

Star Wars  
Descent of Hope

Written by

Dean Sage

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1 EXT. CORUSCANT - NIGHT

1

A small silver Nubian ship, STILL WATER, glints with light from the quickly disappearing star, as the night-side of the planet comes into focus. A rolling hive of shimmering lights in wild geometric patterns that are at once organic and engineered. The product of cities built atop cities built atop cities ad infinitum until the sprawl encompassed the planet.

CORUSCANT AIR CONTROLLER (O.S.)  
Still Water, Space Control,  
proceed...

2 INT. STILL WATER, COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

2

PADME AMIDALA (22), a short, olive-skinned woman with the bearing of authority, stands behind her two pilots, dressed in a slim fitting jumpsuit that while utilitarian is also regal.

In heavy contrast to her simple attire, both the pilots are decked out in fanciful, almost costume like uniforms that seem less functional and more of a statement of strong adherence to tradition, whether invented or real.

CORUSCANT AIR CONTROLLER (O.S.)  
...to Senate landing pattern, signal  
bravo-one-one-eight, welcome back.

PILOT  
(keying the comm)  
Understood Space Control. Be advised,  
condition orange, escort requested.

Padme squeezes the back of the pilot's chair, scanning the now fully dark night that surrounds the cockpit, the geometry, so apparent from a distance, quickly becoming a mess of quickly moving dark shapes punctuated by flickers of jostled light, the ever busy air-lanes of the planet that never sleeps.

PILOT (cont'd)  
(to Padme)  
They're taking too long to respond.

PADME  
(jaw tight)  
Patience.

The pilot glides the ship down through a dark bank of clouds that momentarily blocks the city from view.

The cockpit window is suddenly filled with the image of a missile about to impact.

An ALARM finally sounds from the comm board.

PILOT  
Cloaked ship!

He slams the controls to the side, but the missile is far too close to be avoided.

It erupts into flames just as a bolt of energy connects with it from the side, a small fighter roaring past them, almost clipping their nose.

3 EXT. CORUSCANT, SENATE AIRSPACE - CONTINUOUS 3

The small fighter whips around and flips almost impossibly in the air before coming up along side the much larger yacht.

ANAKIN (O.S.)  
Ground Control, Ground Control, Guard  
one-one-five-eight, shots fired,  
repeat, shots fired.

4 INT. SMALL FIGHTER - CONTINUOUS 4

ANAKIN SKYWALKER (16), a dark skinned young man with very sharp, though beautiful features, wears a much more tactical uniform than the other pilots, though not without a few adornments, but all in shades of deep blue. His eyes are alive as his hands work the controls of his ship.

ANAKIN  
Unknown attacker, no scanner  
signature. Recommend full tactical  
response.

The airwaves crackle with static as Anakin scans the dark skies, weaving around and behind the larger yacht with such ease it was as though he knew each move the other pilot was about to make before he makes it.

5 INT. STILL WATER, COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS 5

The co-pilot is working a scope, trying to find more threats.

Through the view port the large senate building, a singular spherical dome surrounded by five smaller domes of similar shape begins to grow massive in the cockpit view port.

Padme has sat down and is holding onto the harness she's hooked herself into.

PILOT  
Ground Control, Still Water, come in.  
We're under attack, please respond!

The pilot shakes his head, and turns back to Padme.

PILOT (cont'd)  
There's something wrong. Either we land quickly, or head back out where we can see things clearer. This close to the surface there's no way to get a lock on anything.

Padme nods her head once, but does not answer.

ANAKIN (O.S.)  
Still Water, come in.

6 INT. SMALL FIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

6

Anakin weaves again, this time settling almost on top of the larger yacht.

PILOT  
Still Water here, go ahead.

ANAKIN  
Something's wrong with the communications, recommend you punch it, I'll stay with you all the way, over.

7 INT. STILL WATER, COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

7

Padme hears this, the eyes of the pilot expectantly on her.

She pauses just one moment and then nods decisively.

The pilot guns the engines and the yacht surges forward.

## 8 EXT. CORUSCANT, SENATE AIRSPACE - CONTINUOUS

8

The yacht leaps forward, the small fighter acting as though it were tractorred onto its hull.

For a brief moment the safety of the Senate complex seems to be within reach.

A storm of droid fighters surge out of the traffic lanes and rise up, firing lasers at the yacht.

The small fighter rolls under the yacht, using its shields to absorb some of the damage and then seems to stall mid-air, only to miraculously flip its nose ninety degrees down and let off a volley from its single gun.

Three of the five approaching droid ships are reduced to flaring debris, but two more persist onward. Flying right past the falling fighter...

...bearing directly down on the yacht, which is still too far away from the ever increasing senate domes to be safe.

## 9 INT. SMALL FIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

9

Anakin swears under his breath, the lights and dark buildings flipping around as his face goes ashen, eyes dulling slightly from the incredible G-forces he's exerting on himself.

But again, as though a miracle, the yacht and its remaining pursuers are back in view and he punches his acceleration, desperate to catch up.

## 10 EXT. CORUSCANT, SENATE AIRSPACE - CONTINUOUS

10

The small fighter streaks up behind one of the tails and starts to fire, but the distance is too far, the small gun too weak, only winging the droid figher.

The droid ships fire several missiles in unison, all aimed directly for the helpless yacht.

Suddenly, much faster, far more powerful fighters whiz into formation around the yacht, their forward guns blasting the missiles away just as another squadron screams over the top of the yacht, blasting the remaining droid ships before settling into tight formation around Anakin's fighter.

11 INT. SMALL FIGHTER - CONTINUOUS 11

Anakin looks disgusted and slams his right fist into the side of his cockpit, leaving a small dent.

ANAKIN  
(with venom)  
Jedi.

12 EXT. CORUSCANT, SENATE AIRSPACE - CONTINUOUS 12

The new escorts lead the yacht and Anakin's fighter toward the Senate compound.

OBI-WAN (O.S.)  
Our apologies, Senator Amidala, we  
launched as soon as we heard your  
distress call.

13 INT. JEDI FIGHTER - CONTINUOUS 13

OBI-WAN KENOBI (28) is both handsome and obviously aware of that fact, with neatly trimmed hair, and a smirk on his face to match.

OBI-WAN  
We'll escort you to your docking bay,  
but I'm afraid the council will want  
to have a word with you once we've  
landed.

14 INT. SMALL FIGHTER - CONTINUOUS 14

Anakin smirks at the suggestion.

ANAKIN  
Guard One-One-Five-Eight to Jedi  
leader, permission to disengage, *Sir*.

He rolls his eyes and watches as the Jedi fighters swirl around his cockpit in an overly complicated moving formation just to show they can.

OBI-WAN (O.S.)  
Negative, Guard One-One..., yes,  
well, we'll need to speak with you  
too.

ANAKIN  
 (to himself)  
 Great.

15 EXT. CORUSCANT, SENATE AIRSPACE - MOMENTS LATER 15

The Yacht settles to a landing inside a large docking chamber of a gleaming silver dome, the Jedi escorts breaking off with another overly-gregarious maneuver, only the small fighter and the lead Jedi Fighter hovering above the Still Water before settling to the pad on either side.

16 INT. SENATE DOCKING BAY - CONTINUOUS 16

The ramp to the Still Water opens and Padme strolls down it, now wearing an ornate robe and head-dress, obviously befitting her station, but her jumpsuit peaks through as she strides far too quickly to be regal.

Obi-Wan struts much slower up to the bottom of the ramp, Anakin hanging back but moving in that general direction as well.

Padme doesn't stop at the bottom of the ramp. She strides directly up to Obi-Wan who is nearly a foot taller than her, and yet still manages to get in his face.

PADME  
 I would be dead right now if it were not for the actions of the Republic Guard. I was assured the Chancellor would take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of my crew if I returned.

Obi-Wan is taken aback by this treatment, almost staring at Padme as though she were some curiosity instead of a Republic Senator, and essentially his superior.

Anakin is trying hard not to laugh at the sight.

Obi-Wan looks up, catching him smirking.

OBI-WAN  
 Yes, well. The Jedi were only just...  
 I mean, yes the safety of a Senator is...Now look.  
 (beat)  
 This boy was not acting on any orders.

(MORE)

OBI-WAN (cont'd)  
(to Anakin)  
Were you?

Anakin straightens up with true military decorum and strides right up to Obi-Wan, who opens his mouth as though to speak, but Anakin pivots instead and bows sharply to Padme, ignoring the Jedi entirely.

ANAKIN  
Senator Amidala, I am Anakin Skywalker, sworn Guardsman of the Republic, assigned to your personal security for the remainder of your stay on Coruscant. And for any official visits as determined by you or your office.

Anakin stands up, himself taller by almost a head than Obi-Wan, totally dwarfing Padme. He snaps to attention, an unmovable board.

Obi-Wan sizes him up with a modicum of interest.

Padme nods a small acknowledgment and then returns to Obi-Wan.

PADME  
As far as I'm concerned, this boy saved my life and the lives of my crew, and it seems he was very much was acting under orders of the Republic Guard.  
(beat)  
How in the world did a droid attack wing infiltrate Coruscant and stage an ambush of a landing that no one was to know about?

Obi-Wan opens his mouth again, but then shuts it before nodding.

OBI-WAN  
My sincerest apologies, Senator. It would seem we have failed you.

PADME  
Yes. Yes you have.  
(beat)  
I certainly hope for the last time.

Obi-Wan nods solemnly.



OBI-WAN

Now, I am sure the Council is very eager to get to the bottom of this. If you will follow me, we'll use secu--

PADME

I will be going nowhere tonight but my suite.

(beat)

If the council wishes to address me this evening, they may do so there.

She turns and begins walking away, a golden protocol droid, absent until just then, toddering after her.

PADME (cont'd)

Come along, Guardsman.

Anakin gives Obi-Wan a wink and rushes to catch up to the Senator.

Obi-Wan lets his smirk return as he watches the trio head for the lifts and disappear.

The docking bay is mostly empty, save for several teams of Jedi who now emerge from the shadows, their distinctive cloaked forms, hoods drawn up, leaving their face in shadows.

Obi-Wan almost laughs and pulls a communicator from his belt.

A smaller Jedi shape hurries up to him as he speaks softly into it.

17 INT. NABOO SUITE, SENATE COMPLEX - NIGHT

17

Padme is now wearing a very regal dress, her head-dress different as well. She sits as befits a queen, though in a chair, not a throne.

Anakin walks the perimeter of the room, testing the windows with his gloved hands, his dark, tightly curled hair showing now, trimmed close but still resting about a half-inch off his head.

PADME

(not looking at him)

Have you found explosives yet?

ANAKIN  
I'm not looking for explosives.

Padme turns over her shoulder in judgment.

PADME  
And why not?

OBI-WAN (O.S.)  
Because...

Obi-Wan bows as he enters the small receiving room, a young Jedi standing in the ante-chamber, the same one that had come up to him in the docking bay.

OBI-WAN  
...he isn't here to sniff out explosives. The droids do that.

PADME  
(to Anakin)  
And why are you here then?

ANAKIN  
To keep you alive, Senator.  
(closing the shutters)  
We'll need to move your quarters immediately. Place a decoy here tonight.

He bows and strides off without waiting to be dismissed and begins speaking into his communicator in hushed tones, but he does not exit the room, merely hovering in a corner out of the way.

OBI-WAN  
They have their uses.

PADME  
(hint of interest)  
So I've seen.  
(off Obi-Wan's look)  
You don't like him?

OBI-WAN  
It's not personal. I sense great potential in the boy. But they are trained to kill and think like killers.  
(beat)  
Quite uncivilized.

Anakin returns to the central area.

ANAKIN

Once you've finished with the council, we'll leave via the service tunnels.

(looking her over)

Do you have something less conspicuous?

PADME

(scoffing)

Yes, Guardsman, I do.

ANAKIN

(bruised)

Would you like me to wait outside?

OBI-WAN

No.

Padme whips her head around at the impertinence.

OBI-WAN (cont'd)

I mean, with the Senator's permission, the Council *requests* that he stay.

Padme waits a long moment, and then nods, beckoning with her finger.

The protocol droid moves forward, carrying only one drink which she takes and sips.

The door chimes and the young Jedi in the ante-chamber tenses for one moment before relaxing.

Obi-Wan stands as three Jedi Masters enter the room together. The tallest is barley humanoid, something like scales covering the parts of his body his almost laughable imitation of clothing doesn't.

Beside him is a human, dark skinned, assured, regal, MACE WINDU, who in contrast to Anakin has shaved his head.

Clicking in last, a hand-carved wooden cane in his hand, his small green head and wispy white hair the only thing visible above the sofa until he rounds it, is MASTER YODA.

Obi-Wan and the other two bow instinctively as Yoda enters, a subtle motion, something they must all have done many, many times before.

Padme ignores them all, nodding only to Yoda as he stands at the feet of the other two.

PADME  
Master Yoda, thank you for coming.

YODA  
Your invitation, most insistent it  
was? Hmm?

He chuckles humorously.

PADME  
You seek my council, Master?

YODA  
This young Guard, of your arrival,  
told him you did?

Padme's eyes narrow.

Yoda nods slowly, strokes his chin as he stares at Padme.

Padme endures the pretense, fully aware he is searching her  
with his powers as he does.

PADME  
I told no one. Not even my pilots  
were aware until we set the final  
hyperspace coordinates.  
(beat)  
And I trust them with my life.  
(turning to Anakin)  
Though I am curious how he knew of my  
arrival.

ANAKIN  
(defensive)  
I was on patrol when you signaled  
ground control. I was nearby already,  
which is lucky for you.

Padme barely purses her lips at the insubordination.

Yoda moves forward, the other two Masters holding their  
position. But he does not head for Padme. Instead, he moves  
to Anakin. Soon getting so close that the height difference  
is almost comical.

He looks up so much that he seems as though he might fall  
over.

Anakin grunts and then lowers himself to one knee, still a  
head taller than the miniature green Jedi.

Anakin look intently into Yoda's eyes.

ANAKIN (cont'd)  
Go ahead, little wizard. Make  
yourself feel better. Won't change  
the fact I'm innocent and you  
failed...again.

Yoda is not disturbed by the impertinence, but the other  
Jedi, especially Obi-Wan flare with constrained emotion.

ANAKIN (cont'd)  
See anything interesting in there?

YODA  
Know you, I do.

Yoda turns away from Anakin dismissively, heading toward  
Padme's chair.

She watches him, taking it all in, but remains silent.

YODA (cont'd)  
The prisoner, bring in.

A shuffle of movement as a woman in a guard's uniform is  
dragged in by two human female Jedi.

Padme stands at this intrusion.

PADME  
What is the meaning of this?

The woman is visibly frightened, her uniform bearing the  
marks of struggle and the singe of lightsabers.

PADME (cont'd)  
Master Yoda?

Yoda watches her carefully, and then nods with satisfaction.

PADME (cont'd)  
No connection, you have. Of this,  
certain I am.  
(beat)  
To the temple, take her.

Anakin steps forward, pushing past Yoda and coming up to the  
Jedi holding the woman. They draw their lightsabers but do  
not light them.

ANAKIN

(strained)

This is a sworn Guardsman of the Republic. The Jedi have no jurisdiction over her.

PADME

He is correct.

She too strides forward, and the Jedi relent. Mace Windu intercedes now, a fake smile plastered on his face.

MACE WINDU

Senator. She leaked your coordinates to the terrorists who attacked you. The law is clear. We will interrogate her to discover what she knows. Justice will be served, fairly, and quickly.

ANAKIN

(spitting)

The Jedi don't know justice.

(beat)

And you have no jurisdiction in this planet's sovereign affairs save for your temple.

Anakin moves forward and takes the woman who seems almost relieved to be free of the Jedi, but finds only a firm grip in Anakin's hand.

She lowers her head, grabbing his boot and and trying to hide behind his leg.

ANAKIN (cont'd)

She will be interrogated by the Guard. And *if* there are charges, they will be brought in the courts.

MACE WINDU

The courts are corrupt. She will be dead by sun-up.

PADME

And how is her fate any better in your hands?

MACE WINDU

We may discover more of this plot to assassinate you, Senator.

ANAKIN

You will not take her from this suite.

He slowly reaches for his communicator, the female Jedi's thumb their lightsabers to life, the snap-hiss causing Anakin to flinch, but he does not back down.

YODA

Away with those!

Yoda inserts himself between Anakin and the others, the female Jedi deactivating their lightsabers and clipping them back to their belts.

YODA (cont'd)

To the temple, return.

The Jedi obey at once, retreating from the room, but eyeing Anakin as they do.

Obi-Wan slides in.

OBI-WAN

Master Yoda, perhaps the boy will permit me to accompany the prisoner.  
(nodding to Anakin's communicator)

Once his reinforcements arrive, of course.

(beat)

I'm sure we all desire to know more of this plot.

Padme inserts herself now, taking full charge.

PADME

You should never have brought her here. You should not have exceeded your authority, even in the name of my safety.

(to Anakin)

A lesson you need to heed.

Anakin is almost hurt by the suggestion, but stills any retort with a tight jaw.

PADME (cont'd)

Master Kenobi will accompany this prisoner to a cell at the Guard Tower, and you, boy, will fulfill your duty to me and my safety.

(MORE)

PADME (cont'd)

(beat)

Is that clear?

Anakin holds a moment, eyes traveling between the Jedi and the prisoner before finally releasing her arm and stepping back.

The attack is so fast.

A knife appears in the prisoner's hand, taken from Anakin's boot.

The prisoner lunges at Padme.

Yoda's hand extends as does the green blade of his lightsaber, slicing the prisoner's head off, the blade still clutched in her dead hand falling short of Padme by mere inches.

The face of the headless young woman suddenly contorts and slithers into something vaguely reptilian.

Obi-Wan kneels down and examines the head with interest.

OBI-WAN

A shape-shifter.

(beat)

Curious.

Padme recoils slightly at the now dead body in her chamber.

PADME

And now I think it's time for me to leave.

Yoda moves out of her way as she heads into a small bedroom. The third council member seems to float toward her, its several appendages moving like an insects would, positioning itself near the door, part of its head watching Padme as she retrieves her jumpsuit and shuts the door.

Obi-Wan glances up at Mace Windu.

OBI-WAN

A bounty hunter, I wager.

(to Anakin)

Which would make it part of the Jedi mandate, I believe.

Anakin can't help his glare.

Yoda seems to notice it though his back is turned.



He pivots around, carefully considering Anakin again.

ANAKIN

What?

YODA

You have much fear in you.

ANAKIN

Ha!

The assertion is ridiculous to Anakin, so much that he can't hold his composure.

YODA

Your arm, show me.

Anakin sobers at once, clenching his right fist and holding his right arm with his left hand.

Yoda nods like that is all the answer he needed.

YODA (cont'd)

Beware fear, to hatred it leads.

ANAKIN

(icily)

I fear nothing.

The other Jedi respond as though the room has dropped by orders of degrees, Mace even flinches his hand toward his belt.

Obi-Wan stands up.

OBI-WAN

Masters.

(beat)

Perhaps I should accompany the Senator as well.

(beat)

None of us could detect this assassin's intentions. If Master Yoda had been any further away...

Padme emerges holding a case in her hand, until the protocol droid moves beside her to take it. She is now wearing a non-descript jumpsuit and no head-dress.

She lets go of her case without acknowledging the droid.

PADME

I'll not have more of these cock-fights. I have important work to do. If you two need to work something out, the bedroom's through there.

The insinuation has the intended effect. Anakin looks away, as does Obi-Wan.

YODA

To no one, reveal yourself. Accompany you, Kenobi will. To the Guard, he will defer. Discover this plot, we will.

PADME

I certainly hope so. The galaxy is coming apart at the seams. I will not let a small group of terrorists push us into chaos, or worse.

(beat)

It is a disturbing state of affairs when even a Jedi Master and Council member can do no less than kill a prisoner.

(beat)

Or do you now fear a common bounty hunter as much as these shadows in the night, these *Sith*?

She walks away from Yoda before he can respond.

Anakin needs no encouragement this time, trailing quickly after her.

Obi-Wan nods to his masters and then leaves as well.

When all three have gone, and the young Jedi in the ante-chamber as well, the three masters congregate together in the empty room.

The inhuman Master makes a series of clicks and guttural noises.

MACE WINDU

The reek of the Outer Rim is an understatement. That boy is dangerous.

YODA

Correct, the Senator was.

(beat)

Blinded us, fear has.

MACE WINDU

The Sith are moving. I think a little  
fear is healthy.

YODA

Perhaps.

He waves his hand and the room goes dark while  
simultaneously the shades re-open, the night sky filled with  
the glow of traffic and building lights.

YODA (cont'd)

Perhaps.

18 EXT. CORUSCANT, OVERLOOKING SENATE COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS 18

The viewfinder of macro-binoculars glows green, Yoda and the  
other masters shuffle out of the room, leaving only  
darkness.

JANGO FETT, a bounty hunter dressed in full gleaming armor,  
gets up from his perch, taking the rifle beside him and  
quickly disassembling it into a nearby case.

He leaves quickly, the traffic buzzing behind him, a strong  
breeze shaking a sign hanging for thirty stories below his  
perch.

19 INT. THRONE ROOM, SERENNO - DAY 19

COUNTESS DOOKU (50s) strides easily down the length of the  
room, a throne of sorts at the far end, a row of high,  
almost cathedral like windows admitting light while still  
keeping the room moody, ominous.

She wears a tunic and pants, a frill of fabric from her  
waist, as though an afterthought, gives some small  
indication of a dress.

The gritty form of a menacing Felucian stalks beside her,  
the 'hair' on her guest's head seeming to move as though  
alive.

DOOKU

I assure you, the Senate will see the  
logic of our demands.

The Felucian grunts a reply and Dooku nods through a  
strained smile.

DOOKU (cont'd)

Well I trust them less than you.  
After all I was their sworn protector  
and the arm of their laws for most of  
my life.

(beat)

But the Jedi are not an army, and  
their numbers too few to do more than  
keep the peace.

(beat)

They will no longer interfere in your  
affairs. Of that I am most certain.

The Felucian pauses, considering Dooku for a long moment,  
and then grunts more sentiments, the tone unmistakably  
doubtful with an edge of hostility.

DOOKU (cont'd)

I see no reason why you should not be  
prepared to defend yourself.

(beat)

And I am happy to arrange any number  
of droid units be stationed in your  
orbit.

The Felucian nods once and grunts to confirm it before  
lowering itself to four legs and bounding away from Dooku  
and out of the hall entirely, seemingly all too happy to  
leave the confines of the cathedral like room.

In the shadows, the beautiful figure of ASAJJ VENTRESS  
stirs.

VENTRESS

(cooing)

Should we have the carpets cleaned.

DOOKU

They have their uses.

(sniffing)

Though now you mention it, I think it  
left its stink.

Ventress unwinds herself from the shadows and sidles up to  
Dooku as she moves toward a hidden door and out onto a  
balcony.

A lush canopy of trees comes near the cliff atop which the  
palace sits.

In the distance a small city seems alive with traffic in the air.

But nearer to the palace grounds are estates and only a few dotted structures.

Dooku leans against the railing, Ventress finding a sensuous spot beside her.

VENTRESS

Will they still have uses once you rule the galaxy?

DOOKU

Droids can only do so much.

(beat)

As we have most unfortunately learned.

VENTRESS

The assassin did as she was bid.

DOOKU

(knowingly)

Bid?

Dooku pivots and accepts Ventress into her arms, biting at various parts of the Nightsister's face, admiring her glowing eyes in particular.

DOOKU (cont'd)

For a witch, you are so very coy about your powers.

VENTRESS

Psssh!

(waving the word off)

My *sisters* are relics of a long-forgotten time. They cling to spells and prophecy in ignorance.

(smiling)

But they have their uses.

DOOKU

As do you.

They kiss deeply, a crackle of energy between them.

A droid, MIL-SPEC-5Z1 (MS-5Z1), interrupts them, squat, almost silly shaped, like a fat man with a military hat.

MS-5Z1

Pardon, Mistress. You have an urgent communication.

Dooku doesn't look at the droid, staring instead into Ventress's eyes.

DOOKU

You have a Senator to kill.

VENTRESS

If that is your command, *Master*.

Dooku glows at the playful suggestion.

DOOKU

Go. Return quickly. I have...needs... you can assist me with.

VENTRESS

I know.

Ventress climbs onto the railing, ensuring that Dooku can linger on her contours as she does.

Then with little flair she falls backward, off the balcony and down the cliff, gone.

Dooku turns finally to the droid and it proceeds her back into the throne room.

21 INT. DOOKU'S STUDY - MOMENTS LATER

21

Dooku kneels on a round device that lights up as soon as she does so.

A hologram of a cloaked head floats into view.

N.B., DARTH SIDIOUS doesn't show his face, and what little is seen is a beautifully ornate mask that affects his voice with a small amount of distortion.

DOOKU

You summoned me, my Master?

SIDIOUS

The attack failed, as I foresaw. She is protected now by a Jedi.

DOOKU

My agent is already on her way.

SIDIOUS

Pray the little witch is up to the task.

(beat)

Take care, Lord Tyrannus, your feelings betray you.

DOOKU

(grimacing)

What do you mean, my Master?

SIDIOUS

The triumph of the Sith is about to dawn. I would be most displeased if you allowed your petty desires to distract you from the task at hand.

DOOKU

I am focused, my Master.

SIDIOUS

Everyone is replaceable, even you.

The transmission cuts out, and Dooku rises slowly, feeling a little pain in her knee as she does.

MS-5Z1 enters again and she nods while taking a seat at her desk.

Another hologram emerges, this one small as she looms over it. The angular face and large eyes of Taun We.

DOOKU

(smiling)

Taun We, always a pleasure.

TAUN WE

The units are coming along nicely, they should be battle ready in a matter of days.

DOOKU

Excellent, and the new ship designs?

TAUN WE

A fleet of prototypes await inspection.

DOOKU

My master will be quite pleased.

22 INT. SAFE HOUSE, BUNK ROOM - DAY

22

Anakin is fully asleep, wearing nothing but a blanket, nestled in his bunk.

Most of his right arm is mechanical, a bionic appliance that meets living skin midway along his upper arm, but the scarring is very old, almost completely invisible save for a few newer marks right near the metal.

He is in nearly perfect shape, cut and perfectly defined. His breathing is steady, his chest moving up and down almost in cadence.

Obi-Wan considers him from the doorway, again something appreciative in his eyes.

Anakin's brow furrows and his eyes shoot open, finding Obi-Wan.

OBI-WAN  
She'll wake soon.

Anakin bites his tongue, choosing instead to nod.

OBI-WAN (cont'd)  
Nothing to report. I meditated all night and didn't feel anyone closer than the next building.

Anakin slides the blanket off and stands naked, quickly grabbing for a pair of loose pants nearby, his kit neatly laid out on a foot locker.

Obi-Wan takes him all in as Anakin turns his back to pull the pants on.

Obi-Wan settles onto a bunk opposite Anakin's, the room designed to hold four, but merely reclines, boot up on the mattress, messing the carefully tucked sheet.

Anakin turns around, finds the Jedi still staring, and quickly sets himself to his own tasks.

With military precision he makes his bed, and places everything back exactly where it should be.

Next he drops to the floor and begins a rote routine of calisthenics.

Sweat quickly builds up on his skin, especially across his face.



Obi-Wan's eyes never leave him.

Anakin is busily doing rapid-fire sit-ups when Padme stumbles in, robe drawn around her, hair still damp.

She pauses with her mouth slightly open as Anakin freezes, upper body covered in sweat and flexed to nearly rock-hard status.

OBI-WAN (cont'd)  
Quite the disciplined young man, I'll  
give him that.

Padme nods, collecting herself quickly.

Anakin sits up, hugging his knees, suddenly aware of his skin.

PADME  
I'll be ready to leave for the Senate  
shortly.  
(beat)  
You'll need to clean up.

Anakin nods once.

OBI-WAN  
I'm fine.  
(beat)  
It's a very bad sign if I break a  
sweat.

Padme and Anakin both give him side-eye at the same time.

PADME  
Do we have transport arranged?

ANAKIN  
Yes, Senator. I have a secure droid-  
pilot on call at all times. And there  
are random patrols I can summon in  
case that's compromised. We can  
evacuate in less than two minutes the  
moment you give the word, or we  
encounter any danger.

Padme smiles at the gung-ho response.

PADME  
A half-hour will be fine, and no need  
for the cavalry.

She swirls in her robe and leaves.

Anakin turns to Obi-Wan.

ANAKIN  
What's a cavalry?

Obi-Wan chuckles and lays back on the bunk, instantly falling into a deep sleep.

Anakin considers him for a moment, then quickly strips off his sweat-soaked pants and wraps a towel around himself.

23 INT. SAFE HOUSE, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

23

Padme sips a drink and watches as Anakin slinks quickly out of the room and into the small refresher room, catching a glimpse of his naked butt as he drops the towel before closing the door.

She nods once and then nibbles more of a distasteful ration bar. She swallows while making a face.

Placing the cup in the cleaning unit she stalks off toward the only bedroom in the tiny apartment and shuts the door.

24 INT. CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE, SENATE COMPLEX - DAY

24

Chancellor Palpatine stands with his back to the room, looking out his large window at the rest of the complex, two other smaller silver domes visible on either side of the massive central sphere.

The air is less congested here, and only in the distance does the lines of air traffic seem to appear.

The grounds themselves are far, far below the window, sprawling and pristine gardens littered with walkways and subtle structures.

SENATOR ORGANA (40S) a handsome man with energy and vigor implores the small council of senators, including Padme, who sits beside him.

ORGANA  
The Hutts have almost completely cut off our most essential supply routes. And now Dooku and her allies propose even more power be given to local systems to make treaties with the guilds.

(MORE)

ORGANA (cont'd)

They will use this to cut off any competition and ensure the galaxy is there's in practice, if not in name.  
(beat)

They must know we cannot accept such a proposal.

PALPATINE

Indeed they do.

He finally turns around, meeting eyes with the room.

PALPATINE (cont'd)

Senators. Loyal friends. I fear the Guilds are conspiring to cause conflict. And they are using an idealist like Dooku to achieve it.

ORGANA

Chancellor...surely you do not believe that Dooku is innocent in all this?

PALPATINE

Innocent?

(beat)

Are you suggesting to question the will of the senate is criminal?

(beat)

Please tell me we have not forgotten that it is the people of the galaxy we represent.

ORGANA

Forgive me.

PALPATINE

Of course.

(smiles)

You have been quiet, Senator Amidala. Surely we, as Naboo, know the dangers of Guild aggression.

(beat)

Have you nothing to say?

PADME

Not here.

(beat)

This is the very problem that has led us here in the first place.

(MORE)

PADME (cont'd)

We have stopped talking to each other, and instead cloister ourselves in back rooms and try to make deals and grease pockets.

(beat)

The people are scared and the only voices heard are those with credits and influence. Dooku may be rich, but she is using her influence to give voice to those who remain unheard and ignored.

(beat)

The time for back rooms is done. We must speak to them. We must go to Dooku with an offer she can't refuse, and we must bring this Republic together.

PALPATINE

What are you suggesting, Senator?

PADME

The time has come to revoke the Guild's franchise. They should never have been given a seat in government. Let them speak through their Senators, just as all citizens must.

The room begins to murmur at such a radical suggestion.

ORGANA

They would block us. They would tie us up with procedure, and...

He falls silent, unable to look at Padme.

PADME

Finally kill me, making it impossible to garner enough votes to bring such a resolution forward.

(to Palpatine)

Which is why you must act.

PALPATINE

Me?

(beat)

What can I do?

PADME

As Chancellor, you may call for re-election. Issue a temporary order suspending their franchise.

PALPATINE

A bold plan. But the next session could simply overturn it.

ORGANA

If the courts don't do it first.

(beat)

The guilds have bought every seated member, both here and in the sectors.

PADME

Which is why we must bring the issue forward in the final session. If it is on the table, the courts must defer until a new session can be called.

PALPATINE

It would be up to you to rally enough Senators to your cause.

(beat)

Dooku would have to back you. It is the only way.

PADME

I know.

ORGANA

You aren't seriously considering... Padme?

Padme stands up, the others following suit even though the Chancellor had made no indication of his assent to the plan.

PADME

With your permission, Chancellor, I would like to lead a diplomatic mission to Serenno and meet with Dooku myself.

All eyes shift from her to Palpatine.

His face is impassive, like stone.

Moment's tick by.

PALPATINE

We cannot let this Republic, which has stood for a thousand generations, fall to pirates and thieves.

(beat)

Go, but take a Jedi guardian with you. You have one now, I understand.

PADME

Yes, Master Kenobi has offered to accompany me while the Council investigates the attempts on my life.

PALPATINE

Despicable, these terrorists. I assure you the Guard is working to root them out. To have battle droids here, on Coruscant. It is unimaginable.

PADME

I don't have to try, I saw them myself.

PALPATINE

Is the young Guardsman who saved your life here?

PADME

He waits without.

Palpatine smiles and claps his hands.

PALPATINE

Excellent. Let us adjourn then so I can congratulate him myself. In the meantime your committee can begin putting a plan in order.

ORGANA

Is that wise? With all these attempts on her life, I think it best all this be done in secret.

(to Padme)

I agree with your sentiment, Senator. But your life is not worth a principle.

PADME

Is it not?

PALPATINE

Friends, let us not bicker.

(beat)

Let the committee make plans in public, adding cover while Senator Amidala and her two protectors travel incognito to Serenno.

(beat)

Is there not a large refugee influx there from Hutt space.

PADME

Too large.

PALPATINE

Then it is settled. You can use the refugees for cover.

(beat)

Now, let me have a word with this young man to whom we are so very grateful.

25 INT. CHANCELLOR'S PRIVATE OFFICE, SENATE COMPLEX

25

Anakin ducks into the short, dark hallway off to the side of the Chancellor's main office with some trepidation, his uniform causing him to blend into the darkness.

Palpatine seems to detach from the wall like a shadow, startling Anakin who tries not to show it.

PALPATINE

Oh, don't be intimidated dear boy.

(smiling)

Come, come. Let me see you properly.

Palpatine beckons Anakin toward the light of a small chamber at the end of the hallway where a chair sits before a dormant array of holo-projectors.

The afternoon light casts them in an orange-ish glow, catching something in Palpatine's eyes.

Anakin does his best formal bow and then stands at attention.

PALPATINE (cont'd)

Marvelous. Yes. Quite marvelous.

(beat)

But come, come, let's not be so formal.

Anakin breaks a small smile, the old man somehow endearing despite his highest office.

PALPATINE (cont'd)

Sit, sit.

He motions to a bench along the wall.

Anakin moves forward, and suddenly what he took as a pillar melts out of the wall, a guard dressed in red and wearing a pillar like helmet slides easily past him and down the hallway.

PALPATINE (cont'd)  
My personal guard.

ANAKIN  
I've never met one.  
(beat)  
I've never seen one.

PALPATINE  
Best of the best.  
(beat)  
Something you dream of, I take it.

Anakin nods his head sharply.

Palpatine laughs, taking a seat beside him, the senate complex beyond the panoramic window a gleaming mass of light and shadow, the Sun just visible above one of the domes.

PALPATINE (cont'd)  
I think you will go far, young one.  
(beat)  
What is your name?

ANAKIN  
Skywalker. Anakin Skywalker.

PALPATINE  
(intense)  
Skywalker?  
(beat)  
Now that's the name of a great man if I've ever heard one.

Anakin beams.

PALPATINE (cont'd)  
More than a guard, surely.

ANAKIN  
(defensive)  
I am honored to serve the republic.

PALPATINE  
Of course, of course.  
(smiling)  
And serve it you shall.  
(MORE)



PALPATINE (cont'd)  
 (leaning in)  
 Tell me, Anakin. Just between us. I saw the recording of your feats in the cockpit.  
 (beat)  
 Do you feel as though you know things before they happen?

Anakin looks guilty, but the magic of the man, the office, the odd quality of light, almost dream-like. It seems to embolden him.

He nods, just once, just a little.

PALPATINE (cont'd)  
 (hushed)  
 I'm not the first to ask you that. You have some training already, I think.  
 (beat)  
 It is good to stay silent though. If the Jedi were to discover this...

ANAKIN  
 I wouldn't tell them anything.

PALPATINE  
 (smiling)  
 Yes, I believe you wouldn't.

He stands, and so does Anakin instinctively.

PALPATINE (cont'd)  
 It has been a great pleasure to meet you, Anakin. I know you will keep the Senator safe.

Palpatine turns to the window, as though he is about to dismiss Anakin.

Anakin awkwardly floats toward the door, but hesitates at it, turning back.

Palpatine, face hidden, makes a smile of devilish triumph such that Anakin can't see.

ANAKIN  
 Chancellor?

PALPATINE  
 (without turning)  
 Yes?

ANAKIN

Am I...do you think that I...

Palpatine turn and hurls something at Anakin in the blink of an eye.

Without thinking, Anakin deflects it with a flick of his hand. But the intensity of his fear causes the whole room to shake, all but Palpatine. A crack runs through one of the holo-projectors.

A knife vibrates as though it sprung out of the wall just beside Anakin's head.

His eyes are wide now.

Palpatine is in his face.

PALPATINE

Oh, you are very special, young Skywalker. Very special.

Anakin just gulps.

PALPATINE (cont'd)

Best not keep the Senator waiting any longer.

Anakin nods and escapes down the hallway.

Palpatine watches him as he rounds the corner into the main office and disappears.

Palpatine pulls the knife out of the wall and returns it up his sleeve, almost humming some devilish tune to himself.

PALPATINE (cont'd)

(to the room)

See that he gets a more suitable uniform and weapon...but be inconspicuous. There are eye everywhere.

A second pillar melts away to reveal another red guard, who retreats down the hallway as well.

26 INT. ORGANA'S OFFICE - LATER

26

Padme sits passively in a chair while Organa paces the room back and forth.

ORGANA

You are playing a very dangerous game.

PADME

We all are.  
(beat)  
But there is no other way.

ORGANA

If you suspect treachery, then go to the Jedi.

PADME

I don't know who to trust, Bail.  
(beat)  
Except you.

Organa pauses and nods.

ORGANA

Dooku is not like me.  
(beat)  
The hereditary monarchy of Alderaan is a tradition. My family is more servants than royals.  
(beat)  
But to Dooku, her title is everything. And Serenno is nothing like Alderaan. Nothing.

Padme smiles until Organa catches her.

ORGANA (cont'd)

I'm sorry. I forget sometimes you are not my daughter.

PADME

I'm sure my father wishes you were some days.

ORGANA

I'm sure he could not be prouder.

PADME

I will be fine. You should have seen this Skywalker fly. And Kenobi is among the top rangers the Jedi have to offer.

(beat)

If my suspicions are correct, it will all happen soon. Be ready, no matter what happens to me.

ORGANA

It would help if we knew what was coming.

Padme rises and then moves quickly to embrace Organa in a hug. She is again somewhat dwarfed, though not nearly as much as when standing beside Anakin.

ORGANA (cont'd)

(still hugging)

I would understand, you know. If you just ran and didn't look back.

Padme nods, squeezing him tightly and then pulling back.

PADME

The people need me. I am the face of resistance. I am the face of hope. I stood up to the guilds and won.

ORGANA

You're the incorruptible.

PADME

I'm not so sure about that...have you seen my protectors.

ORGANA

Padme!

She strides out of the office, smiling in enjoyment at scandalizing a friend and mentor.

27 INT. SENATE HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

27

Anakin is in step with Padme, the golden droid as well.

PADME

Where's the Jedi?

ANAKIN

He was required at the temple.

(beat)

We'll be fine without him.

PADME

(smiling)

I'm sure.

ANAKIN

Where to?

PADME

The house.

She tries to keep her voice even, but Anakin detects something in it.

He follows her without calling her out, pulling his communicator as as they walk.

28 EXT. JEDI TEMPLE - EVENING

28

The setting sun is barely above the horizon.

It's long beams fall upon the only natural structure visible on the planet's surface, a single mountain peak, bare save for a structure clinging to the side, the Jedi Temple.

It is sprawling, grown up over many thousands of years as the needs of its inhabitants grew. The main structure is at the highest point, nearly in line with the peak.

29 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER, JEDI TEMPLE - CONTINUOUS

29

A circle of seats surround a stone symbol carved into the floor depicting a tri-balance.

Obi-Wan stands at the center of the design.

Around him are nine members of the council, among them Mace Windu and near the center, with the sun setting behind him, Yoda.

MACE WINDU

You suspect this boy has the force?

OBI-WAN

I am certain of it, Master.

MACE WINDU

We have looked into him, but Master Yoda already knows him well.

YODA

An orphan, he is. By my hand, it seems. To criminals, he was born.

OBI-WAN

How did he ever become a Guard?

The question receives nods of agreement.

MACE WINDU

Someone's hand at work. His past is a lie, but a brilliant one. Not even we could detect it, but for Master Yoda.

YODA

A distraction, he is. To this assassin, we must turn.

OBI-WAN

Have you discovered her accomplices?

MACE WINDU

Our leads have dried up. A number of bodies were discovered this morning, all with connections to the assassin. Someone cleaned up very neatly after her.

OBI-WAN

That takes a well trained bounty hunter. Which means a lot of money. Only a handful of organizations have the cash to pay for a changeling and another bounty hunter to clean up after her.

MACE WINDU

And not to mention seven others who were all bribed with untraceable credits.

OBI-WAN

It's the guilds. It couldn't be anyone else.

YODA

An easy conclusion, that is. Very convenient.

OBI-WAN

You suspect someone wants us to think that. But why?

MACE WINDU

That is the question. And only Senator Amidala can answer it for us.

OBI-WAN

(realizing)

You're using her as bait.

YODA

Stay with her, you will. Save her,  
you must. The key, she is.

Obi-Wan bows low and takes his leave of the council chamber.

The rest of the master's lean in, the formality of their  
pose abandoned.

Master SHAAK TI, a Togruta female with orange skin and two  
large montrals shaped like horns rising above her head that  
terminate in long head-tails reaching down to her lap,  
speaks first.

SHAAK TI

It is dangerous to send Kenobi out  
alone. Our enemies hound us at every  
turn. That assassin reeked of  
Nightsister magic. If the Sith have  
made alliance with Dathomir, all will  
come to a very dark end.

YODA

Fear this, we must not. Lose some, we  
will. But win this war, we must.

Though his words give most assurance, some seem less moved  
by his certainty.

SHAAK TI

At least send an envoy to Dathomir.  
Ensure the old treaties are still  
honored.

YODA

Begin a conversation, I will. A  
gentle hand, they will need.  
Finished, we are.

Yoda moves from his seat and the others begin to break up as  
well.

Many hooded Jedi enter the room now, flocking to their  
various masters. In the corner, unnoticed by all, Ventress  
retrieves a small device and pockets it before following the  
crowd out.

Anakin stands stock still in the middle of the room.

ANAKIN

You want to go to the strong-hold of the enemy...in a refugee ship...with just us?

PADME

Dooku is not the enemy. She represents a troubled group of planets who do not feel they are being heard.

Obi-Wan enjoys the interplay back and forth.

OBI-WAN

It would be best to leave tonight, before anyone has a chance to miss the Senator.

Padme nods her agreement, now dressed in a sedate grey jumpsuit, giving the aura of something military, while also blending in.

PADME

I've already packed a small bag.  
(to Anakin)  
How soon can you be ready?

Anakin's eyes are a blank, he's still processing. His comm unit BUZZES.

The noise rouses him, and he pulls it out, squinting at it and then signaling Obi-Wan.

The Jedi moves quickly, escorting Padme into the room and closing the door to a crack.

Anakin draws his blaster and holds it behind his back before moving to the door.

Very carefully he opens it and peers out.

He cracks it just wide enough to retrieve a bag, and then closes and seals it again.

Obi-Wan moves out, holding up a hand to Padme to stay put.

Anakin scans the bag with his devices, while Obi-Wan closes his eyes and runs his hand just above the surface.

Anakin scoffs silently, and waits, his own analysis complete.



OBI-WAN  
I sense nothing dangerous.

ANAKIN  
Good.

He rips open the bag and is surprised to find black and red tactical gear of the highest order. He gingerly fingers the almost paper thin armor, and then pulls out a small tube not unlike a lightsaber and is very much in love.

OBI-WAN  
We developed those for younglings,  
many years ago.

Anakin nods.

OBI-WAN (cont'd)  
Only the Chancellor's personal guard  
receive them...normally.

Anakin keeps nodding.

OBI-WAN (cont'd)  
Have you ever used one before?

Anakin nods once more and then triggers the baton to life. It telescopes out just like a lightsaber, but is nearly jet-black instead of alive with light.

Anakin quickly moves through a basic kata, and then more and more complicated forms.

Obi-Wan is impressed.

Anakin stops the moment he realizes he's betrayed a secret.

PADME  
(suspicious)  
Well, I guess you have a very highly  
placed friend.

A note falls out of the bag as Anakin removes the rest of the armor to reveal a few jumpsuits and a new pair of boots.

Obi-Wan snatches it out of the air, as does Anakin.

Anakin tenses up, the paper tight between them.

OBI-WAN  
Very fast reflexes.

He smiles and lets go.

Anakin quickly scans the note and hands it to Padme who scans it with a nod as well.

PADME

The chief guard of the Chancellor's private detachment.

(beat)

You must have really said something smart to impress her.

ANAKIN

I don't remember saying much at all.

OBI-WAN

Maybe she knows something about this trip we don't.

All three exchange looks.

ANAKIN

I guess I'm packed.

PADME

How convenient.

Obi-Wan makes a do of his rather distinctive Jedi outfit.

OBI-WAN

I can secure something more appropriate on our way to the spaceport.

(beat)

There is always a supply ship we can sneak aboard. Jedi are known for--

ANAKIN

We get it, you're wonderful...give me a minute.

Anakin slips into the small bunk room, already pulling off his top.

Obi-Wan moves closer to Padme.

OBI-WAN

(whispering)

There is a strong hand at work here.

PADME

Do not think me stupid, Master Jedi.

She turns and goes to her room.

Obi-Wan smiles, alone. He straightens his robe, and generally looks out of place, even more so when Anakin strides back into the room, trying to secure his armor but not quite able to reach.

Obi-Wan motions for him to turn around.

Anakin looks very nervous as Obi-Wan snaps the armor in place and it cinches itself tight.

OBI-WAN

Very nice.

Obi-Wan slaps Anakin's butt as Padme returns with her case and the droid.

PADME

(to droid)

Return to my suite and monitor my secure channel. I may need help.

C3PO

Yes, mistress.

The droid nods and takes a step back.

Padme looks expectantly at Anakin.

He checks his comm unit, and once he sees it's all clear, he opens the door.

Obi-Wan heads out, followed by Padme.

Anakin takes a last look at the safety of the apartment, and then shakes his head and follows after.

31 EXT. SAFE HOUSE STREET LEVEL - NIGHT

31

There is traffic whizzing by high overhead, the surrounding buildings so tall, and so tight, only a sliver of the night sky, unnaturally orange, can be seen.

The trio approach a covered speeder, its door closed.

Obi-Wan in the lead, nears the vehicle, and then in a blur of motions, he turns, spreading his arms wide, shoving Padme into Anakin's arms and both of them backward.

He barely has time to dive as the speeder explodes into a fireball, blinding all other lights.

Anakin rolls to the side just as blaster bolts trace the spot where he once was.

He presses Padme to the ground as his armor takes several hits.

Obi-Wan staggers in between the attacker and the pair on the ground, lightsaber out, deflecting strikes.

OBI-WAN  
(shouting)  
How do we get out of here?

Anakin moves Padme into Obi-Wan's back as he bats away more blaster fire, now coming from several directions at once.

Anakin pulls a small charge from his waist and tosses it at a hatch near the base of the building.

It THWUMPS into place with a magnetic seal, BEEPING three times.

Anakin turns just as the hatch explodes downward. He grabs Padme and rushes her toward the fresh hole grabbing her and jumping in.

Obi-Wan stalks backward a few paces and then somersaults into the air and through the opening.

32 INT. DROID SUPPLY LANES - MOMENTS LATER

32

The trio moves quickly down a very thin ledge, a super-speed underground highway filled with nothing but huge droid operated transports the size of small buildings in the center, and dozens of smaller though no less substantial transports along the shoulders, moving even faster.

OBI-WAN  
They'll follow us.

ANAKIN  
We don't have to go far. I've already signaled. A guard unit will meet us.

Obi-Wan shakes his head.

OBI-WAN  
Something's wrong, I have a bad feeling about this.

He pulls Padme to the wall, and Anakin joins him, the shadows containing them just as a several assault droids on a speeder zoom past them.

A Republic Guard speeder drops out of an access tunnel and is promptly incinerated by the assault droids.

The droids skiff turns around and comes back toward the trio.

OBI-WAN (cont'd)

Jump.

ANAKIN

Are you cra--

His question is swallowed by air as Obi-Wan uses the force to push him off the ledge, scooping up Padme as he does and leaping himself.

A wicked looking dart strikes the wall where they were.

The dart explodes

Anakin rolls along the top of a speeding transport, grasping for a hand hold.

As he secures himself, a tiny explosion in the distance catches his eye.

He rights himself the wind resistance nearly throwing him off the transport. His boots click, giving him magnetic traction just as Obi-Wan lands and passes Padme to him.

OBI-WAN

(barely audible)

They wanted us down here.

ANAKIN

(pointing down)

Cut this open.

Obi-Wan cuts a small circle in the top of the transport and Anakin drops through first. Padme shrugs off help and drops through herself. Obi-Wan follows last.

In the distance, Ventress's catlike form leaps from transport to transport, quickly catching up.

33 INT. DROID TRANSPORT - CONTINUOUS

33

Everything is nearly pitch dark, only Obi-Wan's lightsaber and the very dull lights of the containers within illuminate the trio.

PADME  
Excellent plan. Now what?

ANAKIN  
I'm doing my best here.

He pulls out his comm unit but only static comes from it.

OBI-WAN  
They're jamming it.

ANAKIN  
How?

OBI-WAN  
It's a Mandalorian crew, I'd bet my life on it.

PADME  
You just might. Mine too.

She paces forward, Obi-Wan moving to shadow her. She squats and tries to read something on the control panels.

ANAKIN  
What are you doing?

PADME  
Before you start shooting this place up, I'd like to make sure if these are flammable.  
(beat)  
And maybe figure out where this thing is headed.

ANAKIN  
Hold on.

He wanders toward the nearest wall, his hand tracing invisible lines behind it.

He moves quickly now, dodging and ducking until he comes to a non-descript panel.

Pulling a knife from his boot, he pries it open and exposes a droid brain behind it.

He takes his glove off his right hand and his mechanical fingers begin to work a three-dimensional control surface.

ANAKIN (cont'd)

There.

(putting glove on)

We're headed to the nearest supply depot. That should get us out of the tunnels.

Padme and Obi-Wan stare at him in the light of Obi-Wan's lightsaber.

Neither see the dark shape descending like a spider, but they both flinch as Ventress snaps her two lightsabers on, their red glow adding to the scene, illuminating her face and scant clothing.

She says nothing, attacking at Padme.

Obi-Wan blocks her strike, then another, but he's slow. In the added light, his injured and charred back are apparent.

Anakin doesn't even hesitate, he rushes forward, the baton in his hand and snaking open.

Ventress puts up her hand to push him away, but he resists her force attack with his own hand.

Her look of surprise is erased a moment later as Obi-Wan strikes at her from the side.

Now the three of them dance, but Anakin keeps getting in Obi-Wan's way.

A blaster bolt singes Ventress's arm, and she instinctively falls back, leaping from crate to crate.

Padme aims again, just as the transport veers sharply to the side and decelerates far too quickly for anyone to keep their footing.

The crates do not move, as they are secured in place, but Anakin almost rolls into Obi-Wan's blade, which he is forced to deactivate.

Padme grips a container and keeps herself from going further.

All three of them search for Ventress in the dark.

They shudder to a stop, the distant sound of VOICES can be heard.

Suddenly the side door is opened, admitting blinding white light into the space.

Ventress leaps out of the darkness, lightsabers flaring to life, coming down almost atop Padme.

Anakin flinches his knife from his boot.

It is going to miss.

Obi-Wan flicks his hand.

The knife strikes with even greater force right in Ventress's back, her arc disrupted and she slams into the transport's wall.

Padme scrambles away, firing with her small hold-out blaster blindly at the quickly recovering Ventress.

OBI-WAN  
Get her out of here!

He steps between Ventress and Padme.

Anakin does much the same as Padme rushes out of the container toward a pair of very confused depot workers.

Ventress takes a moment to pull the knife out of her back and lick her own blood.

VENTRESS  
I might just enjoy this.

OBI-WAN  
Come creature.

VENTRESS  
Not you. I can smell your burned skin from here. Soon your body will shut down.

(beat)  
But that young one is quite the surprise.

(beat)  
The things I could do to him.

Obi-Wan shifts and moves to attack her.

It was the play she wanted. She smiles and deflects him, using the force to shove him sideways, slamming his head into a crate.

She uses the force to snatch his lightsaber away.



34 INT. SUPPLY DEPOT - CONTINUOUS

34

Anakin and Padme sprint for the entrance, leaving the transport behind them.

Anakin scans for something to commandeer, but then whips his head to the side.

A skiff with battle droids zooms into view, Jango Fett in the lead.

Fett raises his arm and a missile fires from it.

Anakin dodges the other way, as Padme follows.

The wall explodes near them.

The skiff lands and the droids rush forward, firing wrist mounted weapons at them.

Anakin and Padme scramble backward, using the long rows of various small loading vehicles for cover.

The firing stops, and Anakin looks up...

...at the smiling face of Ventress perched above them.

She flicks her wrist and Anakin's knife buries in his thigh.

But he doesn't react, moving to stand in front of Padme as Ventress drops down to the ground.

Padme fires several bolts at her head.

Ventress deflects them away with Obi-Wan's blade.

The CLANKING of the droids gets closer.

VENTRESS

The Senator is going to die.

She nods over their shoulder.

Jango Fett is at the other end of the row, blocking their escape, droids on both sides of them, their metal feet just visible underneath the loading vehicles.

VENTRESS (cont'd)

Time to choose, little guard. Die with her, or let me show you how far your powers can take you.

ANAKIN  
(whispered to Padme)

Duck.

Padme does so without question.

Anakin rises up just barely from the ground.

Jango raises his weapon and fires.

Ventress dashes forward.

An explosion of the force ripples out like a wave from Anakin, deflecting the bolt, blasting Ventress away, hard, and sending the neatly arranged vehicles outward like a bomb-blast, destroying the droids in the process.

Anakin collapses to the ground, breath barely coming, eyes glassy.

Padme drags him to his feet. Pulling him away from the damage. Back toward the transport.

ANAKIN (cont'd)  
Must...be...tracking...

Padme immediately understands, seizes his comm unit and tosses it in the air, shooting it before it reaches it's apex and scooping him back onto her shoulder as he moves a little better.

Ventress stirs on the ground, her eyes coming into focus, a vehicle laying atop her crooked leg.

She grits an evil stare and uses the force to move it.

Anakin and Padme near the transport.

PADME  
Master Kenobi?

Anakin leans against the transport as the two depot workers, very frightened, pull Obi-Wan's unconscious body from the transport.

Padme bends down to try and rouse them.

First one, then the other worker drops to blaster fire.

Anakin sees Jango Fett raising his blaster for a third shot and everything seems to slow down.

Fett fires.

Anakin moves his his hand into the path.

The bolt sings toward it, and just as it is about to make contact, the energy sizzles away.

Anakin steps in front of Padme.

A vehicle hurtles toward him.

Instinctively, as in the Chancellor's office, he flinches, throwing his hands at it.

The vehicle is blasted away, but it does not stop Ventres from coming.

Fett has his blaster raised, Ventress ignites Obi-Wan's lightsaber.

A blaster bolt sings out from behind Anakin.

Padme is stooped over Obi-Wan firing at Fett who has to roll to dodge them, right into Ventress who topples over without the support of her other leg.

Anakin instinctively grabs at Obi-Wan's lightsaber with the force, pulling it from Ventress's grip.

She snarls and grabs her own, igniting them.

Fett moves to one knee, firing at Anakin.

He blocks a few with the lightsaber in one hand and the baton in the other, but his armor takes most of the abuse.

Ventress is closing in, though slowly.

Anakin is pushed back, almost on top of Padme who still tries to shoot but Ventress deflects them.

Fett manages to hit Padme in the arm, and she gasps in pain.

Anakin kneels down, a look of rage in his eyes.

The transport shudders behind him.

Ventress and Fett pause.

The transport rolls over the top of the trio and slams toward Ventress and Fett.

They are lost as the mass slams into the floor, shattering both it and the floor as electronics spark and canisters pop and hiss with miniature explosions of gas.

Anakin is panting.

Padme holds her arm.

Anakin throws Obi-Wan over his shoulder and jerks his head back toward the underground highway.

Padme rushes that direction, Anakin stalks backward, waiting for any sign of life from the mess he'd made of the transport.

It lays silent.

Padme gets into a cube-like droid speeder and helps Anakin get Obi-Wan inside.

The door closes, and moments pass before it jerks into the air and rushes off through the access port to the underground highway.

The ruined transport is still, and then it begins to stir from within.

35 EXT. SPACEPORT - LATER

35

The cube speeder lays abandoned as a field of spaceships of every make and model lays out as far as the eye can see.

In the shadows and darkness, Anakin, carrying Obi-Wan and Padme inch forward.

36 INT. SUPPLY SHIP, HYPERSPACE - DAY

36

Obi-Wan lays shirtless on his stomach on a make-shift pallate.

Unlike the droid transport, the ship is dirty, almost ancient, like it might come apart at the seams.

Anakin hunkers down near a portal, a round door much too small for humans to use comfortably.

Padme puts a few more med-patches on Obi-Wan's back. The damage already looking better than before.

Obi-Wan's face registers some pain, but his eyes remain shut as Padme works.

They are all three very dirty, the passage of some few days obvious in the sweat and grime.

PADME

I don't know if he has any internal damage.

Anakin nods, his own top removed, the armor and shirt beside him, the marks of blaster fire all over it.

He holds the baton and the lightsaber, one in each hand, his eyes heavy with sleeplessness.

PADME (cont'd)

You need to rest.

ANAKIN

(snapping)

Tell that to the Jedi. He's been resting for two days.

Padme purses her lips.

PADME

There are two pilots hundreds of meters away, locked in their cockpits, probably getting drunk.

(beat)

What do you imagine is going to get us in hyperspace?

Anakin opens his mouth, but has nothing to say.

PADME (cont'd)

Lay down.

She points to the deck and then crawls over to him as he does.

She nestles into him, his massive form tensed at her proximity.

ANAKIN

I stink.

PADME

So do I.

(beat)

Now shut up and hold me.

He doesn't need to be told twice.

She adjusts his shirt for a pillow and he lays his head above hers, her hair tickling his chest.

PADME (cont'd)  
 You already knew you could do those things. Use the force.

Anakin nods into her hair.

PADME (cont'd)  
 You were trained.

Anakin nods again.

PADME (cont'd)  
 By a Jedi?

ANAKIN  
 He was once.  
 (beat)  
 But not after he saw who they truly were.

Padme considers this and then closes her eyes, breathing deeply.

Anakin dares to feel her hand near his.

But even with the allure near him, he quickly falls asleep himself.

37 INT. DOOKU'S STUDY - DAY

37

Dooku kneels before the hologram head of Sidious.

DOOKU  
 Ventress should not have failed. The plan was perfect.

SIDIOUS  
 Obviously you did not account for something.  
 (beat)  
 The moment Fett lands I want a full report.

DOOKU  
 Of course, my Master.

SIDIOUS  
 Once you learn why he failed, send the bounty hunter to Kamino. Our time-table for the clones must not be disrupted. The Republic will be brought to heel.

The transmission ends.

Dooku stands and fumes, her fists clenched.

She presses a button and a cage ascends from the middle of the floor, a savage looking hulk of a man with small horns all over his skull, skin mottled red and black, a collar holding him to the post rising with him, only a tiny scrap of fabric around his waist.

His eyes gleam with hatred at the sight of Dooku.

The lift stops and the collar unsnaps.

The SAVAGE lunges at her.

With grace and ease she dances away, striking him cruelly in a soft-spot on his back.

He howls in pain, turns and tries again.

She does much the same.

DOOKU

Turn that hatred into power, Savage.  
Strike at me with the force.

Dooku enjoys this cruelty. Pushing the creature to his limits.

He bears down on her, this time striking with his fists, sending waves of energy ahead of them.

Now Dooku seems to enjoy herself, having to work.

But the battle is still very one-sided.

Dodging his massive form, she snaps his arm backward, bone and blood piercing his skin.

She slams him back against the post, the collar holding him firmly.

As he bleeds, he makes no sound, and in his eyes, the fires of hate burn.

She presses a button on her desk and a medical droid floats in, followed by MS-5Z1.

DOOKU (cont'd)

What is it, Droid?

MS-5Z1

Mistress, Fett has arrived. I have him holding in your private hanger.

DOOKU

Fetch him. And where is Ventress?

MS-5Z1

I took the liberty of sending her to medical. Her condition is critical.

Dooku registers an emotion and then it is gone.

DOOKU

(icily)

Bring me Fett. Now.

Z1 leaves as the medical droid snaps Savage's arm back into place. She meets eyes with her pet.

DOOKU (cont'd)

Perhaps my master is right.

(beat)

And if I lose you, I really will feel nothing.

She closes the distance between them.

DOOKU (cont'd)

Your hatred is almost pure. It pleases me.

Savage glares at her silently.

DOOKU (cont'd)

I think it's time you learned how to use it properly.

Jango Fett stands in the door way, moving into the room, taking in the hulking Savage as he does. But turning to Dooku after a moment.

FETT

There was a complication.

DOOKU

Show me.

He presses a button on his wrist and a hologram of Anakin grabbing the transport and hurling it at the camera flares to life.



Fett works it again, and this time Anakin blasting the surge of energy from his body.

Fett moves to a view screen and puts a disc in it. Anakin's Guard profile flares to life.

FETT

No indication he is anything but normal.

(turning to Dooku)

I've killed Jedi my whole life. I've never seen one do this.

DOOKU

I have.

She considers the screen.

DOOKU (cont'd)

Find him. Whatever it takes.

FETT

If you've got the credits, I've got the time.

She nods, and he gives her a half-hearted salute. She ignores him as he walks out of the room, her eyes transfixed on the screen.

SAVAGE (O.S.)

He will destroy you.

She nods without turning around.

Savage glares at the back of her head.

She moves even closer to the screen, her hand working the controls from afar. She watches Anakin lift into the air and then seemingly explode, again and again and again.

DOOKU

Jin, my stupid apprentice. I thought I killed you.

(beat)

Impressive.

She exits the room quickly, leaving Savage staring at the screen, Anakin's explosion frozen on the screen.

Savage tenses his muscles and then releases them, the pole vibrating slightly as he does.

He smiles.

38 INT. SUPPLY SHIP, HYPERSPACE - DAY

38

The hull shudders and Anakin's eyes fly open.

Obi-Wan is sitting in meditation on the make-shift pallet, his eyes open slowly.

OBI-WAN

I think we just reverted.

Padme wakes quickly at the sound of his voice, turning away from Anakin's naked chest, and doing her best to sit up without looking guilty.

PADME

Let me check your back.

She crawls over to Obi-Wan, and he gladly turns so she can.

He meets eyes with Anakin, who sits up stiffly, obviously still in pain.

ANAKIN

How long have you been awake?

OBI-WAN

(leaning forward)

A few hours. I was in a healing trance already, but I needed to focus properly to set things right.

(beat)

I owe you two my life.

PADME

He did most of it.

OBI-WAN

Yes. I'm very curious how you defeated a Sith and bounty hunter.

ANAKIN

Luck.

Anakin turns away, stretching his back.

Noises outside the ship indicate they are hitting an atmosphere.

OBI-WAN

Shouldn't be long now. Any idea where we're headed?

Anakin shakes his head.

PADME

We picked the first one that looked like it was carrying medical supplies and then snuck aboard.

(beat)

It's been about three, maybe four days.

OBI-WAN

Hmm...

(beat)

That's probably somewhere in the outer rim. Corillean lane would take us nearly to the edge. Might be much shorter if they hopped in and out a few times.

Anakin shakes his head.

ANAKIN

They made one jump and that was it.

OBI-WAN

That'll be Perlemian or Corillian then.

(beat)

So we're either really close, or really far from Serenno.

PADME

It doesn't matter. We need somewhere to clean up, rest and plan. I'd just as soon be where nobody expects me while we do that.

Anakin and Obi-Wan nod their head in agreement.

39 EXT. TATTOINE - DAY

39

The supply ship buffets in the upper atmosphere of the desert planet and then settles into a glide-slope down toward the only civilization in sight, a large space-port.

40 EXT. MOS ESPA - EVENING

40

The trio, now covered by stolen robes that are tattered and light, stalk down an alley, avoiding anyone they see.

Anakin looks around, and then nods toward the left.

41 INT. SLAVE QUARTERS - NIGHT

41

Anakin stands in the doorway of the darkened quarters. Obi-Wan beside him, who closes his eyes briefly and then nods.

The trio slips inside.

The door shuts, leaving them in darkness until Anakin fumbles the lights on.

The electronic glow dim, but illuminates a small living space. They stand near a table. stairs go up and down to the right, a small storage room to the left.

OBI-WAN

Quaint.

Anakin points to the stairs leading up.

ANAKIN

Refresher's through there. If it doesn't work, I'll fix it.

PADME

Sure.

(beat)

But first we talk about how you know that.

ANAKIN

I spent some time here. Briefly.

PADME

In this house?

ANAKIN

One like it.

Obi-Wan touches the back of Anakin's neck, and Anakin shoves him bodily away.

ANAKIN (cont'd)

Don't touch me, Jedi!

Obi-Wan holds his hands up in apology.

OBI-WAN

Forgive me.

Anakin bustles past him, and side-steps Padme.

ANAKIN

I'll see for myself.

He heads up the stairs and is gone.

Obi-Wan settles down to the table, letting out a deep breath.

Padme takes off her grimy robe and then her grimy tunic, sitting at the table in only a small undershirt.

She catches Obi-Wan looking.

PADME

And what secrets are you keeping?

OBI-WAN

Many.

(beat)

But as for the boy's over-reaction,  
all slaves tend to be sensitive when  
you touch their scars.

PADME

A slave, for a while, and now a  
Guard.

OBI-WAN

I think now is the time you tell me  
how you two survived to escape  
Coruscant.

PADME

Come now, Master Jedi.

(standing)

You can't expect me to reveal all my  
secrets.

She stands and heads up the stairs as well.

Obi-Wan moves his hand to brush his hair, but winces at the effort.

OBI-WAN

(calling out)

I'll worry about food, shall I?

There's no response.

He rummages into the storage room and comes up with some basic rags that he slips into. Leaving his boots behind.

Barefoot and barely clothed, he hunches his back and contorts his shoulders, then keys the door open and shuffles out.

42 INT. REFRESHER - MOMENTS LATER

42

Anakin, stripped down to just his under garment, a utilitarian, tight fitting jock with a hard cod piece, his butt cheeks exposed, fights with some ancient mechanics in the small refresher unit.

PADME (O.S.)  
Handy, aren't you?

Anakin pivots quickly, pushing his butt up against the wall.

She strips off her boots and pants quickly, and then looks up expectantly.

PADME  
Not gonna prove me wrong? Are you?

Anakin shakes his head, and gets back to work, though checking her out from the side as she sits down on a small seat and waits.

He is distracted as his fingers do most of the work and a strong blast of cold liquid slams into his face.

He struggles to shut it off, and then stands there, partially drenched in a green goo, but as it falls off him, his face is brilliantly clean.

PADME (cont'd)  
What is that stuff?

ANAKIN  
Better you don't know.  
(beat)  
But it cleans, and then you activate the reclamation unit and it dries you off.

PADME  
I think you'd better demonstrate.

Anakin nods pulling the door partially closed. It doesn't obscure too much of him, but just enough. He strips off his under garment and tosses it toward his clothes.

Padme picks them up with her own, and finishes getting undressed, wrapping the robe Anakin discarded around her chest.

He activates the refresher and more green goo streams out almost like water.



43 INT. SLAVE QUARTERS - LATER

43

The trio sit around the table, clean, partially dressed. Only Anakin has his original clothes. Padme and Obi-Wan are both wearing new, local styles.

They are hungrily eating the scraps Obi-Wan managed to bring in. It doesn't take long, and soon they are finished.

A silence falls as they sip on the water rations out of sterile looking metal pouches.

PADME

So, we can't go back to the core.

OBI-WAN

Not without someone sniffing us out.

PADME

So that leaves us with Pirates or Smugglers.

ANAKIN

Have you ever been in the Outer Rim.

(beat)

Either of you?

They stare back him, and then shake their heads slowly.

Anakin laughs dryly and shakes his head, slurping the last of his water.

ANAKIN (cont'd)

Well we know she's good with a gun. And you've got all that magic stuff.

(beat)

We need to find a bounty, get some credits, and then find a crew getting off this rock.

PADME

Not a fan?

ANAKIN

We'll dehydrate if we're lucky, that only takes a few days. We'll starve if we're not. We have maybe a day before someone notices us here, and that means we'll leave bodies behind. Which means someone will want to have a word with us.

(beat)

So no. I'm not a fan.



Padme nods, accepting the wisdom but not necessarily the attitude.

OBI-WAN  
A bounty you say?

44 EXT. MOS ESPA - NIGHT

44

The trio waits outside a gambling den in the dark, several small desert rats fighting over a scrap.

ANAKIN  
And you're just going to walk in there and convince him to leave.

Obi-Wan flashes a huge smile.

OBI-WAN  
I can be very persuasive.

He struts off toward the den, as Padme and Anakin watch him. They both intake sharply as he pauses at the door, but with a wave of his hand, the bouncer lets him enter.

PADME  
And what do we do when he gets out here.

ANAKIN  
I guess we get more persuasive?

Padme and he look at each other and then laugh at the stupidity of the comment.

PADME  
How long were you here, really?

ANAKIN  
It's my first memory. Only after my mom and I were sold did we leave. I was maybe eight, nine.

PADME  
You don't know your age?

ANAKIN  
(cold)  
Slaves didn't have birthdays.

PADME  
Sorry.

Anakin shakes his head.

PADME (cont'd)  
Did you lose your arm here?

ANAKIN  
(forcefully)  
No.

His body language shifts perceptibly, and Padme gets that he won't say any more about it.

PADME  
Aren't Trandoshan's really aggr--

Obi-Wan flies backward out of the door, followed by a bellowing Trandoshan male, his reptilian feet stomping in the dirt.

Anakin rolls his eyes and sprints forward.

The bouncer looks on impassively as Obi-Wan springs to his feet and attempts, futilely, to wrestle with the bounty. Receiving a few gashes for his trouble.

Anakin shoves Obi-Wan aside and circles the Trandoshan, his baton out and extended.

ANAKIN  
We're taking you in. I suggest you  
surrender.

The Trandoshan does what can only be interpreted as a laugh and produces a large, wicked blade from the harness on his back.

Anakin shakes his head and waits.

And waits.

The Trandoshan feints, once, twice.

Anakin doesn't move.

The Trandoshan lunges.

Anakin spins, jumps and slams his baton full force down on the back of the reptilian attacker's skull, crumpling him to the dusty ground with one blow.

Obi-Wan moves in and begins securing the Trandoshan's hands, but eyeing Anakin with respect.

ANAKIN (cont'd)  
 (panting)  
 Large hind-brain...Susceptible to  
 force.  
 (beat)  
 We don't just learn to kill. By the  
 way.

Obi-Wan nods in acceptance of this fact as Padme moves closer, and pulls the weapons off the Trandoshan's belt.

Obi-Wan finds a few coins in a money bag and tosses one to to the bouncer.

OBI-WAN  
 You didn't see anything, did you?

The bouncer sniffs the coin and then shakes his head, turning away as Obi-Wan and Anakin haul the Trandoshan to his feet.

They drag him away, into the darkness of the alley.

OBI-WAN (cont'd)  
 I didn't think he'd be this heavy.  
 (beat)  
 Or smelly.  
 (beat)  
 What is that anyway? Do they eat raw  
 meat after it's sat in the sun for  
 three days?

ANAKIN  
 Shut up.

Padme stifles her snickering, holding a blaster at the ready, the large blade resting against her shoulder as she covers their retreat.

45 INT. HUTT PALACE - DAY

45

A pair of Gamorian guards drag a now conscious Trandoshan away as he tries to fight them futilely. They drag him past AURRA SING (28), a very harsh looking human female, her head mostly shaved except for a very long top knot that flows down her back. She's dressed for the desert climate in tight-fitting, thin clothing, weapons slung on her back.

She nods approvingly at the captured Trandoshan as he is drug out of sight and then immediately focuses in on Obi-Wan.

SING  
 (to Obi-Wan)  
 Interesting looking crew.

PADME  
 (stepping in)  
 Even more interesting when you don't  
 mistake muscle for brains.

Aurra takes in the diminutive form of Padme and cocks a half-smile.

SING  
 Either you're a good liar, or you're  
 deadly.  
 (beat)  
 Follow me.

She turns and doesn't look back, heading into the dirt paved palace, rounding the corner.

The trio look at each other briefly and then Padme stalks off. Obi-Wan follows closely. Anakin shakes his head and slumps his shoulders as though he knows this is the worst idea.

46 INT. HUTT CANTINA - MOMENTS LATER

46

Aurra slides into a booth where a blue skinned CAD BANE sits with his back to the wall, cup in hand, and a wide-brimmed hat pulled just low enough to cast his eyes in shadows. His voice is deep and rich, aided by the air flaps on either side of his mouth that move slightly when he inhales.

Cad makes no gesture of welcome, but he doesn't wave them away either.

BANE  
 (matter of fact)  
 You're desperate.

He doesn't even raise his voice, he barely raises his eyes. And then he settles back, the body language saying "impress me."

PADME  
 Actually, I'm pretty sure your are  
 desperate.

She sits down, ignoring Obi-Wan and Anakin as they both attempt to look slightly intimidating, while possibly also stupid.

PADME (cont'd)  
Or does the great Cad Bane usually  
recruit from a Hutt's doorstep.

Cad sips. Stares. Then nods very slowly.

BANE  
(to Sing)  
I like this one.  
(gesturing)  
Those two good for more than just  
muscle.

PADME  
Depends. What're you offering?

Cad sets his cup down slowly, deliberately.

BANE  
Transport. Maybe enough pocket change  
to buy something that doesn't reek of  
desperation, and I'll even drop you  
off somewhere pretty.

PADME  
And the target?

BANE  
Does it matter?

Padme pauses and Bane cracks a dull smile.

BANE (cont'd)  
(nodding to Obi-Wan)  
Get the arrogant one something more  
respectable.  
(leaning in)  
And get yourself something  
irresistible.  
(standing)  
Dusk, be at bay two-two-seven.

He tosses a few coins on the table and leaves.

Sing leans her elbows on the table and stares right in  
Padme's eyes.

SING  
If you need a few more coins, I'll  
gladly buy the big one's time.

Padme smiles wide, scooping up what Cad dropped.

PADME  
 Sorry, that one's all mine.

Sing nods, disappointed, then eyes Obi-Wan up and down.

SING  
 Reminds me of someone I used to know.  
 (standing)  
 Pass.

She saunters off, scanning the room, and finding a halfway-decent looking catch she immediately moves toward.

Padme stands and jerks her head to the door they came in. The trio moves slowly, but with purpose.

47 EXT. DESERT - DAY

47

The sun is blinding as the trio walks along a sandy path, the Hutt Palace visible in the distance, speeders flying by occasionally.

One of them traces the route ahead back into Mos Espa.

OBI-WAN  
 This seems a very imprudent course of action.

ANAKIN  
 You're just mad she didn't want you.

OBI-WAN  
 Bane is a very dangerous creature. He may have even recognized me.

PADME  
 He didn't.  
 (beat)  
 But she did.

Obi-Wan is taken aback at the suggestion.

OBI-WAN  
 I think I would know if I was acquainted with a bounty hunter... especially one so...unique.

PADME  
 Either he's gonna sell us, or he actually needs us.

ANAKIN

As long as we're off this planet,  
I'll take the chance.

OBI-WAN

(still confused)  
How do you know she recognized me.

Padme smiles as the walk along.

PADME

Come along, arrogant one. We've got  
some rags to make look rich.

48 EXT. LANDING BAY, MOS ESPA - NIGHT

48

The trio rounds the corner, Obi-Wan still fiddling with his  
new, mis-matched armor, complete with side-arm.

Anakin, dressed in his full armor, now polished, the  
charring removed, rolls his eyes, carrying a large bag.

Padme is still wearing a large, thin and tattered robe, but  
new tactical boots on her feet. As she walks forward, the  
hint of something luxurious peeks out underneath, a small  
bag of things in her hand.

ANAKIN

(doubtful)  
Are you good with anything other than  
a blaster?

Padme looks sideways at the suggestion and he holds up a  
hand in surrender.

Obi-Wan strokes his clean face and itches his newly shaved  
head.

OBI-WAN

I still don't know why I needed to do  
all this.

ANAKIN

You looked like a Jedi.

Padme silences them with a wave as they approach the  
landing-bay door.

Sing detaches herself from the wall and looks them over,  
nodding her approval, before gesturing at the open portal.

They step through.

The landing bay opens at the top to the sky. On the ground, four small figures board an unremarkable modified freighter. It quickly fires up its engines and lumbers into the sky, rocketing up and into space.

49 EXT. TATTOINE - MOMENTS LATER

49

The freighter makes for the vastness of space and quickly red-shifts before becoming a single point and disappearing completely.

Another ship, the elliptical ominous silhouette of SLAVE ONE stutters into view and makes roughly the same hyperspace jump that the freighter did.

50 INT. CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE, SENATE COMPLEX - NIGHT

50

Chancellor Palpatine sits this time, reclining regally in his chair, hands folded in front of his face.

Senator Organa stands, deep in the middle of an impassioned speech. Mace Windu remains seated, not smiling, but seemingly bemused by the sight.

ORGANA

The facts are not clear. They are very much being twisted. No bodies were recovered, not even droids. If they had succeeded in killing Senator Amidala, why hide the fact?

MACE WINDU

Perhaps they never meant to kill her. Perhaps kidnap and ransom was their plan. Perhaps they wish to use her knowledge for some purpose.

ORGANA

And the other two. Why keep a Jedi and Guardsman?

MACE WINDU

Master Kenobi is a highly decorated ranger, and he possesses a large degree of knowledge on many subjects.

(beat)

I admit the boy seems inconsequential, but it is sometimes useful to have leverage in situations like this.

(MORE)



MACE WINDU (cont'd)

(beat)

And the amount of damage done in the initial explosion, we cannot rule out that the boy was not simply killed there.

ORGANA

Chancellor? Surely you cannot agree with the Jedi on this.

Chancellor Palpatine breathes deeply, tapping his fingers, then leaning back, not giving an indication one way or the other.

PALPATINE

Very troubling. Many things are yet unclear.

(beat)

But I think that it would be folly to assume that Senator Amidala is dead or captured. The fact they tried to hide their attempt seems to tell me that it failed.

(beat)

And Senator Amidala, once committed, is not one to give up, even in the face of death. As she proved not that many years ago against the forces of the Trade Federation.

He leans forward, grabbing his desk.

PALPATINE (cont'd)

No.

(beat)

I agree with Senator Organa, if they had killed or captured her, we should have heard.

He nods his head to the side, and a red-helmeted guardsman strides forward delivering a data-disc.

Palpatine places it in his desk and a hologram, very low-quality, of an unconscious body being carried by a taller man in the company of a short-stature woman is displayed.

Windu immediately sits forward.

MACE WINDU

Where was this image taken? When?

PALPATINE

Near the spaceport, on the night in question.

(looking at Windu)

It seems someone tried to erase it, but did not quite succeed.

Windu takes the implication and leans back, stern, offended, but too composed to say or show it save for in his eyes.

ORGANA

And have they traced these ships.

He leans on the desk, trying to peer deeper into the hologram.

ORGANA (cont'd)

That appears to be the boy. So Master Kenobi was injured.

(beat)

They would have sought a medical supply ship.

PALPATINE

(smiling)

Indeed. And there was one with a partial shipment.

Palpatine works a control panel.

PALPATINE (cont'd)

Once the Guard reconstructed the data, they determined the most likely ship. It left that night, headed for Tattoine.

Windu stands.

MACE WINDU

If Master Kenobi was in need of medical attention, they should have brought him to us.

(beat)

If your excellency will excuse me, I must take this information to the Council immediately.

ORGANA

Do you have any rangers on Tatooine?

MACE WINDU

No.

(MORE)

MACE WINDU (cont'd)

(beat)

The Hutts control that planet. But we have some nearby.

Windu looks expectantly at the Chancellor who takes just long enough to wave him away so that he remembers who is in charge.

Windu bows and then hurries from the office.

Palpatine smiles to Organa as soon as Windu is gone.

PALPATINE

Useful, of course, but I think they should be reminded now and again that the rest of us can get along by ourselves as well.

ORGANA

I know it is not my place to ask...

Organa tries to find the words.

Palpatine encourages him to continue with a small wave of his hand.

ORGANA (cont'd)

Do you have...sources...

(beat)

Would you know if she arrived on Serrano?

Palpatine smiles even broader, calling forth the fatherly charm he used with Anakin.

PALPATINE

I have faith in our young Senator. I would guess you will hear from her before we do.

Organa is struck for a moment by the subtext of the Chancellor's statement, but then manages to smile and nod his thanks for the emotional support.

PALPATINE (cont'd)

But I fear it may be too late even if she does. Rumors of her death have spread. Some even blame the Jedi. Either for not protecting her, or even being complicit.

(concerned)

You see how little they help their cause.

(MORE)

PALPATINE (cont'd)

(beat)

People are frightened. They do not feel safe, and they worry that the Jedi cannot stop these terrorists, let alone a possible conflict with Dooku and others, including the Guilds.

Organa nods, his emotional reaction earlier becoming still as he tries to collect himself, become the statesman once again.

ORGANA

The Republic has not had a standing army...for a thousand years.

PALPATINE

Oh, believe me, the thought is counter to everything we have worked for.

(slightly broken)

But what options do we have? Buy droids from the guilds to protect us from the guilds?

(beat)

The few Jedi cruisers we have are barely enough to keep the pirates at bay and catch the most egregious of the smugglers.

ORGANA

And we do not know if the Jedi are as committed to our safety as they propose.

PALPATINE

Darkness seems set upon us. I fear the people may flock to any light they see, even if it is the foundations of the Republic set ablaze.

ORGANA

Our hopes may lay with Senator Amidala, wherever she is.

Palpatine nods his agreement and stands.

Organa bows his departure and hurries out of the office, leaving Palpatine to turn to the window and the night sky beyond.

51 INT. BANE'S FREIGHTER, MESS - DAY

51

Bane seems to be the only one comfortable, as there are only three seats, and two of them are falling apart. Obi-Wan and Anakin huddle near the wall, the ceiling shorter than both of them.

Padme is at ease though, her height finally an advantage.

BANE

It's simple, really.

(beat)

You act as a distraction, while Aurra and I relieve the target of something he'd rather not part with. If there's trouble, these two make sure it doesn't follow us.

PADME

Doesn't seem like you need extra hands for something so simple.

BANE

(chuckles)

Oh, well, there will be about a hundred of his closest friends with him. Or did I forget to mention it was a gala? I hope you didn't misunderstand me when I told you to get something nice.

Padme smirks, and slips off the almost over-sized rag of a robe. She is absolutely stunning in a high fashion dress.

PADME

Think this will do?

Bane nods, smiling, though it looks way more hostile with his lip-less mouth and sharp teeth.

He makes his way out of the mess.

Sing has to stoop when she stands.

SING

Where in Mos Espa did you find that?

PADME

You'd be surprised what pirates throw away.

Sing agrees with her and follows after Bane.

Anakin opens his mouth when they're gone, but Obi-Wan puts his finger to it, drawing a look of wrath but little else from Anakin.

Casually Obi-Wan turns toward the wall, and rests his hand on the bulkhead, closing his eyes.

52 INT. BANE'S FREIGHTER, COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

52

Bane watches a little monitor of the mess, distorted because of the extreme wide-angle lens. Obi-Wan isn't quite visible.

The feed stutters and then goes blank.

Sing is standing behind Bane.

SING

Well, at least we know they're not amateurs.

BANE

Still think he's a Jedi?

SING

Oh, definitely. But that might work out well for us.

BANE

(shrugs)  
It's your life.

53 INT. BANE'S FREIGHTER, MESS - CONTINUOUS

53

Obi-Wan opens his eyes and nods.

OBI-WAN

Okay, that should give us some privacy.

ANAKIN

You know, I could have fed a looped image, so he didn't even know we could do that.

Obi-Wan considers this for a moment, trying to find fault with it and then just waves his hand as though to say it doesn't matter.

Anakin grunts.

PADME

(firmly)

We're getting off at the next stop.

Anakin and Obi-Wan nod in agreement.

OBI-WAN

He will likely kill us before paying us. While you entertain the target, I'll secure some transport, or at least a place from which to work.

ANAKIN

Unless it's a private asteroid.

The other two look at him blankly.

ANAKIN (cont'd)

Core-leet.

(shakes his head)

People who want to keep things they shouldn't, don't live where laws can touch them.

OBI-WAN

Well, if that's the case there will be at least a hundred ships. I'm sure we can manage to...borrow one.

ANAKIN

You should stay with her. You stick out like a clean Bantha.

Padme agrees with a nod.

Obi-Wan tries to argue but just throws up his hands instead.

ANAKIN (cont'd)

I'll figure something out. Based on his vector, I'd guess we're headed along the edge of Hutt space, probably Teth. Jungles, old ruins.

(to Obi-Wan)

Surprised the Jedi don't have their ceremonies there already.

Obi-Wan raises his eyebrow at the suggestion.

PADME

(interjecting)

Just identify the best ship and then find me. I may be able to achieve a diplomatic solution.

ANAKIN

I hope your more convincing than he was.

PADME

(touching his hand  
lightly)

I think I might be.

Anakin gulps.

Padme smiles.

Obi-Wan busts up.

Anakin stalks out of the mess, hitting his head on the ceiling as he does.

54 EXT. TETH SANCTUARY - NIGHT

54

A single large mesa comes into view as a luxury yacht slides along leisurely, skimming the mists that hide the cavernous depths beneath it. An eerie pigment in the sky, something between brown and purple casts gloom into the growing darkness.

The freighter lumbers out of the mists briefly, as though checking its position and then drops down again.

It continues down into the mists.

After moments they clear, a dense jungle-scape emerges, still a kilometer below. The freighter settles onto a small outcropping of the cliffs from the mesa above.

The door opens.

Bane steps out, followed by the rest.

PADME

(to Bane)

I don't suppose you have our invitation?

BANE

(looking ahead)

You'll figure something out.

Sing tosses the three of them grips for climbing and a rope, then points up.



SING

We'll make the grab in an hour. Make  
sure their attention is somewhere  
else.

Padme secures the clawed grip on her hand and smiles easily.

PADME

Just make sure you don't leave  
without us.

She doesn't wait for a response, digging her clawed grip  
into the mesa and starting to climb.

Obi-Wan and Anakin follow quickly, both of them slinging  
bags over their shoulders first.

They disappear in moments into the mist.

Bane's comm beeps and he pulls it out.

Fett's image pops up in hologram form.

Bane nods once, and Fett salutes him.

Bane pockets the comm and then signals Sing to move out.

55 INT. TETH SANCTUARY, OUT BUILDING - LATER

55

Padme keeps a lookout through the cracked door. A security  
patrol, two very vicious looking aliens carrying assault  
blasters, stalk along the perimeter of the large, festively  
adorned, temple-like structure that dominates the mesa.

OBI-WAN (O.S.)

I'm really not sure about this.

PADME

Less is more.

Obi-Wan steps out wearing next to nothing, though his loin  
cloth is extremely fine tapestry. A pair of sandals cut from  
he boots he was wearing, adorn his feet.

He rummages through the open bag containing various other  
items of finery, and manages to find an ornate necklace.

He secures it on his chest, feeling less naked, but only  
barely.

Padme looks him over.

PADME (cont'd)  
 That celibate thing may not work out  
 for you tonight.

Obi-Wan holds up his lightsaber looking helpless.

Padme snatches it from him and grabs a strip of leather left over from his boots and ties it high around her leg, then smooths her dress, concealing the hilt entirely.

56 EXT. TETH SANCTUARY - MOMENTS LATER

56

Padme walks regally forward, Obi wan on her arm. A guard approaches them quickly. But Obi-Wan waves his hand and nods. The guard does the same and then turns around. Padme and Obi-Wan slip inside the Sanctuary, and the noises of CROWD and MUSIC grow large.

Anakin watches the whole thing from his perch on top of the out-building.

He turns his attention to the right where rows of luxury yachts are all lined up.

Security is heavy, and he crawls along the roof carefully.

He pauses abruptly and then looks down his leg at a sensor he almost tripped.

He breathes easily, steadying himself, closing his eyes. And then slowly moves his leg away.

Just then he opens his eyes and spots a very sleek looking black craft, one that seems like it was built to slip in and out of places without being seen. The subtle insignia of the Republic Guard on its hull.

He smiles.

57 INT. TETH SANCTUARY - LATER

57

Padme and Obi-Wan circulate, most eyes drawn to Obi-Wan who has a look of subservience plastered on his face, eyes slightly downcast, and a slump in his shoulders.

There are other obvious love-slaves of both genders and many alien races as well. It seems every third guest has one. Some even on leashes with collars.

A racy dancer wrihtes in front of the musicians, joined by another and then another, not a clear gender among them, but they seem to enjoy the contact of their naked skin all the same.

Padme spots a large man with garishly pink skin, and ears that reach above his heavy face as he wobbles on a day bed, too fat to fit in the small chairs his guests wander in and out of around him.

Padme leads Obi-Wan in that general direction.

Above them, in the shadows of the arched ceiling, Sing watches her progress, scanning the room while she unslings a rifle.

Padme gets close to the obvious host and then turns immediately away as she sees a regal woman beside him, SENATOR CROTE (50s).

OBI-WAN  
(quietly)  
Trouble

PADME  
A senator.

Obi-Wan looks up just enough to see Crote and then down again with a small nod.

PADME (cont'd)  
Does she know you?

OBI-WAN  
Yes.

Padme glares, and then makes up her mind.

PADME  
Call to Anakin.

OBI-WAN  
That would make a scene, but then what.

PADME  
(clenching her fists)  
With the force. Call to him in the force.

OBI-WAN  
I see.

He closes his eyes for a moment.

58 EXT. TETH SANCTUARY - CONTINUOUS

58

Anakin carefully rounds the corner of the building he was on, waiting patiently for the guards to circulate, keeping his eye on the chosen yacht.

OBI-WAN (V.O.)

Anakin.

ANAKIN

Huh?

Anakin turns left and right, looking for Obi-Wan.

OBI-WAN

Anakin. If you can hear me, come.

Anakin shakes his head like tasting something bad, and then starts to back away from the row of yachts, and smack into a guard.

The guard makes a noise of surprise, and Anakin jerks reflexively with his hand, sending the guard tumbling off the cliff, swallowed immediately by the mist.

He looks a little shocked, but then collects himself.

59 INT. TETH SANCTUARY - MOMENTS LATER

59

Padme and Obi-Wan wander near the edge of the large hall, and then slip into a hallway near where they entered.

Anakin is there, slinking along the walk way.

Padme pushes both of them into a room and shuts the door.

PADME

Switch, quickly.

ANAKIN

What?

PADME

Switch clothes, now!

Obi-Wan just smiles, and Anakin rolls his eyes but begins stripping down.

He passes clothes to Obi-Wan who starts pulling them on, a bit big, but he manages to make them fit.

Anakin quickly secures the loin cloth but the sandals are too small.

PADME (cont'd)  
Forget them. Come with me.

She drags him forward, down the hallway, Obi-Wan following closely behind them.

They round some pillars and come across party goers.

Padme pushes Anakin to his knees and starts kissing him as they pass by.

Obi-Wan looks down on them from above, holding himself flat to the ceiling.

Once gone, he drops down.

Anakin looks reluctant to break off but Padme pulls him up by the hair.

They round another corner and see the host and the Senator.

She points.

PADME (cont'd)  
Go give her some attention. You're good with your lips. Use them.

She smack his butt and he looks confused. She points again and he starts to move.

The Senator looks very bored. Anakin comes up beside her and kneels down.

She notices him, at first a little surprised, and then curious.

ANAKIN  
A gift.

She cocks her eyebrow at him.

Anakin looks down, confused, and then notices her foot.

He gently lays his hands on it and looks up at her.

She nods with interest.

He leans down and begins to kiss it, moving slowly up her leg.

She is obviously intrigued as he gets higher.

The host is becoming entranced as well.

Anakin wiggles his butt just a little to get a better position. The senator's hand finds it and begins to massage the cheeks, slipping under the extremely limited cloth.

CROTE  
Yes. Quite a gift indeed.

PADME (O.S.)  
Senator Crote!

Padme stands before them shocked.

Anakin freezes, bent over, mid lick, not sure what to do.

Crote frees him by standing up quickly.

CROTE  
(quietly)  
Senator Amidala, I did not think we shared the same circles.

The host looks very confused, but his eyes are also glassy as he sloshes a drink on him trying to drain it.

CROTE (cont'd)  
Perhaps we should *discuss* this somewhere more private.

Sing looks through her sight...

...at Crote.

Obi-Wan stands just out of sight behind a pillar, but his eyes snap to Sing high above them.

Anakin is on his knees watching the tense moment between the two women.

OBI-WAN (V.O.)  
Gun!

The single word causes Anakin to leap into action.

Anakin tackles Padme to the ground.

Sing fires.

Crote drops.

The room erupts into chaos, revelers swarming away from the gunfire.

Obi-Wan is there, pulling Padme up and behind him.

OBI-WAN

Tell me you found a ship.

Anakin stands, feeling very exposed in many way.

Sing is gone though, her perch empty.

ANAKIN

There won't be any left if we don't go now.

Padme pulls Crote to her, the woman's eyes still alive, but only barely. She tries to speak, but it's too late.

The fat host has fallen off his chair and is trying to crawl away, his own servants coming forward. The security begins rushing into the hall and all he can do is point at Obi-Wan.

The guards raise their weapons and take aim.

Obi-Wan summons his lightsaber from Padme's leg, snapping the leather as he does.

He deflects bolts as Anakin and Padme head for the surrounding hallway...

...straight into several blaster muzzles.

Anakin shoves his hands forward, slamming the guards backward and also shattering part of the wall with the same force attack.

Obi-Wan rounds the corner and sees the damage.

OBI-WAN

If we live, I think you have something to tell me.

ANAKIN

Shut up and lead.

Obi-Wan nods. Anakin scoops up two blasters and passes one to Padme.

They both begin to fire as Obi-Wan presses forward.

60 EXT. TETH SANCTUARY - CONTINUOUS

60

Guards are swarming in as guests are streaming out.

Yachts begin to rise up into the air, the rows of them clearing out quickly. Mid-air scrapes happen as the yachts stream out in all directions. Even faster once Obi-Wan and his lightsaber dance into the darkness.

Anakin is at Obi-Wan's shoulder, pointing at the dark black one.

ANAKIN

It's tactical Guard reconnaissance.  
Damn hard to track, some have cloaks.

Obi-Wan nods, sending a few guards flying away and deflecting a few more blaster bolts back to their owners.

Padme and Anakin sweep both sides, taking out attackers while Obi-Wan provides them cover.

In moments there are only a few yachts left.

Anakin spots a Republican Guard sprinting for the black yacht.

Ignoring the blaster bolts and his bare feet, he sprints toward the yacht, getting an inhuman burst of speed in the process.

He almost slams into the yacht and tumbles and rolls just past the guard, losing his blaster.

The guard pulls his side-arm.

Anakin flicks it away with too much force, jerking the guard with it.

Anakin body tackles the guard into the yacht, who strikes him hard with an elbow, dropping Anakin to the ground.

The fight around them continues, but the blasters get fewer and fewer.

Anakin recovers just as the guard tries to stomp his head.

He rolls and pushes at the guard with the force, launching him straight back to slam into the yacht.

The guard stumbles forward, pulling a knife, obviously hurt.



The guard lunges at Anakin, who takes the attack in a pivot, grabbing the wrist that holds the knife and breaking the grip while tossing the guard to the ground.

Without thinking Anakin breaks the guard's arm, and then slams a palm into the guard's chest. But he does so with incredible force strength as well. A visible wave of energy precedes his palm, shattering the guard's ribs, killing him instantly, and leaving a small impact crater in the ground as well. Liquefied organs and blood seep out and pool in the small crater.

Obi-Wan and Padme arrive just as it happens. Both of their eyes are wide with surprise and concern.

Anakin backs away toward the cliff edge without seeing it, holding his hands away from him, like they are dangerous weapons.

ANAKIN (cont'd)  
I don't...I didn't mean...

He wrings his hands.

Padme moves forward, holding out her hand.

PADME  
Wait.  
                  (pointing)  
The cliff.  
                  (motioning)  
Just come here. It's okay.

Anakin's age suddenly shows itself as he struggles to deal with what he has just done.

His eyes are full of pain and terror.

A saber dart springs from his neck and his eyes roll back, his body toppling off the cliff's edge.

PADME (cont'd)  
Anakin!

Padme rushes forward, just in time to see Jango Fett soaring into the mist with Anakin's body.

Obi-Wan rushes forward as well, lightsaber out and ready, peering into the mist.

Slave One rises above the mist momentarily and flies away into the sky. Disappearing quickly.

Obi-Wan pulls on Padme as the reserve security starts to open fire on them.

The ramp of the black yacht open and waiting.

They board as the yacht takes small weapons fire.

It quickly lurches into the air and zooms off.

61 INT. TETH SANCTUARY - MOMENTS LATER

61

Bane stalks among the ruins and reaches down to pick the pocket of the dead Senator Crote.

A security guard rounds the corner. Without looking Bane pulls his gun, fires, dropping the guard, and then holsters it.

Next he takes the Senator's thumb and places it on a small device which BEEPS once.

Sing comes up beside him as he stands.

SING

It's loaded. We should go.

Bane nods and grabs a drink on the way out.

62 INT. REPUBLIC RECONNAISSANCE YACHT - DAY

62

Obi-Wan pulls off his armor. Leaving the thin shirt beneath it on.

Padme enters in a Republic jumpsuit, having cleaned off her makeup and pulled her hair back into a conservative bun.

The brilliant light of hyperspace barrels on outside the cockpit window.

She sits.

OBI-WAN

It's gonna take us a while to get to Serenno. We have to head all the way to the edge of the corporate sector and then back track to avoid Hutt Space.

He pulls up a navigation panel, but Padme is distracted.

OBI-WAN (cont'd)  
 Anakin would have you do your duty.  
 He swore an oath, as did you, and me.  
 Is one life worth more than the  
 Republic.

Padme glares at him, wondering if he is repeating her words  
 back. But she relents.

PADME  
 We need to send a secure signal.

OBI-WAN  
 It will be intercepted.

PADME  
 It won't make sense to anyone but my  
 droid.

OBI-WAN  
 Is there someone you trust? Someone  
 who can get to the Jedi Council.

PADME  
 Why?

OBI-WAN  
 The sooner they know of the  
 assassination and the fate of Anakin,  
 the sooner we may be able to help  
 him.

(beat)  
 We can name him a material witness.  
 The Jedi would be compelled to find  
 him.

PADME  
 I know someone.

63 INT. ORGANA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

63

Organa sits at his desk, shuffling some data pads around,  
 looking beleaguered.

Senator MON MOTHMA (30s), a younger, austere woman, sits  
 opposite him.

MON MOTHMA  
 I trust the Chancellor only so much  
 as it is expedient to his aims.  
 (MORE)

MON MOTHMA (cont'd)

(beat)

But he is right. Fear is gripping the Republic. A major attack, even a few minor ones, could lead to chaos.

(beat)

We must propose what Senator Amidala suggested and trust the people to see it as a ray of hope.

ORGANA

I do not know if the people are wise enough to be trusted. Isn't that why we are here.

MON MOTHMA

People will--

The door BINGS, interrupting her.

They eye each other closely, and then he rises, moving to it, and opening it to reveal C3PO.

C3PO

Greetings, Sir. I have an urgent message for you.

64 INT. DOOKU'S STUDY - NIGHT

64

Anakin is unconscious, tied to the same post where Savage was earlier.

Fett accepts his payment from Dooku via a datapad and then puts it back in its pouch.

DOOKU

Go to Kamino. My Master wishes the troopers be ready as soon as possible.

Dooku holds out another disc.

FETT

I never argue with credits.

He takes the offered disc, salutes and leaves.

Dooku paces back and forth, then sends a bolt of lightning at Anakin, snapping him awake.

ANAKIN

What? Where?

He struggles at his bonds, but finds them made of energy and unbreakable.

Dooku smiles.

DOOKU  
I am your master now.

ANAKIN  
(sneering)  
I have no master.

DOOKU  
Oh, we both know that is a lie. I trained your master. From when he was younger than you. But he had a knack for discovering things on his own. A sense of the Force that has not been seen in many millennia.

(beat)  
The Jedi have become complacent. Easy. They sit in their temple and teach each other parlor tricks. Nothing has challenged them for a thousand years, and they have grown weak.

(beat)  
Just as we intended.

Anakin stares back, tense, and then he relaxes, his breathing stills.

Dooku fires another blast of lightning.

DOOKU (cont'd)  
No, no. We can't have that. Peace is a lie, little boy. A lie I will disabuse you of.

VENTRESS (O.S.)  
Master?

Ventress stands in the doorway, greatly improved. Though she has a scar, a deep red gash all the way across her once perfect face. Her eyes are narrow and full of hate for Anakin.

Anakin isn't pleased to see her either.

DOOKU  
(snapping)  
I told you I was not to be disturbed.

Ventress is cowed by the anger, lowering her head, but her eyes still full of swirling hate.

DOOKU (cont'd)  
 Go. Train with the Savage. I will  
 have use of him soon.  
 (looking off)  
 Yes, I think all our little pawns  
 will soon be under the same roof.

Ventress bows and goes out.

Dooku moves in closer to Anakin, touching his skin.

He flinches, tries to draw away.

She strokes his side and then seems to jab into it with her finger, a shock-wave proceeding it.

He cries out in terrible agony.

DOOKU (cont'd)  
 (cooing)  
 Yes. Feel the pain of all the lies he  
 told you. I will refine you, my dear  
 boy. I will press you into a  
 beautiful, deadly gem.

She circles him as he pants, involuntary tears in his eye.

Then she jabs at him again, and he writhes in agony.

65 INT. REPUBLIC RECONNAISSANCE YACHT - DAY

65

Padme is asleep in one of the chairs, somehow able to curl up despite the small size.

Obi-Wan sits on the ground in silent meditation, the mottled light of hyperspace still beyond the cockpit.

He opens his eyes, looks for Padme, and then concentrates.

OBI-WAN (V.O.)  
 Master Yoda...can you hear me?

66 INT. YODA'S MEDITATION ROOM - NIGHT

66

Yoda sits in a similar meditative pose.

OBI-WAN (V.O.)  
 Master Yoda.

Yoda's eyes remain closed.

YODA  
Yes, Kenobi. Hear you, I can.

67 INT. REPUBLIC RECONNAISSANCE YACHT - CONTINUOUS 67

Obi-Wan's brow is furrowed in worry.

OBI-WAN (V.O.)  
Master Yoda, the boy is dangerous. If  
he were to be trained...as a Sith. I  
fear he could be a powerful weapon.  
(beat)  
The things he does...it reminds me of  
what Master Qui-Gon spoke of, before  
he left.

68 INT. YODA'S MEDITATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS 68

Yoda opens his eyes and strokes his chin.

YODA  
With the Senator, your thoughts  
should be. The boy, I will seek out.

OBI-WAN (V.O.)  
Yes, Master.

YODA  
Obi-Wan...of the boy's true nature,  
tell no one.

69 INT. REPUBLIC RECONNAISSANCE YACHT - CONTINUOUS 69

Obi-Wan's eyes open as the telepathic communication comes to  
an end.

Padme stirs in her chair, but continues to sleep.

Yoda's words haunt Obi-Wan as he tries to settle back into  
meditation.

70 INT. YODA'S MEDITATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS 70

Yoda's eyes are open, his face troubled.

The door opens and Mace Windu appears.

MACE WINDU

It would seem you have a visitor.

In the hallway, Senator Organa waits expectantly.

Yoda motions for him to enter.

71 INT. RUNDOWN APARTMENT - NIGHT

71

Bane sits in the dark, his red eyes giving a dull reflective glow.

Sing is near the window, looking through the crooked slats that no longer open and close.

The door opens, and a hooded figure steps in.

Neither bounty hunter is disturbed by this.

On the floor, SENATOR FARR, a Rodian with bright speckled eyes that see very well in the dark, is tied and his ear stalks are twitching with fear at the new arrival.

DARTH SIDIOUS steps forward, a sliver of light from outside showing his ornate mask, dull red eyes glowing just beneath his heavy hood.

He stoops down, and stretches out a hand toward the Rodian.

SIDIOUS

Come now, Senator. Let us have a little talk.

Farr moves involuntarily forward, pulled by an invisible hand until his forehead is within Sidious's grasp.

Sidious chants something demonic under his breath and the Rodian vibrates, heat rising from his head.

And then he grows still, his eyes glassy.

Sidious stands, turns to Bane.

SIDIOUS (cont'd)

The timing is everything.

(beat)

And don't forget your other task.

BANE

Consider it done.

He touches the bill of his hat.



Sidious, like a shadow is gone in the blink of an eye.

72 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER, JEDI TEMPLE - EARLY MORNING

72

The sky is barely light outside the window, illuminating the distant Senate complex, as Senator Organa, Mace Windu, and Yoda congregate near it.

Master Shaak Ti puts a reassuring hand on his arm.

SHAAK TI

We shall go to her. Dooku was once a Jedi. We still have good relations with her.

ORGANA

But if Master Yoda is correct, and this bounty hunter has been credit traced there as well...

YODA

Troubling, these things are. To Dooku, we must turn. Help us, she can.

MACE WINDU

I will lead a group of rangers there myself.

(to Organa)

Please Senator, until we can learn more about Senator Crote's involvement, do not speak of this to anyone else.

Organa nods quickly, a slight hesitation on his face.

Mace bows to leave.

Shaak Ti motions for Senator Organa to walk with her.

She folds her arms into her sleeves and walks slowly toward the main door.

Yoda continues to look out the window, a troubled look on his face. The sounds of SCREAMING and then SILENCE like a buzz in his ear.

Shaak Ti and Senator Organa enter a turbo-lift and the doors close.

73 INT. TURBO-LIFT, JEDI TEMPLE - CONTINUOUS

73

Shaak Ti causes the lift to stop, raising a look of apprehension from Senator Organa.

She subtly shakes her head as he attempts to speak, and then runs her hand over the wall, a tiny FIZZING sound from behind it.

SHAAK TI

Forgive me, Senator. But I do not know who may be listening.

ORGANA

(tense)

A fear I have as well.

SHAAK TI

I do not believe it is a coincidence that the boy has likely been taken to Dooku's planet. Just as I do not believe it is coincidence this senator was assassinated in full view of a Jedi and Senator Amidala.

ORGANA

A conspiracy? But to what end?

SHAAK TI

If they had wanted Amidala dead, they could have destroyed the building. I examined the supply depot myself. That they survived is truly illogical.

(beat)

Unless they needed her to die in a specific way.

ORGANA

Or with a specific weapon.

SHAAK TI

It would cause utter chaos if a Jedi were implicated in the death of a Senator. Even if we were to disprove it, many would not believe.

ORGANA

The senate would be forced to call for outside examination.

SHAAK TI

And outside forces.

ORGANA  
A standing army.

SHAAK TI  
And when their plan failed...

ORGANA  
...they killed Crote instead, with  
Kenobi and Amidala there.

The realization settles on him as Shaak Ti nods.

ORGANA (cont'd)  
(distrustful)  
Why tell me this?

SHAAK TI  
The Jedi were once great. We stood  
for peace. Justice. We served the  
galaxy, used our knowledge of the  
Force to guide wise leaders and  
protect the weak and dispossessed.  
(beat)  
I fear we have wandered far from that  
path. I do not know that the council  
is to be fully trusted.

Organa takes this with as impassive a face as he can muster.

SHAAK TI (cont'd)  
I think you have your doubts about  
things as well.

Organa does not commit one way or the other, but Shaak Ti  
can sense his mind anyway and smiles.

She keys the car to start moving again.

SHAAK TI (cont'd)  
Perhaps we can speak again...  
sometime. When there is more to say.

She leaves it at that and he gives a small nod just as the  
doors open, and the morning bustle of younglings and others  
begins.

Dooku kneels on the small disc, Sidious's head hovering  
above him.

DOOKU

The cloners report great progress,  
the units will be ready on schedule.

SIDIOUS

I am aware. Why did you delay the  
bounty hunter?

DOOKU

A matter came to my attention, a  
ghost from my past who could prove  
dangerous to our plans.

SIDIOUS

You can hide nothing from me, Lord  
Tyranus. I know you have the boy.

DOOKU

He is trained by Qui-Gon Jin, my  
former student.

SIDIOUS

I do not care for such trivial  
things, not when the culmination of a  
thousand years of Sith plans is about  
to bear fruit.

DOOKU

He could be a powerful ally, if we  
could turn him.

SIDIOUS

The boy is not to be broken like one  
of your dogs.

(beat)

Destroy the Jedi, keep to the plan.  
Then bring the boy to me. I will deal  
with him personally.

DOOKU

As you wish, my Master.

SIDIOUS

Do not fail me, Lord Tyranus.

The transmission clicks off.

Dooku stands, her ego bruised. She moves to her desk and  
keys the comm unit there. ADMIRAL SHEELAL, A Kaleesh male,  
his face covered by a bone mask, wearing the white uniform  
of an admiral, appears.

SHEELAL

Count?

DOOKU

Is everything in position?

SHEELAL

Do I seem a fool to you?

DOOKU

On my signal then.

SHEELAL

Every moment this communication is open, we can be detected.

The comm cuts off. Dooku doubly bruised, punches her desk. Then looks up, and waves a hand at the screen. She sees Ventress moving down a dark tunnel.

She smiles wickedly.

75 INT. PITS, DOOKU'S PALACE - DAY

75

Darkness hangs everywhere. Dank and fetid sights fill the limited spaces. Anakin is curled in a heap on the floor, no longer restrained, beaten, but not bloody, bruised and struggling with each rattling breath.

Near him, tied to a stake is the Savage. His red and black skin all the more ominous down here.

SAVAGE

Up, weak thing.

Anakin stirs but does not move.

SAVAGE (cont'd)

Up. Or she ends you.

(looking up)

The hunter comes.

Anakin rolls to his back and stares into the small sliver of light from above, just as it goes dark, Ventress falling down, her lightsabers HISSING open.

He moves, somehow, just as the lightsabers dig into the rock floor.

She snarls as he comes to a crouch, and pulls the blades free.

He looks around, there is nowhere to run.

Then he catches Savage's eye.

Savage flexes his hands.

Ventress lunges at Anakin.

He grimaces but he shoves his hands forward, knocking her backward.

She scoffs at the attempt, righting herself and landing.

But he is up, and he hits her again.

This one she blocks.

Again he hits her, causing her to step back as she blocks it with her hands, blades still lit in them.

He yells now, the pain too much, and hits her with even more force.

It's enough, she takes one more step back, and Savage looms above her. He seizes her wrists and directs a blade to cut himself free.

She struggles to escape him, but his grip is tremendous.

Dooku watches from high above.

Anakin struggles forward.

                  ANAKIN  
                  (to Savage)  
                  We can escape. Together.

                  VENTRESS  
                  (fearful)  
                  Let me go, Monster!

This makes Savage smile. He tightens his grip, the SNAP of a bone sickening in the darkness.

But the action causes Ventress to summon great strength.

She manages to swing backward, landing a devastating kick to Savage's face, cracking his nose and drawing blood.

She scrambles free, leaping into the air and scurrying up the pit.

Savage smiles as he sees Dooku step out and seizes her by the throat

Ventress is surprised to see Dooku there, but does not struggle, extinguishing her blades.

DOOKU

You begin to disappoint me, Ventress.

Ventress's eyes fall, the words more painful than her broken wrist.

DOOKU (cont'd)

Go.

Ventress sulks away, as Dooku looks down into the pit.

DOOKU (cont'd)

Come, Savage. Bring the boy with you.

Anakin can't even resist as Savage scoops him up and leaps up the rocks, quickly falling in behind Dooku.

DOOKU (cont'd)

(over her shoulder)

Some friends of yours, Boy. Perhaps they can convince you to tell me what I wish to know.

76 EXT. SERENNO - CONTINUOUS

76

The yacht blinks into reality, blue-shifting until it comes to a near stop.

The planet is far enough away that its terminator line can be traced from one end of the sphere to the other.

It is green, but instead of verdant, something distressing about its color permeates the lighted areas. Something ominous about its clouds, like a storm about to break.

77 INT. REPUBLIC RECONNAISSANCE YACHT - CONTINUOUS

77

Padme looks out, her destination finally in sight.

Obi-Wan beside her, working a few controls.

OBI-WAN

Well, Anakin was right. This ship is pretty invisible.

PADME

Set coordinates for Dooku's Palace.

Obi-Wan nods, and then begins to work the controls.

78 EXT. SERENNO - CONTINUOUS 78

The black yacht slides toward the planet with some speed.

A few distant blooms of engines show just how silent the yacht is as it heads for the atmosphere.

79 EXT. SENATE COMPLEX - DAY 79

Senator Organa rushes through the pathways leading to the main building. He's obviously out of sorts, and in a hurry.

He brushes by several passersby, a few grounds-crew, and several aides in their more regal clothing.

He nears the main building, and as he rounds a corner, he is knocked absolutely flat on his back.

80 INT. SENATE CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS 80

Senator Farr, blank eyed and wearing a heavy coat stumbles in the hallway as he rounds toward where his seat is berthed.

A Republican Guard notices him and approaches.

REPUBLICAN GUARD

Senator Farr. Senator Farr, are you all right?

The Rodian does not respond, stepping into his berth.

81 EXT. SENATE COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS 81

A Duros stands above Senator Organa.

BANE

(disguised)

Oh my. I am so sorry, Senator. Let me help you.

Organa's pads and discs litter the ground, and Organa almost thinks about leaving them, but Bane starts to hand him things.



Organa stoops down and begins to collect things as well.

82 INT. SENATE CHAMBERS - CONTINUOUS 82

The guard follows Farr into the circular hovercraft that is his seat.

Above and around him are thousands of identical seats.

The guard touches Farr, and pulls back the heavy cloak revealing the bomb.

He recoils in horror.

83 EXT. SENATE COMPLEX 83

BOOOOMMMMMMM

The building behind Organa explodes, shattering windows, a huge fireball coming out of the top, shrapnel pelting the ground every where.

Organa is knocked down by the concussion wave.

Everything is muted, his ears are ringing.

He stumbles to his feet, bleeding from cuts on his hands and face.

Everyone is turned to the senate building, or scrambling on the ground. Some are writhing in pain.

Bane is the only one not looking back. As he walks away he ditches the coat he was wearing, a smile on his face.

84 EXT. DOOKU PALACE, SERENNO - DAY 84

The Yacht slips into a stand of trees, the palace visible just a short distance away.

The ramp opens and two small figures emerge, headed into the trees.

Obi-Wan stops and turns to face Padme.

OBI-WAN

Are you just going to walk up to the gates?

PADME

Unless you think it's better to broadcast on an unsecured channel so the whole sector knows I'm here.

OBI-WAN

Fair point.

He turns as she walks by him quickly. He sees the Palace through the trees.

OBI-WAN (cont'd)

I have a bad feeling about this.

He walks on, the trees covering them, the Palace looming in the distance, its shadow creeping toward them.

85 INT. MAIN FLOOR, JEDI TEMPLE - DAY

85

All traffic in the hallways have stopped.

Master Yoda pushes his way through feet and throngs, headed for a large window.

He presses himself to the glass, placing a single hand on it, a look of horror etched onto his face.

In the distance the main Senate building is on fire, in ruins, smoke billowing high into the air.

Movement begins again behind him, Jedi rushing off to help, Masters directing them.

86 INT. DOOKU'S PALACE, SERENNO - DAY

86

Padme walks down the long hallway, Obi-Wan beside her.

Dooku is sitting on her throne this time. MS-5Z1 beside her. She wears a big smile.

DOOKU

Senator Amidala, what a pleasant, though quite unexpected surprise. I am just so glad I was here to receive you.

Padme straightens up, her decorum and bearing her strength now.

PADME

Count Dooku. My sincere apologies. I wish that I could have made proper overtures to you, but I fear that there are those working against us.

DOOKU

Us? Have you come over to my cause? Do you support the idea of more independence.

(eyeing Obi-Wan)

Less interference.

PADME

I support your right to be heard. I support the Republic's right to adapt and grow. To cast off things which it must, and to serve its people once again.

DOOKU

Those are bold words.

PADME

It is time for action, Count, not words. As we speak, my colleagues in the senate are introducing a measure to disenfranchise the Guilds. Then the Chancellor will dissolve the body, call for re-elections. That gives you and I time to come together, to lead all the people of the republic to let their voices be heard. To--

Dooku begins to laugh, at first subtly, and then with great joviality. She cannot contain herself.

With a flick of her wrist, droids enter the hall, surrounding Padme and Obi-Wan.

She stands. Activates a holo-projector which displays a live feed from Coruscant.

NEWS CASTER (V.O.)

...the scene...I don't know how to describe it. The building is in ruins. The fire still burns.

(beat)

You can see Jedi attempting to penetrate the flames.

A series of small BOOMS and then CRUNCHING sound drowns out the voice of the News Caster.

The building collapses down, sandwiching what's left of the structure. Dust and debris are once again thrown out. The camera angle veers sharply, climbing to avoid being hit by the expanding dust cloud.

NEWS CASTER

...it collapsed. The Senate Building, which has stood since the beginning of the Republic.

(beat)

We don't know how many were still inside. We saw Jedi just go in. The senate was in session at the time, or was about to enter session. At this point...at this point we fear most of them dead.

(beat)

There...there aren't words...

Dooku flicks the audio off, but the image remains.

Padme reaches out a hand involuntarily to touch the projected image.

DOOKU

Don't worry. Your dear Organa wasn't there. Nor was Mon Mothma and a handful of your other friends.

(beat)

Which will lead to some very pointed questions.

OBI-WAN

What have you done, Dooku?

She is incensed at the impertinence. She moves with purpose. Down the steps, though the hologram.

Obi-Wan tenses his face, but remains otherwise impassive.

She gives no warning, tossing lightning from her hands and blasting Obi-Wan backward with tremendous force.

He slams into a droid who then slams into a pillar. They both collapse to the ground.

Dooku beams at the sight, summoning Obi-Wan's lightsaber into her hand. She activates it and holds it to Padme's throat.

DOOKU

There was a certain elegance to having you killed by your Jedi protector.

(beat)

But now. Now you will be the fallen hero. The face of hope who turned on the republic, who conspired to kill those she thought too corrupt to govern.

(beat)

You would have made a fair martyr. But you will make a most worthy villain. Who I, Count Dooku, protector of the people, brought to justice.

PADME

Where is Anakin?

DOOKU

Oh?

Dooku turns now, deeply interested, pressing close to Padme, smelling her even. Doing everything she can to disquiet and break the stolid countenance of her adversary.

DOOKU (cont'd)

So you've developed some feelings for the boy. I wonder if he feels the same.

She motions with her hand and Savage appears, now dressed in pants and heavy boots, his chest still bare. On one shoulder he has slung a giant maul, and the other hand grips Anakin by a collar, his wrists bound with energy cuffs.

Anakin sees Padme and the emotion is obvious.

Dooku claps her hands once.

DOOKU (cont'd)

Marvelous.

She sends a lighting bolt into Padme who crumbles to her knees CRYING out in pain.

Anakin strains against Savage's grip.

Dooku cackles.

87 EXT. SERENNO - LATER

87

The Jedi Cruiser LIGHT OF THE FORCE hangs above the planet.

MACE WINDU (V.O.)

I realize that Serenno is a sovereign planet. But we have a warrant for Anakin Skywalker as a material witness in the death of a Senator.

SERENNO SPACE CONTROL

The Jedi are not authorized to enter Serenno space. Return to your point of origin.

A small fleet of ships quickly rise up to meet the cruiser.

88 INT. LIGHT OF THE FORCE - CONTINUOUS

88

Mace stands at the comm table, frustrated.

MACE WINDU

Under the auspices of the Republic Senate I am issuing a formal order for the detainment and transport of Anakin Skywalker--

A young Jedi tugs urgently on Windu's sleeve.

MACE WINDU (cont'd)

(annoyed)

One moment.

He cuts the transmission off.

MACE WINDU (cont'd)

What?

The young Jedi passes him a note and he reads it, his face going ashen.

MACE WINDU (cont'd)

Captain.

A Mon Calamari in a military uniform turns from her post and approaches Windu.

MACE WINDU (cont'd)

Get me a secure channel to the old folks home.

(beat)

Quickly.

Mace keys something on the comm panel, and a hologram of the news feed appears briefly, before he flicks it away.

The young Jedi's eyes tear up, but she remains silent.

The comm table lights up and shows the council chamber this time, some of the seats empty.

Yoda is there, but quiet, reserved.

Shaak Ti, nods to Windu.

SHAAK TI

Master Windu, I assume you have heard the news.

MACE WINDU

Yes.

SHAAK TI

We lost several council members in the secondary collapse as they attempted to rescue survivors.

(beat)

But our time for mourning will come. It would seem that the Republic Guard has identified Senator Crote's access code before the explosion. It hasn't been broadcast yet, but the news received footage of a Jedi believed to be Obi-Wan Kenobi near the late Senator before she died, as well as involved in a fire fight at the same location. Several eye-witnesses describe him, Senator Amidala and the boy Anakin Skywalker as being directly involved in her death.

(beat)

The Chancellor has issued formal warrants for the arrest of all three.

MACE WINDU

This is unprecedented.

SHAAK TI

It would seem we are in a time without precedent.

(beat)

Master Windu, the council is ordering you to bring in the three suspects for questioning in their possible role with this morning's tragedy.

MACE WINDU  
 (grimly)  
 I understand.

He closes the connection down.

MACE WINDU (cont'd)  
 Captian?

The Captain nods to him.

MACE WINDU (cont'd)  
 Where is the locator beacon on that  
 reconnaissance vehicle?

The Captain, works several controls and brings up the  
 location as well as Dooku's palace on the map display.

MACE WINDU (cont'd)  
 Take us down.

She nods to him, and moves away issuing quiet orders to the  
 crew.

He flicks the comm unit again.

SERENNO SPACE CONTROL  
 ...repeat, disengage and return to  
 your port of origin.

MACE WINDU  
 Serenno control, this is Mace Windu  
 of the Jedi Council. Fugitives wanted  
 in connection with the bombing of the  
 Senate complex have been reported on  
 your planet. Make no attempt to  
 interfere. Anyone harboring these  
 fugitives will also be detained. I am  
 acting on direct warrants from the  
 Supreme Chancellor.

(beat)  
 Do you copy?

STATIC

SERENNO SPACE CONTROL  
 Copy, Jedi Cruiser.  
 (beat)  
 Proceed on your current vector. We'll  
 clear the air for you.

Windu clicks the transmission closed.



89 INT. DOOKU'S PALACE, SERENNO - CONTINUOUS

89

Padme writhes on the ground, lightning coursing over her body.

It stops and she breathes, but just barely.

Anakin is nearly beside himself with rage. He moves forward, only to receive a dose of lighting himself and falls back to his knees.

Savage holds his leash.

MS-5Z1 moves to Dooku's side.

MS-5Z1

Space control reports that a Jedi  
cruiser is headed for us.

DOOKU

It seems we will have to resume this  
another time.

Obi-Wan is awake, but restrained by Ventress floating in bonds that prevent him from even moving. Ventress flicks him now and again with the force, causing him to spin.

Dooku signals the droids and they file out, through the main doors.

DOOKU (cont'd)

(to MS-5Z1)

Signal the fleet to move in. Let's  
show the galaxy what the Jedi are  
truly like.

The droid moves off.

Dooku walks up to Anakin who is still on his knees, skin charred and smoking.

She lowers herself to one knee and strokes his sweat stained face.

DOOKU (cont'd)

Just tell me where your master is and  
I can begin to make you stronger.

(beat)

You'd like to be strong, wouldn't  
you. Strong enough to stop me from  
hurting her?

Anakin looks up, a rage-filled fire in his eyes.

ANAKIN

I am strong.

An explosion of force energy erupts from him, slamming Savage backward, hard into a wall, and sending Dooku sprawling outward.

She recovers and rights herself, but still lands hard.

Her lightsaber is instantly in her hand.

Anakin smiles at her, Obi-Wan's lightsaber in his, his shackles broken.

He ducks as Savage swings the maul at his head, and rolls away, coming up where he can see Dooku, Ventress and Savage all closing in on him.

They don't notice Padme moving away toward Obi-Wan.

Anakin reaches out and grabs the throne, slamming it into Savage, and shattering it into the wall along with the brute.

Savage tries to shake it off, momentarily stunned.

Over head the deep thrum of the cruiser, as well as its shadow engulf the Palace.

DOOKU

(to Savage)

Go, don't let the Jedi enter.

Savage lopes off, down the hallway.

Dooku and Ventress stalk forward toward Anakin.

DOOKU (cont'd)

Impressive, little one. But unrefined. You have no focus. You have no control.

Padme slides up to Obi-Wan and manages to hit the controls setting him free.

He reacts instantly, pulling Ventress back, slamming her into a pillar, and snatching one of her blades.

Dooku rounds on him, and he blocks.

Ventress rushes forward and he now dances with them both.

Padme slinks backward, searching for something, anything to help even the fight.

Anakin rushes forward, ignoring the cracking, bloody skin as he moves.

He charges right into the fray, but rather than striking, he adeptly passes off Obi-Wan's lightsaber back to him, and takes a knife and the baton from Obi-Wan's belt.

Doubly equipped, Obi-Wan manages to push Dooku back a pace.

Anakin uses the gap to attack Ventress. Like earlier he slowly pushes her back with force attack after force attack.

But she isn't surprised this time. She pivots and fires back herself. Knocking him off balance, and moving to strike.

ZING

Padme found the arm of the droid from earlier, and managed to fire a low-powered bolt that knocks Ventress off her stride.

Anakin uses the opening, side-steps her attack and plunges the knife into her shoulder, dragging it against her motion.

Ventress HOWLS in pain and scampers away a few paces, nearly dropping her lightsaber, her arm barely working.

She switches hands and pulls Anakin's blade free, dropping it to the floor, unamused.

Droid fire erupts behind Anakin.

90 INT. DOOKU'S FOYER, SERENNO - CONTINUOUS

90

Droids begin firing as five lightsabers burst into the darkened space.

They sing and flash around, one of them purple.

Mace Windu calmly bats back the droid's attack, as he moves close enough to cut it in half.

The other Jedi fare nearly as well, one of them getting hit and falling behind the others.

All of them move efficiently...

...cutting off a head....

...impaling a chest...

...cutting the weapon off the arm and blasting the chassis away the Force...

Windu stands up straighter, something on the back of his neck warning him of danger.

He leaps backward as Savage drops from the ceiling.

The maul slams into the head of a Jedi, almost literally liquefying it on contact.

It sweeps again, almost as quickly, shattering another Jedi's knee.

Now only Windu, the injured Jedi, and a third are still active.

Savage smiles, and presses a button, two small edges along the narrow sides of his maul light up, tiny lightsaber blades.

Savage swings.

91 INT. DOOKU'S PALACE, SERENNO - CONTINUOUS

91

Obi-Wan is faring well enough, but Dooku seems undisturbed by the encounter.

She slashes, dodges, slashes again. Seemingly playing with him, more than fighting him.

He looks tired.

Ventress is wary of coming too close to Anakin, but he too seems to be waning.

Just then the sound of several sonic booms shake the palace to its core.

92 EXT. DOOKU'S PALACE, SERENNO - CONTINUOUS

92

Three Droid Cruisers hover above the Jedi Cruiser, and open fire.

The claps of their weapons are like thunder.

The cruiser is out of position to return fire, focused on ground support.

It tries to maneuver and climb, but its shields were down, and the enemy ships are tearing it to pieces.

It takes only a few seconds of sustained fire and the Jedi cruiser begins to list, falling down the cliff and crashing into the jungle below.

Several secondary explosions begin to rip the remaining ship to pieces.

The Droid Cruisers continue to rain fire down, ensuring no survivors.

93 INT. DOOKU'S FOYER, SERENNO - CONTINUOUS

93

Mace traces the ships and then looks over his shoulder.

Several droid transports have landed near the door and droids with shields are rushing forward, about to start firing.

Savage swings and tears the injured Jedi in half, his back swing maiming the last Ranger.

Windu, uses the force to knock Savage back, he scoops the maimed Jedi up and rushes into the throne room.

94 INT. DOOKU'S PALACE, SERENNO - CONTINUOUS

94

Just as Windu enters, Dooku strikes like a snake, slicing into Obi-Wan's arms, first one then the other, and finally attacking one knee.

He is down in a matter of seconds.

Windu comes up in the middle of the room.

Savage now blocking the doorway.

Anakin and Ventress are still squared off and Padme has backed herself into the wall.

DOOKU

Surrender, Master Windu. I will see the Chancellor goes easy on you. Though attacking a leader of a sovereign planet...that doesn't look very good.

MACE WINDU

What have you become, Dooku?

DOOKU

Powerful.

She moves her blade to Obi-Wan's throat, his arms useless to stop her.

There is an odd WHINE in the air.

Then EXPLOSION after EXPLOSION buffets the air.

Dooku looks up inquisitively, not expecting any further fireworks.

95 EXT. DOOKU'S PALACE, SERENNO - CONTINUOUS

95

Five very sleek, very new ships now attack the Droid Cruisers with powerful missiles.

Several small gunships descend on the droids, cutting them down with lasers.

Another two drop right on top of the palace, and disgorge commandos in full body armor.

96 INT. DOOKU'S PALACE, SERENNO - CONTINUOUS

96

The high windows shatter and commandos storm down on rope lines, filling the hall with blaster fire.

Savage uses his Maul to try and block but takes several bolts to his legs, he stumbles backward, using the doors for cover.

Dooku deflects all the bolts that come her way, but the sheer number and accuracy drive her backward.

Ventress snatches her with her good arm and pulls her through a doorway.

In moments the Commandos surround the five survivors.

A sergeant, distinguished by a stripe on his left arm, salutes Mace Windu.

SERGEANT

Master Windu, Sergeant, five-o-first,  
we are prepared to Evac you. Follow  
me.

Windu cocks an eye at this, but gathers the wounded Jedi and follows.

Anakin picks up both Obi-Wan's blade and Ventress's, before scooping up Obi-Wan as well.

ANAKIN

This is getting to be a habit.

Padme is helped up by one of the Commandos and she hurries alongside Anakin.

ANAKIN (cont'd)

Are you alright?

PADME

I'll live.

He looks to her for something, but she is determined to be stoic.

They flow through the door and out toward the entryway.

97 EXT. DOOKU'S PALACE, SERENNO - CONTINUOUS

97

The Droid Ships are fighting back, but losing. The new sleek ships are just better equipped.

In front of the palace, a group of commandos and the survivors board a gunship which lifts off.

98 INT. GUNSHIP - CONTINUOUS

98

Anakin sets Obi-Wan down on the floor and checks that his wounds aren't too deep.

A commando slaps cuffs on him.

ANAKIN

What?

Another commando does the same to Padme, causing Anakin to react, but she shakes her head slowly.

Though pointless, they cuff Obi-Wan as well.

OBI-WAN

I take it we've been implicated.

MACE WINDU

In Crote's death, and possibly the Senate attack. Her codes were used.

PADME

Bane.

MACE WINDU

Cad Bane. The bounty hunter?

She nods, but says nothing more.

The gunship rockets into the sky.

99 EXT. DOOKU'S PALACE, SERENNO - CONTINUOUS

99

The sleek ships pull back just as one of the Droid Cruisers goes down near the ruined Jedi Cruiser.

The fighting continues at a distance, but the sleek ships retreat as more droid transports arrive and land on the ground.

100 INT. DOOKU'S PALACE, SERENNO - LATER

100

Dooku steps into her ruined palace, Ventress and Savage beside her. She is furious, the power of her hatred buffering in her hands.

She turns and lets it lose on Ventress and Savage, blowing them backward, sending them into screams of silent pain.

She barely stops as they collapse to the floor, inches from death.

Dooku stalks off, droids now uselessly filling the hall.

Ventress rolls to the side, nearly beaten.

SAVAGE

Up. Hunter. We've seen her destroyer walk. Up.

Ventress eyes Savage, then nods and forces herself to move.

Together they stand, a cool hatred simmering in their eyes as they look at...

...Dooku, standing where her throne once was. She looks up, at the shattered windows, the ghosts of the unknown attackers.

DOOKU

So that is to be the game, Master?



She quickly recedes, becoming smaller and smaller...

101 EXT. DOOKU'S PALACE, SERENNO - CONTINUOUS 101

...the palace itself grows smaller and smaller, the two remaining cruisers hover over the wreckage, more smaller vehicles swirl about.

Until they and the planet surface grow small as well, as more cruisers arrive out of hyperspace, hanging in the space above the planet, too late, but ready for more.

102 EXT. SENATE COMPLEX - DAY 102

Chancellor Palpatine moves among the wounded, several holo-cam operators trailing him, kept at a distance by his red guards.

He stoops at the bed of a child, her right side mangled, it is obvious that she will not live long.

He whispers something to her, kissing her forehead. Her eyes seem to glass-over, her breathing easier.

He stands, a tear in his eye that he flicks away.

He approaches the cameras now.

Reports fire QUESTIONS at him rapidly until he raises his hand for silence.

PALPATINE

The perpetrators of this heinous act will be found and punished.

REPORTER

Chancellor, how did they gain access to the Senate?

PALPATINE

That is something we will find out. Whoever helped them, whoever is associated with them. Whoever gives them shelter or comfort. There will be no where in the galaxy that you can hide.

The Chancellor waves them off, overcome with emotion. The guards push the camera crews back.

Yoda and Shaak Ti are nearby.

Yoda looks at the ruined building, rubs his head and seems to stagger. Shaak Ti steadies him, kneeling down beside him.

SHAAK TI

Master Yoda, how did we not foresee this?

Yoda shakes his head and holds a steely grip on his cane.

103 INT. HOLDING CELLS, CORUSCANT - DAY

103

Anakin exercises alone in a cell, a simple non-descript jumpsuit laying on his bunk. He's wearing just an under-wrap as he exercises profusely, working hard, fast, almost inhumanly fast.

In another cell across from him Padme sits quietly, pretending to read.

Into the hallway Chancellor Palpatine strides, stopping at Padme's cell, nodding to a Republican Guard.

104 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

104

Padme sits, sipping a warm coffee, relishing the taste of it.

Palpatine sits opposite her, reserved, but still engaging.

PALPATINE

You should be released very soon.

Padme nods, but doesn't speak.

PALPATINE (cont'd)

Matters have grown very complicated, as you may well imagine.

PADME

There will be a trial?

PALPATINE

There must.

(beat)

If only to prove your innocence in all this. The republic needs you, especially now.

She nods again, without commitment.

As she is obscured by Palpatine's form, Anakin is now in her seat, leaning forward, conspiratorially.

ANAKIN

The senator is innocent, Chancellor.  
I swear it.

PALPATINE

I believe you all are, but that is  
not enough. Not for all of you.

Anakin's face falls, he sits back.

ANAKIN

They need someone to blame.

The Chancellor looks stern, and then nods once.

PALPATINE

I must say some harsh things now. Try  
to bring the Republic together.

ANAKIN

With me as villain.  
(nodding)  
If that's what it takes to free her.  
So be it.

PALPATINE

(approving)  
I think you will surprise them all,  
young Skywalker. But dark days lay  
ahead.

The Chancellor stands.

PALPATINE (cont'd)

You would be wise to grow...  
stronger...in the days ahead. You may  
well need it.

105 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER, JEDI TEMPLE - CONTINUOUS

105

Obi-Wan stands before the remaining seven council members,  
dressed in a similar outfit to Padme and Anakin.

SHAAK TI

Jedi Kenobi, it is the wish of this  
council that you willingly surrender  
yourself to the Republic Guard, and  
stand trial in the courts.

(MORE)

SHAAK TI (cont'd)

(beat)

We of course expect you to be absolved of any wrong-doing in this matter. But it is best if that happens with transparency.

OBI-WAN

(sardonic)

Oh, I understand.

SHAAK TI

The Guard is waiting at the Temple entrance. These rangers will escort you.

Obi-Wan looks over his shoulder at the two Rangers standing in the chamber as they move forward. He joins them and enters the turbo-lift.

When he is gone a collective breath escapes the council.

MACE WINDU

This is a very dangerous precedent. The Order has always maintained its own justice. Handled our issues internally.

SHAAK TI

And we have never been accused of perpetrating an attack that cost thousands of lives and crippled the government.

(beat)

More concerning is where these *troopers* have come from. And who has seen fit that the Republic now possesses an army, a formidable army.

(beat)

Are we to go to war?

MACE WINDU

Master Yoda? Do you have anything to say?

Yoda is as blank and lost as he was previously.

YODA

Clouded, the future is. Everywhere, the dark side is.

His words cause looks of concern, even fear on the council members.

106 INT. HOLDING CELLS, CORUSCANT - NIGHT

106

Obi-Wan stands before the cell where Anakin, now dressed, reclines on a bunk.

The force-field deactivates and he steps inside.

OBI-WAN

Hello again.

Anakin rolls his eyes and goes back to staring at the ceiling.

Obi-Wan looks at his bunk, sets down his blanket and then sinks to the floor, meditating.

ANAKIN

Do you ever get useful *vibes*?

He rolls to his side.

ANAKIN (cont'd)

Or do you do that just so we all think you're more collected and wise than everyone else?

Obi-Wan smiles.

OBI-WAN

Perhaps it's both.

Anakin smirks at the honesty and moves to the floor, assuming a near meditative pose himself.

ANAKIN

They're not going to let us live long enough for a trial, are they?

OBI-WAN

I would not expect it.

ANAKIN

But Padme?

OBI-WAN

She is a Senator, and lacks our... disposability.

Anakin nods, picking at his shoe which doesn't quite fit.

Obi-Wan looks at him closely.

OBI-WAN (cont'd)  
Who trained you?

Anakin flinches at the question, memories of the lightning still etched into the still healing skin on his neck.

ANAKIN  
He didn't train me. He saved me.  
Cared for me. Helped me. He wasn't a  
Master.

(severe)  
All you wizards are alike. It's just  
a religious squabble that we're all  
caught up in.

OBI-WAN  
The Jedi are nothing like the Sith.

ANAKIN  
Really?  
(laughs)  
So far a Jedi cut off my arm, and a  
Sith tortured me for information. And  
I'd still rather have my arm.

Anakin and Obi-Wan both look up at once, just before smoke fills the hallways beyond the force-field.

Padme stands up in her own cell.

A guard flies by, slamming into a wall.

The CRUNCH of bone can be heard very clearly.

A GURGLE of someone's throat being cut.

The smoke is quickly sucked out by the emergency ventilation system, but when it is gone, Ventress and Savage stand above the broken and bloody bodies of the Guards.

Anakin and Obi-Wan are on their feet.

Ventress walks up to the force-field, and lays down Obi-Wan's lightsaber, and a different one, somehow looking like Anakin.

VENTRESS  
Gifts, from my master.

OBI-WAN  
Why?

VENTRESS

She *decided* it may be time to follow her own path.

(beat)

The force-field will deactivate in ten seconds. You'll have about two minutes to escape before the whole planet comes down on top of you.

OBI-WAN

And if we stay?

VENTRESS

You just killed all the guards in here, I don't think they'll be able to over look that.

(beat)

You are deadly terrorists after all.

She produces Anakin's knife, the one he stabbed into her shoulder and smiles before leaping away, Savage moving just as quickly.

Padme eyes them from across the way.

The field flickers off and Anakin rushes forward, grabbing her and kissing her.

She doesn't resist.

He tries to pull her toward where Obi-Wan is already working on the grate with his lightsaber, calling the other off the floor to his hand.

She resists.

PADME

I can't.

ANAKIN

Why?

PADME

I must clear my name. I must work to rebuild the senate. This is a dangerous time. I cannot leave it.

ANAKIN

They will kill you.

OBI-WAN

Probably not.

(MORE)

OBI-WAN (cont'd)  
 (beat)  
 They'll want to destroy her first at  
 least.

He pops the grate to the ventilation open and motions  
 Anakin.

OBI-WAN (cont'd)  
 Come along, Padawan. Trust Padme to  
 do her duty, we must do ours.

Anakin pleads with Padme silently.

She looks away.

PADME  
 Go. Now. Before it's too late.

The sound of alarms begin to blare.

Anakin hesitates, and then rushes off, following Obi-Wan's  
 feet through the hole he cut.

107 INT. VENTILATION SHAFT - MOMENTS LATER

107

The pair of them crawls quickly.

ANAKIN  
 (hushed)  
 Do you know where your going?

OBI-WAN  
 Patience, Padawan.

ANAKIN  
 I'm not your Padawan.

Obi-Wan just smiles and turns a corner, a steep vertical  
 shaft drops into darkness.

OBI-WAN  
 First test, Padawan. Don't die.

Obi-Wan falls and plunges away into darkness.

Anakin looks at the shaft, feels the air buffeting his face.

ANAKIN  
 I should have stayed in the cell.

He checks the new lightsaber is secure to his side and he  
 drops as well.



The shaft swallowing him whole.

108 EXT. UNDERCITY, CORUSCANT - NIGHT

108

The bowels of the city emerge in gaps as Bane and Sing stroll along a catwalk, support pillars massive and sporadic all around them. Very little signs of life at all. An occasional wretch wrapped in filth.

Sing hesitates, tensing up and scanning the area around them.

Bane stops as well, drawing his blaster.

Lighting stabs out of nowhere, knocking Sing into Bane, both of them collapsing onto the catwalk.

Darth Sidious seems to melt out of shadows, raising his hands, his mask hiding his face, only the dull glow of the red eye sockets showing some life beneath his hood.

Bane raises his blaster and fires once. The bolt stops in midair between Bane and Sidious.

Bane manages to look curious just before more lighting strikes him in the chest, burning his clothes and skin beneath him, the current roiling over his skin, leaving burns and opening bits of his flesh.

Sing throws out a hand, the force pushing against Sidious just enough to cause him to stumble. His hands going to the railing to steady himself.

In that moment, Sing grabs Bane and vaults into the darkness below them, the bowels of the planet swallowing them both up.

Sidious glances over the railing and then turns away, disappearing back into the shadows he emerged from.

109 INT. CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE, SENATE COMPLEX - DAY

109

Chancellor Palpatine sits at his desk. Yoda, Windu from the Jedi; Organa, Mon Mothma and a handful of surviving Senators; are arrayed next to and behind him.

Before them, cameras trained, are a bank of reporters. The Red Guards keeping a watchful eye and ensuring there is distance.

## PALPATINE

The fugitives Kenobi and Skywalker will be hunted down and brought to justice.

(beat)

I am confident that they were responsible for kidnapping and involving Senator Amidala in the tragic death of Senator Crote, as well as feeding the Senate access codes to the bombers.

(beat)

Until such time as a new Senate can be convened, I am activating the Emergencies Power of the Republic Charter, and I am empowering Regional Governors to liaise with the Jedi along with our new forces to keep the peace. Finally, I am declaring a state of emergency in the Republic. All terrorist activity will be dealt with swiftly and immediately. Peace and morality will be restored.

(beat)

My fellow citizens, I assure you, this reign of terror will end.

When he finishes, the reporters fire off QUESTIONS but he waves them away and stands, exiting toward his private office, leaving the panel to wade through the crowd.

110 EXT. SENATE COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS 110

More of the silver, sleek ships patrol the skies, their vaguely triangular shapes striking.

111 EXT. HOLDING CELLS, CORUSCANT - DAY 111

Organa and Mon Mothma wait as Padme comes down the steps. She keeps a brave face as they step into the waiting enclosed speeder.

112 INT. SPEEDER - CONTINUOUS 112

Padme hugs Organa and then settles into a seat and curls up into a ball.

Mon Mothma puts her arm around Padme, who doesn't object.

ORGANA

Who killed the guards, who broke them  
out?

Padme just shakes her head and Organa has no choice but to  
leave it at that.

113 EXT. SPEEDER - CONTINUOUS

113

The speeder weaves it's way into the daytime traffic and  
heads off.

A tail follows it at a distance.

The silver ships are above it all, silently hovering,  
harbingers of the new world descending upon them all.