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MYTH OF THE SITH

By

R. H. Brooks

Novel Summary

Before Plagueis, Sidious, and Vader, the Darth Lords of the Sith were relegated to legend and myth, lurking in the shadows. The umbra of the ancient Sith dissipates as Sheila of Tatooine unknowingly acquires an obscure Sith artifact.

While revenging the death of her soul-mate, Sheila happens upon the unremarkable Sith relic during an attack on a Tusken Raider treasure trove.

Desperate to support her teenage children Flango (Darth Plagueis), Wilme (Darth Sidious), and Shmi (Anakin Skywalker's mother), she embarks on a journey to learn "The Ways of the Sith" when the mysterious and dark powers change her life forever and, ultimately, unravel her family. Through Sheila, the Sith return, the Jedi lose focus, and the stage is set for the appearance of the prophesied *Chosen One*.

Chapter 1

Three battle-weary red and white fighter jets are chasing down a larger black fighter silhouetted against the horizon. The view of the encounter toggles between the cockpits of the struggling red and white fighters. Their adversary is rolling, diving, and climbing to avoid their cannon fire. No sooner does he escape the targeting lock of one attacker than another fighter is right on him. Even so, the black fighter regularly manages to loop around behind and put his enemy in peril. He is then unable to get a good angle and the trio's teamwork puts one of them back on his tail.

The air battle is occurring in the early morning light, just above the rocky surface of a semi-arid planet. The conflict moves from the dry plains to lifeless mountain peaks and then on to rock-strewn plateaus. The war has raged for years with hundreds of similar battles being fought. There were few tactics that surprised these pilots, yet, suddenly, the black fighter executes a mid-air stop and drops directly onto the tail of an antagonist. A quick weapons blast and his antagonist explodes against a sheer cliff.

The other two fighters come around and the battle is back on. They move down to the plains where the black fighter performs a myriad of left sweeps, right sweeps, and rolls in his attempt to shake his adversaries, but they prove up to the task.

Then he spots his opportunity. He descends quickly over a small hill and banks hard to the right and executes a 270 degree turn. He meets the second fighter at the peak of the hill and a single air-to-air missile morphs the craft into a tumbling fireball on the desert plain below.

The situation is finally in his favor. Not that he doubted from the beginning that he wouldn't win this conflict, but now he had the upper hand. One-on-one, he could never be defeated. The odds now favored his preferences and his aircraft, and the mind of his foe would be clouded by the recent demise of his wingmen.

Now, to ascend in the lower atmosphere to begin his final masterful maneuver. Beginning with the most altitude is an important position in the next phase of this battle. Attacking from above puts the opponent into survival mode immediately and removes the opportunity to consider counter attack positions.

As he nears his target altitude, he realizes that he has misjudged his opponent's ability to overcome the horrific loss of his peers. The result of his erroneous assumption is felt as a single air-to-air missile takes off the right wing of the black fighter.

The damaged ship begins a controlled spiral to the parched world below, on the outskirts of a sprawling city. Parts are spinning off as a long rope of black smoke follows the aircraft to the ground.

The early morning explosion draws the attention of a few junk dealers looking for prizes among the wreckage, but the scene is largely intact and undisturbed when the pilot of the surviving red and white fighter arrives.

His search yields only the charred remains of the pilot. No other belongings are found and, most troubling, no sign that he had been transporting anything. The escape pods were missing, but were most likely incinerated during the twisting trip downward. If they did survive impact, they were already now part of the massive junk trade in the city.

This had been the last Sith, and the Jedi pilot had not expected him to be traveling so light.

A large projection screen goes black, and Yoda tells an audience of Jedi masters, padawans, and learners, “The end of the Sith that was. Since this encounter, a millennium it has been. Still...wary of the dark side you must be.”

Chapter 2

Sheila of Tatooine is moving stealthily through the caverns of the Sand people looking for a storehouse of treasure. They move them regularly, but she had been “acquiring” from Tusken Raider holdings long enough that she knew the routine. She is scratching out a dangerous living on Tatooine for herself and her three teenagers by stealing from the Tusken Raiders and selling their treasures to the repulsive traders at the spaceport.

As she travels, she is saddened as her thoughts drift to wondering where her life is headed. She married her only true love, Wayoon, as a very young woman and cherished the life they had. Working the land, raising flocks of geeho, and building a future for themselves and their three children.

But that all changed the night the horrid Tusken Raiders wiped out their operation. The scene is vivid in her mind, and still breaks her heart. As the Raiders destroyed their home and set it ablaze, her lover and protector fought courageously, but in the end, courage was not enough. He died in her arms, asking her forgiveness for his failure.

How could she go on...?

Distraught and homeless, she moved her family to town and began regular attacks of the Sand people to extract payment for what they had done to her life and family.

Her focus jumps back to the present when, after a lengthy and tiring search, she finally comes upon their latest storeroom. She selects several clusters of jewelry, three gem-encrusted vases, seven hard-to-come-by hyper-drive parts, and an opulent dagger. She was always trying to gather a variety of items as the transient traders had ever-changing and random needs and desires. She found that they preferred a varied selection, which drove her to choose a diverse array of items.

She is discovered by the night watch as she is arranging the plunder in her pack for her long trip out of the caverns. The guards screech, and open fire.

Her skills as a fighter have been honed by many years battling these same Sand people. She is held in high regard in her community as a battle-hardened warrior, as most don't survive this type of work for more than just a few months. She disables five of the six guards before her blaster malfunctions.

In order to stop the last Raider, she grabs a non-descript battered, metal case from the pile of treasure, slips through a side tunnel, and emerges directly behind him. She ends the battle with a blow to his hooded head.

She immediately tears down the corridors knowing that more Sand people will soon be in pursuit. She continues to carry her loaded backpack and the case. She is able to elude her pursuers until she exits the caverns. There, weapons fire strikes all around her just as she gets back to her landspeeder. She throws her pack and the case in the back seat and flies away in a cloud of dust and vapor.

Chapter 3 Summary

Sheila has spent the entire day haggling with traders as she takes her new wares from place to place. Success is eluding her today and she is becoming frustrated and nervous about what future there is for her family if she has many more days like this. She yearns for advice from her dear Wayoon.

Her day ends, uncharacteristically, with her alone at a table in a local space port tavern with very little to show for her work, and surrounded by some strange characters.

Dorcha, a long-time friend, enters and pulls up a chair to her table and tells her several things:

- They grew up together on Tatooine.
- He has established a “reputable” smuggling business.
- She has risked her life for too long stealing from the Sand people.
- The Sand people treasures aren’t as valuable as they once were.
- The Sand people are getting wise to her tactics.
- Her twin boys and younger daughter need a father.
- He has asked her many times to marry him.
- He is not the best-looking of men, but he is smart and loves her.
- He was a good friend of her late husband, Wayoon.
- He misses Wayoon, too.

Then Dorcha asks Sheila to marry him.

She is awash with emotion as her imagination moves her to view a future of her digging out dinner for the family in the neighborhood garbage pile. She doesn’t know where to turn or what to do. She had a future planned with Wayoon, but he is not here anymore. She is overcome with her responsibility for raising three teenagers in an environment not suited to families at all.

After contemplating her current lot in life, she says yes.

Chapter 4 Summary

Sheila wakes up the next morning at home and can't believe what she has done. Yes, things weren't going well yesterday, but today was a new day. What would Wayoon want her to do? Their dream was to give a better life to their children, and what they were living now was not it. She realizes that marrying Dorcha is really all she can do now, but she is not happy about it.

She reluctantly shares the news with the family that morning as she helps them get ready for school.

Flango, a strapping young man, outgoing and boisterous, is the firstborn and a twin to Wilme, a wormy sort, weak of stature, but sharp of mind. Shmi, the younger daughter, is demure and keeps to herself.

As expected, Shmi has nothing to say regarding the announcement, but doesn't appear bothered by it. She never showed much emotion and lived in the shadows of her twin older brothers.

Wilme makes it clear that he must be allowed to continue his studies. He contemplates what is in this for him and how he can influence the upcoming events to his advantage. He is very focused on himself and ensuring that he gets what he wants, regardless of the impact to other people.

Flango is happy to have Dorcha join the family in an official role. He is hopeful that this will give him more time for himself since he has picked up the majority of the duties that Wayoon had performed. He was the most impacted by the loss of Wayoon as he was watching the geeho herd that night and unable to help defend against the Raiders. He rushed to the home as soon as he heard the Sand people screeching, but arrived only in time to watch his father die in his mother's arms. He then realized that the geeho had been their primary target and the attack on the home was a distraction to get him away from the herd. As a result, he has always felt responsible for what happened, and often dreamed that he was able to save his father's life.

Dorcha had always been around and could be counted on to help even before Wayoon was killed, so it is not a surprise to any of them that their mother has decided to marry him.

They take no notice of the case and unsold items on the side table. Sheila was always returning with Tusken Raider treasures, and this find was nothing extraordinary.

Chapter 5 Summary

Jedi Masters Qui-Gon Jinn, Count Dooku, and Jan Barain are observing padawans in one-on-one combat training in the Jedi temple. They discuss the video of the final Sith battle and Qui-Gon clearly has questions as to the validity of the video. He is proving a hard case to convince that there is a powerful dark force to be reckoned with.

There is talk that the Sith is a myth that the Jedi devised to allow them to continue their operations and ensure the ongoing support and existence of the Jedi Knights.

Yoda is overseeing the training and asks Qui-Gon to spar with a gifted padawan. Yoda knows of Qui-Gon Jinn's beliefs and his objective is to widen Qui-Gon Jinn's perspective as to what the Sith do to society. Although the training is hand-to-hand, Yoda has secretly asked the padawan to use the Force to defend himself against Qui-Gon.

The padawan and Qui-Gon circle the mat, sizing one another up. Qui-Gon goes on the attack and the padawan uses the Force to flip Qui-Gon, who lands flat on his back.

He is up in a flash aggressively explaining to the padawan that his action was uncalled for and clearly against the rules of the training.

Yoda interjects with, “Master Qui-Gon. Outperformed by padawan Obi-Wan Kenobi. How embarrassing. How embarrassing.”

Qui-Gon continues his protest.

Yoda seriously points out that the Sith see no rules. “Prepared for the unexpected you must always be.”

Chapter 6 Summary

After the teens leave for school, Sheila is depressed and concerned that she has made the wrong decision by agreeing to marry Dorcha. Although they did not say it, she could see in their eyes that they were disappointed that she was giving up on trying to make it on their own. Although it was difficult, they were taking pride in their ability to move on with life after being dealt a disastrous blow. She didn't know what to do.

That beaten case was there on the table and Sheila found that trying to open it got her mind off her current, depressing predicament. The case's current condition, dented and scuffed, was a testament to the fact that it is not easy to open and that it has frustrated attempts many times before.

But Sheila is a patient and clever sort and eventually fashions a common kitchen utensil to match the unusual locking mechanism. After spending most of her morning on the task, she finally makes the right twist and the top pops up with a hydraulic hiss.

Her eyes widen in disbelief as she sits back, and views the contents.

Chapter 7 Summary

Sheila is startled by a knock at the door and quickly hides the open case before answering. It is Dorcha stopping by to say goodbye as he heads out on a smuggle trip. He will return in four days and he has the wedding activities all scheduled. Other than her three children, her family is gone, eliminated, as was her husband, by the Sand people, and only his mother and a sister remain, on Naboo. So, a small ceremony.

Dorcha is clearly excited about the new life and will be trying hard to make it work. He was obviously looking forward to being a good father and husband. He has steady work and has stood by and helped the family following Wayoon's loss. He did help clean-up the property when they decided to sell and has been a good listener when Sheila needed to talk.

Sheila begins to think that maybe all this will work out OK. She believes that they can't make it on their own and Dorcha seems sincere in his love for her and dedication to the family. She smiles outwardly and asks him to be careful.

Chapter 8 Summary

Two Jedi Masters, Count Dooku and Jan Barain, are walking down a hallway in the Jedi temple discussing the peace that has been in place so long and expressing concerns about keeping Jedi trained for the rise of evil that is sure to come again. After centuries of complete peace in the Republic, there is talk that the Jedi Council no longer needs to be maintained. Many these days do not remember the destruction caused by the Sith, and believe it to be a myth.

Count Dooku references an ongoing discussion he is having with his former padawan, now Master Qui-Gon, regarding the reality of the Sith and their powers. He is having great difficulty convincing Qui-Gon that the Sith, and the dark side of the force, are truly something to be wary of.

Dooku and Barain head to the archives to research sources for reinforcing to the Republic, and the young Jedi, the reality of the Sith.

Chapter 9 Summary

Sheila pulls each of the items from the case and examines them closely:

A large, thick black cloth that appears to be a cape and hood.

A set of four small sealed glass containers of red powder.

A long silver cylinder.

A small black box containing iridescent red crystals.

A dark holocron.

A large and thick black book engraved with gold letters that read,

“The Ways of the Sith”.

She opens the book, recognizing the familiar script of her Tatooine ancestors, and begins reading, “...If this is in your possession, then you are the *chosen one* to begin the events that will occur to bring the Sith back to their rightful place as ruler of the galaxy...”

Chapter 10 Summary

Dorcha is loading his ship with his payload. He is an experienced smuggler and confident in his abilities to survive any crisis or trouble that he encounters. He has had many close calls and survived them all, a result that he does not expect to change. Nevertheless, adding the responsibility of a family is beginning to weigh heavy on him.

After final checks, as he is readying to leave Tatooine with his shipment, he encounters a couple of locals, Trillo and Shamar, that want him to pay a fee in order to launch his ship. They have shown up often with this threat and never proved serious. As he has done many times before, he outsmarts them and departs safely in his ship.

But, contrary to the past, they had appeared quite earnest in their attempts to stop him and transmit a message that he never return to Tatooine, if he values his life.

Chapter 11 Summary

Sheila had heard a few old stories about the Sith being powerful enemies of the Jedi Knights, but very little of Republic lore gets out to Tatooine. In fact, she had never seen a Jedi Knight. As far as she knew, they could all be myths.

Sheila reads in the book that the red powder in the small sealed glass containers is a concentrate developed by Darth Bane, a historic Sith Lord, which multiplies the midichlorian levels of the ingestor. She also learns that the silver cylinder is a Sith lightsaber, with the iridescent red crystal being the power source required to activate the weapon.

She wonders why she has stumbled across this find at this particular time in her life, when things seem in such disarray and she is looking for direction. She shudders with concern and intrigue when she reads that to begin the path, she must ingest the red powder. This will allow her to begin developing the powers of the Sith.

Feeling powerless in her commitment to marry Dorcha, this new promise of power is like a dream. Could she use this to take charge of her life, and lead her family to something great? Could she change her current life path of dying a nobody on a forgotten planet to becoming someone comparable to a storied Jedi Knight? Her imagination was leading her to all sorts of possibilities.

Chapter 12 Summary

Dorcha has a harrowing trip to the planet where the hand-off of his payload is to be made. The entry to the atmosphere nearly overheats the hull, but he makes adjustments and survives. Once on the planet surface, he has difficulty tracking down who he is to deliver the load to because he was late and the inhabitants are very wary of strangers.

He finally makes his connection, delivers the load, and collects his price. He then quickly heads to a nearby planet for another pick-up.

Following his uneventful landing at the next planet, Iridonia, he immediately encounters a well-trained warrior that says nothing but begins an immediate attack. His movements are so quick they are only a blur in Dorcha's vision. Dorcha attempts to grab and twist the being's head, but finds his hands quickly torn and bloodied by multiple small horns forming a wicked crown. This vision is forever emblazoned in his memory.

He learns later that the being was a Zabrak, a race indigenous to Iridonia that travel throughout the system as fiercely loyal mercenaries for various causes.

Eventually, the Zabrak releases Dorcha from a strangle-hold and delivers him, coughing and stumbling, to his customer and Dorcha acquires the expected shipment and quickly exits Iridonia, vowing to never visit the planet again. He also decides that he must find another line of work that is not so dangerous.

Chapter 13 Summary

After contemplating her options, Sheila decides to activate the lightsaber before ingesting the red powder. She is worried about the path that is begun with consuming the trigger. Although the promised power is quite tempting, her consideration of actuating the change is torturous.

After a very detailed and lengthy crystal installation, complicated by her wondering about the path, she is ready to activate the lightsaber.

From the moment that the red beam appears with the calming hum of pure energy, she knows that she must devour the red powder. She doesn't know where this new path may lead, but she desires the power it promises and believes that it will provide a success and direction that her family really needs right now.

She mixes the powder in a drink, swallows with a single gulp, and passes out.

Chapter 14 Summary

Dooku, Qui-Gon Jinn, and Yoda are in the Jedi temple discussing a new, dark feeling that Yoda has just recently detected.

He has not felt this darkness before, but has suspicions as to it's origin.

Dooku is intrigued and lectures that it appears similar to some descriptions he has read in the archives by Jedi encountering the Sith a millennium ago.

Qui-Gon suspects it is all part of a plot to convince him of the reality of the Sith and respectfully excuses himself from the discussion.

Chapter 15 Summary

Sheila is amazed at how quickly the powers appear as well as the new clarity realized when reading, "The Ways of the Sith".

She levitates and moves items, has much quicker reflexes, and her reasoning capabilities appear to be keener as well. She senses that she can anticipate what is about to happen with more clarity, which will be a clear advantage when battling the Tusken Raiders. She also appears to be gifted with the lightsaber. It handles much like a tool used to guide geeho herds.

That remembrance begins a sequence of thoughts that starts with pleasant visions of life with Wayoon, and concludes with the fateful night...

She decides to make a trip to the Tusken Raider caves to test these new capabilities.

Chapter 16 Summary

Dorcha makes the next drop-off without conflict, but still stands behind his vow to find a safer line of work. The confrontation with the Zabrak and upcoming marriage have changed his outlook on life. He now just wants a long one, spent with Sheila, and with less danger.

The last leg of his journey, before heading home, takes him to Naboo to finalize the honeymoon plans. He will be staying with his close family friends, the Palpatines, who are very involved in the government on Naboo. Their relatives occupy most all the important appointed positions and can make just about anything happen on the planet.

Chapter 17 Summary

Sheila is filled with rage as she enters the Tusken Raider lair, and shows no fear as a result of her newly acquired powers. The Sand people will continue to pay for Wayoon's death. She advances to the latest home of their treasure as the Sand people try to defend, but fail. No match for Sheila, they eventually retreat and hide while she acquires what treasures she wants, undisturbed and unhurried.

She believes that Wayoon would be proud of her success today, although violence was no passion of his. What she takes from the Sand people could never repay what they took from her, but it is the only effective outlet for her anger.

She believes that Dorcha will be impressed with her trophies when he returns.

She decides it is best not to tell him of these new powers.

Chapter 18 Summary

Dorcha is livid when Sheila tells of her visit to the Sand people caverns. He was already unhappy about the risks he encountered and goes ballistic after hearing of Sheila's return to the Tusken Raider hideout.

Eventually he cools down and, during dinner, he tells the family of the dangers on his trip, the horned warrior, the Palpatines, and the beauty of Naboo.

Wilme soaks it all in. He has always wanted to travel and learn of life beyond this desolate planet, and study the power of governments.

Dorcha is still shaken from his encounter with the Zabrak and vows to find a safer way to make money after they are married. His resolve is especially heightened following Sheila's portrayal of her visit to the Tusken Raider caves. She downplays why it was such a successful run.

Flango, Wilme, and Shmi leave following dinner to meet friends.

While Sheila clears the dinner table, Dorcha answers a knock at the door revealing the two locals, Trillo and Shamar, who threatened him when he left on his last mission.

Chapter 19 Summary

The two locals force the door open and proceed to toss Dorcha about the home. At first Sheila, not knowing exactly what was going on, tries to avoid getting involved. But as Dorcha is knocked unconscious against the kitchen table, she focuses her anger and visualizes the invaders being launched back through the door that they forced open. To her amazement, that is exactly what happens. She then tumbles them around outside and leaves them, unconscious, in the street.

She returns as Dorcha is emerging, groggily, from behind the kitchen table. She helps him address his wounds and puts him to bed to get some rest. She believes that it is best not to explain how she dealt with the visitors.

Chapter 20 Summary

It is finally wedding day and Sheila is tingling with excitement. Not so much due to the marriage, but in anticipation of where these new powers can take her. The abilities that she displayed in dealing with Dorcha's attackers were incredible, and mostly mental. The possibilities are limitless and she wants to find a way to use them for profit.

The most profitable business on Tatooine was debt collection for the Hutts. It took some time to work your way through the ranks, but a top collector could be set for life after just a few years of work. It was somewhat dangerous and demanding work, but that could easily be mitigated by her new powers.

The wedding is beautiful with only her children and his mother and sister in attendance.

Sheila suggests to Dorcha that they begin collecting debts for a Hutt, after a short honeymoon to Naboo. On a wedding day, how could he refuse anything of his bride? Dorcha agrees.

Chapter 21 Summary

Count Dooku and Jan Barain are visiting outside the archives regarding the impact of the Senate passing legislation cutting back spending related to Jedi activities. They discuss the details and political wrangling of what might be required to administer a Sith awareness campaign.

In the continuing efforts to convince Qui-Gon of the existence of the Sith, Dooku and Barain have Qui-Gon join them in the Jedi archives to view the battle on Tatooine with the last Sith in greater detail. They focus on what happens to the escape pods, as the expectation was that this final Sith would have been harboring some means of continuing the Sith lineage, and these were the most

likely sources of preservation of that means. Most are destroyed during battle, but one is ejected near impact. They adjust the video from the final Jedi pilot craft to track its path. The oblong pod lands on a downgrade, tumbles several times, and then breaks open to reveal a brushed metal case. The case continues to tumble and the visual is lost as the remaining pilot peels to the right to land his fighter on an abandoned street.

They fast-forward to the view from the pilot's helmet-camera as he inspects the site. They find very few shots of the area where they project the case would have come to rest. Finally, as the pilot comes around the back of the smoking aircraft, they get a straight-on shot of the case beneath a staircase. Barain increases the magnification.

Dooku had found descriptions of such a case from Jedi raids of Sith lairs in the years before their elimination, but very few ever had any items in them. Yet, because of the extensive locking and sealing mechanisms, it is believed that they were to be used for some type of data or device preservation. The common speculation was that they might be used to reinvent the Sith at some later time if all living Sith were eliminated.

The case was not listed on the inventory of items that the pilot collected from the site, so Dooku and Barain suggest that it had been saved and preserved and, because of Yoda's recent feeling of darkness in the Force, someone just figured out how to open and use it.

Qui-Gon is still skeptical as to the reality of the Sith, but all agree that this newest discovery of theirs is something important, but not solid enough yet to be shared with the Jedi Council.

Dooku and Barain will travel to Tatooine to investigate further under the guise that they believe it is wise to keep abreast of rumors in the outer rim planets.

Chapter 22 Summary

Sheila's application of the lightsaber to her collection runs has been quite convincing, and profitable. As business has picked up, she needs more help, and that help needs to possess powers and weapons like her. Although married, she is still not that close to Dorcha and has not told him the source of her powers. He believes them to be the legendary battle prowess from many years fighting the Tuscan Raiders.

Flango is good with electronics, so she approaches him about constructing another lightsaber. As he works on it, Sheila suggests that Flango begin helping with the debt collection. Included in their discussion is her explanation of her powers. The talk climaxes with her asking him to begin training in the ways of the Sith. He solemnly agrees and she has him ingest the second vial of red powder. He consumes it in solution, and passes out.

Chapter 23 Summary

Dorcha and Sheila quickly become a top collector for the Hutts. As the business grows, Flango plays a larger role. Sheila believes that Wilme's sharp business mind would be helpful as well, so she asks him to join them.

She has concerns about the emphasis in "The Ways of the Sith" that there may only be a Sith Lord and apprentice, no more, no less, but dismisses that worry by convincing herself that she is not in this to rule the universe, but simply to run a profitable business for herself and her family. Very profitable, actually.

After a long discussion to ensure that he understood all aspects of what she was asking him to do, Sheila has Wilme ingest the third vial of powder mixed in a drink. He eagerly gulps it down, and passes out.

Later that evening, Shmi's concern about the increasing violence administered by her family during collection runs drives her to muster the nerve to mention to Sheila that Wayoon would not have approved of such viciousness. Sheila is angered by the comments, but doesn't let Shmi see those feelings. She calms Shmi by appearing concerned about her.

The next day, she has Shmi surreptitiously abducted, taken to Dantooine, and sold into slavery.

Chapter 24 Summary

Sheila and Dorcha are now, by far, the top collectors for the Hutts and are enjoying the spoils of such a position. Their reputation often precedes them such that the debtors simply hand over the payment and Sheila does not need to use her powers. Then, during a simple afternoon run by the estate of a weekly collection, Dorcha is shot and killed by a sniper.

Sheila gets immediate revenge including the sniper and everyone in the estate. Devastated by the death of another husband, shattering another dream, she delves deeper into her study of the Sith Ways and training of the twins. She learns from her studies that the dark holocron contains the teachings and history of the Dark Lords of the Sith. Although the desire is there, she is unable to access the information on the dark holocron.

She is a shell at Dorcha's funeral, focusing only on immersing herself in her study. This focus consumes the family and every waking hour is spent learning and perfecting their knowledge and power of the Sith ways.

Chapter 25 Summary

Count Dooku and Jan Barain arrive unannounced and unnoticed on Tatooine and begin asking around for leads or legends regarding the long-past historic battle, or the case. They don't expect to find the artifact, but had hoped to find stories passed through generations about the history.

To their dismay, they found absolutely no trails either in the junk market, or in the folklore. The only promising morsel is a story of a woman with Jedi-like powers and a flaming red sword.

They head to the rougher parts of town to find those that might have encountered this woman.

Chapter 26 Summary

Her young men have grown strong in the Force and are now running the business under Sheila's teaching. They have developed an "impressive" reputation in the rebel community. Sheila is very withdrawn, only choosing to participate in the most dangerous collection runs.

Unlike their mother, their desire to be Sith Lords is obsessive. As such, they take on new Dark Lord names. Flango is Darth Plagueis, and Wilme is Darth Sidious.

Chapter 27 Summary

Flango has shown an extremely strong knowledge and control of the dark side. Unbeknownst to his mother, he has accessed the dark holocron and progressed to a high level of Sith capabilities.

He learns of a severe injury to Shmi and has her brought to Tatooine for healing. Through his healing, he also tests his powers by creating life within her without her knowledge. He wants to test his ability to harness the dark powers for the ultimate show of strength, the creation of life, but does not want to risk harming his reputation if unsuccessful.

Wilme is jealous of Flango's abilities and powerful position in the community, yet he knows that Plagueis is clearly the more powerful Sith.

Chapter 28 Summary

Count Dooku and Jan Barain visit one of the rougher taverns in town. A chair flies their direction as they enter. Dooku uses the Force to redirect the chair to hit the wall and crumble. He then tells Barain, "I have a bad feeling about this." Barain nods in agreement.

They recognize Sheila, from earlier descriptions, at a table in the tavern. They follow her as she leaves for a collection run. After observing her successful, and uneventful, collection, they confront her. After a short conversation, Sheila feels threatened and attacks. Dooku and Barain engage Sheila in a long nighttime battle, unseen, in an abandoned area in the slums of Tatooine. Jan Barain is killed midway through the battle. Sheila pins Dooku, but he escapes and eventually ends her life with a risky counter attack taught to him by his padawan, Qui-Gon Jinn.

During that battle, in another part of town and under the cover of night, Sidious kills Plagueis in his sleep and escapes to Naboo with “The Ways of the Sith”, the last vial, the lightsaber of Plagueis, and the dark holocron. There, he maintains the Sith secret while seeking asylum with the family friends of his father and Dorcha, the Palpatines. He urges them to allow him to start a new life with a clean slate in Naboo.

Chapter 29 Summary

Count Dooku spends time in Tatooine learning about the increasing dissatisfaction of the Trade Federation with government controls and rumors of corruption in the Senate.

Qui-Gon Jinn is selected as Master for a promising padawan, Obi-Wan Kenobi.

Chapter 30 Summary

Wilme Palpatine shows promise as an agent of government on Naboo, topped by a successful bid as a Senator to the Republic. This is the kind of power that his brother and mother never foresaw. But it was always his focus. Working for a Hutt was a poor use of the power of Sith Lords, who had once ruled the galaxy and, he believed, would again.

Sidious is covert with his Sith powers, using them only to manipulate thoughts to his benefit. Yet, he gains access to the dark holocron and his powers increase as he studies.

Sidious knows as a Sith Lord that he needs a dedicated apprentice, so he clandestinely obtains a young Zabrak from the warrior race that Dorcha described encountering on Iridonia and has him covered with a special Sith tattoo that he found described in “The Ways of the Sith”. He plans to enhance the Zabrak’s natural battle skills to become Wilme’s tool for attacking the Jedi. Sidious has him ingest the final vial of red powder and then drives him into exhaustive training using a mixture of mental challenges administered by Sidious, and battle trials using droids.

Chapter 31 Summary

Although memories of the pain fade soon afterward, the process of natural childbirth is excruciating, and Shmi was experiencing it full force, and not of her own choosing.

She has no explanation for this pregnancy as she had never been with a man. She was very reclusive and quiet, performed her evaporator maintenance duties with pride, and gave no man room or opportunity for advances against her.

True to her work ethic, she was working late last night when the first contractions hit. It was pain like she had never felt before. Even more searing than Tusken Raider blaster fire, or even the overheated alternator that fell on her 10 months ago during an evaporator upgrade.

She thought that she would never survive those deep multiple burns. She was so thankful that Flango was kind enough to use his healing powers on her injuries. That was ten months ago, and seemed like a lifetime. She began feeling ill in the mornings after that and then realized that a life form was growing inside of her.

After hours of exhausting contractions, the baby emerges and her hopes are realized. It is a healthy baby boy, human, that appears perfect in every way. She holds him and is amazed by this new life bestowed upon her. But for what purpose and by whom was he bestowed? Would he be taken from her before she sees him through his teenage years?

She names him Anakin, meaning ***chosen one***, because he was chosen to give happiness to the aging slave, sold by her family into a life of servitude and shame.

Whenever asked about the father, she says she doesn't know. All respond the same, they simply turn away.

Dooku delivers a report to the Jedi Council regarding what he encountered on Tatooine. He does not mention the Trade Federation unhappiness or potential Senate corruption, but states that without a doubt, he believes that he encountered a Sith.

Yoda has the final word of the Jedi Council following the report from Dooku.

“In pairs the Sith exist, a Lord and an apprentice. Of the Sith, this is not the end.”

“A myth, the Myth of the Sith, is not.”