

STAR WARS EPISODE I: A NEW MENACE

Written by

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Based on Characters Created by George Lucas

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For George

FADE IN:

OPENING CRAWL: A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...

STAR WARS
Episode I: A New Menace

The Galactic Republic is at war. After a thousand generations of peace and prosperity, armies of clones now attack systems without motivation, and seemingly from nowhere.

Ruthless mercenary-nomads known as the MANDALORIANS, once unable to sell their advanced weaponry during peacetime, now offer to help those planets in trouble-- if they'll pay.

The Republic, unable to raise an army without Senatorial consent, reluctantly accepts Mandalorian aide while they desperately search for the leader of these 'Clone Wars.' But the conflicts are growing faster than expected....

EXT. GALAXY - OPEN SPACE

Nothing here.

No rushing starships, no looming planets.

Nothing but an endless field of stars.

So we PULL BACK into

INT. MOTHERSHIP - CLONING FACILITIES

Through a huge glass wall, still focused on the stars beyond.

Framing the glass; the classic gray walls of a starship.

Metal floors.

Cold, sterile.

Further back, we pass a pair of CLONING STATIONS.

Here we stop to observe.

These are pods with a person floating in them, or perhaps more accurately, with a person growing in them.

Clones.

Much like the Bacta tank in *The Empire Strikes Back*, only with yellow liquid here, not the familiar blue.

The people float inside their tanks like a fetus in the womb.

Complete with an UMBILICAL CORD.

But our clones are a middle-aged couple.

A MALE CLONE and a FEMALE CLONE (50s).

He in one tank, she in the other.

A light atop each tank goes from RED to GREEN.

The tanks start to DRAIN.

The process is animated, helped by droids and machinery.

Once finished, the clones stand on frail muscles.

The tanks TWIST and OPEN with a HISS.

A droid clips the umbilical cords.

Gives them white robes.

The clones stumble out.

Twitching, like newborn foals on uncertain legs.

Clones COUGH, spitting out the yellow goo.

Catch their breath.

FEMALE CLONE
(to Male Clone)
Where are we?

MYSTERIOUS VOICE (O.S.)
You've just been born.

They look past us, towards the speaker. It's a man's MYSTERIOUS VOICE, gruff and dark. Menacing.

MALE CLONE

But...who are we?

MYSTERIOUS VOICE (O.S.)

No-one. Not yet anyway, but we'll get you to conditioning soon enough. I've selected you to help me start a war. This is a great honor.

Their brows furrow.

Look to one another with confusion.

MALE CLONE

That doesn't seem right.

MYSTERIOUS VOICE (O.S.)

It will, in time.

The Female Clone runs her left hand down her right forearm.

Finds something...wrong.

She has a DEW CLAW instead of a thumb.

Shows it to the Male Clone.

FEMALE CLONE

What's--what's wrong with me?!

MYSTERIOUS VOICE (O.S.)

Replication error. It happens when we have to rush the cloning process.

They look up to the source of the voice in horror.

MYSTERIOUS VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(enjoying it)

Yes...you are disgusting. You know that instinctively, don't you? But yours is a necessary role. And now if you'll excuse me, I have my own part to play.

We pull back with the voice, staying on the clones.

His BOOTS TAP on the metal floor as he goes.

The clones hold one another with terror.

Shivering.

EXT. GALAXY - PLANET ALDERAAN

A blue ball hanging in space.

Bright and serene, yet surrounded by darkness.

Spaceships leave and enter the planet.

Orderly, two-lane traffic.

The biggest, an enormous MILITARY CRUISER, presses onward.

INT. MILITARY CRUISER - COCKPIT

The blue planet grows as the cruiser approaches.

The pilot is ANAKIN SKYWALKER (20s/30s), roguish. Confident. Wears a blue version of the classic *Star Wars* flight suit.

Anakin releases the controls, keys in the comm transmitter.

ANAKIN

Alderaan Command, this is Anakin
Skywalker of the Muirgel One.
Transmitting Prince Bail Organa's
authorization code now.

Behind him, BAIL ORGANA (30s), wears a white military uniform with a flowing cape and an easy grin.

BAIL

No matter how many times I return
home, seeing her always takes my
breath away all over again.

ANAKIN

It helps to have a beautiful
homeworld, your Highness.

BAIL

I won't argue that.

The radio BEEPS to life.

ALDEERAN COMMAND (V.O.)

(radio, filtered)

Copy, Skywalker. Muirgel One
cleared for landing. Welcome home,
Prince Bail.

EXT. SURFACE OF ALDERAAN - DAY

The military cruiser continues through the atmosphere.

The clouds reveal a bright, beautiful morning.

An ocean planet, covered in man-made islands.

The cruiser continues towards a large spaceport.

Bustling with commerce.

Humans, droids, and aliens--most with aquatic origins.

EXT. GALAXY - PLANET ALDERAAN

A one-man fighter presses forward, into the path of outbound traffic. Dangerous. Foolish, even.

Other ships flee its path. Like a game of chicken.

This is MAUL'S SHIP.

INT. MAUL'S SHIP - COCKPIT

Over the shoulder, MAUL appears as a FIGURE IN BLACK.

From his viewpoint, more ships flee from his path.

Several near misses.

Maul, neither anxious nor enjoying it.

Calmed by their panic.

His is the Mysterious Voice from the opening.

MAUL/MYSTERIOUS VOICE
I have the target in sight.

EXT. GALAXY - PLANET ALDERAAN

A dozen gigantic BATTLE CRUISERS emerge from hyperspace.

They bloom from lightspeed, then crawl forward.

STARFIGHTERS pour out of bays and engage in battle with planetary defense fighters, BLUE SQUADRON: Nine X-Wings, keeping the peace above Alderaan. Now outnumbered.

Larger DROP SHIPS emerge and press through to the surface.

INT. X-WING - BLUE 9 - COCKPIT

Blue 9's pilot, BRACKER (20s), dressed in the classic garb, scratches his mustache nervously.

Several objects rocket forward towards the fighter, growing in the windscreen as they approach.

BRACKER (BLUE 9)
What's this? Did part of the fleet
escort Prince Bail home? Wait,
those aren't...

These CLONE FIGHTERS open fire.

Laser blasts HIT.

Bracker SCREAMS out, hands up to cover his face in reflex.

EXT. GALAXY - PLANET ALDERAAN

Blue 9 X-Wing EXPLODES in a ball of fire.

Dozens of the Clone Fighters press forward.

INT. X-WING - BLUE LEADER - COCKPIT

BLUE LEADER (50s), normally a confident squad leader.

Now, shaken.

BLUE LEADER
Blue Nine? Come in, Blue Nine.
Bracker, do you read?

BLUE 4 (V.O.)
(radio, filtered)
This is Blue Four. Bracker is gone,
Blue Leader. We have hostiles in
the sector, I repeat, we have--
Aghhhh!!!

BLUE LEADER
Form up, Blue Squadron. Alderaan
Command, this is Blue Leader, we
have hostiles in the sector. Do you
read? We have hostiles in the
sector!

INT. X-WING - BLUE 6 - COCKPIT

Blue 6's Pilot, KEELIE (20s), a fighter pilot perfectly cast as a 1970s extra. His face, full of grit and determination.

KEELIE (BLUE 6)
Blue Leader, this is Blue Six. It looks like they're jamming our transmissions. We can't get word back home!

BLUE LEADER (V.O.)
(radio, filtered)
Blast it all. Copy, Blue Six. Return to base, we'll cover you.

KEELIE
Sir?

BLUE LEADER (V.O.)
(radio, filtered)
You heard me, son. Blue Squadron, all wings on Blue Six. Keelie, you've got to warn command. Those are drop ships inbound!

Keelie shakes his head, unsure.

KEELIE
Copy, Blue Leader. Blue Six returning to base.

EXT. BLUE 6

The X-wing banks, turns back towards Alderaan.

Several Clone Fighters already on his tail.

One, in firing position.

BLASTERS barely miss Blue 6.

The next will surely hit...

BOOM!

That Clone Fighter Explodes.

A second X-wing (Blue 2) fires from the rear.

INT. X-WING - BLUE 2 - COCKPIT

Blue 2's Pilot, TENNER (20s), grins. Her fresh face makes her look the youngest of the bunch.

TENNER (BLUE 2)
Got you covered, Blue Six. Take us to base!

KEELIE (V.O.)
(radio, filtered)
Thanks, Tenner. I owe you one.

TENNER
Keelie, you just make it home and we're square.

INT. X-WING - BLUE LEADER - COCKPIT

Blue Leader smiles despite himself.

BLUE LEADER
Great shooting, Blue Two. More inbound, on your six. Look alive, Blue Squadron. We've got to get Keelie back to base. Fortune favor the Kingdom...

EXT. GALAXY - PLANET ALDERAAN

The final player, a STAR SLAYER (Star Destroyer precursor) disengages a cloaking device, reveals itself.

Set back from the action.

INT. STAR SLAYER - BRIDGE

The viewport shimmers, distorting the view of the planet as the cloaking device finishes its re-entry protocol.

The soldiers here are organized like the future Empire, but even the officers wear a full suit of armor.

Each suit is unique; custom designed to fit the individual.

These are the Mandalorians.

A MANDALORIAN ADMIRAL, his armor masking emotion, turns towards his armored MANDALORIAN LIEUTENANT.

MANDALORIAN LIEUTENANT
 Sir, tracking of the assassin Maul
 and his clone forces is complete.
 They emerged from hyperspace only
 moments before we did. Clone drops
 ships inbound to the planets's
 surface. Maul's ship is inbound
 towards the Organa Royal Palace on
 Alderaan.

MANDALORIAN ADMIRAL
 Excellent. Send in our ground
 forces. But give it a few minutes.

MANDALORIAN LIEUTENANT
 Sir?

MANDALORIAN ADMIRAL
 We want the locals to get a good
 taste of battle before we rescue
 them, so they'll better appreciate
 our assistance. Studies have shown
 a higher chance for reward payout
 this way.

MANDALORIAN LIEUTENANT
 Brilliant, sir.

EXT. GALAXY - PLANET ALDERAAN

The Star Slayer, now fully visible.

Sends its own trio of MANDALORIAN DROP SHIPS, distinctly
 different from the others, towards the planet below.

EXT. ALDERAAN PALACE - ESTABLISHING - DAY

A serene and idyllic ocean palace.

Waves crash against ramparts, sending spray up the parapets.

Some beastly sea creature crests the waves.

Alien birds CAW.

INT. ALDERAAN PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAY

Not an overly ostentatious throne, but one befitting royalty.

The sun pours warmly through elaborately fitted windows.

The KING (60s) and QUEEN (50s) ORGANA, dressed in simple white robes, hold an audience with a clean-shaven Republic Captain in a grey military uniform.

The Captain, OBI-WAN KENOBI (40s), bows.

KENOBI

I won't take any more of your time, Majesty. Thank you for your cooperation in our investigation.

KING ORGANA

House Organa serves at the mercy of the Republic. Safe travels, Captain Kenobi.

With a nod to the wizened king, Kenobi leaves.

INT. PALACE CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Obi-Wan walks, pulls out a comm-link.

KENOBI

(to comm-link)

I can't put my finger on it, but something's...off. Still, they weren't lying when they said there's no cloner technology on Alderaan.

BAIL (O.S.)

Ben? Ben Kenobi?!

Obi-Wan turns back to see Prince Bail grinning.

KENOBI

Colonel Organa--

BAIL

Prince Bail while we're on my homeworld, Captain.

KENOBI

I didn't think you were home, Highness.

BAIL

I came back as soon as I'd heard of a Republic inspection, but I didn't know I'd find you here. How long has it been?

KENOBI

Too long, old friend. Word travels fast in the core systems, I see.

BAIL

The galaxy is smaller than you might think. Here alone?

KENOBI

My pilot is in the armory. Another familiar face.

BAIL

Really? I'll walk with you. Who are you training now?

INT. PALACE ARMORY - SAME

LARA (20s), a Jedi dressed like a Republic pilot, not like a hermit, inspects an armory. Her flight suit is white, instead of the typical orange.

A hovering droid, ZEE-SQUARED, helps scan and catalogue the wares. Standard rifles and helmets, nothing special.

Zee's metal and green chassis, dulled from use. This droid has seen some action.

Anakin arrives, walks past Lara and Zee. He has a high-tech mechanical leg-brace that WHIRS with use. Hint of a limp.

Lara notices. Sizes him up.

He feels her eyes on him, looks back.

ANAKIN

What?

LARA

I didn't say anything.

Anakin puts a rifle on the rack, a helmet on another.

Finishes up, uses a scanner, starts to leave.

LARA (CONT'D)

What about that one?

Anakin looks to his blaster pistol, holstered on his thigh.

ANAKIN

Not issued.

LARA

Is that a common practice among the Royal Army?

ANAKIN

How should I know?

LARA

It's a simple question.

ANAKIN

Aren't you supposed to buy a guy a drink before you grill him on cloning stations and Mandalorian weapon caches?

Zee BEEPS and Lara steps forward.

LARA

Good question, Zee. How exactly did he know what we're looking for?

ANAKIN

That'll cost you two drinks.

LARA

I've got work to do.

ANAKIN

Looking for a hidden criminal base on the least likely planet in the galaxy? I'm sure you can afford to cut out early. C'mon, I know a cantina that serves the best Klatoonian Rava in the sector.

LARA

Listen, I get it. You're a small time pilot here; shuttling royalty around isn't exciting. Maybe you were a smuggler once, now on the straight and narrow to pay off some old debts and you miss the danger. A big fish in a small pond. Now you want to exchange stories with a bigger fish. Let me save you the time--the ocean's not that interesting.

Anakin grins.

ANAKIN

Unless you come from the desert.

LARA

Let's just go our separate ways,
okay? I'm sorry I held you up--

ANAKIN

Anakin. Anakin Skywalker. And you,
Miss...?

LARA

It's Lieutenant.

ANAKIN

Ah, I guess I should buy you a
drink, then? Least I could do for
your service to the Republic.

Zee BEEPS, annoyed.

LARA

I don't know, maybe he is a clone.

Anakin's brow raises.

LARA (CONT'D)

Once they've been programmed,
clones find it hard to deviate from
their script. One-track-minds.
Remind you of anyone?

ANAKIN

Sorry to disappoint, Lieutenant.
Inspect as many systems as you
like, but you won't find another
Anakin Skywalker.

KENOBI (O.S.)

Lara?

LARA

Over here. Find anything?

Obi-Wan and Bail arrive.

KENOBI

Just a prince.

BAIL

Lara! I didn't even recognize you.
Last we met we were children, but
now... What a coincidence, seeing
the both of you here.

KENOBI

You know I don't believe in coincidence, your Highness. Lara, aren't you going to introduce us to your new friend?

She's incredibly annoyed by "friend."

Anakin plays it up.

ANAKIN

Anakin Skywalker, royal pilot. Lieutenant Lara was just thrilling me with tales of her adventures inspecting armories across the galaxy.

LARA

I was doing no such thing....

ANAKIN

You two know the Prince?

KENOBI

It's common on many worlds for royalty to serve in the military before they rule. I've been fortunate enough to serve under your Prince during his time.

BAIL

Speaking of the glory days, where do they have you two staying?

LARA

In the garrison.

BAIL

No, that won't do, not for two old friends. Knowing a Prince should have its perks.

Obi-Wan tries to wave him off.

Anakin seizes the opportunity to jibe at Lara.

ANAKIN

(low, to Lara)

Ah-ha, so that's how you got into the Academy? I thought you were a little short for a pilot.

LARA

If I give you enough credits to drink yourself into a stupor, will you just leave already?

ANAKIN

Have you really never bought a guy a drink before? That's not how it works--

Her brow furrows, she looks up.

Suddenly shoves Anakin.

LARA

Look out!

ANAKIN (CONT'D)

Hey!

The palace shakes like hit by an earthquake. A slab of rock narrowly misses them. But she shoved him before the blast.

Anakin looks at her with a mix of skepticism and awe.

EXT. PALACE - MARKETPLACE

At the foot of the palace. Organic, free-range bantha jerky. Space kombucha. Surveillance droids sell holographic photos.

A lovely morning. Until...

BOOM!

Explosions! Attack!

Ships bombard the palace and market, drop Clone Troopers.

Chaos as CLONES attack the helpless populace.

They're random; unorganized. Five copies of the same person, ten of another, working together in fireteams and squads.

Some with deformities. All with a motley medley of armaments. Attacking indiscriminately.

MAUL (20s), the fearsome figure in a black cloak, stands on the outskirts of the market, in front of his ship.

This is our first good look at him. An alien with slick red and black skin, like a poison dart frog. A ninja assassin dressed in black robes. Hood pulled up.

Brings a pair of Sci-fi binoculars to his red and black face.

PALACE ATTACK - MAUL'S POV

The palace Royal Guard are outmanned, but holding.

Exchange blaster fire from behind cover.

MARKETPLACE - SAME

Several MANDALORIANS zip-line down from their own drop ships.

Diverse armor, some reminiscent of Boba Fett, others like a Stormtrooper, more unrecognizable. Humans, aliens, cyborgs.

A lineup that proves the Bounty Hunters in *The Empire Strikes Back* are only a shadow of this mighty clan.

They fight off the nearest clone-creatures, saving the day.

Two humanoid Mandalorians in unique armor arrive close by. These are ROSE and GUILD (20s).

ROSE

People of...what planet is this again?

GUILD

Alderaan.

ROSE

Alder...anians? Alder-reans...? Alderish?

GUILD

Citizens.

ROSE

No need for alarm! As soon as your leadership agrees to pay, this will all be over quickly.

Guild rifle-butts a civilian, knocking him out.

ROSE (CONT'D)

I just said no need for alarm, so you hit one?

GUILD

Guy looked like a trouble-maker. What? No need for alarm now.

ROSE

You're undermining my authority and making us look like fools.

GUILD

Think you might be doing that on your own.

ROSE

Shut up. Let's go shoot some clones.

GUILD

Now you're speaking my language.

MAUL

Binoculars lowered, we see his terrifying, painted face up close for the first time. He's the stuff of nightmares.

Four clones, all copies of the same original, run at him. Weapons drawn. On the attack.

He waves his hand, a perversion of the Jedi Mind Trick.

MAUL

Clone scum. Kill yourselves.

The clones stop. Confused at first, then all at once--

They aim their weapons at one another without hesitation.

Blasters FIRE and they all fall.

Maul sneers at their bodies with disdain.

Turns, scans with the binoculars again.

PALACE ATTACK - MAUL'S POV

The palace guard are gone. Dead or abandoned their posts.

MAUL

Lowers the binoculars. Steps past the four corpses.

Walks toward the Palace, at home in the chaos.

A Mandalorian runs headlong towards him, SMASHES into a "Force wall" Maul deploys with a flick of the wrist.

The soldier hits seemingly nothing, bounces off.

INT. PALACE ARMORY

Soldiers sprint past our heroes, to and from the armory, scrambling to prepare for attack.

KENOBI

Bail! Let's go! The palace can't take much more punishment.

BAIL

No, my parents. Protect the crown!

KENOBI

We need to get you--

BAIL

That's an order, Captain.

The men stare at each other a beat.

BAIL (CONT'D)

I'll meet you in the war room. Go!

Obi Wan and Lara run down the hallway. Zee follows.

ALDERAAN PALACE - VARIOUS

Explosions rock the palace. Clones breach the walls.

Helpless civilians caught in the crossfire.

Royal Troopers do their best, outnumbered.

INT. PALACE CORRIDOR

Bail, Anakin, and four soldiers fight off the clones as they run down a corridor.

Using alcoves for cover, they make ground little by little.

EXT. PALACE COURTYARD

Royal Troopers go for their big guns.

Teams of three lug huge cannons.

Six men board an armored tank-like craft.

The Clone Troopers rush forward.

BOOM!

A spider-like Clone Walker obliterates the tank.
 The Royal Troopers, out-manned and out-gunned by technology.
 Some Clones die, but the tide of battle is clear.

THRONE ROOM

The Jedi arrive, ready for a fight.

The Royal Guard are all dead, the thrones empty.

Too late.

Wait, no--

The King and Queen emerge, hidden behind their thrones.

KING ORGANA

Captain! You've got to get us out
 of here. We're being attacked.
 Kharkaara has organized a first-
 strike with clones.

LARA

Kharkaara? That's impossible!

Zee BEEP-BOPS in agreement.

KENOBI

Slow down. What exactly happened?

QUEEN ORGANA

(confused)

We're...being attacked. Kharkaara
 has organized a first-strike...with
 clones.

KENOBI

It's more than just a clone attack.
 I sense a dark presence.

KABOOOOM!

The large windows explode inward.

A war machine enters (a precursor to an AT-ST) and FIRES.

Kenobi rushes to protect the royalty.

Lara LIFTS a wooden altar with the Force, into the path of
 the laser cannons. It EXPLODES, but shields the crown.

KENOBI (CONT'D)

Lara, this way!

He ushers the royals through a back door. Goes himself.

She runs, erratic. Dodges the cannons.

Barely escapes.

The doorway, too small for the machine to follow.

INT. PALACE CORRIDOR

Maul walks down a battle-ensconced hallway.

Calm, in a river of chaos.

The soldiers nearest Maul die as he passes. Necks SNAP of their own volition, blood vessels BURST in eyes.

People just...die. Royalists and clones alike.

Clutching hearts or throats in pain.

Bail and his entourage round the corner. Freeze.

This sight, somehow worse than the rest of the battle.

Maul pulls back his cloak--revealing a CROWN OF THORNS.

MAUL

You must be Prince Bail Organa.

Maul reaches out and Bail is frozen, racked with pain.

Rifles rise to defend their prince. Maul motions, other hand, and one of the guards puts his rifle up to Bail's head.

The other three guards draw down on this "traitor" but the man obviously struggles, not in control of his own limbs.

Anakin backpedals in fear and horror. Ducks away.

MAUL (CONT'D)

Don't worry, Highness. I'm to take you alive. Your men, however....

Maul motions and one guard clutches at his own throat.

The other two try to shoot. A piece of debris SMASHES one. Metal beam IMPALES the other.

Then there is only Maul, the "traitor," and Bail.

MAUL (CONT'D)

(to the traitor)

Thank you. As a reward, you will
spend the rest of your days
dwelling on this moment with hatred
and regret. Those feelings shall
never leave you.

Maul touches the man's head. Falls like a sack, unconscious.

Maul reaches out to Bail, the prince frozen.

Bail floats forward, toes scraping on the tile.

Grits his teeth, difficult to speak.

BAIL

Who...are...you?

MAUL

I am a prince, like yourself. Only
my inheritance shall be much
greater.

Touches Bail on the forehead, catches his unconscious body,
throws it over one shoulder.

Maul starts to leave, stops.

Senses something.

ANAKIN

Cowers out of sight.

Hiding. Sweating.

Holds his blaster, shivers in fear.

MAUL (O.S.)

Your fear, it has served you well.

Anakin closes his eyes, grits his teeth. Breathes hard.

Finally musters his courage. Jumps up. Blaster drawn.

Too late.

They're gone.

EXT. ALDERAAN PALACE - COURTYARD

The Clones have all but wiped out the Royal Troopers here.

The last ROYAL SOLDIERS cling together behind a broken concrete barrier. Down low, but the Clones are coming.

ROYAL SOLDIER 1
This is it.

ROYAL SOLDIER 2
Fortune favor the Kingdom.

They raise their blasters, ready for the last stand.

They turn, look over the barrier, only to be met by a whole army of clones at the ready. Their rifles seek the pair out.

What can they do against that?

BLAM! BLAM!

A squad of Mandalorians breaks in from the side, an AT-AT precursor war machine fighting with them.

The Clones, BLASTED away by the gigantic lasers.

The spidery Clone Walker is CRUSHED.

The Royal Soldiers join the fight with renewed vigor.

EXT. PALACE - BUNKER

Kenobi and Lara help the King & Queen out the back of the Palace, back towards a hardened war room.

Several MANDALORIANS guard the structure.

Kenobi notes their presence, on edge.

Soldiers escort the royalty inside.

A Royal Officer, GENERAL MAGNUS (60s) emerges.

GENERAL MAGNUS
Thank you, Captain. The crown will
be safe here with us. The clones
are already retreating.

Kenobi and Lara look back.

The Palace smoulders. Fighting has slowed.

The Mandalorians appear to have bested the clones.

Some help the Royal Troops with their wounded. Take them into their ships for treatment.

Rose and Guild are here.

ROSE
Happy to help.

GUILD
So long as we're paid.

ROSE
You're not supposed to say that part out loud, you dolt.

LARA
Mercenaries....

KENOBI
What of Bail Organa, General?

GENERAL MAGNUS
I'm afraid he's been taken. I have reports of a man in black. If this attacker is who I think it is...

They wait for him to elaborate.

GENERAL MAGNUS (CONT'D)
They say he's the most ruthless assassin in the galaxy. No one knows his true name, but because of his brutality people call him Maul.

KENOBI
Which way did he go?

EXT. ALDERAAN - DOCKING BAY

Maul carries Bail over one shoulder. Not slowed a bit.

Anakin follows at a distance.

Uses cover. Runs from spot to spot.

Still drenched in cold sweat.

Breathing hard.

But he's not quitting.

A ramp lowers on Maul's ship. The assassin enters.

Anakin looks around. What now?

There's a Y-Wing....

EXT. DOCKING BAY - PERIPHERY

Lara and Kenobi arrive at the edge of the docking bay.

An explosion BLOOMS on the horizon behind them.

They look back. That's where the war room bunker was....

Are the King and Queen safe?

They share a concerned look, but no time.

Ahead, Maul's ship hovers, makes a turn.

Escape velocity!

Right behind it, the Y-wing rises, shiny and new. Painted with symbols of the Republic.

Anakin in the cockpit.

Zee-Squared BLEEPs a string of curses.

LARA

Hey, Skywalker stole our ship!

The Y-wing BLASTS out from the planet's surface.

Lara points at a medium-sized cruiser nearby. It's odd-shaped and certainly alien. This is the BASIL ARCADIA.

Lara waves towards it, runs.

KENOBI

Why that one?

LARA

C'mon!

Kenobi follows her to the ship.

She tries the controls. Nope.

Ramp won't extend.

KENOBI

What about this other one?

LARA

No time.

She SMASHES a panel, then Zee accesses the wires.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

A klaxon alarm WAILS, strobe light illuminates the dark ship.

The loading bay opens, our heroes rush in.

Zee operates the controls.

Alarm stops, lights on.

LARA

Thanks, Zee. Master Kenobi, secure
the ship, I'll get us flying.

Obi-Wan nods and goes to look about.

Lara rushes to the cockpit.

Finds the controls alien. Literally.

She's having trouble.

Obi-Wan sees nothing but tunnels in the rear of the ship,
severely alien. Like an oversized insect colony.

Zee scans the console in an effort to help Lara.

Kenobi arrives at the cockpit.

KENOBI

What's the problem?

LARA

Blast, who designed this thing?

KENOBI

What did you expect? You're
stealing a Reef-class cruiser.

There's a TITTING from deep in the ship.

Obi-Wan turns and a bug-like, man-sized crustacean ALIEN
comes from the cocoon-like workings of the cruiser.

This is SCOL.

The alien looms over Kenobi, menacing.

Scol CLICKS and snaps angrily in ALIEN SPEECH.

LARA

Easy. Not stealing. We need to,
ahh, conscript this ship. To save
the Prince.

Scol SCREECHES in protest. Zee BEEPS argumentatively.

KENOBI

Please, my arthropoid friend. We
have precious little time.

The creature TITTERS contemplatively.

LARA

Yes, you'll be paid. But not if we
waste anymore time!

Scol gets to the controls. CHIRPS instruction.

KENOBI

Scol, is it? Thank you, Scol. I'm
Captain Kenobi and this is Lara, my
Lieutenant.

LARA

A pleasure, I'm sure. Now how in
the seventh sector do we fly this
thing?

Scol SCREECHES, presses buttons. Several other smallish alien
creatures come out of panels to operate the ship in unity.

Like a single hive-mind, but more a coral reef.

EXT. GALAXY - PLANET ALDERAAN

Maul's ship flies past, the Y-wing hot on his tail.

INT. MAUL'S SHIP - COCKPIT

Maul steers.

Bail lies in a rear seat, unconscious.

Maul presses a dial.

MAUL

I have the Prince. What of the King
and Queen?

In response, CLONE COMMAND replies on comm.

CLONE COMMAND (V.O.)
 (radio, filtered)
 The King and Queen are dead, as
 ordered.

MAUL
 Good. Stop this Republic fighter.

INT. Y-WING - COCKPIT

Anakin pushes the throttle to full.
 His screen stays locked on Maul's ship.
 Others appear on the scope. Lots more.

ANAKIN
 Anakin, what are you doing?

EXT. GALAXY - PLANET ALDERAAN

A dozen CLONE FIGHTERS fly in to engage the Y-Wing.
 Anakin performs impressive maneuvers, dodges attacks.
 A barrel roll and two Clone Fighters COLLIDE.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA - COCKPIT

Kenobi and Lara witness the explosion. Distant.

KENOBI
 There! That must be Skywalker.

LARA
 Impressive, for a bush pilot.

KENOBI
 Can't this ship go any faster?

Scol CLICKS angrily.

LARA
 They're almost in hyperspace range.

KENOBI
 Hail his comm.

INT. Y-WING - COCKPIT

Anakin flies with everything in him.

Radio comes to life.

KENOBI (V.O.)
 (radio, filtered)
 Skywalker, come in. This is Captain
 Kenobi of the Republic fleet. Do
 you have Prince Organa?

Anakin swallows hard. Purpose falters, slightly.

ANAKIN
 I'll get him back.

KENOBI (V.O.)
 (radio, filtered)
 Tell us what happened, Anakin.

ANAKIN
 You wouldn't believe me. He wasn't
 human, but something...

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

ANAKIN (V.O.)
 (radio, filtered)
 ...evil. I don't know how else to
 describe it. He had this power.
 Like he could...bend the world to
 his will.

LARA
 A Jedi?

Scol CHIRPS with incredulity.

INT. Y-WING

ANAKIN
 You know, this morning I would have
 told you I didn't believe in Jedi
 any more than ghosts or devils.

A warning blares on his console: TARGET PREPARING FOR
 LIGHTSPEED. CONFIRM FOLLOW?

Anakin selects: CONFIRM. It flashes.

ANAKIN (CONT'D)
Now here I am chasing...

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

 ANAKIN (V.O.)
 (audio, filtered)
 ...someone who's all three.

Kenobi smiles at Anakin's resolve.

Scol TITTERS and Zee BEEPS.

 LARA
 He's making the jump to lightspeed!

 KENOBI
 Anakin, wait!

EXT. GALAXY - PLANET ALDERAAN

Maul's ship blinks from view, then the Y-wing goes.

The Clone Fighters pull away.

Basil Arcadia approaches.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

Scol CLICKS angrily, waving his multitudinous limbs.

 KENOBI
 Where did they go?

 LARA
 We didn't get a lock. Skywalker,
 Maul, and the prince are...

 KENOBI
 ...Gone.

Zee gives a sad, petering BEEP.

Scol SCREECHES once more.

 LARA
 Clone Fighters, bring up weapons!

 KENOBI
 Reef Cruisers don't have weapons.

LARA
Great, I guess we should have
'conscripted' a combat ship.

Scol CLICKS a cheeky reply.

LARA (CONT'D)
I'll keep that in mind next time.
Evasive maneuvers! Deflector
shields at full! You do have those,
don't you?

EXT. GALAXY - PLANET ALDERAAN

The Basil Arcadia veers away from the fighters, as the
fighters do the same.

Mutual retreat.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

LARA
They're retreating?

KENOBI
They got what they came for....

This moment hangs heavy.

KENOBI (CONT'D)
Who's the governor of this sector?

LARA
Governor Palpatine recently assumed
the position on Corruscant, I
think.

KENOBI
He's done well for himself.

LARA
You know him?

KENOBI
Our paths have crossed before.
He'll help us. Let's get a message
out to him, we need to update the
Republic.

EXT. GALAXY - MANDALORIAN MOTHERSHIP

Anakin arrives at a seemingly random spot in space.

No planets.

A whirling nebula on the horizon.

INT. Y-WING - COCKPIT

For a moment, Anakin is mesmerized.

ANAKIN

Where...am I?

Then his scope shows Maul's ship.

Turns towards it.

Through the cockpit, sees an enormous MOTHERSHIP.

A man-made ball with a mechanical ring at the equator.

Waaaaaaaay too big. Super Star Destroyer sized. Bigger.

On its way to being a Death Star.

Maul's ship disappears inside.

The horizon quivers, like it's cloudy in space.

Like a a swarm of gnats.

Are those all...starfighters?

ANAKIN (CONT'D)

I've got a bad feeling about this.

Sensors and alarms BLARE inside his ship.

He's being targeted.

EXT. GALAXY - PLANET CORRUSCANT - ESTABLISHING

Shines like satellite imagery of city-scapes at night.

The whole planet glows with electricity.

No sunlight or moonlight; all artificial.

EXT. CORRUSCANT - REPUBLIC CAPITOL - NIGHT

Down on the surface, further evidence of civilization.

Nothing grows here, save for commerce.

A sprawling, planet-wide city.

Flying cars and spacecraft dock atop towers.

The surface so far down as to be invisible.

One building stands out, the GOVERNMENT PALACE.

A skyscraper to rule all others.

INT. GOVERNMENT PALACE - PALPATINE'S CHAMBERS

Through the window, we head inside.

The office bare, cold. Formal. Large and open.

Governor PALPATINE (50s) sits at an impressive desk.

He looks tired. The well-groomed, weary face of a politician.
Dressed in regal, purple robes indicative of his position.

From his chair, he converses with a hologram of Kenobi.

Though seated, the desk is raised so the standing hologram
appears subservient to the leader.

KENOBI (HOLOGRAM)

The Y-Wing was closer, right on his
tail. I'd never seen a pilot so
daring before.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA - LOUNGE

Obi-Wan stands before a seated hologram of Palpatine.

Lara listens from behind Kenobi, glaring after his last.

KENOBI

We lost them on the jump to
lightspeed, Governor.

The hologram's fingers form a bridge, contemplating.

PALPATINE (HOLOGRAM)

Skywalker...

INT. PALPATINE'S CHAMBERS

PALPATINE

I remember that name. Those maneuvers cost us three command ships during the Crisis at Torbund.

INTERCUT BETWEEN PALPATINE'S CHAMBERS AND BASIL ARCADIA

LARA

(whispers)

He's a Torbund veteran?

PALPATINE

And now he might have cost us the life of a Prince as well.

KENOBI

The King seems to think Kharkaara is behind the attack.

Lara steps forward, her hologram added.

LARA

That's not possible! Alderaan is one of our oldest allies.

KENOBI

You'll excuse the lieutenant. My apprentice is a native of Kharkaara.

PALPATINE

I'm afraid you'll have a hard time explaining that to the people of Alderaan now that their King and Queen are dead.

Obi-Wan and Lara exchange a look.

KENOBI

But...we delivered them to the War Room personally. It's a hardened shelter--

PALPATINE

Yes, that's what General Magnus reported. I'm told the explosion killed them quickly. And the Prince could be anywhere in the Galaxy by now...

The Jedi are silent for a moment.

The gravity of the situation sinks in.

LARA

Wait a minute. Not 'anywhere.' The Y-Wing is a Republic ship. We can track its destination remotely!

PALPATINE

Excellent idea. And we will do so in due course, but this royalist conflict mustn't be your priority. We must find whomever is creating these clones. Continue your inspection rounds and find their homeworld--

KENOBI

Governor, I'm asking you Jedi to Jedi. Give us leave to follow Skywalker and reclaim Bail Organa.

Scol TITTERS something urgently from the cockpit.

Lara turns and rushes back.

KENOBI (CONT'D)

Skywalker described a force-user and I sensed a dark presence....

PALPATINE

A fallen Jedi is a most dangerous foe. My master taught me never to underestimate someone who has embraced the Dark Side.

Lara arrives from the cockpit.

LARA

The Mandalorians. They're leaving. Scol tracked their jump to hyperspace.

KENOBI

Excellent, transmit the location to the capitol.

LARA

He's just triangulated tracking information on the Y-wing as well.

KENOBI

Fine, Lara. Send that--

LARA

Master...they're the same
coordinates. They're headed to the
same place.

KENOBI

Are you certain?

LARA

Which means--this dark Jedi. He's
working with the Mandalorians!

Palpatine leans forward with renewed interest.

PALPATINE

If this is true, these mercenaries
are more than simple war
profiteers. An act of aggression
like this could give us the votes
needed to mobilize the Republic
fleet. Never mind your inspections.
Return to Corruscant and we shall
convince the senate to act!

KENOBI

All due respect, Bail Organa was
taken alive. We need to launch a
rescue mission. He is now heir to
Alderaan's throne!

PALPATINE

(hesitates)

We must think of the greater good.
The Galaxy is in upheaval because
of this assassin and these
mercenaries. If we can destroy them
both with one swift action, we will
save billions of lives.

Kenobi and Lara exchange a look. Obi Wan changes tactics.

KENOBI

What are your orders, Governor
Palpatine?

PALPATINE

If we're to battle cloners and
mercenaries, we must convince the
Senate for emergency mobilization
of a standing army! There is little
time. I need your full support.

KENOBI

I understand.

PALPATINE

Good. I'll see you soon.

KENOBI

May the Force be with you.

Palpatine's hologram disappears before Obi-Wan finishes.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

Kenobi and Lara sit in silence for a moment.

LARA

I can't believe that bureaucrat is a Jedi.

KENOBI

He is a politician, I am a soldier, and you--

LARA

I know, I know. There is more than one path to the will of the Force.

Kenobi nods. Lara, clearly frustrated, turns back to the cockpit. Obi-Wan follows.

LARA (CONT'D)

We're headed to Corruscant.

KENOBI

No...Scol, set course for those Mandalorian coordinates.

LARA

We're disobeying a direct order?

KENOBI

Of course not. You heard the Governor. He needs my full support to convince the Senate. But he didn't say anything about coming straight away, did he?

LARA

I suppose not...and what better way to convince the Senate of this dark Jedi/Mandalorian collusion than by presenting them with the very man they kidnapped?!

KENOBI

Precisely. I can't guarantee our success, much less our safety, but I know Bail wouldn't hesitate to do the same for us.

Lara nods.

Scol TITTERS angrily.

LARA

Don't worry. It isn't called a King's ransom for nothing. You'll be well compensated by the crown.

EXT. GALAXY - MANDALORIAN MOTHERSHIP

The Basil Arcadia exits hyperspace.

The space station eclipses the nebula.

No sign of the fighters, nor of Anakin.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA - COCKPIT

They look at the mega-ship in awe.

KENOBI

These are certainly the right coordinates.

LARA

Now comes the easy part. Smashing our way through the Mandalorian blockade, fighting a fallen Jedi, and rescuing Bail Organa from a militarized fortress.

The ship's alarms WAIL.

Scol SCREECHES.

LARA (CONT'D)

What I wouldn't give to sit behind a blaster cannon!

Scol TITTERS something and pulls up an ominous red holographic screen on the controls.

KENOBI

No! Please. Do not activate the self-destruct sequence just yet.

LARA
Self-destruct!?

KENOBI
Reef culture forbids capture of
their ships. As the Captain, it's
his job to go down with--

LARA
Over my dead body!

Scol CLICKS something to the effect that he wouldn't mind
that solution much at all.

KENOBI
Calm yourselves. There are
alternatives to fighting, you know.

Scol and Zee SKITTER and BEEP in agreement.

LARA
It's unanimous. What do we do?

KENOBI
Hail the command ship. Emergency
signal. Now!

The radio BUZZES to life.

MANDALORIAN TECH (V.O.)
(radio, filtered)
We read you, Reef-class ship Basil
Arcadia. You must be lost.

Obi-Wan steps forward, keys the radio.

KENOBI
Negative. We followed your drop
ships from Alderaan.

Silence.

All exchange concerned glances.

LARA
That's your plan?

MANDALORIAN TECH (V.O.)
(radio, filtered)
Who is this? State your business.

KENOBI
This is General Obi-Wan Kenobi.

LARA

General?

KENOBI

I will be if we pull this off...
 (to radio)
 This ship was conscripted by the Republic. We were...impressed by your soldiers. I'm here to inspect your armaments and place an order.

The line goes dead.

LARA

It's not going to work.

KENOBI

Never underestimate the mercenary's capacity for greed.

MANDALORIAN TECH (V.O.)

(radio, filtered)
 Basil Arcadia cleared for entry.
 Docking bay twenty-seven.

LARA

Yeah, okay. Might as well get the I-told-you-so out of the way--

KENOBI

Lara...you're going to find Bail while I keep them busy with this ruse.

LARA

What? Alone? How? Just start knocking on doors?

KENOBI

You're ready for this. Remember your training and you'll do fine. But even so...it's best to avoid this 'Maul.' We still don't know what he's capable of.

INT. MOTHERSHIP - CLONING FACILITIES

Anakin lies back, bound and gagged.

Strapped to a terrible contraption.

Medical tubes hooked up. IVs and the like.

Anakin struggles against his restraints.

Maul watches.

Moves close, inches from Anakin.

SNIFFS him.

MAUL

Your fear. I've never felt an emotion so purely. And yet, you came here willingly. The feeling which initially overwhelmed you has been harnessed as pure rage. It's magnificent.

Anakin offers MUFFLED CURSES from the gag.

Maul flips a lever.

A yellow liquid flows towards Anakin.

Anakin struggles with renewed strength, to no avail.

INT. MOTHERSHIP - DOCKING BAY 27

An impressive military force awaits the Jedi.

All of it, precursor technology to the Empire.

The ceiling, lined with what look like early TIE fighters.

The floor, covered by war machines and armored Troopers.

Among the ships in the docking bay is Maul's fighter.

The Basil Arcadia flies in, landing approach.

Rose and Guild are in the greeting party.

ROSE

Try not to hit anyone.

GUILD

Thanks. Now that you've said it, it's all I can think about.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA - COCKPIT

Lara watches the scene, ducked down.

The ship lands.

LARA

There's no way. Look how many are waiting for us! How am I supposed to get past all that?

KENOBI

Calm yourself, Lara. Master Yoda once taught me, 'Though you may find conflict without, you will never know conflict within, if you follow the will of the Force.'

She takes a deep breath, nods.

DOCKING BAY 27

The ramp lowers on the Basil Arcadia.

STEAM discharges around the ramp, creating a cloud.

Obi-Wan walks through; cool, calm, collected.

The Mandalorians stare him down.

KENOBI

Well? Who's in charge here?

From the soldiers, an armored ATTACHE steps forward.

Though her mask makes it impossible to tell age, gender, or species, her voice is stern. Commands respect.

ATTACHE

General...Kenobi, was it? We are honored to receive you.

In the b.g. Lara slides out to the back of the ramp.

LARA

Behind the ship.

Shimmies down the large pneumatic piston that controls the ramp. The ramp itself is her cover. Quick, agile, athletic.

Zee floats near her feet.

KENOBI (O.S.)

It is I, who is honored. Thank you for seeing me without notice.

KENOBI

Walks, ushering the Attache with him. All eyes on Kenobi.

In the b.g. Lara darts from between crates and obstacles.

ATTACHE

It's only you? No entourage?

KENOBI

I'm afraid we were separated on the planet. The ship is a Reef-class cruiser, which means the pilot and crew rarely leave its confines.

ATTACHE

Indeed. Let's proceed, then.

LARA

Ducks behind cover.

The mothership serves as the Mandalorian homeworld, with these corridors as the busy streets.

A group of soldiers comes from the front, another the side.

She huddles at the epicenter of their paths.

They're going to see her!

Zee WHIRS quietly with fright.

Lara makes a motion, and both groups turn back.

STUNNED MANDO

What was that?

Some start towards the "sound."

The trick complete, Lara presses on and out of sight.

KENOBI

Looks up at the ceiling, full of TIE fighter precursors.

ATTACHE

It's all about efficiency and mass. In a straight fight, these fighters would lose to, say, an X-wing.

(MORE)

ATTACHE (CONT'D)

But we can store ten fighters in the space it takes to service an X-wing. At half the cost.

KENOBI

And your pilots don't mind flying out-gunned?

ATTACHE

Out-gunned? When you outnumber your enemy ten-to-one?

KENOBI

Provided you have the manpower.

ATTACHE

Indeed. It's my understanding that the Republic doesn't keep a central army. That your fleet consists of each planet's armed forces, lent out for operations once approved by Senatorial vote.

KENOBI

You seem to know our governmental procedures quite well, for an outsider.

ATTACHE

It begs the question, General. By what authority are you purchasing armaments?

KENOBI

I'd be happy to discuss that with your commander.

ATTACHE

I'm afraid the Mandalore is tending to other matters.

INT. CORRUSCANT - REPUBLIC SENATE FLOOR

A grand amphitheater, representative of all the species and races of the inhabited worlds in the Galactic Republic.

Twi'leks, humans, old favorites, and new.

Governor Palpatine gives an impassioned appeal from a platform, which hovers in the middle.

His voice carries on a PA system.

PALPATINE

This menace, this dread assassin, has taken a Prince from the core systems. Known for brutality, seldom leaving witnesses, we fear Bail Organa for dead. When a planet cannot protect its own royal heir, who among us, then, is safe?

Various species react, their murmurs echo.

PALPATINE (CONT'D)

But what we do know for certain, is that this 'Maul' could not have achieved a level of attack such as this acting alone. Republic forces have confirmed his involvement with the techno-mercenaries who profiteer from the Clone Wars. The Mandalorians must be stopped before they manufacture further conflict!

Many of the senators nod in agreement.

The grumbles grow louder.

Palpatine raises his voice in kind.

PALPATINE (CONT'D)

If the Republic had a standing army, we might have stopped them at Alderaan. Instead, I must ask for emergency mobilization of the fleet. Friends, it is not too late. Lend us your brave fighters. Send your warriors against the Mandalorians. Let them know that their aggressions will go unchecked no longer. If we strike now, with no chance of retreat, we will be that much closer to returning to the peace we all so long for. We must act! Finally, we will be the ones to catch them by surprise!

The Senate ERUPTS with a standing ovation.

The intoxication of power evident on Palpatine's face.

We linger on his reaction. Shimmering eyes. A tight grin.

INT. MOTHERSHIP - TRAMWAY

Lara peers out over a major thoroughfare.

The tramway sits recessed below, a canyon.

Zee accesses the computer from a terminal, like droids do.

Down below, Troopers load bodies onto a floating Death Cart.

LARA

What are they doing?

The bodies: those fallen from Alderaan.

Clones, Royal Troopers, civilians, and stripped-down Mandalorian casualties. All together.

LARA (CONT'D)

Zee, see if you can pull up something on where they're taking the dead.

Zee BEEPS in response.

LARA (CONT'D)

Just do it. Their own soldiers, I understand, but why bring dead civilians back here?

Zee detaches, BLEEP-BOP-BOOPS an explanation.

LARA (CONT'D)

They're taking them where?! Come on, we've got to follow them.

Zee floats a clear 'no' and BEEPS emphatically.

LARA (CONT'D)

I don't care if the cell block is the other way. If Bail's in there now, he'll still be there once we find out what they're doing with these bodies.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA - COCKPIT

Several of the cruiser's alien Reef creatures stare out the windscreen, watching Kenobi.

They GURGLE something to Scol.

Scol CHIRPS back and his gaze goes from Kenobi and the Troopers to the open slice of space they entered from.

The docking bay sits open, unsecured.

Back to Kenobi, to the soldiers, then to escape.

Scol's contemplations are obvious.

DOCKING BAY 27

Kenobi indicates a fighter sitting low, on a pedestal. Like the hottest new car on the lot.

Fans will recognize this as VADER'S TIE FIGHTER.

The starfighter, strapped by a pair of CABLES and WINCHES.

KENOBI

And that one?

ATTACHE

Prototype. Exclusively for ship-to-ship combat. Designed to hold its own. For a flight leader, perhaps.

KENOBI

What about foot soldiers?

The Attache turns, indicates the men.

KENOBI (CONT'D)

But you Mandalorians outfit yourselves, do you not? Each man a Mandalore in his own eyes.

ATTACHE

Indeed. You've done your research as well, General.

KENOBI

Certainly that wouldn't do for a standing army of the Republic.

The Attache approaches Rose and Guild.

Up close, their armor is somewhere between a prequel Clone Trooper and a Stormtrooper. Not white, though. More flair.

ATTACHE

Take these two, for example. Your helmets, if you please.

Rose and Guild take off their helmets.

We see their faces.

The attache gives one to Obi-Wan, inspects the other.

Kenobi follows along.

ATTACHE (CONT'D)

The breathing apparatus filters
smoke from the battlefield and the
eyepiece protects against shrapnel.
You'd want basic features like
this, for your soldiers. Bulk
ordered, all the same. Efficiency
and mass, General.

Obi-Wan looks to Rose and Guild, then to their helmets.

KENOBI

Makes the soldiers interchangeable.

CLONER RECYCLING CENTER

Lara and Zee creep along the scaffolding; follow the body-
haulers from above.

Finally, they arrive at their destination.

Enormous semi-transparent vats of a yellowish goo sit like at
an industrial chemical plant.

The Mandalorians toss the bodies into the liquid.

Something in the liquid swirls around each body as it
arrives. Almost microscopic, only visible en masse.

A stream of shadow drains from the bodies, down towards
piping which leads out the vats into a separate room.

Lara follows these with her eyes, then heads that way.

Zee COOS a warning bleep.

LARA

(whispers)

Quiet!

Lara shimmies down, jumps onto a terminal, down to the floor.

Silent, dextrous.

Zee floats behind her, looks over his "shoulder."

CLONER GROW ROOM

Smaller vats in here.

Like the tanks from the opening, only many more.

Dozens of them.

Inside, grotesque man-sized embryos of all shapes, sizes, sex and species. One abomination per tank.

LARA

What is this? Do they breed their own soldiers?

Zee shakes and BEEPS.

LARA (CONT'D)

(realizing)

The Mandalorians...are the cloners!

They continue on, Lara gaping at the horrors.

LARA (CONT'D)

They're creating conflict just so they can profit from it. Those greedy sons of--

Zee BEEPS loudly, effectively censoring her swear.

She looks back just as the droid speeds off.

Lara turns, jogs into

CLONING FACILITIES

Dashes after the droid, Zee WHIRS and BEEPS.

Finds Anakin, still strapped to the same equipment.

LARA

Skywalker?!

Lara rushes in, takes his gag.

Anakin is dazed, out of it. Eyes flutter.

Lara pulls tubes from his body.

He comes to, drowsy, angry and confused.

LARA (CONT'D)
 Hey, it's okay, we're friends,
 remember?

ANAKIN
 (out of it)
 ...friends?

LARA
 Captain Kenobi is at the docking
 bay. We're going to get you out of
 here, Anakin. It's me, Lara.

Anakin, freed of the confines, steps off the machine.

Into Lara's arms; she catches him.

Steadies himself.

LARA (CONT'D)
 C'mon, once we bring Bail back home
 to Alderaan, I'll let you buy me
 that drink.

ANAKIN
 You...you're buying.

Zee BEEPS, as if to groan.

LARA
 There he is.

ANAKIN
 Prince Bail. Is he...? Did they do
 the...same to him?

His eyes red, pained.

LARA
 What happened? What were they doing
 to you?

ANAKIN
 They, he...Maul...kept talking
 about the strength of my emotions.
 He's insane. We can't stop him.

LARA
 Nonsense.

ANAKIN
 Lara, you don't get it. He controls
 things. He can kill you just by
 thinking about it.

LARA

Only to someone not in tune with the Force. A fallen Jedi, no matter how powerful, can't disrupt the energy field of another Jedi.

Anakin looks at her, takes a step back.

ANAKIN

You...you're...?

LARA

A humble servant of the Force, yes. Captain Kenobi is training me in the ways of the Jedi Knights.

ANAKIN

The things I've seen him do are impossible.

LARA

Not impossible. It's...it's like a starfighter, to someone who's never seen one. If you took a tribal warrior from the wilderness, you couldn't possibly expect to pit him against an ace pilot, right? Because he's had no experience, no training.

ANAKIN

You're talking about a piece of equipment, not some mysterious...

LARA

Energy field that surrounds and binds all living things?

ANAKIN

Yeah, that.

LARA

The Force flows through us all, Anakin.

ANAKIN

Not me.

LARA

Don't sell yourself short. The Force was with you, getting here.

(MORE)

LARA (CONT'D)

You know that feeling when you fly,
when everything else melts away
until the fighter responds like
it's a part of you? That's the
Force working through you.

Anakin finds his belt-holster on a table nearby, puts it on.

ANAKIN

That's called being a damned good
pilot, and that's enough for me.
Let's go find Prince Bail.

Lara shakes her head; gives up.

LARA

He's being held at the detention
block. This way.

Anakin steps forward, stops when he sees a computer display.

The screen graphic shows a silhouette, his.

The image, about three-quarters "drawn in."

Genetic mapping: 75% complete.

A dark countenance washes over Anakin.

Draws his blaster pistol.

LARA (CONT'D)

Anakin, don't!

BLAM!

Shoots the screen.

Turns. Aims at the rest of the cloning machinery.

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

Destroys the equipment that held him.

ALARMS WAIL.

BLAM! BLAM!

Thick black smoke pours from the terminals.

LARA (CONT'D)

Anakin, stop!

She reaches out, tries to snap him out of it.

Whirls on her, blaster aimed.

She falls back a step, hands up.

LARA (CONT'D)
Hey! It's me. You're okay!

Blaster drops to his side. Reason returns to his face.

ANAKIN
I'm sorry, I don't know what--

LARA
It's okay.

She reaches out, hand on his cheek. Closes her eyes.

LARA (CONT'D)
It's okay....

Anakin, instantly calm.

For a moment, at least.

Now Zee BEEPS with renewed urgency.

Troopers are coming!

Their BOOTS ECHO in the corridors.

LARA (CONT'D)
Anakin, we need to go.

He nods. Serious again.

ANAKIN
Yeah, okay. Let's get the Prince!

DOCKING BAY 27

The alarm suddenly kicks on here too, WAILS.

The Mandalorian Troopers raise their rifles in response.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

The aliens scatter, Scol goes to the controls of the ship.

Watches the Troopers draw down on Kenobi.

DOCKING BAY 27

Rose and Guild have their helmets on again.

They raise their rifles, ready for a fight.

GUILD

Yes, finally!

Obi-Wan raises his hands in surrender.

KENOBI

What's this all about?

ATTACHE

You come from Alderaan, just after we kidnap the Prince and slaughter countless citizens...and expect us to believe you're so impressed you want to emulate our military?

KENOBI

Lies are most easily disguised as flattery.

ATTACHE

You must really take us for fools, Captain.

KENOBI

Why not kill me outright? Blow our ship out of the sky?

ATTACHE

Maul. He wanted your Lieutenant to himself. I image he's dealing with her now, as we speak.

Obi-Wan's face falls.

The Attache motions to the Troopers.

ATTACHE (CONT'D)

Dispose of him.

ENGINES FLAIR from o.s.

They all look over, just in time.

The Basil Arcadia strafes horizontally a few feet off the docking bay floor, SMASHES into the Troopers.

Some dive away in time, others scattered like bowling pins.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

Scol CHIRPS with excitement. An alien YE-HAW!
One of the smaller creatures punches a command.

DOCKING BAY 27

The Basil Arcadia spins and fishtails, aiming for more.
The FIRE EXTINGUISHER sprays a cloud for distraction.
Several Troopers FIRE at the ship, receive a hit from the engine wash for their trouble, BLOWN AWAY.
Rose and Guild are back on their feet, ready to fight.
Rose pushes Guild's rifle down.

ROSE

Come on!

He runs to the prototype-TIE, mans a winch.

GUILD

Nice thinking!

Does they same.

The cable releases, SNAPS back inside. One, then the other.
They turn, Rose FIRES his winch at the Basil Arcadia.
The first cable hits, yanks the cruiser back.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

The smaller aliens fly off the console.
Scol gets whiplash.
An Alarm BUZZES.
The aliens SQUEAL and GURGLE protest.

DOCKING BAY 27

Guild FIRES his winch at the ship.
The second hit drags it down.

Rose and Guild now winch the cruiser to the ground.
 The Basil Arcadia FLARES its engines, to no effect.
 The ship, securely strapped down.
 The Attache is up again, dusts herself off.

ATTACHE
 Where is Captain Kenobi?

Mandalorians look about, but he's gone.

ATTACHE (CONT'D)
 Find him!

The Troopers scatter in search of the Jedi.

ATTACHE (CONT'D)
 There's no time for this. I'll have
 to take care of him myself....

MOTHERSHIP CORRIDORS

Lara and Anakin run, shooting back at Troopers as they go.
 Zee floats behind them, BEEPS and dodges blaster bolts.
 They take cover, blaster fire coming from the other side.

ANAKIN
 How are we supposed to get through?

LARA
 I don't know! It was much easier
 before they were on full alert!

ANAKIN
 Okay, I get it!

Zee BEEPS his complaints.

LARA
 Yes, I know, you were right. We
 should have gone to the detention
 block first.

ANAKIN
 Really?!

LARA
 When Zee-Squared's right, he's
 right.

Zee BLIP-BEEPS with self-satisfaction.

Anakin shakes his head, takes another shot.

MOTHERSHIP - MANDAUUR LAIR

This section of the ship, more like a prehistoric cavern.

The back wall holds an enormous DOORWAY.

The entry is barred, and filled by darkness beyond.
Whatever's held in there must be gigantic.

The gateway, obscured by an enormous banner of the classic Mandalorian symbol: An odd-shaped, monstrous tusked skull.

A pair of Mandalorian MANDAUUR GUARDS control this area.

Their gear and armor, somehow more tribal.

The Attache arrives. Looks about.

The Mandaur Guards nod in recognition of her rank.

ATTACHE

You're free to deploy the Mandaur.

MANDAUUR GUARD 1

Goodie....

MANDAUUR GUARD 2

Where to?

The Attache looks past them, towards the doorway and banner.

ATTACHE

There's a Republic Captain...

MANDAUUR GUARD 1

We don't control what it kills.

MANDAUUR GUARD 2

We can only point the Mandaur the
in the right direction.

SNORTS emanate from behind the barred doorway.

MANDAUUR GUARD 1

Just remember, even we can't force
the Mandaur back inside the lair
until after its fed.

She nods, almost absently.

MANDAUR GUARD 2

You don't want to be around when we
release it.

The Attache backs away, slowly.

ATTACHE

Do it.

She leaves and the Mandaaur Guards approach the gate.

The first takes a staff tipped with a CATTLE PROD. Passes a
second staff to the other guard.

Then they each take a lever for the controls, on opposite
sides, and the gateway slowly opens. Shaking and RUMBLING.

The beast within ROARS terribly.

The Mandalorian banners wave.

We focus on the horrible skull emblem.

MOTHERSHIP CORRIDORS

The ROAR echoes through the corridors. Not far from here.

Anakin leans out, SHOOTS a Mandalorian Trooper.

Sees a rack of PROTON TORPEDOES.

ANAKIN

There!

LARA

What are we supposed to do with--

ANAKIN

Cover me!

LARA

What?!

Anakin sprints out.

Lara FIRES over his head for cover.

Anakin makes it to the rack of bombs.

Tries to pick one up, but it's far too heavy.

Struggles.

LARA (CONT'D)
 Blasted fool.

She puts a hand out, concentrates.

The torpedo rises with her Force powers, though Anakin thinks it's his doing. "He" flings the torpedo at the Troopers.

Pulls out his blaster pistol and--

BOOOOM!!!

It explodes, fire hitting the walls near Lara.

Anakin gets blown back off his feet. Slides on his back, comes to rest near Lara.

ANAKIN
 (laughs)
 Did you see that?!

LARA
 (eye-roll)
 Yes...amazing....

Anakin feels his face.

ANAKIN
 Do I still have my eyebrows?

MOTHERSHIP CROSSROADS

Kenobi stops, looks left, right, straight. It's an intersection. Which way?

Closes his eyes, concentrates.

A low RUMBLE from the explosion.

Obi-Wan opens his eyes, smiles, and turns right.

EXT. GALAXY - MANDALORIAN MOTHERSHIP

The mothership floats in space, almost peaceful.

Nothing to belie the chaos within.

Several large CRUISERS blink into existence from hyperspace.

More and more as the Republic Fleet arrives.

The Star Slayers near the mothership turn.

INT. COMMAND STAR SLAYER - BRIDGE

Mandalorians move frantically.

MANDALORIAN LIEUTENANT
Sir, should we sound the general
retreat to the backup rendezvous?

MANDALORIAN ADMIRAL
No. Inform the Mandalore the
Republic Fleet has arrived and
scramble our fighters! We're to
inflict as many casualties as
possible.

EXT. GALAXY - MANDALORIAN MOTHERSHIP

The Star Slayers engage the Republic Command Ships.
Thousands of fighters emerge from the ships on both sides.
Space battle! Lasers and Explosions fill the black of space.

INT. X-WING - BLUE LEADER

Blue Leader, genuinely happy to engage in battle.

BLUE LEADER
Blue Two, Blue Six, on me. Lock S-
Foils in attack position.

INT. X-WING - BLUE 6

Keelie, all business.

KEELIE
Copy, Blue Leader. This one's for
Bracker.

INT. X-WING - BLUE 2

Tenner nods.

TENNER
Blue two, starboard side. Flying
for Prince Bail.

INT. X-WING - BLUE LEADER

Blue Leader, just the hint of a smile.

BLUE LEADER
For Alderaan.

EXT. GALAXY - MANDALORIAN MOTHERSHIP

The three X-Wings fly in formation, chase down a Mandalorian TIE-precursor.

FIRE on the ship. The TIE EXPLODES, destroyed.

First blood: The Galactic Republic, Blue Squadron.

INT. REPUBLIC COMMAND SHIP - BRIDGE

A mix of aliens and humans man the starship.

An alien whose species cheered in the senate, ADMIRAL C'ANN, watches the scene unfold.

LIEUTENANT TARKIN, human/CGI (40s), awaits orders.

ADMIRAL C'ANN
Press forward! We want that
Mothership, Lieutenant.

LIEUTENANT TARKIN
But, sir! That will put those Star
Slayers at our back.

ADMIRAL C'ANN
Then raise rear deflector shields.
This is the Republic's one chance
at that Mandalorian base,
Lieutenant Tarkin. No excuses.

LIEUTENANT TARKIN
Yes, sir.

INT. MOTHERSHIP CORRIDORS

Anakin and Lara rush forward.

Great POUNDING FOOTSTEPS, like a dinosaur on board the ship.

They stop, take cover. Listen.

LARA
What is that?

ANAKIN
The mothership taking hits?

LARA
No, I don't think so....

From around the corner, comes the MANDAUR.

The ferocious tusked beast, somewhere between the Rancor of *Return of the Jedi* and a Minotaur from classic mythology.

The Mandalorians named themselves after this creature. They took it as their symbol in hopes to emulate its strength.

In short, so fearsome it's practically worshipped.

The two Mandaaur Guards walk at the rear, their prod-staffs urging the beast onwards.

The creature locks onto Anakin and Lara.

The Mandaaur ROARS, arms spread wide in a threat display.

ANAKIN
Should we run?

LARA
Yeah, I think so!

They turn and go, causing the Mandaaur to chase.

It SMASHES its mighty clawed fists against the walls, the creature so large it hunches just to fit inside the corridor.

Anakin doesn't run well with his mechanical leg brace.

The Mandaaur gains on them.

Lara focuses on a turn in the hall.

LARA (CONT'D)
This way!

Zee BEEPS in protest, but they go inside.

All sorts of caution signs surround the entry.

ARMOR FACTORY

Inside, it's a conveyor-fed construction site. The factory that creates the Mandalorian armor and gear.

The raw, unfinished product: white armor pieces, reminiscent of classic Imperial Stormtroopers.

The industrial-sized double doors open.

Anakin, Lara, and Zee dart inside.

Lara hits the controls. The doorway behind them seals shut.

They stand on a bridge above the conveyor belt.

From the hall, the ZAP! ZAP! of the Guards prodding.

The Mandaur ROARS.

SMASHES through the doors, bursts in!

Anakin and Lara run forward on the bridge, away from the creature. It bounds after them.

BASHES the bridge with both fists.

The bridge collapses, sending the heroes, creature, and guards down onto the conveyor below.

One of the Guards misses the conveyor. SCREAMS as he falls over the side and into the chasm of the depths below.

The second Guard finds his footing and urges the Mandaur towards Lara and Anakin. ZAP!

Ahead, the automated process PUNCHES armor with huge metallic presses that slam against the conveyor.

Anakin dashes haphazardly, ducks under gears, barely misses the dangerous conveyor machinery. Several close calls.

Lara is far more composed. She moves perfectly in tune with the Force, a waltz with the equipment as her dancing partner.

Zee bobs up and down, around the gear.

The Mandaur CRASHES through. Forges its own path.

The Guard behind follows the destruction, prod raised.

The end of the conveyor splits. Half collects the completed armor into a small chute. Too small. The other half dumps scrap metal into gigantic smelting pots.

Further down, these pots dump into a vat of liquid metal.

LARA

In there!

ANAKIN

What? Are you crazy?!

She looks back at the Mandaaur bearing down on them.

Turns, shoves Anakin into a smelting pot.

ANAKIN (CONT'D)

Hey!

She jumps in after him.

They climb to the top of the junk heap inside the pot.

The Mandaaur doesn't leap after them. Even the beast knows the danger in the liquid-metal vat ahead.

The smelting pot is a cavernous container, with no way out.

Anakin leaps, reaches for the top lip.

Several feet out of reach.

Lara bounds up, lands in a crouch on the precipice.

The liquid metal vat ahead, a sheer drop to darkness below.

Anakin blinks in disbelief at her incredible Jedi leap.

She reaches out for him.

LARA

Give me your hand!

He jumps, reaches up, but even so they're still too far.

Fingertips almost touch.

Then Anakin slides back on the rubbish heap.

Lara looks back. Only three pots until they're dumped into the molten metal vat!

The Mandaaur stalks them still, at the conveyor's edge.

ANAKIN

Just go.

LARA
No way. Come on!

He shakes his head.

She closes her eyes and the metal scraps inside the smelting pot shift under her influence. Stacking themselves as steps.

Zee BEEPS and floats over to the side wall. Inserts his droid's computer access stick into the computer's port terminal. The apparatus spins; working.

Anakin crawls up the detritus. Makes it up, takes Lara's arm.

Just as they're about to be dumped into the molten metal their smelting pot turns away from the others, towards a maintenance access exit. Zee diverted them successfully.

The Mandaur throws its hands up and ROARS with frustration.

Turns back towards the Guard, who backpedals with fear.

Behind the Guard, whirring, grinding gears and machinery.

The Mandaur closes in and the Guard backs into the grinder.

ZAPS! The cattle-prod staff, but the Mandaur cares not.

The Guard, pinned between beast and machine, SCREAMS.

DOCKING BAY 27

The guard's screams ECHO even here.

The remaining Troopers clear out, rushing to battle stations.

This leaves the Basil Arcadia unguarded.

Rose and Guild run into a lift that takes them to

INT./EXT. MOTHERSHIP - TURRETS

With views of space and the battle beyond.

Rose and Guild man a two-seater. A gigantic blaster turret.

Rose aims, Guild fires.

GUILD
Left. Left! The other left!

ROSE
I steer, you shoot!

BLAM!

The turret BLASTS an X-wing into four pieces.

Rose and Guild celebrate.

INT. X-WING - BLUE 6

Keelie looks out his canopy, then forward. Shaken.

KEELIE
That was Blue Three. They got
Daynes....

INT. X-WING - BLUE LEADER

Looks out the side canopy, shakes his head.

Presses his comm.

BLUE LEADER
Stay sharp. Watch out for those
turret batteries.

DOCKING BAY 27

Scol slithers out of the Basil Arcadia, down the ship's ramp.

Cautious, sneaking.

But no one else is here.

Scol makes his way to one of the winches.

Goes to disconnect it.

Can't make heads or tails of the humanoid device.

Gives it a frustrated kick.

Alien CURSING.

Scol looks back as the Mandalorian pilots rush in.

Hurries back into the ship.

The Mandalorians enter their TIE fighters, fly out.

INT. MOTHERSHIP - CELL BLOCK HALLWAY

Anakin, Lara, and Zee huddle behind cover.

Mandalorians race out of the Cell Block by the dozens.

Eventually the stream slows, then stops.

LARA

Where are they all going?

ANAKIN

Who cares? Come on!

Anakin jumps up and rushes into

CELL BLOCK - DETENTION CENTER COMMAND NODE

An octagonal room, each side with a hall leading to cell blocks. A computer terminal at the center.

A Mandalorian JAILER looks up at Anakin, Lara, and Zee.

JAILER

You're not supposed to be here.

ANAKIN

Says who?

LARA

I've got this.

The Jailer goes for a pistol.

Lara steps forward, twirls her fingers for a Mind Trick.

LARA (CONT'D)

You will unlock the cells and--

BLAM!

Anakin shoots the Jailer, who slumps, dead.

LARA (CONT'D)

Skywalker, you halfwit! Do you always have to shoot first?

Anakin steps forward, points at the corpse.

ANAKIN

That's what shooting second looks like.

LARA

I said I would handle it! Zee,
access the computer and find Prince
Bail.

The droid BEEPS, floats over. WHIRS at the corpse.

A claw-hand comes out, Zee pulls the body away.

The corpse tumbles to the floor.

Zee accesses the terminal.

ANAKIN

He was about to shoot you! A little
gratitude might be nice.

LARA

Gratitude?!

ANAKIN

Honestly, I don't know how you've
gotten so far if you think you can
talk your way out of a situation
like that one.

LARA

The vast gulf of space is
infinitesimally small compared to
what you don't know.

Zee BEEPS, interrupting.

LARA (CONT'D)

Okay, he's in cell 4-oh-6. Why
don't you--

Zee BEEPS further, cutting her off. She falters.

LARA (CONT'D)

Are you certain? They're here?

ANAKIN

Who else is here?

LARA

The King and Queen of Kharkaara,
my....

ANAKIN

Homeworld? Looks like these Mandos
have a thing for royalty. Okay,
grab them while I get Prince Bail.

Anakin starts to leave, but turns at Zee's BEEPS.

Lara stands motionless, stunned.

ANAKIN (CONT'D)

Hey, what's the matter? Is your ship too small for all of us or something?

LARA

Anakin, please. I just...need a minute.

ANAKIN

Okay...?

LARA

(to Zee)

There wasn't even an attack on Kharkaara, how could they be here?

Anakin comes closer.

ANAKIN

The attack on Alderaan was to get Bail. Maybe they got your royals while they were travelling and intercepted their cruiser? I'm sure they're fine. If they're being kept in a cell block, they're alive, right? That's how ransoms work.

She nods, though unconvinced.

LARA

Sure, you're right.

ANAKIN

Of course I'm right. Now let's go; those soldiers could be back any minute!

They move out.

MOTHERSHIP CORRIDORS

Obi-Wan stealthily moves through the halls at the periphery, avoiding Troopers as he goes.

There's a METALLIC CLICK as a blaster takes aim.

ATTACHE (O.S.)

That's far enough, Captain.

Obi-Wan turns around to see her, his hands raised.

The Attache has him drawn down with no way out.

KENOBI

Your homeworld is under attack.
Perhaps we can settle this another
time?

ATTACHE

Indeed. The detention center isn't
far from here. I'm sure we can find
a holding cell for you until we've
dealt with the Republic fleet.

KENOBI

I was thinking more of, 'you go
your way, I'll go mine.'

She shakes her head.

ATTACHE

You and your bureaucratic Republic
have incarcerated countless numbers
of my people. The Mandalorians
remember. I'm taking you in,
Captain Kenobi. Dead or alive.
There is no third option.

His eyes go wide and he suddenly ducks, hands still raised
for protection.

ATTACHE (CONT'D)

You really do take me for a fool,
don't you? What could--

A ROAR cuts her off.

She's taken off her feet, grabbed by the Mandaaur from behind.

Obi-Wan stays low and away.

Backs cautiously around the bend.

MANDAUR

The creature carries the Attache back to its lair.

She paws at the floor, dragged by one leg.

She cries out, one last YELP, as the beast takes her behind
the Mandalorian banners which bear its own skull.

KENOBI

A ROAR echoes here.

He winces, but continues on.

MANDAUR HOLDING CELL

The cavernous doorways CLOSE automatically, sealing the Attache and soon-to-be well-fed beast inside.

DETENTION CENTER - CELL BLOCK 406

The door slides open, revealing Bail Organa.

He lies on the bed, rises with the door.

BAIL
Skywalker? You're alive!

ANAKIN
I'm sorry, I--

BAIL
How did you get here?

ANAKIN
I'm here to rescue you! I'm here
with Lara and the Captain.

BAIL
Ben Kenobi!

ANAKIN
Let's go, Highness! Lara's right
over here.

Bail jumps up and they race down the Cell Block Corridor.

Lara stands further down, in front of another cell.

BAIL
Lara!

She doesn't react.

Stares into the cell. Anakin and Bail arrive.

Lara looks away, swallows hard. The men look into:

ROYAL CELL BLOCK

Inside sits the Male Clone and Female Clone from the opening scene; now seen as the duplicated rulers of Kharkaara.

They wear robes with the Rebel Alliance Symbol.

BAIL
King Amidala!

The Male Clone looks at him without a hint of recognition.

MALE CLONE
We've...been attacked...by
Alderaan.

FEMALE CLONE
Yes, we...must start a war?

Bail laughs with disbelief.

BAIL
What? What are you talking about?

LARA
Those aren't the King and Queen.

ANAKIN
What do you mean?

LARA
Those aren't the King and Queen of
Kharkaara.

ANAKIN
How do you know?

LARA
Trust me.

Zee BEEPS urgently.

MAUL (O.S.)
Your instincts do you great credit.

They all turn.

CELL BLOCK CORRIDOR

Maul stands at the entry, near the command node.

MAUL
Those are not your parents,
Princess.

ANAKIN
Princess?

MAUL
Although, I suppose that would be
'Queen' now, wouldn't it?

Anakin is shocked.

Bail, not so much.

Lara's emptiness turns to anger.

She starts forward.

Bail reaches out to her, but she pulls away.

Anakin and Bail follow.

LARA
What have you done with them?

Maul grins.

MAUL
Cloning requires enormous amounts
of organic material. Once the
genetic mapping is complete, we
recycle the originals.

LARA
No....

She's moving faster now.

BAIL
Lara, wait!

MAUL
We did the same thing to your
parents, Majesty. Don't worry,
you'll be joining them soon.

Lara picks up at a run.

ANAKIN
Don't, Lara! He's too powerful!

MAUL

Ah, Skywalker. I should thank you for delivering the Queen of Kharkaara, short though may be her reign.

LARA

You bastard!

Lara sprints the rest of the way down the corridor, back out into the

CELL BLOCK COMMAND NODE

Where she leaps at Maul.

From her pilot's vest, her lightsaber DARTS into her hand.

The blade IGNITES into a green energy saber.

The blade slashes at Maul--

CRACKLES, met by his own RED LIGHTSABER.

Maul grins with pleasure.

MAUL

You have no idea.

EXT. GALAXY - MANDALORIAN MOTHERSHIP

The space battle, now at full tilt.

The first wave of the Republic Fleet has broken through.

INT. REPUBLIC COMMAND SHIP - BRIDGE

The Admiral's chair swivels from his viewport back towards his staffers. He points for emphasis.

ADMIRAL C'ANN

Focus all firepower on that base!

EXT. GALAXY - MANDALORIAN MOTHERSHIP

One-man bombers begin their attack run.

Republic starfighters engage the TIE-precursors.

INT./EXT. MOTHERSHIP - TURRETS

Rose and Guild swing on their seats.

GUILD
They're coming closer!

ROSE
My turn in the gunner seat.

GUILD
No way!

ROSE
You can't have all the action--

GUILD
Watch where you're pointing us!

Rose glowers, brings the turret about. Guild fires.

BOOM!

A Republic bomber is BLOWN APART.

INT. COMMAND STAR SLAYER - BRIDGE

Tiny explosions bloom on the horizon as the battle wages outside the viewport window.

MANDALORIAN ADMIRAL
Keep those command ships between
home base and our Star Slayers.
Leave them no chance to escape.

MANDALORIAN LIEUTENANT
What about their bombers?

MANDALORIAN ADMIRAL
Maximum casualty, regardless of
starship class.

EXT. GALAXY - MANDALORIAN MOTHERSHIP

The bombers drop down towards the Mothership.

TIE precursors gang up on fighters.

More and more of the Mandalorian fighters emerge.

The Republic fighters, outnumbered ten-to-one.

INT. X-WING - BLUE 6

Keelie's eyes grow wide at the sight of the new fighters.

KEELIE
There's so many....

INT. X-WING - BLUE LEADER

BLUE LEADER
We have our orders, Blue Squadron.
Protect our bombers. We've got to
take out that Mothership.

INT. X-WING - BLUE 2

Tenner nods, adjusts something.

TENNER
Copy, Blue Leader. We're with you.

EXT. GALAXY - MANDALORIAN MOTHERSHIP

A swarm of TIE-precursors attack.

The X-Wings cut through them, destroying several enemies.

The remaining TIEs turn back, now on the rear.

INT. X-WING - BLUE LEADER

Blue Leader grits his teeth, vein on the forehead.

BLUE LEADER
Focus ahead.

KEELIE (V.O.)
(radio, filtered)
On your tail, Blue Leader!

BLUE LEADER
I'm hit!

Fire BLOOMS in the cockpit.

EXT. GALAXY - MANDALORIAN MOTHERSHIP

Blue Leader's X-wing EXPLODES.

INT. X-WING - BLUE 6

Keelie's face falls.

KEELIE

He's gone...Blue Leader is....

INT. X-WING - BLUE 2

Tenner displays emotions ranging from shock, to despair, to outrage. Finally, she settles on determination.

WHITE LEADER (V.O.)

(radio, filtered)

This is White Leader, we're ready to start our attack run. Blue Squadron, are you there to escort?

KEELIE (V.O.)

(radio, filtered)

You've got this, Tenner. We're with you. Fortune favor the Kingdom.

TENNER

This...this is Blue Two, assuming command as Blue Leader. Blue Squadron, report in.

BLUE 4 PILOT (V.O.)

(radio, filtered)

Blue Four, standing by.

KEELIE (V.O.)

(radio, filtered)

Blue Six, good buddy. Standing by.

BLUE 7 PILOT (V.O.)

(radio, filtered)

Blue Seven, standing by.

TENNER

White Leader, start your attack run. Blue Squadron has got you covered.

EXT. GALAXY - MANDALORIAN MOTHERSHIP

The X-wings escort the bombers towards the surface of the Mandalorian Mothership.

The TIE-precursors attack, fended off by Blue Squadron.

Bombs drop.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Direct hits!

CELL BLOCK HALLWAY

The mothership QUAKES with hits from the bombers.

Kenobi steps forward.

Eyes up, dust and debris falls.

Sounds of a LIGHTSABER BATTLE ahead.

Lara's GRUNTS of exertion; faint, distant.

Kenobi takes off in a run into the

CELL BLOCK COMMAND NODE

Lara SMASHES at Maul with ferocious STRIKES from her green lightsaber, but he parries each with ease.

The hilt of his lightsaber, twice as long as hers.

Maul grips it in a wide stance -- evokes a samurai.

He's all physicality, ready for this.

Lara glistens with sweat, pushed to the limit.

Maul toys with her.

Kenobi watches in horror.

Anakin and Bail watch, opposite.

Lara sees Kenobi, falters slightly.

With her attention elsewhere, Maul goes for an easy strike.

BLAM!

Anakin shoots his blaster pistol.

Maul deflects the laser, but it stops his strike.

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

Anakin presses the attack.

Maul steps back, towards a cell block corridor. Focuses.

One blast deflected left, one right, one--

Back into Anakin.

Anakin falls down, wounded.

BAIL

Anakin!

Bail drops to a knee, at Anakin's side.

A seared blaster wound in his shoulder.

Anakin groans, alive.

Maul watches.

Lara ROARS, uses Maul's distraction for an overhead strike.

Maul turns at the last second -- roundhouse kick.

Lara takes it in the chest and falls back.

Hits the ground hard, rolls.

The move puts Maul into the corridor, just barely.

The door SEALS.

Obi-Wan's hand on the mechanism.

Kenobi runs to Lara.

She's up again, searching.

Sees the door sealed.

LARA

NO!

KENOBI

Lara! Come back! Return to center!

LARA

He killed my parents!

Obi-Wan hesitates, senses the truth in it.

Bail helps Anakin to his feet. Shoulder slumps.

KENOBI

It would do them no honor to die here. You have a whole planet to think of now! Let's go, this ship is under attack.

In proof, debris FALLS from the ceiling.

The room QUAKES.

The doorway, behind which Maul is held, draws attention.

Molten in the center....

He's cutting through!

KENOBI (CONT'D)

That won't stop him for long. We have to go! Anakin, can you run?

Anakin nods.

KENOBI (CONT'D)

Then let's go!

EXT. GALAXY - MANDALORIAN MOTHERSHIP

Three Star Slayers fire on the rear-most Command Ship in the advancing Republic Fleet.

Too much damage finally takes its toll....

The Command Ship lists, small explosions pocketing the skin.

INT./EXT. MOTHERSHIP - TURRETS

Rose pulls at the controls, aiming the turret.

Guild DESTROYS a Y-Wing.

Aims beyond.

The command ship in the distance....

The ship cracks in half, EXPLODES.

Completely destroyed.

Rose and Guild CHEER.

INT. REPUBLIC COMMAND SHIP - BRIDGE

The same ship's explosion dies down in the b.g.

LIEUTENANT TARKIN
Sir, we're sustaining heavy
casualties.

ADMIRAL C'ANN
We need more time, Lieutenant. We
must disable that base!

INT. COMMAND STAR SLAYER - BRIDGE

The Mandalorian Admiral turns back from the viewport.

MANDALORIAN ADMIRAL
What is the status of the
Mothership?

MANDALORIAN LIEUTENANT
Shields at...over ninety-percent.
Weapons at full.

MANDALORIAN ADMIRAL
Excellent. Draw them closer!

INT. MOTHERSHIP - DOCKING BAY 27

The heroes rush forward, in sight of Scol's ship.

Almost free!

Anakin grips his wounded shoulder with the opposite hand.

Lara and Bail look shell-shocked.

KENOBI
There! The Basil Arcadia. Tell Scol
to....

Kenobi trails off, stares.

A lift opens.

Maul.

The fiend stands between the heroes and escape.

He steps out, walks forward.

Twirls his too-long lightsaber hilt in one hand.

KENOBI (CONT'D)
Skywalker, make sure Lara and Bail
get on that ship. You redeem
yourself now, understand?

Anakin nods, gravely.

BAIL
Ben--

KENOBI
No! No orders this time, Bail. You
and Lara are too important. You
rule two core systems now. When you
get back--

LARA
We. You mean when 'we' get back.

KENOBI
I'm right behind you. Go!

Kenobi runs at Maul.

Anakin pushes Lara and Bail to run towards the ship.

Maul's red saber IGNITES.

Obi-Wan's blue lightsaber CRACKLES to life as well.

KENOBI (CONT'D)
What do you want with us?!

Maul sneers at him in response.

Attacks with a BATTLECRY.

They finally meet, a CLASH of sabers and ideologies.

ANAKIN

Watches Lara and Bail climb the ramp of the Basil Arcadia.

Sees the cables; they still hold the ship.

Anakin rushes towards the nearest winch.

Sees the prototype-TIE ahead.

Beyond that, Kenobi and Maul fight.

Flashes of neon color as energy swords CRASH together.

Maul is clearly the better fighter.

It's looking a lot like the *Episode IV* Death Star scenario....

KENOBI AND MAUL

Circle one another, looking for the next strike.

KENOBI

You were a Jedi once, think back to that time. To who you were. What was your name before you were Maul?

MAUL

You're trying to tear at my purpose, but it won't work. There was never a before. I am no Jedi....

Obi-Wan is genuinely taken aback. Maul sneers happily.

MAUL (CONT'D)

I am the second-coming of the Grandmaster of lore! You Jedi see yourself above chaos. You try to master it, but that buries the true nature of the Force. Chaos is the only truth worth knowing. I will set the galaxy free!

KENOBI

You're mad!

They CLASH sabers once more.

Maul gets the upper hand, nearly ends it.

Obi-Wan falls to his back, crawls, barely defending.

KENOBI (CONT'D)

Killing me will gain you nothing!

MAUL

You hide your fear, Jedi, while I grow more powerful.

BLAAAAM!!!

An enormous blaster cannon almost takes off Maul's head.

He deflects the beam at the last second, but the force knocks him off his feet.

He rolls back, uses the momentum.

His too-long lightsaber bounces away, knocked from his grasp.

INT. VADER'S TIE

Anakin pilots the prototype fighter.

Flies one-handed due to the wounded limb.

Uses the blaster canons to fire on Maul.

ANAKIN

Got you now!

KENOBI AND MAUL

Kenobi looks over his shoulder, sees the TIE prototype.

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

The blaster cannon rapid-fires at Maul.

Maul, back on his feet, PULLS the lightsaber to his hands with the Force. Knows he's bested, dashes towards cover.

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

The fighter keeps on him.

Kenobi jumps up, sprints towards the Basil Arcadia.

The ship's engines are on, but remains tethered.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA - COCKPIT

Lara sits in the co-pilot seat next to Scol.

Bail stands at the rear.

Zee floats.

They see Kenobi approach through the canopy.

LARA

What do you mean you couldn't
disconnect the cables?!

Scol TITTERS.

LARA (CONT'D)
I don't care if you don't have
thumbs!

Scol SCREECHES in anger.

LARA (CONT'D)
That doesn't much matter seeing as
we're tied down!

Zee pops out a WELDING TORCH, produces flames.

BAIL
Wait! That fighter. It's Skywalker.
Hail him on comm!

Scol CHIRPS, presses some keys.

Zee stows the torch.

BAIL (CONT'D)
(to radio)
Anakin! We're tied down. Help us
free and let's get out of here.

INT. VADER'S TIE

ANAKIN
Copy that!

He turns the ship--

BLAM! BLAM!

Destroys the winches at their bases.

The Basil Arcadia is free.

Anakin watches as Kenobi climbs the closing ramp.

The ship turns, makes for the exit -- goes!

The two cables snake wildly in the air, still attached the
ship, but not to the winches.

DOCKING BAY 27

The Basil Arcadia BLASTS out into space, sending equipment
awash in its wake.

Anakin turns his fighter, FIRES.

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

The laser cannons hit equipment.

A generator goes--

KABOOOOM!

A chain-reaction starts inside the mothership.

Maul's ship rises, BLASTS out of the docking bay.

The prototype-TIE follows, firing.

Explosions rock the docking bay as they flee.

EXT. GALAXY - MANDALORIAN MOTHERSHIP

A plume of flame shoots from the docking bay.

The battle station, dying from the inside out.

Just ahead, the Basil Arcadia and Maul's Ship barely escape the trajectory of the fiery inferno.

From inside the flame, Anakin's prototype-TIE darts out.

INT. VADER'S TIE - COCKPIT

The vacuum of space chokes out the fire.

Anakin feels his eyebrows.

 ANAKIN
 Whew, still there.

Anakin keeps on; chases Maul, not missing a beat.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA - COCKPIT

Over the canopy, Maul's ship races past.

Then, even faster, the prototype-TIE.

FIRES the blaster canons in pursuit.

A BUZZER alarms, red light.

The ship SHAKES in response.

LARA
We're taking hits!

BAIL
Let's fire back! Where are the
turrets?

LARA
Good question!

Scol CLICKS and TITTERS angrily.

KENOBI
Don't get them started.

INT. VADER'S TIE

Anakin FIRES at Maul's ship. Hit!

BAIL (V.O.)
(radio, filtered)
Skywalker, we need your help!

Anakin looks at his console.

Maul's ship is locked in his sights.

LARA (V.O.)
(radio, filtered)
Anakin, do you read? We're taking
heavy fire!

Anakin sighs, pulls the stick.

EXT. VADER'S TIE

Veers away from Maul's ship, turns back.

Does a roll.

FIRES.

Enemy TIE fighter EXPLODES.

ANAKIN

Grinning like a kid.

ANAKIN
Woo-hoo!

EXT. VADER'S TIE

Goes for a loop, turns on a dime.

BLAM! BLAM!

Another two enemy fighters destroyed.

The Basil Arcadia, now clear of hostiles.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

The gang celebrates.

BAIL
That's my pilot!

KENOBI
Simply amazing.

LARA
He's something all right.

Scol CHIRPS in agreement.

Zee COOS a satisfied beep.

It's a happy moment, until--

BOOM!

KENOBI
There's one more.

EXT. BASIL ARCADIA

The Basil Arcadia tries evasive maneuvers, but a fighter sits right on top of them.

This one's a clone fighter, sticking close.

ANAKIN

Looks about, can't see.

Checks his scanners, nothing.

ANAKIN
Must be on the other side, I'll swing around....

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

BAM!

The ship shakes again.

ANAKIN (V.O.)
 (radio, filtered)
 I see him. He's too close to you, I
 can't get a clear shot, hang on.

BAIL
 We can't take much more of this.

LARA
 Everyone grab hold of something.

Scol shakes his head, SCREECHES.

Lara pulls the stick.

Everyone grabs onto what they can.

EXT. GALAXY - MANDALORIAN MOTHERSHIP

The Basil Arcadia spins, hard.

The cables, still tethered to the hull, LASH OUT.

One catches the Clone Fighter like a whip.

It knocks part of the wing, BREAKS it off.

The Clone Fighter spins out of control.

Now clear, Anakin's prototype-TIE BLASTS it away.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

LARA
 You're not the only one who knows a
 few maneuvers, bush pilot.

ANAKIN

ANAKIN
 Not bad, for a Jedi.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

Obi-Wan's brow raises quizzically.

Lara shakes her head.

LARA
It's a....

BAIL
Inside joke?

LARA
Never mind.

INT./EXT. MOTHERSHIP - TURRETS

Rose and Guild keep on it, but then a pause.

The scanners pick up something.

A holographic ship gets selected, zooms in.

ROSE
There. It's Maul's ship!

GUILD
He's retreating?

ROSE
That's our cue, strap in.

They do so.

Rose punches a command.

An ESCAPE POD forms around their seats.

INT. COMMAND STAR SLAYER - BRIDGE

The Admiral watches as flames plume off the mothership.

From so far away, it's like a great pod of whales breaching.

MANDALORIAN LIEUTENANT
Sir, the base deflector shields are
down! The interior generators must
have failed.

The ESCAPE POD detaches from the mothership. Flies away.

MANDALORIAN ADMIRAL
Sound the general retreat.

MANDALORIAN LIEUTENANT
Regroup at the fallback point?

MANDALORIAN ADMIRAL
It's too late for that. Every ship
for himself. Transmit the order,
then get us the hell out of here.

INT. REPUBLIC COMMAND SHIP - BRIDGE

LIEUTENANT TARKIN
Sir, the Mandalorians are
retreating!

The Admiral rises from his command seat, walks past Tarkin,
takes the headset from some desk jockey. Puts it on.

ADMIRAL C'ANN
This is Admiral C'Ann. Stay on that
Mothership! If it makes the jump to
lightspeed...

INT. VADER'S TIE

ADMIRAL C'ANN (V.O.)
(radio, filtered)
...this whole battle will have been
for naught.

Anakin gets the message, turns back.

Focused, intent.

EXT. GALAXY - MANDALORIAN MOTHERSHIP

The prototype-TIE flies from the relative safety of the
Republic Fleet, back down to the surface of the mothership.

Grows a tail as the enemy TIEs pursue.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

Obi-Wan looks out, concerned.

KENOBI
What's Anakin doing now?

Scol TITTERS.

LARA
Engaging the mothership.

BAIL
Alone? In a fighter?

EXT. VADER'S TIE

Flies lower and lower, towards the surface of the mothership.
A half dozen enemy ships on its tail.
More join with every moment.
They want to take out the ace who stole their ship.
Several FIRE their lasers, Anakin darting to steer clear.
One in the rear EXPLODES.

INT. X-WING - BLUE 2 - COCKPIT

Tenner grins after destroying the TIE.

TENNER
Whoever's in that thing, we've got
you covered.

INT. VADER'S TIE

ANAKIN
This is Anakin Skywalker. Just get
me close to the hyperdrive
motivator.

INT. X-WING - BLUE 6

KEELIE
Prince Bail's Royal Pilot?

INT. VADER'S TIE

ANAKIN
You know any other Skywalkers? Just
keep those fighters off me.

INT. X-WING - BLUE 2

TENNER

Roger, Skywalker. Blue Squadron,
providing escort. Let's see what
that thing can do.

INT. VADER'S TIE

Anakin looks out the canopy.

The mothership grows before him.

ANAKIN

(to himself)

We'll see all right.

Anakin turns a dial on the controls, face folds with
frustration.

ANAKIN (CONT'D)

Great, this thing doesn't have any
proton torpedoes.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

Lara suddenly looks to Obi-Wan.

He nods.

KENOBI

I feel it too.

Lara keys in the radio.

LARA

Skywalker, what's your plan?

ANAKIN (V.O.)

(radio, filtered)

I was just trying to figure that
part out. If you happen to have any
ideas, I'm all ears.

LARA

Do you trust me?

A beat.

ANAKIN (V.O.)

(radio, filtered)

...yes.

LARA

Let go, Anakin. The Force is with you. Stop resisting. Trust in the Force, let it flow through you, and it will guide you, if you let it. Submit to the will of the Force.

INT. VADER'S TIE

Anakin grimaces.

ANAKIN

Any other ideas?

LARA (V.O.)

(radio, filtered)

Anakin!

ANAKIN

Okay, okay! Trust in the Force... Submit....

Anakin closes his eyes, breathes out.

ANAKIN (CONT'D)

(unsure)

Blue Leader, pull out. I'm going it alone from here.

KEELIE (V.O.)

(radio, filtered)

What? Say again? You can't possibly destroy that hyperdrive motivator with blaster fire alone. We need to escort the bombers.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

Obi-Wan steps forward, keys the radio.

KENOBI

That's an order. Blue Squadron, pull out.

BAIL

I hope you know what you're doing.

TENNER (V.O.)

(radio, filtered)

Copy, Blue Squadron, pulling out.

INT. VADER'S TIE

Anakin flies, eyes closed.

The steering is off, the horizon no longer level.

An hour-glass shaped object comes into focus on the mothership. The center GLOWS. White-hot with energy.

This is the HYPERDRIVE MOTIVATOR.

ANAKIN

Submit...will of the Force....

LARA (V.O.)

(radio, filtered)

Let go your fear. Calm your mind.
Trust in the Force, Anakin.

Anakin takes his hands off the controls.

They hover, barely any distance between skin and machine.

EXT. VADER'S TIE

The fighter dips, listing.

Drops down, sharply. As if drawn in.

On a collision course with the Hyperdrive Motivator.

ANAKIN

Eyes shoot open, GASPS for breath.

At the last possible second, pulls up.

EXT. VADER'S TIE

Practically scraping against the enormous hour-glass. The energy from the Hyperdrive Motivator heats the tip of the prototype's wings to RED HOT.

Pulling up; an impossibly tight turn.

The other TIE fighters, unable to make the maneuver.

They EXPLODE against the equipment.

The hour-glass collapses in a FIERY HEAP.

ANAKIN

Panting, sweating.

Cold with fear, like when he met Maul.

ANAKIN
(to himself)
I don't...I don't believe it!

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

The crew watches as white fire EXPLODES on the ship.

The prototype fighter pulls away.

BAIL
That was too close!

KENOBI
No. It was exactly as close as it
needed to be.

INT. REPUBLIC COMMAND SHIP - BRIDGE

ADMIRAL C'ANN
All units, fire your torpedoes!
Let's finish it off. Get clear of
the blast radius.

EXT. GALAXY - MANDALORIAN MOTHERSHIP

The fleet unloads on the mothership.

Huge EXPLOSIONS wreck the superstructure.

All ships turn and flee.

KABOOOOM!!!!

The Mothership is gone.

INT. REPUBLIC COMMAND SHIP - BRIDGE

All the Republicans cheer and celebrate.

INT. BASIL ARCADIA

Cheering continues over the radio.

ADMIRAL C'ANN (V.O.)
 (radio, filtered)
 We've done it! This is a great day
 for the Republic. A great day for
 the galaxy.

Lara gets up.

LARA
 A day that will long be
 celebrated....

She leaves the cockpit.

Bail follows her.

Kenobi looks back.

ANAKIN (V.O.)
 (filtered, radio)
 Lara, you were right! Did you see
 that!? I can't believe it; you were
 right!

Bail and Lara share a hug.

She shudders with tears, finally letting go. With the battle
 over, she can no longer compartmentalize her grief.

Obi-Wan watches, conflicted emotions on his face.

The CHEERING continues on the radio.

In fact, it grows in volume....

INT. REPUBLIC SENATE - CORRUSCANT - LATER

The radio CHEERING merges with the standing ovation here.

The Senate celebrates.

Palpatine stands in the center once more, soaking it in.

A long moment as the whole of the Republic showers the man
 with praise and adulation.

INT. CORRUSCANT - SENATE HALLWAYS

The celebrations die out in the b.g.

Palpatine exits the Senate chambers.

Obi-Wan waits here, approaches.

They walk together.

KENOBI

Congratulations, Governor. The operation was quite the success.

PALPATINE

You could have been killed, you know that.

KENOBI

The Force was with us.

PALPATINE

Happily, but you should have let me know. We might have bought you some time aboard the Mandalorian ship.

KENOBI

You didn't leave me much choice, if you'll remember.

PALPATINE

Perhaps. But the point stands.

KENOBI

You're right. What of the rest of the Mandalorians?

PALPATINE

What, indeed? With their home base destroyed, they're little threat now. We have the support of the Senate to keep the fleet mobilized until we clear out their remaining strongholds.

KENOBI

Can we sustain that? We took heavily losses.

PALPATINE

Enrollment is higher than ever at the Academy. Everyone wants to be the next Skywalker.

KENOBI

I take it my request to reinstate him as a part of the Republic Fleet has gone through?

PALPATINE

Yes...you wish to train him?

KENOBI

The Force flows through him. You should have seen the way he flew that starfighter.

PALPATINE

What of Lara?

KENOBI

There's no more I can teach her. She's ready for the trials.

PALPATINE

A Jedi and a Queen....

KENOBI

She will provide much-needed stability in the Republic.

PALPATINE

A feat that will only prove more difficult, I'm afraid. Now that we know the clones were more than just common soldiers. We'll tell the neighboring systems of the cloned leadership, but the damage is done. No one can trust one another if leaders could be clones. If there are clones among us, perhaps even in the Senate....

KENOBI

Lara could tell the difference. The Force is...distorted in clones. You've sensed it, have you not?

PALPATINE

Yes...I will have to keep a close eye on the Senate. To meet with as many of them as I can in case there are any lingering imposters. There is much work to be done.

KENOBI

You'd risk exposure, explaining to the Senate just how you can tell the difference. Part of the Jedi's strength comes from our anonymity.

PALPATINE

This are difficult times. We must
all make sacrifices....

Obi-Wan looks to the horizon, lost in thought.

EXT. CORRUSCANT - ROOFTOP DOCKING BAY - NIGHT

Obi-Wan steps out of the lift.

At the far edge of the platform, a REPUBLIC TRANSPORT
(Imperial tri-wing Shuttle precursor) awaits, ramp lowered.

Anakin Skywalker stands by the ramp, looking sharp in a black
Republic military uniform. A large, ornamental shoulder pad
covers the spot where he was hit in the battle.

Kenobi approaches.

ANAKIN

Ready?

KENOBI

Let's go, Lieutenant Skywalker.

They turn up the ramp.

INT. REPUBLIC TRANSPORT - COCKPIT

Anakin presses a few dials.

From the windscreen, the planet of Corruscant shrinks.

Then, the ship is in space. The stars turn to streaks as the
shuttle makes the jump to lightspeed.

Anakin removes his restraints, rises. Heads back.

INT. REPUBLIC TRANSPORT - LOUNGE

Obi-Wan sits, has a drink.

Anakin approaches from the cockpit, joins him.

ANAKIN

Course set for Kharkaara. Have you
ever been?

KENOBI

Many times. But never for a dual-coronation, that's a once-in-a-lifetime event.

ANAKIN

Mmm.

Anakin nods, looks away.

KENOBI

Your thoughts drift back towards Maul.

ANAKIN

I told you I don't like it when you do that.

Obi-Wan smiles.

KENOBI

It doesn't take a Jedi to see that he troubles you still.

ANAKIN

I did feel something at the battle, but Maul...what he can do...the truth is, I'm terrified of it.

KENOBI

You have that power, Anakin. Whether you learn to harness it or not. The Jedi study the ways of the Force, for knowledge and defense, but it's true. The Dark side can be intoxicating with its promises of quick and easy power. There are always those like Maul who use the Force for personal gain. The Jedi Knights are here to protect the galaxy against them.

Anakin nods.

EXT. CORRUSCANT - STREETS - NIGHT

Palpatine exits a taxi speeder.

Disgusted at actually stepping on the ground level.

Looks up. The buildings, so tall they blot out the sky.

Heads towards an alley.

Maul waits here.

Steps from the shadows.

MAUL
I have failed you.

PALPATINE
Nonsense. What is one battle?

MAUL
But the Mandalorian homeworld is destroyed. Our cloning facilities, lost. The Republic is stronger than ever. And the Jedi....

PALPATINE
We have shown the Republic that peace only comes through war. Neighbor now fears and suspects neighbor. Anyone can be a clone, my apprentice. This was not a failure. This was the first of many victories to come.

MAUL
The Grandmaster's prophecy?

PALPATINE
Yes...everything is coming to fruition, just as my old master predicted. Now that the Jedi know you exist, you may begin your quest to hunt them down.

Maul's eyes shimmer with excitement.

Then he bows with deference.

MAUL
The Jedi will learn to fear the Sith once again, my master.

EXT. GALAXY - PLANET KHARKAARA

A green ball in space. A prairie planet.

The Republic Transport POPS out from hyperspace.

Steers down towards the planet.

INT. KHARKAARA - PALACE CORRIDORS

Anakin and Obi-Wan walk together.

ANAKIN

Won't the people of Alderaan be upset that Bail isn't to be crowned on his own homeworld?

KENOBI

The alliance between Alderaan and Kharkaara is one of the oldest in the galaxy, yet it was almost broken in a single day. Much of the damage has been done, but this will be a great gesture towards peace and stability in the core systems. Everything exists in a constant state of balance. Peace and stability are often one in the same. Lara will also have to make sacrifices such as this one if she's to be an effective Queen.

Anakin nods.

They head out into a courtyard.

Bright and sunny.

MONTAGE: FUNERALS AND CORONATIONS

Bail and Lara stand atop an impressive stage.

The world around them, a sea of emerald grass.

Four coffins adorn the stage, each draped in a flag of sorts. House banners. The former monarchs.

Lara's parents, the classic Rebel Alliance symbol.

Bail's parents, their own unique family crest.

Lara places a King's crown atop one coffin, the Queen's crown atop the other. Bail does the same on his side.

Lara places a bundle of grassland on each.

Bail pours out a bottle of the waters of Alderaan on his.

Then, Bail comes to her side. Takes the Queen's crown.

Lara bows her head, accepts the crown. She rises, takes her family's King crown and places it atop a scepter.

She raises the scepter, the crowd cheers.

All hail the Queen of Kharkaara!

Anakin and Obi-Wan smile and clap.

The ritual is repeated from Bail's perspective: Lara bestows his King's Crown atop Bail, who then takes his family's Queen's crown and places it on his own royal scepter.

Cheers for King Bail Organa of Alderaan!

Now, from the rear, Anakin and Obi-Wan march forward.

Zee-Squared, shiny as ever, carries distinguished medals. Floats on the stage between the monarchs.

Bail bestows a medal upon Obi-Wan. Shake hands. All grins.

Lara gives Anakin his medal, kisses him on the cheek.

Both Bail and Lara take a medal of their own house crest. They give it to Scol, who was standing o.s. for a reveal.

Yep, the alien gets two medals.

They turn towards the crowd, CHEERING ERUPTS.

FADE OUT.

END CREDITS OVER STARS

THE END

Keep going, there's more to be read...

Here's the basic premise of this writing exercise: Let's pretend George Lucas gave me his elevator pitch, "It's about how Anakin Skywalker meets Obi-Wan Kenobi, Anakin's journey to the Dark Side, and how Palpatine became Emperor by corrupting the Republic and destabilizing the Jedi order via his apprentice, Maul." Using only that pitch and the original movies, I would then be tasked to write a movie worthy of *Star Wars*.

That's what you'll find in these screenplays. This isn't "Let's tweak the existing prequels slightly to get rid of Jar-Jar and his poodu jokes," this is, "Those prequels had serious issues on a story-level. These prequels, then, are What the Prequels Should Have Been."

While I did make sure these scripts didn't contradict the new generation of *Star Wars* films (Episode VII and *Rogue One* as of this writing), the only inspiration for my prequels was the Original Trilogy. Nothing in here about the *Star Wars* cartoons, Expanded Universe novels, or videogame storylines. The only thing that should be considered canon, for the purpose of this writing exercise, are the films themselves.

A few definitions.

OT = Original Trilogy, AKA, Episodes IV - VI.

PT = Prequel Trilogy, the existing films that I'm rebooting.

RT = Reboot Trilogy, these new Episodes I - III.

This guide is annotated to the page numbers of the RT, explaining my story choices. I learned an incredible amount about world-building, characters, their relationships, and analyzing story during this exercise. Hopefully I can pass some of that onto you via this guide.

STAR WARS Episode I: A New Menace

Page 1

Title: *A New Menace* is both a play on *A New Hope* and a declaration that this is a new, re-imagined version of *The Phantom Menace*. There is also a literal new menace added to the *Star Wars* universe, which at the start of this film comes in the form of the Mandalorians.

Speaking of the Mandalorians, while Lucas tried to tie Boba Fett in with the Stormtroopers of the classic trilogy by making them all clones, I felt a less literal, yet still direct, connection would be more appropriate. This bounty hunter wears armor very similar to the Stormtroopers; perhaps there could be a reason for that?

The Mandalorians also give us a clear, strong enemy at the start of the films, as opposed to the weak Trade Federation and their muddly goals found in the PT.

The Opening Crawl mentions "A Thousand Generations" (Obi-Wan's quote from the OT), the Mandalorians and "the Clone Wars" as something that's already going on. Just like Episode IV started with the galaxy already in a state of civil war, so too are we to jump right into the action.

Page 2

Already, we have a visual cue tying the RT in with the OT in the form of the Bacta tank. Perhaps the biggest sin of the PT is that it didn't "feel" like *Star Wars*. Nothing looked quite right, did it? One of my biggest priorities was to change that. To bring back the look and feel.

Page 3

We're also starting with a bit of mystery. What is this world we've just entered? Who are these people?

Page 4

Alderaan. I'll credit BelatedMedia's YouTube video with inspiring the idea that Alderaan should have a bigger role in the RT. By giving the audience personal experience with the first and only planet blown up by the Death Star, we will feel its loss that much more keenly in Episode IV. That's what a good sequel (or prequel) should do: enrich and expand the original story world.

Oh, one note: I do know that Alderaan is said to be peaceful and have no weapons. But that's said decades from now. Things change and will change in the course of this trilogy. Give me the full course before you berate my choice. Thanks.

And we don't meet Anakin as a kid. I initially had him as just 30s, but I got some push-back on that. So I went with 20s/30s. This way Anakin can be the sweet spot of young, but not *too* young. He's had some time to shape who he is. Experiences he carries with him. Remember, Harrison Ford was 35 in *A New Hope*!

Page 5

If there's an opposite of Tatooine's desert planet, it's an ocean planet. The fact that the RT has a dynamically opposed starting planet to the OT is no accident.

Page 6

It makes more sense that the Rebellion in the OT would be using old, junker versions of clean and new Starfighters from the RT. Otherwise, where did all those ratty X-wings come from? And where did the shiny new ships from the PT go? Look and feel, people.

Page 7

The minor characters don't just have to be throwaways. They can and should have their own moments in the spotlight. We see the start of that here.

Page 8

We're going to see a lot of "precursor" technology here, like the Star Slayer. There's a scene in Episode V when an Imperial officer mentions "no ship that small has a cloaking device." So, I figured, why not give a larger ship a cloaking device in the trilogy? This is just one of the ways I tried to expand upon the conceits in the original.

Page 9

Here we get a taste for the calculated ruthlessness of the Mandalorians, as well as a bit of a red herring to make the audience think that Maul and the Mandalorians aren't working together. By the end of the film, of course, we'll know better.

Page 10

If Obi-Wan Kenobi was a General, it stands to reason he had a full career in the military and didn't go around in desert hermit robes his whole life. I mean, he dresses just like Owen Lars in the OT. Is that because they're both Jedi? Are Jawas little Jedi? No, they're just all people who live in the desert.

However, for the appearance of the royal Organas, I went with something akin to Princess Leia's classic look.

Page 11

I opted not to have R2-D2 and C-3PO in the RT. If you go back and watch the originals, they don't seem to know one another that well yet in Episode IV. In fact, they don't even like each other when we meet them. The idea of Anakin creating C-3PO and Obi-Wan fighting alongside R2-D2 only to forget about him are just a few small example of the ham-fisted storytelling in the PT.

Anakin's mechanical leg brace. This was a deliberate choice to show that Anakin has a history before this movie starts. He thought his time with the Republic was over. Maybe he has a grudge? If he's a war veteran, he doesn't seem to be well regarded (remember Palpatine's first talk with Kenobi). It also shows that he's somewhat reckless, and prone to injuring his body to get the job done.

Page 12

These are events that happened before this trilogy. For my money, this galaxy was never fully at peace.

Page 13 - 14

The PT was woefully missing chemistry amongst the characters and the humorous banter from the OT. I did my best to bring those elements back for the RT.

Page 15

A few notes on Maul. First, he's no longer a Darth.

In fact, Darth is not a title, it's a first name. As Obi-Wan said, "Only a master of evil, Darth." He was calling the guy by his first name. None of this Darth Badguy nonsense naming scheme. No retconning Emperor Palpatine into Darth Sidious either.

Second, the description of him looking like a poison dart frog. I've seen a few times his markings referred to as tattoos, but that never made sense. Have you ever seen a tattoo like that? It's more logical that he's simply an alien. And, maybe like poison dart frogs, in addition to being stunning yet dangerous, there could be blue ones, red ones, green ones, yellow ones, and orange ones.

Page 16

No interchangeable battle droids or Stormtroopers here. The Mandalorians are something new and different. Something fresh and capable and exciting.

Page 17

So yeah, Maul is kind of a badass. Remember, if this is what the prequels were supposed to be, we would have only seen the Emperor and Vader up to this point. Nothing like Maul and his passion.

Page 18

A note on the clones. It never made sense to me in the PT why the wars were called "The Clone Wars." Because you found some clones? In this revision, the clones are the threat, not the other way around.

Page 20-21

As Yoda said, "Fear leads to anger, anger leads to hate, hate leads to suffering." Here, all Anakin knows is fear when presented with Maul. He's never seen anything like him. And, if he had fought back, he likely would have been killed. But now he has something pushing him on: the need for redemption.

Page 22

More precursor Imperial technology. The PT quite literally looks like a different galaxy. In addition to providing story foreshadowing, this precursor tech will maintain the look of the world.

Page 23

A note on Rose & Guild. Though their names are never said in dialogue, and therefore they are essentially nameless soldiers, I named them for my own ease of use after Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. They are my odd-couple for the trilogy. Stuck in this larger world, and showing us the absurd humor of it all.

Maul, rather than having an absurdly "on the nose" name, now has only a nickname derived from his own brutality.

Page 24

Rather than walking in front of a green screen and talking about danger, we get action. And, more importantly, things go wrong for our characters and they must react to these new situations.

Page 25

Instead of an obnoxious alien like the-Gungan-who-shall-not-be-named (a character who was literally designed by a committee to be appealing to children), I decided to create an alien whose physical form would be unappealing to human beings, then challenge myself to make him endearing anyhow.

Page 26

Subtitles? We don't need no stinkin' subtitles!

Page 27

In the OT, Kenobi tells Luke that when he first met Anakin he was already the best pilot in the galaxy. None of this "I'll try spinning, that's a neat trick!" but a real, badass pilot.

Page 28

In Episode IV, Han Solo has travelled the galaxy and has this idea of Jedi and the Force as a load of BS. If these people were everywhere, a part of the central government even (as they were portrayed in the PT), then Han is an idiot. I brought it back to what I felt was the original intent: The idea of the Jedi as being more akin to mythological.

Page 29

When I re-watched the OT, one of the brilliant aspects I picked up on was the inter-character conflicts. Every scene is filled with disagreement and drama. I did my best to do the same.

Page 30

Palpatine, rather than being a Senator with delusions of grandeur, is already in a seat of some power. I felt this made his machinations more straightforward with less need for convoluted arguments in the senate.

Page 31

I imagined the Mandalorian Mothership to look something like the Trade Federation blockade ships from the PT. Only bigger. The idea that the Mandalorians are a gang, and therefore don't have a single homeworld, really appealed to me.

Of course, the classic "bad feeling" line is prerequisite in *Star Wars*.

Page 32

Corruscant was too clean in the PT. I portrayed it only at night to increase the feeling that this is a dead planet.

Page 33

The inclusion of "The Crisis at Torbund" was something I added to show us that the story didn't just start with this movie. Which is essentially what the idea of the Clone Wars does in *A New Hope*. And with Disney making movies every year, this would give the studio fodder for more projects other than just "young so-and-so." Want to write a Crisis at Torbund movie? Go for it!

Page 34

I decided to refer to Palpatine as a Jedi in the start of this trilogy. Bear with me on this one. This accomplishes several points. 1) Other Jedi can sense when someone is strong in the Force. It makes sense that they see him as a Jedi. In the PT, Palpatine ran mental circles around Yoda and the others. 2) It shows the other characters that he's a potential threat. A worthy adversary. This adds conflict. 3) Vader is a fallen Jedi. The idea of other Dark Jedi means you don't have to invent a new Sith Lord every time you need a new villain. The Dark Side calls out to all Jedi, and some occasionally are seduced by the call. This adds a layer of foreshadowing to the RT.

Page 35

The OT weaves layers of mystery and suspense I found lacking in the PT. In addition to more of the character conflict mentioned above, I felt having conflict within the Republic would accomplish both.

Page 36

A Jedi is a calling, not a vocation. In essence, it's your worldview, not your job.

Page 37

As seen here, Kenobi now has an established history of twisting words to suit his own purpose.

Page 38

"Alternatives to fighting." It's impossible not to wink at the audience a bit in these movies. This echoes Kenobi's plan in Episode IV.

Page 39

Another classic *Star Wars* trope: Disguising yourself in order to infiltrate the enemy. I do anticipate that there might be some criticism of this project in the "it's too similar to the OT" sense. But that was intentional, especially for this film. The PT went too far away from the language of *Star Wars*, and that's the language I want to use to tell these stories.

Page 40

Maul was woefully under-used in the PT.

Even if they tried to later fix it in the cartoons. Here, it's my goal to make him a fully-realized character.

Page 41

A note on Yoda. Or, more specifically, his absence from the RT. I think my least-favorite part of the PT is the portrayal of Yoda. He contradicts everything the OT Yoda stood for. Flipping around and using a tiny lightsaber? Gross. Instead, I chose to keep the mystery of *The Empire Strikes Back* intact by giving mention of Yoda here, thus creating a legend for him, so we too would expect Luke to find a badass Jedi warrior on Dagobah.

Page 42

The Attache. Perhaps a less-wasted version of Captain Phasma from Episode VII.

Page 43

Exposition isn't easy to keep interesting. For this scene, I went with the idea that Kenobi and the Attache are sizing one another up, but we as the audience get to learn several tidbits about the story world at the same time.

Page 44

I tried to keep the political scenes to a minimum, but seeing as how the Senate is mentioned several times in Episode IV, it makes sense to feature it in the prequels. I liked the physical design from the PT, so I brought that here as well.

Page 45

Mystery!

Page 46

By now, the connection between the Mandalorians and the future Empire should be crystal clear. So, the question becomes: Do the Mandalorians turn into the Empire? Or is their technology simply assimilated?

Page 47

I decided to show Rose and Guild's faces early so it's not weird or disappointing when we see them in Episode III. You'll see why once you've read that script.

Page 48

Have I mentioned yet that I wanted to beef-up the concept of clones and cloning? If this war is named for the fact that there are clones in it, I want to make it something truly threatening and larger than life.

Page 49

Character chemistry, humor, and foreshadowing. All packed into a tight space.

Page 50

Jedi can't Force-choke another Jedi. Okay?

Page 51-52

Already Anakin's fear is turning to Anger. But Lara is a calming influence on him. Critical foreshadowing.

Page 53

Obi-Wan Kenobi is a liar! We'd all do well to remember that.

Page 54

Bringing a ship without weapons into the movie was a personal challenge to myself. It makes sense that not all craft are armed, right? But how to make them still useful in a fight? Hopefully I pulled it off....

Page 55

More fun and games/humorous banter. When Zee-squared's right, he's right.

Page 56

The Mandaur is something I added to later drafts after I felt my movies didn't have enough creatures. But I didn't just put in monsters for their own sake, I made an effort to give them story significance. Here, we see more about the Mandalorian symbol and what those people value: ferocity and strength.

Page 57

Lesson from *Jaws*, *Alien*, and others. Don't show the creature right away.

Page 58

We're having fun, right? Our characters are. Anakin and Lara are having their "Han and Leia" moments.

"Do I still have my eyebrows" - Special Edition jibe. Lucas took off Vader's eyebrows in *Return of the Jedi* to make him look more burnt. So...I made fun of that. I love subtle jokes, but had to share that one in case you missed it.

Page 59

Lock S-Foils in attack position! Those minor characters from the opening are back. Also, we've just raised the stakes. The Republic is attacking the Mandalorian mothership, but our heroes are still onboard.

The Mandalore. Was there a head Mandalorian not shown? Or was their leader Maul? Perhaps it was Palpatine. This is for YOU to decide. *Star Wars* is supposed to be bigger than what we see on screen. That's why so much other material stems from these stories.

Page 60

"Human/CGI" - another little joke, but plausible. We're going to see a lot more of this kind of thing after *Rogue One*.

Page 61

There's a bit of *Jurassic Park* going on here, and I'm totally cool with that. Something tells me John Williams would be too.

Page 62

This conveyor-belt scene was inspired by a prequel scene. It's not that every single idea or sequence in the PT was terrible, it's that there was no compelling story tying it all together. This is my way of proving that, to myself if not to you too.

Page 63

I find the Jedi-as-superheroes is best used in moderation.

Page 64

I tried to give all my action scenes a purpose beyond the flashiness. Here, the characters' relationships deepen through shared danger and escape. Should remind you of the OT in that regard.

Page 65

Here's a good example of making the world bigger than our heroes. There's plenty for the minor characters to do, as opposed to letting the Jedi have all the important roles.

Page 66

I couldn't help myself with the "shoot first" reference. Sorry, not sorry. BUT-there was a purpose here. Part of being a good sequel means flipping the expectations set out by the original. We knew what she was doing with the Mind Trick, so when he suddenly shoots, you were caught by surprise, right?

Page 67

Besides, we need conflict! These characters can't just be chummy or there'd be no dramatic tension.

Page 68

We can feel Lara's hesitance here, though we don't know why. Something about the nature of her King and Queen being held adds tension. This foreshadows when we learn she is a Princess.

Page 69

Hoisted by her own petards. Literally hoisted in this case. Though the heroes should win the day by their own actions, sometimes the universe can step in and save the day as well. This ensures that they're not seen as overly powerful in the grand scheme.

Page 70

Obvious parallel between Bail's rescue and that of future Leia is obvious.

Page 71

A callback to the opening hook is a strong dramatic element, though is often over-used in Hollywood for my tastes. Hopefully it works here as we learn the significance of the clones from our opener.

Their "programmed dialogue" should also remind you of the Royal Organas early on, thus telling you their true nature as clones themselves.

Page 72

IMHO, the PT was missing big reveals like the OT. Here's the first one for the RT--Lara is actually royalty.

Page 73

Even a fully-trained Jedi is not immune to the pull of the Dark Side. Here we see Lara's rage at learning of the cold-blooded murder of her parents.

Page 74

As the internal stakes for our characters raise, so too the external stakes of the space battle.

Page 75

By showing the tide turn outside, this prepares us for the internal tide of battle to shift as well.

Page 76

Yet, even so, it's a temporary setback if the characters will embrace their destiny (one of the themes of this trilogy).

Page 77

(SPOILER about Luke and Leia's parentage) Lara's green lightsaber echoes Luke's from Return of the Jedi. In case of fact, hers is the Jedi nature he's returning to. In the first two movies, Luke is too much like his father, Anakin. I made this a visual cue by aligning the colors of Luke's lightsaber to the parent he's emulating.

Page 78

In the PT, non-Jedi characters are all but useless. Not here.

Page 79

The lightsaber cutting through a door is another moment I lifted from the PT. When something works, it works.

Page 80

With the Republic Fleet losing, the moment where Maul stands between the heroes and escape becomes all the more potent. We feel the danger on a subconscious level.

Though we know at least Anakin and Kenobi survive to other movies, this puts them in peril on an instinctual level.

Page 81

Though I know that you know Maul has a double-bladed lightsaber, the idea for this writing exercise is that the hypothetical audience for *What the Prequels Should Have Been* have not seen the PT and therefore do not. I'm saving the second blade for the second film.

Page 82

Here's where we learn that Maul is not simply a fallen Jedi. He's something new. You might even say he's...*A New Menace*.

Page 83

This is what Luke wishes he could have done for Obi-Wan against Vader.

Page 84

Anakin piloting Vader's TIE is part of a more gradual transition to the villain of the OT.

Page 85

Remember 'lil orphan Ani destroying the inside of the ship in *The Phantom Menace*? I know, we're all trying to block that out. I only bring it up to say: This is what that scene should have looked like.

Page 86

When given the choice to kill Maul on his own terms (Anakin is a much better pilot), he chooses instead to aid his friends. Is this a choice he'll later dwell on with regret?

Page 87

Because of his choice, things are finally going well for our heroes. Unfortunately, this is not a lesson Anakin will remember in future films. By its very nature, this story is a tragedy.

Page 88

Lara quickly proves her competency multiple times in this script. Here, we see her improvise with creative techniques rather than waiting to be saved.

Page 89

With the tide of the Space Battle turning as well, things are finally going good for our heroes.

Page 90

...but it ain't over yet.

Page 91

Anakin finally has his confidence back after his moment of failure in the Alderaan Palace.

Page 92-94

The Force is strong with this one. This is where we, and the Jedi, first see Anakin's potential as a Force-user.

Page 95

Victory! By trusting in the will of the Force.

Page 96

But there have been losses. Here we see Lara's strength by the way her grief didn't get to her until the battle was over.

Page 97

This scene with Palpatine and Kenobi, enemies though ostensibly on the same team here, was fun to write. Even in their celebrations we have a buried tension between them.

Page 98

"She's ready for the trials" - I felt like the PT showed us too much of the Jedi order. There was no mystery anymore. I decided to give us more about the Jedi that isn't shown.

Page 99-100

There's so much journey needed before Anakin becomes Vader. Showing a glimpse at the end of this movie in the form of his military uniform hints at what's to come in the next movies. He is fluid. A man capable of reinventing himself.

Page 101

How's that for foreshadowing of a new menace? I originally had planned on not including the word "Sith" in these scripts, as that term never appears in the OT (seriously). But, ultimately, I felt that would diverge too much. Sith are mentioned in Episode VII. So, Vader is a fallen Jedi, but Palpatine and his ilk are something far more evil.

Page 102

Annnnnnd more foreshadowing. This is, after all, the start to a trilogy. Here we see hints of Lara and Bail's relationship in Episode II (you'll see what I mean when you read it).

Page 103

The whole "two medals" thing was me righting a cosmic wrong: Chewbacca doesn't get a medal at the end of *A New Hope*. Scol gets an extra for Chewie's sake.

Final thoughts.

-My scripts are short, my writing is lean. Action tends to take more time on screen than it does on the page.

-No Padme? No, instead, we get Lara. I wanted it clear that this is a new character. And isn't it interesting that she has an L-name that isn't all too uncommon here on Earth?

Hmmm...

-Hope you enjoyed! Episode II and III will be released soon. Subscribe to my blog or follow me on social media and you won't miss the release date.