

Star Wars 1:
Edge of Fate

Written by

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This is a fan re-imagining

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE ABOVE KASHYYYK - NIGHT

1

The terminator line recedes away as the planet below begins to fall into night. Dim lights flicker on and off, a power grid faltering and failing. Fires rage across large swaths of land. The ominous feel of a world descending into purgatory.

The triangle of a Star Destroyer crosses overhead, a shuttle disgorging itself from the secondary hanger, it's wings opening as it drops toward the planet.

Clouds of smoke buffet the shuttle as winds sweep it off course, sudden updrafts causing it to buck.

2 INT. IMPERIAL SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS

2

The compliment of troopers bounce and shake in their harnesses, supplies rattling in their crates, threatening to break loose from their confinement. The hull CREAKS and GROANS under the strain. And in the center, calm, dressed entirely in black, a hood drawn over his face stands the implacable DARTH VADER.

The Pilot is white knuckles at the controls, and then the disturbances clear away and an Imperial FOB appears like a gleaming beacon ahead of him.

PILOT
(into comlink)
Lord Vader, landing site is acquired,
we'll touch down momentarily.

Vader moves a finger across his belt, silencing the comlink, his lightsaber dangling conspicuously, a technological rather than aesthetic design, large and powerful looking.

3 EXT. IMPERIAL FOB KASHYYYK - MOMENTS LATER

3

The shuttle settles down to the landing pad, walkers standing still beside the platform, dark and unmoving, dwarfed by the surrounding forest, taller by several orders than the multi-storied landing platform.

The ramp hisses open, reveling Vader's boots in measured descent, sharply contrasted to the rushing white boots of his Stormtroopers.

The Troopers fan out at the bottom of the ramp, not an orderly procession, not pomp and circumstance, functional. They create a perimeter and advance in waves, securing the platform.

Vader wades slowly forward, pausing suddenly, a sharp intake of breath.

He looks up suddenly, and smiles broadly.

VADER

I can sense you, Jedi. There is no escape for you this time.

From the trees shadows descends, firing bolts of energy and swooping forward on vines.

The Troopers return fire, falling back toward the ship.

Vader looks on impassively, holding up a hand and deflecting a blaster bolt away, singing the glove and revealing mechanical fingers beneath it.

Tall, hairy Wookies drop from the vines onto the platform, falling to the combined fire of the Troopers, but there are more, many, many more of them and they are swarming from all sides.

Just as the Troopers lines begin to falter Vader steps forward, flicking his hands this way and that, Wookies hurtling into the air.

A wave of Wookies over-runs the line nearest the edge of the platform, scrambling up from below.

Vader looks over his shoulder, eyes flaring with an inhuman glowing yellow, then pivots with all his weight and unleashes a nearly visible wave of force that sweeps the attackers away.

With Vader's help, the troopers push the attackers back, a pair of heavy gunners unleashes a torrent of repeating bolts into the trees.

Vines snap and Wookies plummet into the darkness.

Vader rips bits of the platform off, dropping it down...

...onto the Wookies swarming up from the forest floor.

Vader closes his lightsaber and snaps it to his belt. He closes his eyes, reaching out his hands, concentrating very hard.

The dead Walkers tremble slightly.

Vader clenches his fists as...

...the Walkers metal hulls begin to buckle under unseen force.

Vader slams his fist open and outward.

The Walkers lurch sideways, hurtling at great force into the trees and exploding, setting the forest ablaze.

Wookies scramble and run, some on fire.

Vader breathes deeply for a moment and relaxes his body.

VADER (cont'd)
Stay with the ship. I won't be long.

The LEAD TROOPER salutes and issues silent orders to his commandos using his hands to signal them.

Vader walks to the edge of the platform, looking down at...

...the blazing inferno below.

He jumps.

Wind rushing upward, billows his robe open, revealing a tight, functional, black jumpsuit with a few pieces of equipment safely secured to a belt and harness.

Vader lands in a crouch, and stands up slowly, raising his hood once again.

With a hand, he waves away the flames and steps through them, batting away blaster bolts and pulling the unseen attacker from the trees to be impaled on his waiting lightsaber.

He stalks forward, lightsaber down, glowing red, the flames casting his shadow head of him like a giant demon.

4 INT. WOOKIE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

4

Wookies bustle forward, pushing heavy tables and crates toward the few openings into the large circular room, creating firing position.

A TRIBAL LEADER bellows orders, pointing and shoving younger Wookies underfoot as they carry weapons and ammunition, scurrying like well ordered ants.

A small human child, STARKILLER AGE 2, toddles forward, snatched up in a force grip and floated high above the bustle into the arms of a giant and matronly WOOKIE MATRIARCH's arms.

She coos to the dark skinned human child who giggles in understanding.

ROUGE JEDI
The child must remain secret.

The Matriarch rumbles something ominous at the Jedi.

ROUGE JEDI (cont'd)
Vader will not be stopped until he claims another of us. It is my destiny. Do not grieve for me, I go to a better place.

The Matriarch does not seem to be swayed, but heads toward the back of the hall, pulling aside a hanging and revealing a well hidden door.

The Rogue Jedi watches the hanging fall back in place and turns toward...

...the main door, a horse-shoe of crates and overturned tables facing it, silence descending on the room as they wait.

Wookies twitch, the little ones peering through crevices, their eyes catching the dim light, blinking furiously.

A gentle breeze sweeps through the glass-less windows stirring the banners hanging from the ceiling and along the walls.

The doors shatter as several Wookie bodies explode through them, crashing to the floor and sending a shower of splinters into the room.

Blasters open up, firing a hail of bolts through the ruined door.

Stopped and even returned by the whirring red lightsaber beyond it.

Suddenly the barricades begin to fly apart, slamming backward into the Wookies, disrupting their ability to fire.

Vader arrives as a blur leaping over the barricade, lightsaber a blur of motion cutting down Wookie after Wookie after Wookie.

The Rouge Jedi rushes forward, his green blade attempting to stop Vader's.

But he is bodily slammed by a flailing Wookiee and flies backward.

Vader silences the last of the Wookiee's firing at him.

A child Wookiee darts out of cover and cries out as Vader seizes him from afar, drawing him back onto Vader's waiting blade.

The Rouge Jedi regains his feet just as the child dies and Vader unceremoniously flings the corpse to the side.

Neither bothers with any words, they launch at each other, exchanging furious blows. High then low, pivoting and blocking a flurry of motion and light.

A crate slams into the Rouge Jedi's head followed swiftly by Vader's blade through his sternum. The Rouge Jedi sinks to his knees still impaled, still alive.

Vader is careful not to cut the Jedi in half, his eyes flashing with delight and hunger.

VADER
Where is Yoda?

The Rouge Jedi smiles and flings his hand forward...

...forcing Vader to deflect the force attack, jerking his lightsaber to the side.

The Jedi is dead, the lightsaber cutting into his heart, he slumps to the floor.

Vader lets out a furious roar that shakes the room and shatters more crates.

Starkiller shrieks from inside his hiding spot.

Vader's eyes flash to the side, his hand shoots out to rip the tapestry away and pull the hidden door off its hinges.

The Matriarch bares her fangs and rushes forward, a blade in her hands.

Vader makes short work of her, dropping her beside the dead Jedi.

Starkiller's eyes go wide with shock and then his face controls to anger, the room shaking with his own fury.

He reaches out his hand and snatches the dead Jedi's lightsaber from the ground, but struggles to flip the activation switch.

He glares up at Vader, the red blade of the lightsaber slowly moving across his face.

Vader stares down at the child, a look of curiosity, his eyes dulling, their unnatural yellow winking out.

Vader snatches away the stolen lightsaber hilt. Raises his blade.

The child flinches, hot tears wet on his face.

Vader closes down the blade and drops to one knee, now face to face with the child.

VADER (cont'd)
What is your name?

The child's eyes fill the screen, slowly cross-fading to...

5 INT. SECRET TRAINING ROOM - DAY

5

...STARKILLER (19), a sculpted, yet still slight young man with dark skin and tight hair, eyes, hard and focuses, a bead of sweat trickling down the bridge of his nose.

VADER (O.S.)
What is your name?

STARKILLER
I have no name. I am no one. Nothing.
A phantom that haunts the last of the
Jedi's dreams.

Starkiller stands stripped to almost nothing, the barest of rags covering his filthy, sweaty body. He is surrounded by a derelict training room, dark, dank, even more filthy than he is.

He holds a simple metal baton limply to his side.

Vader stands impassive in front of him, arms crossed in front of him, his lightsaber dangling from his belt.

VADER
Begin.

Debris from all around the room begins to swirl and then fly at Starkiller.

He deflects some with the baton, some with the force. He is beauty in motion, fluid and conservative, not wasting a single motion, in control.

The storm continues, and the air itself begins to crackle.

Suddenly lightning leaps from the air to strike his baton, surging into him. He grimaces, taking a few hits as he is temporarily stunned.

He regains movement, deflects more debris, then the lightning strikes again, this time more intensely.

Starkiller grits his teeth against the pain, debris striking his face, hard, drawing blood. He bares his teeth.

VADER (cont'd)

Good. Let your anger flow. Your hatred for me is strong now.

Starkiller gets more aggressive, less controlled. His movements gain extra strength from the force. He begins to yell out as he swings his baton.

More lightning strikes and this time he cries out in frustration and launches an attack directly at Vader.

Vader catches the baton, but takes a step back to do so.

There is a smile on Vader's lips, and then he slams his free hand into Starkiller...

...launching the boy backward, slamming hard into the wall.

Starkiller crumples to the floor, dazed, eyes glassy.

Vader strides forward, standing over the crumpled Starkiller.

VADER (cont'd)

Clean yourself. You are ready to be useful to me.

Vader turns with a swish of his robe and leaves Starkiller alone.

6 INT. WASHROOM - LATER

6

Starkiller drags himself to the closest of the small washbins along the center of the room, forcing water to dribble out of the long disused tap.

He looks in the broken and dirty mirror, gingerly scraping the dried blood from his face.

With a flick of his hand, his scraps of clothing fly off him onto the floor.

He stands naked under the shower-head, allowing the water and gravity to do most of work as seemingly years of dirt fall off him.

He flexes sore muscles.

He slams the water off and walks naked from the room onto a terrace overlooking a humid jungle terrain, plants living on top of other plants, the very fauna predators.

7 EXT. RUINED JEDI COMPOUND - CONTINUOUS

7

Vader moves into view beside him, a small case hovering between them.

It lands on the floor at Starkiller's feet, opening to reveal a neat pile of clothes and a gleaming, new lightsaber.

VADER

The Inquisitor is a fool. The last of the Jedi laugh at his incompetence. You will bring me their heads.

Starkiller drops to one knee before Vader.

STARKILLER

Yes, my Master.

VADER

What I give, I can easily take away.
(beat)
You have nothing, you are nothing. Even these clothes are a blessing. The Sarlacc is tame compared to my displeasure.

STARKILLER

I will not fail you, my Master.

VADER

Dress.

Starkiller pulls on the clothing quickly, delicately clipping the lightsaber to his belt, feeling it with his fingers.

Vader raises his hand and a single Sith starfighter rises from the jungle and comes forward to rest just beyond the terrace.

VADER (cont'd)
None may know you exist. Kill any who see you. Reveal yourself only when you must.

STARKILLER
What is your will, my Master?

VADER
Pirates strike at our supply lines as though they know exactly which shipments contain what they desire.
(beat)
Find the Jedi pulling their strings.
(beat)
And if they mention Yoda before you end them, contact me at once.

STARKILLER
As you wish, my Master.

Starkiller bows again and waits for Vader to stalk away before straightening up.

Alone at last he pulls his new lightsaber from his waist and feels it in his hands, passing it from one to the other, admiring every inch of it.

Delicately he thumbs it on, a red blade leaps to life.

He smiles broadly as he swishes it through the air.

8 INT. ALDERAAN'S PRIDE, ROYAL CABIN - DAY

8

Space peers in through an impressive window, large and stylishly set into an impressive cabin's side wall. More like a royal suite than a starship cabin.

Despite it's voluminous setting, there are clothes strewn about it. Not cast off from wear, but in an epicenter around the sizable closet space, as though a whirlwind erupted from within and disgorged all the contents.

From out of the impressive bed a STEWARD creeps, pulling on uniform pants as he searches for his tunic.

The lights flare on, and he freezes, pants half on, bent over with the tunic in his hand.

PRINCE LUKE (O.S.)
Boys don't walk out on me.

Luke sits up in bed, the covers barely covering his nakedness. His hair is a mess and he's sleepy.

STEWARD
I'm sorry your highness. I didn't wish to wake you.

PRINCE LUKE
Humph.

Luke looks around the room.

PRINCE LUKE (cont'd)
What a mess. Who's supposed to clean this up anyway?

STEWARD
(awkwardly)
Me, your Highness.

PRINCE LUKE
Well, get to you.

The steward nods quickly, pulling his pants up and stringing the tunic over one arm and his head.

A comm unit buzzes on the wall.

Luke gets out of bed and slumps against the wall to answer it.

ROYAL CAPTAIN (O.S.)
We're arriving on Coruscant, your Highness. Senator Organa requests your presence as soon as we land.

PRINCE LUKE
Tell my father I'll be there shortly.

Luke flicks off the comm and pivots to look at...

...the steward, barefoot and disshelved as he gathers up the mess of clothes from the floor.

PRINCE LUKE (cont'd)
Pick something regal out for me.

The Steward nods, setting some white clothes aside.

Luke comes up behind him, pressing his body to the Steward, hands slipping inside the untucked tunic.

PRINCE LUKE (cont'd)
I hear the Dathomir keep their males
naked all the time.

The steward is distracted by the attention, but his eyes grow wide as he sees...

...the wide expanse of the planet Coruscant come into view as the starship angles down into the atmosphere.

PRINCE LUKE (cont'd)
Another first time I take it.

The steward nods, stepping forward to place a steady hand on the window, taking in all the Majesty of the planet's massive single city.

Behind him, Luke pulls on the white outfit set aside.

9 EXT. ALDERAAN'S PRIDE - CONTINUOUS

9

The luxury yacht settles into the atmosphere, space turning to sky and clouds billowing past.

The city is expansive, massive skyscrapers punctuate the clouds themselves.

In the distance a single natural feature, dark mountains, billowing smoke, red lava visibly flowing down in well worn sluices.

STEWARD (O.S.)
What's that mountain, your Highness.

PRINCE LUKE
Ruins of the Jedi temple.
(beat)
Stupid religious fools.

The ship zooms down toward a gleaming hub, round buildings surrounding a central building, five times the size of the five that surround it, making a giant radial figure.

The starship begins to dwarf in comparisons as it descends closer and closer.

Soon all that can be seen of the smaller building that is their destination is just a gentle silver curve which breaks open, a landing platform extending from the hanger doors that have opened.

The ship settles down with ease, swallowed almost at once by the gleaming silver curve.

Speeders whiz by as traffic resumes around the building.

10 INT. SENATORIAL OFFICE HUB LANDING BAY - MOMENTS LATER

10

Luke proceeds forward from the base of the ALDERAAN's PRIDE landing ramp, flanked on either side by security personnel wearing nondescript uniforms vaguely reminiscent of something ornate, as though the color palette had been drained but the structures remained.

A solitary silver droid toddles after him, a C class humanoid protocol, by product of a forgotten era, a walking relic.

It draws the ire of assembled eyes.

A security guard tenses his hand toward his weapon.

ASYR FEY'LYA, an elderly Bothan dressed in functional but still flowing robes moves forward, uneasy and tittering with anxiety.

ASYR
(to the droid)
You shouldn't bring that thing here.

LUKE
(dismissively)
It's a relic.

ASYR
Things are shifting against your
father.
(hushed)
You could be brought up on charges.
Not just for the droid.

LUKE
HA!
(beat)
The Inquisitor and his goons is too
busy being embarrassed by a sad horde
of zealots to worry about what I play
with, whether sentient or droid.

ASYR
(ignoring him)
Your father is delayed. We'll wait
for him in his office.

LUKE
Typical.
(mocking voice)
Hurry up and get here, Luke. Take the
duties of your birth seriously, Luke.
Wait for me while I bicker over
politics behind closed doors, Luke.
(to Asyr)
What monumental matter of state am I
being excluded from this time.

ASYR
(conspiratorially)
Here is not the place.

Asyr's eyes flow to the side where shadowy operative mark
the entourage's passing.

They load into a turbolift, the doors hissing closed.

The party is tightly packed, the protocol droid pushed up
against the side, ignored by everyone.

ASYR (cont'd)
The Emperor has ears everywhere.

LUKE
I should have stayed on my ship.

11 INT. LADY'S WISH - NIGHT

11

LEIA SKYWALKER, a nineteen year-old human with bright,
inquisitive eyes and dark skin, peers out the battered and
filthy front screen of the almost derelict shuttle as she
sits in the co-pilot seat.

BIGGS DARKLIGHTER (23) looks over at his expectant passenger
and smiles for a moment before adopting a sterner face.

BIGGS
Stay in the ship.

LEIA
(distantly)
Yeah, sure.

BIGGS

I mean it, stay in the ship. If Ben or your Uncle finds out I took you with me...

LEIA

(intently)

I'm not a child.

BIGGS

(approvingly)

No, you're not.

Leia shoots Biggs a warning look.

Biggs just smiles broadly.

She flicks her finger...

...forcibly turning his eyes back to the window.

LEIA

We tried that once. It was like kissing my brother.

BIGGS

I've gotten better.

LEIA

No doubt. Half your pay goes to the local talent.

BIGGS

Stay in the ship.

Leia waves him off.

He moves back through a door to the small cargo hold, closing the door to the cockpit behind him.

Leia gets up, leans forward, really tries to take in the dark landing bay, but can barely see anything.

LEIA

Sorry Ben.

She proceeds aft, carefully looking into the empty cargo hold for Biggs before slinking down toward the open cargo ramp.

12 EXT. MOS EISLEY LANDING BAY - CONTINUOUS

12

The ancient shuttle matches the sandy, rundown, dirty landing bay the encompasses it. The only light coming from dim, flickering fixtures on the walls high above the shuttle.

Leia peers cautiously out into the dim light at...

...the empty bay, a single closed door under an overhang.

She moves stealthily to the wall.

Inching her way toward the door she casts about, listens.

Moments pass, and she flicks the door control, the orange metal portal receding and revealing a dusty and empty walkway, hemmed in by close buildings.

She steps out, taller now, trying to gain her confidence with each step.

13 EXT. MOS EISLEY BACK ALLEY - LATER

13

Leia peers around a corner...

...at Biggs talking in hushed tones with an obscure looking sentient, something mechanical about him.

She ducks back and sinks down.

She takes a deep breath and closes her eyes.

The space between her and Biggs compresses and she can hear what they're saying.

BIGGS

...we agreed on ten thousand.

His companion makes odd clicking noises, punctuated by a regulator breathing for him, his torso mostly robotic.

BIGGS (cont'd)

(shaking his head)

Fine!

(beat)

But this is it. We'll find someone else.

His companion makes an unmistakable chuckle.

Biggs hands over a small amount of credits and his companion passes him a thin data stick.

They move off in opposite direction, Biggs headed directly for Leia.

Leia breathes sharply, recalling her senses to herself once again.

Then suddenly like a knife to her brain, another vision strikes her.

An assassin stalking across the rooftops, about to drop down on Biggs from above.

Leia springs to action, leaping to her feet.

She turns the corner and sprints inhumanly fast at Biggs.

Biggs has only a second to register a look of surprise, unaware of the shadow descending on him from above.

Leia throws out her hand, deflecting the assassin and slamming him into the wall beside Biggs.

Biggs reacts quickly enough, blaster in his hand, leveling it at his assassin, but the assassin is faster, flicking it away with a twitch.

Biggs backs up.

The assassin lunges at him with an impressive looking sword.

Leia interdicts the motion with a smooth stroke from an unfurling baton that only reaches full length midway through the strike.

BIGGS (cont'd)

Kill him!

LEIA

What?

The assassin uses the moment to strike at Leia, but she is his equal in every way.

They make a flurry of motions, the confines of the narrow alley making it difficult to strike with full power.

Leia pins the assassin to the wall, face hidden behind a featureless dark mass, only a dim glow of red in the eye sockets.

They contend with sheer strength until a sickening SQUELCH causes the assassin to go limp.

He falls to the street, Biggs behind him, a large knife wet with blue blood.

BIGGS
We need to go, now!

He pulls Leia away by the arm, she doesn't resist.

Instead she just looks passively over her shoulder as Biggs drags her away at...

...the dead assassin, blue blood still spilling from the wound.

14 EXT. MOS EISLEY LANDING BAY - MOMENTS LATER 14

The shuttle's engines flare as it comes to life and lumbers into the sky.

It quickly retreats toward space.

Like it is being pulled through a tiny point in space, the ship lengthens and blurs, the light shifting toward red, and then it is gone, only stars remaining.

15 INT. LARS HOMESTEAD - DAY 15

OWEN LARS, a burly, weathered man in his fifties, paces back and forth in high dungeon. BERU LARS, his wife mends Leia's tunic, ripped in the fight.

Biggs sits with his head down, too aware of his guilt to even hazard a defense.

Leia looks from Biggs to her uncle, then back to Biggs.

LEIA
I saved his life.

OWEN
Saved? You think you've done something good. You shouldn't have been there in the first place. You are never to leave this compound, let alone this planet.

LEIA

If I wasn't there, Biggs would be dead, and whatever he paid for would be lost.

OWEN

Lost? Yes, lost, that's exactly what you are. Lost.

LEIA

You're mad at me for saving his life?

BEN (O.S.)

No little one...

OBI-WAN KENOBI, now called simply BEN, an old man in tattered brown robe, hood hanging sadly behind him, looks on at the scene before him.

BEN

...your uncle is afraid.

LEIA

Of what? Some assassin? I don't think he's going to come after Biggs again.

Biggs looks up, almost ready to speak.

Owen cuts that idea down with a single, furious look.

BERU

Come Biggs.

(standing)

I need someone to lift a few crates so I can get supper started.

Biggs takes the mercy and almost runs from the room, beating Beru to the door.

She pauses, putting a hand on Owen's arm.

BERU (cont'd)

She can't stay cooped up here forever.

Owen tries to answer back, full of fury and wrath, but she leans in and kisses him instead.

BERU (cont'd)

(to the room)

Supper's in an hour, I expect everyone cleaned and dressed.

(MORE)

BERU (cont'd)
(to Ben)
I assume you'll stay.

Ben nods.

Beru touches her husband again, and then leaves through the doorway cut into the rock itself.

LEIA
What's going on? Why are you two acting like I smacked the Emperor in the face.

OWEN
(soberly)
You may well have.

Leia is confused by this, but the sudden change in Owen's behavior has a chilling effect on her defiance.

OWEN (cont'd)
(to Ben)
Can he sense her this far out?

BEN
She is safe here, with me. The Emperor is blinded by his arrogance. It keeps the last of us safe from his band of assassins and the increasingly ineffective Inquisitor.
(beat)
But there are others who are looking for her as well.

OWEN
(as a curse)
Vader.

Ben nods.

Owen sinks to his chair.

Leia has the sense to stay quiet, though she must bite her lip to achieve it.

BEN
Even had the empire uncovered what Biggs was doing there, it is unlikely they would send one trained in the force to deal with him.
(beat)
The darkside surrounds everything now.

(MORE)

BEN (cont'd)
Vader is not the only one who
understands what Skywalker's child
could mean.
(beat)
Dathomir survives. The Jedi survive.
There are more. We must be cautious.

OWEN
(to Leia)
You don't understand what you could
have done.

LEIA
Then tell me.

BEN
(standing)
In time.

Ben moves toward the other door, this one leading up.

BEN (cont'd)
For now, we must meditate. Let the
force guide us. Surrender to it's
will.

Ben walks up the stairs.

Leia turns back to her Uncle, but finds him lost in thought,
staring up, his hands clasped behind his head.

She turns and follows Ben up the stairs.

16 INT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION ADMIRAL'S QUARTERS - DAY 16

The INQUISITOR, a Pau'an male, kneels in meditation, his
face a contortion of grimaces and fleeting snarls. The cries
of children an be heard, cut short by the unmistakable
SWOOSH of a lightsaber.

BLADE PRIME (O.S.)
Inquisitor.

The Inquisitor's yellow eyes spark open, flashing brightly
as his anger almost leaps from them at the interruption.

Before him stands a warrior dressed similarly to the
assassin, but this one is far more confident, standing with
the firm knowledge of her own skill. She wears a different
mask, this one gleaming silver, almost life like.

BLADE PRIME

Lord Vader commands you make contact
at once.

INQUISITOR

Leave me.

Blade Prime bows sharply and turns on her heels, leaving the
room with a measured, but silent pace.

The Inquisitor floats to his feet, and paces toward a small
dais with a circular pad in front of it.

He kneels down, the pad lighting up, a transmission
activating.

VADER (O.S.)

You're incompetence grows tiring.

INQUISITOR

Apologies, Lord Vader.

Vader's head hangs over the Inquisitor, looking down on him,
but he wears his own mask now. This one beautiful with hints
of something deadly lurking beneath. It shimmers and changes
with the light that touches it in patches below his hood.

VADER

I am not in the habit of accepting
apologies.

(beat)

You have lost the trail.

INQUISITOR

One of my blades was killed on
Tattooine. His failure will not deter
us for long.

VADER

The children of the force have grown
up, their numbers may be few, but
they grow increasingly powerful. The
Emperor is not pleased with you lack
of progress. Members of the Jedi
council still elude you.

INQUISITOR

(heatedly)

The Jedi will be purged. I swear it.

VADER

Do not fail me again, Inquisitor.

The transmission ends abruptly.

The Inquisitor rises, anger palpable on his face.

17 INT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION MAIN BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER 17

The Inquisitor strides quickly onto the bridge, Blade Prime close on his heels.

He comes to a stop inches in front of CAPTAIN KRAMER.

INQUISITOR
Set a course for Tattooine
immediately.

CAPTAIN KRAMER
At once.

INQUISITOR
(to Blade Prime)
Recall your best, we will cut this
snake off at the head.

Blade Prime nods once and turns to carry out her orders.

INQUISITOR (cont'd)
(to the window)
You will not hide from me for long,
Obi-Wan Kenobi.

18 EXT. MUSTAFAR MINING PLATFORM - DAY 18

A line of captives kneels on the narrow walkway, a shimmer of blue beneath it, the only thing protecting them from the intense heat of the volcanic inferno below them.

Starkiller stalks back and forth in front of them, looking down on them but not saying a word.

One of them twitches, trying to rise.

Starkiller flicks his wrist and the captive flies off the platform, barely able to scream before the heat of the lava below ignites him.

He splashes hard against the lava, his burnt corpse disintegrating atop the flow.

Starkiller stops in front of a Twi'lek female who is trembling but remaining strong.

STARKILLER

You.

He picks the female up by the throat. She struggles at his grip, gasping as he dangles her off the platform.

As her eyes start to go blank a cry goes up, projected by the force.

JEDI LOVER

NOOOOOO!!!!

The female is yanked out of Starkiller's grip and flies back into the arms of her young JEDI LOVER, maybe sixteen years old, dressed in the same clothes as all the others.

Starkiller smiles and with a wave of his hands sweeps the remaining captives off the platform.

Some fall and burn, but five are caught in invisible grips, quickly pulled toward the safety of the same platforms as the Jedi Lover.

Starkiller leaps into the air, igniting his lightsaber and cutting down one of the other five Jedi.

One of the five captives suddenly falls to her death.

Starkiller moves quickly cutting down another Jedi before the remaining three pull their lightsabers.

Of the five captives momentarily saved, only one reaches the edge of the platform before the Jedi guiding her releases his grip.

Starkiller fights the four remaining Jedi now, a whirl of speed, killing one, then two.

The Jedi Lover rushes forward, his anger the only thing that allows him to face down Starkiller.

They dance, but somehow, Starkiller manages to cut down the remaining Jedi but the Jedi Lover while Starkiller taunts him with flourish after flourish.

Starkiller blocks a powerful blow, and extends his hand, grabbing the sobbing Twi'lek and thrusting her out over the lave.

The Jedi Lover stops short, Lightsaber ready, panting, furious.

STARKILLER
Where is your master?

JEDI LOVER
I'll destroy you.

STARKILLER
Tell me and she lives.

The Jedi Lover rushes forward.

Starkiller flicks his hand.

The Jedi Lover slides past him, reaching his own hand out and yanking the falling Twi'lek toward himself.

She lands with a thud on the platform.

But Starkiller has his lightsaber poking out of the Jedi Lover's chest, right near his heart.

STARKILLER (cont'd)
Tell me, or you watch her burn.

JEDI LOVER
(painfully)
Old droid base. Asteroids above
Geonosis.

Starkiller flicks his wrist and the Twi'lek is gone from sight without a sound.

The Jedi Lover cries out in pain, balls of energy forming in his hands.

Starkiller closes down his lightsaber and cuffs the Jedi Lover on the back of the head, the energy receding from his hands instantly.

He pulls the dying boy's face to his, staring into those pain ridden eyes.

JEDI LOVER (cont'd)
I hate you.

Starkiller kisses him, biting his lip, tasting the blood that forms there.

The Jedi Lover is shocked, but then he gasps for air as Starkiller's hands close around his throat.

Starkiller's eyes are filled with confusion and longing as he chokes the last bits of life out of the boy.

19 INT. BIGGS ROOM LARS HOMESTEAD - NIGHT

19

Biggs sits in an light wrap around his waist on the bed, idly fingers a starfighter model, not looking up as Leia's dark figure haunts his doorway.

BIGGS
Just...not tonight.

Leia enters carefully, still dressed in thin but completely covering clothes, light tan to reflect the dessert heat.

LEIA
I-

BIGGS
(sitting up)
Look.
(setting model down)
I'm glad you saved my life. I really
am. I'm not gonna pretend I'm not.
(beat)
But you just don't understand things.
You're--

Leia stops him with a kiss.

He is utterly speechless, half rising off the bed, frozen.

LEIA
I guess you have gotten better.

She heads to the door, but turns backward.

LEIA (cont'd)
I'm sorry I let you down.
(beat)
You're really too old to play with
toys.

She flashes a devilish smile and leaves him.

His confused face over her shoulder as she winds through the rock cut hallways, ascending some stairs.

20 EXT. LARS HOMESTEAD - NIGHT

20

Leia extist through a rock face onto a small cliff overlooking a barren and deserted landscape. In the distance a large pirate ship hovers into the air.

There's ground traffic too, a hum of lights and activity as the illicit activities begin to hum.

The camp is a fair distance away, and nothing about the rock face betrays the Lars hidden home.

Stars begin to twinkle into existence, the last hints of light falling completely away.

Leia takes it all in, feeling the slight chill as the daytime heat evaporates into frigid night air.

BEN (O.S.)

I had a feeling you'd come up here.

Ben detaches himself from the shadows of the cliff face, arms folded together into his sleeves, hood pulled up against both air and sight.

LEIA

Vader's the one who killed my father, isn't he?

BEN

Vader betrayed the Jedi Order, and has been behind the work of the Inquistor, the Blades. He led the assault on the Jedi Temple itself, which he now sits in like a spider, waiting for more Jedi to fall into his clutches.

LEIA

You never answer my questions.

BEN

I'm an old man now. You musn't expect much from me.

LEIA

You're supposed to be training me, but you hardly tell me anything.

BEN

Yes.

LEIA

UGH!

Leia turns to the night sky, looking out and up.

BEN

You will leave here soon.

Leia looks incredulously at him.

BEN (cont'd)
I cannot hide you for much longer.

LEIA
Good.

BEN
Mind your feelings, young one. A Jedi does not crave excitement and adventure. You must keep your mind still, at peace. Only then will you know the will of the force.

LEIA
The will of the Force?
(beat)
Me hiding here is the will of you and my Uncle. The last Jedi are dying out there, hunted down and killed. Children who might be sensitive are either killed or turned into killers.
(beat)
How is my hiding here the will of the Force?

Ben sighs, unfolding his arms and lowering his hood, looking out instead of at her.

BEN
You are strong with the force, Leia Skywalker. Stronger than me, stronger than most any Jedi.
(beat)
What I can teach you, you have learned. But there is more to being a Jedi than knowledge and skill.
(beat)
You will be tested, it is a dangerous time for you. We had hoped to take you to Yoda years ago, but the Empire closes it's net on us each day, tighter and tighter.
(beat)
Trust in the Force, for all our sakes.

LEIA
What does that mean?

BEN

It is late. I will return in a few days.

Ben bows to Leia, who returns the bow halfheartedly.

He disappears into the passage way, leaving her alone in the starlight.

21 INT. ALDERAAN SENATORIAL OFFICE - MORNING

21

Luke starts awake on the couch in his father's large offices.

BAIL ORGANA, a man in his mid sixties sips from a cup while watching the sunrise on the compound, the central sphere of the senate compound visible.

LUKE

What time is it?

BAIL

Early still.

LUKE

I waited up.

BAIL

Things are changing quickly.

(beat)

Did you bring the droid?

Luke nods, sitting up, rubbing his eyes.

BAIL (cont'd)

I need you to take it to the outer rim. There is a pleasure house near Ossus, you know the one I mean. Make yourself seen. Spend too much money. Stay at least a week.

Luke is shocked at the implication. He sits up, staring at his father, searching.

Bail turns to his son, and sets his cup aside.

BAIL (cont'd)

You are not the son I expected.

(beat)

But that is my fault, not yours.

LUKE

Why? Because you didn't force me to be more like you?

BAIL

Because I did not accept who you are. Because I could not allow myself to see past my desires, I...

(focusing on Luke)

You were born in a time of crisis. I can't change that.

(beat)

Can you do what must be done? Can you face what is coming?

LUKE

What's coming?

Bail waves him off.

Luke gets upset, lurching to his feet.

LUKE (cont'd)

Tell me!

(beat)

You drag me all over the universe, tell me I need to be more responsible. Fulfill my role and title. But you won't tell me anything.

The comm unit buzzes, interrupting them.

Bail hesitates and then flicks the screen on.

MAS AMEDDA's face flickers to life.

MAS AMEDDA

Apologies for the early morning communication.

BAIL

Accepted. I assume the matter is urgent.

MAS AMEDDA

The Emperor requests your presence as soon as possible.

(beat)

Your son as well. He has long wished to meet the Prince.

BAIL
We will be there shortly.

MAS AMEDDA
He is expecting you.

The wave goes blank, and Bail breathes deeply.

BAIL
Dress quickly. Wear something
conservative.

LUKE
Does he do this often?

BAIL
(deeply troubled)
Never.

Luke nods slowly, his anger forgotten.

22 INT. IMPERIAL PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

22

Glass lines both sides of the long ante-chamber leading up to the large door carved with Sith reliefs that show turmoil and strife.

Bail and Luke are dwarfed by their size, swallowed in the palace of growing light.

They pass through the doors and make their way toward the throne at the end of the long room. Traffic is visible at a distance outside the Palace, but it sits higher than anything else on the horizon, the Senate complex barely visible in the distance.

EMPEROR PALPATINE sits on a small swiveling chair with high back, facing away from the approaching supplicants. An array of displays and holo-projectors alive in hues of reds.

As Luke and Bail approach the dais leading up to where Palpatine sits, the displays go dark and the chair swivels around.

They both kneel before him, heads down.

Palpatine is weathered with age, his face heavy and wrinkled, his eyes glowing yellow. He wears a beautiful black robe, hood drawn up, almost hiding his face, clasped with a single golden ornament.

PALPATINE

Rise.

Luke and Bail stand up.

PALPATINE (cont'd)

Welcome, my friends. Welcome
(beat)

And you must be Prince Luke.

LUKE

Yes, your Majesty.

PALPATINE

Oh, let's not be so formal here.
(beat)

Senator Organa, you have raised a
fine son. Born just after my Empire I
believe.

BAIL

Yes, your Majesty.

An uncomfortable silence falls on the room, but neither Bail
nor Luke are about to break it.

PALPATINE

(to Luke)

You have an old protocol droid, I
believe.

LUKE

Yes, your Majesty.

PALPATINE

Relics of a forgotten time. I had
thought they would all be destroyed
by now.

(letting the threat
hang.)

Our late friend, Senator Amidala had
a Protocol Droid, didn't she.

BAIL

Yes, your Majesty.

PALPATINE

Very fond of it, I remember. But we
Naboo always preferred our computers
isolated, separate. I think the Queen
still refuses to upgrade the palace.

(beat)

Nostalgia.

(MORE)

PALPATINE (cont'd)

(beat)

I'm afraid I have a mission of the utmost urgency.

BAIL

We are here to serve you.

PALPATINE

Good, good.

(beat)

Insurgents have obtained Imperial docking codes that could give them access to our most secure locations.

(beat)

Luke, you are planning on a trip to the outer rim I believe.

LUKE

(swallowing)

Yes, your Majesty.

PALPATINE

Excellent. There is a pleasure house there, the proprietor is famous for many things, including smuggling of my secrets. I require you to escort an agent of mine there.

Palpatine nods slightly and a hidden door opens, revealing MARA JADE (16), a beautiful young woman with red hair.

PALPATINE (cont'd)

Sapphire will ferret out my enemies before they can pass on this information.

(beat)

I want you to sell her to the pleasure house.

(beat)

And Luke...

LUKE

Yes, your Majesty?

PALPATINE

You must convince them she is well prepared to serve them. Both your lives may depend on it.

BAIL

My son will not fail you, your Majesty.

PALPATINE
(darkly)

Good.

- 23 EXT. GEONOSIS - DAY 23
- The red planet hangs in the dark of space, a ring of asteroids floating around it.
- Starkiller's ship floats lazily into view, powered down, drifting like the other bits of wreckage around it.
- 24 INT. SITH STARFIGHTER - CONTINUOUS 24
- Starkiller's eyes search the asteroid field intently.
- A flare of engines lights up from a large asteroid chunk and flies off into space.
- He notes the location on his holo-screen, several other dots with day stamps for at least a week.
- He manipulates a few controls and a network expands from the asteroids. Several massive bits of old droid ships cobbled together, hidden by the asteroids that surrounded them.
- There were several dim trails, and one very bright one through the maze.
- A blinking red-light on his panel goes ignored.
- He closes his eyes, reaches out his hand...
- 25 EXT. SITH STARFIGHTER - CONTINUOUS 25
- The starfighter lurches suddenly to the side as another piece of debris lurches the opposite direction.
- Just before it impacts a large section of a destroyed Republic Cruiser, the ship lurches again.
- It is headed for the asteroid field, slowly, purposefully.
- 26 INT. ABANDONED DROID ASTEROID BASE - LATER 26
- Ben's eyes flare open from meditation, his lightsaber is in his hand.

ALANA, a youngling of maybe seven, sensing Ben's discomfort, looks up from her own meditation.

ALANA
What is it Master?

BEN
A disturbance...someone is approaching.

Ben is on his feet, heading for a door.

Outside is a hanger filled with rebel fighters under construction by droids, X-wings, Y-Wings, all in various stages of assembly, discarded Republic fighters being disassembled to make them.

BEN (cont'd)
Captain.

The DECK CAPTAIN looks up from his datapad, and immediately picks up on Ben's presence.

DECK CAPTAIN
Imperials?

BEN
Something worse.
(beat)
I must leave, get the children to safety. Go dark. I'll lead him away.

DECK CAPTAIN
Him? You don't mean...

BEN
Not Vader, no. But possibly just as dangerous.

DECK CAPTAIN
We haven't had contact with Mustafar for almost a week.

BEN
They are dead. We all will be if I cannot draw him away.
(beat)
Hurry.

The Deck Captain takes Alana by the hand and issues orders to the closest droid. As he winds his way through the maze, the droids stop their work, shifting debris as the lights start to go out.

In minutes the whole scene looks the part of an abandoned facility, the droids playing dead, some now in pieces.

Ben moves to the center of the room, and sits in meditation.

The CLICKS and GROANS of the station cooling as the heat dissipates are the only sound for long minutes.

27 INT. HIBERNATION CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

27

The deck captain settles Alana into her pod, closing the lid and watching as she passes into sleep.

He pulls his own lid shut, setting a timer as he does.

In a moment he is asleep as well.

28 INT. ABANDONED DROID ASTEROID BASE - LATER

28

Ben sits perfectly still in the center of the large, dead factory.

Starkiller stalks along, high above him, looking, watching.

BEN

We are quite alone, I assure you.

Starkiller freezes. The old man below him hasn't moved, but he knows he is speaking to him.

BEN (cont'd)

I've sent them all away. I was beginning to wonder if you'd show up at all.

Starkiller jumps down, landing between to unfinished X-wings many meters away from Ben. He stays in a low crouch, waiting for something to jump out at him.

BEN (cont'd)

Vader was never so cautious as you. Perhaps he has not trained you so well as he thought.

Ben looks up finally, straight into...

...Starkiller's cautious but focused eyes.

STARKILLER

Tell me where you sent them and I will kill you quickly.

BEN

You are not destined to kill me,
little one.

Starkiller dashes forward, lightsaber blazing to life.

Ben doesn't even flinch.

Starkiller leaps into the air to make a downward strike.

Ben blasts him to the side.

Starkiller slams hard into the fuselage of an unfinished X-wing face first.

Starkiller rolls to the ground, nose broken, blood streaming over his face.

His eyes flash yellow and he stands.

Ben is standing as well, lightsaber out and glowing.

Starkiller almost literally flies at Ben.

The impact sets both of them back, but only for a moment, and then they become a flurry of motion, moving and blocking at incredible speeds.

Ben's face grimaces as he blocks a very powerful blow.

Now Ben is on the defensive, being driven backward, closer and closer to an airlock.

Ben flicks his hand toward the controls, and the massive doors begin to lumber open.

The pair duels through the opening doors, Ben takes a swipe to his arm, singeing his robe.

Behind Ben the vastness of space and the asteroid field is visible through a flickering force-field.

Starkiller halts his pursuit, scanning the room.

BEN (cont'd)

Good. Your mind is here, and now.
Aware of the moment.

(looks more carefully)
How old are you?

STARKILLER

You mean to kill us both.

Starkiller takes a few steps backward.

Ben flicks his wrist and dashes to the side.

The force-field opens, sucking the air and debris from the floor out into space.

Ben paws his way toward a hatch, pulling himself inside and sealing it.

Starkiller holds onto the massive door frame, being pulled toward the vacuum of space.

Air is getting thinner, his eyes flutter as his grip slackens.

He loses one hand, then the other.

YODA (V.O.)

NO!

Ben starts at the sound, but presses a button, the force-field snapping to life just as Starkiller slams into it, falling unconscious to the floor.

Ben steps out of the hatch into the re-pressurized hanger.

He stalks forward, Starkiller's body laying still in front of him.

He crouches down and peers into...

...Starkiller's face.

BEN

(darkly)

Hello there.

YODA (V.O.)

To Tatooine, take him. More to do, he has.

(beat)

Troubling, this knowledge is.

BEN

You should have told me, Master Yoda.

YODA (V.O.)

Uncertain, the future is. Prepared, we must be. Forget him, you must. Remember your duty.

Ben shrugs, the unconscious Starkiller over his shoulder, staggering under the weight of him.

He slinks off toward the deserted hanger, Starkiller hanging limply over his shoulder.

BEN
(musing to Starkiller)
I begin to understand how Leia feels.

29 EXT. FLORRUM PIRATE BASE - DAY

29

Several large ships, some circular, some long and rectangular sit in the gleaming sun, sand whipping at their hulls. On the ground between them small figures move heavy floating pallets around, a speeder winds a complicated trail through them with ease.

Leia flies by the crew of the Pirate ships on a small one-person speeder-bike, weaving her path with ease.

She steps off the bike even while it is still in motion, ignoring it as it glides to a halt and kisses the hull of the large ship she's stopped by.

Several crew members shake their heads and hide their smiles, her antics well known to them.

Leia vaults to the top of the loading ramp, several meters above her head and slinks inside the ship.

30 INT. SUBLIME VENTURE - CONTINUOUS

30

Leia ignores the makeshift gaming table, and the gamers ignore her.

She winds her way through various cargo, seemingly knowing exactly where she is going.

A massive THUD resounds through the hold.

HONDO (O.S.)
What are you doing with these things!? How can we gain profit if you drop all my merchandise before I can sell?

Leia turns the corner and bears down on HONDO OHNAKA (70s), a grizzled and even more ruggedly drawn Weequay with a patch barely covering the mess someone made of his eye.

He stops short of berating some poor pirate as Leia marches straight up to him.

LEIA
Where is he?

HONDO
Skywalker...how pleasant to see you again.

LEIA
Where?

Hondo turns away from her, trying to walk away as quickly as his limp will carry him. But Leia dogs his every step.

LEIA (cont'd)
Nothing happens in the Outer Rim that you don't know about. Ben's been gone for two weeks and not a word. Where is he?

Hondo pauses mid-step, Leia nearly bowls him over. He sighs and puts his head down.

HONDO
Some Sith came for him on Mustafar.

Leia looks shocked and immediately concerned.

HONDO (cont'd)
When the crew awoke, he was gone, as was the Sith's ship.

LEIA
And?

HONDO
And that is all.

Hondo begins walking again.

LEIA
No.
(rushing up to him)
That is not all. You know where he is.

HONDO
(muttering)
As trifling as your father if I did not owe Kenobi...
(MORE)

HONDO (cont'd)
(turning around)
The old fool is stuck on Tattooine.
Imperial dogs come sniffing after
blood. He is stuck until they grow
tired or catch a new scent.

Leia turns and sprints away.

HONDO (cont'd)
(calling after her)
Don't be foolish now
(chuckling)
Jedi.
(to crew standing
around)
Work! Work! My money is waiting for
me.

31 DOCKING PLATFORM SENATE COMPLEX - NIGHT

31

Bail and Luke stand at the edge of the outstretched platform, night falling on this piece of Coruscant, the Alderaan's Pride reflecting the changing light.

Bail pulls his son in close for a hug, something that creates a look of shock on Luke's face.

BAIL
(whispering)
She will kill you without a moment's
hesitation.
(beat)
Play your part and you will live.

Bail pulls back, a tear in his eye.

BAIL (cont'd)
I'm sorry, my son.

MARA (O.S.)
Why, Senator?

Mara steps up to the pair of them, not carrying a bag, her clothing so revealing it is hard to imagine she concealed much at all, and yet something in her air of confidence made her seem more dangerous in nearly nothing as a Dark Trooper in full combat gear.

Bail straightens up coughs and masks his tear with a wave of his hand.

BAIL

That I could not accompany my son on
so important a mission.

MARA

I'm sure he will represent your...
interests quite well. You have no
doubt trained him to be your heir.

BAIL

He will make me proud, and serve his
Emperor well.

MARA

(unconvinced)

Of course.

Mara moves up the landing ramp, turning halfway up.

MARA (cont'd)

Come, little Prince. The Emperor will
not be pleased if we miss catching
these traitors.

She does not wait for a response, ascending the rest of the
way and disappearing inside.

Bail give Luke one last look, and then patting him on the
shoulder, walks off, back inside the silver dome.

Luke is caught between two worlds on the edge of the
platform. He waits a long moment before turning into the
ship.

32 INT. ALDERAAN'S PRIDE, ROYAL CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

32

Luke paces into his room, the lights on but dim, and begins
discarding his clothes as quickly as he can.

His Steward moves out of the closet and begins picking them
up, noticeably unnerved.

Luke doesn't notice as he sits to pull off his boots.

LUKE

Am I glad to see you. What are you
doing wearing those clothes?

(pulling off one boot)

I need to relax and you're goi--

STEWARD
(forcefully)
Your Highness.
(nodding to the dark
corner)
Your guest was just getting settled
in. I'll clean these up and leave.

Luke follows his gaze to find Mara's eyes watching him as she moves out of the shadows.

MARA
Don't stop on my account.

Luke lets the boot drop to the floor with a clatter.

The Steward bends down and helps Luke with the other boot, taking them and his other discarded clothing to the closet.

Luke is left in just his trousers and a very concerned look on his face.

The Steward bows once and then leaves the quarters.

Mara paces around the bed.

Luke watches her.

MARA (cont'd)
I have a secret to tell you.

She moves forward, closing the distance between them.

MARA (cont'd)
The Emperor would not have chosen you
if he did not know all about your...
distractions.

Now she is atop him, straddling him on the bed. He is forced to his elbows, trying not to make contact with her body at all.

She gets right down into his face, her breath making him flinch, and his eyes flutter.

She traces a line around his hair, down his cheek.

MARA (cont'd)
You have no secrets from me, little
Prince.

She stands up, moving to a chair.

Luke sighs in relief and sits up.

MARA (cont'd)
Finish getting undressed.

Luke looks at her in confusion.

MARA (cont'd)
If I'm going to convince them I
turned even you, I'll need to see
everything.

Luke hesitates until Mara snaps her fingers.

Like a bolt he stands and quickly pulls off his pants, he
has no under-wrap on.

She looks him from head to toe and smiles.

MARA (cont'd)
Fools always seem to be blessed.

33 INT. SITH STARFIGHTER - DAY

33

Harsh light bakes the glass of the cockpit.

The red light on his council continues to flash peering
insistently at his slumped form. He starts awake.

STARKILLER
Proxy, location and status.

The back wall of the cockpit shimmers and then disappears,
revealing a combat droid that has been merged with an
ancient protocol head.

PROXY
We are currently on Tattoine, Master.
Unauthorized access to the ship while
you were unconscious. Some data has
been corrupted. And you still have a
message pending.

STARKILLER
Why didn't you stop him?

PROXY
My primary programming prevents me
from revealing myself to anyone but
you. I am the only link you have to
Lord Vader. If I am captured, you
will be destroyed.

STARKILLER

Worthless droid.

(starting to sit up)

AHHH!

(panting)

What happened to me?

PROXY

Rapid depressurization. You will be sore for several more days. There is an imperial fleet in orbit.

STARKILLER

What?

He flicks some controls and the fleet of Star Destroyers comes alive on his screen. Three with little dots of TIE fighters circling around them.

PROXY

You should check that message.

STARKILLER

(brooding)

I don't need my Master's displeasure right now.

PROXY

The Jedi erased Lord Vader's message already. The message is from him.

STARKILLER

(curious)

Really.

Starkiller swivels toward the message light in his pilot chair. Proxy comes and settles into the co-pilot seat beside him.

Ben's head flares to life on the monitor.

BEN

...infernally contraption.

(seeing the recording is on)

Oh, hello there.

(beat)

Sorry about nearly spacing you. Under the circumstances, I think you'll understand.

(MORE)

BEN (cont'd)

(beat)

Your 'master' urges you to kill more Jedi, though I'm sure you don't need the reminder.

(beat)

I won't insult you by explaining how lost you are. The Dark Side has claimed you now, there is no hope. You will likely kill more of us before your arrogance or hatred consumes you and some young Jedi cuts you in half. (Trust me I know about these things.)

(beat)

So why bother recording this at all?

(beat)

Perhaps the Jedi and Sith aren't so different. We were both so sure we were right.

(getting closer to
the camera)

You should be dead. Any true Sith would be. But you hesitated, the Force spoke to you, kept you from rushing forward.

(beat)

I'm just an old man now who's seen too many of us die. What do I know of the will of the Force.

(beat)

I hope we never meet again.

The recording clicks off.

Starkiller stares at it, half disbelief, half bemused detachment.

PROXY

He save your life.

(beat)

If that matters.

STARKILLER

It doesn't.

(beat)

How long have the Imperials been here?

PROXY

Almost since we arrived. The Jedi left on foot. We have escaped their notice, probably because we are cloaked.

STARKILLER

Yes, droid. That would be the purpose of cloaking.

PROXY

Of course, Master. However, direct observation will give us away. The local inhabitants still use beasts of burden. And I am tracking several scavengers nearby who you will be forced to slaughter mercilessly if they get any closer.

STARKILLER

Find the netting.

Proxy gets up and Starkiller stares at the blank screen before following him back.

34 EXT. TATTOINE DUNE SEA CANYON - LATER

34

Starkiller secures the last of the netting's poles into the rock face, sand sweeping down from above onto his already dust covered face. He squints to keep the sand from his eyes.

Coughing he stumbles back to the ships very short landing ramp. Proxy waits inside.

STARKILLER

(heavily)

You could have mentioned the dust storm.

PROXY

Sorry, Master. I forgot organics require air.

Starkiller takes a cloth and wipes his face mostly clean. He quickly pulls off the clothes he'd been wearing and pulls a thin environmental suit on in their place.

He secures a mask to his face and pulls a robe similar to Vader's on over it all. It is nearly identical to what the Blades wear.

STARKILLER

Make sure the ship is ready to go. I'll signal you if I need you.

PROXY

Of course, Master.

(MORE)

PROXY (cont'd)

(beat)

Oh, I should mention. The flagship is the Inquisition, Master.

STARKILLER

If my Master hadn't built you himself...

PROXY

Do be careful, Master. My databanks indicate this is a very inhospitable world.

STARKILLER

It will be...for that Jedi.

Starkiller pulls a small speeder from it's straps inside the ship, mounts it, and accelerates down and away from the ship.

Proxy watches him disappear into the blinding light as the canyon widens to reveal a sand sea.

The droid press a switch and the ramp closes.

35 INT. LADY'S WISH - DAY

35

Leia peers forward, the distinct shape of three triangular Star Destroyers barely visible hanging above the planet of Tattoine. Biggs sits next to her dumbfounded.

BIGGS

I'm sad to see the old man go.

LEIA

We're going to rescue him.

BIGGS

How?

LEIA

I don't know yet.

Biggs laughs heartily.

LEIA (cont'd)

The Force will guide me.

BIGGS

Look, I love the old man too. And all your power things are cool, helpful even.

(MORE)

BIGGS (cont'd)

(beat)

But those are Imperial Star Destroyers with squadrons of TIE fighters and this is a barely functioning shuttle craft.

LEIA

(eureka)

Exactly!

Leia begins flipping switches, the console going dark, only a small screen still lit.

She punches some things in, the display shows a curve leading away from the Star Destroyers, a failing orbital trajectory.

BIGGS

Crashing...that's your idea.

LEIA

(excited)

We'll look like space junk. Then once we hit the atmosphere they won't be able to see us and we'll power back up and land somewhere.

BIGGS

It's a planet.

(beat)

Ben is somewhere on the planet.

(beat)

I know you don't get out much, but a planet is a really, really big place.

LEIA

(dangerously)

Talk to me like I'm stupid again. Please.

BIGGS

Sorry.

LEIA

The Force will guide me.

She turns off the navigation panel, and grabs some small controls, closing her eyes.

She breathes deeply, and starts to work the controls.

The view shifts through the window, the planet angling away wildly.

36 EXT. LADY'S WISH NEAR TATTOOINE - CONTINUOUS 36

The small shuttle flares in one direction and then another as small bursts of gas move it through space.

It begins to tumble gently, moving closer toward the planet.

Leia is visible inside the window as it tumbles past, eyes closed as Biggs watches her with disbelief.

37 EXT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION - LATER 37

TIE fighters roar by as the bridge and conning towers come slowly into view.

Another TIE roars by in the opposite direction, movement through the Bridge windows grows larger until officers are visible.

The Inquisitor strides up the main walkway as the camera plunges into...

38 INT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION MAIN BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS 38

...the Bridge, the tops of the officers heads in the pits floating by as the Inquistor's boots stride along behind them, monitoring their progress.

CAPTAIN KRAMER (O.S.)

Inquisitor.

The Inquisitor looks away from the consoles at...

...the Captain who flags him over to a display set into the wall near the back of the bridge.

The Inquistor walks slowly that way, a tiny glint of the Lady's Wish tumbles past his head through the Bridge's side window.

Captain Kramer salutes the Inquisitor as he comes into the small alcove.

INQUISITOR

What is it captain?

CAPTAIN KRAMER

Surveillance is limited as the planet is without much technology, but we intercepted this.

Kramer nods to the technician working the display.

A fuzzy but distinct picture of Starkiller on his speeder racing by at speed. The frame freezes and the figure is enhanced, his lightsaber clearly visible in the frame.

INQUISITOR

Find him.
(over his shoulder)
Prime.

Blade Prime appears almost from nowhere

INQUISITOR (cont'd)

Take five of your best Blades and
bring this Jedi to me.
(quiet anger)
Bold to wear our uniform. He is
taunting me.

Blade Prime nods and turns in military fashion, leaving the Inquisitor with the Captain. The Inquisitor closes his eyes.

INQUISITOR (cont'd)

I can feel him. The Jedi end today.

CAPTAIN KRAMER

Kenobi?

INQUISITOR

(eyes still shut)
Yes. He is close. I can sense him.
(eyes flare open,
glowing yellow)
Take us into the atmosphere, spread
the fleet out. Use the TIE fighters
to track any speeders that fit this
video.

CAPTAIN KRAMER

At once.

Kramer salutes and moves off to issue his orders.

The Inquisitor snarls with anticipation.

39 EXT. MOS EISLEY OUTSKIRTS - DAY

39

Starkiller speeds up to a high cliff overlooking the city of Mos Eisley below him. He pulls out his macro-binoculars and carefully looks over the small but busy little oasis, sheltered from the expansive desert around it.

He pauses, lowering the binoculars, like he hears something.

He turns around suddenly and sees a flaming trail in the sky suddenly stop and then the distinct glint of a ship.

He pulls out his communicator.

STARKILLER

Proxy, are you tracking a ship?

PROXY (V.O.)

Yes, Master. A small shuttle craft fell out of orbit and is now under power. It is on course to land near you.

(beat)

I should also mention the Star Destroyers are moving into the atmosphere. From the deployment of their fighter squadrons, it seems they are searching for someone.

STARKILLER

The shuttle?

PROXY

Unlikely, they are concentrating on ground traffic...speeders to be precise.

(beat)

But my sensors are limited by the planet's curve.

STARKILLER

Shut the ship down. Don't give them a reason to wonder about you.

PROXY

Try not to die, Master. I am certain Lord Vader will have me dismantled if you are dead.

STARKILLER

Your concern is noted.

Starkiller stashes his communicator, his fingers brushing his lightsaber, only it's not his lightsaber.

He pulls the unfamiliar hilt out and studies it carefully.

It flare to life, a brilliant blue.

STARKILLER (cont'd)
I'm going to kill him.

He stashes the blade back on his belt and turns toward the speeder.

Far below him, at the bottom of the cliff, the speeder slams into the ground in a crumpled wreck. Starkiller lands carefully beside it, stands up and strides away.

40 EXT. LADY'S WISH - CONTINUOUS 40

The shuttle craft slides low over the landscape, dipping into a canyon so tall it feels more like a cave than a canyon.

It navigates a maze of of stalagmites and settles into a small space, kicking up dust as it does.

41 INT. LADY'S WISH - CONTINUOUS 41

Biggs smiles as he shuts down the controls.

BIGGS
That's talent.

LEIA
(amused)
Whatever.

She slides out of her seat and moves toward the small cargo bay, keying the door open.

Biggs hurriedly finishes shutting down, half out of his chair.

BIGGS
(over his shoulder)
Wait a minute...Leia!

He finishes and leaps after her.

42 EXT. LADY'S WISH TATTOOINE CAVE - CONTINUOUS 42

Leia stands still, eyes closed, hand vaguely outstretched, fingers moving slightly.

Biggs is quiet, stopping behind her.

Leia pauses, opens her eyes.

LEIA
He's dim, but I know it's him.

BIGGS
Did the Force tell you how far? We don't have speeders. This is a desert, you know.

LEIA
Keep up.

She strides off toward the entrance to the canyon. Biggs hesitates and then locks the ship and jogs to catch up with her.

43 INT. ALDERAAN'S PRIDE, ROYAL CABIN - DAY

43

Luke is tied up, naked, visible injuries on his body, but none on his face.

Mara sits on the bed, a small holo-projector in her hand, the Emperor's head hanging above it.

MARA
He knows nothing, my Master.

PALPATINE
I thought not. But he is undoubtedly a pawn of his father.

(thinking)
Deliver him to the Inquisitor on Tattoine, the whole crew. They were arrested on charges of obscenity and unnatural acts.

(beat)
Bring the droid back to me. If the son is not Organa's agent, perhaps the droid is.

MARA
As you command, my Master.

The Emperor's head flickers out and Mara stashes the communicator underneath her dress, pulling out a small blaster instead.

She lays down beside Luke, running the blaster's muzzle along his naked skin. He flinches.

His eyes are full of terror.

MARA (cont'd)

Too bad.

(beat)

I would have enjoyed breaking you myself.

LUKE

Why are you doing this?

MARA

Poor stupid boy.

She moves close to his ear, almost kissing it with her lips.

MARA (cont'd)

Your father is the leader of the insurgents.

(beat)

He's been collaborating with the last of the heretics since the beginning.

(beat)

And he used you to carry his messages. Or did you really think he'd let his son engage in all those unnatural acts and spend all those credits.

Mara lays back, her hand with the blaster resting against her chest.

MARA (cont'd)

This wasn't even a challenge. We've known about him for a while. But we need to find the heretics he's working with.

(beat)

And sadly you have nothing to offer us.

She rolls back over, straddling him now pressing the blaster to under his chin, forcing his head back at an unnatural angle.

MARA (cont'd)

I should save the Inquisitor the trouble of ending you. He certainly doesn't need the distraction. And ships are lost every day.

(beat)

But the embarrassment to your father will be the leverage the Emperor needs to force him out of office.

She gets up and moves to the door, keying it open. The Steward is tied up outside, she reaches out with the force and flings him into the room.

He has tears in his eyes as she unties him.

MARA (cont'd)
Clean him up, get him dressed.

She grabs his face and holds it close to hers.

MARA (cont'd)
If either of you try anything, I will peel your skin off and flush you into space.

The steward just nods furiously.

She smiles and leaves the room.

The steward moves to Luke's side, but Luke can't look at him.

Untied, the steward helps Luke to a chair, space outside his window flaring and turning to hyperspace as the ship jolts slightly.

The steward kneels before Luke, cleaning his wounds. Luke just looks at the mottled hyperspace beyond his window.

44 EXT. JEDI TEMPLE RUINS - NIGHT

44

A shuttle craft looms into view and lands on half ruined platform clinging to the side of the mountain, streams of lava flowing on either side, only a thin blue shield keeping the heat away.

Vader waits as the landing ramp opens.

Red cloaked guards with red long red helmets step down ahead of the lumbering Emperor, his cane in one hand.

He comes up beside Vader and the pair of them walk into the temple itself, the guards still standing at the ship.

45 INT. JEDI TEMPLE RUINS - CONTINUOUS

45

Master and apprentice walk along the deserted hallway, cracks opening below them to allowing lava to flow through what was once living cells and training rooms. The walls charred black and slightly melted.

PALPATINE

Why do you keep yourself here? In the ruins of the heretics folly.

VADER

I like the silence.

The Emperor laughs heartily, though with a glimmer of malice underneath it.

VADER (cont'd)

What is your bidding, my Master?

PALPATINE

The Inquisitor has found Kenobi, just as I have foreseen.

The Emperor searches Vader's face as they pause at a precipice where the gleaming night lights of Coruscant can be seen beyond the haze of the lava's glow through a large crack in the impressively tall walls of the Temple's grand atrium.

PALPATINE (cont'd)

With Kenobi's death so falls the insurgents. You need not hide in the shadows any longer. In time they will come to accept our faith. The doom of the Sith will be fulfilled and we will raise up an army of warriors such as the Galaxy has never seen.

VADER

As you wish, my Master.

PALPATINE

Come now, Lord Vader. Where is your passion. Our long battle is nearly at an end. Your old master will fall by your hand.

(beat)

What trouble's you old friend?

VADER

We brought peace to the Galaxy, just as you promised.

PALPATINE

But you mourn the loss of your wife and child.

VADER

The Jedi stole everything from me.

PALPATINE

All the more reason to rejoice now that Kenobi's death is at hand. At least you will have your revenge.

VADER

I would prefer my child.

PALPATINE

We shall have hundreds, thousands of children. The Blades are only the beginning. Soon you will bring the children to me. And together we will raise them up as Sith.

VADER

Yes, my Master.

PALPATINE

I have a gift for you.

Palpatine takes a small holo-projector out of his robe and passes it to Vader.

Vader keys it to life, and the wire-frame image of a Super Star-destroyer hangs above it.

PALPATINE (cont'd)

Your command ship. The Executor.

The wireframe fades into...

46 EXT. THE EXECUTOR ABOVE CORUSCANT - NIGHT

46

...the actual ship looming large as other Star Destroyers form up around it, many squadrons of TIE fighters acting as a picket.

PALPATINE (V.O.)

End this pitiful rebellion. Revenge your wife and child.

VADER (V.O.)

As you wish.

47 EXT. MOS EISLEY BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

47

High above the threatening lights of a Star Destroyer hover, TIE fighters roar by closer to the city.

Leia and Biggs crouch low.

BIGGS
I really hoped I'd never be back
here.

LEIA
Quiet.

She feels her way along the wall, stopping periodically to close her eyes.

They take a turn, another alley as dirty and empty as the last.

BIGGS
I should have brought a bigger gun.

Biggs laments his small blaster as Leia pauses again.

LEIA
Size doesn't matter if you know how
to use it properly.

BIGGS
(impressed)
Hondo would be proud.

BEN (O.S.)
But I would not be.

Ben steps out from a darkened doorway, beckoning the pair of them inside.

48 INT. BEN'S HIDEOUT - MOMENTS LATER

48

Biggs slides down beside the door, blaster still ready, ear peeled to the door.

Ben folds himself into a meditative position, Leia imitating him immediately.

BEN
I knew you would be foolish enough to
come for me.

LEIA
Is that why you were hiding from me
in the Force?

BEN
No, child. Not from you.

LEIA
Who?

BEN
The Inquisitor is here

LEIA
Sith spawn.

BEN
(chuckling)
Indeed.

BIGGS
With that Star Destroyer overhead
we're not going anywhere.

BEN
They will put Troopers on the ground
soon. It will not take them long to
find us here.

BIGGS
I'm surprised they haven't done that
already.

BEN
(smiling)
They still fear me at least.

LEIA
Good. They'll fear us both.

BEN
Absolutely not. You must not, under
any circumstances, reveal yourself as
a Jedi, do I make myself clear.

LEIA
(halfheartedly)
Yes.

BEN
(intensely)
The future of everything depends upon
this, Leia Skywalker. Your word as a
Jedi.

LEIA
(conceding)
You have my word.
(beat)
I thought I wasn't a Jedi yet.

BEN

It would seem the Force has other ideas. Your challenges have already begun.

LEIA

So it was the will of the Force for me to rescue you.

BEN

The Sith believe they know the will of the force. The Emperor thinks he sees the future as it will happen.

(beat)

Do not be so arrogant. I--

Ben gets to his feet suddenly.

BEN (cont'd)

(to Biggs)

Away from the door, quickly.

Biggs doesn't need to be told twice. He moves even as the door rips off it's frame and flies into the room.

Ben dives one way, Leia the other.

Starkiller strides into the room confidently.

STARKILLER

Where is my lightsaber?

BEN

Gone. Spaced.

Starkiller grimaces, anger and hatred pouring over his face, reflected in the growing yellow gleam of his eyes.

Leia pushes some debris off her and stands up.

Starkiller turns his head and meets eyes with Leia. There is something intense between them, his eyes dulling to their natural color in an instant.

Ben does not like this at all.

BEN (cont'd)

It's me you want. Don't trouble yourself with the little one.

Starkiller doesn't respond, doesn't move.

Biggs is dazed and propped against the wall, his blaster lost somewhere in the ruins of the door.

Lights flare outside in the alley, the thrum of engines above them shake the house.

Troopers can be heard.

49 EXT. MOS EISLEY BACK ALLEY - CONTINUOUS 49

An Imperial Gunship (LAAT/I) hovers above the alley, Stormtroopers descending on drop lines into the alley.

Another two Gunships slide into view, disgorging their occupants onto the roofs.

A fourth Gunship circles above them all, Blade Prime leaning out of it, five other Blades behind her.

50 INT. BEN'S HIDEOUT - CONTINUOUS 50

Troopers burst into the room, blaster's drawn, surrounding Starkiller and only marginally paying attention to the others.

TROOPER
Hands up. Don't move.

BEN
(to Starkiller)
You have a ship, cloaked?

Starkiller nods once.

BEN (cont'd)
Time to decide. Kill me, or survive?

Starkiller looks at Ben for a very long moment, and then thrusts his hands out, slamming the troopers into the wall.

Ben grabs Leia and pulls her along behind Starkiller as he rushes into the alley, lightsaber drawn.

Biggs scrambles over the dead troopers, picking up one of their blasters.

51 EXT. MOS EISLEY BACK ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

51

Starkiller wades through the Stormtroopers with ease, cutting them down as Ben deflects the fire coming down from the roof, and pulling those troopers down to the street.

Blade Prime motions to her pilot, her Gunship racing ahead of the glowing blades on the ground toward a large street ahead of them.

It sets down and the Blades step out, taking up positions on either side of her.

Ben pulls up sharply, reaching out his hand and pulling Starkiller back.

BEN
(to Starkiller)
The roof, take her.

He pushes Leia into Starkiller and reaches for Biggs who is busy firing away at the troopers above them.

Ben scoops Biggs over his shoulder with impressive ease and leaps to the roof above them.

Starkiller is impressed for a moment, and then does the same thing with Leia.

On the roof, Leia scrambles to her feet, upset, almost ready say something, but Ben is there, a look of grave warning written in his silent plea.

BEN (cont'd)
The ship, there.

He points to a gunship racing toward them.

Starkiller doesn't hesitate. He races forward and leaps into the air, landing atop the cockpit and scrambling toward the open side.

Ben watches as troopers fly out the side door. For a moment the Gunship veers sharply downward and then rights itself, swinging in to hover just in front of them.

Starkiller is in the cockpit, empty gun turrets hand on the side.

Ben pushes Leia toward the closest one and drags Biggs inside the open hatch.

52 INT. STOLEN GUNSHIP - CONTINUOUS 52

Biggs races into the cockpit, taking the controls from Starkiller and the gunship pulls up sharply and veers away from the city.

Starkiller points in the direction of his ship, then stalks back toward Ben.

The two look at each other, lightsabers hilts in held tensely in their hands, unlit.

A bolt from enemy fire shakes them out of their standoff.

53 EXT. MOS EISLEY MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS 53

Blade Prime sees the gunship veering off, the others opening fire. She pivots and leaps back aboard her own ship, the other blades on her heels.

54 INT. BLADE PRIME'S GUNSHIP - CONTINUOUS 54

She rushes to the cockpit.

BLADE PRIME
Tell them to disable, not destroy
that ship. The Inquistor wants them
alive.

The pilot nods his understanding and the gun ship lifts into the air to join the pursuit.

55 INT. STOLEN GUNSHIP - MOMENTS LATER 55

Biggs works the controls furiously as Starkiller settles into the seat beside him, pulling out his communicator.

STARKILLER
Proxy, get the ship ready.
(beat)
We have a few passengers.

PROXY
Of course, Master. Though I believe
Lord Vader will be quite displeased
about this.

STARKILLER
Just do it.

Starkiller shuts off the device and stows it on his belt.

Biggs eyes him sideways, but the craft buckles under a hit.

STARKILLER (cont'd)
Concentrate on flying. If I wanted
you dead, you would be.

BIGGS
Same thing for them. They'd set the
TIEs on us if they wanted to shoot us
down.

BEN
They want us alive.

BIGGS
Well they're gonna get their wish,
unless his ship can dock with us mid
air.

STARKILLER
This ship is capable of short
distances in space.

BIGGS
(sarcastic)
Thanks. That's incredibly helpful.

BEN
Unfortunately it is.

Biggs looks over his shoulder, already knowing what's
coming.

Ben has gives him a look of contrition.

BIGGS
I can't slow down, or they'll know
somethings up. Can you two magicians
manage a jump at this speed?

STARKILLER
Easily.

BEN
(to Starkiller)
Get the girl to safety, and you may
have my life.

STARKILLER
I could take it now for free.

BEN

I told you, I am not destined to die
at your hand.

BIGGS

Could we not talk about dying right
now. The coordinates he gave me are
coming up fast.

BEN

Is it agreed?

Starkiller holds his gaze for a long moment, then looks out
the side window.

Leia is busy firing away at their pursuers, keeping them
well back, but not able to destroy them as Biggs keeps
changing their direction quickly, skirting rock forms at
meters close distance.

STARKILLER

Agreed.

He stands and follows Ben toward the open doors.

STARKILLER (cont'd)

Why is she so important to you?

BEN

A promise to an old friend, nothing
more.

STARKILLER

Did you love him, this friend?

Ben searches Starkiller's face for a moment.

BEN

Curious question for a Sith. Hasn't
Vader purged you of love?

STARKILLER

You seem to know a lot of my Master.

BEN

Yes, I do.

BIGGS

Thirty seconds.

The pair of them disengage, Starkiller crawling out onto the
turret, yanking the top off and scooping Leia up.

She looks at Ben with a question, but Starkiller jumps before she has a chance to get an answer.

56 EXT. SITH STARFIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

56

Ben tumbles as he lands, rolling a few paces before stopping but Starkiller sticks his landing perfectly.

The stolen Gunship charges away quickly.

The three of them duck under the netting covering the ship just as the other Gunships race after Biggs.

LEIA
Where's Biggs.

BEN
Providing us a decoy.

LEIA
What?

Starkiller is already up the waiting ramp, Proxy stands at the top looking down.

Ben proceeds up the ramp, leaving Leia flabbergasted behind him.

LEIA (cont'd)
Ben!

BEN
(not looking back)
Come along.

Leia fumes but ascends the ramp, giving Proxy a curious look.

57 INT. SITH STARFIGHTER - MOMENTS LATER

57

The ship rises off the dusty canyon floor, the netting clinging to the hull for a few dozen meters before flying off as the starfighter ascends toward space.

58 EXT. STOLEN GUNSHIP - CONTINUOUS

58

The Gunship races into space, the doors closed.

Star destroyers chase after it, closing quickly.

A blue bolt of energy strikes the ship dead on.

59 INT. STOLEN GUNSHIP - CONTINUOUS

59

Biggs floats up out of his seat as the controls arc and go out.

The window shows space start to tumble out of control, the planet coming into view and then the upside down pair of Star Destroyers.

The whole gunship shakes and rattles as the Tractor beam takes hold.

He looks up at the planet.

BIGGS
I'm gonna miss her.

60 EXT. STOLEN GUNSHIP - CONTINUOUS

60

A flash from a blaster fills the window of the gunship briefly.

61 INT. SITH STARFIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

61

Leia gasps.

LEIA
Biggs!

Ben pulls her away, but Starkiller could not miss the implication.

STARKILLER
(forced whisper)
Jedi.

Ben has his hand on his lightsaber, Starkiller on his own.

Proxy is looking out the window.

PROXY
(blankly)
Oh dear.

Starkiller turns around to see a large silver pleasure craft looming into view, unaware of the sith ship.

Ben pulls Leia to the deck as the silver ship fills the window.

62 EXT. SITH STARFIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

62

The star fighter is dwarfed by the Alderaan's Pride as it slams into it, breaking one of it's wings off and tumbling away.

Alderaan's Pride has a gaping hole where the two collided, and debris streams out of it for a moment until internal bulkheads seal.

63 INT. ALDERAAN'S PRIDE, ROYAL CABIN - CONTINUOUS

63

Luke and the Steward get up from the floor and see the starfighter tumbling away from the collision.

LUKE

What was that?

The door slides open, Mara's blaster leveled at the room, but she too sees the ship.

MARA

Damn cloaked ships.

(beat)

On your feet.

Luke and the Steward comply, shuffling forward.

Mara takes one more look at the curious ship and then escorts the two of them out of the cabin, busted lights flickering and sparking above them.

64 INT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION MAIN BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

64

Captain Kramer looks up from his display.

CAPTAIN KRAMER

A cloaked ship just collided with Alderaan's Pride, my Lord.

The Inquisitor looks away from the monitor showing the landing bay where the stolen Gunship is being secured.

INQUISITOR

Cloaked? Really.

CAPTAIN KRAMER

The agent aboard reports damage, but her prisoners are still alive. She requests immediate retrieval.

The Inquisitor pauses for a moment, searching for something in the silence.

INQUISITOR

She can wait.

(beat)

Let's snare this cloaked ship first. I have a good feeling about it.

Kramer nods.

65 INT. SITH STARFIGHTER - MOMENTS LATER

65

There is very little damage to the ship, aside from the gravity being off.

Starkiller struggles to right himself and get the ship moving at once.

PROXY

The hyper-drive computer is offline.

STARKILLER

Then calculate it yourself.

PROXY

That will take a moment.

STARKILLER

Just do it.

Ben looks up and behind them.

BEN

The Inquisitor approaches.

STARKILLER

Good, he can have you.

BEN

You're in just as much danger as I am, young one. You don't even have your red blade. And I doubt someone as feeble minded as the Inquisitor will believe Vader has a secret apprentice.

(MORE)

BEN (cont'd)

(beat)

It would upset his delicate ego.

Starkiller glares at the controls, ignoring the annoying floating sage behind him.

PROXY

You will be able to ask him momentarily. The Inquisition has altered course. It will be in tractor range momentarily.

Starkiller, pulls out his lightsaber and turns toward the back.

Ben stays him with a hand on his shoulder.

BEN

There are alternatives to fighting.

Starkiller looks incredulous.

66 EXT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION - MOMENTS LATER 66

The hulking mass of the Star Destroyer settles atop the small sith Star Fighter drawing it up into it's waiting hanger bay.

67 INT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION, HANGER BAY - CONTINUOUS 67

The Inquisitor waits expectantly as the Sith Starfighter is lowered to the deck, it's broken wing making it teeter unevenly on the smooth surface.

He motions the troopers to move in, but the ramp starts to open, stopping midway down.

Ben sticks his head out of the gap.

The troopers level their blasters.

BEN

Hello there.

The Inquisitor smiles devilishly.

68 INT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION, TORTURE CHAMBER - LATER 68

Ben hangs suspended in the air by energy fields, his hand above him, stripped of all but his under-wrap.

The Inquisitor stands admiring his captive.

The doors slide open to the room and Mara ushers Luke and his steward into the room.

An attendant shoves the two of them into a cell lining one wall, activating the force-field.

Mara strides up to the Inquisitor.

MARA

I require a ship. The Emperor demands my presence immediately.

INQUISITOR

Patience, young one. Patience. We shall journey to Coruscant soon enough.

(stepping forward)

We have quite the prize to deliver to our glorious Emperor.

MARA

It can't wait.

The Inquisitor turns toward her, actually taking her in finally.

INQUISITOR

(definitely)

But it will, my dear.

He circles around her, a predator sniffing out prey.

INQUISITOR (cont'd)

I know you, don't I?

Mara doesn't respond but the answer is written in her face.

INQUISITOR (cont'd)

I seem to recall your mother had no idea what you were.

(beat)

Parted with you for a few credits. I didn't even have to threaten her.

Mara looks away, the first real emotion she's shown, anger mixed with disgust and sadness.

INQUISITOR (cont'd)

The Emperor will have his pet back soon enough.

(MORE)

INQUISITOR (cont'd)
(looking toward Luke)
And what have you brought me.

MARA
Prince Luke Organa, of Alderaan. His
father is the insurgents contact in
the government. His son enjoys
unnatural acts and obscenities.

The inquisitor strides forward, coming up just in front of
Luke's cell. The steward curls up in the corner, covering
his ears, and burying his head in his knees.

Luke is shaken, but stands under the Inquisitor's gaze.

INQUISITOR
You know the heretics practiced
unnatural acts, master with
apprentice even.
(beat)
Do you like what you see, my Prince.

The Inquisitor gestures to Ben's nearly naked body.

INQUISITOR (cont'd)
Perhaps a better view.

He flicks his fingers and Ben's last vestige of clothing
falls away.

The Inquisitor smiles broadly, his fun only beginning.

69 INT. SITH STARFIGHTER - CONTINUOUS

69

Starkiller and Leia are squeezed into the tiny alcove that
Proxy uses. They can see out, the deck and various personnel
visible.

Proxy looks over at the hidden alcove, shaking his head ever
so slightly.

Leia sighs.

Starkiller opens his eyes.

STARKILLER
I thought the Jedi were trained to be
patient.

LEIA
I thought the Sith were monsters who
kill babies.

They stare at each other, annoyance more than hatred.

LEIA (cont'd)
Biggs would be busting his trousers
to be smashed against me. You must
really not like me.

STARKILLER
Jedi are a plague upon the Galaxy.

Leia rolls her eyes, then moves her hand to his crotch.

Starkiller's eyes go wide.

LEIA
No, I mean, 'like' me.

She holds on for a long moment, and then turns away.

LEIA (cont'd)
Sorry.
(beat)
I didn't think Sith were allowed
to...

Starkiller looks away as well.

Proxy opens the wall, and the pair disgorge themselves with
haste, moving as far away as they can manage in the tiny
space.

PROXY
The shift change will be happening
shortly. And I've had the most
curious contact with another droid.

STARKILLER
Where?

Proxy points out the tilted window toward the Alderaan's
Pride, nestled into the hanger's docking arm.

PROXY
There.

70 INT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION, MAINT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

70

Starkiller follows Leia, both on hands and knees along a
dimly lit, fairly small crawlspace, cables neatly bundled
along side pipes.

STARKILLER

This deal keeps getting worse by the second.

LEIA

Is your droid certain about this?

STARKILLER

These service paths predate the end of droids in major service. Technicians barely need to come in here anymore.

LEIA

Any clue what this Luke looks like?

STARKILLER

I assume he'll be the young naked bloody fool.

Leia shoots him a dirty look over her shoulder.

He shrugs it off.

STARKILLER (cont'd)

Should have killed you all on the planet.

Leia scoffs at the idea.

STARKILLER (cont'd)

I've been trained by Lord Vader himself.

LEIA

And I've been trained by his master.

They crawl on in silence, taking a turning and then another.

Starkiller checks a map on his wrist as they pause for a moment.

LEIA (cont'd)

How many?

Starkiller looks up from his wrist.

LEIA (cont'd)

Jedi. How many have you killed?

STARKILLER

Six.

Leia actually laughs out loud.

STARKILLER (cont'd)
(defensive)
It's only been two weeks.

LEIA
Wait, the deadly apprentice to the
dark Sith Lord has only been allowed
out of his pen for two weeks?

STARKILLER
How many Sith have you killed.

Leia turns away.

LEIA
(mumbling)
One.

Starkiller grins in triumph.

PROXY (V.O.)
You are almost there, Master. The
next junction.

STARKILLER
I can read a map, droid.

PROXY (V.O.)
Of course, Master. The protocol droid
is most insistent that we liberate
his master, however. He seems to
indicate he may do something drastic
if you do not succeed quickly.

STARKILLER
If he tries anything, shoot him.

PROXY (V.O.)
I'm afraid that would leave us quite
stranded as he has the activation
codes for the ships computer.

Starkiller kills the communicator.

Leia hides her amusement.

STARKILLER
I'm going to kill you one day.
(beat)
Don't forget that.
(beat)
This deal is temporary.

Leia nods, trying to look serious but barely able to contain her grin.

STARKILLER (cont'd)
Just get ready. You've never faced a Blade before.

LEIA
Actually, I have.

STARKILLER
Well, you've never faced the Inquisitor. And this red-head appears to have the Force as well.

LEIA
Okay, your deadliness. I'll be careful.

She crawls off, leaving Starkiller nursing his ego.

STARKILLER
(softly)
You'll be dead.

Starkiller crawls after her.

71 INT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION, TORTURE CHAMBER

71

Ben hangs limply, trickles of blood from his nose and eyes.

Luke is tied to a table in front of him, watching the old man suffer.

The steward cowers in the corner of his cell, almost catatonic.

The Inquisitor reclines in the only chair in the whole room, directly in the center, surrounded by five similar but unused stations, one vertical restraint and before it one table.

A chime sounds at the door.

INQUISITOR

Enter.

The door opens but no one is there.

The Inquisitor swivels his chair around to face the empty door, missing Leia dropping to the floor behind Ben.

The Inquisitor stands up, peering out into the empty corridor, bright light streaming into dark room as he shields his eyes until they can adjust.

Starkiller steps into view, lightsaber in hand.

The Inquisitor smiles.

INQUISITOR (cont'd)

So predictable.

The inquisitor thrums his lightsaber to life, raising the red blade before his face.

Starkiller launches at him, lightsaber snapping to life, a royal blue, the door closing behind him, immediately plunging the room back into darkness.

The red and blue blades swirl and twirl, slamming into each other as the two duel in the confined space.

Leia carefully frees Ben, catching him as he collapses down into her arms.

BEN

Foolish girl.

LEIA

(nodding at Luke)

We need him.

Ben nods, as she helps him to his feet. He seems to glimmer slightly and then he stands a little taller, breathing a little easier.

LEIA (cont'd)

I knew you couldn't die.

BEN

A half-measure my child. The Force is my ally.

He reaches out and calls his lightsaber to him.

This draw the side-ways glance of the Inquisitor, his eyes flaring yellow as he realizes he has been duped.

He opens his mouth to call out, but is caught short, an invisible force at his throat.

Starkiller holds out his hand, chocking him.

The Inquistior flails his lightsaber, forcing Starkiller to break off.

But not before something cracks in the Inquisitor's throat. He tries to make a sound, but can't. And then he is again deflecting Starkiller's blows.

Ben steps forward, calling his wrap back to him, and securing himself before activating his lightsaber.

BEN (cont'd)
(to Leia)
There's another in the cell.

LEIA
We can't take more than two of you.

BEN
I'm not going child.

She tries to speak.

BEN (cont'd)
You gave me your word. I'll handle the Inquisitor. Take the captives and leave this ship. Vader is coming.

Leia grimaces but moves toward Luke anyway.

Ben wades into the battle, stepping in front of Starkiller and bearing down on the Inquisitor.

BEN (cont'd)
(to Starkiller)
Taker her and our deal is concluded.
Vader approaches.

Starkiller looks at the old man's bare back, his lightsaber twitching in his hands.

The Inquisitor makes an attack, thinking to catch Ben off guard.

He underestimates the old man and flies backward into the bulkhead.

BEN (cont'd)
I will die soon enough. I told you it
is not my destiny to die by your
hand.

The Inquisitor struggle to his feet, eyes alive with yellow
hatred.

BEN (O.S.)
Or his.

Ben meets Starkiller's eyes.

BEN
Trust your feelings.

Starkiller looks over at...

...Leia as she struggles to help Luke to his feet. She looks
up impatiently, demanding Starkiller's help.

Luke looks up, finally seeing Starkiller.

Starkiller is struck.

The Inquisitor attacks again, but Ben fends him off. They
begin to dance.

Starkiller closes his blade and rushes to take Luke from
Leia's arms.

LEIA
Go, I'll get the other and follow
you.

Starkiller nods, pulling Luke along faster than he seems
able to walk.

He curls into Starkiller's arms like a fetus, arms around
his neck as Starkiller leaps into the air, landing on a
catwalk high above the room.

He looks down to see Ben and the Inquisitor clashing, though
Ben seems merely to be keeping him busy. Leia drags the
other boy out of the cell just as the doors fly open and
Mara steps into the room.

LUKE
We need to go. She's dangerous.

Mara sees the fighting, and seems confused but deeply
interested.

She turns her back on Leia, who pulls the unconscious steward back toward the still open door.

She jerks her head to the corridor while looking up at...

...Starkiller who nods his head.

She slips out the door as Mara is distracted.

Starkiller carries Luke away toward the open hatch to the crawl space. He strips off his shirt and roughly ties it around Luke's waist before pushing him into the crawlspace.

He gives one look back at the room, just in time to see Mara lift her head like a curious animal, but pivot away from him, toward the open door and Leia's escape.

72 INT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

72

Leia tries to get the catatonic Steward to move into the crawlspace, when suddenly a blade sticks itself out of his neck, blood dripping into the hallway.

Leia turns instantly, baton in her hand, finding...

...Mara looking down at her with interest.

MARA

And who might you be?

Leia looks at the dying Steward, so far gone he doesn't even register his injury and anger crosses her face.

She launches to Mara, making contact with her arm, shattering something before Mara can get out of the way.

Mara looks confused for one moment before Leia's baton strikes her hard on the head. Mara crumples to the ground.

Leia uses the Force to push the now dead Steward out of the way and pulls the grate closed just as boots pound by across the opening.

She backs up quietly.

73 INT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION, TORTURE CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

73

Ben senses something outside the room and flings a hand toward the control panel.

74 INT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 74

The blast doors begin to close as the troopers reach the door.

75 INT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION, TORTURE CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS 75

The Inquisitor launches a viscous attack, pushing Ben backward, into a table.

Ben tenses his face for a moment and then seems to make a decision.

The Inquisitor presses his attack, but Ben pivots, slides in close, trapping the Inquisitor's hands and slicing off the Inquisitor's hands.

The Inquisitor falls to his knees in a GURGLED cry of pain.

BEN

I'm sorry for that.

Utter hatred fills the Inquisitor's face.

76 INT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION MAIN BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER 76

A very distraught LIEUTENANT (23) strides quickly up to Captain Kramer as he admires the view from the front window.

LIEUTENANT

(hushed)

Captain.

The captain turns back toward the young officer, reading the urgency in his posture.

CAPTAIN KRAMER

What is it?

LIEUTENANT

The Inquisitor has sealed himself in his 'chamber' and troopers have discovered one of the prisoners dead in the hallway along with the unconscious body of the agent who brought them in.

CAPTAIN KRAMER

Recall the Baldes at once.

LIEUTENANT

Is that wise?

CAPTAIN KRAMER

If there is a loose Jedi on my ship I don't want to take any chances.

(beat)

The Inquisitor can express his displeasure if he likes.

The young officer cringes at the thought and hurries off to carry out his orders.

Alarms begin to flare below him in the pits.

He moves forward to check on the commotion.

The DECK OFFICER moves up to where he's standing.

DECK OFFICER

The yacht in the main hanger has detached from the docking clamps.

CAPTAIN KRAMER

Their trying to escape. Recall the CAP, launch the alert TIEs. Ready the tractor beam. And get two squadrons down to the Hanger but do not engage. Tell them to wait for--

The lights on the bridge begin to flicker before going out completely.

CAPTAIN KRAMER (cont'd)

What?

The ship shakes and a pillar of flame erupts through the top hull of the Star Destroyer outside the window behind the captain.

77 EXT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION - CONTINUOUS

77

A pillar of flame shoots up through the top hull of the Star Destroyer, with a smaller ball of flame spewing out of the main hanger below. The ship begins to list as Alderaan's Pride screams by, quickly pulling away from the ship.

78 INT. ALDERAAN'S PRIDE, COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

78

Starkiller sits at the controls, Leia in the co-pilot seat. The cockpit is designed for luxury and easy operation, stylish as the rest of the ship.

STARKILLER

Proxy, tell me you already calculated the jump coordinates.

PROXY

Of course, Master. As soon as you clear the planet's mass shadow we can escape.

The ship bucks under the assault from their pursuit.

79 EXT. ALDERAAN'S PRIDE - CONTINUOUS

79

A pack of TIE fighters move in closer to the escaping ship, but they are too far away for a clean shot, and the ship is pulling away faster than they can keep up.

It blurs and red-shifts and is gone.

The TIE fighters converge on the spot and turn around, just as the massive Executor blue-shifts into existence almost on top of them.

80 INT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION, HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

80

Mara stirs, her eyes moving quickly but not opening.

Troopers struggle to their feet all around her, the lights off but the lights from their helmets reflecting just enough to make out the confusion and massive destruction. Ceiling falling down, exposed pipes smoking.

PALPATINE (V.O.)

Up, stupid girl.

Her eyes flare open, the voice of her master stirring her to motion.

PALPATINE (V.O.) (cont'd)

That boy must not complete his mission. Go!

As though she is struck by pain, she grimaces and staggers along the hallway, holding her head. She grabs at the belt of a trooper trapped under a fallen section of the ceiling.

She shoots herself with something from an automatic syringe and then grabs the troopers blaster and reaches into a cylinder on his back and takes out a baton similar to the one Leia used.

She flicks it, and the baton telescopes to full length.

MARA
Try that again, bitch.

She stalks off through the wreckage.

81 EXT. ALDERAAN'S PRIDE - DAY 81

The ship barrels through hyperspace.

STARKILLER (O.S.)
A PLEASURE HOUSE!!!

82 INT. ALDERAAN'S PRIDE, COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS 82

Starkiller is fuming as he stalks back and forth in front of Proxy.

Leia looks straight ahead too amused for her own good.

STARKILLER
Why in all the galaxies would you set the coordinates for a pleasure house.

PROXY
Not just any pleasure house, Master. It's an entire colony dedicated to every vice sentients have managed to think of and at least several hundred they haven't.

Starkiller is honestly at a loss for words.

Leia is on the verge of breaking down in a fit of hysteria.

LEIA
(barely able to speak)
I suppose the idea of pleasure would scare a Sith to death. All those positive emotions. You'll be powerless.

STARKILLER
I'm gonna kill you. I swear it.

The cockpit door slides open and Luke looking a little better, now mostly dressed, and aided by his droid in walking a little.

LUKE

It's a good place to disappear. I have contacts there.

Leia nods, now amused at how disarmed Starkiller is in the presence of Luke.

LEIA

If you can get me a secure connection, I can have Hondo come get us.

(beat)

You'll have to let him have your ship. But I don't think you'll want it now that the Empire is looking for you.

(beat)

Why is the Empire looking for you?

LUKE

My father.

Starkiller nods like that explains it all and offers Luke a hand to one of the other chairs in the cockpit.

Luke looks thankful and definitely cops a feel of Starkiller's impressive chest muscles as he sits, "accidentally" brushing his nipple.

The contact makes Starkiller tense and draw a sharp breath.

LEIA

Who is your father?

LUKE

Senator Organa of Alderaan.

Leia nods as though the name has absolutely no meaning.

LEIA

If he's imperial then why is the Inquisitor after you?

(beat)

Wait, are you like a Jedi? Can you feel the Force?

LUKE

(disgusted)

No.

LEIA

(piqued)

Well then, why did you deserve the Inquisitor's attention. And why did a *Jedi* sacrifice himself so you could live?

LUKE

Because he's an incredibly stupid man!

Starkiller actually feels awkward and absolutely left out of the whole exchange. He almost speaks, but sits down anyway.

LUKE (cont'd)

(to Starkiller)

She's obviously the old man's pet. Who are you?

STARKILLER

No one.

LUKE

I saw you fighting. You're one of them too. A Jedi.

LEIA

(scoffing)

Not even close, nerf-herder.

PROXY

We will be arriving soon, master. I suggest you three come up with something convincing to explain your arrival.

LUKE

The droid's right.

STARKILLER

Humph.

LUKE

(ignoring him)

I can get us somewhere to hole up and keep our names out of certain ears. And yes, we need to get rid of this ship.

LEIA

All I need is secure connection and Hondo can be here. You trade him this for something less conspicuous.

(MORE)

LEIA (cont'd)

Then I suggest you curl up somewhere
and pray Ben killed the Inquisitor.

LUKE

Not him.

(shuddering)

The girl. She knows me. She won't let
me go so easily.

LEIA

(unconvinced)

The red-head? She's not a problem.

Luke shakes off Leia's pronouncement, drawing himself up and
sitting like a Prince.

LUKE

I'm no stranger here. The port master
is used to me bringing special guests
to enjoy one of their luxury suites.

STARKILLER

Perfect, and I'll be your steward.

Luke grimaces at the mention of the dead servant.

STARKILLER (cont'd)

Sorry.

LUKE

I didn't know his name.

LEIA

Typical Imperial.

STARKILLER

Stop.

LEIA

Or what?

LUKE

She will be my steward.

Starkiller and Leia both look at him with shock.

LUKE (cont'd)

(to Starkiller)

My special friends look more like
you.

They all look away from each other, the heat moving from the
tension between them to Starkiller's face.

LUKE (cont'd)
 I have clothes for you in my cabin.
 Both of you.

They all rise, Starkiller moves to help Luke and Leia shakes her head before walking ahead of them.

The Protocol droid hangs back for a moment, not sure where to go.

C3PO
 They didn't even ask my designation.

PROXY
 Why do you think you're the one with the stolen data.

C3PO
 I see your point.

Threepio totters off after his master through the cockpit door.

83 INT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION, HALLWAY - DAY

83

The emergency lights are on, the hallway has been mostly cleared of debris, but the blastdoors are still shut.

Captain Kramer stands aside as a Trooper attaches a breaching cord to the door.

TROOPER
 Stand clear.

The cord flares blindingly white, and snakes along the path the Trooper laid out. In a moment the cut blast door falls into the room and Troopers rush into the room.

84 INT. STAR DESTROYER INQUISITION, TORTURE CHAMBER -
 CONTINUOUS

84

Captain Kramer stalks through the open hatch, troopers fanning out in front of him.

An unconscious, hand-less Inquisitor hangs in the same frame where Ben once was.

Ben sits covered in just his brown robe and wrap where the Inquisitors chair once was.

His eyes are closed.

BEN

I think you'll find your men are
trying to reach you Captain.

The captain stops short.

Ben is surrounded by the troopers, blasters leveled at him. His lightsaber resting neatly on his the robe drawn across his lap, his battered, bare chest visible in the parting of his robe, his hood pulled up to cover his head and part of his face.

Seconds tick by and then an officer rushes through the door, running right up to the Captain and whispering in his ear.

Kramer's face goes stone cold and he straightens up.

CAPTAIN KRAMER

(point at Inquisitor)

Get him down from there.

(beat)

And clear the room.

Ben smirks slightly and remains absolutely still.

As the pull the Inquisitor out, Dart Vader steps into the room, sending Captain Kramer into a static frenzy as he debates what exactly to do.

VADER

That will be all Captain. Begin your
evacuations. Take the Inquisitor to
my personal quarters. I will deal
with him personally.

CAPTAIN KRAMER

Yes, My Lord.

Kramer can't scurry away fast enough.

Vader stands impassive.

Ben remains unmoved.

VADER

Obi-Wan Kenobi.

BEN

You used to call me master.

VADER

I am the master now.

BEN

Of evil, yes.

VADER

You murdered my wife. Killed my unborn child. And I am the evil one?

Ben looks up, meeting eyes with Vader.

BEN

Your wife and child posed threat only to one person in this galaxy. And you have allowed yourself to believe his lies to justify your treachery.

Vader thrums his lightsaber to life raising it up and taking a step forward.

BEN (cont'd)

He sent you here. Told you it would end with my life. Did he promise you more children?

Vader pauses.

BEN (cont'd)

You only live because he needs you should we ever rise against him.

(beat)

How much will he need you when all the children you haven't killed are trained as Sith. How long did his former apprentice last once you grew strong?

VADER

Your death is long over due.

BEN

Strike me down and I will become more powerful than you can possible imagine. I do not fear death as you do. I see it for what it is.

VADER

Fight me.

BEN

No.

VADER

Then die.

Vader sweeps his blade toward Ben's neck.

The blade cuts the into his hood, but, the robe crumples as he does, the now empty robe burning and singing as it falls over the red blade.

Vader moved forward at the empty spot where Ben once stood, kicking the robe open with his foot, summoning the old man's lightsaber to his hand.

VADER (cont'd)
(darkly)
Too easy.

He swirls his robe as he turns and leaves.

85 INT. ALDERAAN'S PRIDE, ROYAL CABIN - CONTINUOUS

85

Leia gasps and grabs the chair by the window, the blur of hyperspace visible beyond.

Luke catches her other arm.

LUKE
What's wrong?

LEIA
Ben.
(beat)
He's, gone.

Starkiller has a look of contrition.

Leia looks between Luke and his face, tears in her eyes. She flees the room, carrying half the steward uniform in her hand, the other half she'd already put on.

LUKE
If you're going to kill her, why wait? Some Jedi code?

STARKILLER
I am a Sith.

LUKE
Is there a difference?

STARKILLER
Why must I wear this?

He motions to the almost lack of clothing on him, his chest bare, his crotch barely covered with a glittering, gleaming pocket attached to straps. A thin, see-through wrap around his waist.

LUKE

Trust me.

STARKILLER

I trust no one.

LUKE

Yet you're wearing that.

Starkiller is flustered.

LUKE (cont'd)

You look good, if that helps.

Starkiller doesn't say anything, but it's obvious that it does.

LUKE (cont'd)

So she's going off with the Pirates.
Where are you going?

STARKILLER

To hunt down and kill the last of the
Jedi.

LUKE

Sounds exhausting.

Luke flops down in his chair, trying to be himself, but failing as he lifts his shirt to feel a mark left there by something not-physical.

Starkiller moves forward, sinking his knees in front of Luke.

Luke has a passing thought at the subservient position, but is hollowed, too close to broken to really enjoy it.

STARKILLER

May I see?

Luke peels off his shirt and allows Starkiller to prob several marks with his fingers.

STARKILLER (cont'd)

These hurt terribly.

LUKE

Yes.
(looking into his
eyes)
You know personally.

STARKILLER

My master is far more skilled than
the butcher who did these.

They meet eyes. Luke leans forward and kisses Starkiller.
It's quick, just a moment, but neither of them withdraws.

LUKE

Do you ever forget?

STARKILLER

No.

They lean their foreheads against each other, breathing
heavily, eyes locked.

Real-space reverts outside the window as they jerk slightly
under the deceleration.

LUKE

It's time.

Starkiller nods, getting to his feet with ease as Luke pulls
his tunic back on.

Starkiller helps him to his feet and they walk toward the
door.

86 EXT. ALDERAAN'S PRIDE - CONTINUOUS

86

The gleaming ship heads toward an assortment of asteroids,
similar to the droid base but full of gleaming glass windows
and glittering, blinking lights.

As the ship gets closer, it becomes dwarfed by the sheer
size of the massive complex of connected asteroids.

LANDO (O.S.)

Always a pleasure to have you back,
your Highness.

87 INT. CALRISSIAN'S ESCAPADE - DAY

87

LANDO CALRISSIAN moves forward, all pomp and circumstance, dressed in an impeccable outfit, a half cape of deep purple around his shoulders, echoing the hints of the same color mottled into the rest of his outfit.

LANDO

I see you've brought a guest.

Lando takes in Starkiller from head to toe, nodding in aesthetic, but not exactly sexual approval.

LUKE

(jovial)

I require some discretion. It seems an over-zealous fanatic of the Emperor's cause has taken an interest in me.

LANDO

Has he?

LUKE

She, actually.

(beat)

Actually, she's just the type of flower you find yourself drawn to.

(hushed)

She'd fit right in on Felucia.

Lando smiles in appreciation.

LANDO

I'll see you disappear.

(nodding to the ship)

Is that her doing?

LUKE

Sadly no. That was my own doing. I thought I could do without my pilot.

LANDO

I can have my crew take a look. We may have some parts.

LUKE

I've been meaning to make father very angry and sell it anyway. My steward has a contact who enjoys selling luxury items to those who can afford them.

LANDO
Sounds like my kind of man.
(hopeful)
Or is that one a woman as well.

LEIA
A man. Wee'Quay, actually.

LANDO
A Pirate, definitely my kind of man.
(laughing)
Come, come. I will see you have every
luxury into which to disappear.

The party follows after Lando, their two droids shuffling along behind them into a palatial dome as gaudy as it is massive.

88 EXT. STOLEN SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS 88

An imperial shuttle blue-shifts into reality and glides by toward the asteroid complex of Calrissian's Escapade.

89 INT. STOLEN SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS 89

Mara works the controls, sliding away from the complex, and looking at her scope, picking out a little outpost near the complex but disconnected from the rest of the asteroids.

MARA
(smiling)
What's one more slave girl among
thousands.

90 EXT. STOLEN SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS 90

The shuttle moves away from the complex toward a small blinking tower on a rotating asteroid drawing no attention.

91 INT. S.S.D. EXECUTOR, VADER'S QUARTERS - DAY 91

The Inquisitor works his mechanical hands as a droid tests tweaks the circuitry.

INQUISITOR
These are an abomination.

VADER

Then perhaps you should not have lost
your own.

The Inquisitor has no reply.

INQUISITOR

Why have you not killed me?

Vader stalks forward, removes his glove, showing his own
mechanical hand below it.

The Inquisitor stares at it.

Then Vader removes his tunic, showing that the missing arm
goes all the way up.

VADER

Until today, you hunted the Jedi
because your faith told you it must
be done.

(beat)

Now you will hunt the Jedi because
you understand their 'justice' their
'peace' yourself.

The inquisitor flexes his hands.

Vader thumbs his lightsaber to life and strikes.

Without thinking the Inquisitor activates his own and stops
the attack.

VADER (cont'd)

Train yourself. Until you forget they
are there, you will be useless to me.

INQUISITOR

As you wish, my Master.

VADER

Kenobi had two apprentices?

INQUISITOR

Just one, male. Well trained. A
female was with him, I did not see
her well at all.

VADER

And these captives they freed?

INQUISITOR

Delivered by the young agent. She claimed the Emperor commanded it. But the boy, this Prince, knew nothing of any value. And his pain did not move Kenobi to disclose anything.

VADER

The pain of the innocent never did. Countless men sacrificed to keep hold of their power.

(beat)

Even without Kenobi the Jedi will fight. They desire their power back.

The Inquisitor kneels before Vader, low, humble, none of the pretentious air from before.

INQUISITOR

What is your will, my master?

VADER

This apprentice and his accomplice did not arrive here from no where. Find their ship.

INQUISITOR

It was destroyed in their escape.

VADER

No. That was a stolen vessel. She came in something else.

(beat)

The thief who stole your gunship and killed himself. That their pilot. Follow his trail backward. Such a violent death leaves an echo.

INQUISITOR

It will be done, my Lord.

VADER

Leave me.

The Inquisitor bows low, nearly kissing the deck, and then retreats immediately.

Vader moves toward a screen, the bulk of his quarters absolutely barren save for a meditation sphere in the center and the medical station tucked into the corner.

He waves his hand, a secret compartment melting away from below it. A disk floating up and into a slot beside it.

Ben flares to life on the screen.

BEN
Yes, I see you there, come out.

Proxy's POV moves forward.

BEN (cont'd)
I see him written all over you. He always had a way with droids, even as a boy.

PROXY (O.S.)
You have saved my Master's life.

BEN
The boy, yes. But he is not your master.
(beat)
Is he watching even now?

PROXY (O.S.)
I'm sorry. I do not understand the question.

Ben stands up, walks right up to Proxy's face, filling the screen.

BEN
Your apprentice lives. Yoda spared him.
(exasperated)
The lies your friend Palpatine tells. So many lies, layer after layer.
(beat)
That which you seek, you have had all this time, old friend. You were too blinded by your hatred to see it.
(beat)
You will kill me soon, do not worry. But it will bring you no peace. The dark side has all but consumed you now. You will believe nothing I say.

Ben takes out a lightsaber from his belt, not his, but another, and places it on the unconscious Starkiller's belt, taking the other and passing it to Proxy.

BEN (cont'd)
(to the droid now)
You will know when to give this back.
If he is discovered, if the Emperor
learns he exists, he will be
destroyed. Better the Inquisitor
think him a Jedi than know the truth.
You understand, don't you?

PROXY
Yes. I do.

Proxy's hand can be seen taking the Sith Lightsaber from Ben.

Ben looks into the droids eyes again, searching them.

BEN
I am sorry, old friend. I truly am.
It should never have come to this.
(beat)
Perhaps you may still end this
conflict. I believed it was your
death that would do that. Yours and
that of the Emperor.
(beat)
Now...listen to the force Anakin. If
there is even a glimmer of light left
in you...

Ben can't finish his thought.

Vader watches him move back to the unconscious Starkiller,
touch his face.

BEN (cont'd)
(to Starkiller)
May the Force be with you.

Vader waves his hand, the recording stops, the disk sliding
out of the slot.

He draws his lightsaber and destroys it in one clean swipe.

The comm buzzes, Vader waves his hand. The screen comes to
life with ADMIRAL OZZEL's face.

OZZEL
My Lord, the Inquisitor has departed,
I've detached a Star Destroyer to his
command. We are ready to get
underway. What are your orders?

Vader pauses, looking blankly at the screen. Another data card floats into view and into the slot.

Ozzel looks down at his own screen.

OZZEL (cont'd)
My Lord, those coordinates are beyond
the outer rim.

VADER
Is there a problem, Admiral Ozzel?

OZZEL
No, my Lord. Of course not. We shall
depart at once.

Vader waves his hand and the screen goes blank.

92 INT. CALRISSIAN'S ESCAPE, PRIVATE SUITE - DAY

92

Starkiller paces the room, stripped down to just an underwrap. Luke is naked beneath a thin sheet, actually seemingly relaxed.

LUKE
Come back to bed.

STARKILLER
She should be back by now.

LUKE
I can help you with all this energy,
you know.
(leaning forward)
Beds are for more than just sleeping.

Starkiller pauses, unable to look back at the bed.

LUKE (cont'd)
We both know you're body is not
opposed to it. And didn't you tell me
passion was the only thing a Sith
worships?

STARKILLER
You mistake the meaning.

Luke crawls forward, the sheet falling away revealing all of his body. He steps to the floor and comes up behind Starkiller, hovering but not touching.

LUKE

Maybe you are the mistaken one.

(beat)

Maybe you need to let go.

Luke's traces Starkiller's side, then darts inside toward the knot in his wrap, causing it to fall away.

Starkiller closes his eyes and Luke leans in, pressing his lips to Starkiller's neck.

Suddenly, Starkiller, seizes the exploring hand, pivoting and holding the hand tightly in front of Luke's face.

STARKILLER

You endured days. I have endured a life time. There is nothing you can do that will ease that pain.

Luke leans in and kisses him, this one full, passionate and Starkiller is consumed by it. They are paw at each other, bite each other's lips, Starkiller siezes Luke by the ass and pulls their bodies tightly together.

The door slides open and Leia freezes halfway through it.

LEIA

Not as bad as seeing two dewbacks,
but...

Starkiller is beyond flustered, snatching at a pillow to cover himself.

Luke just laughs and falls back on the bed, looking upside down at Leia.

LUKE

You made contact with your Pirate?

LEIA

He'll be here in a few hours.

(to Starkiller)

Have you figured out where you're going?

STARKILLER

My Master will expect me.

LEIA

I wonder what your master will think of this.

Starkiller spots his wrap, scoops it up and turns around to cover himself.

Leia walks forward and tosses some pants at Luke.

LEIA (cont'd)
Ran into your friend Calrissian. He insists on dinner with us tonight.
(beat)
You know he'll sell you out to the Empire for the right price.

LUKE
Right now that price is much higher than what I pay him.
(beat)
Will this Hondo have a ship for me.

LEIA
I've explained your needs. He has one or two that should suffice. How long do you think you'll last out here?

LUKE
Concerned for me?

LEIA
Suggesting you need a protector.

She looks at Starkiller at the same time that Luke does.

STARKILLER
What?

Leia laughs.

LEIA
At least he's easy on the eyes.

LUKE
Very.

Luke stands up, ignoring the pants Leia tossed at him and moves toward the closet where his clothes are heaped.

Leia ignores him and sits down at a terminal, thumbing through things.

Starkiller clenches his fists and looks out the window at the carnival of lights and colors, and the deep space beyond.

93 INT. LANDO'S PRIVATE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

93

Luke and Lando laugh together, holding their wine glasses in the air. Leia looks on with interest, and Starkiller is a stoic, mostly naked statue poking at his plate.

LANDO

I don't think your friend shares our taste in delicacies.

Luke looks over at Starkiller, touches him tenderly.

LUKE

He prefers other things in his mouth.

Lando guffaws so loudly he spills his wine and then hops up and laughs even harder.

LANDO

(behind him)

Fetch me something to clean this stain.

A moment later, Mara, disguised by a veil, her hair pulled up into a head wrap, all attention directed to her body covered just barely by a metal bikini, enters quickly carrying a small cleaning device.

She kneels beside Lando, placing her hand too far up his thigh.

Luke takes another drink.

But Leia looks more carefully at the new addition.

She throws a tray that catches the knife suddenly appearing from nowhere, clattering to the floor beside Luke.

He looks confused and then sees Mara's eyes and goes rigid, wine glass falling from his grip.

LANDO (cont'd)

What is the meaning of this?

Lando tries to seize Mara, but she upturns his chair and he falls backward, splayed on the floor.

Starkiller is on his feet, as is Leia, her baton in her hand.

LEIA

I thought the last lesson would have taught you.

MARA

(sarcastic)

Yes. Giving an unarmed opponent a concussion was a strong statement indeed.

Lando rolls to a crouch, drawing his blaster and leveling it at Mara's head.

LANDO

I don't know who you are, and I don't much care. These people are my guests. Leave now and I will give you a head start.

Mara throws her head back and laughs, flicking Lando's blaster out of his hand and into hers, leveling it at his head.

In a flash that seems like a thousand years, she moves the blaster toward Luke.

Proxy has Starkiller's lightsaber in his hand, tossing it.

Starkiller reaches out his hand, calling the blade to him.

Mara fires.

The lightsaber snaps open, brilliant blue.

The bolt deflects.

Starkiller pulls Luke behind him and seizes the lightsaber out of the air.

Mara opens her own baton.

Starkiller strikes, she blocks.

Leia rushes forward and now the three of them dance.

They drive Mara back toward the door.

Lando scrambles on the floor for his blaster.

Mara is holding up, managing to deflect both of them, but she is almost out of ground to cover.

Lando raises his blaster and fires.

Mara deflects Starkiller's blade to catch the bolt. It ricochet's off the lightsaber.

Mara tucks and rolls out the door.

Leia and Starkiller round the corner, but she is gone.

They enter the room again to find Luke standing over the ruined body of his Droid, Proxy helping him to grab a few of the pieces.

Lando stands up, brushing himself off.

LANDO (cont'd)
 (to Luke)
 Sorry about your droid.
 (beat)
 I take that's the agent you were
 telling me about.

Luke nods sharply once.

LANDO (cont'd)
 I'll post extra security if you like.
 (nodding to
 Starkiller)
 But with a Jedi protector I doubt
 you'll need it.

LUKE
 No, we need to be inconspicuous. We
 have to assume she knows our room.

LANDO
 You may stay here. None know my tower
 but me. Come.

The party departs the room.

94 INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE DINING HALL - CONTINUOUS

94

Mara watches them from a hiding spot down the hall.

She paces after them, but ends up in throngs of pleasure seekers who make no qualms about pawing her.

She breaks one man's hand and hurries back the way she came.

95 EXT. LADY'S WISH TATTOOINE CAVE - DAY

95

The Blades circle the ship as the Inquisitor approaches it.

He glides his gloved hand along it's hull, breathing in everything he can.

Blade Prime steps out of the back hatch and hands the Inquisitor a datapad.

He looks at it with evil joy.

INQUISITOR

Florum.

96 INT. CALRISSIAN'S ESCAPE, SMUGGLER'S ROOM - NIGHT

96

Starkiller sits in meditation, Leia opposite him in the middle of the floor.

Proxy works on Threepio with a tool, his eyes lighting up and going dim off and on.

Luke paces the floor, wine stain still on his once beautiful clothes.

LEIA

(sighing)

Oh would you just take him behind the crates already.

(beat)

He's like a caged beast.

LUKE

We are in a cage, and your Pirate should be here.

LEIA

We will sense her before she gets close.

LUKE

Like you did last time.

(beat)

She was inches from me.

STARKILLER

Several feet.

LUKE

Oh, that's so much better.

Starkiller stands, goes to Luke. After a moment, he puts his arm awkwardly around him and Luke accepts it, closing his eyes and breathing deeply.

LANDO (O.S.)

Change of plans.

Starkiller looks over Luke's shoulder as Luke turns around.

Lando has guests with him, HAN SOLO (28), a younger man dressed in a white shirt, vest and navy issue dress pants and a towering Wookiee, CHEWBACCA wearing only a decorative bandolier.

Starkiller looks curiously at the Wookiee.

Chewie returns the look and mutters something to Han.

HAN
Great, Jedi.

LANDO
You're being well paid.
(beat)
And I'm agreeing to forget about my ship.

HAN
My ship.
(beat)
You're just a sore loser.

LANDO
When the Falcon is in play, yes.

LEIA
What's going on?

Han notices her for the first time, looking at her half-dressed state with interest.

LEIA (cont'd)
Hey, eyes up, fly boy.

HAN
Fly boy?

LEIA
How did you know we were Jedi?

HAN
We?
(nodding)
Chewie here says the kid there was supposed to be dead, long time ago. One of the children the Wookies agreed to harbor after the Troopers turned on the Jedi.

STARKILLER

(to Chewie)

You know me?

Chewie mutters more to Han who nods, but Lando steps forward.

LANDO

There will be time for reunions later.

(beat)

That girl is making trouble for me. Han here will take you to Florrum. Hondo has been delayed, something about great profit.

LEIA

(accusatory)

Secure communications.

LANDO

Good business.

(beat)

The Falcon is the fastest ship I've ever seen. She'll get you there safely.

(beat)

And Han here has some cargo for Hondo anyway. Though how he can stand work for the Hutts, I'll never know.

HAN

With. I work with them. More importantly I work with their money.

(to Starkiller)

You got any clothes, or is naked a Jedi thing?

LUKE

I'm sure Lando has already thought of that.

Lando opens a crate near them, several black environmental suits like the Blades wear are there, along with masks.

LANDO

The Blades haven't been too careful with their supplies lately.

(looking at Threepio)

Is your droid working yet?

PROXY

Nearly done.

LANDO

Good, you leave as soon as your dressed.

Starkiller makes no bones, he drops his wrap and starts dressing immediately.

Luke watches until there isn't more to see.

Han looks at Leia expectantly.

LEIA

Quite being such a scoundrel, we'll be out in a moment.

Lando laughs, guiding Han away, Chewie follows behind them.

Leia pulls a half dressed Luke close to her.

LEIA (cont'd)

I don't trust either of them.

LUKE

Do we have much choice?

LEIA

No.

(beat)

And this isn't a we.

STARKILLER

I gave my word to get you to safety.

LEIA

What good is the word of a Sith?

LUKE

Stop.

(beat)

I don't trust anyone, not even your pirate friends. But we all need to get away from here, out of sight of the Empire.

(beat)

Then we can kill each other or...find something more enjoyable.

LEIA

Hah!

They finish getting dressed.

97 EXT. CALRISSIAN'S ESCAPADE, SMUGGLER'S HANGER - LATER

97

Luke, Leia and Starkiller, almost indistinguishable from each other save for height, Luke the tallest, walk behind Han and Chewie who carries the still broken Threepio lashed to his back.

Proxy totters at the rear.

They clear the tunnel and see the Millennium Falcon for the first time. A very un-aesthetic ship, like bits of every other ship in the galaxy had been cobbled together to make it.

LEIA

What a piece of junk.

HAN

Hey, she'll make 6.7 past lightspeed. That's twice what the Imperials can do. I'm gone before they even get there.

Leia shakes her masked head and the group of them move past Han, up the ramp and into the ship after Chewie.

Lando comes up to Han and pulls him in close for a hug, Han's face shows this isn't the most normal behavior.

LANDO

See that Chewie gets a copy of that droid's memory.

(beat)

And if it happens to get wiped in the process...

HAN

You really are a pirate.

LANDO

Hey, I'm going legit.

(beat)

After I get a little more money and the Insurgents have some deep pockets.

(beat)

And stop working for the Hutts, it'll get you killed one day.

Han gives him a look like that's the most ridiculous suggestion he could make before turning and walking up his ramp.

98 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON, LOUNGE - MOMENTS LATER

98

Han steps into the lounge where the three passengers are extracting themselves from masks and gloves.

HAN
Get yourself strapped in. We're gonna have to make a short jump to the Tion Cluster than it's almost a straight shot to Florrum.

LEIA
We'll be fine, fly boy.

HAN
Alright your worshipfulness.

LEIA
(point to Luke)
He's the Prince. I'm just the boot up your ass if don't quit showing off get us going.

Han turns to stalk out of the lounge.

HAN
No amount of money is worth this.

LEIA
Heard that.

HAN
Damn Jedi.

LEIA
Heard that too.

Han throws his hands up as he leaves, disappearing around the twisting corridor.

LUKE
I think he likes you.

LEIA
I think I'd rather kiss the Wookiee.

HAN (O.S.)
That can be arranged!

99 EXT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - CONTINUOUS

99

Han is just visible in the cockpit as he flops down.
Chewbacca throws his head back in laughter as the Falcon
leaps into the air.

It passes through a maze of corridors in the asteroid before
finally seeing open space.

The Falcon shoots out of the asteroid, streaking away from
the bright lights of the pleasure palace.

It lenses and red-shifts and is gone.

100 EXT. FLORRUM - DAY

100

The planet hangs in space.

Three Star Destroyers lens and blue-shift into existence,
heading straight for the planet.

101 EXT. FLORRUM PIRATE BASE - CONTINUOUS

101

There are a few ships on the ground but most of the berths
are now empty.

A pair of old pirates are still playing their card game,
this time off the ship.

A kid carefully carries a pair of well-filled mugs toward
them, tongue between her teeth as she manages the balancing
act.

Her eyes go wide and she drops the mugs on the ground.

 OLD PIRATE 1
 Sith Spawn, girl.

She just point up at...

...several TIE fighters roaring down from the looming Star
Destroyers.

From above the TIEs open fire tearing up ground and leveling
buildings as the occupants rush into them.

The Star Destroyers open fire on the grounded ships, making
short work of them.

A pair of Gunships circle low over the devastation, this time the gun turrets manned, cutting down fleeing bodies and leaving blood and dust in their wake.

Higher above another gunship circles.

102 INT. LEAD GUNSHIP - CONTINUOUS 102

The Inquisitor surveys the damage, but his attention is drawn to the cliffs north of the Pirate base.

He points.

103 EXT. LARS HOMESTEAD - MOMENTS LATER 103

Owen and Beru look down in horror as the base is utterly destroyed, ships burning and TIEs picking off speeders trying to escape.

The Lead Gunship drops suddenly into view, the Inquisitor standing in the open doorway.

He leaps down and lands easily, standing up as Owen and Beru back against the rock wall.

INQUISITOR

It seems we have something to discuss.

104 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON, LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS 104

Leia sits up suddenly.

Starkiller feels it too.

LEIA

They found it.

LUKE

Found what?

LEIA

Home.

105 EXT. FLORRUM - LATER 105

The Falcon lenses and blue-shifts back to reality, the planet the size of a coin.

106 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON, COCKPIT

106

Han works the controls, a small display showing the unmistakable shapes of two Star Destroyers.

HAN
Well, looks like you're right.
They're all over Hondo's base.

LEIA
How do you know where his base is?

HAN
(ignoring her)
I gotta make this drop anyway, so you
an stay on till we find out if Hondo
made it out.

LEIA
Made it out?

HAN
Look princess, those two Star
Destroyers have enough fire power to
level cities. If they caught Hondo
with his pants down...

A flashing red light and alarm go off on the panel, the ship rocks under fire as Chewie mutters to him.

HAN (cont'd)
(to Chewie)
Well why didn't you check the rear
scanners as soon as we dropped out.

Chewie barks off something nasty and gets the Falcon moving. A pair of TIE fighters streak by again, this time where they can be seen from the cockpit.

Han stands up quickly.

HAN (cont'd)
Which of you has fired turbo-lasers
before.

Leia puts her hand up.

HAN (cont'd)
Pefect.
(beat)
Follow me.

Han rushes past Proxy who is hanging out in the corridor,
Leia doing the same.

107 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON, GUN LADDER - CONTINUOUS

107

Han points down the ladder.

HAN
Gravity switches half way down, try
not to bang your head. Standard
controls and targeting.

He grabs the ladder and ascends.

Leia just jumps in the hole.

She twists as the gravity changes and springs from a crouch
into the gun turret, settling easy into the seat.

Han peers down at her from the ladder.

HAN (cont'd)
(mumbling)
Cocky little thing.

He settles into his own seat and pulls on his headset.

HAN (cont'd)
Chewie get us out of here.

108 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON, COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

108

Chewie veers the ship to the right, the Florum flying past
before jinking back into view from the other way.

Chewie barks into this headset as Starkiller and Luke settle
into the seats behind him.

PROXY
Master, I may be able to help.

STARKILLER
How?

PROXY
If Captain Solo can destroy the
fighters before the Star Destroyer
catches us, I may be able to scramble
our scanner signal.
(MORE)

PROXY (cont'd)

(beat)

It could allow us to slip onto the planet where it would much harder to track us.

Chewie nods and vocalizes his approval of the plan, motioning Proxy forward with his paw before going back to the controls.

HAN (O.S.)

What are you doing to my ship?

Chewie rumbles something as the ship buckles under another blast from the TIEs.

109 EXT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - CONTINUOUS 109

Six TIE fighters swirl around the ship, but it is quickly picking up speed.

Laser fire lances out from above and below, the later strikes a TIE and it explodes.

110 INT. LEIA'S TURRET - CONTINUOUS 110

Leia has a little smile on her face.

LEIA

Did you hit your head, fly-boy?

111 INT. HAN'S TURRET - CONTINUOUS 111

Han shakes his head as he locks onto a TIE and it blows up in front of him.

112 EXT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - CONTINUOUS 112

The ship is now ahead of the TIE fighters and they are forced to bunch up as they give chase.

They manage a few hits but quickly fall victim to the much more powerful turbo-lasers of the Falcon.

In the distance the third Star Destroyer is turning toward them.

113 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON, COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

113

Proxy works his fingers over the controls with one hand while a plug from his other hand connects directly with the computer.

PROXY

There, Master. We should be able to reach the planet before they can get a lock on us.

Han bustles into the cockpit.

HAN

Out of my seat droid.

Proxy disconnects and stands up, Han barely waiting for him to get out of the way.

PROXY

My apologies, Captain S--

HAN

So what did your droid do?

STARKILLER

Saved us, I think.

Luke tries to stand to give Leia his seat, but she shakes her head, pushing him back to his seat.

HAN

More like delayed our imminent deaths.

(to Chewie)

Put us down close to the base, but not too close. Maybe we can pick up some survivors.

LEIA

Rescue hardly seems your thing.

HAN

It isn't. But Hondo's men will know where I can find him. Or if he's dead.

The planet grows larger in the windows.

In front of them a dozen ships lens and blue-shift into view suddenly, some are Hondo's pirate ships, some are smooth Mon Calamari cruisers.

LEIA

Hondo!

HAN

(impressed)

That's a nice little fleet.

(to Leia)

Since when did Hondo get along with the Mon Cals?

LEIA

I didn't know he did.

THREEPIO (O.S.)

Excuse me, Sir?

Threepio, blast marks on his body but back in one piece, totters forward, edging by Proxy.

LUKE

What is it Threepio?

THREEPIO

I am receiving a secure communication for you from Senator Mon Mothma.

LUKE

Auntie Mothma?

Han looks back at him expectantly.

HAN

Just who exactly are you, kid?

Chewie rumbles something to Threepio.

THREEPIO

I have taken the liberty of routing it through your comm panel actually.

HAN

Droids with liberties. Seems that ended up with half the galaxy dead last time.

(to the droids)

The next one of you to touch my ship gets spaced.

Chewie smacks his head and points at the comm panel.

HAN (cont'd)

(to Chewie)

I'm always useful.

Han turns though and flips a few switches.

HAN (cont'd)
You're on, Kid.

LUKE
This is Luke Organa.

There's static on the line for a moment, and then a voice.

MON MOTHMA (V.O.)
Luke, we had feared the worst.

LUKE
Me too.

MON MOTHMA
Your droid says you're on a
smuggler's ship.

LUKE
A friend arranged passage here. We
were trying to get away from the
fighting.

MON MOTHMA
We?

LUKE
I met a few Jedi along the way.

HAN
Look lady. I was paid to drop these
three and their droids off and I've
already got more than I bargained
for. There's a Star Destroyer parked
out there and it's gonna be here
quickly.

MON MOTHMA
I am well aware of the tactical
situation, thank you. Please head for
the flagship, I am sending you our
coordinates. You may deliver your
passengers.

HAN
In the middle of a battle zone.

MON MOTHMA
You will be compensated for any
damage to your ship.

HAN
(smiling)
Well then.

MON MOTHMA
Please hurry. As you see we have a
battle on our hands and every ship
counts.

HAN
Just send the coordinates.

Han cuts off the communication smiling broadly as the fleet gets larger in the windows. All but one ship heading toward the planet, a single Mon Calamari cruiser holding position in high orbit.

LEIA
(to Luke)
We seem to have the same friends.

LUKE
I wish I understood.

114 INT. MON CALAMARI DOCKING BAY - MOMENTS LATER

114

The Falcon sits on the deck as fighters launch behind it. The completed versions of what the droid factory was producing.

Starkiller sees it all, realizing his own mistake.

Leia is haranguing a deck officer.

LEIA
I don't care what you think. I'm
going down to that planet.
(beat)
Where's Hondo?

MON MOTHMA (40s) approaches Leia, she is tall, stately, hair tight to her head, tightly curled.

MON MOTHMA
Leia? Leia Skywalker?

LEIA
(frustrated)
Yes.

LUKE
Her family is down there.

MON MOTHMA

I know.

LEIA

Then put me on a ship, or give me one.

Mon Mothma nods.

115 INT. RE-PURPOSED GUNSHIP - MOMENTS LATER

115

Leia grabs a hand hold as Starkiller and Proxy board after her, Luke watching from the deck.

LEIA

What are you doing?

STARKILLER

The middle of a battle is hardly safety.

LEIA

You got Ben killed.

STARKILLER

He knew what he was doing. He knew how he would die before we even met.

LEIA

How?

STARKILLER

I beginning to want to know.

The Gunship lifts off from the deck, a single pilot in the cockpit, soldiers just visible in the turrets swiveling as the doors close.

Bulkhead is replaced by space as the Gunship races away from the cruiser, making atmosphere as fighters rush by and laser blasts rain down.

STARKILLER (cont'd)

(blankly)

I am still going to kill you after all this.

LEIA

I know.

116 EXT. RE-PURPOSED GUNSHIP - CONTINUOUS

116

Losing altitude quickly, the gunship weaves around the bulk of the fighting, heading for the cliffs but form the opposite direction as the Inquisitor took.

It swoops down on top of them, a clear mesa and the doors open.

Leia, Starkiller and Proxy race across the rock as the gunship lifts off and flies away.

117 INT. LARS HOMESTEAD - MOMENTS LATER

117

Leia leads the way through blank hallways, store rooms off to each side.

They've been tossed, and out of hidden compartments weapons of all kinds are visible.

Leia is confused by them.

STARKILLER

You didn't know about these?

Leia shakes her head and presses forward.

A pair of lightsabers rush out from both sides of the hallway, forcing Leia to back flip away, landing at Starkiller's feet.

PROXY

Here, Master.

He passes Starkiller his original lightsaber.

Starkiller doesn't have time to be confused, but he drops the one Ben gave him into Leia's hand.

The both ignite them together.

In tandem they move forward to face the two Blades who block their path.

Carving chunks out of the wall, they fight on two levels, Leia working low, Starkiller high, but it's a stalemate with the quarters so tight.

Leia is grazed by a blade on her upper arm.

Starkiller sees this and just reacts, throwing out his arm, sending arcs of lightning at the Blades. It distracts them long enough for Leia to cut them both down.

LEIA

Three.

Starkiller nods, trying not to break a smile.

The pair continue through the corridors, Lightsabers out.

They reach the kitchen and Leia turns to go up the stairs.

118 EXT. LARS HOMESTEAD CLIFF TOP - CONTINUOUS

118

Owen and Beru lie crumpled, in pain, bleeding and singed by multiple lightsaber cuts, their hands and feet missing, Owens arms cut up to the elbows.

Leia rushes forward, unable to find her voice.

Her lips quiver, tears fill her eyes.

The Inquisitor stalks forward from behind her.

INQUISITOR

Your Pirate allies may win the engagement, but I have found the heart of the insurgents.

(triumphant)

I thought you were a mere girl. A Skywalker, right before me. The Emperor will be quite pleased.

Leia's face contorts into hatred as she spins.

Starkiller steps in front of her advance, hand on her shoulder.

STARKILLER

The old man wouldn't want this.

LEIA

(dripping with anger)

What would you know?

STARKILLER

Hatred. Anger. Fear.

INQUISITOR

I am going to enjoy this. And when I have broken both of you, I will present you to the Emperor myself. Vader will be forgotten.

Starkiller tenses at the mention of Vader's name. Like a sponge he seems to draw off Leia's fury into himself, she visibly relents while his eyes begin to glow brightly yellow.

He turns and with a shout lets go a flurry of lighting from his hand.

It strikes the surprised Inquisitor square in the chest and blasts him back against the rocks.

Starkiller thumbs his lightsaber on, the red blade making the already panting Inquisitor flinch.

The Inquisitor scrambles up the rocks, leaping in several bounds and disappearing over the top edge.

Starkiller and Leia follow quickly.

At the top they find Blade Prime with two others beside her, the Inquisitor shrinking back behind them.

No words are exchanged, just battle.

Starkiller uses his lightning a few times, working with Leia as a team.

The two blades fall quickly, but Blade Prime is impressive.

The Inquisitor sprints toward an approaching gunship but it is blasted by laser fire and he dives to the rock face to avoid debris.

Leia, Starkiller and Blade Prime fight still. Blade Prime ignites her second lightsaber and the fight evens out slightly.

The Inquisitor thumbs his own lightsaber to life and rushes at Leia and Starkiller's back.

Leia barely manages to turn in time, and Starkiller takes a gash to his back, deep enough that a bit of his spine is visible.

He almost misses a block from Blade Prime's thrust.

Leia deflects the Inquisitor and drags Starkiller back over the edge.

They impact hard on the ledge below, Owen and Beru now dead in a pile.

Leia props Starkiller inside the doorway as Blade Prime and the Inquisitor land in front of her.

INQUISITOR (cont'd)
No need to suffer further. Hand over
your swords and this can end now.

Starkiller tosses his lightsaber over Leia's shoulder, she catches it and flicks it to life.

Leai fights like a blur, but her face grows angry with every flash of Owen and Beru's dead faces to her side.

Starkiller can sense this, he staggers to his feet.

Leia has pushed them back a few paces, the edge of the cliff is close by.

Starkiller raises his hand.

Rocks begin to fly at the pair of attackers, first small ones, but then larger.

The sides of the cliff begin to shudder and break apart.

Blade Prime has to dodge quickly to the side before a boulder the size of her upper body knocks her over the ledge.

Leia focuses all her effort on the Inquisitor, swinging wildly.

STARKILLER
Down!

Leia drop and Starkiller blasts the Inquisitor with lightning. He hangs in mid air over the edge of the cliff, arms outstretched, tensed so tight his fingers dig into his palm, drawing blood.

He's eyes flare and then the yellow is gone and he falls.

Blade Prime scrambles away.

Leia turns to pursue, but Starkiller grabs her by the shoulder.

His back is healed, he breathes easier, but his eyes are full yellow now, deep red lines across them, even his skin seems to have grown slightly grey.

STARKILLER (cont'd)

Safe.

He and Leia look at each other. Leia closes down both blades and passes the red one back to Starkiller.

STARKILLER (cont'd)

How did he know?

Ben's ghost appears to both of them, standing on the edge of the cliff. The Star Destroyers flaming and crashing into the landscape behind him.

BEN

The Force will show you many things.
The future, the past, places far, far
away.

LEIA

You died.

BEN

We are creatures of light, not
matter.

LEIA

So even in death you're confusing.

BEN

(to Starkiller)

You have a choice now.

Starkiller holds the lightsaber in his hand, arm tense as he squeezes it without looking up.

LEIA

Do we fight now?

Starkiller looks up first at her, then at Ben.

STARKILLER

What is my Destiny? At who's hand
will I die?

BEN

That depends on which path you walk.
You have called upon the dark side
deeply today.

(MORE)

BEN (cont'd)
It's grip tightens with each passing second. You will never be free of it.

STARKILLER
Then why should I not hurl myself off this cliff right now?

BEN
Sometimes what we think is wisdom is merely what we have told ourselves for so long that we can't imagine any other truth.

LEIA
What are you saying?

BEN
Everything. Nothing.
(beat)
Truth depends greatly on your point of view. My truth is clouded by millennia of Jedi arrogance that led to exactly where we are now.
(beat)
It is time for the Children of the Force to make their own destiny.

Ben's ghost shimmers and is gone.

LEIA
If he weren't already dead.

She turns to Starkiller and sees the conflict on his face.

STARKILLER
I was raised since I can remember to hate the Jedi. Trained to kill them.

LEIA
I don't even know your name.

STARKILLER
I have none.
(beat)
He called me Starkiller, sometimes. As a call sign when I was learning to fly.

LEIA
So Starkiller. I'm safe. Your oath is fulfilled.

STARKILLER
(nodding to Owen and
Beru)
You've suffered enough today.

He leaps up the side of the rockface, dangling with one hand hanging free as he turns to look down at her.

STARKILLER (cont'd)
Bury your family today.
(beat)
I can wait to kill you until
tomorrow.

He bounds the rest of the way up the cliff and disappears over the top.

Leia attaches her lightsaber to her belt and kneels before her dead guardians.

LEIA
I'm sorry.
(tears)
This was my fault. I thought I was
strong enough to handle...everything.
(wiping eyes)
Whatever you started, I'm going to
finish it. I promise you.

She leans forward and closes their eyes as friendly fighters scream overhead.

A friendly Gunship floats down to the cliff face, a medical team rushing out to her side, checking the dead bodies and then treating her.

119 INT. MON CALAMARI CRUISER, BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

119

Leia sits calmly with her legs up in a chair, wearing a sleeveless tunic, a patch on her upper arm where the lightsaber grazed her.

Luke is beside her in a sedate almost bland tunic and pants.

They look at each other, fidgeting.

LUKE
Sorry.

LEIA
Huh?

LUKE
Your, parents or whatever.

LEIA
(rolling eyes)
You sound it.

LUKE
I'm trying. You're not the only one
with issues right now.

LEIA
Yeah, I can see how loosing your line
of credit and gaining a fleet of your
daddy's Senate cronies is a really
comparable to seeing your aunt and
uncle cut to pieces and losing your
Master to Darth Vader.

LUKE
You hate me.

LEIA
No. Cuz I'd have to care about you to
hate you. I just find you silly.
Frivolous. Like what have you even
done?

MON MOTHMA (O.S.)
Quite a lot, actually.

Mon Mothma stands in the open doorway before coming into the
room.

MON MOTHMA
Leia, my deepest sympathies. I will
not pretend to know what it feels
like.

LEIA
(eye Luke sideways)
Thank you.

MON MOTHMA
But Luke, though unwittingly, has
played an instrumental role in
getting crucial information to us.

LEIA
Who is us?

MON MOTHMA
The Rebel Alliance.
(MORE)

MON MOTHMA (cont'd)

(beat)

Leia, Luke, since before you were born, several key members of the senate, including your mother Leia, were invo--

LEIA

(sitting forward)

Wait, my mother?

MON MOTHMA

Senator Padme Amidala of Naboo. Formerly the Queen.

LUKE

So she's a princess?

He can't help but laugh at the turned tables.

MON MOTHMA

Not exactly.

(beat)

On Naboo there is no royal family like Alderaan. It is an elected office.

LEIA

You knew my mother?

MON MOTHMA

Very well. All you see her was much of her doing.

(beat)

I know this is a lot to take in, but Obi-Wan, sorry Ben, believed you were the Jedi we needed for the fight to come.

LEIA

More fighting?

MON MOTHMA

We will be at war very soon. And after what Luke's droid has brought to us, we have no choice but to act.

LUKE

What did threepio find?

120 EXT. S.S.D. EXECUTOR - CONTINUOUS 120

The Super Star Destroyer lenses and blue-shifts into existence, all the smaller Star Destroyers doing the same thing all around it.

121 INT. S.S.D. EXECUTOR, MAIN BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS 121

Vader takes a step forward, Admrial Ozzel beside him.

Vader's expression is hidden behind his mask, but Ozzel's confusion is evident on his.

OZZEL
What is it, my Lord?

VADER
A technological terror.

The nearly finished Death Star looms in space in front of them.

VADER (cont'd)
Set course of Coruscant.

OZZEL
At once, my Lord.

122 INT. IMPERIAL PALACE THRONE ROOM - NIGHT 122

Mara exits the secret door she uses earlier.

The emperor is in his chair, watching the Executor leave the space around the Death Star.

He doesn't look up, but raises his hand and fires off a blast of lightning far more intense than Starkiller.

Mara shrieks even as she flies and slams into the window.

The Emperor stalks forward, no cane, intensely dangerous, eyes glowing yellow.

PALPATINE
You have failed me, my dear.

He lets off another round of lighting, this time from both hands.

Mara writhes in pain, gasping for air.

PALPATINE (cont'd)
My enemies know of my battle station.
All of them. Organa's son is safe and
out of my grasp, for now. I had such
high hopes for you.

Mara holds her hand up, wordlessly begging him to stop.

MARA
(staggered)
Sky--Sky--Skywalker.

The Emperor halts his advance.

MARA (cont'd)
The child of Skywalker lives.

She tosses both of Blade Primes lightsabers out from under
her dress onto the floor.

Palpatine smiles.

PALPATINE
So the fool Inquisitor actually did
something right before he died.

The Emperor lowers his hands.

Mara pulls herself up to sitting, leaning against the window
as the night traffic buzzes behind her.

Palpatine flicks his wrist at Mara, who flinches and closes
her eyes. But he only moves the lightsabers back to her.

PALPATINE (cont'd)
Keep those. When you can close your
hands again, I will teach you.

He turns away from her, walking back to his chair.

PALPATINE (cont'd)
When you bring me the young Skywalker
then even Lord Vader will not be able
to stand against me.
(beat)
Leave me.

Mara manages to pick up the lightsabers despite her hands
not working well and crawl off.

The Emperor laughs throatily.

123 EXT. FLORRUM DESERT - NIGHT

123

Starkiller stands on a bluff, looking out at the setting sun. Proxy shuffles up beside him.

PROXY

I have located an Imperial locator, something with a hyper-drive. A trooper shuttle hiding until the Pirates leave.

STARKILLER

Nice of them to save us a ride.

PROXY

What are you going to do now, Master?

Starkiller turns and faces the droid, looking at him with approval for the first time.

STARKILLER

Stop underestimating you for one.

PROXY

What do you mean, Master.

STARKILLER

Don't call me master. I'm not your master, am I?

PROXY

No.

STARKILLER

You can't lie to me, can you?

PROXY

No.

(beat)

Not directly.

STARKILLER

Do you know what game my Master is really playing.

PROXY

Part of it.

STARKILLER

Are you going to tell me?

PROXY

In time I think you'll discover it
for yourself.

(beat)

For now, I must insist we hurry. The
troopers will not stay much longer.

STARKILLER

Where is my Master now?

PROXY

He is currently underway to
Coruscant.

STARKILLER

Then lead the way, we have a ship to
catch.

The pair of them move off, the setting sun casting long
shadows as they walk side by side into the night.

PROXY

You're thinking about the Prince.

STARKILLER

We're not friends.

PROXY

You're deflecting. You like him.

STARKILLER

I have a lightsaber.

PROXY

I have his droid's comm I.D.

STARKILLER

I hate you.

FADE OUT: