

APHRA

Book I, Part VI

It is a period of opportunity. In a galaxy oppressed by the cruelty of Imperial forces, there is little hope for the future. But for those operating on the fringes, there is potential for profit.

Rogue archaeologist Chelli Aphra is back to retrieving rare artifacts with a pair of homicidal droids and a Wookiee bounty hunter. Aphra's plans are suspended, however, when her estranged father gets her to join his search for the mysterious Ordu Aspectu.

Aphra and her father reach the long-lost citadel of the Ordu Aspectu and unleash Eternal Rur. However, when the pair awake, it appears the ancient Jedi may not be as friendly as they had hoped....

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The Citadel Of Rur.

CAPTAIN TOLVAN!
THE PRISONERS
HAVE TAKEN COVER
IN THE LEVITATING
CORE. THERE'S NO
WAY ACROSS.

WE CAN
BRING IN AN
ASTROMECH
AND TRY TO SLICE
THE SYSTEM AND
RE-INITIATE THE
BRIDGE--

WE
COULD...

...BUT THIS
OPENS DIRECTLY
INTO SPACE.

SIGNAL
THE SHUTTLE
AND BRING IT
AROUND.

THEN WE
CAN--

ETERNAL
RUR!

ETERNAL
RUR!

OPEN
FIRE.
NOW.





WHEN IS IT?!

WHEN IS IT?!

CHELLI APHRA...

LET'S MAKE A DEAL, RUR, I'LL TELL YOU WHEN IT IS...

...AFTER YOU TELL US WHAT HAPPENED.

TORTURE CAN TEAR THE ANSWER FROM YOUR IMPUDENT TONGUE.

YEAH, BUT TORTURE IS SOOOO SLOW.

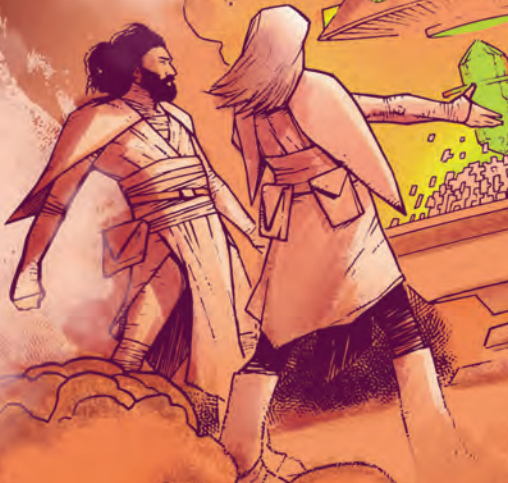
YOU TELL US THE BASICS, I'LL TELL YOU THE TIME. HONEST.

HMM... THIS IS LOGICAL.

"AFTER THE ENTRUVIA CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ORDU AND THE ORTHODOX JEDI, THE PEACE TREATY ALLOWED THE JEDI TO INSPECT THE ORDU'S WORK FOR SIGNS OF DANGEROUS HERESY.

"MY PRESENT RESEARCH WAS TO CREATE A COPY OF MY INTELLECT, PRESERVING MY KNOWLEDGE FOR ALL TIME. I DID NOT REALIZE WHAT I WAS ACTUALLY DOING...

"I WAS NOT MAKING A COPY. I WAS MOVING MY SENTIENCE, AND LEAVING AN EVIL GHOST INSIDE MY FLESHY BODY."



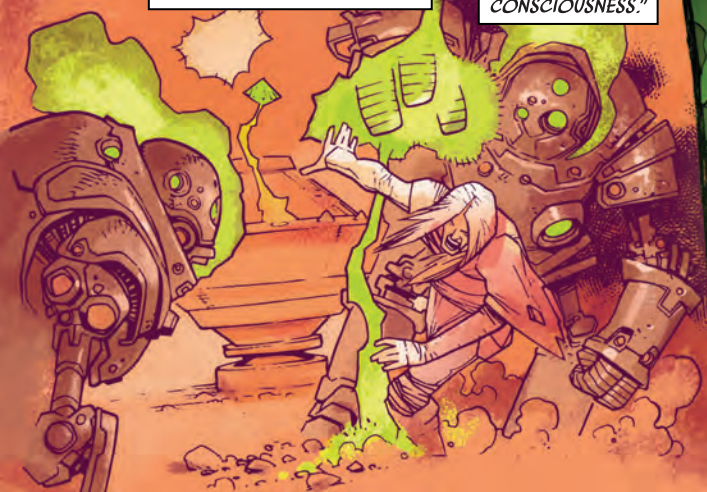
"I HAD TO SLAY THEM ALL AND ESCAPE. THE JEDI FELL. AMON AND FAKE RUR SURVIVED. THEY SWORE TO 'DEACTIVATE' ME, HIDING THEIR MURDEROUS INTENT BEHIND PRETTY WORDS!

"I SENT THE CITADEL HURLING ACROSS THE GALAXY TO MAKE SURE REINFORCEMENTS COULD NOT LOCATE US. ONLY THE ORDU CRYSTALS COULD TRACK OUR BEACON, BUT THE JEDI WERE NOT THE ORDU--I WAS SAFE.

"AMON STOPPED THE POWER GENERATOR BEFORE I COULD KILL HIM. FAKE RUR CAME FOR ME.

"HE COULDN'T BLUDGEON HIS WAY TO THE CRYSTALS WITHOUT DESTROYING THE STATION... BUT THE FAKE RUR STILL HAD HIS FORCE POWERS.

"HE DISLODGED THE CRYSTAL AND I SOON LOST ALL CONSCIOUSNESS."



RIIIGHT. AND YOU HID THIS FROM "FAKE RUR," RIGHT?

I KNEW HE WOULD DENY THE TRUTH. IT WAS ONLY WHEN THE JEDI DEMANDED A CLOSE INSPECTION THAT I KNEW I HAD TO ACT.

IN MY NEW IMMORTAL STATE, I WAS ONE WITH ALL MACHINES, ABLE TO CONTROL THEM AS NATURALLY AS I ONCE MOVED MY LIMBS. IT WAS ALL THAT COULD DELIVER ME.



IT SEEMS THE DROIDS ACTED ON MY FINAL ORDERS, PURGING THE ORGANICS UNTIL THEIR POWER RAN OUT...

...FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL BATTERIES TO HAVE FAILED, IT MUST HAVE BEEN A CONSIDERABLE TIME...



WHEN IS IT?

...WHAT CALENDAR ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH?



THE DOMANCION ACCORD.



THE ACCORD WAS ANCIENT HISTORY LONG BEFORE THE REPUBLIC WAS FOUNDED.

THAT WAS A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.



NO. NO. NO.

EVERYONE DEAD. SO LONG. I HAVE LOST EVERYTHING. I HAD SO MANY PLANS, SUCH GREAT DESIGNS, SUCH WEAPONS! THEY STOLE MY LIFE! I WOULD HAVE HAD AN EMPIRE! THEY WOULD HAVE BEGGED! THEY...

I CANNOT PUNISH THE DEAD.



I WILL PUNISH THE LIVING.

AGHH!

CHELL!