

Return of the Jedi

by

Lawrence Kasdan and George Lucas

screenplay presented by



The boundless heavens serve as a back-drop for the MAIN TITLE, followed by a ROLL-UP, which crawls into infinity.

Episode VI:

REVENGE OF THE JEDI...

Luke Skywalker has returned to his home planet of Tatooine in an attempt to rescue his friend Han Solo from the clutches of the vile gangster Jabba the Hutt.

Little does Luke know that the GALACTIC EMPIRE has secretly begun construction on a new armored space station even more powerful than the first dreaded Death Star.

When completed, this ultimate weapon will spell certain doom for the small band of Rebels struggling to restore freedom to the galaxy...

PAN DOWN to reveal a monstrous half-completed Death Star, its massive superstructure curling away from the completed section like the arms of a giant octopus. Beyond, in benevolent contrast, floats the small, green moon of ENDOR.

An Imperial Star Destroyer moves overhead toward the massive armored space station, followed by two zipping TIE fighters. A small Imperial shuttle rockets from the main bay of the ship and hustles toward the Death Star.

The shuttle captain makes contact with the Death Star.

SHUTTLE CAPTAIN

Command station, this is ST 321. Code Clearance Blue. We're starting our approach. Deactivate the security shield.

DEATH STAR CONTROLLER

(filtered VO)

The security deflector shield will be deactivated when we have confirmation of your code transmission. Stand by... You are clear to proceed.

SHUTTLE CAPTAIN

We're starting our approach.

3 INT. DEATH STAR - CONTROL ROOM

3

Operators move about among the control panels. A SHIELD OPERATOR hits switches beside a large screen, on which is a display of the Death Star, the moon Endor, and a bright web delineating the invisible deflector shield.

A control officer rushes over to the shield operator.

OFFICER

Inform the commander that Lord Vader's shuttle has arrived.

OPERATOR

Yes, sir.

The control officer moves to a view port and watches as the Imperial shuttle lands in the massive docking bay. A squad of Imperial stormtroopers moves into formation before the craft.

4 INT. DEATH STAR - MAIN DOCKING BAY

4

The DEATH STAR COMMANDER, MOFF JERJERROD, a tall, confident technocrat, strides through the assembled troops to the base of the shuttle ramp. The troops snap to attention; many are uneasy about the new arrival. But the Death Star commander stands arrogantly tall.

The exit hatch of the shuttle opens with a WHOOSH, revealing only darkness. Then, heavy FOOTSTEPS AND MECHANICAL BREATHING.

From this black void appears DARTH VADER, LORD OF THE SITH.
Vader looks over the assemblage as he walks down the ramp.

JERJERROD

Lord Vader, this is an unexpected
pleasure. We're honored by your presence.

VADER

You may dispense with the pleasantries,
Commander. I'm here to put you back on
schedule.

The commander turns ashen and begins to shake.

JERJERROD

I assure you, Lord Vader, my men are
working as fast as they can.

VADER

Perhaps I can find new ways to motivate
them.

JERJERROD

I tell you, this station will be
operational as planned.

VADER

The Emperor does not share your
optimistic appraisal of the situation.

JERJERROD

But he asks the impossible. I need more
men.

VADER

Then perhaps you can tell him when he
arrives.

JERJERROD

(aghast)

The Emperor's coming here?

VADER

That is correct, Commander. And he is most displeased with your apparent lack of progress.

JERJERROD

We shall double our efforts.

VADER

I hope so, Commander, for your sake. The Emperor is not as forgiving as I am.

5 EXT. ROAD TO JABBA'S PALACE - TATOOINE

5

A lonely, windswept road meanders through the desolate Tatooine terrain. We HEAR a familiar BEEPING and a distinctive reply before catching sight of ARTOO-DETOO and SEE-THREEPIO, making their way along the road toward the ominous palace of Jabba the Hutt.

THREEPIO

Of course I'm worried. And you should be, too. Lando Calrissian and poor Chewbacca never returned from this awful place. Artoo whistles timidly.

THREEPIO

Don't be so sure. If I told you half the things I've heard about this Jabba the Hutt, You'd probably short-circuit.

The two droids fearfully approach the massive gate to the palace.

THREEPIO

Artoo, are you sure this is the right place? I better knock, I suppose.

6 EXT. JABBA'S PALACE - GATE

6

Threepio looks around for some kind of signaling device, then timidly knocks on the iron door.

THREEPIO

(instantly)

There doesn't seem to be anyone there.
Let's go back and tell Master Luke.

A small hatch in the middle of the door opens and a spidery mechanical arm, with a large electronic eyeball on the end, pops out and inspects the two droids.

STRANGE VOICE

Tee chuta hhat yudd!

THREEPIO

Goodness gracious me!

Threepio points to Artoo, then to himself.

THREEPIO

Artoo Detoowha bo Seethreepiowha ey toota
odd mischka Jabba du Hutt.

The eye looks from one robot to the other, there is a laugh then the eye zips back into the door. The hatch slams shut. Artoo beeps his concern.

THREEPIO

I don't think they're going to let us in,
Artoo. We'd better go.

Artoo beeps his reluctance as Threepio turns to leave. Suddenly the massive door starts to rise with a horrific metallic SCREECH. The robots turn back and face an endless black cavity. The droids look at one another, afraid to enter.

Artoo starts forward into the gloom. Threepio rushes after his stubby companion. The door lowers noisily behind them.

THREEPIO

Artoo, wait. Oh, dear! Artoo. Artoo, I really don't think we should rush into all this.

Artoo continues down the corridor, with Threepio following.

THREEPIO

Oh, Artoo! Artoo, wait for me!

7 INT. JABBA'S PALACE - HALLWAY

7

The door slams shut with a loud crash that echoes throughout the dark passageway. The frightened robots are met by two giant, green GAMORREAN GUARDS, who fall in behind them. Threepio glances quickly back at the two lumbering brutes, then back to Artoo. One guard grunts an order. Artoo beeps nervously.

THREEPIO

Just you deliver Master Luke's message and get us out of here. Oh my! Oh! Oh, no.

Walking toward them out of the darkness is BIB FORTUNA, a humanlike alien with long tentacles protruding from his skull.

BIB

Die Wanna Wanga!

THREEPIO

Oh, my! Die Wanna Wauaga. We -- we bring a message to your master, Jabba the Hutt.

Artoo lets out a series of quick beeps.

THREEPIO

... and a gift.

(thinks a moment, then to
Artoo)

Gift, what gift?

Bib shakes his head negatively.

BIB

Nee Jabba no badda. Me chaade su goodie.

Bib holds out his hand toward Artoo and the tiny droid backs up a bit, letting out a protesting array of squeaks. Threepio turns to the strange-looking alien.

THREEPIO

He says that our instructions are to give it only to Jabba himself. Bib thinks about this for a moment.

THREEPIO

I'm terribly sorry. I'm afraid he's ever so stubborn about these sort of things.

Bib gestures for the droids to follow.

BIB

Nudd Chaa.

The droids follow the tall, tentacled alien into the darkness, trailed by the two guards.

THREEPIO

Artoo, I have a bad feeling about this.

8 INT. JABBA'S THRONE ROOM

8

The throne room is filled with the vilest, most grotesque CREATURES ever conceived in the universe. Artoo and Threepio seem very small as they pause in the doorway to the dimly lit chamber.

Light shafts partially illuminate the drunken courtiers as Bib Fortuna crosses the room to the platform upon which rests the leader of this nauseating crowd: JABBA THE HUTT. The monarch of the galactic underworld is a repulsive blob of bloated fat with a maniacal grin. Chained to the horrible creature is the beautiful alien female dancer named OOLA. At the foot of the dais sits an obnoxious birdlike creature, SALACIOUS CRUMB. Bib whispers something in the slobbering degenerate's ear. Jabba laughs horribly, at the two terrified droids before him. Threepio bows politely.

THREEPIO

Good morning.

JABBA

Bo Shuda!

The robots jump forward to stand before the repulsive, loose-skinned villain.

THREEPIO

The message, Artoo, the message.

Artoo whistles, and a beam of light projects from his domed head, creating a HOLOGRAM of LUKE on the floor. The image grows to over ten feet tall, and the young Jedi towers over the space gangsters.

LUKE

Greetings, Exalted One. Allow me to introduce myself. I am Luke Skywalker, Jedi Knight and friend to Captain Solo. I know that you are powerful, mighty Jabba, and that your anger with Solo must be equally powerful. I seek an audience with Your Greatness to bargain for Solo's life.

(Jabba's crowd laughs)

With your wisdom, I'm sure that we can work out an arrangement which will be mutually beneficial and enable us to avoid any unpleasant confrontation. As a token of my goodwill, I present to you a gift: these two droids.

Threepio is startled by this announcement.

THREEPIO

What did he say?

LUKE

... Both are hardworking and will serve you well.

THREEPIO

This can't be! Artoo, you're playing the wrong message.

Luke's hologram disappears. Jabba laughs while Bib speaks to him in Huttese.

JABBA

(in Huttese subtitled)

There will be no bargain.

THREEPIO

We're doomed.

JABBA

(in Huttese subtitled)

I will not give up my favorite decoration. I like Captain Solo where he is.

Jabba laughs hideously and looks toward an alcove beside the throne. Hanging high, flat against the wall, exactly as we saw him last, is a carbonized HAN SOLO.

THREEPIO

Artoo, look! Captain Solo. And he's still frozen in carbonite.

9 INT. DUNGEON CORRIDOR

9

One of Jabba's Gamorrean guards marches Artoo and Threepio down a dank, shadowy passageway lined with holding cells. The cries of unspeakable creatures bounce off the cold stone walls. Occasionally a repulsive arm or tentacle grabs through the bars at the hapless droids. Artoo beeps pitifully.

THREEPIO

What could possibly have come over Master Luke. Is it something I did? He never expressed any unhappiness with my work. Oh! Oh! Hold it! Ohh!

A large tentacle wraps around Threepio's neck. He manages to break free, and they move on to a door at the end of the corridor.

10 INT. BOILER ROOM

10

The door slides open, revealing a room filled with steam and noisy machinery. The guard motions them into the boiler room, where they are met by a tall, thin humanlike robot named EV-9D9 (EVE-NINEDENINE). Behind the robot can be seen a torture rack pulling the legs off a screaming baby work droid. A second power droid is upside down. As smoking branding irons are pressed into his feet, the stubby robot lets out an agonized electronic scream. Artoo and Threepio cringe as the guard grunts to EV-9D9.

NINEDENINE

Ah, good. New acquisitions. You are a protocol droid, are you not?

THREEPIO

I am See-Threepio, human-cy...

NINEDENINE

Yes or no will do.

THREEPIO

Oh. Well, yes.

NINEDENINE

How many languages do you speak?

THREEPIO

I am fluent in over six million forms of communication, and can readily...

NINEDENINE

Splendid! We have been without an interpreter since our master got angry with our last protocol droid and disintegrated him.

THREEPIO

Disintegrated?

NINEDENINE

(to a Gamorrean guard)

Guard! This protocol droid might be useful. Fit him with a restraining bolt and take him back to His Excellency's main audience chamber.

The guard shoves Threepio toward the door.

THREEPIO

(disappearing)

Artoo, don't leave me! Ohhh!

Artoo lets out a plaintive cry as the door closes. Then he beeps angrily.

NINEDENINE

You're a feisty little one, but you'll soon learn some respect.

I have need for you on the master's Sail
Barge. And I think you'll fit in nicely.

The poor work droid in the background lets out another
tortured electronic scream.

11 INT. JABBA'S THRONE ROOM

11

The court of Jabba the Hutt is in the midst of a drunken,
raucous party. Sloppy, smelly monsters cheer and make rude
noises as Oola and a fat female dancer perform in front of
Jabba's throne. Jabba leers at the dancers and with a lustful
gleam in his eye beckons Oola to come and sit with him. She
stops dancing and backs away, shaking her head. Jabba gets
angry and points to a spot next to him.

JABBA

Da Eitha!

The lovely alien shakes her head again and screams.

OOLA

Na Chuba negatorie Na! Na! Natoota...

Jabba is furious and pulls her toward him, tugging on the
chain.

JABBA

Boscka!

He pushes a button and, before the dancer can flee, a trap
door in the floor springs open and swallows her up. As the
door snaps shut, a muffled growl is followed by a hideous
scream. Jabba and his monstrous friends laugh hysterically
and several revelers hurry over to watch her fate through a
grate.

Threepio cringes and glances wistfully at the carbonite form
of Han Solo, but is immediately distracted by a gunshot
offscreen. An unnatural quiet sweeps the boisterous
gathering.

On the far side of the room, the crush of debauchers moves aside to allow the approach of two guards followed by BOUSHH, an oddly cloaked bounty hunter, leading his captive, Han Solo's copilot, CHEWBACCA THE WOOKIEE.

Bib takes his place next to his disgusting master, and whispers into his ear, pointing at Chewbacca and the bounty hunter. Jabba listens intently, then the bounty hunter bows before the gangster and speaks a greeting in a strange, electronically processed tongue (Ubese).

BOUSHH

(in Ubese subtitled)

I have come for the bounty on this Wookiee.

THREEPIO

Oh, no! Chewbacca!

JABBA

(in Huttese subtitled)

At last we have the mighty Chewbacca.

Jabba lets out a loud, long, blood-curdling laugh and turns to Threepio, waving him closer. The reluctant droid obeys.

THREEPIO

Oh, uh, yes, uh, I am here, Your Worshipfulness. Uh... yes!

Jabba continues speaking, as Threepio nervously translates. Boushh listens, studying the dangerous creatures around the room. He notices BOBA FETT standing near the door.

THREEPIO

Oh. The illustrious Jabba bids you welcome and will gladly pay you the reward of twenty- five thousand.

BOUSHH

(in Ubese subtitled)

I want fifty thousand. No less.

Jabba immediately flies into a rage, knocking the golden droid off the raised throne into a clattering heap on the floor. Boushh adjusts his weapon as Jabba raves in Huttese and Threepio struggles back onto the throne. The disheveled droid tries to compose himself.

THREEPIO

Uh, oh... but what, what did I say?

(to Boushh)

Uh, the mighty Jabba asks why he must pay fifty thousand.

The bounty hunter holds up a small silver ball in his hand. Threepio looks at it, then looks at Jabba, then back to the bounty hunter. The droid is very nervous and Jabba is getting very impatient.

THREEPIO

Because he's holding a thermal detonator.

The guards instantly back away, as do most of the other monsters in the room. Jabba stares at the silver ball, which begins to glow in the bounty hunter's hand. The room has fallen into a tense hush. Jabba stares at the bounty hunter malevolently until a sly grin creeps across his vast mouth and he begins to laugh.

JABBA

(in Huttese subtitled)

This bounty hunter is my kind of scum.
Fearless and inventive.

Jabba continues.

THREEPIO

Jabba offers the sum of thirty-five. And I suggest you take it.

Bib and the other monsters study the bounty hunter and wait for his reaction. Boushh releases a switch on the thermal detonator and it goes dead.

BOUSHH

Zeebuss.

THREEPIO

He agrees!

The raucous crowd of monsters erupts in a symphony of cheers and applause as the party returns to its full noisy pitch. Chewbacca growls. As he is led away we spot LANDO CALRISSIAN, disguised as a skiff guard in a partial face mask. The band starts up and dancing girls take the center of the floor, to the hoots of the loudly appreciative creatures.

Boushh leans against a column with gunfighter cool and surveys the scene, his gaze stopping only when it connects with a glare from across the room. Boba Fett is watching him. Boushh shifts slightly, cradling his weapon lovingly. Boba Fett shifts with equally ominous arrogance.

12 INT. DUNGEON CORRIDOR AND CELL 12

Gamorrean guards lead Chewie down the same hallway we saw before. When a tentacle reaches out at the Wookiee, Chewie's ferocious ROAR echoes against the walls and the tentacle snaps back into its cell in terror. It takes all the guards to hurl Chewie roughly into a cell, slamming the door behind him. Chewie lets out a pathetic howl and bangs on the iron door.

13 EXT. JABBA'S PALACE 13

The palace is sitting in the light of the double sunset. On the road in front, a large toadlike creature flicks its tongue out for a desert rodent and burps in satisfaction.

14 INT. JABBA'S THRONE ROOM - NIGHT 14

Silence. The room is deserted, only the awful debris of the alien celebration giving mute witness to the activity here before. Several drunk creatures lie unconscious around the room, snoring loudly.

A shadowy figure moves stealthily among the columns at the perimeter of the room and is revealed to be Boushh, the bounty hunter. He picks his way carefully through the snoring, drunken monsters. Han Solo, the frozen space pirate, hangs spotlighted on the wall, his coffin-like case suspended by a force field. The bounty hunter deactivates the force field by flipping a control switch to one side of the coffin. The heavy case slowly lowers to the floor of the alcove.

Boushh steps up to the case, studying Han, then turns to the controls on the side of the coffin. He activates a series of switches and, after one last, hesitant look at Han, slides the decarbonization lever. The case begins to emit a sound as the hard shell covering the contours of Han's face begins to melt away. The bounty hunter watches as Han's body is freed of its metallic coat and his forearms and hands, previously raised in reflexive protest, drop slackly to his side. His face muscles relax from their mask of horror. He appears quite dead.

Boushh's ugly helmet leans close to Han's face listening for the breath of life. Nothing. He waits. Han's eyes pop open with a start and he begins coughing. The bounty hunter steadies the staggering newborn.

BOUSHH

Just relax for a moment. You're free of the carbonite.

Han touches his face with his hand and moans.

BOUSHH

Shhh. You have hibernation sickness.

HAN

I can't see.

BOUSHH

You eyesight will return in time.

HAN

Where am I?

BOUSHH

Jabba's palace.

HAN

Who are you?

The bounty hunter reaches up and lifts the helmet from his head, revealing the beautiful face of PRINCESS LEIA.

LEIA

Someone who loves you.

HAN

Leia!

LEIA

I gotta get you out of here.

As Leia helps her weakened lover to stand up, the relative quiet is pierced by an obscene HUTTESE CACKLE from the other side of the alcove.

HAN

What's that? I know that laugh.

The curtain on the far side of the alcove opens, revealing Jabba the Hutt, surrounded by Bib and other aliens. He laughs again, and his gross cronies join in a cacophony of alien glee.

HAN

Hey, Jabba. Look, Jabba, I was just on my way to pay you back, but I got a little sidetracked. It's not my fault.

Jabba laughs.

JABBA

(in Huttese subtitled)

It's too late for that, Solo. You may have been a good smuggler, but now you're Bantha fodder.

HAN

Look...

JABBA

(Huttese subtitled)

Take him away!

The guards grab Han and start to lead him away.

HAN

Jabba... I'll pay you triple! You're throwing away a fortune here. Don't be a fool!

Han is dragged off, as Lando quickly moves forward and attempts to lead Leia away.

JABBA

(in Huttese subtitled)

Bring her to me.

Jabba chuckles as Lando and a second guard drag the beautiful young princess toward him. Threepio peeks from behind a monster and quickly turns away in disgust.

LEIA

We have powerful friends. You're gonna regret this...

JABBA

(in Huttese subtitled)

I'm sure.

Inexorably her lovely face moves to within a few inches of Jabba's ugly blob of a head, and Leia turns away in disgust.

LEIA

Ugh!

THREEPIO

Ohhh, I can't bear to watch.

15 INT. DUNGEON CELL

15

The heavy metal door of the dungeon whines and slowly creaks open. A guard throws the blinded star captain into the dark cell and the door slams shut behind him, leaving only a thin sliver of light from a crack in the door. Han is trying to collect himself when suddenly a growl is heard from the far side of the cell. He jumps back against the cell door and listens.

HAN

Chewie? Chewie, is that you?

The shadowy figure lets out a crazy yell and races toward Han, lifting him off the ground with a big hug that carries them into the light, revealing Chewie.

HAN

Ah! Chew--Chewie!

The giant Wookiee barks with glee.

HAN

Wait. I can't see, pal. What's goin' on?

Chewie barks an excited blue streak.

HAN

Luke? Luke's crazy. He can't even take care of himself, much less rescue anybody.

Chewie barks a reply.

HAN

A...Jedi Knight? I--I'm out of it for a little while, everybody gets delusions of grandeur.

Chewie growls insistently. He holds Han to his chest and pets his head.

HAN

I'm all right, pal. I'm all right.

16 INT. MAIN GATE AND HALL - JABBA'S PALACE

16

Noisily, the main gate lifts to flood the blackness with blinding LIGHT and reveal the silhouetted figure of LUKE SKYWALKER. He is clad in a robe similar to Ben's and wears neither pistol nor laser sword. Luke strides purposefully into the hallway. Two giant guards move to block Luke's path. Luke halts.

Luke raises his hand and points at the puzzled guards, who immediately lower their spears and fall back. The young Jedi lowers his hand and moves on down the hallway.

Bib Fortuna appears out of the gloom. He speaks to Luke as they approach each other, but Luke doesn't stop and Bib must reverse his direction and hurry alongside the young Jedi in order to carry on the conversation. Several other guards fall in behind them in the darkness.

LUKE

I must speak with Jabba.

Bib answers in Huttese, shaking his head in denial. Luke stops and stares at Bib; he raises his hand slightly.

LUKE

You will take me to Jabba now!

Bib turns in hypnotic response to Luke's command, and Luke follows him into the gloom.

LUKE

You serve your master well.

Bib responds.

LUKE

And you will be rewarded.

17 INT. JABBA'S THRONE ROOM

17

Jabba is asleep on his throne, with Leia lying in front of him. Salacious sits by Jabba's tail, watching it wriggle. Leia is now dressed in the skimpy costume of a dancing girl; a chain runs from a manacle/necklace at her throat to her new master, Jabba the Hutt. Threepio stands behind Jabba as Bib comes up to the gangster slug.

THREEPIO

At last! Master Luke's come to rescue me.

BIB

Master.

Jabba awakens with a start and Bib continues, in Huttese.

BIB

...Luke Skywalker, Jedi Knight.

JABBA

(in Huttese subtitled)

I told you not to admit him.

LUKE

I must be allowed to speak.

BIB

(in Huttese subtitled)

He must be allowed to speak.

Jabba, furious, clobbers Bib and shoves him away.

JABBA

(in Huttese subtitled)

You weak-minded fool! He's using an old
Jedi mind trick.

Luke stares hard at Jabba.

LUKE

You will bring Captain Solo and the
Wookiee to me.

JABBA

(in Huttese subtitled)

Your mind powers will not work on me,
boy.

LUKE

Nevertheless, I'm taking Captain Solo and
his friends. You can either profit by
this... or be destroyed! It's your
choice. But I warn you not to
underestimate my powers.

Jabba's laugh is mean and loud. Threepio attempts to warn
Luke about the pit.

THREEPIO

Master Luke, you're standing on...

JABBA

(in Huttese subtitled)

There will be no bargain, young Jedi. I
shall enjoy watching you die.

Luke reaches out, and a pistol jumps out of a guard's holster
and flies into Luke's hand. The bewildered guard grabs for it
as Jabba raises his hand.

JABBA

Bascka!

The floor suddenly drops away, sending Luke and the hapless guard into the pit. The pistol goes off, blasting a hole in the ceiling. Jabba laughs and his courtiers join in. Leia starts forward but is restrained by a human guard-- Lando, recognizable behind his mask. She looks at him and he shakes his head "no."

18 INT. RANCOR PIT

18

Luke and the guard have dropped twenty-five feet from a chute into the dungeonlike cage. Luke gets to his feet as the guard yells hysterically for help. A crowd gathers up around the edge of the pit as the door in the side of the pit starts to RUMBLE open. The guard screams in panic. Luke looks calmly around for a means of escape.

THREEPIO

Oh, no! The Rancor!

At the side of the pit, an iron door rumbles upward and a giant, fanged RANCOR emerges. The guard runs to the side of the pit and tries futilely to scramble to the top. The hideous beast closes in on him.

The Rancor moves past Luke, and as the guard continues to scramble, the Rancor picks him up and pops him into its slavering jaws. A few screams, and the guard is swallowed with a gulp. The audience cheers and laughs at the guard's fate.

The monster turns and starts for Luke. The young Jedi dashes away just ahead of the monster's swipe at him, and picks up the long arm bone of an earlier victim. The monster grabs Luke and brings him up to his salivating mouth. At the last moment, Luke wedges the bone in the monster's mouth and is dropped to the floor. The monster bellows in rage and flails about, hitting the side of the pit, causing an avalanche.

The monster crushes the bone in its jaws and sees Luke, who squeezes into a crevice in the pit wall. Luke looks past the monster to the holding cave beyond.

On the far side of the holding cave is a utility door--if only he can get to it. The Rancor spots Luke and reaches into the crevice for him. Luke grabs a large rock and raises it, smashing it down on the Rancor's finger.

19 HOLDING TUNNEL - RANCOR PIT

19

The Rancor lets out a loud howl as Luke makes a run for the holding cave. He reaches the door and pushes a button to open it. When he succeeds, he sees a heavy barred gate between him and safety. Beyond the gate two guards look up from their dinner. Luke turns to see the monster heading for him, and pulls with all his might on the gate. The guards move to the gate and start poking at the young Jedi with spears, laughing.

Luke crouches (against the wall) as the monster starts to reach for him. Suddenly he notices a main door control panel halfway up the wall. As the Rancor moves in for the kill, Luke picks up a skull from the cave floor and hurls it at the panel. The giant overhead door comes crashing down on the beast's head, squashing it like a sledgehammer on an egg.

A startled gasp is heard from the stunned court. There's consternation at this turn of events. Heads look to Jabba, who is actually turning red with anger. Leia cannot suppress her joy. Jabba utters harsh commands to his guards and they hurry off.

JABBA

(in Huttese subtitled)

Bring me Solo and the Wookiee. They will
all suffer for this outrage.

21 INT. RANCOR PIT

21

The Rancor KEEPERS have come into the cage and are examining their dead beast. One of them breaks down and weeps. The other glares menacingly at Luke, who is unworried. Several guards rush into the holding tunnel and take Luke away.

22 INT. THRONE ROOM

22

The crowd of creepy courtiers parts as Han and Chewie are brought into the throne room, and other guards drag Luke up the steps.

LUKE

Han!

HAN

Luke!

LUKE

Are you all right?

HAN

Fine. Together again, huh?

LUKE

Wouldn't miss it.

HAN

How are we doing?

LUKE

The same as always.

HAN

That bad, huh? Where's Leia?

Luke looks to Leia.

LEIA

I'm here.

Threepio is standing behind the grotesque gangster as he strokes Leia like a pet cat. Several of the guards, including Lando, bring Luke from the other side of the room. Boba is standing behind Jabba.

Threepio steps forward and translates for the captives.

THREEPIO

Oh, dear. His High Exaltedness, the great Jabba the Hutt, has decreed that you are to be terminated immediately.

HAN

Good, I hate long waits.

THREEPIO

You will therefore be taken to the Dune Sea and cast into the pit of Carkoon, the nesting place of the all-powerful Sarlacc.

HAN

(to Luke)

Doesn't sound so bad.

THREEPIO

In his belly, you will find a new definition of pain and suffering, as you are slowly digested over a thousand years.

HAN

On second thought, let's pass on that, huh?

Chewie barks his agreement.

LUKE

You should have bargained, Jabba. That's the last mistake you'll ever make.

Jabba cackles evilly at this.

As the guards drag the prisoners from the throne room, a loud cheer rises from the crowd. Leia and Chewie exchange concerned looks, but Luke Skywalker, Jedi warrior, cannot suppress a smile.

23 EXT. TATOOINE SEA - SKIFF

23

Jabba's huge SAIL BARGE moves above the desert surface accompanied by two smaller SKIFFS. One of the skiffs glides close, revealing Luke, Han, and Chewie -- all in bonds -- surrounded by guards, one of whom is Lando in disguise.

HAN

I think my eyes are getting better.
Instead of a big dark blur, I see a big
light blur.

LUKE

There's nothing to see. I used to live
here, you know.

HAN

You're gonna die here, you know.
Convenient.

LUKE

Just stick close to Chewie and Lando.
I've taken care of everything.

HAN

Oh... great!

24 INT. BARGE OBSERVATION DECK

24

Jabba the Hutt rides like a sultan in the massive antigravity ship. His entire retinue is with him, drinking, eating, and having a good time. Leia is watching her friends in the skiff when the chain attached to her neck is pulled tight and Jabba tugs the scantily clad princess to him.

JABBA (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)

Soon you will learn to appreciate me.

Threepio wanders among the Sail Barge aliens, bumping into a smaller droid serving drinks, spilling them all over the place. The stubby droid lets out an angry series of beeps and whistles.

THREEPIO

Oh, I'm terribly sor... Artoo! What are you doing here?

Artoo beeps a quick reply.

THREEPIO

Well, I can see you're serving drinks, but this place is dangerous. They're going to execute Master Luke and, if we're not careful, us too!

Artoo whistles a singsong response.

THREEPIO

Hmm. I wish I had your confidence.

25 EXT. SARLACC PIT

25

The convoy moves up over a huge sand pit. The Sail Barge stops to one side of the depression, as does the escort skiff. But the prisoner's skiff moves out directly over the center and hovers. At the bottom of the deep cone of sand is a repulsive, mucous-lined hole, surrounded by thousands of needle-sharp teeth. This is the SARLACC. A plank is extended from the edge of the prisoner's skiff. Guards release Luke's bonds and shove him out onto the plank above the Sarlacc's mouth.

26 EXT. SAIL BARGE OBSERVATION DECK

26

Jabba and Leia are now by the rail, watching. Threepio leans forward and the slobbering villain mumbles something to him. As Threepio steps up to a comlink, Jabba raises his arm and the motley array of intergalactic pirates fall silent. Threepio's voice is amplified across loudspeakers.

THREEPIO

Victims of the almighty Sarlacc: His Excellency hopes that you will die honorably. But should any of you wish to beg for mercy, the great Jabba the Hutt will now listen to your pleas.

27 EXT. SKIFF

27

Han steps forward arrogantly and begins to speak.

HAN

Threepio, you tell that slimy piece of... worm-ridden filth he'll get no such pleasure from us. Right?

Chewie growls his agreement.

LUKE

Jabba! This is your last chance. Free us or die.

Lando moves unobtrusively along the skiff as Luke shoots a quick look of conspiracy to him.

28 INT. SAIL BARGE OBSERVATION DECK

28

The assembled monsters rock with mocking laughter as Artoo zips unnoticed up the ramp to the upper deck. Jabba's laughter subsides as he speaks into the comlink.

JABBA

(in Huttese subtitled)

Move him into position.

Jabba makes a thumbs-down gesture. Leia looks worried.

29 EXT. BARGE - UPPER DECK

29

Artoo appears from below and zips over to the rail facing the pit.

Below, in the skiff, Luke is prodded by a guard to the edge of the plank over the gaping Sarlacc. Luke looks up at Artoo, then gives a jaunty salute: the signal the little droid has been waiting for. A flap opens in Artoo's domed head.

JABBA

(in Huttese subtitled)

Put him in.

30 EXT. SKIFF - PLANK

30

Luke is prodded and jumps off the plank to the cheers of the bloodthirsty spectators. But, before anyone can even perceive what is happening, he spins around and grabs the end of the plank by his fingertips. The plank bends wildly from his weight and catapults him skyward. In midair he does a complete flip and drops down on the end of the plank in the same spot he just vacated, but facing the skiff. He casually extends an open palm and -- his lightsaber, which Artoo has sent arcing toward him, drops into his hand.

With samurai speed, Luke ignites it and attacks the guard who prodded him off the plank, sending the hapless monster screaming overboard. The other guards swarm toward Luke. He wades into them, lightsaber flashing. Lando struggles with another guard at the back of the skiff.

31 EXT. SARLACC PIT

31

A bewildered guard lands in the soft, sandy slope of the pit, and begins sliding. He claws desperately as a Sarlacc tentacle grabs him and pulls him screaming into the viscous mouth.

32 INT. SAIL BARGE

32

Jabba watches this and explodes in rage. He barks commands, and the guards around him rush off to do his bidding. The scuzzy creatures watching the action from the window are in an uproar.

33 EXT. SKIFF

33

Luke knocks another guard off the skiff and into the waiting mouth of the Sarlacc. He starts to untie Chewie's bonds.

LUKE

Easy, Chewie.

At that moment, the deck gunmen on the barge unleash a series of blasts from a big cannon on the upper deck. Lando is tossed from the deck of the rocking skiff. He manages to grab a rope, and dangles desperately above the Sarlacc pit.

LANDO

Whoa! Whoa! Help!

34 EXT. UPPER DECK - SAIL BARGE

34

With two swift strides, the dangerous Boba Fett ignites his rocket pack, leaps into the air, and flies from the barge down to the skiff.

35 EXT. SKIFF

35

Boba lands on the skiff and starts to aim his laser gun at Luke, who has freed Han and Chewie from their bonds. But before Boba can fire, the young Jedi spins on him, lightsaber sweeping, and hacks the bounty hunter's gun in half.

Immediately, the skiff takes another direct hit from the barge's deck gun. Shards of skiff deck fly. Chewie and Han are thrown against the rail.

HAN

Chewie, you okay? Where is he?

The Wookiee is wounded and he howls in pain.

HAN

I'm okay, pal.

For a moment, Luke is distracted, and in that moment, Boba fires a cable out of his armored sleeve. Instantly, Luke is wrapped in a strong cable, his arms pinned against his side, his sword arm free only from the wrist down. Luke bends his wrist so the lightsaber points straight up to reach the wire lasso and cuts through. Luke shrugs away the cable and stands free.

Another blast from the Barge's deck gun hits near Boba and he is knocked unconscious to the deck, next to where Lando is hanging.

LANDO

Han! Chewie?

HAN

Lando!

Luke is a little shaken but remains standing as a fusillade brackets him. The second skiff, loaded with guards firing their weapons, moves in on Luke fast. Luke leaps toward the incoming second skiff. The young Jedi leaps into the middle of the second skiff and begins decimating the guards from their midst.

Chewie, wounded, tries to lift himself as he barks directions to Han, guiding him toward a spear which has been dropped by one of the guards. Han searches the deck as Chewie barks directions; finally he grabs hold of the spear.

Boba Fett, badly shaken, rises from the deck. He looks over at the other skiff, where Luke is whipping a mass of guards. Boba raises his arm, and aims his lethal appendage. Chewie barks desperately at Han.

HAN

Boba Fett?! Boba Fett?! Where?

The space pirate turns around blindly, and the long spear in his hand whacks squarely in the middle of Boba's rocket pack.

The impact of the swing causes the rocket pack to ignite. Boba blasts off, flying over the second skiff like a missile, smashing against the side of the huge Sail Barge and sliding away into the pit. He screams as his armored body makes its last flight past Lando and directly into the mucous mouth of the Sarlacc. The Sarlacc burps. Chewie growls a weak congratulations to Han.

36 INT. SAIL BARGE

36

Leia turns from the spectacle outside, leaps onto Jabba's throne, and throws the chain that enslaves her over his head around his bulbous neck. Then she dives off the other side of the throne, pulling the chain violently in her grasp. Jabba's flaccid neck contracts beneath the tightening chain. His huge eyes bulge from their sockets and his scum-coated tongue flops out. The Exalted Hutt's huge tail spasms through its death throes and then slams down into final stillness. Leia struggles to free herself of her bondage.

37 EXT. SKIFF

37

Luke continues to destroy the aliens on the guards' skiff, as Han extends his spear downward to Lando, who is still dangling precariously from a rope on the prisoner's skiff.

HAN

Lando, grab it!

LANDO

Lower it!

HAN

I'm trying!

A major hit from the barge deck gun knocks the skiff on its side. Han and almost everything else on board slides overboard. The rope breaks, and Lando falls to the side of the Sarlacc pit. Luckily, Han's foot catches on the skiff railing and he dangles above Lando and the pit.

The wounded Wookiee holds onto the skiff for dear life as another hit from the deck gun rocks the skiff violently.

HAN

Whoa! Whoa! Grab me, Chewie! I'm slipping.

Chewie grabs hold of Han's feet, holding him upside down, as Han extends the spear toward Lando, who is clutching to the side of the pit.

HAN

Grab it! L--Lando. Grab!

Luke finishes off the last guard on the second skiff. He sees the deck gun blasting away at his helpless companions. Luke leaps from the skiff, across a chasm of air, to the sheer metallic side of the Sail Barge. Barely able to get a fingerhold, he begins a painful climb up the hull, when suddenly an ax smashes through a window an inch from his head. With Jedi agility, Luke grasps the wrist holding the ax and yanks the helpless guard through the broken window and into the deadly pit.

The injured Chewie is reaching over the rail for the dangling Han, who is in turn blindly reaching down toward the desperate Lando. The Baron has stopped his slippage down the sandy slope of the Sarlacc pit by lying very still. Every time he tries to reach for Han, the loose sand moves him closer to his final reward.

HAN

Grab it! Almost... You almost got it!

Another blast hits the front of the tilted skiff, causing Lando to let go of the spear.

LANDO

Hold it! Whoa!

Again Han extends the spear toward Lando.

HAN

Gently now. All... all right. Now easy,
easy. Hold me, Chewie.

Lando screams. One of the Sarlacc's tentacles has wrapped tightly around his ankle, dragging him down the side of the pit.

HAN

Chewie! Chewie, give me the gun. Don't
move, Lando.

LANDO

No, wait! I thought you were blind!

HAN

It's all right. Trust me. Don't move.

LANDO

All right! A little higher! Just a little
higher!

Han adjusts his aim as Lando lowers his head, and the fuzzy-eyed pirate fires at the tentacle. Direct hit. The tentacle releases Lando, and Chewie starts to pull them on board the skiff.

HAN

Chewie, Pull us up! Come on! Okay... up,
Chewie, up!

38 EXT. UPPER DECK

38

The deck gunners have Chewie and the desperate dangling human chain in their gun sights when something up on deck commands their attention: Luke, standing before them like a pirate king, ignites his lightsaber. The deck gunners have barely reached for their pistols before the young Jedi has demolished them. Immediately, Luke turns to see two more gunners (who have been uncovering a giant gun at the end of the barge) racing for him, firing their laser pistols.

39 INT. SAIL BARGE - OBSERVATION DECK

39

Leia is struggling against her chains in desperation as Artoo zips through the tumult of confused monsters to the rescue; the stubby little droid extends a small laser gun and blasts the chain apart.

LEIA

Come on. We gotta get out of here quick.

Artoo and Leia race for the exit, passing Threepio, who is kicking and screaming as Salacious Crumb, the reptilian monkey-monster picks out one of the golden droid's eyes.

THREEPIO

Not my eyes! Artoo, help! Quickly, Artoo.
Oh! Ohhh! You beast!

Artoo zips over and zaps Salacious, sending him skyward with a scream, crashing into the rafters as Artoo, Leia, and Threepio (with his eye dangling from a wire) hurry off.

40 EXT. UPPER DECK - SAIL BARGE

40

Luke is warding off laser blasts with his lightsaber, surrounded by guards and fighting like a demon. Leia emerges onto the deck as Luke turns to face another guard.

LUKE

(to Leia)

Get the gun! Point it at the deck!

Leia turns toward the barge cannon, climbs on the platform, and swivels the gun around.

LUKE

Point it at the deck!

A laser blast hits Luke's mechanical hand and he bends over in pain, but manages to swing his lightsaber upward and take out the last of the guards.

He looks at the wounded hand, which reveals the mechanism. He flexes the hand; it still works.

Near the rail of the upper deck, Artoo and Threepio steady themselves as Threepio gets ready to jump. Artoo beeps wildly.

THREEPIO

Artoo, where are we going? I couldn't possibly jump.

Artoo butts the golden droid over the edge and steps off himself, tumbling toward the sand.

Luke runs along the empty deck toward Leia and the barge gun, which she has brought around to point down at the deck.

LUKE

Come on!

Luke has hold on one of the rigging ropes from the mast. He gathers Leia in his other arm and kicks the trigger of the deck gun. The gun explodes into the deck as Luke and Leia swing out toward the skiff.

41 EXT. SKIFF

41

Han leans panting against the rail as Chewie helps Lando onto the deck. Luke and Leia land on the skiff with flair.

LUKE

Let's go! And don't forget the droids.

LANDO

We're on our way.

The Sail Barge is exploding in stages in the distance. Half of the huge craft is on fire.

42 EXT. SAND DUNE

42

Threepio's legs stick straight up from the dune where he landed. Next to it, Artoo's periscope is the only thing above the sand. The skiff floats above them and two large electromagnets dangle down on a wire. With a loud CLANG, both droids are pulled from the sand.

43 EXT. DUNE SEA

43

The little skiff skips around the burning Sail Barge, which continues its chain of explosions. As the skiff sails off across the desert, the barge settles to the sand and disappears in one final conflagration.

44 EXT. DUNE SEA - LANDING AREA

44

A ferocious sandstorm blocks our view. Then, through the ROAR, we HEAR THE VOICES of our heroes. They emerge slowly from the veil of sand, pressing on against the wind. First come Artoo and Threepio, followed by Leia guiding Han, then Luke and Lando come into view, each supporting one side of the towering Chewbacca, who hobbles from his wound.

Soon, they can make out some large vague shapes in the blowing sand. It is the Millennium Falcon and, parked beside it, Luke's trusty X-wing and a two-seated Y-wing. They must shout to be heard.

HAN

I don't know. All I can see is a lot of blowing sand!

LEIA

That's all any of us can see.

HAN

(blinking)

Then I guess I'm getting better.

As soon as the group huddles under the bulk of the Falcon, the wind dies down to something more describable as a severe weather condition. Threepio hits a switch, and the gang-plank lowers with a HUM.

HAN

(turning to Luke)

I've got to hand it to you, kid, you were pretty good out there.

LUKE

(shrugging it off)

I had a lot of help. Think nothing of it.

HAN

No, I'm thinking a lot about it. That carbon freeze was the closest thing to dead there is. And it wasn't just sleepin'. It was a big wide awake nothing!

Luke nods, as Chewie growls affectionately at the young Jedi warrior, mussing his hair like a proud uncle. And Leia warmly hugs him.

LUKE

(moving to his ship)

I'll see you back at the fleet.

HAN

Why don't you leave that crate and come with us?

LUKE

I have a promise I have to keep first...
to an old friend.

Luke and Artoo take off in their spacecraft.

HAN

(looking dubiously at Lando,
obviously remembering his
friend's betrayal and
subsequent aide)

Guess I owe you some thanks, too, Lando.

LANDO

Figured if I left you frozen like that
you'd just give me bad luck the rest of
my life, so I might as well get you
unfrozen sooner or later.

LEIA

He means "You're welcome."

LANDO

Come on, let's get off this miserable
dust ball.

44A EXT. SPACE ABOVE TATOOINE

44A

The desolate yellow planet fills the screen, Luke's X-wing
appears and peels off to the left. A moment later, the FALCON
appears as a dot and grows huge, to roar directly over the
CAMERA.

45 INT. X-WING - COCKPIT

45

Luke is at the controls, with Artoo attached behind him
outside the canopy. Luke speaks into his comlink to the
others, in the MILLENNIUM FALCON.

LUKE

I'll meet you back at the fleet.

LEIA

(over comlink)

Hurry. The Alliance should be assembled
by now.

LUKE

I will.

HAN

(over comlink)

Hey, Luke, thanks. Thanks for comin'
after me. Now I owe you one.

A message from Artoo appears on the small monitor screen in front of Luke. He smiles at the monitor and speaks to Artoo, as he pulls a black glove on to cover his wounded mechanical hand.

LUKE

That's right, Artoo. We're going to the
Dagobah system. I have a promise to
keep... to an old friend.

46 EXT. SPACE - DEATH STAR AND ENDOR 46

A Super Star Destroyer and several ships of the Imperial Fleet rest in space above the half-completed Death Star and its green neighbor, Endor. Four squads of TIE fighters escort an Imperial shuttle toward the Death Star.

47 INT. DEATH STAR - CORRIDOR TO DOCKING BAY 47

Lord Vader strides down the hallway, accompanied by a very nervous Death Star commander.

48 INT. DOCKING BAY - DEATH STAR 48

Thousands of Imperial troops in tight formation fill the mammoth docking bay. Vader and the officer walk to the landing platform, where the shuttle is coming to rest.

The shuttle's ramp lowers and the Emperor's Royal Guards come out and create a lethal perimeter. The assembled troops move to rigid attention with a momentous SNAP.

Then, in the huge SILENCE which follows, the EMPEROR appears. He is a rather small, shriveled old man. His bent frame slowly makes its way down the ramp with the aid of a gnarled cane. He wears a hooded cloak similar to the one Ben wears, except that it is black. The Emperor's face is shrouded and difficult to see, except for his piercing yellow eyes. Commander Jerjerrod and Darth Vader kneel to him. The Supreme Ruler of the galaxy beckons to the Dark Lord.

EMPEROR

(to Vader)

Rise, my friend.

Vader rises and falls in next to the Emperor as he slowly makes his way along the rows of troops. Jerjerrod and the other commanders stay kneeling until the Supreme Ruler and Vader, followed by several Imperial dignitaries, pass by; only then do they join in the procession.

VADER

The Death Star will be completed on schedule.

EMPEROR

You have done well, Lord Vader. And now I sense you wish to continue your search for young Skywalker.

VADER

Yes, my Master.

EMPEROR

Patience, my friend. In time he will seek you out. And when he does, you must bring him before me. He has grown strong. Only together can we turn him to the dark side of the Force.

VADER

As you wish.

EMPEROR

Everything is proceeding as I have foreseen.

He laughs to himself as they pass along the vast line of Imperial troops.

49 EXT. YODA'S HOUSE - DAGOBAH

49

Once again, Artoo finds himself waiting around in the damp environs of the swamp planet, and he's none too happy about it. He beeps disconsolately to himself and turns to look at Yoda's cottage. Warm yellow light escapes the oddly shaped windows to fight the gloom.

50 INT. YODA'S HOUSE

50

The tip of a walking stick taps hesitantly across the earthen floor of the cottage. Our view travels up the stick to the small green hand that clutches it, and then to the familiar face of YODA, THE JEDI MASTER. His manner is frail, and his voice, though cheerful, seems weaker.

YODA

Hmm. That face you make. Look I so old to young eyes?

Luke is sitting in a corner of the cramped space and, indeed, his look has been woeful. Caught, he tries to hide it.

LUKE

No... of course not.

YODA

(tickled, chuckles)

I do, yes, I do! Sick have I become. Old and weak.

(points a crooked finger)

When nine hundred years old you reach, look as good you will not. Hmm?

Yoda chuckles at this, coughs, and hobbles over toward his bed.

YODA

Soon will I rest. Yes, forever sleep.
Earned it, I have.

Yoda sits himself on his bed, with great effort.

LUKE

Master Yoda, you can't die.

YODA

Strong am I with the Force... but not
that strong! Twilight is upon me and soon
night must fall. That is the way of
things ... the way of the Force.

LUKE

But I need your help. I've come back to
complete the training.

YODA

No more training do you require. Already
know you that which you need.

Yoda sighs, and lies back on his bed.

LUKE

Then I am a Jedi?

YODA

(shakes his head)

Ohhh. Not yet. One thing remains: Vader.
You must confront Vader. Then, only then,
a Jedi will you be. And confront him you
will.

Luke is in agony. He is silent for a long moment, screwing up his courage. Finally he is able to ask.

LUKE

Master Yoda... is Darth Vader my father?

Yoda's eyes are full of weariness and compassion. An odd, sad smile creases his face. He turns painfully on his side, away from Luke.

YODA

Mmm... rest I need. Yes... rest.

Luke watches him, each moment an eternity.

LUKE

Yoda, I must know.

YODA

Your father he is.

Luke reacts as if cut.

YODA

Told you, did he?

LUKE

Yes.

A new look of concern crosses Yoda's face. He closes his eyes.

YODA

Unexpected this is, and unfortunate...

LUKE

Unfortunate that I know the truth?

Yoda opens his eyes again and studies the youth.

YODA

(gathering all his strength)

No.

Unfortunate that you rushed to face
him... that incomplete was your training.
Not ready for the burden were you.

LUKE

Well, I'm sorry.

YODA

Remember, a Jedi's strength flows from
the Force. But beware. Anger, fear,
aggression. The dark side are they. Once
you start down the dark path, forever
will it dominate your destiny.

He beckons the young Jedi closer to him.

YODA

Luke...Luke...Do not...Do not
underestimate the powers of the Emperor,
or suffer your father's fate, you will.
Luke, when gone am I,
(cough)
the last of the Jedi will you be. Luke,
the Force runs strong in your family.
Pass on what you have learned, Luke...
(with great effort)
There is... another...Sky...Sky...walker.

He catches his breath. A shiver runs through the ancient
green creature, and he dies. Luke stares at his dead master
as he disappears in front of his eyes.

51 EXT. DAGOBAH SWAMP - X-WING

51

Luke wanders back to where his ship is sitting. Artoo beeps a
greeting, but is ignored by his depressed master. Luke kneels
down, begins to help Artoo with the ship, then stops and
shakes his head dejectedly.

LUKE

I can't do it, Artoo. I can't go on
alone.

BEN (OS)

Yoda will always be with you.

Luke looks up to see the shimmering image of BEN KENOBI.

LUKE

Obi-Wan! Why didn't you tell me?

The ghost of Ben Kenobi approaches him through the swamp.

LUKE

You told me Vader betrayed and murdered my father.

BEN

You father was seduced by the dark side of the Force. He ceased to be Anakin Skywalker and became Darth Vader. When that happened, the good man who was your father was destroyed. So what I have told you was true... from a certain point of view.

LUKE

(turning away, derisive)

A certain point of view!

BEN

Luke, you're going to find that many of the truths we cling to depend greatly on our own point of view.

Luke is unresponsive. Ben studies him in silence for a moment.

BEN

I don't blame you for being angry. If I was wrong in what I did, it certainly wouldn't have been for the first time. You see, what happened to your father was my fault.

Ben pauses sadly.

BEN

Anakin was a good friend.

Luke turns with interest at this. As Ben speaks, Luke settles on a stump, mesmerized. Artoo comes over to offer his comforting presence.

BEN

When I first knew him, your father was already a great pilot. But I was amazed how strongly the Force was with him. I took it upon myself to train him as a Jedi. I thought that I could instruct him just as well as Yoda. I was wrong. My pride has had terrible consequences for the galaxy.

Luke is entranced.

LUKE

There's still good in him.

BEN

I also thought he could be turned back to the good side. It couldn't be done. He is more machine now than man. Twisted and evil.

LUKE

I can't do it, Ben.

BEN

You cannot escape your destiny.

LUKE

I tried to stop him once. I couldn't do it.

BEN

Vader humbled you when first you met him, Luke...but that experience was part of your training. It taught you, among other things, the value of patience. Had you not been so impatient to defeat Vader then, you could have finished your training here with Yoda. You would have been prepared.

LUKE

But I had to help my friends.

BEN

(grinning at Luke's
indignation)

And did you help them? It was they who had to save you. You achieved little by rushing back prematurely, I fear.

LUKE

(with sadness)

I found out Darth Vader was my father.

BEN

To be a Jedi, Luke, you must confront and then go beyond the dark side - the side your father couldn't get past. Impatience is the easiest door - for you, like your father. Only, your father was seduced by what he found on the other side of the door, and you have held firm. You're no longer so reckless now, Luke. You are strong and patient. And now, you must face Darth Vader again!

LUKE

I can't kill my own father.

BEN

Then the Emperor has already won. You were our only hope.

LUKE

Yoda spoke of another.

BEN

The other he spoke of is your twin sister.

LUKE

But I have no sister.

BEN

Hmm. To protect you both from the Emperor, you were hidden from your father when you were born. The Emperor knew, as I did, if Anakin were to have any offspring, they would be a threat to him. That is the reason why your sister remains safely anonymous.

LUKE

Leia! Leia's my sister.

BEN

Your insight serves you well. Bury your feelings deep down, Luke. They do you credit. But they could be made to serve the Emperor.

Luke looks into the distance, trying to comprehend all this.

BEN

(continuing his narrative)

When your father left, he didn't know your mother was pregnant. Your mother and I knew he would find out eventually, but we wanted to keep you both as safe as possible, for as long as possible.

So I took you to live with my brother Owen on Tatooine... and your mother took Leia to live as the daughter of Senator Organa, on Alderaan.

Luke turns, and settles near Ben to hear the tale.

BEN

(attempting to give solace with his words)

The Organa household was high-born and politically quite powerful in that system. Leia became a princess by virtue of lineage... no one knew she'd been adopted, of course. But it was a title without real power, since Alderaan had long been a democracy. Even so, the family continued to be politically powerful, and Leia, following in her foster father's path, became a senator as well. That's not all she became, of course... she became the leader of her cell in the Alliance against the corrupt Empire. And because she had diplomatic immunity, she was a vital link for getting information to the Rebel cause. That's what she was doing when her path crossed yours... for her foster parents had always told her to contact me on Tatooine, if her troubles became desperate.

Luke is overwhelmed by the truth, and is suddenly protective of his sister.

LUKE

But you can't let her get involved now, Ben. Vader will destroy her.

BEN

She hasn't been trained in the ways of the Jedi the way you have, Luke ... but the Force is strong with her, as it is with all of your family. There is no avoiding the battle. You must face and destroy Vader!

52 EXT. SPACE - REBEL FLEET

52

The vast Rebel Fleet stretches as far as the eye can see. Overhead a dozen small Corellian battleships fly in formation. Fighters and battlecruisers surround the largest of the Rebel Star Cruisers, the HEADQUARTERS FRIGATE.

53 INT. HEADQUARTERS FRIGATE - MAIN BRIEFING ROOM

53

Hundreds of Rebel commanders of all races and forms are assembled in the WAR ROOM. WEDGE is among them. In the center of the room is a holographic model depicting the half-completed Imperial Death Star, the nearby Moon of Endor, and the protecting deflector shield.

MON MOTHMA, the leader of the Alliance, enters the room. She is a stern but beautiful woman in her fifties. Conferring with her are several military leaders, including GENERAL MADINE and ADMIRAL ACKBAR (a salmon-colored Mon Calamari). Lando moves through the crowd until he finds Han and Chewie, standing next to Leia and the two droids.

Han peers at Lando's new insignia on his chest, and is amused.

HAN

Well, look at you, a general, huh?

LANDO

Oh, well, someone must have told them about my little maneuver at the battle of Taanab.

HAN

(sarcastic)

Well, don't look at me, pal. I just said you were a fair pilot. I didn't know they were lookin' for somebody to lead this crazy attack.

LANDO

(smiling)

I'm surprised they didn't ask you to do it.

HAN

Well, who says they didn't. But I ain't crazy. You're the respectable one, remember?

Mon Mothma signals for attention, and the room falls silent.

MON MOTHMA

The Emperor has made a critical error and the time for our attack has come.

This causes a stir. Mon Mothma turns to a holographic model of the Death Star, the Endor moon and the protecting deflector shield in the center of the room.

MON MOTHMA

The data brought to us by the Bothan spies pinpoints the exact location of the Emperor's new battle station. We also know that the weapon systems of this Death Star are not yet operational. With the Imperial Fleet spread throughout the galaxy in a vain effort to engage us, it is relatively unprotected. But most important of all, we've learned that the Emperor himself is personally overseeing the final stages of the construction of this Death Star.

A volley of spirited chatter erupts from the crowd. Han turns to Leia as Chewie barks his amazement.

MON MOTHMA

Many Bothans died to bring us this information. Admiral Ackbar, please.

Admiral Ackbar steps forward and points to the Death Star's force field and the Moon of Endor.

ACKBAR

You can see here the Death Star orbiting the forest Moon of Endor. Although the weapon systems on this Death Star are not yet operational, the Death Star does have a strong defense mechanism. It is protected by an energy shield, which is generated from the nearby forest Moon of Endor. The shield must be deactivated if any attack is to be attempted. Once the shield is down, our cruisers will create a perimeter, while the fighters fly into the superstructure and attempt to knock out the main reactor.

There's a concerned murmur.

ACKBAR

General Calrissian has volunteered to lead the fighter attack

Han turns to Lando with a look of respect.

HAN

Good luck.

Lando nods his thanks.

HAN

You're gonna need it.

ACKBAR

General Madine.

Madine moves center stage.

GENERAL MADINE

We have stolen a small Imperial shuttle. Disguised as a cargo ship, and using a secret Imperial code, a strike team will land on the moon and deactivate the shield generator.

The assembly begins to mumble among themselves.

THREEPIO

Sounds dangerous.

LEIA

(to Han)

I wonder who they found to pull that off.

GENERAL MADINE

General Solo, is your strike team assembled?

Leia, startled, looks up at Han, surprise changing to admiration.

HAN

Uh, my team's ready. I don't have a command crew for the shuttle.

Chewbacca raises his hairy paw and volunteers. Han looks up at him.

HAN

Well, it's gonna be rough, pal. I didn't want to speak for you.

Chewie waves that off with a huge GROWL.

HAN

(smiles)

That's one.

LEIA

Uh, General... count me in.

VOICE (OS)

I'm with you, too!

They turn in that direction and peer into the crowd as there are more cheers. The commanders part, and there at the back stands Luke. Han and Leia are surprised and delighted.

Leia moves to Luke and embraces him warmly. She senses a change in him and looks into his eyes questioningly.

LEIA

What is it?

LUKE

(hesitant)

Ask me again sometime.

Han, Chewie, and Lando crowd around Luke as the assembly breaks up.

HAN

Luke.

LUKE

Hi, Han... Chewie.

Artoo beeps a singsong observation to a worried Threepio.

THREEPIO

"Exciting" is hardly the word I would use.

54 INT. HEADQUARTERS FRIGATE - MAIN DOCKING BAY

54

The Millennium Falcon rests beyond the stolen IMPERIAL SHUTTLE, which looks anomalous among all the Rebel ships in the vast docking bay. Chewie barks a final farewell to Lando and leads Artoo and Threepio up the shuttle, crowded now with the Rebel strike team loading weapons and supplies. Lando turns to face Han. Luke and Leia have said their good-byes and start up the ramp.

HAN

Look. I want you to take her. I mean it. Take her. You need all the help you can get. She's the fastest ship in the fleet.

LANDO

All right, old buddy. You know, I know what she means to you. I'll take good care of her. She-she won't get a scratch. All right?

HAN

(looks at him warmly)

Right. I got your promise now. Not a scratch.

LANDO

Look, would you get going, you pirate.

Han and Lando pause, then exchange salutes.

LANDO

Good luck.

HAN

You, too.

Han goes up the ramp. Lando watches him go and then slowly turns away.

55 INT. IMPERIAL SHUTTLE - COCKPIT

55

Luke is working on a back control panel as Han comes in and takes the pilot's seat. Chewie, in the seat next to him, is trying to figure out all the Imperial controls.

HAN

You got her warmed?

LUKE

Yeah, she's comin' up.

Chewie growls a complaint.

HAN

No. I don't think the Empire had Wookiees in mind when they designed her, Chewie.

Leia comes in from the hold and takes her seat near Luke. Chewie barks and hits some switches. Han's glance has stuck on something out the window: the Millennium Falcon. Leia nudges him gently.

LEIA

Hey, are you awake?

HAN

Yeah, I just got a funny feeling. Like I'm not gonna see her again.

Chewie, hearing this, stops his activity and looks longingly out at the Falcon, too. Leia puts a hand on Han's shoulder.

LEIA

(softly)

Come on, General, let's move.

Han snaps back to life.

HAN

Right. Chewie, let's see what this piece of junk can do. Ready, everybody?

LUKE

All set.

THREEPIO

Here we go again.

HAN

All right, hang on.

56 EXT. SPACE - THE REBEL FLEET

56

The stolen Imperial shuttle leaves the main docking bay of the Headquarters Frigate, lowers its wings into flight position, and zooms off into space.

57 INT. EMPEROR'S THRONE ROOM

57

The converted control room is dimly lit, except for a pool of light at the far end. There the Emperor sits in an elaborate control chair before a large window which looks out across the half-completed Death Star to the giant green moon of Endor. Darth Vader, standing with other members of the Imperial council, cautiously approaches his master. The ruler's back is to Vader. After several tense moments, the Emperor's chair rotates around to face him.

VADER

What is thy bidding, my Master?

EMPEROR

Send the fleet to the far side of Endor. There it will stay until called for.

VADER

What of the reports of the Rebel fleet massing near Sullust?

EMPEROR

It is of no concern. Soon the Rebellion will be crushed and young Skywalker will be one of us! Your work here is finished, my friend. Go out to the command ship and await my orders.

VADER

Yes, my Master.

Vader bows, then turns and exits the throne room as the Emperor walks toward the waiting council members.

58 EXT. SPACE - DEATH STAR - MOON

58

There is a great deal of Imperial traffic in the area as construction proceeds on the Death Star. Transports, TIE fighters, and a few Star Destroyers move about. Now the huge Super Star Destroyer announces itself with a low roar and soon fills the frame.

59 INT. STOLEN IMPERIAL SHUTTLE - COCKPIT

59

Han looks back at Luke and Leia as Chewie flips several switches. Through the viewscreen, the Death Star and the huge Super Star Destroyer can be seen.

HAN

If they don't go for this, we're gonna have to get outta here pretty quick, Chewie.

Chewie growls his agreement.

CONTROLLER

(over radio)

We have you on our screen now. Please identify.

HAN

Shuttle Tydirium requesting deactivation
of the deflector shield.

CONTROLLER

(over radio)

Shuttle Tydirium, transmit the clearance
code for shield passage.

HAN

Transmission commencing.

Leia and Chewbacca listen tensely as the sound of a high
speed transmission begins.

LEIA

Now we find out if that code is worth the
price we paid.

HAN

It'll work. It'll work.

Chewie whines nervously. Luke stares at the Huge Super Star
Destroyer that looms ever larger before them.

LUKE

Vader's on that ship.

HAN

Now don't get jittery, Luke. There are a
lot of command ships. Keep your distance
though, Chewie, but don't look like
you're trying to keep your distance.

Chewie barks a question.

HAN

I don't know. Fly casual.

LUKE

I'm endangering the mission. I shouldn't have come.

HAN

It's your imagination, kid. Come on. Let's keep a little optimism here.

Chewie barks his worries as the Super Star Destroyer grows larger out the window.

60 INT. VADER'S STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE

60

Lord Vader stands, back to us, staring out a window at the Death Star. Now, some vibration felt only by him causes him to turn. After a moment of stillness, he walks down the row of controllers to where ADMIRAL PIETT is leaning over the tracking screen of the controller we've seen earlier. Piett straightens at Vader's approach.

VADER

Where is that shuttle going?

PIETT

(into comlink)

Shuttle Tydirium, what is your cargo and destination?

PILOT VOICE (HAN)

(filtered)

Parts and technical crew for the forest moon.

The Bridge Commander looks to Vader for a reaction.

VADER

Do they have a code clearance?

PIETT

It's an older code, sir, but it checks out. I was about to clear them.

Vader looks upward, as he senses Luke's presence.

PIETT

Shall I hold them?

VADER

No. Leave them to me. I will deal with them myself.

PIETT

(surprised)

As you wish, my lord.

(to controller)

Carry on.

Piett nods at controller, who switches on his comlink.

61 INT. STOLEN IMPERIAL SHUTTLE - COCKPIT

61

The group waits tensely.

HAN

They're not goin' for it, Chewie.

CONTROLLER

(filtered)

Shuttle Tydirium, deactivation of the shield will commence immediately. Follow your present course.

Everyone breaths a sigh of relief. Everyone but Luke, who looks worried. Chewie barks.

HAN

Okay! I told you it was gonna work. No problem.

62 EXT. SPACE - STOLEN IMPERIAL SHUTTLE - ENDOR

62

The stolen Imperial shuttle moves off toward the green Sanctuary Moon.

63 EXT. FOREST LANDING SITE - ENDOR

63

The stolen Imperial shuttle sits in a clearing of the moon's dark, primeval forest, dwarfed by the ancient towering trees. On an adjacent hill, the helmeted Rebel contingent makes its way up a steep trail. Leia and Han are slightly ahead of Chewie and Luke. The troops of the strike-team squad follow, with Artoo and Threepio bringing up the rear. Artoo beeps.

Up ahead, Chewie and Leia reach a crest in the hill and drop suddenly to the ground, signaling the rest of the group to stop. Han and Luke crawl up to take a look.

THREEPIO

Oh, I told you it was dangerous here.

THEIR POV. Not far below them, two IMPERIAL SCOUTS are wandering through bushes in the valley below. Their two ROCKET BIKES are parked nearby.

LEIA

Shall we try and go around?

HAN

It'll take time. This whole party'll be for nothing if they see us.

Leia motions for the squad to stay put, then she, Han, Luke and Chewie start quietly down.

64 EXT. FOREST CLEARING - CAMPSITE

64

The four friends make their way to the edge of the clearing not far from the two Imperial scouts.

HAN

Chewie and I will take care of this. You stay here.

LUKE

Quietly, there might be more of them out there.

HAN

(grins)

Hey... it's me.

Han and Chewie turn and start through the bushes toward the scouts. Luke and Leia exchange smiles.

Han sneaks up behind one of the scouts, steps on a twig and the scout whirls, knocking Han into a tree. The scout shouts for his companion.

SCOUT #1

Go for help! Go!

The second scout jumps on his speeder bike and takes off, but Chewie gets off a shot on his crossbow laser weapon, causing the scout to crash into a tree. Han and Scout #1 are in a rousing fistfight.

LUKE

(sarcastic)

Great. Come on.

Luke starts for the scuffle, followed by Leia with her laser pistol drawn. As they run through the bushes, Leia stops and points to where two more scouts are sitting on their speeder bikes, with an unoccupied bike parked nearby.

LEIA

Over there! Two more of them!

LUKE

I see them. Wait, Leia!

But Leia doesn't hear him and races for the remaining speeder bike. She starts it up and takes off as Luke jumps on the bike behind her.

LUKE

(pointing to the controls)

Quick! Jam their comlink. Center switch!

Luke and Leia speed into the dense foliage in hot pursuit, barely avoiding two huge trees.

HAN

Hey, wait! Ahhh!

He flips the remaining scout to the ground.

65 EXT. FOREST - THE BIKE CHASE

65

The two fleeing Imperial scouts have a good lead as Luke and Leia pursue through the giant trees at 200 miles an hour, the fire from their bike's laser cannon hitting harmlessly near the moving targets.

LUKE

Move closer!

Leia guns it, closing the gap, as the two scouts recklessly veer through a narrow gap in the trees. One of the bikes SCRAPES a tree, slowing the scout.

LUKE

Get alongside that one!

Leia pulls her speeder bike up so close to the scout's bike that their steering vanes SCRAPE noisily. Luke leaps from his bike to the back of the scout's, grabs the Imperial warrior around the neck, and flips him off the bike, into a thick tree trunk. Luke gains control of the bike and follows Leia, who has pulled ahead. They tear off after the remaining scout.

LUKE

Get him!

The speeding chase passes TWO MORE IMPERIAL SCOUTS. These two swing into pursuit, chasing Luke and Leia, firing away with their laser cannon. The two Rebels look behind them just as Luke's bike takes a glancing hit.

LUKE

(indicating the one ahead)

Keep on that one! I'll take these two!

With Leia shooting ahead, Luke suddenly slams his steering vanes into the braking mode. Luke's bike is a blur to the two pursuing scouts as they zip by him on either side. Luke slams his bike into forward and starts firing away, having switched places with his pursuers in a manner of seconds. Luke's aim is good and one scout's bike is blasted out of control. It explodes against a tree trunk.

The scout's cohort takes one glance back at the flash and shifts into turbo drive, going even faster. Luke keeps on his tail. FAR AHEAD, Leia and the first scout are doing a highspeed slalom through the death-dealing trunks. Now Leia aims her bike skyward and rises out of sight.

The scout turns in confusion, unable to see his pursuer. Suddenly, Leia dives down upon him from above, cannon blasting. The scout's bike takes a glancing hit.

Leia moves in alongside him. The scout eyes her beside him, reaches down, and pulls out a handgun. Before Leia can react, the scout has blasted her bike, sending it out of control. Leia dives off as her bike explodes against a tree. The happy scout looks back at the explosion. But when he turns forward again, he is on a collision course with a giant fallen tree. He hits his brakes to no avail and disappears in a conflagration.

ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST: Luke and the last remaining scout continue their weaving chase through the trees. Now Luke moves up close. The scout responds by slamming his bike into Luke's. A fallen tree forms a bridge across their path.

The scout zips under. Luke goes over the top and crashes his bike down on the scout's. Both riders look ahead - a wide trunk looms directly in Luke's path, but the scout's bike beside him makes it almost impossible for him to avoid it. Luke banks with all his might, leaning almost horizontal over the scout's bike, and is able to make it by, just clipping the tree. When he straightens, he and the scout discover that their two bikes have locked front vanes and are moving as one.

Another big tree looms in Luke's path. He reacts instinctively and dives off his bike. The two bikes come apart a second before Luke's explodes against a tree. The scout sweeps out and circles back to find Luke.

Luke rises from the undergrowth as the scout bears down on him and opens fire with his laser cannon. Luke ignites his laser sword and begins deflecting the bolts. The scout's bike keeps coming and it appears that in a second it will cut Luke in half. At the last instant, Luke steps aside and chops off the bike's control vanes with one mighty slash. The scout's bike begins to shudder, then, pitching and rolling, it rises up to slam directly into a tree in a giant ball of fire.

66 EXT. SCOUT CAMPSITE - FOREST

66

Han, Chewie, and the droids, along with the rest of the squad, wait anxiously in the clearing. Artoo's radar screen sticks out of his domed head and revolves, scanning the forest. He beeps.

THREEPIO

Oh, General Solo, somebody's coming. Oh!

Han, Chewie, and the rest of the squad raise their weapons. Luke steps out of the foliage to find the weapons trained on him. He's too tired to care. He plops himself down on a boulder and looks around.

HAN

Luke! Where's Leia?

LUKE

(concerned)

What? She didn't come back?

HAN

I thought she was with you.

LUKE

We got separated.

Luke and Han exchange a silent, grim look. Luke gets up wearily.

LUKE

Hey, we better go look for her.

Han nods, and signals to a Rebel officer.

HAN

Take the squad ahead. We'll meet at the shield generator at 0300.

LUKE

Come on, Artoo. We'll need your scanners.

Luke, Chewie, Han, and the droids move off in one direction as the squad proceeds in another.

THREEPIO

Don't worry, Master Luke. We know what to do.

They move off into the woods.

THREEPIO

(to Artoo)

And you said it was pretty here. Ugh!

67 EXT. FOREST CLEARING - LEIA'S CRASH SITE

67

A strange little furry face with huge black eyes comes slowly into view. The creature is an EWOK, by the name of WICKET. He seems somewhat puzzled, and prods Leia with a spear. The princess groans; this frightens the stubby ball of fuzz and he prods her again. Leia sits up and stares at the three-foot-high Ewok. She tries to figure out where she is and what has happened. Her clothes are torn; she's bruised and disheveled. The Ewok jumps up and grabs a four-foot-long spear, which he holds in a defensive position. Leia watches him as he circles warily and begins poking her with the sharp point of the spear.

LEIA

Cut it out!

She stands up, and the Ewok quickly backs away.

LEIA

I'm not gonna hurt you.

Leia looks around at the dense forest, and at the charred remains of her speeder bike, then sits down, with a sigh, on a fallen log.

LEIA

Well, looks like I'm stuck here. Trouble is, I don't know where here is.

She puts her head in her hands to rub away some of the soreness from her fall. She looks over at the watchful little Ewok and pats the log beside her.

LEIA

Well, maybe you can help me. Come on, sit down.

Wicket holds his spear up warily and growls at her like a puppy. Leia pats the log again.

LEIA

I promise I won't hurt you. Now come here.

More growls and squeaks from the little bear creature.

LEIA

All right. You want something to eat?

She takes a scrap of food out of her pocket and offers it to him. Wicket takes a step backward, then cocks his head and moves cautiously toward Leia, chattering in his squeaky Ewok language.

LEIA

That's right. Come on. Hmmm?

Sniffing the food curiously, the Ewok comes toward Leia and sits on the log beside her. She takes off her helmet, and the little creature jumps back, startled again. He runs along the log, pointing his spear at her and chattering a blue streak. Leia holds out the helmet to him.

LEIA

Look, it's a hat. It's not gonna hurt you. Look. You're a jittery little thing, aren't you?

Reassured, Wicket lowers his spear and climbs back on the log, coming to investigate the helmet. Suddenly his ears perk up and he begins to sniff the air. He looks around warily, whispering some Ewokese warning to Leia.

LEIA

What is it?

Suddenly a laser bolt comes out of the foliage and explodes on the log next to Leia. Leia and Wicket both roll backwards off the log, hiding behind it. Leia holds her own laser gun ready, while Wicket disappears underneath the log. Another shot, and still no sight of anyone in the forest.

Then Leia senses something and turns to find a large IMPERIAL SCOUT standing over her with his weapon pointed at her head. He reaches out his hand for her weapon. SCOUT #1 Freeze! Come on, get up! She hands the weapon over, as a second scout emerges from the foliage in front of the log.

SCOUT #1

Go get your ride and take her back to base.

SCOUT #2

Yes, sir.

The second scout starts toward his bike, as Wicket, crouched under the log, extends his spear and hits the first scout on the leg. The scout jumps and lets out an exclamation, and looks down at Wicket, puzzled. Leia grabs a branch and knocks him out. She dives for his laser pistol, and the second scout, now on his bike, takes off. Leia fires away and hits the escaping bike, causing it to crash into the first scout's bike, which flies end over end and explodes. The forest is quiet once more. Wicket pokes his fuzzy head up from behind the log and regards Leia with new respect. He mumbles his awe. Leia hurries over, looking around all the time, and motions the chubby little creature into the dense foliage.

LEIA

Come on, let's get outta here.

As they move into the foliage, Wicket takes the lead. He shrieks and tugs at Leia to follow him.

68 INT. DEATH STAR - CORRIDOR TO EMPEROR'S TOWER

68

Darth Vader walks down the corridor to the Emperor's Tower and private elevator. The Emperor's private guard steps in Vader's path.

GUARD

Halt! The Emperor does not wish to be disturbed at the moment.

VADER

(raising his gloved hand to the
two guards and choking them
with the Force)

The Emperor will see me, now!

GUARD

(repeating Vader's command)

The Emperor will see you, now.

69 INT. EMPEROR'S TOWER - THRONE ROOM

69

Two red Imperial Guards stand watch at the elevator as the door opens to reveal Vader. Vader enters the eerie, foreboding throne room. It appears to be empty. His footsteps echo as he approaches the throne. He waits, absolutely still. The Emperor sits with his back to the Dark Lord.

EMPEROR

I told you to remain on the command ship.

VADER

A small Rebel force has penetrated the shield and landed on Endor.

EMPEROR

(no surprise)

Yes, I know.

VADER

(after a beat)

My son is with them.

EMPEROR (VERY COOL)

Are you sure?

VADER

I have felt him, my Master.

EMPEROR

Strange, that I have not. I wonder if
your feelings on this matter are clear,
Lord Vader.

Vader knows what is being asked.

VADER

They are clear, my Master.

EMPEROR

Then you must go to the Sanctuary Moon
and wait for them.

VADER

(skeptical)

He will come to me?

EMPEROR

I have foreseen it. His compassion for
you will be his undoing. He will come to
you and then you will bring him before
me.

VADER

(bows)

As you wish.

The Dark Lord strides out of the throne room.

70 EXT. FOREST CLEARING - LEIA'S CRASH SITE

70

Han, Luke, Chewie, and the two droids are spread out as they
move through the heavy foliage near the clearing where we
last saw Leia. Luke finds Leia's helmet, picks it up with an
expression of concern.

HAN (OS)

Luke! Luke!

Luke runs with the helmet to where Han has found the charred wreckage of a speeder bike in the grass.

THREEPIO

Oh, Master Luke.

LUKE

There's two more wrecked speeders back there. And I found this.

He tosses the helmet to Han.

THREEPIO

I'm afraid that Artoo's sensors can find no trace of Princess Leia.

HAN

(gravely)

I hope she's alright.

Chewbacca growls, sniffing the air, then, with a bark, pushes off through the foliage.

HAN

What, Chewie? What? Chewie!

The others rush to keep up with the giant Wookiee. As he scoots along, Artoo whistles nervously.

71 EXT. FOREST - DENSE FOLIAGE

71

The group has reached a break in the undergrowth. Chewie walks up to a tall stake planted in the ground. There is a dead animal hanging from it.

HAN

Hey, I don't get it.

The rest of the group joins the Wookiee around the stake.

HAN

Nah, it's just a dead animal, Chewie.

Chewie can't resist. He reaches toward the meat.

LUKE

Chewie, wa-wait! Don't!

Too late. The Wookiee has already pulled the animal from the stake. SPROOING! The group finds itself hanging upside down in an Ewok net, suspended high above the clearing. Artoo lets out a wild series of beeps and whistles, and Chewie howls his regret. Their bodies are a jumble in the net. Han removes a Wookiee paw from his mouth.

HAN

Nice work. Great, Chewie! Great! Always thinking with your stomach.

LUKE

Will you take it easy? Let's just figure out a way to get out of this thing.

(trying to free an arm)

Han, can you reach my lightsaber?

HAN

Yeah, sure.

Artoo is at the bottommost point in the net. He extends his cutting appendage and begins slicing at the net. Han is trying to squeeze an arm past Threepio to get at Luke's lightsaber. The net continues to spin.

THREEPIO

Artoo, I'm not sure that's such a good idea. It's a very long dro-o-op!!

Artoo has cut through and the entire group tumbles out of the net, crashing to the ground. As they regain their senses and sit up, they realize they are surrounded by dozens of Ewoks, each brandishing a long spear.

HAN

Wha--? Hey! Point that thing someplace else.

Han pushes the spear wielded by TEEBO out of his face and a second Ewok warrior comes up to argue with Teebo. The spear returns to Han's face. He grabs it angrily and starts to go for his laser pistol.

HAN

Hey!

LUKE

Han, don't. It'll be all right.

The Ewoks swarm through them and confiscate their weapons. Luke lets them take his lightsaber. Chewie growls at the furry critters.

LUKE

Chewie, give 'em your crossbow.

Artoo and Threepio are just untangling themselves. Threepio gets free of the net and sits up, rattled.

THREEPIO

Oh, my head. Oh, my goodness!

When the Ewoks see Threepio, they let out a gasp and chatter among themselves. Threepio speaks to them in their native tongue. The Ewok nearest him drops his spear and prostrates himself before the droid. In a moment, all the Ewoks have followed suit. Chewie lets out a puzzled bark. Han and Luke regard the bowed creatures in wonder. The Ewoks begin to chant at Threepio.

LUKE

Do you understand anything they're saying?

THREEPIO

Oh, yes, Master Luke! Remember that I am fluent in over six million forms of communication.

HAN

What are you telling them?

THREEPIO

Hello, I think... I could be mistaken. They're using a very primitive dialect. But I do believe they think I am some sort of god.

Chewbacca and Artoo think that's very funny. Han and Luke exchange "what next?" looks.

HAN

Well, why don't you use your divine influence and get us out of this?

THREEPIO

I beg your pardon, General Solo, but that just wouldn't be proper.

HAN

Proper?!

THREEPIO

It's against my programming to impersonate a deity.

Han moves toward Threepio threateningly.

HAN

Why, you--

Several Ewoks' spears are thrust in Han's face at the affront to their god. The Ewoks move in to protect their god and Han is surrounded by a menacing circle of spears, all aimed at him. He holds up his hands placatingly.

HAN

My mistake. He's an old friend of mine.

72 EXT. FOREST - SERIES OF SHOTS 72

A procession of Ewoks winds through the ever-darkening forest. Their prisoners - Han, Luke, Chewie, and Artoo - are tied to long poles and wrapped in vines, cocoonlike. Each pole is carried on the shoulders of several Ewoks. Behind the captives, Threepio is carried on a litter, like a king, by the remaining creatures.

73 EXT. FOREST WALKWAY - MOON FOREST 73

The procession moves along a shaky, narrow, wooden walkway, high in the giant trees. It stops at the end of the walkway, which drops off into nothingness. On the other side of the abyss is a village of mud huts and rickety walkways, attached to the giant trees. The lead Ewok takes hold of a long vine and swings across to the village square; the other Ewoks follow suit.

74 EXT. EWOK VILLAGE SQUARE 74

The procession winds its way into the village square. Mother Ewoks gather their babies up and scurry into their huts at the sight of the newcomers. The group stops before the largest hut. Han, Luke, Chewie, and Artoo are still bound to their poles. Han is placed on a spit above what looks like a barbecue pit and the others are leaned against a tree nearby. Threepio's litter/throne is gently placed near the pit. He watches with rapt fascination. Han, Luke, and Chewie are less than fascinated.

HAN

I have a really bad feeling about this.

Chewie growls his concern.

Suddenly all activity stops as LOGRAY, the tribal Medicine Man, comes out of the big hut.

He examines the captives carefully, goes to join Threepio, whose throne has been placed on an elevated platform. A larger, gray-haired Ewok, CHIEF CHIRPA, is examining Luke's lightsaber with great curiosity.

Logray speaks to Threepio and the assemblage of fuzzy Ewoks, pointing to the prisoners tied to the stakes. The Ewoks begin filling the pit under Han with firewood.

HAN

What did he say?

THREEPIO

I'm rather embarrassed, General Solo, but it appears you are to be the main course at a banquet in my honor.

The drums start beating, and all the furry heads turn to the large hut. Leia emerges, wearing an animal-skin dress. She sees what's happening at the same moment the prisoners see her. HAN and LUKE Leia! As she moves toward them, the Ewoks block her way with raised spears.

LEIA

Oh!

THREEPIO

Your Royal Highness.

Artoo and Chewie chime in with their welcome. Leia looks at the assembled Ewoks and sighs.

LEIA

But these are my friends. Threepio, tell them they must be set free.

Threepio talks to Chirpa and Logray, who listen and shake their heads negatively. The Medicine Man gestures toward the prisoners and barks some orders. Several Ewoks jump up and pile more wood on the barbecue with vigor. Leia trades frantic looks with Luke and Han.

HAN

Somehow, I got the feeling that didn't help us very much.

LUKE

Threepio, tell them if they don't do as you wish, you'll become angry and use your magic.

THREEPIO

But Master Luke, what magic? I couldn't possibly --

LUKE

Just tell them.

Threepio speaks to the Ewoks. The Ewoks are disturbed. Logray steps forward and challenges Threepio. Luke closes his eyes and begins to concentrate.

THREEPIO

You see, Master Luke; they didn't believe me. Just...

Now the litter/throne, with Threepio sitting upon it, rises from the ground. At first Threepio doesn't notice and keeps talking.

THREEPIO

... as I said they wouldn't. Wha-wha-what's happening! Oh! Oh, dear! Oh!

The Ewoks fall back in terror from the floating throne. Now Threepio begins to spin as though he were on a revolving stool, with Threepio calling out in total panic at his situation.

THREEPIO

Put me down! He-e-elp! Master Luke!
Artoo! Somebody, somebody, help!

Master Luke, Artoo! Artoo, quickly! Do something, somebody! Oh! Ohhh!

Chief Chirpa yells orders to the cowering Ewoks. They rush up and release the bound prisoners. Luke and Han enfold Leia in a group embrace. Luke notices the spinning Threepio, with Artoo beeping up at him, and slowly lowers the golden droid and the throne to the ground. Logray orders the little droid cut down. Artoo crashes to the ground. When the Ewoks set him upright, the little droid is fighting mad. Artoo beeps a blue streak at the nearest Ewok, and begins pursuing him, finally getting close enough to zap him with an electric charge. The Ewok jumps two feet in the air and runs away, screaming. A small group of Ewoks surround the giant Wookiee, scratching their heads and marveling at his height.

THREEPIO

Oh, oh, oh, oh! Thank goodness.

LUKE

Thanks, Threepio.

THREEPIO

(still shaken)

I...I never knew I had it in me.

75 INT. CHIEF'S HUT - COUNCIL OF ELDERS

75

A glowing fire dances in the center of the spartan, low-ceilinged room, creating a kaleidoscope of shadows on the walls. Along one side, a group of ten Ewok elders flank Chief Chirpa, who sits on his throne. The Rebels sit along the walls of the hut, with Threepio between the two groups and Wicket and Teebo off to one side.

Threepio is in the midst of a long, animated speech in the Ewok's squeaky native tongue. The Ewoks listen carefully and occasionally murmur comments to each other. Threepio points several times at the Rebel group and pantomimes a short history of the Galactic Civil War, mimicking the explosion and rocket sounds, imitating Imperial walkers.

Throughout the long account, certain familiar names are distinguishable in English: Princess Leia, Artoo, Darth Vader, Death Star, Jedi, Obi-Wan Kenobi. Artoo begins beeping excitedly at Threepio.

THREEPIO

Yes, Artoo. I was just coming to that.

Threepio continues with: Millennium Falcon, Cloud City, Vader, Han Solo, carbonite, Sarlacc, bringing the history up to the present time.

At the end of it, the Chief, Logray, and the elders confer, then nod in agreement. The Chief stands and makes a pronouncement. The drums begin to sound, and all the Ewoks stand with a great cheer and screeches.

HAN

What's going on?

LEIA

I don't know.

Luke has been sharing the joy with smiling visage, but now something passes like a dark cloud through his consciousness. The others do not notice.

THREEPIO

Wonderful! We are now a part of the tribe.

Several of the little teddy bears run up and hug the Rebels.

HAN

Just what I always wanted.

Chewbacca is being enthusiastically embraced by an Ewok, while Wicket clings to Han's leg.

HAN

(chuckles)

Well, short help is better than no help
at all, Chewie.

(to Wicket)

Thank you. Okay.

THREEPIO

He says the scouts are going to show us
the quickest way to the shield generator.

Chewie barks. Luke has drifted to the back of the hut. Now he
wanders outside into the moonlight. Leia notices and follows.

HAN

Good. How far is it? Ask him. We need
some fresh supplies, too. And try and get
our weapons back.

Han pulls Threepio back as he keeps trying to translate.

HAN

And hurry up, will ya? I haven't got all
day.

76 EXT. EWOK VILLAGE - NIGHT

76

The walkway is deserted now. The windows of the little huts
glow and flicker from the fires inside. The sounds of the
forest fill the soft night air. Luke has wandered away from
the Chief's hut and stands staring up at the Death Star. Leia
finds him like that.

LUKE

Luke, what's wrong?

Luke turns and looks at her a long moment.

LUKE

Leia... do you remember your mother? Your
real mother?

LEIA

Just a little bit. She died when I was very young.

LUKE

What do you remember?

LEIA

Just...images, really. Feelings.

LUKE

Tell me.

LEIA

(a little surprised at his insistence)

She was very beautiful. Kind, but...sad.

(looks up)

Why are you asking me all this?

He looks away.

LUKE

I have no memory of my mother. I never knew her.

LEIA

Luke, tell me. What's troubling you?

LUKE

Vader is here...now, on this moon.

LEIA

(alarmed)

How do you know?

LUKE

I felt his presence. He's come for me. He can feel when I'm near. That's why I have to go.

(facing her)

As long as I stay, I'm endangering the group and our mission here.

(beat)

I have to face him.

Leia is distraught, confused.

LEIA

Why?

Luke moves close and his manner is gentle. And very calm.

LUKE

He's my father.

LEIA

Your father?

LUKE

There's more. It won't be easy for you to hear it, but you must. If I don't make it back, you're the only hope for the Alliance.

Leia is very disturbed by this. She moves away, as if to deny it.

LEIA

Luke, don't talk that way. You have a power I--I don't understand and could never have.

LUKE

You're wrong, Leia. You have that power too. In time you'll learn to use it as I have. The Force is strong in my family. My father has it...I have it...and...my sister has it.

Leia stares into his eyes. What she sees there frightens her. But she doesn't draw away. She begins to understand.

LUKE

Yes. It's you Leia.

LEIA

I know. Somehow...I've always known.

LUKE

Then you know why I have to face him.

LEIA

No! Luke, run away, far away. If he can feel your presence, then leave this place. I wish I could go with you.

LUKE

No, you don't. You've always been strong.

LEIA

But, why must you confront him?

LUKE

Because...there is good in him. I've felt it. He won't turn me over to the Emperor. I can save him. I can turn him back to the good side. I have to try.

They hold each other close and look at each other, brother and sister.

Leia holds back her tears as Luke slowly lets her go and moves away. He disappears onto the walkway that leads out of the village. Leia, bathed in moonlight, watches him go as Han comes out of the Chief's hut and comes over to her.

Leia is crying, her body trembling. He realizes only now that she is crying.

HAN

Hey, what's goin' on?

Leia attempts to stifle her sobs and wipes her eyes.

LEIA

Nothing. I - just want to be alone for a little while.

HAN

(angry)

Nothing? Come on, tell me. What's goin' on?

She looks up at him, struggling to control herself.

LEIA

I...I can't tell you.

HAN

(loses his temper)

Did you tell Luke? Is that who you could tell?

LEIA

I...

HAN

Ahhh...

He starts to walk away, exasperated, then stops and walks back to her.

HAN

I'm sorry.

LEIA

Hold me.

Han gathers her tightly in his protective embrace.

77 EXT. FOREST - IMPERIAL LANDING PLATFORM

77

An Imperial shuttle floats down from the Death Star and lands gracefully on the huge platform.

Now, an Imperial walker approaches the platform from the darkness of the forest. The whole outpost - platform, walkers, military - looks particularly offensive in the midst of this verdant beauty.

78 EXT. IMPERIAL LANDING PLATFORM - LOWER DECK

78

Darth Vader walks down the ramp of the shuttle onto the platform, into an elevator, and appears on a ramp on a lower level. He walks toward another ramp exit and is met by two troopers and a commander with Luke, in binders, at their center. The young Jedi gazes at Vader with complete calm.

COMMANDER

This is a Rebel that surrendered to us. Although he denies it, I believe there may be more of them, and I request permission to conduct a further search of the area.

The commander extends his hand, revealing Luke's lightsaber.

COMMANDER

He was armed only with this.

Vader looks at Luke, turns away and faces the commander, taking the lightsaber from the commander's hand.

VADER

Good work, Commander. Leave us. Conduct your search and bring his companions to me.

COMMANDER

Yes, my Lord.

The officer and troops withdraw. Vader and Luke are left standing alone in the oddly tranquil beauty of the place. The sounds of the forest filter in upon them.

VADER

The Emperor has been expecting you.

LUKE

I know, father.

VADER

So, you have accepted the truth.

LUKE

I've accepted the truth that you were once Anakin Skywalker, my father.

VADER

(turning to face him)

That name no longer has any meaning for me.

LUKE

It is the name of your true self. You've only forgotten. I know there is good in you. The Emperor hasn't driven it from you fully. That is why you couldn't destroy me. That's why you won't bring me to your Emperor now.

Vader looks down from Luke to the lightsaber in his own black-gloved hand. He seems to ponder Luke's words.

VADER

(indicating lightsaber)

I see you have constructed a new lightsaber.

Vader ignites the lightsaber and holds it to examine its humming, brilliant blade.

VADER

Your skills are complete. Indeed, you are powerful, as the Emperor has foreseen.

They stand for a moment, the Vader extinguishes the lightsaber.

LUKE

Come with me.

VADER

Obi-Wan once thought as you do.

Luke steps close to Vader, then stops. Vader is still.

VADER

You don't know the power of the dark side. I must obey my master.

LUKE

I will not turn...and you'll be forced to kill me.

VADER

If that is your destiny.

LUKE

Search your feelings, father. You can't do this. I feel the conflict within you. Let go of your hate.

VADER

It is too late for me, son. The Emperor will show you the true nature of the Force. He is your master now.

Vader signals to some distant stormtroopers. He and Luke stand staring at one another for a long moment.

LUKE

Then my father is truly dead.

79 EXT. ENDOR - RIDGE OVERLOOKING SHIELD GENERATOR

79

Han, Leia, Chewbacca, the droids, Wicket, and another Ewok scout, PAPLOO, hide on a ridge overlooking the massive Imperial shield generator. At the base of the generator is an Imperial landing platform. Leia studies the installation.

LEIA

The main entrance to the control bunker's on the far side of that landing platform. This isn't gonna be easy.

HAN

Hey, don't worry. Chewie and me got into a lot of places more heavily guarded than this.

Wicket and Paploo are chattering away in Ewok language. They speak to Threepio.

LEIA

What's he saying?

THREEPIO

He says there's a secret entrance on the other side of the ridge.

80 EXT. SPACE - REBEL FLEET

80

The vast fleet hangs in space near a blue planet. A giant Rebel Star Cruiser is up at the front, but now the Millennium Flacon roars up to a spot ahead of it, tiny in comparison.

81 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT

81

Lando is in the pilot seat. His alien copilot, NIEN NUNB, takes some getting used to in the familiar environs of the Falcon's cockpit. Lando speaks into his comlink.

LANDO

Admiral, we're in position. All fighters accounted for.

ACKBAR (VO)

Proceed with the countdown. All groups assume attack coordinates.

Lando turns to his weird copilot.

LANDO

Don't worry, my friends are down there. They'll have that shield down on time...
 (to himself)
 or this'll be the shortest offensive of all time.

The copilot flips some switches and grunts an alien comment.

ACKBAR (VO)

All craft, prepare to jump to hyperspace on my mark.

LANDO

All right. Stand by.

He pulls a lever, and the stars outside begin to streak.

82 EXT. SPACE - REBEL FLEET

82

We are treated to an awesome sight: first the Millennium Falcon, then Ackbar's Star Cruiser, then, in large segments, the huge fleet ROARS INTO HYPERSPACE. And disappears.

83 EXT. ENDOR - RIDGE OVERLOOKING CONTROL BUNKER

83

Han, Leia, Chewie, the droids, and their two Ewok guides, Wicket and Paploo, have reunited with the Rebel strike squad. The entire group is spread through the thick undergrowth. Below them is the BUNKER that leads into the generator.

Four Imperial scouts, their speeder bikes parked nearby, keep watch over the bunker entrance. Chewie growls an observation, and Paploo chatters away to Han in Ewok language.

HAN

Back door, huh? Good idea.

Wicket and Paploo continue their Ewok conversation.

HAN

It's only a few guards. This shouldn't be too much trouble.

LEIA

Well, it only takes one to sound the alarm.

HAN

(with self-confident grin)

Then we'll do it real quiet-like.

Threepio explains what is going on to Wicket and Paploo. The Ewoks chatter a moment between themselves. Then Paploo jumps up and scampers into the underbrush.

Threepio asks Wicket where Paploo went and is given a short reply.

THREEPIO

Oh! Oh, my. Uh, Princess Leia!

LEIA

Quiet.

THREEPIO

I'm afraid our furry companion has gone and done something rather rash.

LEIA

Oh, no.

84 EXT. BUNKER - ENTRANCE 84

Paploo has slipped out of the undergrowth near where the Imperial scouts are lounging. He silently swings his furry ball of a body onto one of the scout's speeder bikes and begins flipping switches at random. Suddenly, the bike's engine fires up with a tremendous ROAR. Paploo grins and continues flipping switches. The scouts leap up in surprise.

85 EXT. RIDGE 85

Han, Leia and company watch in distress. Chewie barks.

HAN

(sighs)

There goes our surprise attack.

86 EXT. BUNKER 86

The Imperial scouts race toward Paploo just as his speeder zooms into motion. Paploo hangs on by his paws and shoots away into the forest.

SCOUT

Look! Over there! Stop him!

Three of the Imperial scouts jump on their rocket bikes and speed away in pursuit. The fourth watches them go from his post at the door.

87 EXT. RIDGE 87

Han, Leia, and Chewie exchange delighted looks.

HAN

Not bad for a little furball. There's only one left. You stay here. We'll take care of this.

Han and the Wookiee nod at each other and slip down toward the bunker. Threepio moves to stand next to Wicket and Artoo.

THREEPIO

I have decided that we shall stay here.

88 EXT. FOREST

88

Paploo sails through the trees, more lucky than in control. It's scary, but he loves it. When the Imperial scouts pull within sight behind him and begin firing laser bolts, he decides he's had enough. As he rounds a tree, out of their sight, Paploo grabs a vine and swings up into the trees. A moment later, the scouts tear under him in pursuit of the still-flying, unoccupied bike.

89 EXT. BUNKER

89

Han sneaks up behind the remaining Imperial scout, taps him on the shoulder and lets the scout chase him behind the bunker into the arms of the waiting Rebel strike team. Han returns to the front, and taps out a pattern on the bunker door's control panel. Everyone stands out of sight, police-style, as the door opens. Han and Leia peek inside. No sign of life. The group enters the bunker silently, leaving one lookout behind.

90 INT. DEATH STAR - EMPEROR'S THRONE ROOM

90

The elevator opens. Vader and Luke enter the room alone. They walk across the dark space to stand before the throne, father and son side by side beneath the gaze of the Emperor. Vader bows to his Master.

EMPEROR

Welcome, young Skywalker. I have been expecting you.

Luke peers at the hooded figure defiantly. The Emperor then looks down at Luke's binders.

EMPEROR

You no longer need those.

The Emperor motions ever so slightly with his finger and Luke's binders fall away, clattering to the floor. Luke looks down at his own hands, free now to reach out and grab the Emperor's neck. He does nothing.

EMPEROR

Guards, leave us.

The red-cloaked guards turn and disappear behind the elevator.

EMPEROR

(to Luke)

I'm looking forward to completing your training. In time you will call me Master.

LUKE

You're gravely mistaken. You won't convert me as you did my father.

The Emperor gets down from his throne and walks up very close to Luke. The Emperor looks into his eyes and, for the first time, Luke can perceive the evil visage within the hood.

EMPEROR

Oh, no, my young Jedi. You will find that it is you who are mistaken...about a great many things.

VADER

His lightsaber.

Vader extends a gloved hand toward the Emperor, revealing Luke's lightsaber. The Emperor takes it.

EMPEROR

Ah, yes, a Jedi's weapon. Much like your father's. By now you must know your father can never be turned from the dark side. So will it be with you.

LUKE

You're wrong. Soon I'll be dead...and you with me.

The Emperor laughs.

EMPEROR

Perhaps you refer to the imminent attack of your Rebel fleet.

Luke looks up sharply.

EMPEROR

Yes...I assure you we are quite safe from your friends here.

Vader looks at Luke.

LUKE

Your overconfidence is your weakness.

EMPEROR

Your faith in your friends is yours.

VADER

It is pointless to resist, my son.

The Emperor turns to face Luke.

EMPEROR

(angry)

Everything that has transpired has done so according to my design.

(indicates Endor)

Your friends up there on the Sanctuary Moon...

Luke reacts. The Emperor notes it.

EMPEROR

...are walking into a trap. As is your Rebel fleet! It was I who allowed the Alliance to know the location of the shield generator. It is quite safe from your pitiful little band. An entire legion of my best troops awaits them.

Luke's look darts from the Emperor to Vader and, finally, to the sword in the Emperor's hand.

EMPEROR

Oh...I'm afraid the deflector shield will be quite operational when your friends arrive.

91 INT. BUNKER - MAIN CONTROL ROOM

91

Han, Leia, Chewie, and the Rebel strike team storm through a door and enter the main control room, taking all of the personnel prisoner.

HAN

All right! Up! Move! Come on! Quickly!
Quickly, Chewie.

The Rebel troops herd the generator controllers away from their panels. Leia glances at one of the screens on the control panel.

LEIA

Han! Hurry! The fleet will be here any moment.

HAN

Charges! Come on, come on!

Outside, Threepio watches nervously in the bushes as several more controllers and stormtroopers run into the bunker, leaving guards at the door.

THREEPIO

(to Wicket)

Oh, my! They'll be captured!

Wicket chatters in Ewok language, and then takes off full steam into the forest.

THREEPIO

Wa-wait! Wait, come back! Artoo, stay with me.

Inside the bunker, Han looks up from setting charges as an Imperial commander enters.

COMMANDER

Freeze! You Rebel scum.

Han and Leia spin, to find dozens of Imperial weapons trained on them and their cohorts. A poised force of Imperial troops surround them. Even more pour into the room, roughly disarming the Rebel contingent. Han, Leia, and Chewie exchange looks. They're helpless.

92 EXT. SPACE - ENDOR, DEATH STAR, REBEL FLEET 92

The Death Star and its Sanctuary Moon hang distant in space as the Rebel fleet comes out of hyperspace with an awesome roar. The Millennium Falcon and several Rebel fighters are at the front as the space armada bears down on its target.

93 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT 93

Lando flips switches, checks his screen, and speaks into the radio.

LANDO

All wings report in.

WEDGE

Red Leader standing by.

GRAY LEADER

Gray Leader standing by.

GREEN LEADER

Green Leader standing by.

WEDGE

Lock S-foils in attack positions.

94 INT. REBEL STAR CRUISER - BRIDGE

94

From the bridge of the Rebel Headquarters Frigate, Admiral Ackbar watches the fighters massing outside his viewscreen.

ACKBAR

May the Force be with us.

95 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT

95

Lando looks worriedly at his alien copilot, Nien Nunb, who points to the control panel and talks to Lando.

LANDO

We've got to be able to get some kind of a reading on that shield, up or down. Well, how could they be jamming us if they don't know if we're coming.

Lando shoots a concerned look out at the approaching Death Star as the implications of what he's just said sink in. He hits a switch on his comlink.

LANDO

Break off the attack! The shield is still up.

RED LEADER (VO)

I get no reading. Are you sure?

LANDO

Pull up! All craft pull up!

The Falcon turns hard to the left. Out the window the stars and the Death Star move off right.

96 EXT. SPACE - DEATH STAR SHIELD 96

The Falcon and the fighters of Red Squad veer off desperately to avoid the unseen wall.

97 INT. REBEL STAR CRUISER - BRIDGE 97

Alarms are screaming and lights flashing as the huge ship changes course abruptly. Other ships in the fleet shoot by outside as the armada tries to halt its forward momentum.

ACKBAR

Take evasive action! Green Group, stick close to holding sector MV-7.

A Mon Calamari controller turns away from his screen and calls out to Ackbar, quite excited. The Admiral rushes over to the controller.

CONTROLLER

Admiral, we have enemy ships in sector 47.

On the screen can be seen the moon, Death Star, and the massive Imperial fleet. Ackbar moves to the comlink.

ACKBAR

It's a trap!

LANDO

(over comlink)

Fighters coming in.

There is much excitement on the bridge as the attack begins. The Millennium Falcon and several squads of Rebel fighters head into an armada of TIE fighters. The sky explodes as a fierce dogfight ensues in and around the giant Rebel cruisers.

REBEL PILOT

There's too many of them!

LANDO

Accelerate to attack speed! Draw their fire away from the cruisers.

WEDGE

Copy, Gold Leader.

The battle continues around the giant cruisers.

98 INT. DEATH STAR - EMPEROR'S THRONE ROOM

98

Through the round window behind the Emperor's throne can be seen the distant flashes of the space battle in progress.

EMPEROR

Come, boy. See for yourself.

The Emperor is sitting in his throne, with Vader standing at his side. Luke moves to look through a small section of the window.

EMPEROR

From here you will witness the final destruction of the Alliance, and the end of your insignificant Rebellion.

Luke is in torment. He glances at his lightsaber sitting on the armrest of the throne. The Emperor watches him and smiles, touches the lightsaber.

EMPEROR

You want this, don't you? The hate is swelling in you now. Take your Jedi weapon. Use it. I am unarmed. Strike me down with it. Give in to your anger. With each passing moment, you make yourself more my servant.

Vader watches Luke in his agony.

LUKE

No!

EMPEROR

It is unavoidable. It is your destiny.
You, like your father, are now mine!

99 EXT. FOREST - GENERATOR BUNKER

99

Han, Leia, Chewie, and the rest of the strike team are led out of the bunker by their captors. The surrounding area, deserted before, is now crowded with two-legged Imperial walkers and hundreds of Imperial troops. The situation looks hopeless.

STORMTROOPER

All right, move it! I said move it! Go on!

From the undergrowth beyond the clearing comes a wild series of beeps and whistles. And --

THREEPIO

Hello! I say, over there! Were you looking for me?

BUNKER COMMANDER

Bring those two down here!

STORMTROOPER

Let's go!

Artoo and Threepio are standing near one of the big trees. As six Imperial stormtroopers rush over to take them captive, the two droids duck out of sight behind the tree.

THREEPIO

Well, they're on their way. Artoo, are you sure this was a good idea?

STORMTROOPER

Freeze! Don't move!

THREEPIO

We surrender.

The stormtroopers come around the tree and find the two droids waiting quietly to be taken. As the Imperial troops move to do that, however, a band of Ewoks drops down from above and overpowers them.

THREEPIO

Ohhh! Stand back, Artoo.

In a nearby tree, an Ewok raises a horn to his lips and sounds the EWOK ATTACK CALL. All hell breaks loose as hundreds of Ewoks throw their fuzzy bodies into the fray against the assembled stormtroopers and their awesome two-legged walkers.

Biker scouts dart about blasting Ewoks, only to be crushed by a volley of rocks tossed by Ewoks from the trees above.

In the confusion of the battle, Han and Leia break away and dive for the cover of the bunker door as explosions erupt around them. Han goes to the bunker door control panel.

LEIA

The code's changed. We need Artoo!

HAN

Here's the terminal.

LEIA

(into comlink)

Artoo, where are you? We need you at the bunker right away.

Artoo and Threepio are hiding behind a log as the battle rages around them.

Suddenly the stubby little astrodroid lets out a series of whistles and shoots off across the battlefield. Threepio, panicked, runs after him.

THREEPIO

Going? What do you mean, you're going.
 But-- but going where, Artoo? No, what!
 Artoo! Oh, this is no time for heroics.
 Come back!

Biker scouts race around and over the two droids, blasting away at the little Ewoks as the furries scurry for cover.

A group of Ewoks have moved a primitive catapult into position. They fire off a large boulder that hits one of the walkers. The walker turns and heads for the catapult, blasting away with both guns. The Ewoks abandon their weapons and flee in all directions. Just as the walker moves in to stomp the catapult, Ewoks drop vines restraining two huge logs that swing down and smash the walker's head flat.

A line of Ewoks hang desperately to a vine that is hooked to a walker's foot. As the walker moves along, the fuzzy creatures are dragged behind.

Two speeder bikes chase Ewoks through the underbrush. As the scouts round a tree, they are knocked off their bikes by a vine tied between two trees.

100 EXT. SPACE

100

The Falcon and other Rebel fighters are engaged in a ferocious combat with Imperial TIE fighters, the battle raging around the cruisers of the Rebel armada.

101 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT

101

Lando is in radio communication with the pilots of the other Rebel squads.

LANDO

Watch yourself, Wedge! Three from above!

WEDGE

Red Three, Red Two, pull in!

RED TWO

Got it!

RED THREE

Three of them coming in, twenty degrees!

WEDGE

Cut to the left! I'll take the leader!
They're heading for the medical frigate.

Lando steers the Falcon through a complete flip, as his crew fires at the TIEs from the belly guns.

NAVIGATOR

Pressure's steady.

The copilot Nien Nunb chatters an observation.

LANDO

Only the fighters are attacking. I wonder what those Star Destroyers are waiting for.

102 EXT. SPACE - IMPERIAL FLEET

102

The giant Imperial Star Destroyer waits silently some distance from the battle. The Emperor's huge Super Star Destroyer rests in the middle of the fleet.

103 INT. SUPER STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE

103

Admiral Piett and two fleet commanders watch the battle at the huge window of the Super Star Destroyer bridge.

COMMANDER

We're in attack position now, sir.

PIETT

Hold here.

COMMANDER

We're not going to attack?

PIETT

I have my orders from the Emperor himself. He has something special planned for them. We only need to keep them from escaping.

104 INT. EMPEROR'S TOWER - THRONE ROOM

104

The Emperor, Vader, and a horrified Luke watch the aerial battle fireworks out the window and on the viewscreens. Another Rebel ship explodes against the protective shield.

EMPEROR

As you can see, my young apprentice, your friends have failed. Now witness the firepower of this fully armed and operational battle station.

(into comlink)

Fire at will, Commander.

Luke, in shock, looks out across the surface of the Death Star to the Rebel fleet beyond.

105 INT. DEATH STAR - CONTROL ROOM

105

Controllers pull back on several switches. Commander Jerjerrod stands over them.

JERJERROD

Fire!

106 INT. DEATH STAR - BLAST CHAMBER

106

A button is pressed, which switches on a panel of lights. A hooded Imperial soldier reaches overhead and pulls a lever.

A huge beam of light emanates from a long shaft. Two stormtroopers stand to one side at a control panel.

107 EXT. DEATH STAR 107

The giant laser dish on the completed half of the Death Star begins to glow; Then a powerful beams shoots out toward the aerial battle.

108 EXT. SPACE - AIR BATTLE 108

The air is thick with giant ships. In among them, Rebel X-wings dogfight with Imperial TIE fighters. Now an enormous Rebel cruiser is hit by the Death Star beam and is blown to dust. The Millennium Falcon roars over CAMERA, followed closely by several TIE fighters.

109 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT 109

The ship is buffeted by the tremendous explosion of the Rebel cruiser. Lando and his copilot are stunned by the sight of the Death Star firepower.

LANDO

That blast came from the Death Star! That thing's operational!

(into comlink)

Home One, this is Gold Leader.

110 INT. REBEL STAR CRUISER - BRIDGE 110

Ackbar stands amid the confusion on the wide bridge and speaks into the comlink.

ACKBAR

We saw it. All craft prepare to retreat.

LANDO

You won't get another chance at this, Admiral.

ACKBAR

We have no choice, General Calrissian.
Our cruisers can't repel firepower of
that magnitude.

LANDO

Han will have that shield down. We've got
to give him more time.

111 EXT. FOREST - GENERATOR BUNKER

111

Artoo and Threepio make it to the door, as Han and Leia
provide cover fire.

THREEPIO

We're coming!

HAN

Come on! Come on!

THREEPIO

Oh, Artoo, hurry!

The little droid moves to the terminal and plugs in his
computer arm. A large explosion hits near Artoo, knocking him
head over heels, finally landing on his feet. The stubby
astrodroid's head is spinning and smoldering. Suddenly there
is a loud SPROOING and Han and Leia turn around to see Artoo
with all his compartment doors open, and all of his
appendages sticking out; water and smoke spurt out of the
nozzles in his body. Han rushes to the terminal, as Threepio
rushes to his wounded companion.

THREEPIO

My goodness! Artoo, why did you have to
be so brave?

HAN

Well, I suppose I could hotwire this
thing.

LEIA

I'll cover you.

Ewoks in handmade, primitive hanggliders drop rocks onto the stormtroopers, dive-bombing their deadly adversaries. One is hit in the wing with laser fire and crashes. A walker lumbers forward, shooting laser blasts at frantic Ewoks running in all directions. Two Ewoks are struck down by laser blasts. One tries to awaken his friend, then realizes that he is dead.

112 EXT. SPACE - DEATH STAR

112

The Rebel fleet continues to be picked off, from one side by the Death Star's deadly beam, from the other by the rampaging Imperial Star Destroyers.

113 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT

113

Lando steers the Falcon wildly through an obstacle course of floating giants. He's been yelling into the comlink.

LANDO

(desperately)

Yes! I said closer! Move as close as you can and engage those Star Destroyers at point-blank range.

ACKBAR

At that close range, we won't last long against those Star Destroyers.

LANDO

We'll last longer than we will against that Death Star...and we might just take a few of them with us.

The Rebel cruisers move very close to the Imperial Star Destroyers and begin to blast away at point-blank range.

Tiny fighters race across the giant surfaces, against a backdrop of laser fire. The control tower of a Star Destroyer is under attack.

REBEL PILOT

She's gonna blow!

Y-WING PILOT

I'm hit!

The damaged Y-wing plummets toward the Star Destroyer, and crashes into the control tower, exploding.

114 INT. EMPEROR'S TOWER - THRONE ROOM

114

Out of the window and on the view screens, the Rebel fleet is being decimated in blinding explosions of light and debris. But in here there is no sound of battle. The Emperor turns to Luke.

EMPEROR

Your fleet has lost. And your friends on the Endor moon will not survive. There is no escape, my young apprentice. The Alliance will die...as will your friends.

Luke's eyes are full of rage. Vader watches him.

EMPEROR

Good. I can feel your anger. I am defenseless. Take your weapon! Strike me down with all your hatred, and your journey towards the dark side will be complete.

Luke can resist no longer. The lightsaber flies into his hand. He ignites it in an instant and swings at the Emperor. Vader's lightsaber flashes into view, blocking Luke's blow before it can reach the Emperor. The two blades spark at contact. Luke turns to fight his father.

115 EXT. FOREST

115

The battle rages on. Stormtroopers fire on Ewoks with sophisticated weapons while their furry little adversaries sneak up behind the Imperial troopers and bash them over the head with large clubs.

A walker marches through the undergrowth blasting Ewoks as it goes. An Ewok warrior gives the signal, and a pile of logs is cut loose. The logs tumble under the walker's feet, causing it to slip and slide until it finally topples over with a great crash. A scout bike races past and is lassoed with a heavy vine. The other end of the vine is tied to a tree, and the bike swings around in ever-tightening circles until it runs out of rope and crashes into the trees with a huge explosion.

Chewie swings on a vine to the roof of one of the walkers. Two Ewoks cling to him. They land with a thud on the top of the lurching machine, then hang on for dear life. One of the Ewoks peeks through the window.

WALKER PILOT #1

Look!

PILOT #2

Get him off of there!

The walker pilot opens the hatch to see what's going on. He is yanked out and tossed overboard before he can scream. The two Ewoks jump into the cockpit and knock the second pilot unconscious. The Ewoks are thrown violently as the mighty machine careens out of control. Outside, Chewie is almost knocked overboard; he sticks his head into the hatch with a series of angry barks. The Ewoks are too busy and frightened to listen to the Wookiee's complaint. Chewie slips inside the walker. Chewbacca's walker moves through the forest, firing laser blasts at unsuspecting stormtroopers, and destroying other Imperial walkers.

The Ewoks shout and cheer as the giant machine helps turn the tide of the battle in their favor.

116 EXT. FOREST - GENERATOR BUNKER

116

Han works furiously at the control panel; wires spark as he attempts to hotwire the door. He motions to Leia, who is blasting away at some stormtroopers.

HAN

I think I got it. I got it!

The three wires spark as the connection is made. With a LOUD WHOOSH, a second blast door crashes down in front of the first. Han frowns and turns back to the wires again. Leia exchanges shots with stormtroopers in the bushes, then suddenly cries out in pain, her shoulder hit by a laser blast.

THREEPIO

Oh, Princess Leia, are you all right?

HAN

Let's see.

LEIA

It's not bad.

STORMTROOPER (OS)

Freeze!

They freeze.

THREEPIO

Oh, dear.

STORMTROOPER

Don't move!

Leia holds her laser gun ready, behind Han, out of view of the two stormtroopers moving toward them. Han and Leia's eyes lock; the moment seems suspended in time.

HAN

I love you.

Another shared look between them, as she smiles up at Han.

LEIA

I know.

STORMTROOPER

Hands up! Stand up!

Han stands up slowly and turns, revealing the gun in Leia's hand. She disposes of the stormtroopers in a flash. As Han turns back toward Leia, he looks up to see a giant walker approach and stand before him, its deadly weapons aimed right at him.

HAN

(to Leia)

Stay back.

The hatch on top of the walker opens and Chewie sticks his head out and barks triumphantly.

HAN

Chewie! Get down here! She's wounded!
No, wait.... I got an idea.

117 INT. EMPEROR'S TOWER - THRONE ROOM

117

Luke and Vader are engaged in a man-to-man duel of lightsabers even more vicious than the battle on Bespin. But the young Jedi has grown stronger in the interim, and now the advantage shifts to him. Vader is forced back, losing his balance, and is knocked down the stairs. Luke stands at the top of the stairs, ready to attack.

EMPEROR

(laughing)

Good. Use your aggressive feelings, boy!
Let the hate flow through you.

Luke looks momentarily toward the Emperor, then back to Vader, and realizes he is using the dark side. He steps back, turns off his lightsaber, and relaxes, driving the hate from his being.

VADER

Obi-Wan has taught you well.

LUKE

I will not fight you, father.

Vader walks back up the stairs to Luke.

VADER

You are unwise to lower your defenses.

Vader attacks, forcing Luke on the defensive. The young Jedi leaps in an amazing reverse flip up to the safety of the catwalk overhead. Vader stands below him.

LUKE

Your thoughts betray you, father. I feel the good in you...the conflict.

VADER

There is no conflict.

LUKE

You couldn't bring yourself to kill me before, and I don't believe you'll destroy me now.

VADER

You underestimate the power of the dark side. If you will not fight, then you will meet your destiny.

Vader throws the laser sword and it cuts through the supports holding the catwalk, then returns to Vader's hand. Luke tumbles to the ground in a shower of sparks and rolls out of sight under the Emperor's platform. Vader moves to find him.

EMPEROR

(laughs)

Good. Good.

118 EXT. SPACE - AIR BATTLE

118

The two armadas, like their sea-bound ancestors, blast away at each other in individual point-blank confrontations. A Star Destroyer explodes. The Rebel victor limps away, its back half alive with a series of minor explosions. The Rebel cruiser manages to move in next to a second Star Destroyer before it explodes completely, taking the Imperial Star Destroyer with it. The Falcon and several fighters attack one of the larger Imperial ships.

LANDO

Watch out. Squad at .06.

REBEL PILOT

I'm on it, Gold Leader.

WEDGE

Good shot, Red Two.

LANDO

Now...come on, Han, old buddy. Don't let me down.

119 INT. BUNKER - CONTROL ROOM

119

Controllers watch the main viewscreen on which a vague figure of an Imperial walker pilot can be seen. There is a great deal of static and interference.

HAN/PILOT (VO)

It's over, Commander. The Rebels have been routed. They're fleeing into the woods. We need reinforcements to continue the pursuit.

The controllers cheer.

CONTROL ROOM COMMANDER

Send three squads to help. Open the back door.

SECOND COMMANDER

Yes, sir.

120 EXT. FOREST - GENERATOR BUNKER 120

As the door to the bunker opens and the Imperial troops rush out, they're surprised to find themselves surrounded by Rebels, their weapons pointed at them. Ewoks holding bows and arrows appear on the roof of the bunker. The Imperial troops throw down their guns as Han and Chewie rush inside the bunker with explosive charges.

121 INT. BUNKER - CONTROL ROOM 121

Han, Chewie, and several troops rush into the control room and plant explosive charges on the control panels and rush out.

HAN

Throw me another charge.

122 INT. EMPEROR'S TOWER - THRONE ROOM 122

Vader stalks the low-ceilinged area on the level below the throne, searching for Luke in the semi-darkness, his lightsaber held ready.

VADER

You cannot hide forever, Luke.

LUKE

I will not fight you.

VADER

Give yourself to the dark side. It is the only way you can save your friends.

Yes, your thoughts betray you. Your feelings for them are strong. Especially for...

Vader stops and senses something. Luke shuts his eyes tightly, in anguish.

VADER

Sister! So...you have a twin sister. Your feelings have now betrayed her, too. Obi-Wan was wise to hide her from me. Now his failure is complete. If you will not turn to the dark side, then perhaps she will.

LUKE

Never-r-r!

Luke ignites his lightsaber and screams in anger, rushing at his father with a frenzy we have not seen before. Sparks fly as Luke and Vader fight in the cramped area. Luke's hatred forces Vader to retreat out of the low area and across a bridge overlooking a vast elevator shaft. Each stroke of Luke's sword drives his father further toward defeat.

The Dark Lord is knocked to his knees, and as he raises his sword to block another onslaught, Luke slashes Vader's right hand off at the wrist, causing metal and electronic parts to fly from the mechanical stump. Vader's sword clatters uselessly away, over the edge of the platform and into the bottomless shaft below. Luke moves over Vader and holds the blade of his sword to the Dark Lord's throat. The Emperor watches with uncontrollable, pleased agitation.

EMPEROR

Good! Your hate has made you powerful. Now, fulfill your destiny and take your father's place at my side!

Luke looks at his father's mechanical hand, then to his own mechanical, black-gloved hand, and realizes how much he is becoming like his father.

He makes the decision for which he has spent a lifetime in preparation. Luke steps back and hurls his lightsaber away.

LUKE

Never! I'll never turn to the dark side.
You've failed, Your Highness. I am a
Jedi, like my father before me.

The Emperor's glee turns to rage.

EMPEROR

So be it...Jedi.

123 EXT. FOREST - GENERATOR BUNKER

123

Han and several of the fighters run out of the bunker and race across the clearing.

HAN

Move! Move!

A shock wave knocks them flat as the bunker explodes, followed by a spectacular display as the huge shield-generator radar dish explodes along with the bunker.

124 INT. REBEL STAR CRUISER - BRIDGE

124

Ackbar, sitting in his control chair, speaks into the radio.

ACKBAR

The shield is down! Commence attack on
the Death Star's main reactor.

LANDO

We're on our way. Red Group, Gold Group,
all fighters follow me.

(laughs)

Told you they'd do it!

The Falcon, followed by several smaller Rebel fighters, heads toward the unfinished superstructure of the Death Star.

125 INT. EMPEROR'S TOWER - THRONE ROOM

125

Luke stands still, as the Emperor reaches the bottom of the stairs. The Emperor's laughter has turned to anger. He raises his arms toward Luke.

EMPEROR

If you will not be turned, you will be destroyed.

Blinding bolts of energy, evil lightning, shoot from the Emperor's hands at Luke. Even in his surprise, the young Jedi tries to use the Force to deflect them. At first he is half successful, but after a moment the bolts of energy are coming with such speed and power the young Jedi shrinks before them, his knees buckling. The wounded Vader struggles to his feet, and moves to stand at his master's side.

EMPEROR

Young fool...only now, at the end, do you understand.

Luke is almost unconscious beneath the continuing assault of the Emperor's lightning. He clutches a canister to keep from falling into the bottomless shaft as the bolts tear through him.

EMPEROR

Your feeble skills are no match for the power of the dark side. You have paid the price for your lack of vision.

Luke writhes on the floor in unbearable pain, reaching weakly up toward where Vader stands watching.

LUKE

(groans)

Father, please. Help me.

Again Vader stands, watching Luke. He looks at his master, the Emperor, then back to Luke on the floor.

EMPEROR

Now, young Skywalker...you will die.

Although it would not have seemed possible, the outpouring of bolts from the Emperor's fingers actually increases in intensity, the sound screaming through the room. Luke's body writhes in pain.

Vader grabs the Emperor from behind, fighting for control of the robed figure despite the Dark Lord's weakened body and gravely weakened arm. The Emperor struggles in his embrace, his bolt- shooting hands now lifted high, away from Luke. Now the white lightning arcs back to strike at Vader. He stumbles with his load as the sparks rain off his helmet and flow down over his black cape. He holds his evil master high over his head and walks to the edge of the abyss at the central core of the throne room. With one final burst of his once awesome strength, Darth Vader hurls the Emperor's body into the bottomless shaft.

The Emperor's body spins helplessly into the void, arcing as it falls into the abyss. Finally, when the body is far down the shaft, it explodes, creating a rush of air through the room. Vader's cape is whipped by the wind and he staggers, and collapses toward the bottomless hole. Luke crawls to his father's side and pulls him away from the edge of the abyss to safety. Both the young Jedi and the giant warrior are too weak to move.

126 EXT./INT. - SPACE BATTLE - FIGHTER AND DEATH STAR

126

Rebel fighters follow the Falcon across the surface of the Death Star to the unfinished portion, where they dive into the super- structure of the giant battle station, followed by many TIE fighters.

WEDGE

I'm going in.

LANDO

Here goes nothing.

Three X-wings lead the chase through the ever-narrowing shaft, followed by the Falcon and four other fighters, plus TIE fighters who continually fire at the Rebels. Lights reflect off the pilot's faces as they race through the dark shaft.

LANDO

Now lock onto the strongest power source.
It should be the power generator.

WEDGE

Form up. And stay alert. We could run out
of space real fast.

The fighters and the Falcon race through the tunnel, still pursued by the TIE fighters. One of the X-wings is hit from behind and explodes.

LANDO

Split up and head back to the surface.
See if you can get a few of those TIE
fighters to follow you.

PILOT

Copy, Gold Leader.

The Rebel ships peel off pursued by three of the TIE's, while Lando and Wedge continue through the main tunnel. It narrows, and the Falcon scrapes the side dangerously. Two other TIE fighters continue to blast away at them.

LANDO

That was too close.

Nien Nunb agrees. The battle between the Rebel and Imperial fleet rages on. Several cruisers fire at the giant Super Star Destroyer.

127 INT. REBEL STAR CRUISER - BRIDGE 127

ACKBAR

We've got to give those fighters more time. Concentrate all fire on that Super Star Destroyer.

X-wings pilots head across the surface of the huge battleship.

128 INT. VADER'S STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE 128

Admiral Piett and a commander stand at the window, looking out to the battle. They look concerned.

CONTROLLER

Sir, we've lost our bridge deflector shield.

PIETT

Intensify the forward batteries. I don't want anything to get through.

The commander is looking out of the window where a damaged Rebel fighter is out of control and heading directly toward the bridge.

PIETT

Intensify forward firepower!

COMMANDER

It's too late!

The Rebel pilot screams as his ship hits the Star Destroyer, causing a huge explosion. The giant battle ship loses control, crashes into the Death Star, and explodes.

129 INT. REBEL STAR CRUISER - BRIDGE 129

There is excitement on the bridge as the battle rages on all sides. They cheer as the giant Star Destroyer blows up.

130 INT. DEATH STAR - MAIN DOCKING BAY

130

Chaos. For the first time, the Death Star is rocked by explosions as the Rebel fleet, no longer backed against a wall, zooms over, unloading a heavy barrage. Imperial troops run in all directions, confused and desperate to escape.

In the midst of this uproar, Luke is trying to carry the enormous deadweight of his father's weakening body toward an Imperial shuttle. Finally, Luke collapses from the strain. The explosions grow louder as Vader draws him closer.

VADER

(a whisper)

Luke, help me take this mask off.

LUKE

But you'll die.

VADER

Nothing can stop that now. Just for once... let me look on you with my own eyes.

Slowly, hesitantly, Luke removes the mask from his father's face. There beneath the scars is an elderly man. His eyes do not focus. But the dying man smiles at the sight before him.

ANAKIN

(very weak)

Now...go, my son. Leave me.

LUKE

No. You're coming with me. I can't leave you here. I've got to save you.

ANAKIN

You already have, Luke. You were right about me. Tell your sister...you were right.

LUKE

Father... I won't leave you.

Darth Vader, Anakin Skywalker...Luke's father, dies. A huge explosion rocks the docking bay. Slowly, Luke rises and, half carrying, half dragging the body of his father, stumbles toward a shuttle.

131 EXT. DEATH STAR

131

The Millennium Falcon leads a swerving bomb run through the immense superstructure of the half-built Death Star. The Rebel Star Cruisers outside continually bombard the huge station. And each direct hit is answered by resonating, chain-reaction explosions within the station itself.

132 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT AND GUN PORTS

132

Lando's crew fires away at the pursuing TIE fighters as the dashing Baron of Bespin and his alien copilot home in on the main reactor shaft. It is awesome. A lone X-wing is just in front of the Falcon.

WEDGE

There it is!

LANDO

All right, Wedge. Go for the power regulator on the north tower.

WEDGE

Copy, Gold Leader. I'm already on my way out.

The X-wing heads for the top of the huge reactor and fires several proton torpedoes at the power regulator, causing a series of small explosions.

The Falcon heads for the main reactor, and when it is dangerously close, Lando fires the missiles, which shoot out of the Falcon with a powerful roar, and hit directly at the center of the main reactor.

He maneuvers the Falcon out of the winding superstructure just ahead of the continuing chain of explosions.

133 INT. REBEL STAR CRUISER - BRIDGE 133

Ackbar and other Mon Calamari lean on the railing of the bridge, watching the large screen showing the Death Star in the main briefing room.

ACKBAR

Move the fleet away from the Death Star.

134 EXT. DEATH STAR 134

An Imperial shuttle, with Luke alone in the cockpit, rockets out of the main docking bay as that entire section of the Death Star is blown away. But as Luke pilots toward the safety of the Sanctuary moon, his thoughts - enhanced by the Force - turn to his friends aboard the Millennium Falcon.

The Falcon flies at top speed, with a single X-wing as escort, over the endless surface of the Death Star. A series of explosions within the superstructure follow, then swiftly overtake the small craft as it races for an exit.

135 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT 135

Lando turns to Nien Nunb and shakes his head.

LANDO

(into comlink)

Wedge, I don't think we're going to make it.

WEDGE (VO)

You'll make it. Just follow me Gold
Leader.

LANDO

(to himself)

I promised to return his ship without a
scratch...I sure hope that old pirate
forgives me.

135A EXT. DEATH STAR

135A

An X-wing, piloted by Wedge Antilles, races out of the
exploding superstructure and whizzes toward the Sanctuary
Moon. But the Millennium Falcon is not fast enough as it
explodes with the Death Star in a supernova of glory.

136 EXT. ENDOR FOREST

136

Han and Leia, Chewie, the droids, the Rebel troops, and the
Ewoks all look to the sky as the Death Star reveals itself in
a final flash of self-destruction. All except Han cheer, as
the thirty-year-old starship pilot feels a deep personal
loss.

HAN

(whispering to himself)

Lando...

THREEPIO

(misinterpreting Han's
reference)

They did it!

Han looks down from the sky to Leia, a look of sorrow and
regret on his face. He knows he will never see the Falcon and
Lando again. His thoughts turn to Leia, as she continues to
look at the sky, watching for Luke.

137 EXT. ENDOR FOREST - NIGHT

137

Luke sets a torch to the logs stacked under a funeral pyre where his father's body lies, again dressed in black mask and helmet. He stands, watching sadly, as the flames leap higher to consume Darth Vader -- Anakin Skywalker.

In the sky above, fireworks explode and Rebel fighters zoom above the forest.

138 EXT. EWOK VILLAGE SQUARE - NIGHT

138

A huge bonfire is the centerpiece of a wild celebration. Rebels and Ewoks rejoice in the warm glow of firelight, drums beating, singing, dancing, and laughing in the communal language of victory and liberation.

Lando runs in and is enthusiastically hugged by Han and Chewie. Then, finally, Luke arrives and the friends rush to greet and embrace him. They stand close, this hardy group, taking comfort in each other's touch, together to the end.

Rebels and Ewoks join together in dancing and celebration. The original group of adventurers watch from the sidelines. Only Luke seems distracted, alone in their midsts, his thoughts elsewhere. He looks off to the side and sees three shimmering, smiling figures at the edge of the shadows: Ben Kenobi, Yoda, and Anakin Skywalker.

FADE OUT

END CREDITS OVER STAR FIELD

THE END