

Everyone's a Critic

By Morrie Mullins

Reactions to [a recent story](#), attributed by some to Cularin Militia Commander Osten Dal'Nay, are mixed. Some view the story as a confirmation of Dal'Nay's duplicitous nature or his lack of honor, while others view it as evidence of his loyalty to Cularin. Conspiracy theories abound -- how much of the story may be based on actual events? Is it a plot to undermine the credibility of the man most directly responsible for the formation of Cularin's militia? Is it anything other than an elaborate hoax?



```
{{posttime 12:14:33}}
{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid wampa1}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node a11.r9l1}}
```

Hi everybody. I saw that militia-guy story. I bet u all else saw it 2, since it got posted 2 the big nodes and got lots of people reading it. I just wanted 2 c what everybody else thought because I thought it was pretty good. I never saw the ending coming! How come he had 2 kill the other guy, and how come the other guy tried 2 kill him, and what did the other guy mean when he was talking about not fixing a gun. If u r a soldier, don't u need ur gun 2 work?

I think I liked the story but I'm not sure I got it. Plus I figured we could talk about it because things have been kind of quiet around here lately.

So here's my thoughts: It's a good story. I like Nightwing (cool name!) because he's real serious like me. Nobody can mess with him. Not even commanders. (Especially stupid Tharian commanders!) But he doesn't know how to fix his gun and I think that's not so good if ur supposed 2 be in the navy. Even Thare's navy. Which isn't all that good, right?

ur friend
Wampa1

```
{{posttime 12:40:23}}
{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid tharestinx}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node 0.0.0}}
```

Utter brilliance. I love this story. It's got everything, but the most important thing it has? Nerf-herders from Thaere (hey, wampa? Learn how to spell; it's "Thaere" and "Thaereian") getting their just rewards. Art imitating life much? Just goes to show that there was always trouble in Thaere, because they didn't know how to take care of their own. No discipline. All big plans and schemes, but no execution. Officers going around and picking on enlisted men for no good reason. You know what I like best? The subtext. You have to really read between the lines to "get" the story, but what it's really about is the imperfect distribution of wealth and power in our society. Like the Senate. The Senate is keeping the rest of us down! How many people actually voted for that Wren woman? I don't know anybody who did, but there she is, sitting in her little floating platform, talking like she talks for all of us. She's not talking for me. Except that she is, because of where I live. But if she was really talking for me, she would have gotten rid of Thaere a long time ago. All I've got to say is -- I told you all so! I told you! I never fell for anything Thaere did, you lobotomized rancors! I always knew Thaere was trouble!

```
{{posttime 13:00:12}}
{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid alyssaroxu}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node 21s.ig8.8}}
```

Oh. My. It's the dirt magnet, the wampamatic. The wampus maximus. The Dark Lord of the Wamp. Wampa1 has come back to the holonet, to weigh in with an opinion completely unburdened by facts or higher-level cortical activity. Welcome back, Wampa1. Welcome back.

I saw the story, but didn't think much of it. I finished and I was like, meh. What's the point? Guy cleaning his gun gets jumped by his boss and has to kill the boss with the boss's own vibrodagger before dumping him out an airlock. If I had a cred for every time I saw THAT story on the holovids, I'd have more creds than Wampa1 has body lice. {{fileattach: bodylice.mov}}

I just don't see what there is to get excited about. Does it matter if soldier-boy wrote the story or not? It doesn't make it any better or any worse. It pretty much can't make it worse.

Just my thoughts

Alyssa
Future Apprentice to Baylan

{{posttime 13:20:57}}
{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid critsym}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node cre.8gd.rt}}

If I'm being honest, that was terrible. No, beyond terrible. I read it, but my reaction was, "So what?" There was no substance, no style, no sense of characterization. All we had was a word jumble, spliced together with the barest sense of narrative and a level of galaxy-induced angst that you might expect out of a twelve-year-old philosopher. Not a particularly mature twelve-year-old, either.

If the author actually was Commander Dal'Nay, I think we should all be happy that the Commander has a day job. No one should be happier than the Commander himself, on that count. If someone else were the author, I would certainly advise the Commander to take whoever attributed this pile of tripe to him to task for the slanderous allegation.

There is nothing in this story to like. I'm sorry, but the sooner it's out of the public eye, the better.

{{posttime 13:25:25}}
{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid wishtaun}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node 3a7.573.ak}}

wow that was harsh; i guess i've got a few questions, and the first one is -- what is 'tripe,' and how come it always comes in piles?

part of me says we shouldn't be worrying about who wrote this; the rest of me more or less agrees; what matters isn't who wrote it, it's what message is being conveyed, and despite what crit said, there's something important buried in this story

the questions -- why should we want this out of the public eye; people should read whatever they want, right; i don't know a lot about stories, but whatever makes this one so bad, this reader missed; the literary value of the story isn't important to me, just what it says about the guy who's supposed to be protecting cularin; traitor much?

wt
'if wishes were tauntauns, we'd all eat steak'

{{posttime 13:44:33}}
{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid wampa1}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node a11.r9l1}}

Alyssa ur mean. I was nice 2 u, even when u were mean 2 me b4. I bet u did like the story and ur just saying u didn't 2 mess with the wampanator (see? I remembered what you called me). It's a good story, and Nightwing is the coolest. Do u have anything to say about the story, or r u just going to make urself look dumb by insulting people who didn't do nothing to u? I DON'T HAVE BODY LICE. I use soap. I'd say something not-nice about u, but I'm 2 good for that.

ur friend
wampa1

{{posttime 13:51:29}}
{{postdate [yesterday]}}

{{userid critsym}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node n0.tln.thk}}

I honestly wonder why I bother. Why do I log into this node, when I know I'm going to be bombarded with these horrible, horrible posts? It's as though the entire world has decided that I should be made to suffer. I suppose it's my lot in life.

None of which changes the basic fact that this is a poorly-conceived, badly-executed, puddle of vomitous words that make no sense and tell no meaningful story.

The question you should be asking yourselves is, why would I bother reading something this dreadful? What possible reason could there be for something this inexcusably bad to exist, and to be widely published? If you ask me, there's a deeper motive to the publication of this story, since it certainly has no artistic merit to speak of.

{{posttime 14:14:14}}
{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid alyssaroxu}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node a11.r9l1}}

Wampa, seriously, go away. Learn to spell. Stop using numbers to represent words. That's so Last-Year-in-Corellia. All you've done is bring up a story that everyone had read anyway. Go back to scratching your lice before somebody dunks you in a vat of mynock juice.

Crit makes an interesting point, though. It's really not that good a story. Why is it getting so much play? It makes you think that somebody wants us reading it.

Where's tharestinks, anyway? I've gotta think he has an opinion on this. C'mon, conspiracy guy. Tell us what we're missing!

{{posttime 14:34:19}}

{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid wampa1}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node a11.r9l1}}

Hah! Caught u on my node again! U no what I did, alyssa? I put a virus on ur acct, what do u think of that? Pretty soon u won't even be able to post in ur 'I m such a lamer' node!

What conspiracy?

ur cranky friend
wampa1

{{posttime 15:02:11}}

{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid tharestinx}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node 0.0.0}}

Maybe it's just me, but I don't think this seems like the kind of thing Thaere would do. Why would they post a story about some guy named 'Nightwing' killing a Thaereian officer? There are some conspiracies that are too far out, even for me. I think it's a morality tale. You reap what you sow, and all that. Thaereian officer mistreats an enlisted man and gets killed for it. You read too much into it and you start making a mess out of a perfectly good story.

{{posttime 15:51:42}}
{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid ostenmustdie}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node r2n.00m.807}}

How can you all be so dense? This isn't a story. It's a confession! Go back and search the Thaereian archives. You can find this, pretty easy: {{fileattach: kulkisdeath.rpt}} Here's the executive summary: There really WAS a Commander Kulkis, and

somebody stabbed him, then dumped his body out an airlock. Nobody knew what happened to him until he floated in front of a YT-1300 and ended up splattered on the cockpit viewing portal. {{fileattach: kulkisextremecloseup.img}} Get this: His body was found two months after Osten Dal'Nay defected to Cularin. He went AWOL, abandoned the people to whom he'd sworn allegiance, killed a commanding officer and dumped him out an airlock, and then came to Cularin. Why? How come nobody ever asked why?

"Loyal to his home. Loves Cularin."

Am I supposed to believe that? He's got something going on. Mark my words.

```
{{posttime 16:20:23}}
{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid tharestinx}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node 0.0.0}}
```

Wow. I thought I was paranoid.

```
{{posttime 16:51:19}}
{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid ostenmustdie}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node r2n.00m.807}}
```

It's not paranoia, my friend. Everybody assumed Dal'Nay was one of those vaunted "heroes of Cularin." All he did was betray the people who trained him and then use their training against them. Just like he used Kulkis's knife against him. Now he's leaked this, so that everyone can tell him he's a hero, even though he knows he isn't. We might as well just face facts -- the man in charge of protecting the system is a murderer. Of course, given how long Cularin put up with Nirama, I shouldn't be surprised.

We should ask ourselves whether we really need this man, or what he represents.

```
{{posttime 17:02:20}}
{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid wishtaun}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node 8as.42.ii1}}
```

wow that was deep; see, that's what i was talking about; if it really was cmdr dalnay that wrote this, cularin's got a problem, and if it wasn't, somebody wants us to think we do; it'd be better for everybody if he just stepped down

wt
'if wishes were tauntauns, we'd all eat steak'

```
{{posttime 17:53:19}}
{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid alyssaroxu}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node 992.jur.e13}}
```

That's a disturbing idea. Mainly because it's so obviously WRONG. I hate talking politics more than anyone, but this is so dumb, it just begs to be smacked around. It's like calling a Hutt "fatty." You gotta know you're going to end up floating with the other amphibians waiting for a trip down slug-gullet. So let me say this, and I think I speak for a lot of Cularin citizens: Commander Dal'Nay has done right by us. He's protected our homes. He's protected MY home. I don't care what he did before he came here. I don't know who or what he killed, but you know what? He was military. His job description involved KILLING PEOPLE. I don't care if he killed some Thaeireian commander, given everything Thaeire did to us. I don't care if he just wrote a story because he wished he HAD killed this Kulkis guy. It doesn't matter. The past is the past. Leave it alone. There's nothing about those last two postings that isn't uberlame.

Now, if you'll pardon me, I've got a couple of nodes to frag, to keep halfwits from belittling a real hero.

Alyssa

Future Apprentice to Baylan

{{posttime 18:00:00}}
{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid culmil1}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node tr8.683.mil}}

This is a courtesy message to inform you that the postings to this topic are being monitored by G. Bresch, Lieutenant, Cularin Militia. The Militia appreciates your continued vigilance.

{{posttime 18:41:19}}
{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid wampa1}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node a11.r9l1}}

Kew! So, do u know Osten? Tell him Nightwing is the coolest!

Hold on. Somebody at my door!!!

All right. I'll be going now. I hope all of you are doing well. Best wishes for the evening.

Your friend,
Wampa1

{{posttime 18:48:59}}
{{postdate [yesterday]}}
{{userid alyssaroxu}}
{{postloc Cularin holonet node 492.as6.5}}

Um... dirt magnet?

I am SO out of here!

Alyssa
Going into hiding with Baylan