they were too far away. With an angry face she hid again and banged her head against the wall trying to think of a solution.

She felt tired and angry. With her luck, they had probably already seized the ship and closed off the bridge, just waiting to capture her.

"Bah! I have to leave now." she hissed irritably to herself.

She loaded the plasma rifle and got ready for one last battle. With determined eyebrows, she looked forward again and noticed that the patrol was gone.

She now saw her chance and with her body full of adrenaline, she rushed out in the hangar and made her way to the ship.

Quick steps followed each other, but Sonjj was only halfway out when the patrol suddenly appeared from behind a hidden section of the hangar and discovered her escape attempt.

Wild gunfire ensued and Sonjj pointed her weapon at the patrol and fired a powerful volley of shots. The wall behind one of the policemen exploded in an orgy of fire and rock debris, but none of them were injured in any way.

Annoyed that none of the shots hit home, she reloaded her weapon and fired another round of shots. This time she was more lucky and one of the officers was hit right in the stomach. The shot had maximum effect and an explosion followed that was so powerful that the officer was split in half and blood and guts poured all over his comrades.

This caused panic among the other members of the patrol who immediately turned and ran away from there.

Sonjj smiled with satisfaction and stretched her body triumphantly. With renewed confidence, she continued towards her ship again when, without warning, a cylindrical metal ball came rolling towards her across the hangar floor.

"Hey! Isn't that a...?" she thought as it exploded, creating a huge shockwave that sent her flying through the air.

After a nightmarish flight, she landed on the floor and tumbled around several times, sustaining several stinging wounds all over her body.

After a while, with her sight and hearing pulsating painfully, she came back to life and felt severely disoriented. She groaned and shook her head lazily and looked up.

Suddenly her heart sank.

Around her stood an entire squadron of Kva'um Doo's finest officers, pointing their weapons at the infamous smuggler.

Sonjj closed her eyes and felt her world swaying dangerously above the abyss.

A growing darkness was taking over her life and she produced a sigh of the deepest kind.

She knew very well what was waiting for her now. Either death or a very long prison sentence in one of the worst institutions in the universe, the prison colony deep in the Pah'xx system.

In any case, there would be no good news of any kind for her in the near future. That much was certain.

She sighed again and the only thing that repeated in her mind over and over again while one of the patrols went out to imprison her was:

"Never trust an Oos".

"Never trust an Oos".

"Never trust an Oos."