

STAR WARS: DARK EMPIRE 1

AUDIO ADAPTATION TRANSCRIPT Based on an audio adaptation of "Star Wars: Dark Empire," a six-issue comic book miniseries published by Dark Horse Comics in 1991. Audio Adaptation produced by Highbridge Audio, Inc.

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A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away

NARRATOR: Star Wars: Dark Empire.

Music: Star Wars Main Theme.

NARRATOR:

Following the deaths of Darth Vader and the Emperor and the destruction of the second Death Star, the Rebel Alliance proclaimed a New Republic over three-fourths of the galaxy. But without the thousands of Jedi Knights who formed the backbone of the Old Republic, the new confederation was a precarious one. Long years of struggle followed, during which Imperial factions gained control over a fourth of the Galaxy. Whole systems became fortresses, bristling with firepower.

Then, five years after the Battle of Endor, the infamous Grand Admiral Thrawn mounted a terrible assault, nearly bringing the fledgling Republic to its knees. Ultimately, Thrawn was defeated. But within days of his downfall, surviving members of the Emperor's Ruling Circle staged a stunning assault on the Emperor's throneworld, a planet called Coruscant, and that vital system once again fell under Imperial control. It seemed certain that a new Empire was about to emerge from the ashes of the old. That very possibility triggered a ferocious civil war among the numerous Imperial factions. Who would sit in the Emperor's throne? Who had the right-- and the might?

Meanwhile, the Rebels were quick to seize the opportunity to sow confusion among the feuding Imperials, using two captured Star Destroyers to stage hit-and-run sorties into the war zones. One such raid, over the raging Imperial City battleground, ended in disaster: The Alliance Star Destroyer Liberator, commanded by Luke Skywalker and Lando Calrissian, crash- landed on the planet's surface. As our story opens, Princess Leia Organa and her husband Han Solo have left their two children in safekeeping, and together with the Wookiee Chewbacca and the protocol droid C3P0, are on a daring mission to rescue their fallen comrades.....

SCENE 1-1 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT
===== Sound: The roar of
the Falcon's engines. An alarm goes off.

LEIA: Han, the navicomputer just reported extreme turbulence at our reentry coordinates over the Imperial City!

HAN: That'll be battle debris, Leia! The whole Imperial sector is littered with it! Warn the other ships!

Sound: Intercom activates.

LEIA: This is the Millenium Falcon. Rebel Star, Antares Six, do you copy?

CAPTAIN SNUNB: We copy you, Millenium Falcon. Antares Six here.

CAPTAIN NEVA: Rebel Star here, over.

LEIA: We're coming up on some spatial distortions ahead. Our scanners show lots of orbital wreckage. Stay sharp--those big Frigates you're flying aren't as manueverable as the Falcon.

CAPTAIN SNUNB: We copy that, Falcon. We're right behind you.

HAN: Chewie, get ready to cut in the sublight engines. Energize repulsorlifts. Prepare to exit hyperspace.

CHEWBACCA: ROARS IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

THREEPIO: Sir, the odds of collision with that amount of spacial debris are 3,722 to 1....if I may suggest--

HAN:Chewie, watch your thrusters!

CHEWBACCA: ROARS.

HAN: And remind me to crosswire Threepio's voice synthesizer when we get back to base.

THREEPIO: But sir, if I may say so--

LEIA: Threepio, sit down! Five seconds to reentry!
Four.....three.....two.....

Sound: The Falcon leaves hyperspace.

HAN: Starship wreckage dead ahead!! Bank right!

Sound: The Falcon swerves to avoid collision.

CHEWBACCA: GRUMBLES.

HAN: I see it, I see it, Chewie. Lucky I just brought the Falcon's thrusters up to maximum specs, or we'd be sliced and diced like space slugs in a servo.

LEIA: (awed) There must be hundreds of wrecked ships out here. The battle must have been incredible.

HAN: Leia, the other ships are coming out of hyperspace. Those big Frigates'll never get through this wreckage.

Sound: Leia activates the intercom again.

LEIA: Rebel Star, Antares Six, this is the Falcon. There is too much debris here. Come around to 02. That's 02. You'll find a gap in the wreckage.

CAPTAIN NEVA: Negative, Millenium Falcon. We can make it, we can--

REBEL STAR OFFICER: Watch it--Maximum thrust!! HARD LEFT, HARD LEFT---

Sound: A massive explosion as the Rebel Star collides with a wreck and is blown to bits.

CAPTAIN SNUNB: Millenium Falcon, Rebel Star just vanished in a ball of flame.....

LEIA: Captain Neva's Frigate is hit!

HAN: We've got to go back and help them--

LEIA: (distant) It's too late.....none of them survived.

HAN: Are you sure?

LEIA: Han.....I feel it. Through the Force. I'm sure.

CAPTAIN SNUNB: Millenium Falcon, this is Antares Six. We'll stay and look for survivors. You go ahead after the others.

HAN: Stand by, Antares Six. (turns off intercom.) Just great. Luke crashes a captured Star Destroyer, and we just lost a good Frigate crew....I knew this trip was a bad idea.

LEIA: Han....

HAN: What we really ought to do is take the Falcon out towards the Galactic Core and investigate those rumors of superweapons coming out of the Imperial sector.

LEIA: They sent Admiral Ackbar to do that, Han. Besides, those are just rumors. Luke and Lando are in real trouble.

HAN: They don't need us! If I know those guys, right about now they've got the Imperials doing the Gamorrean two-step!

LEIA: Han, we lost their signal! The distress beacon broke contact at zero altitude!!

CHEWBACCA: ROARS.

HAN: Yeah, Chewie, you're right. You're both right. I'm sorry I shot off my big mouth. (activates intercom.) Solo to Antares Six. Establish a docking orbit and prepare to search for survivors....we're going planetside.

CAPTAIN SNUNB: Copy that, General Solo. We'll keep you on our tracking screens. Good luck looking for Commander Skywalker.

HAN: Yeah, wherever he is.

Sound: The Falcon roars towards Coruscant.

SCENE I-2 INT. EMPEROR'S PALACE
===== Sound: Crunching rock
and effort as Luke frees a doorway in the Imperial Palace.

LUKE: There. It's open.

ARTOO: WHISTLES A BRIEF QUERY.

LUKE: Yes Artoo, just as I thought. Some sort of secret passageway, leading down from the Imperial Palace.

Sound: Luke begins to walk (and Artoo to roll).

LUKE: In all the years the Rebels occupied Coruscant, I can't believe we never found this chamber.

ARTOO: BEEPS OUT "WHEN?" .

LUKE: Probably during the civil war. A laser blast or concussion cannon--probably destroyed this whole panel. It's dark.....so dark.....

ARTOO: SUGGESTS USING HIS LIGHTS.

LUKE: No thanks, Artoo. But it's not that kind of darkness. There's something.....something powerful here. Something dangerous, too. Artoo, lock that door into position. Whatever was down here was well hidden and well shielded. That's why I told Lando not to follow us.

ARTOO: PROTESTS.

LUKE: I know you don't detect any life-forms. These are the ruins.....of the Emperor's Palace. It's been pretty much deserted since we evacuated during the civil war. (shivers) No, these are more like dangerous memories. Memories of.....

Sound: A door opens automatically.

LUKE:....my father.

ARTOO: BLEEPs IN SURPRISE.

LUKE: Yes, Artoo. Anakin Skywalker. But if he ever lived here, he did so as Darth Vader. This whole place is.....it resonates with the power of the Dark Side. Stay here, Artoo. See if you can power up that tech station. And get us some light! I've got to have a look around.

Sound: Artoo rolls off as Luke begins to walk around the chamber.

LUKE: (more to himself than Artoo) I can still feel the Dark Side here. Like a cold hand--it's focus is very powerful. I wish I knew why my father turned to the Dark Side. What did he find there....?

ARTOO: WHISTLES A YODELING SUMMONS.

Sound: A holoprojector comes on.

LUKE: Artoo, I wanted a light, not some old hologram!

ARTOO: MOANS.

LUKE: Wait--leave it on!!! That's an image of the Emperor~! What's he saying? C-can you boost the power?

ARTOO: BEEPS IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

EMPEROR: My attempts to create my own version of the device called "the Jedi Holocron" have failed. I have resorted to this crude device to record my discoveries of the Dark Side.

LUKE: It is the Emperor!

ARTOO: BLATTS IN DISGUST.

LUKE: (strangely insistent) NO, Artoo, leave it on! (voice trailing off) I...want....to listen.....

Sound: A low humming echoes through the next line, as if the Dark Side itself was audible.

EMPEROR: The Book of Anger, Chapter One.....

SCENE 1-3 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT
===== Sound: The Falcon blasts through Coruscant's atmosphere.

CHEWBACCA: WHINES.

HAN: Okay, Chewie. Buckle up, everyone--we've hit a mild magnetic storm in the upper atmosphere.

LEIA: Han, I love you, but this ship is still a pile of junk!

HAN: Yeah, well this "pile of junk" just saved us from becoming one more piece of space garbage.

LEIA: Maybe, but I'm getting pretty shaken up by this magnetic storm.

HAN: That's because you prefer my kind of magnetism.

LEIA: Oh, Han.....

THREEPIO: Oh, sir, there seem to be--

HAN: I see 'em, I see 'em!

LEIA: What is it?

HAN: Imperial TIE Fighters, going our way.

Sound: Proximity alarm goes off. The roar of passing TIE Fighters.

HAN: Deflector shields up, Chewie!

CHEWBACCA: AGREES, THEN MUTTERS IN CONFUSION.

HAN: Yeah.....didn't even stop to say hello.

LEIA: They must be joining forces with one of the Imperial factions fighting for the throne. They're heading straight for the ruins of the Imperial City.

HAN: Where the Emperor himself used to hang his hat, back when he was alive. Not much left of that place now.

LEIA: Not since the civil war started. Coruscant was a beautiful place when the Rebels controlled this system.

HAN: Yeah, 'till we got driven off-planet by those Imperials.

LEIA: Coruscant used to be the political center of the galaxy. Now it's only a barren battleground, fought over by remaining members of the Emperor's Ruling Council.

THREEPIO: Thank goodness we've seen the last of the Empire. That's all I have to say.

HAN: Yeah, that's what we thought when Luke and his father defeated the Emperor. Then Admiral Thrawn unleashed his forces and almost wiped us out.

CHEWBACCA: TEASES HAN.

LEIA: Chewie's right, Han. You are a pessimist.

HAN: Hey, I'm not complaining. All this infighting among the Imperials has given the Rebel Alliance a chance to get organized. Not to mention giving you and me time for a honeymoon.

LEIA: (LAUGHS)

HAN: I just feel like we've been in this situation before. We've think we've got the Empire on the ropes, but who knows what enemy is waiting in the wings?

SCENE 1-4 INT. EMPEROR'S PALACE
===== Sound: Same as in 1-2. A low humming as the hologram of the Emperor speaks.

EMPEROR: And I have come to realize that the Dark Side is my only ally. The Dark Side is the only means to power.

ARTOO: BEEPS UNEASILY.

LUKE: Be quiet, Artoo, I-I don't care about the time. But could you do something about the heat? I suddenly feel....cold.....

ARTOO: TRIES TO COMPLY.

EMPEROR: My explorations of the Dark Side of the Force have revealed to me many wonderful secrets.

LUKE: (growing weak) Cold.....like a dead hand pressing against my heart.....

EMPEROR: I have learned that anger and will, when joined together, forge a most unholy and devastating alliance.

LUKE: Maybe Artoo's right.....time to leave.....but it's like a great weight, pressing down on me.....I....can't move.....can't.....leave.....

EMPEROR: Using anger, I have learned to unlock the hidden reservoirs of the glorious Dark Side power.

LUKE: No.....

EMPEROR: Anger, concentrated by will, in the vital center of the body, creates a portal through which vast energies are released--the energies of the Dark Side of the Force. This is the power I command now that I am one with the Dark Side.

LUKE: Is this....what my father felt?

EMPEROR: With these energies, I have slain my enemies from across the empty reaches of space.

LUKE: I shouldn't.....listen....

EMPEROR: I have created lightning, and unleashed devastating fires.

LUKE:.....but I can't.....stop.....

EMPEROR: With this knowledge, I can unleash the Dark Side energies around us, even to shatter the fabric of space itself! In this way, I have created storms.....

Sound: New and louder humming as Luke calls upon the Force.

LUKE: Got--to--break---FREE!!!

Sound: Luke crashes against the floor. The holoprojector suddenly cuts out.

ARTOO: BEEPS IN ALARM.

LUKE: I'm all right, Artoo. This place is strong with the Dark Side. And the presence of the Emperor.....even in a hologram....is almost overpowering. I've got to resist the temptation to study these tapes. Still.....I wonder what he meant about "storms".....

SCENE 1-5 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT
===== HAN: Okay, we're coming up on the ruins of the Imperial City.

LEIA: According to Luke's last coordinates, you're right on target.

HAN: That's the idea, sweetheart. Whoo.....we're three miles above the surface, and I can still see smoke rising from the city....if there's anything left of that place. I'd say ol' Luke put that big Star Destroyer right down on top of it.

THREEPIO: Poor Artoo-Detoo is with them! If anything's happened to him, I'll never forgive myself.

SCENE 1-6 EXT. CORUSCANT BATTLEFIELD/ INT. AT-AT WALKER
===== Sound: A falling shell hits the ground, shaking it. The sky is filled with screams, blaster fire, and louder cannon fire. Comlink is activated.

AT-AT CONTROLLER: Imperial Walker Unit One, this is Unit Six.

AT-AT CONTROLLER TWO: Unit One here, over.

AT-AT CONTROLLER: We've got a whole platoon of mutinous Imperial troops marching in at 060. We're taking heavy fire. Looks like they're going on the offensive.

AT-AT CONTROLLER TWO: Copy that, Unit Six. Stay on target. We've got a squadron of TIE Fighters dropping out of orbit. They'll blast those mutineers into Rancor food! Our AT-AT's have been ordered to track down the Rebel intruders, so keep your scanners focused on the ruins where that Star Destroyer crashed.

AT-AT CONTROLLER: We're never going to find those Rebels in all this wreckage....

Sound: Two cannon shots, and an explosion.

AT-AT CONTROLLER TWO: I think they just found us!

Sound: Comlink goes off.

SCENE 1-7 EXT. CORUSCANT BATTLEFIELD

===== Sound: Two blaster shots.

WEDGE: Good shot, Lando!

LANDO: Thanks, Wedge. But I don't think our field weapons are doing much good against those huge Imperial walkers. Status report?

WEDGE: We've got 15 wounded, and most of our blasters need time to re-energize.

LANDO: Maybe if we explained that to the Imperials, they'd break for lunch. GET DOWN!!

Sound: Cannon fire, close by.

LANDO: You okay, Wedge?

WEDGE: Yeah, thanks. You saved my--

LANDO: Never mind! Just keep your head down and return fire!

WEDGE: We can't hold out much longer against that!

Sound: A ship roars overhead, and opens up on the AT-AT.

LANDO: That's the Millenium Falcon!!

HAN: (over comlink) YEEHAH!! Too late for us to get in on the fun?

LANDO: Han Solo, you ol' space pirate! What are you doing here?

HAN: What I always do, Lando--

SCENE 1-8 INT. MILLENIUM FALCON COCKPIT

===== HAN: --saving your butt! Again!

LEIA: Look at all the carnage down there! Blasted TIE Fighters, twisted hulks of armored transports--the wreckage goes on for miles, and they're still fighting! I wish all these Imperials would just wipe each other out! It would save us a lot of trouble.

HAN: No such luck, Princess. We've still got that Imperial walker to deal with.

Sound: Han sets some controls and gets up.

HAN: Take the helm, Chewie. Leia, get to the upper gun turret. I'll take the belly gun. All right, Chewie--take us in. You're about to watch the greatest husband and wife gunner team in the galaxy!

SCENE 1-9 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON GUN TURRETS
===== HAN: (over headset throughout scene) You all set up there, Leia?

LEIA: Let's see....tracking systems on.....

Sound: The gun activates. The tracking screen beeps into activation.

LEIA:blaster cannons charged....ready!! At least, I hope so.....this is only the second time I've ever had to use one of these things....

Sound: A low humming, as the Force begins to build within Leia.

LEIA: (whispering to herself) Okay, Leia. Try to remember what Luke taught you. Let your mind merge with the Force. Feel the living energy that binds the galaxy together....

SCENE 1-10 INT. AT-AT WALKER
===== AT-AT CONTROLLER: New target acquired. One ship, bearing 06.

AT-AT CONTROLLER TWO: (over comlink) It's a piece of junk! Must be a scavenger ship! These Imperial walkers we're using will pulverize them!

AT-AT CONTROLLER: Affirmative, Walker One. Move off, I'll handle this!

Sound: Comlink is deactivated.

SCENE 1-11 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON GUN TURRETS
===== HAN: (over headset) Okay, Leia, my scanner shows our target at 104, moving into my range. Bring her in, Chewie. Watch me turn that metal monster into a pile of--

LEIA: (to herself) Luke is right. I can feel the Force moving through me. Guiding my hands....

Sound: Cannon fire.

HAN: Blaster's firing.....Damn, my shots bounce off his deflector shields! Chewie, give me a--

LEIA: CHEWIE!!! Swing around to 12.3!

CHEWBACCA: YELPS IN SURPRISE.

Sound: Falcon swings around.

LEIA: Good! Hold her steady.....steady.....NOW!!

Sound: Cannon fire--and an explosion, followed by a crashing sound.

HAN: Good shot, Leia! That's thing's gonna---

Sound: Massive explosion.

SCENE 1-12 EXT. BATTLEFIELD

===== BRICK: Hey, Slag. Another ship is landing. Get those battle droids ready.

SLAG: I dunno, Brick. They just took out an Imperial walker...we're only a couplea junk traders and scavengers. What if they're too tough for us?

BRICK: Aw, you must be part Jawa. We have these hot-wired weapons droids running interference, don't we? Get some backbone, will ya? Would ya rather leave this exciting life we got, gallivanting around the Empire--

SLAG: Gallivanting?

BRICK:--growing rich off the spoils of war,

SLAG: Rich? I dunno about rich--

BRICK: and dying a glorious death!

SLAG: D-d-d-death?

BRICK: Or would you rather waste your life on some backwater planet getting old'n'fat?

SLAG: Now that you mention it, uh, that sounds pretty good.

BRICK: I thought so. Now get goin'! Reattach that blaster armor on this attack droid while I activate his program.

Sound: The two work on the droid.

BRICK: There.

DROID: Droid activated. Systems on.

BRICK: Walk over there with the other droids and await further orders. Come on, Slag, let's go.

SLAG: I-I just don't know, Brick.

BRICK: Aw, relax! Even if these old battle droids don't do the trick....I gotta 'nother surprise up my sleeve.....

SCENE 1-13 EXT. CORUSCANT BATTLEFIELD

===== Sound: The Falcon lands, and it's boarding ramp lowers.

HAN: Hey, Lando!

LANDO: Han, you grundly spork-chaser, it's good to see you! Well, what took you so long? Another honeymoon? We've been holed up here for days!

THREEPIO: Oh, Artoo, it's so good to see you in one piece!

ARTOO: GREETES THREEPIO.

LEIA: Lando, where's Luke?

LANDO: He took off with Artoo right after we crashed. He said something about "the dark side of the Force still being very powerful in this place."

LEIA: You mean....he's been gone for six days?!?

LANDO: Yeah--but if Artoo's back, Luke must be nearby. Right now, I'm more concerned about the renegades and the scavengers that are crawling all over the ruins. Every junk- trader in the galaxy has been drawn to this place like flies to the feast. This bunch is using hot-wired weapons droids! They've created their own little army!!!

HAN: And it looks like they're heading this way! Take cover!!

Sound: More blaster fire, and the clomping sound of droid feet.

DROID: Targets acquired. Begin rapid-fire.

Sound: A machine-gun like blaster opens up, followed by others.

LANDO: Return fire! Watch out for those war droids!

Sound: Regular blaster fire joins the fray.

BRICK: Ha. Come on, Slag, let's go check out that ship!

SLAG: Heyyyy, look at the tech on this baby! Modified power couplings, first-class flux stabilizers.....

BRICK: Hey....you know what this ship is?!? This is the Millenium Falcon!

SLAG: The Falcon!? The most notorious ship in the galaxy!! Oh ho, man, I'm gonna love strippin' this starship!

Sound: Brick and Slag start attacking the Falcon with tools.

LEIA: Oh no--those scavengers are between us and the Millenium Falcon!

HAN: Hey, they're trying to steal my ship!

CHEWBACCA: HOWLS WITH OUTRAGE.

LEIA: Han, wait--!

Sound: More blaster fire, bouncing off the Falcon's hull.

HAN: Get away from my ship, scum!!! Come on, Chewie!!

LEIA: Don't be crazy!

SLAG: See Brick, it ain't workin'! Here they come!

BRICK: I got things under control. Uh, let's see....Activate dis, uh, remote that opens the cargo door on my transport ship, and....

Sound: Cargo door opens. A group of large animal noises, like pit bulls on steroids.

LANDO: Watch it, Han!!! They're releasing a pack of Neks!!!!

HAN: (grunts as he dives back behind cover) Neks? What are Neks?

LEIA: Cyborrean battle dogs, armoured and fitted with attack stimulators. They kill on sight.

HAN: Yeah, and they're ugly too. We'd better get out of here.

LEIA: Wait. I think I can handle them. Luke taught me how to use the Force to sow confusion in the minds of others. It's faster than a blaster, and a lot less messy.

HAN: I don't know, sweetheart, I think I'd prefer a blaster. That way I know they're not gonna gnaw off my leg when my back is turned. Besides, I'm not even sure these things have minds.

Sound: A humming, rising in volume and pitch.

LEIA: Just got to concentrate.....concentrate.....

Sound: The dogs suddenly start yelping, running off into the distance.

HAN: Huh. The dogs are turning tail. Leia, I apologize, I didn't know you could--

LEIA: It wasn't me. Han--

LUKE: It was me.

HAN: Luke!

LEIA: Oh, Luke! (hugs him) You're all right! Where were you?

LUKE: In a minute, Leia. First, let me take care of these battle droids.

DROID: Anomaly. Anomaly. This unit experiencing unexplained- -

Sound: Explosions, all across the battlefield.

HAN: Wha--he just waved his hand and all those battle droids exploded!

LUKE: Simple. I just used the Force to displace the master servo control in each droid. They destroyed themselves.

LEIA: Luke, behind you! It's another Imperial Walker! It's about to--

Sound: Cannon fire--which spangs as it bounces off Luke! Luke waves his lightsaber, deflecting the rest. One deflected shot goes right back at the Walker, blowing off it's 'head' weapons. Luke turns off his saber.

HAN: I don't believe it, he used his lightsaber to deflect the blaster fire right back at that thing!

LANDO: But it's still standing!

LUKE: (supremely confident) Not for long, Lando.

LANDO: Don't tell me you can use the Force against something that big!

LUKE: Of course. "Size matters not." The only difference is in your mind. Watch...

Sound: The humming begins again, stronger than with Leia.....

LANDO: What's he doing now?

Sound: Creaking and shaking of gears and metal plates....

SCENE 1-14 INT. AT-AT WALKER

===== AT-AT CONTROLLER

TWO: He's still standing!

GUNNER: How could we have missed him?

AT-AT CONTROLLER TWO: We didn't miss him! He deflected our shots with that saber thing!

GUNNER: What's he doing? What's he doing??

AT-AT CONTROLLER TWO: He's just standing there!!

GUNNER: He's doing something. My power grid's gone haywire! My turboblasters are on overload!

AT-AT CONTROLLER TWO: Dump the power from the engines! HURRY BEFORE---

Sound: Massive explosion and screams. Huge crashing sound.

SCENE 1-15 EXT. CORUSCANT BATTLEFIELD
===== Sound: Cheers
from the Rebel fighters.

HAN: Good job, kid!

LEIA: Oh, Luke, I'm so glad you're all right!

ARTOO: BEEPS OUT A LITTLE LINE.

THREEPIO: Yes Artoo, this is quite an emotional moment! My protocol empathy module is starting to overheat!

LEIA: Come on, get those wounded aboard the Falcon!

REBEL: (over intercom) Evacuating planet in 15 minutes.

REBEL #2: Move it, let's go, let's go!

REBEL #3: Got to get those wounded out of here, get the equipment off!

LANDO: --so there we were, Han. Me, Luke, and the others, standing on the bridge of that Star Destroyer--

HAN: The one you just crashed, Lando.

LANDO: A ship with lightspeed engines that'll take you from here to Tatooine in a nanosecond. But it drops through the atmosphere like a stray meteor. I'm telling you, this face of mine should be smashed as flat as a Hutt in heavy gravity.

HAN: So what happened?

LANDO: It was Luke! He guided that ship down like it was an Ewok's hang glider. Used the deflector shields to cushion our fall.

HAN: That's great, but--

LANDO:--but.....it was more than that! NO ONE should have been able to land that ship! But after seeing what he did to that Imperial Walker, well.....he must have used the Force to help him. He's growing strong, Han. Really strong. I haven't seen anything like that since.....since Vader.....

SCENE 1-16 ANTARES SIX BRIDGE

===== REBEL: (over intercom) Antares Six, this is Medavac Shuttle One, we are entering the docking bay.

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN (A Sullustan in the comic): Affirmative, Shuttle One. (turns off comlink) Captain, that's the last of the shuttle crews. All the wounded from the planet's surface are accounted for.

CAPTAIN SNUNB: That's all of them? My dear, what a tragedy. Get the wounded to Sickbay immediately. And contact the Millenium Falcon. Tell them we've finished rescue operations and are about to depart. Keep a sharp eye out, helm. We don't want Antares Six to end up like Rebel Star-

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ANTARES SIX CREWMAN: Captain!!! Look at this!!

SCENE 1-17 EXT. CORUSCANT BATTLEFIELD

===== HAN: You want to do what!?!?

LUKE: I have to stay on this planet, Han!

LEIA: Luke, what's wrong??

LUKE: I found strange clues in the Palace. Leia, I have to stay here. But you and Han, Chewie, Lando--you should leave this place at once.

HAN: Are you kidding?! We traveled a million light-years to get you out of trouble, and you want to stay here?!?

LUKE: Han, you don't understand! There's a great disturbance in the Force. Someone--or something--is using the Dark Side with unbelievable power!!! I've felt it! SEEN it!!!

LEIA: But you know we can't leave you! I won't let you face whatever it is by yourself!

HAN: Whatever this thing is, we'll be right there beside you, kid, blasters blazing.

LUKE: (tightly) Han, this isn't just another gun battle. (distant) A vast evil is approaching. It knows I'm here. What will happen is unavoidable. It is my destiny. It is beginning....now.

SCENE 1-18 INT. ANTARES SIX BRIDGE

===== Sound: A proximity alarm has gone off.

CAPTAIN SNUNB: What is it?

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN: Some kind of.....wormhole...opening up in space. It's huge! Fifty times the size of our ship! Energy readings off the scale!

Sound: Comlink goes on.

CAPTAIN SNUNB: Antares Six calling the Millenium Falcon. Our scanners just picked up a gigantic hyperspace wormhole--an energy storm of undetermined magnitude is--

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN: It's no good, sir--there's too much interference. Your message isn't getting through.

Sound: A huge maelstrom of sound--lightning, hail, laser blasts, and more all joined in a capohony of noise--is blasting straight at the Antares Six.

CAPTAIN SNUNB: Blast.....

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN: It's heading right for us!!!

CAPTAIN SNUNB: EVASIVE ACTION! FULL RIGHT THRUSTERS!!!

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN: THEY'RE NOT RESPONDING, CAPTAIN!!! WE'VE LOST LATERAL GUIDANCE!!!

CAPTAIN SNUNB: FULL REVERSE!!!! BACK US AWAY!!!

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN: TOO LATE--!!!!

Sound: The sound of the energy storm is deafening, and growing closer.....closer....and fades off into the distance again.

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN: Wha--What happened?

CAPTAIN SNUNB: The energy storm....swept right by us.....ignored us like we weren't even here.

ANTARES SIX CREWMAN: Captain....it's heading right for the surface of the planet! It's heading right for--

CAPTAIN SNUNB:--right for the ruins of the Imperial City. And our friends are in it's path. May the Force be with them.....

SCENE 1-19 EXT. CORUSCANT BATTLEFIELD
===== LUKE: Leia, please! You all must leave now!!!

HAN: Listen kid, all-powerful Force or no Force, we can't just leave you to--

Sound: The storm is now audible in the distance.

ARTOO: WHOOPS AND SQUEALS IN ALARM.

THREEPIO: Don't interrupt, Artoo!

ARTOO: SQUAWKS IN PANIC.

THREEPIO: What's that? ARTOO: ELABORATES WITH SOME SPEED.

THREEPIO: An energy storm? Well, I don't hear anything.

Sound: The storm becomes VERY audible.

THREEPIO: OH MY!!!

LANDO: (hushed) Look at that sky.

THREEPIO: What is it!?!?

LEIA: The sky's on fire!

HAN: Must be that same magnetic storm we hit earlier--

LUKE: It's a storm--but not caused by anything natural. It's almost upon us. There's no need for you to die too!

LEIA: We can't leave you!!!

LUKE: It doesn't want you! It wants me! Leave, all of you, or you'll be destroyed!

LEIA: No, Luke!! We're brother and sister--

LUKE: We are brother and sister! But my destiny is not yours! You.....your children....are the future of the Jedi. Protect them!!!
LEAVE!!!!

HAN: (reluctantly) Come on, Leia. We've got to get back to the ship.

LEIA: But Luke won't--

HAN: Luke can take care of himself. Even if he is crazy.

ARTOO: LETS OUT A DEFIANT WHISTLE.

THREEPIO: Artoo--? Oh, NO! He thinks he belongs with Master Luke! Stop him, someone, please!

HAN: No time! Luke will have to save Artoo while he's busy saving himself. Get on board, Threepio!

Sound: The heroes bundle into the Falcon, and the ramp closes. Artoo's treads are heard coming up to Luke. The storm is closing, fast.

LUKE: Good. They've escaped. Oh, Leia.....you don't understand the power I've achieved since our father died. But I still don't know why our father betrayed his friends....and himself. I must find out what he learned....what made him give in to the Dark Side. It's the Dark Side that's coming. My presence triggered such hatred that it rends the fabric of space.

Sound: The Falcon's engines ignite, and the ship blasts out of ground zero.

ARTOO: MOANS WITH WORRY.

LUKE: Yes, Artoo. I know they're leaving. They've made the right decision.

Sound: The storm is now deafening again.

LUKE: I only wonder.....have I?

Sound: The storm drowns out all background noise, drowns out everything.....except a lone man's scream.

SCENE 1-20 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT
===== HAN: Believe me, Leia,
Luke knows what he's doing. I think.

LEIA: (quiet) I'm not so sure, Han. Something about the way he looked at me.....I was afraid of him.

HAN: Lando, notify Antares Six we're returning to Pinnacle Base. Chewie, lock in the auxiliary power. Prepare to jump to lightspeed.

CHEWBACCA: AGREES WHOLEHEARTEDLY.

Sound: The Falcon roars into hyperspace.

SCENE 1-20 INT. DEFIANT BRIDGE
===== Sound: Comlink goes
on.

GREEN THREE: (on comlink, nervous) This is Green Three to Green Leader. I show target ship exiting hyperspace beyond the third moon.

GREEN LEADER: (on comlink) Green Leader here. Pinnacle Base confirms our readings. The ship is broadcasting no I.D. codes. Assume intercept course.

GREEN THREE: (VERY nervous) Uh....uh, auxiliary power engaged.....

GREEN LEADER: Relax, kid, you sound nervous. This your first patrol mission?

GREEN THREE: Of-of-of....yeah, it is.

GREEN LEADER: (laughs) Take it easy. It's only one ship. We've got the whole Rebel Alliance orbiting a nearby planet. And our own Star Destroyer to back us up. You got nothing to worry about. Just keep an eye on your scanner, intercept 05.

ACKBAR: This is Admiral Ackbar, aboard the flagship Defiant.

GREEN LEADER: Admiral Ackbar? From the planet Mon Calamari? If that's so, how come you aren't broadcasting on a recognition code?

ACKBAR: We ran into an Imperial convoy, and our transponder was damaged.

GREEN LEADER: I thought you were on a recon mission into the Galactic Core....

ACKBAR: Let's just say the Imperials didn't like the idea as much as we did. Patch me through to Mon Mothma, the Alliance leader, immediately.

GREEN LEADER: Affirmative.

Sound: The comlink changes frequencies, and a viewscreen comes on.

MON MOTHMA: Admiral Ackbar! Glad to see you in one piece!

ACKBAR: Glad to be in one piece, Mon Mothma, after what we've seen. We penetrated as far as we could into the star systems still controlled by the Empire. We got as far as the planet Byss. It was ringed with thousands of warships. Something of great consequence is happening there. We saw Imperial ships from both sides of the civil war vanishing into the farthest reaches of the Galactic Core.

MON MOTHMA: Our spies and probe droids report similar sightings in other sectors. Whole fleets of ships vanishing from our tracking screens. What can it mean?

ACKBAR: The civil war has left the Imperial system a wasteland. The populations are in desperate straits. Half of the galaxy is ripe for the pickings if one person gains control of the fleet. But just when one of these Starfleet commanders has a chance to seize power, he vanishes.

MON MOTHMA: Thank goodness for that.

ACKBAR: It could be a blessing for us. Or.....well, I'm afraid of the alternative. It's beyond my ability to understand. How did the mission to the old Imperial homeworld go? Is there any news of Commander Skywalker?

MON MOTHMA: Yes, but not good, I'm afraid. We received a garbled transmission from the Imperial planet, but there was too much interference to understand it. We think they found General Calrissian and

Luke, but only Lando is returning with them. I don't know what to make of it.

ACKBAR: I think you'll get your answer soon, Mon Mothma. We've picked up the Millenium Falcon, exiting hyperspace. We're heading into Pinnacle Base.

SCENE 1-21 INT. MILLENIUM FALCON COCKPIT

===== COMPUTER: (on comlink) Pinnacle Base. Current headquarters of the Rebel Alliance. Location: Fifth moon of the planet Da Sootcha. Topographical description: The atmosphere of the fifth moon sustains carbon-based life forms. 100% of the moon's surface is covered by jagged rock formations. Indigenous life forms: Sentient avians known as 'ixylls.' Alliance headquarters located in a series of caverns on the northern hemisphere. Weapons systems: This information is classified for trainees.

Sound: Comlink goes off.

HAN: I gotta fix this stupid transmitter. Every time I bring the Millenium Falcon back to base, my comlink picks up that damn trainee orientation!

LEIA: Relax, Han. We're mooring now.

Sound: The Falcon lands on the cavern floor.

COMPUTER: (on comlink again) Tractor beam disengaging. Repulsorlift deactivated. You are clear to disembark. Welcome to Pinnacle Base.

Sound: Ramp lowers.

SCENE 1-22 EXT. DA SOOTCHA CAVERN

===== ACKBAR: Princess Leia! Thank goodness you're back!

LEIA: Admiral Ackbar.

ACKBAR: I've only just returned myself. Where's Commander Skywalker?

LEIA: A terrible thing has happened. The Dark Side has taken Luke prisoner. He let it happen!

THREEPIO: And poor Artoo is with him! They'll make hydrosplanners out of him--if he survives!

ACKBAR: Hurry! You can give a full report immediately! Mon Mothma has just called an emergency meeting of the command staff!

SCENE 1-23 INT. CAVERN MEETING ROOM

===== MON MOTHMA: (grimly) The energy storm that took Commander Skywalker--this is NOT an isolated event. Similar storms have been detected in several systems. Furthermore,

Admiral Ackbar's reconnaissance mission suggests that there is a vast war fleet gathering at the very core of the galaxy. Someone- -or something-- has been biding its time, while the feuding Imperial factions distracted our attention.

ACKBAR: We have reason to believe that some Dark Side genius is at work, creating new technologies that go beyond all previous conception.

MON MOTHMA: Activate holographic projector.

Sound: Hologractor activates. What follows is the sounds of destruction--the humming of repulsorlifts, explosions, screams, blaster shots--but on a monstrous scale.

MON MOTHMA: The images you are seeing are being transmitted at this very moment from the water-covered planet Mon Calamari-- the homeworld of Admiral Ackbar. The people of Calamari have been a proud part of the Alliance since the beginning. Now, Calamari seems to be under attack from some diabolical new machines. There, coming into view now....

Sound: Gasps from the people in the room.

LEIA: Oh my G--

CHEWIE: MOANS IN SHOCK.

HAN: What is THAT thing?!?

MON MOTHMA: The Calamari call them "World Devastators." There are dozens of them gathering near many of the worlds sympathetic to the Rebellion.

LEIA: It's--it's larger than one of the Empire's Star Destroyers.

ACKBAR: And more lethal than the Death Star.

HAN: Doesn't look all that threatening to me--I mean, I only see a few escorts of TIE Fighters, no heavy weapons--just these huge rectangular black ships hovering over the planet's surface.

ACKBAR: The World Devastators only need one weapon, General Solo. You see the large square opening at the front of the Devastator?

HAN: Sure. And another on the bottom. Looks like some kind of tractor bay.

MON MOTHMA: These World Devastators are giant factories. They consume everything in their path, and in the belly of each machine, great furnaces process the collected matter into raw elements, and then into--

LEIA: --into even more weapons of destruction. Han, the World Devastators are like twisted versions of living things- -every time they destroy something, they get even stronger.

ACKBAR: Reports from Calamari indicate my people are unable to stop the World Devastators. They are impervious to all modes of attack.

HAN: What about ion cannons, Admiral?

ACKBAR: Ineffective.

HAN: Ground assault?

ACKBAR: Suicidal.

HAN: Nothing works???

SCENE 1-24 EXT. MON CALAMARI BATTLEFIELD

===== Sound: The noises of battle are even louder. A comlink is activated.

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: Nothing! I repeat, torpedoes have done nothing to halt the enemy advance!

CALAMARIAN TWO: (over intercom) C fire 4! C fire 4!! Pull up, pull up!!

Sound: Crash and explosion.

CALAMARIAN THREE: (over intercom) I'm hit, I'm hit!!!

Sound: Another explosion.

CALAMARIAN TWO: C fire team, C fire team, take out the tower!

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: Evac shuttles! Get those evac shuttles to the front line! We're being slaughtered!!!

REBEL PILOT: (over intercom) Pull back! Pull back! All squads, regroup in a (garbled) formation!

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: But that's three degrees north of here! We can't just give up that much ground!

REBEL PILOT: Who is that?!

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: Uh, this is Captain Gammack, third battalion.

REBEL PILOT: Well, Captain, there are three World Devastators heading north, a few miles from the equator, and two more heading west. Looks like they're forming a wedge to sweep us out of the whole hemisphere! Just one of these monsters has taken out a whole division of our troops! How can we face the whole fleet???

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: We must send a transmission to the Rebel base.

REBEL PILOT: Then send it and fall back! We'll cover you as long as we can!

Sound: Transmitter is activated.

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: I hope my transmitter is strong enough to reach offplanet. Rebel Alliance, this is a transmission from the planet Calamari. We are under assault from massive World Devastators.....

SCENE 1-25 INT. CAVERN MEETING ROOM

===== CAPTAIN GAMMACK:
(over intercom) I repeat, massive World Devastators--HERE THEY COME!!!
LOOK OUT--

Sound: Ominous static.

MON MOTHMA: That's all the transmission that got through.

LEIA: It's a massacre down there.

ACKBAR: (pause, then tightly) The people of Calamari were the first to defy the Empire, years ago. When the Death Star was created, we were scheduled to be one of the first planets annihilated by that terrible weapon. When the Emperor was killed, we thought we'd been spared, but now.....whoever is reunifying the Empire is carrying out the Emperor's decision to 'discipline' us.

LEIA: Don't give up, Admiral Ackbar. If there's one thing I've learned from Luke, it's the power of hope. And the power of strong will. We'll save your planet.

SCENE 1-26 EXT. DA SOOTCHA CAVERN

===== Sound: Starfighters
warming up.

MON MOTHMA: Green and Blue Squadrons will leave at once in their X-Wing Fighters to escort and defend the evacuation of Calamari. General Calrissian, are you prepared to pilot our remaining captured Star Destroyer against these World Devastators?

LANDO: I don't know. After what I did to the last Star Destroyer, I'm not sure I'm qualified to pilot anything fancier than a garbage scow. How about you, Han? (grudgingly) You're the best star pilot in the galaxy.

HAN: Ah, sorry, uh....You'll have to wing it, Lando. I've got my hands full wet-nursing all these new fighter pilots that have joined the Rebellion. But, uh....good luck.

SCENE 1-27 INT. HAN AND LEIA'S QUARTERS

===== Sound: The hum of a
holoprojector. A faint lullaby tickles at the air.

LEIA: Hello, little Jacen....oh, and there's my beautiful Jaina. Oh, I miss you so much.....

Sound: Door opens.

HAN: Hey, Leia, I--oh, there you are. Looking at those holograms of our kids again.

LEIA: (sigh) I can't help it, Han. They're so far away.....

HAN: Leia.....you know it's better this way. As long as they're hidden away on New Alderaan, they're safe from the Empire.

LEIA: But sometimes I want to reach out and hold them so much I--

Sound: The hologram is disrupted.

HAN: Don't! You're breaking up the projection.

LEIA: (giggles) You like looking at their pictures as much as I do.

HAN: Yeah, I guess so.

LEIA: Look, Han. She has your hair. And he has your eyes.

HAN: Yeah....and if they're lucky, they'll both have your smarts. With my looks and your brains, they'll be the stars of the Galaxy.

LEIA: The next generation of Jedi Knights.

HAN: They're gonna be the leaders of hundreds of worlds, and here I am, their old dad the smuggler, tickling them under the chin like a doting old moisture farmer. (chuckles)

LEIA: What?

HAN: Oh, me. This life. I got a beautiful wife, a nice soft bed, pictures on the walls....yep, just what I always wanted.

Sound: Holoprojector is turned off. The lullaby fades.

LEIA: Han.....it's not like you to turn down an assignment like you did today.

HAN: Leia, this endless war.....it's like we've been alone for only five minutes since we got married.

LEIA: But?

HAN: I really wanted to go with Lando. But I accepted this other assignment so we'd have a chance to be together.

LEIA: Han.....something terrible is happening to Luke.

HAN: Oh jeez, Leia.....for once in my life, I'm trying to be sensitive and romantic, and see where it gets me? Luke can take care of himself!

LEIA: I can feel him, Han. He's getting farther and farther away....we must help him.

HAN: We need some time to ourselves, Leia. For you and me. Luke doesn't want any help. He says he has to do it alone, and I believe him.

LEIA: Han.....

HAN: I mean, who am I to challenge the judgment of a Jedi? Besides....(slyly) You've got enough to worry about right here.....

LEIA: (giggles again) Do I?

HAN: Uh huh. After all, beautiful princess here alone with a notorious scoundrel.....(both giggle)....who knows what could happen.....

Sound: Fade out on kissing sounds.

SCENE 1-28 INT. PRISON SHIP/ EXT. SPACEPORT

===== Sound: Ship's engines.

LUKE: Uhh.....whatever grabbed me, it was no energy storm.....and it's left me somewhere dark. And cold.

ARTOO: BEEPS A WORRIED GREETING.

LUKE: Artoo, is that you?

ARTOO: REPLIES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

LUKE: I don't know where we are. Some sort of ship. Whoever.....whatever captures us has kept us in the dark. But I don't need light to see.....

Sound: The Force rises in Luke.

LUKE: And I don't care how thick these walls are.....they're nothing compared to the power of the Force.....we're inside an Imperial dungeon ship. The kind they used to transport Jedi Knights during the Clone Wars.

Sound: Rattling.

LUKE: And it looks like we've reached our destination.

ARTOO: BLEEPs IN SURPRISE.

LUKE: A planet.....somewhere in the core of the galaxy. Surrounded by THOUSANDS of warships.....Gigantic--ahh!!! It's entirely enveloped in the Dark Side of the Force.....if there is a dark center to the universe, Artoo, this is it.

ARTOO: MOANS.

Sound: Door opens.

DARK GUARD: (echoing) We are ready to receive the prisoner.

Sound: Footsteps on metal.

DARK GUARD TWO: (amplified and echoing) JEDI KNIGHT, WELCOME.
PLEASE.....COME WITH US.

LUKE: I'm not going anywhere until--

DARK GUARD: Activate Dark Force cage.

Sound: An electrical field is engaged, and Luke and Artoo yell and grunt as they are forcibly yanked inside.

DARK GUARD: Dark Force cage energized. Prisoner contained. Inform His Excellency that his.....guest has arrived undamaged. Take him to the Great Hall.

SCENE 1-29 EXT. PALACE ENTRANCE

===== Sound: Humming
of Dark Force cage as it moves. Footsteps on metal again.

LUKE: Artoo, are you functioning?

ARTOO: BLEEPs OUT "BARELY."

LUKE: I'm glad one of us is. I.....I don't understand.....(echoing throughout the scene) my mind.....these whispers in my head.....can't....seem to.....concentrate.....

DARK GUARD: This cage is designed to hold Jedi. It disturbs the power of the Force. Neither your mind control abilities, nor your control of physical objects will work while you're in the cage.

LUKE: Ungghhh.....then I guess I'll have to resort to some old-fashioned questioning. What planet are we on?

DARK GUARD: You are on the planet Byss, at the very center of the Galaxy.

LUKE: What's that....whispering I hear?

DARK GUARD: Whispering?

LUKE: Yes.....those voices....so sinister.....

DARK GUARD: I hear nothing.

LUKE: Who are you?

DARK GUARD: I serve his Excellency.

LUKE: Who's that? Some two-bit Imperial governor with delusions of grandeur?

DARK GUARD: You are foolish to mock your new master. As you'll soon see.

Sound: Footsteps stop.

DARK GUARD: We have arrived at the Palace.

Sound: The Palace gates open.

IMPERIAL SENTINEL: Release the prisoner. We will take him from here.

LUKE: Who are these big ugly guys in the armor? They look familiar.

DARK GUARD: These are Imperial Sentinels. The elite warriors of the Empire. Deactivating Dark Force cage.

Sound: The field fades, and the cage door is opened.

LUKE: (sighs with relief)

IMPERIAL SENTINEL: Prisoner. Out.

LUKE: This is it, Artoo.

ARTOO: SAYS "THIS IS WHAT?"

LUKE: This is where my opponent--whoever he is--is waiting.

IMPERIAL SENTINEL: I said.....OUT!!!!

LUKE: Don't threaten me!! I'm here because I choose to be here!!

Sound: The Force rises.

IMPERIAL SENTINEL: (gasps in pain, hits ground)

IMPERIAL SENTINEL TWO: (does the same)

LUKE: That should teach you to offend a Jedi Master. Now to face your leader.

ARTOO: BEEPS AN ELECTRONIC RASPBERRY AT THE SENTINELS AS HE DEPARTS.

Sound: Footsteps fading into the distance, as well as Artoo's treads.

IMPERIAL SENTINEL: Impudent whelp!! I will--

DARK GUARD: --do nothing. Let him believe it is his free choice if he wants. But he is walking to his doom.

SCENE 1-30 INT. THRONE ROOM

===== Sound: Footsteps and treads.

LUKE: This Palace is like a maze. But the Force is leading me. Here.

Sound: Steps and treads stop.

LUKE: But this looks like.....a throne room!

A FAMILIAR, OLD, CRACKLY VOICE: Yes.....MY throne room!

LUKE: YOU!?!?! THE EMPEROR!!!!

EMPEROR PALPATINE: Yes.

LUKE: But you're---

EMPEROR: Dead? Young Skywalker.....You of all people should know the power of the Dark Side. And you WILL know.....oh, yes.....for YOU are destined to rule the Empire by my side!! FOREVER!!!!

Music: The chilling Imperial March, then fade to silence.

SCENE 2-1 INT. THRONE ROOM

===== Music: A short, chilly piece (from "Jaws"), then fade.

EMPEROR: Well, young Skywalker. I am pleased that you have come to me once again.

LUKE: (disbelieving) The Emperor.....ALIVE.....somehow, I knew. But I saw you die.....

EMPEROR: Yes, you knew, didn't you? You....sensed it. You are in touch with the Dark Side already. You've grown very strong in the Force since last we met. But then, so have I. Guards, you may leave us.

Sound: Twin sets of footsteps, fading off.

LUKE: How did you survive?

EMPEROR: Survive your foolishness over the moon of Endor? Survive the base treachery of your poor, weak father? (cackles) That was not the first time I "died." Nor will it be the last. Such are the mysteries of the Dark Side of the Force. Mysteries you will soon learn well. You see, my young apprentice, flesh does not easily support this great power. After all, I live primarily as energy, formless and powerful. For many

years, I have been under a dire necessity. My body has decayed again and again. And each time, I have needed to take another, transferring my essence into a humble clone of the man I once was.

LUKE: Clones?

EMPEROR: Yes, young Skywalker. The dying is painful--the transition is terrible to endure. But the suffering is a small price to pay for eternal life. (pause) Well, my young apprentice, your father is dead. Have you come to join me? Will you take the place that rightfully belongs to you?

LUKE: (grunting with effort) I.....can't.....think.....

EMPEROR: You hesitate. Let me offer you an incentive. Screen on.

Sound: Viewscreen comes on, and we hear the sounds of destruction again. EMPEROR: Behold the battle raging across the planet Calamari. Those pathetic Rebels flee before the might of my World Devastators. You have only to kneel before me, and they are yours to command.

LUKE: No.....

EMPEROR: The Rebels had their chance! They had years to reclaim the galaxy, while my discorporate mind drifted across the empty reaches of space, to return to this cloning chamber. I spent five years in hiding, while your friends tried to fulfill their dream. But without the Jedi Knights, they failed miserably. And now, I have outflanked them! Working in secret, I have created weapons such as the galaxy has never seen! These World Devastators are utterly invincible. They are invulnerable to attack. Even if every member of the crew were destroyed, the ships themselves would continue in their destructive purpose, directed by a special master control program which I maintain.

Sound: Artoo pops open his top, and pulls out Luke's lightsaber on an arm.

ARTOO: URGES LUKE TO TAKE THE LIGHTSABER.

LUKE: (sounding lethargic) What's that...Artoo? Oh.....my lightsaber.

EMPEROR: It is your destiny, my friend. To succeed your father. To wield my discipline over the worlds that have betrayed me.

Sound: Luke's lightsaber ignites!!!

LUKE: NEVER!!!

EMPEROR: Once again you stand before me, lightsaber in hand. And once again, you hesitate. I know. I know too well, my young friend. My promise of power does not entice you? And a stroke of your lightsaber might help the cause of billions-- but will it mean the end of the Dark Side?

LUKE: (straining) Strike.....everything that I am cries out for me to strike.....

EMPEROR: Is it so difficult to decide, my son? Surely you know that if you strike me down in anger, I will live again! Perhaps I will even live--as YOU!!

LUKE: NNNOOOO!!!!!!

Sound: The lightsaber hums and cracks as it strikes-- something.....

EMPEROR: (laughs) You strike the throne, but not the man! You miss by inches! But you miss on purpose! I see you have grown wise in the ways of the Force. You have achieved control; you are no longer the impulsive youth at war with your own anger. Excellent.....

LUKE: I.....will not.....kill you.....

EMPEROR: But you can still conquer me. By learning the secrets of the Dark Side. We both know there is no other way for you.

Sound: The Emperor's voice echoes at "you," and continues to reverberate in Luke's mind, along with other whispers.

LUKE: (echoing himself) The secrets of the Dark Side.....those whispers.....that's the Dark Side. The seduction of its' power.... but maybe for once.....it speaks the truth.....Maybe I must challenge the Dark Side.....from within.....

EMPEROR: Your decision, young Skywalker! NOW!!!

LUKE: I.....I.....

Sound: The lightsaber deactivates, and clatters to the floor.

LUKE: YES.

Sound: Rustling of cloth, as Luke kneels before the Emperor.

LUKE: (with a new, dangerous tone to his voice) My father's destiny.....is my own.

EMPEROR: (triumphant) It is done, my young apprentice! Let us celebrate our conquest of the galaxy!! (A long, echoing laugh.....)

SCENE 2-2 EXT. DA SOOTCHA CAVERN
===== Sound: The cavern hanger is in full bustle.

DECK OFFICER (over intercom): Pinnacle Base trainees, General Solo is now demonstrating the new prototype E-Wing fighter at the main hangar.

HAN: Okay, you trainees, thanks for signing up with the Alliance, now let's get down to business. TRAINEE: (whispering) Man, is General Solo in a bad mood or what?

TRAINEE TWO: (whispering) I'd like a blast at his mind--

TRAINEE: (whispering) I hear he's peeved 'cuz he's stuck here with the fleet--

HAN: (loudly) Hey! You guys wanna run this training program? (normally) All right, then. As I was saying--a major weapons manufacturing plant on Norval II just deposed their governor and joined the Rebellion. You're looking at the result. The latest hot Imperial fighter.

TRAINEES: (whistles and gasps of awe)

HAN: We've got it. And you guys get to fly it. Not only do you get to fly it, you get to fly it tomorrow.

TRAINEE: Why's that, General Solo?

HAN: Cuz' we just got word we're getting the stuffing kicked out of us on Calamari by those new World Devastators. I haven't gone up against them unfortunately, but I'm told they're meaner than the Death Star. So you guys have got your work cut out for you. Now, over here we've got--

THREEPIO: Excuse me, sir, but--

HAN: Later, Threepio. Now, over here we've got the latest Alliance fighter craft, the E-Wing--

THREEPIO: Sir--

HAN: It's a good ship, but we've had to beef up the cannons to the point where they might blow up in your face.

THREEPIO: General Solo--

HAN: WHAT!?!

THREEPIO: It's Princess Leia, sir. She's locked herself in her chamber. She refuses to answer anyone!

SCENE 2-3 INT. HAN AND LEIA'S QUARTERS
===== Sound: Door opens.

HAN: Leia?

LEIA: (quiet, distant) Yes, Han. I'm here.

HAN: Sitting alone. In the dark. Can I turn on some lights?

LEIA: Hm? Oh....yes.

Sound: Han flicks the light switch.

HAN: There, that's better. What's going on?

LEIA: (sad) I'm sorry, Han. I just can't escape this feeling of dread.....

HAN: You need cheering up, is all. Come outside, see what's happening. The whole galaxy is pulling together against the Empire--

LEIA: Han.....I shouldn't have listened to you. I shouldn't have listened to Luke. I hear.....terrible laughter. Something awful has happened, Han. We've.....(swallows) we may have lost him.

HAN: Hey, Ol' Luke's got more tricks up his sleeve than--

LEIA: Don't be a fool, Han. Luke's in serious trouble, and I have to help him!! Don't you see? This isn't about you or me! It's not even about our children, because if we don't help him, our children won't have any life at all!!! It's about Luke. It's about the whole galaxy. Han, he needs me!!

HAN: Yeah. But....aw man, they told me marriage to a Jedi princess wasn't gonna be easy.

LEIA: Han, don't be angry.

HAN: I'm not angry. It's just, I've got this bad feeling about this.....

SCENE 2-4 EXT. DA SOOTCHA CAVERN

===== Sound: Same as before.
Footsteps coming up. The sparking of welding tools.

HAN: (somber) Chewie? Chewie?

Sound: Welding stops.

CHEWBACCA: GREET'S HAN.

HAN: Chewie, when you finish repairing the flux stabilizers.....fuel up the Falcon. We've got a date with the Dark Side.

SCENE 2-5 INT. STAR DESTROYER EMANCIPATOR BRIDGE

===== Sound: The hum of
normal ship activity. Comlink static.

LANDO: Affirmative, Rebel base. This is Lando Calrissian. Star Destroyer Emancipator will leave hyperspace over the planet Calamari in fifty-eight seconds.

Sound: Comlink goes off.

WEDGE: General Calrissian, we've intercepted a new hyperspace communications channel, beamed between Calamari's orbit and the galactic core. They're transmitting images of the destruction of Calamari!

LANDO: They're doing us a real favor by beaming us those images, Wedge. Recalculate our exit from hyperspace at two degrees from their point of transmission!

WEDGE: Lando, are you crazy?! If we leave hyperspace at those coordinates, we'll smash right into whatever's sending the signal!

LANDO: That's the idea, Wedge.

WEDGE: If you say so, Lando.....Coordinates locked in. We exit hyperspace in thirty-three seconds.

LANDO: Stand by to cut in sublight engines. Prepare to fire all forward turbolasers and ion cannons at my command.

Sound: Hyperspace reversion--

WEDGE: Imperial Star Destroyer dead ahead!!

LANDO: FIRE!!!

Sound: A fusillade from the Emancipator--and a series of explosions as the Imperial ship is crippled.

WEDGE: We've done it! That Super Star Destroyer was caught with it's deflector shields down, it's hit!!

LANDO: Signal the other ships! Concentrate all firepower on the remaining Star Destroyer!

Sound: Several volleys of fire.

LANDO: That's it! Inform Pinnacle Base we're in position over Calamari. Deflector shields up! Prepare to take further offensive action!

WEDGE: The rest of the fleet is through, sir! They're holding off the other enemy ships.

LANDO: Drop the X-Wing fighters and transports. We've got to get down there and hammer those Devastators!

Sound: A sound like a meteor falls and hits.

Note: All Green fighters are over intercom.

GREEN LEADER: Affirmative, Emancipator. A-Wing fighters, target that Destroyer with concussion missiles.

GREEN TWO: Affirmative, Green Leader. Concussion missiles locked onto shield generators. Missiles away--

Sound: Two sets of two torpedoes shoot out--and connect.

GREEN THREE: Watch those TIE Fighters. They're directing their energy output to thrusters.

Sound: The roar of multiple TIE's. Fire is being exchanged throughout the rest of the scene.

GREEN TWO: Missiles on target (explosion)--direct hit!

GREEN LEADER: Emancipator, this is Green Leader. A-Wing fighters have things under control. Green team entering upper atmosphere of Mon Calamari.

LANDO: Copy, Green Leader. Good luck against those Devastators.

SCENE 2-6 INT. WORLD DEVASTATOR SILENCER SEVEN
===== Sound: The sounds of battle continue, although muted. Comlink crackle.

ALLEGIANCE OFFICER: Silencer Seven, Imperial Star Destroyer Allegiance. Rebel forces have--

OFFICER: Commander Klev, we're receiving distress calls from our space fleet.

Sound: Dull thudding sounds as Rebel fire rocks the World Devastator.

OFFICER: And now we're being attacked from low orbit! X-Wing Fighters and speeders, launched from an Imperial-Class Star Destroyer!

COMMANDER KLEV: Interesting. It must be the contemptible Rebel Alliance. They captured two of our ships at Endor, years ago.

OFFICER: Sir, you and I both know those X-Wings are nothing but antiques! They haven't the slightest chance of penetrating the defenses of this World Devastator!

COMMANDER KLEV: (amused) Yes, and they can hardly realize the destructive power at our command. Their game is over. Send a message to Byss. Inform Supreme Commander Skywalker of the Rebel presence. Meanwhile, let's allow these Rebels a brief moment of hope.....

SCENE 2-7 EXT. MON CALAMARI BATTLEFIELD
===== GREEN LEADER: (over comlink) Green Leader calling Calamari world defense.

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: We read you, Green Leader. This is Captain Gammack. My battalion's about all that's left in this sector. But we're glad to see you.

GREEN LEADER: Prepare your people for--Green Four, watch that cover fire!! Prepare your people for evacuation, Captain Gammack. Just give us five minutes to blast these overgrown garbage smashers to pieces.

SCENE 2-8 INT. SILENCER SEVEN BRIDGE

===== OFFICER: Commander Klev, two of our ships actually report minor hits! Silencer Four has lost two turbolaser stations! Silencer Six reports damage to its' munitions warehouse! Their assail's about to shut down our aft hangar bay!

COMMANDER KLEV: Yes, very well. It's time to end this little game. Release the robotic TIE Fighters, and increase our altitude.

SCENE 2-9 EXT. MON CALAMARI BATTLEFIELD

===== CAPTAIN GAMMACK: (ecstatic) Green Leader, this is Captain Gammack. You're doing it! One of those World Devastators is pulling back!!

GREEN LEADER: (over comlink through scene) No, wait.....it's releasing some kind of fightercraft.....move in to intercept!

Sound: A new, larger wave of TIE's.

GREEN TWO: (comlink) They look like typical TIE Fighters to me.

GREEN LEADER: Negative. Watch their axial rotation. Too smooth for living pilots. Those fighters are computer controlled! Stay sharp, everyone--

Sound: A close brush from a TIE.

GREEN FOUR: It's on my back! I can't shake it!!

GREEN LEADER: Green Three, I'm executing low-ton weave. I've got your man in my sights, Green Four.

GREEN FOUR: I can't shake him!!!!

GREEN LEADER: In my sights.....

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: Green Leader, watch your back!! You've got TWO fighters on your tail!

GREEN LEADER: Almost.....

CAPTAIN GAMMACK: PULL OUT!! PULL OUT!!! PULL--

Sound: A scream and explosion as Green Leader is hit and destroyed, and another as Green Four follows him a split- second later.

SCENE 2-10 INT. STAR DESTROYER EMANCIPATOR BRIDGE

===== WEDGE: General

Calrissian, the World Devastators have just released a whole fleet of advanced TIE Fighters!! They're cutting our ships to ribbons!!!

LANDO: Call our people back! CALL THEM BACK!!!!

WEDGE: We--we can't! Th-they're cut off! There's one hungry-looking Devastator in ascent trajectory.....

LANDO: (whisper) I think we're in trouble.....

SCENE 2-11 INT. HAN AND LEIA'S QUARTERS

===== Sound: An intercom beep.

LEIA: (just waking up) Uhn.....hm.....

Sound: A second beep.

THREEPIO: (over intercom throughout scene) Princess Leia, are you there?

LEIA: Uh.....what is it, Threepio?

THREEPIO: Sorry to disturb you, Your Highness. Are you all right?

LEIA: Um....(swallows hard) I'm fine, Threepio.

THREEPIO: If you don't mind my saying so, you are exhibiting fatigue and illness often associated in humanoid women with- -

LEIA: I'm fine. What can I do for you?

THREEPIO: May I come by your quarters? I have the most interesting-

-

LEIA: Of course. Leia out. (turns off intercom, then sighs.) Got to pull myself together. Luke needs me. And now that I'm- -

VADER: (echoing) Leia.....Leia.....

Sound: A slow, blowing wind.

LEIA: (gasps) A vision.....appearing before me.....that black armor, the death mask.....F-Father? Is....is it you?

VADER: No. Your father is free, with all the Jedi who went before. And Darth Vader lives no more.....(while still echoing, the voice changes to Luke's).....my sister.

LEIA: (relieved) Luke.

LUKE: Leia.....do not try to find me. Do not interfere.

LEIA: Why do you wear that armor?

LUKE: Destiny has forced me to follow the path our father took. It was the only way....the only way to save everything..... from the power of the Dark Side.

LEIA: Luke, NO!! That can't be! You know that! How can you save us--by joining the Dark Side?!? You'll destroy yourself, and you'll destroy us with you!

LUKE: Leia.....m-my mind is....can't.....concen--

LEIA: I've got to help him! Try to use the Force to reach him.....

Sound: Humming as Leia calls on the Force--but the humming is suddenly overtaken by humming on a lower--and louder-- level.

EMPEROR: (echoing) No, little Jedi!! Skywalker is beyond your reach!! Your brother has risked all--and LOST!!!

Sound: The low humming becomes deafening--and stops abruptly as Leia shrieks and crashes to the ground. After a long moment of silence, the door opens.

THREEPIO: (in the room this time) Princess Leia, I've just had the most fascinating discussion about the complex dining etiquette on the planet Sisk, where all the spider people have eight arms, so it seems-- Princess Leia? Princess Leia-- oh my word, she's collapsed!!

SCENE 2-12 INT. DA SOOTCHA MEDLAB
===== Sound: Medical equipment.

LEIA: (weak and moaning) Luke.....Luke.....

HAN: Take it easy, Leia. It's me, Han. You're safe in the infirmary. Me, Mon Mothma, and Threepio have been looking after you.

MON MOTHMA: You gave us quite a scare, Princess.

THREEPIO: (excited) I thought you had short-circuited. But medical scan indicates you are simply--

LEIA: FINE, Threepio. I said I was fine. Han, Luke--

HAN: What's wrong, Leia? You've been muttering about Luke in your sleep for hours.

LEIA: The Force....the Force is bringing me closer....to him. Even though he's light-years away. I must--

HAN: Hey, take it easy, Leia. Just sit back, relax for a while.

LEIA: He's in terrible trouble, Han. The Dark Side is swallowing him whole. I've got to find him.....before it's too late.

HAN: Sure, why not. There's only 12 million inhabited star systems out there. Shouldn't be too hard--

LEIA: I can find him. The Force will lead me to him.

HAN: Leia, we've talked about this before--

MON MOTHMA: General Solo, may I speak with you for a moment?

HAN: Sure, Mon Mothma.

Sound: The med equipment moves farther away.

MON MOTHMA: (speaking quietly) General Solo, I believe we should follow Princess Leia's advice.

HAN: But she's in no condition to--

MON MOTHMA: Medically, there's nothing wrong with her. Our forces in Calamari are no match for World Devastators. I believe we will never find a way to defeat them without Commander Skywalker's Jedi insights. Therefore, I believe the success of this mission is paramount.

HAN: More important than her life?

MON MOTHMA: More important than MY life, your life, and yes, even the life of Leia Organa-Solo. Luke Skywalker is probably the last fully realized Jedi in existence.

HAN: Well, if he's such a great Jedi, how come I always have to keep rescuing him?

MON MOTHMA: General Solo! Han!

HAN: Okay, okay. Anyway, I was getting antsy playing professor with these green kids you've been recruiting. Besides, Chewie just finished overhauling the Millenium Falcon for this trip.

MON MOTHMA: For 'this' trip? (amused) You mean you already expected to leave? Well, that's very foresighted of you!

HAN: Hey, I'm not just a pretty face.

SCENE 2-13 INT. MILLENIUM FALCON COCKPIT / EXT. DA SOOTCHA CAVERN ===== Sound: The hum of the Falcon's cockpit.

HAN: Chewie, hurry up with those lightspeed calculations.

CHEWBACCA: "I'M HURRYING, I'M HURRYING."

HAN: Lock in auxiliary power.

Sound: The hissing and then roaring of the Falcon's engines.

THREEPIO: Sir, I'd just like to thank you for allowing me to accompany you. I fear for poor Artoo-

HAN: Yeah, yeah. Take your seat, Goldenrod, we're about to launch.

THREEPIO: Yes, sir.

HAN: It's you I'm worried about, Leia. You sure you're up to another lightspeed hop? You still look awfully pale.

LEIA: I'll be fine, Han. (whisper) I have to be.

DECK OFFICER: (over intercom) Millenium Falcon, you are cleared for takeoff. Navicom indicates it's a clear path from here to your destination.

MON MOTHMA: (over intercom) Millenium Falcon, this is Mon Mothma. Good luck, General Solo. And bring Skywalker back this time.

HAN: Man, this woman never gets off my case. (turns on intercom) Uh, acknowledged, Mon Mothma. We'll contact you when we reach the planet Nal Hutta.

LEIA: Nal Hutta? But Han, I told you my senses tell me that Luke is somewhere in the galactic core!

HAN: I know. But those systems have been closed off to outsiders for decades. We'll need a ship authorized to land in the secure systems. And I know just where to find it. (hits intercom again) Pinnacle Base, we're clearing tractor beam. Switching to repulsorlift....and.....

Sound: The Falcon roars as it rises off the pad, and blasts into the sky. Sound changes to outside the Falcon, in the hangar.

MON MOTHMA: May the Force be with you! (quietly to herself)....for it is now clear to me that the future of the New Republic depends on the revival of the Jedi Knights. If Luke Skywalker is lost to the Dark Side...(grim)....then the Alliance is finished.

SCENE 2-14 INT. MILLENIUM FALCON COCKPIT / GALLEY
===== Sound: Falcon interior.

HAN: Okay, let the navicomputer take over, Chewie. The Falcon'll take us right to Nal Hutta. Come on Leia, let's grab some lunch.

Sound: Cockpit door opens, sound shifts to the galley interior. A computer hums.

COMPUTER: Food dispenser activated. Today's entrees: Altarian spinefish. Braised Syrrian bloodworm. Mugroot stew.

Sound: Eating sounds.

LEIA: Han, why does that planet sound so familiar to me?

HAN: You mean Nal Hutta? Oh, I may have mentioned it. Try the spinefish, it's fresh. Nal Hutta means "Glorious Jewel" in the language of the Hutts.

LEIA: The Hutts? Han, isn't that planet Jabba's homeworld?

HAN: (evasive) Well yeah, a lot of those big slimy traders did migrate there over the years. Uh, slip some salad. But also it's the center for smuggling activities across the galaxy. Especially it's nearest moon, Nar Shaddaa. That's where we're heading. The days before...may I have the pepper, please....in the days before hyperspace travel, Nal Hutta was a heavily populated cargo port, under tight control. 'Course, there hasn't been much control over anything lately. Now, the only law on Nal Hutta is the deal you cut with your friend. Or your enemy.

LEIA: But if there are smugglers, won't there be bounty hunters?

HAN: Sure.

LEIA: But there's bound to be a price on our heads, after what I did to Jabba the Hutt!

HAN: Don't worry about it, Leia. I've got friends there. We'll be fine. (deep breath) Ah, just what I needed--a nice, hot meal.

Sound: Proximity alarm from the Falcon's computer.

THREEPIO: (over intercom) Captain Solo, Chewbacca asked me to inform you that we are approaching Nal Hutta, and receiving an emergency message.

HAN: Patch it through to this monitor, Threepio.

MAKO: (over intercom) Solo, are you out of your mind?!

HAN: Hah, my old friend Mako! Still in charge of the Corellian sector of the spaceport, I see.

MAKO: You're crazy to come here, Solo. Every bounty hunter in the galaxy is looking for you. The Hutts have quadrupled the asking price, dead OR alive!

HAN: Yeah, well it's nice to feel wanted, Mako. Now open the planetary shields.

MAKO: Where have YOU been? Planetary shields conked out six years ago. Come on in, Solo--but you're asking for trouble!

Sound: Turbolaser fire. The Falcon shakes.

HAN: Thanks, Mako. Looks like it's already found us. Solo out.

Sound: A louder blast, and the Falcon REALLY shakes.

HAN: We'd better get up front, Leia.

SCENE 2-15 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

===== Sound: Cockpit sounds. Door opens. More turbolaser fire.

CHEWBACCA: ROARS IN ANGER.

HAN: Three bounty hunter ships? We got three on our tail already??

Sound: More fire.

HAN: The bounty MUST be high. Maybe I oughta collect it myself.

LEIA: Want me to get on the turret gun?

HAN: Nah, these are just local rust-buckets. Real bounty-hunters know better than to go up against the Millennium Falcon. We'll just outrun these guys.

Sound: The Falcon's engines rev up.

HAN: YEEHAH!! Whoa---turbulence in the upper atmosphere.

CHEWBACCA: GRUMBLES.

Sound: Falcon's shaking constantly now. More laser fire.

HAN: Strap yourself in there, you furry oaf! I can't watch your head and my back at the same time!

Sound: More fire, and a ship passes the Falcon.

HAN: Hang on, we're entering the upper atmosphere. (close blast) Yikes, that was a close one! Angle the deflector shields, Chewie.

CHEWBACCA: COMPLIES.

HAN: Whoo--I've spent so much time wet-nursing those trainees I forgot how much fun this was! Okay, let's see how fast these local boys can go!

DENGAR: (over intercom) You won't lose me that easy, Solo!!

HAN: Dengar! Is that you, Dengar? Hah hah! Well, I must be moving up in the world if I'm attracting a better breed of bounty-hunter like you!

DENGAR: (over laser fire) Keep talking, Solo. I just want you to know it's me that finally got you. Dengar out.

HAN: (laughs nervously) Oh boy, this is not good..... Let's get to the chute fast, Chewie.

LEIA: The chute?

HAN: Yeah, it's the entrance to a hideout. THE hideout, as a matter of fact. I got a friend who lives there. Hold on....here we go!

LEIA: This is the chute? It's barely wide enough for the Falcon! Those bounty hunters are still on our tail. We've got no room to maneuver!

DENGAR: (over intercom) So much for your fancy flying, Solo. Got you in my sights--

HAN: Chewie, put everything into the rear deflector shields, FAST!!

CHEWBACCA: HASTILY DOES SO.

Sound: Point-blank range laser fire hits the Falcon. The whole ship heaves hard.

HAN: Okay, my other buddy's name is Ninx. Let's see, what's his comm-code.....?

Sound: Han punches in Ninx's number as the Falcon shudders from laser fire.

SHUG: Han! I just got off the link with Mako. Said you were coming my way.

HAN: Yeah, Ninx, I need a place to--

SHUG: No can do, Solo. I'm in enough trouble with the Hutts.

HAN: Come on, pal, I got hot-shots shooting on my tail, and you owe me!! I saved your skin when you got caught running ion triggers to the Ziggurats, remember?

SHUG: Yeah, and I paid you back with that free power core I gave you back in--

HAN: Shut the gab, Ninx! I don't have time to barter like the old days, I'm comin' in!

LEIA: Han--Han, you're heading straight for a blast wall!!

HAN: Come on Ninx, don't let me down old buddy.....

THREEPIO: We're going to die!!!!

LEIA: Han, you don't have to do this to impress me--aahh!!!

Sound: Zapping sound as the Falcon hits--and passes through--a holoprojection.

HAN: YES! (laughs)

CHEWBACCA: LAUGHS TOO.

HAN: Yeah, I knew he'd come through too.

LEIA: We passed right through that blast wall like it wasn't there.

HAN: Private energy shield. A hologram designed to look like a wall. Oldest trick in the smuggler's book.

LEIA: What about the bounty hunters?

HAN: If I know my old pal Ninx, he raised the shield on 'em. They're bantha fodder by now. Better power down and land before we get smashed up too.

Sound: The Falcon sets down.

SCENE 2-16 INT. SHUG NINX'S STARSHIP CHOP SHOP
===== Sound: Heavy factory noise, mixed with hangar noises. The Falcon's ramp lowers, and the heroes step out.

LEIA: Han, what is this place?

HAN: Ninx fixes starships. Specializes in illegal engine modifications that can outrun the Imperials.

LEIA: This is quite an operation. What's that big ship they're building over there?

HAN: I dunno. We're about to find out.

SHUG: Solo, Chewbacca! (hugs Han) Haven't seen you guys in a Rancor's age.

HAN: Hey, Ninx.

CHEWBACCA: GRUNTS OUT A GREETING.

SHUG: You guys never should have come here. Heard you killed Jabba. Nobody kills a Hutt and lives.

HAN: Yeah, well, actually....my wife did it. Leia, this old space pirate is Shug Ninx. He's got a Corellian heart of gold.....and silver.....and spice.

SHUG: Pleasure to meet you, lovely lady. So you aced ol' Jabba, huh? Guess you're a lot tougher than you look.

THREEPIO: Excuse me, but would you mind if I used your oil- bath?
No one's bothered to lubricate me, they're so busy fighting.

SHUG: Sure! Right over there, gold dome. Now I don't know what you're doing here, Solo, but I want you guys to know ol' Ninx will be more than happy to put his own life on the line for you.

SALLA: But the truth is, we can't help you.

HAN: (startled) Salla!!

(Note: Although Salla is an ordinary black human in the comic, she speaks with an amplified, feline tone in the tape version.)

SALLA: Han Solo, you nerf-herding son of a-- (growls) How many years has it been since you walked out on me?

HAN: And you look beautiful as ever, Salla. But look, Ninx, about that help I need--

SHUG: Listen, Han. The Imperials are buying up cargo space on every tin can in the galaxy. The action is heavy equipment runs. Moving military hardware. We ain't got time for the business we got. That's why Salla is building that monster ship you saw back there. "The Starlight Intruder."

HAN: All we need is a ship that's legal for making a deep- core run. The Alliance will pay 100,000 credits, in cash.

CHEWBACCA: GUARANTEES IT.

SALLA: Sounds intriguing, Solo. The Intruder IS registered for deep core runs. But he's not ready yet. Still needs his hyperdrive overhauled. And power couplings. By the way.....who's the lady?

HAN: Oh. This is, uh, er....

LEIA: Leia. My name is Leia. Han and I are married.

SALLA: My condolences, dear. Han's great fun, but he's a scoundrel. He'll break your heart.

HAN: (angry) She likes scoundrels, Salla. Now come on, how long before the Starlight Intruder's ship-shape? We're in a big hurry!

SALLA: Not long. IF Ninx will let me salvage a hyperdrive off one of these other chariots.

SHUG: Sure, why not? But we'll still need top of the line power couplings to get the Intruder up to maximum specs for it's deep core run. Now Han, as I recall--

HAN: Yeah, yeah, I still got stuff stashed in my old digs.

SALLA: Of course, the equipment stays on the ship. Even if you don't.

LEIA: What? That's robbery!

HAN: It's all right, Leia. This is how we do business around here.

SALLA: Besides, it's a chance I just can't pass up--(slyly) Han Solo's got the best equipment in the galaxy.

LEIA: Just a minute, you--!

HAN: (interrupting) You got a deal, Salla. Chewie, help 'em prep the ships. We're going after some power couplings.

SALLA: (purrs) Coupling. Hmm. There's a thought. Hurry back.

SCENE 2-17 EXT. NAR SHADDAA STREET
===== Sound: Your average poor man's street, with vendors haggling, and others muttering in low tones.

LEIA: You know the most interesting people, Han Solo.

HAN: You mean Ninx and Salla? They're good people, Leia. They'd jump down a Sarlacc's throat for me, as long as I promised them a profit. Ninx and I got way back. He's even wilder than me.

LEIA: I find that hard to believe.

HAN: He taught me how to tear down a hyperdrive, how to get the most power out of a third-hand Modog power coup--

LEIA: And, uh..... Salla?

HAN: (nervous) I think she's a story for another time. (back to normal) Now the guy that let us planetside, Mako, he's like a brother to me.

LEIA: The guy we first contacted?

HAN: Yeah. Mako and I met way back when I was a cadet at the Imperial Space Academy. Mako's my kind of guy. Troublemaker. When we were classmates, he stole a gram of antimatter from the physics lab, and used it to blow up a nearby moon.

LEIA: Sounds like the life of the party.

HAN: Actually, I owe him a lot. After I got drummed out of the service, he did me a favor and introduced me to the smuggling business.

LEIA: Hmph. Some favor. Did he introduce you to this place?
(disgusted) How could you have lived here?

HAN: Nar Shaddaa's nothin' to look at, but I called it home. Just a place where I could stash my gear between jumps, really.

LEIA: Ugh, look at the garbage. And the smell.....

HAN: Yeah, the city seems to have fallen on hard times. Not as nice as I remember. But then, nothing ever is.

Sound: A humming sled, coming close.

HAN: Hey, duck--!

LEIA: (grunts as Han pulls her down to the ground) Hey, what's the idea?

Sound: The unmistakable sound of a Hutt laughing. "Ho Ho Ho...."

HAN: Keep your head down. You see that hoversled floating by, carrying one of those big, wormy slime-covered--

LEIA: (shocked) It looks just like Jabba the Hutt! But I killed him!

HAN: Gotta be one of his relatives. They all look alike. And they all have long memories.

LEIA: Did he see us?

HAN: I don't think so. But we better cool it for a minute.

VIMA: (an old, crackly voice) You.....Jedi!!

LEIA: Who said that?

VIMA: Vima speaks.

HAN: Well, look at that--a talking pile of rags.

LEIA: Han, it's a old woman. A poor homeless woman.

HAN: What does she say?

VIMA: Jedi, Jedi!! Vima knows! Vima can see the Force! Vima can FEEL the Force!

HAN: Hey, that's my wife you've got your paws on--

LEIA: It's okay, Han. Let me talk to her.

VIMA: Oh daughter of the Force, can you forgive Vima for her crimes?

LEIA: Who are you? I can feel the Force in you....covered by a great shadow.

VIMA: For 200 years, daughter, Vima was Jedi. (sadly) Vima betrayed her own. Vima tried to forget, in the time of dying....Vima hurled herself down among the lost, to escape the great scourge.

HAN: Great scourge?

LEIA: She must mean when the Empire began hunting down the Jedi Knights.

VIMA: (agitated) Yes, yes!! Everyone was hunted!! Everyone was killed!! But you....you live!!! You contain the spark that will rekindle the fire!! Jedi, Great Jedi she is, Vima can feel. Take this gift. What is inside will help you.

(In the comic only: A lizard-like creature waves something at Han. "Ne chutta ka wonga?" "No, I don't need a hyperspace compass. Buzz off.")

LEIA: This old box? But wh-what's inside?

VIMA: Vima wants you to have it. It was Vima's. Now, it is yours.

LEIA: I don't know what to say.

HAN: Come on Leia, the Hutts are gone. We should get moving.

LEIA: Wait, I have to thank--she's gone. She vanished.

HAN: Let's do the same thing. My place is just around the corner.

Sound: Street noise decreases as Han reaches the door.

HAN: Here we go. Just push the intercom and see if Zeezee is still on the job.

ZEEZEE: (a old, tired-sounding droid) You have reached the residence of Mr. Han Solo.

HAN: Zeezee, it's me. Open up. (to Leia) Zeezee's my housekeeping droid.

ZEEZEE: I apollooogize MisterSolo--Misstterrr Sollooo is notathome.

HAN: I AM MISTER SOLO!! OPEN UP!! Lousy second-hand housekeeping droid--been away so long his servos are probably rusted through. Aw, forget it, I'll just hit the override.

Sound: Han works on a keypad. The door opens.

HAN: In we go.

SCENE 2-18 INT. HAN'S HOUSE

===== Sound: The door closes.

LEIA: (sarcastic) Oh, lovely place you've got here, Han. Why didn't you bring me here on our honeymoon?

HAN: Man, what a mess! Gosh, Zeezee, I see you did a great job taking care of the place while I was gone!

ZEEZEE: Missttterr Solo sogood to see youuuuu.

HAN: Yeah, thanks. Now--

ZEEZEE: A Missttterr Fett to see you sirrrrrrr AMisterFetttosee you sirrrr AMisterFettto see you sirrr....

HAN: Mister WHO!?!? What the---

Sound: A gun is cocked.

BOBA FETT: Greetings, Solo.

HAN: Boba Fett?!?!?

LEIA: But you're dead!!

HAN: Yeah, I saw you fall into that pit back on Tatooine!

BOBA: The Sarlacc found me somewhat indigestable, Solo. Now, I'm back to collect my debts. And this time, I've brought friends.

DENGAR: Hello again, Solo.

HAN: Dengar. I thought I left you smashed up against the shield wall of Ninx's garage. Or do ALL you bounty hunters come with extra lives?

ZEEZEE:pppppppourrsomecoffee Pour some coffeeee?

HAN: How'd you know where to find me?

DENGAR: Your friend Mako's been real helpful. Told us right where to find you.

MAKO: (cold) Hello, Solo.

HAN: Mako.....after all these years, you're adding betrayal to your list of accomplishments?

MAKO: Sorry, Han. The asking price was just too good. I gotta be thinking of my old age.

BOBA: A lot of people would pay to see you dead, Solo. But the Hutts are paying more for you alive. They want to watch you die.

ZEEZEE:Peerrrhhaps some tea, thereeee.....

HAN: Yeah, Zeezee, pour them some--

BOBA: Get out of the way, you stupid droid!!

Sound: Zeezee walks right into Fett, sending both to the floor.

HAN: Now's our chance, Leia! Make a break for it!

Sound: Han fires one shot, opens the door, and ducks out with Leia.

ZEEZEE: Perrrrhappss you'd likeee some creeamm wouldyoulikecream
wwwouldddd you lll....

SCENE 2-19 EXT. NAR SHADDAA STREET/ SPACEPORT

===== Sound: Same
bustle as before, turning to panic as blaster shots are heard.

LEIA: How romantic--we're BOTH wanted by the Hutts.

HAN: Yeah, husband and wife, marked for death. Watch out, Boba Fett's deadly accurate with those wrist rockets of his. Turn left here, down this alleyway. I know this city like the back of my hand.

LEIA: Turn here?

HAN: No, here, HERE!! Down this alley, right into-- oops.....

Sound: Hoversled.

HUTT: Ba Cheesa....

LEIA: Did the back of your hand tell you there would be a big slimy Hutt on his hoversled, surrounded by bodyguards down here?!?

HAN: Behind this pillar!!

Sound: More blaster fire.

LEIA: Bounty hunters behind us, and Hutt bodyguards in front of us!

HAN: I hope Lando's having better luck than we are.....

SCENE 2-20 INT. STAR DESTROYER EMANCIPATOR BRIDGE

===== Sound: The sounds
of a very one-sided space battle. From the sound of hundreds of TIE's,
the Rebels are losing, and losing big.

WEDGE: General Calrissian, that World Devastator has left the atmosphere! It's on an intercept course with us!!

LANDO: Gunners, target all weapons systems on that approaching Devastator!

Sound: Multiple turbolasers are fired.

WEDGE: Turbolasers are ineffective against their shields! (hits intercom) Emancipator to Pinnacle Base? Emancipator to Pinnacle Base!! We're in trouble! One of those world smashers is coming straight at us!!

LANDO: Fire all forward torpedoes!!

Sound: Multiple torpedoes fire.

WEDGE: I'm trying....our forward firing systems won't respond! The nose of our ship has been incinerated by that monster!! It's no use, Lando! In a few minutes, Emancipator's going to be nothing but scrap!

LANDO: ARRRGGHH!!! That's TWO Star Destroyers I've lost!! All personnel to the escape pods. (Sigh) Things haven't been this bad for the Alliance since Vader was alive!!!

SCENE 2-21 EXT. NAR SHADDAA SPACEPORT
===== LEIA: Nice going, Han.
We're trapped in a crossfire.

HAN: Yeah, and every bounty hunter in town seems to be joining the party.

HUTT: Na shan nee cho sha pan kee.

BOBA: Everyone back off!! Solo's MINE!!

HAN: Watch it--Boba Fett's making his move!

Sound: Boba fires--and hits the Hutt on his hoversled.

HUTT: (Coughs and gasps as he falls off the sled)

HAN: (laughs) Look at that! Boba Fett hit that fat slug of a Hutt instead of us!! Knocked him right off his floater--

LEIA: Come on, there's our chance!! Get on board!

Sound: Han and Leia jump on the sled.

LEIA: Ugh!! What's on this thing???

HAN: Man, I never thought a Hutt's slime tracks would smell so sweet.

LEIA: Okay, I'm on. Let's go.

HAN: Hang on, Your Worship, I'm trying to figure out these weird knobs and switches....

LEIA: Don't call me "Your Worship"!!! Why is it you always get formal when you're about to (sled suddenly goes into second gear) dooo somethingggg stupiddddddd!!!!

HAN AND LEIA: YELL THEIR HEADS OFF AS THE SLED TAKES OFF INTO THE AIR.

BOBA: You won't get away that easy, Solo! One of these days, I'll catch up to you!!!

SCENE 2-22 INT. SLED/ INT. STARLIGHT INTRUDER
===== Sound: Humming
of the sled.

HAN: There's Ninx's garage up ahead. And look--Starlight Intruder's ready to take off. Man, Salla's great. Trust an old girlfriend to help out a guy in a jam.

LEIA: Somehow, your "old girlfriends" don't inspire that much trust in me.

SHUG: (far below, shouting to be heard) Han, move your butt!! They're broadcasting your location all over the comm- net!!

Sound: The sled comes to a landing. Han and Leia climb out. The Intruder's hatch opens.

HAN: What about the Millenium Falcon?

SHUG: She's stowed in the cargo bay. Come on.

HAN: Here we go.....hey Chewie, give Leia a hand.

CHEWBACCA: GRUNTS.

Sound: Changes to Starlight Intruder interior. Hatch shuts.

HAN: Okay Ninx, we're aboard. Let's vacate this dead moon.

Sound: Engines warm up.

SHUG: Blast out of here, Salla!

Sound: Engines roar.

HAN: Whoa!!

SALLA: How are we doing, Ninx?

SHUG: Fine, Salla. Navicomputer says the Starlight Intruder is cleared all the way to Byss.

SALLA: But will he stall out in hyperspace? That's what worries me. I've rebuilt the hyperdrive motivator three times, and it's still shaking like Andorian jellyfish. I could have used those couplings of yours.

HAN: You'll handle it, Salla. No one can coax an engine like you can.

LEIA: Huh? What's this? Oh! In the excitement, I never opened the box that old woman gave me!

HAN: What you got there, Leia?

LEIA: Let's open it and see.

Sound: Box opens.

LEIA: (gasps) Oh, Han.....that woman WAS a Jedi. This is a lightsaber. And an old one, from the looks of it.

HAN: Kinda like the woman who gave it to you--a real antique.

LEIA: Han, will you ever understand? For better or for worse, you're married to a Jedi now.

HAN: I understand the things that matter.

LEIA: This lightsaber has a long history. It has a strong connection to the Force. (Sound: The Force begins to hum) I can feel it.....helping me focus my power.....(Sound: Force grows stronger) (gasp)

HAN: Leia! What's wrong??

LEIA: The vision.....I-I can't stop it!!! NO!!!

SHUG: Hey, Han, is she okay??

LEIA: No no no no no!!!!

HAN: Leia, let go of the lightsaber! LET GO!!!

SHUG: Take it out of her hand!!

Sound: Han slaps the lightsaber out of Leia's hands, and it clatters to the floor.

HAN: There!

LEIA: No.....Luke.....LUKE!!

SHUG: She's still out of it!

HAN: Leia, WHAT'S WRONG???

LEIA: (extremely upset) Han!! It's TERRIBLE!!!!

HAN: Was it the lightsaber??

LEIA: No.....when I touched the lightsaber--I tried to reach out with the Force. But all I can see is...(swallows hard) Han, I see Luke. He's commanding the Imperial forces. Like our father. I see him sending hundreds--thousands--of ships against the Alliance. I fear we've lost him, Han. I fear we've lost everything.....

Music: Swells into the last notes of the ROTJ End Theme. Fade out on all music and sound.

THE STORY SO FAR.....

Music: Star Wars Main Theme.

NARRATOR: Six years after the deaths of Darth Vader and the Emperor, the battle rages on. As rival factions within the Empire struggle for power, the Rebel Alliance is quick to seize the opportunity to sow confusion among the feuding Imperials, using captured Star Destroyers to perform hit-and-run sorties into the war zone. One such raid, over the raging Imperial City battleground, ended in disaster. The Alliance Star Destroyer Liberator, commanded by Luke Skywalker and Lando Calrissian, crashlanded on the planet's surface. Although Princess Leia and her husband Han Solo arrived in time to save their friends, before a mysterious energy storm ravaged the planet, Luke Skywalker refused to leave, sensing that a powerful Dark Side entity had appeared. Princess Leia and the others returned to the Rebel base, only to discover that a new, unknown leader had reassembled the vast forces of the Empire. What they did not know was that it was the Emperor himself, resurrected by the awesome power of the Dark Side, who had unleashed his powerful "World Devastators" against the rebellious water-covered world of Mon Calamari. While Lando Calrissian took command of the remaining Star Destroyer to defend Calamari, Leia (a Jedi in her own right) discovered the worst news of all: Luke Skywalker had crossed over to the Dark Side. Aided by two Corellian smugglers, Han and Leia journey to the planet Byss, to the heart of the Dark Side, to rescue Luke. Meanwhile, Lando Calrissian faces overwhelming odds, as a space battle rages over the planet Calamari.....

SCENE 3-1 INT STAR DESTROYER EMANCIPATOR BRIDGE/ INT. ESCAPE
POD. ===== Sound: The sound of
destruction and devastation are never- ending. An alarm is shrieking.

WEDGE: We've lost everything! Ion cannons, turbolasers...Lando, all weapons systems are dead!

LANDO: That machine is eating us for lunch! Reverse engines!! Full astern!

WEDGE: Ion engines unresponsive! We're still being sucked into the mouth of that World Devastator.

LANDO: This ship is a lost cause. Jettison the escape pods.
(groans) That's two Star Destroyers I've lost.

WEDGE: Come on, Lando! We have to take this last escape pod!

Sound: The bridge instruments fade as Lando and Wedge enter the escape pod. The pod's hatch shuts.

WEDGE: Ready to launch.

LANDO: Ohhh, I guess I just wasn't cut out to command Star Destroyers....

Sound: Blasting noise as the pod bursts free of the dying Star Destroyer.

WEDGE: Pod away! We're cleared of the Star Destroyer. Whew-- just in time!

LANDO: Yeah. And floating around space like Mynocks in a shooting gallery.

SCENE 3-2 INT. WORLD DEVASTATOR SILENCER SEVEN FIRING ROOM
===== COMMANDER
KLEV: There's another escape pod, cadet.

CADET: I don't see anything, sir! Where?

KLEV: (angry) Right there on your screen! I can't believe an idiot like you has been assigned to my World Devastator.

CADET: I-I'm sorry, Commander!

KLEV: Never mind! Just arm your turboblaster.

Sound: Clicking of instruments.

KLEV: Good. Now activate your targeting computer.

Sound: Computer is activated.

COMPUTER: Target acquired. One escape pod, two life forms aboard.

KLEV: You may fire when ready.

SCENE 3-3 INT. PALACE ROOM
===== Sound: The sounds of
destruction are quieter, and half- filtered through a holoscreen.

LUKE: (sounding darker and colder than ever) The Rebels have no hope against your World Devastators, my Master.

EMPEROR: (amused) You mean OUR World Devastators, young Skywalker. It is beautiful, is it not, my young apprentice, to be the cause of so much destruction?

LUKE: The art of misery knows no one greater than you, my Master.

EMPEROR: You take too little credit, my son! It was you who predicted the Rebels would send their remaining Star Destroyer to Calamari. YOU are the victor here. Now do you see the power of the Dark Side?

LUKE: Only too well. But I must leave you, my Master. I have duties to attend.

EMPEROR: And miss the final death throes of the Rebellion?? Ah, well, the loss is yours.

Sound: Footsteps as Luke leaves the throne room. We follow Luke through a corridor and up to a door.

COMPUTER: Imperial War Room. Authorized personnel only. Identify.

LUKE: Luke Skywalker, Supreme Imperial Commander.

COMPUTER: Voice authorization confirmed.

Sound: Door opens, and we hear the sounds of a room filled with computers. Luke begins typing on a console.

LUKE: Now, to give the Rebellion a surprise it will never forget.....

SCENE 3-4 INT. WORLD DEVASTATOR SILENCER SEVEN FIRING ROOM
===== == KLEV:
Cadet, what are you waiting for?!? FIRE!!!

CADET: Yes, Commander Klev. Escape pod targeted.....firing sequence engaged....and--firing!!

Sound: A muffled group of explosions.

KLEV: Great Lords of the Sith, what was that?!? (hits intercom)
Bridge, report!!

CREWMAN: Commander, a new fleet of Rebel fighters has just come out of hyperspace. We're under attack!

SCENE 3-5 INT. ESCAPE POD
===== (Note: All voices in scene are over intercom, except for Lando and Wedge.)

KNAVE LEADER: Knave Team, this is Knave Leader. Sublight power engaged. Deflector shields on. Arm turbos and ion cannon.

WHITE LEADER: White team, this is White Leader. Concentrate your fire on that rear scanning tower.

WHITE TWO: Right behind you, White Leader.

KNAVE LEADER: Knave Leader to Blue Leader: I count 8--make that 9--
9 escape pods transmitting Alliance codes.

BLUE LEADER: Affirmative, Knave Leader. Blue Leader to Blue Team:
Transfer energy from ion cannons to shields and lasers.

KNAVE LEADER: Locking S foils into position....

KNAVE TWO: Look at the size of the machines!

BLUE THREE: Must be five kilometers high!!

BLUE LEADER: Cut the chatter, Blue Team. Fan out, defensive
formation Delta. Protect those escape pods.

KNAVE LEADER: Knave Leader to all teams, beginning our attack
run!!!

LANDO: Listen to that, Wedge!!!

WEDGE: Looks like half the galaxy's arrived, Lando! Look out the
observation port. X-Wings, Frigates, even those new E- Wing Fighters.

CAPTAIN NEVA: Escape Pod ES17T, this is Antares Six.

LANDO: HEY, ARE WE GLAD TO SEE YOU!!!

CAPTAIN NEVA: You guys look like you could use a lift.

SCENE 3-6 INT. WORLD DEVASTATOR SILENCER SEVEN BRIDGE
===== KLEV:
Rebel SCUM!!! Did they really think they could penetrate our defenses
with these new ships?

CREWMAN: Commander Klev, we've got a problem! The Master Control
computer on Byss is transmitting improper signals. It's shutting us
down!!

KLEV: WHAT!?! That's impossible! Put Silencer Seven on override!!
Do you hear me?? Override all systems!!

COMMANDER: Override confirmed, sir. We're okay. But Silencer Five's
override has failed to respond! The Master Control signal has locked out
it's override command!

SCENE 3-7 INT. ANTARES SIX BRIDGE
===== KNAVE LEADER: (over
intercom, as with all Knave fighters) Knave team, this is Knave Leader.
That World Devastator is frozen in place.

KNAVE THREE: Knave Three here. I see it, but I don't believe it.

KNAVE LEADER: Watch yourself, Knave Three. That forward turbolaser
is still firing.

Sound: A small explosion.

KNAVE THREE: I'm hit, I'm hit!!!

KNAVE LEADER: Go planetside! Ditch her in the ocean! Knave Two, can you see where--

KNAVE TWO: Affirmative--He burned up, he burned up in the atmosphere.

KNAVE LEADER: Come on, let's blast that thing to pieces while it's immobilized.

LANDO: I'm glad to be out of that escape pod, Wedge. Antares Six feels like a luxury liner after that floating coffin.

WEDGE: (incredulous) It's got a better view, too. Check out the screen.

LANDO: (incredulous himself) I see it! That big World Devastator's on fire!!! Spinning out of orbit! It's crashing!!

WEDGE: Those new E-Wings must have found the Devastator's weak spot.

LANDO: Not the way I saw it, Wedge. That World Devastator self-destructed. Whoever's in charge of those monsters is an idiot. You'd almost think he WANTS to lose!

SCENE 3-8 INT. HYPERSPACE MARAUDER BRIDGE
===== Sound: Hum of ship's engines.

SALLA: Do you want to lose your fingers or what, Solo?!

HAN: Sorry, Salla. I-I just can't help it.....

SALLA: Keep your hands off my instruments. Nobody flies the Starlight Intruder but me. How we doing, Ninx?

SHUG: Fine. We're entering the Deep Core Security Zone. Planet Byss has acknowledged our approach. But the whole planet is protected by heavy-duty shield generators.

HAN: Kinda like the system we took out on the Endor moon. But you're clear to land, right?

Sound: Crackle of intercom.

COMPUTER: Starlight Intruder, this is planet security. We have confirmation of your registration code, but our scanner indicates you have an uncleared ship stored in your cargo bay.

LEIA: They've detected the Falcon!

SHUG: Ah, affirmative.....uh, it's an empty hulk we picked up.
Yeah, yeah, that's it--j-just junk we picked up for salvage.

COMPUTER: Acknowledged. The planetary perimeter shield will open in exactly 3.2 seconds. Follow your pre-arranged flight path, or you will be vaporized. If you make any sudden maneuvers, you will be vaporized. If you deviate from your course by one degree, you will be vaporized. Welcome to the planet Byss. (intercom goes off)

Sound: The Intruder's engines quiet, and the ship sets down.

SALLA: Okay, we're docking.

HAN: Where are we?

SALLA: At the Imperial freight complex at the outskirts of the city.

SHUG: We're tapped into the city's computer network.....We got cargo bays all around us. The whole area's patrolled by hunter-killer droids the size of small moons. And just west of us, we've got.....well, looks like somebody opened up a bar right here on Byss. (chuckles) Wonder if the drinks are any good.

HAN: Never mind that. What else is around?

SHUG: About four clicks east, we got one serious security zone. Must be something really big happening there. Electronic barricades, surveillance equipment all over the place.

LEIA: Luke is there. I can feel him. Han, you have to let me pilot the Falcon. I'll take us to Luke.

Sound: Leia heads towards the Intruder's cargo bay.

HAN: Pilot the Falcon?? I don't know about that, Leia--this place is crawling with hunter-killer droids. You don't really have that much experience--

SALLA: You better quit talking and start walking, Solo. Your wife is already heading for the Falcon.

HAN: (heading off) Leia? Leia....

SCENE 3-9 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT - A SHORT TIME LATER
===== HAN: (nervous as hell) Leia, keep your eye on the auxiliary power.

LEIA: (amused) Yes, Han.

HAN: And-and steady that forward stabilizer.

LEIA: Han--

HAN: Keep your eyes on your flying!!!

CHEWBACCA: MOANS IN FEAR.

SHUG: Talk about a back seat pilot.

SALLA: (laughs) Poor Solo never could stand to have a woman in the driver's seat, hmm?

LEIA: Han, stop being so protective. You taught me everything I know, darling. (imitating Han) Trust me.

HAN: Yeah, but the Falcon's a tricky--

LEIA: Now be quiet. I need to concentrate on Luke.

Sound: The Force rises, softly.

LEIA: (to herself, whispering) Luke.....

LUKE: (echoing in her head) Leia.....

LEIA: I'm coming.....

HAN: Leia? Uh, Leia? You're taking us right into the Imperial security zone!

LEIA: That's where Luke is, Han. See that big tower? We'll land in that hangar on top.

HAN: But this is the security zone!

COMPUTER: (over intercom) Unauthorized vessel, you are in violation of security protocol. If you do not withdraw, you will be destroyed. This is your only warning.

CHEWBACCA: ROARS "FUNK DAT!!"

THREEPIO: Ohh, perhaps we should give ourselves up!

Sound: Turbolaser fire.

THREEPIO: Too late!!!

HAN: We're gonna get vaporized!

LEIA: The Force will get us through, Han.

CHEWBACCA: TELLS HER WHAT HE THINKS OF THE FORCE.

HAN: Yeah, yeah, I know, Chewie. Cool it. I gotta hunch we're gonna need the Force to get us where we're going.

SALLA: We're not going anywhere with that security shooting our backs.

LEIA: Got to use the Force. (sound: Force rises, louder) Got to reach the gunner's mind.....

SHUG: You got any suggestions, I'm all--hey? What's with Leia?

LEIA: I am....(amused) making a suggestion.

SCENE 3-10 INT. BYSS PATROL SHIP GUNNER STATION
===== PATROL CAPTAIN: Security command, this is patrol XLS. We are in pursuit of unregistered traffic in Security Zone One.

COMPUTER: Acknowledged, XLS. Target ship and destroy.

PATROL CAPTAIN: You heard the order, gunner. Fire when ready! (long pause) Gunner, what are you waiting for?!

GUNNER: They must be using a cloaking device. We've lost visual sighting, and the scanners can't locate them.

PATROL CAPTAIN: (exploding) What do you mean?!? That ship's right there on the screen!!! DESTROY IT!!

GUNNER: I'm sorry, sir. The targeting computer is never wrong. Maybe they've dropped behind us--

Sound: The Falcon roars past XLS.

PATROL CAPTAIN: You FOOL!! Now we've missed our chance! That tramp freighter is in violation of the Emperor's personal security zone! We'll BOTH be executed for this!!

SCENE 3-11 INT. EMPEROR'S TOWER - HANGAR
===== COMPUTER:
Unidentified ship now on approach pattern.

DARK GUARD: Permit them to land.

Sound: The Falcon approaches, and lands in the hangar.

COMPUTER: Bioscan indicates five lifeforms and one droid.

DARK GUARD: Prepare to take the prisoners to Lord Skywalker.

HAN: (from far off) We're coming out. We surrender.

THREEPIO: Don't shoot! Don't shoot!

DARK GUARD: Exit with your hands up. Well, well. What a motley crew we have here. A battered protocol droid--

THREEPIO: Battered? Well, if I may say so, sir--

DARK GUARD: An unkempt Wookiee, a common smuggler, a woman, and-- but....weren't there five...?

Sound: Falcon's engines roar into life again. The Falcon fires at the hangar.

COMPUTER: Alert! Alert! Unauthorized weapons discharge.

DARK GUARD: That ship is escaping!

HAN: Everybody hit the deck. Chewie, use your bowcaster to take out that tracking beam.

CHEWBACCA: AGREES.

THREEPIO: What about me? I'm completely defenseless!

LEIA: Over here, Threepio.

HAN: The plan worked. Ninx 'n' Salla are blasting their way to freedom!

LEIA: That's the last of the guards. We're safe....for now.

THREEPIO: I don't know why I put so much trust in humans. I always end up getting hurt.

HAN: If Salla's lucky, she'll find a hole to hide the Falcon in 'til we need it.

LEIA: Right. Listen, Han, Luke's not far. All we have to do now.....

LUKE: (echoing, in vision) Leia.....

LEIA: Luke?

HAN: That's not Luke. You can see right through him. That's some sort of a projection. But.....those two goons in battle armor look real enough.

LUKE: Leia, you should not have come here. It will not go well. My master wishes to speak with you. These sentinels will escort you to the Emperor's presence.

LEIA: The Emperor?!?

CHEWBACCA: GASPS IN SHOCK.

LUKE: Yes.....he lives.

SCENE 3-12 INT. PALACE CORRIDOR/ CLONING CHAMBER

===== SENTINEL: Prisoners,
follow me.

HAN: Keep your mitts off me, you big ape.

CHEWBACCA: MAKES A THREAT.

HAN: No offense, Chewie.

THREEPIO: Excuse me, sir. I am only programmed for etiquette and protocol and not well versed in philosophy, but.....isn't the Emperor dead?

Sound: Door opens.

SENTINEL: Through here.

HAN: Yeah. Luke's probably gone crazy. How could the Emperor be alive?

Sound: The hum of machinery, and bubbling from many directions.

SENTINEL: Prisoners, halt!

LEIA: Oh, NO. I think you have your answer, Han.

HAN: Jeez.....

CHEWBACCA: "WHAT IS THAT?"

LEIA: They're clones, Chewie. See those transparent pods lined up against the walls?

CHEWBACCA: "YEAH, I DO."

LEIA: Those are cloning chambers. Each one is filled with amniotic fluid, and--

HAN: And a clone of the Emperor himself.

LEIA: In various stages of growth. Look, he's full grown in this one, but still a teenager in the one down here.

HAN: Ugh.....he was even ugly as a baby.

SENTINEL: Do not touch the generation chamber!

HAN: Awright, all right!

LEIA: Why are we here? Where is Luke?

LUKE: I'm here.

LEIA: Luke!

ARTOO: GIVES A TIRED GREETING...OR AS CLOSE TO TIRED AS A DROID CAN GET.

THREEPIO: And Artoo's with him! Oh, Artoo, I've missed you!

SENTINEL: Droid, halt!!

HAN: Careful, Threepio. Luke's brought more of those sentinel goons with him. You must rate pretty high to get the Emperor's personal bodyguards, "old buddy."

LUKE: It was very foolish of you to come here. I TOLD you that my destiny was not yours.

HAN: (angry, and more than a little sad) I can see you've really gone off the deep end this time, kid. Looks like being a Jedi was just too much for you.

LUKE: (vicious) Be quiet, Han. There are things far beyond the mind and powers of a space pirate. Things you'll NEVER understand.

HAN: Hey, wait a minute!! I can read a face, farmboy! You've come a long way from the idealistic kid who couldn't wait to get off Tatooine and join the Rebellion. A long way DOWN.

LEIA: Han, take it easy! We don't know what's happened!

THREEPIO: (shocked) Master Luke!! Artoo says they've erased his main programming!!! How could you LET them!?

LUKE: (a bit regretful) Threepio.....I wish I could explain.....

SENTINEL: Lord Skywalker. The Master wishes to meet our guests.

LUKE: (regaining his "evil" mien) Of course. Take their weapons. Leia, give me that lightsaber.

HAN: (pulls out his blaster) Not on your life!

LUKE: Han, put away your blaster!

HAN: We're leaving here now! And THIS time, you're coming with us!!

Sound: The low-pitch Force ROARS, and Han's blaster flies out of his hand and into Luke's.

HAN: Hey!!

LUKE: Be grateful, Han. I only used the Force to pull the blaster from your hand. (coldly) I could just as easily have ripped your arm off along with it. Sentinel, take him!!

Sound: Sentinel seizes Han.

LUKE: And take the Wookiee too. CHEWBACCA: IS ALMOST OUT OF HIS MIND WITH OUTRAGE.

SENTINEL: Prisoners secured.

Sound: Sentinel is choking Han with a headlock.

LUKE: Now, Leia.....(threatening) GIVE ME that lightsaber!!

Sound: Leia's lightsaber ignites.

LEIA: Come and take it!!

EMPEROR: (from far off) Good.....good....

LEIA: (gasps) The Emperor himself!!

LUKE: Leia, don't be a fool!!

LEIA: (almost crying) I don't know what he did to you, Luke, but get back!!

EMPEROR: Excellent! Strike your brother! Then you will see what new powers he's won from the Dark Side of the Force!!

LEIA: (hesitates) I.....I won't use this lightsaber on you, Luke. But your sentinels--hey, you overgrown freak, LET GO OF MY HUSBAND!!!

Sound: A lightsaber slash, and the thud of something hitting the ground.

SENTINEL: (screams)

HAN: (catching his breath) Thanks....Leia....it's good to be....breathing again.

LEIA: Now we're leaving! And we're taking Luke with us!

EMPEROR: Brave little Jedi. But really, such an old lightsaber is not a worthy weapon for you.

Sound: The Force roars again--the deepest and darkest we've heard yet. The lightsaber in Leia's hands explodes.

LEIA: (shrieks as she drops the saber's remains)

EMPEROR: SENTINELS!!!

SENTINEL TWO: Prisoners restrained.

HAN: (choking again) Not--again--

EMPEROR: Look at you. Brother and sister Jedi. The last of your kind. And I have you both. This one, my dear apprentice, so strong in the Force. He has learned his lessons well. And the sister--so vulnerable, so inexperienced. And yet, she holds the key to the future.

LEIA: Get your hands off me!!!

EMPEROR: Do not worry, little Jedi. I will not harm you. Indeed, I will teach you things you have never imagined. I will show you the REAL power a Jedi can wield. Come, my son.

LUKE: (sounding a LOT like Vader) Yes, my master.

EMPEROR: Bring your friends. Let us reveal to them the wonders I have in store. Let us show them the future of the galaxy.....my lovely clones.

LEIA: (echoing, thinking to herself) Come on, Leia. If there was ever a time to prove you're a Jedi, now's the time. Wait- -that power generator's suspended from the ceiling. It's heavy enough to crush a Bantha. If I can just use the Force.....

ARTOO: BEEPS IN SURPRISE.

THREEPIO: Power surge? I don't sense a power surge anywhere.

Sound: The Force is getting louder.....

EMPEROR: Long ago, I found my flesh could not withstand the awesome demands of the Dark Side. The great Emperor himself discovered he was dying.

LEIA: (whisper) Fall.....fall.....

EMPEROR: My body was literally consumed by the energies I had released. Fortunately there was a way.....a road to eternal life....

LEIA: (whisper) now.....

Sound: The power generator cracks, falls on the Emperor--and explodes.

EMPEROR: (roars with laughter)

LEIA: (gasping with the effort).....how?!?

EMPEROR: Well done, my daughter! Your first step toward the Dark Side of the Force! But it will take more than a Jedi apprentice and a falling object to kill me. Now, let ME show YOU something!

Sound: The snap, crackle and pop of some all-too-familiar purple lightning.

LEIA: (screams in agony)

HAN: Stop it!! STOP!! YOU'RE KILLING HER!!!

CHEWBACCA: RAGES.

LEIA: (weak) L-Luke....help me....(hits ground, lightning stops)

HAN: FILTH!!! YOU'VE MURDERED MY WIFE!!!

EMPEROR: Don't worry, my friend. She will live. That was just a little discipline for a Jedi. Sentinels!! Take her to my quarters! It is time to begin her training!

HAN: (straining against the Sentinel) Don't take her!! LEIA!!!

LUKE: Han, do not interfere.

HAN: (breaks free of the Sentinel) TRAITOR!!! OUT OF MY WAY!!!

LUKE: (growls as he seizes Han and lifts him into the air) You leave me no choice!!! HAN: (gasping) Let go of my throat....Luke.....

LUKE: Han, I STRONGLY suggest you refrain from any further violence. For Leia's sake.

HAN: You've become--just like him--just like Vader!! Or WORSE!!

CHEWBACCA: "STOP IT!!"

THREEPIO: Master Luke, you're KILLING him!!

LUKE: You understand NOTHING of what is taking place. Or what I'm doing to save the galaxy.

HAN: You don't deserve to live. For what you've done, Luke.....I'll kill you myself. I'll--GAKK~!

Sound: Luke throws Han against the wall. Han crashes against it, but is still held by Luke.

LUKE: That may be true, Han. I may HAVE to die. But I assure you, it won't be YOU who does the deed.

3-13 INT. BYSS CANTINA
===== Sound: The bustle of a busy bar. A tune is playing in the distance.

LO KHAN: So I says "Thrusters"? I got your thrusters right here, baby!

LO, SALLA, AND SHUG: (all laugh)

SHUG: Ah, you're a lifesaver, Lo Khan. Thanks for letting us hide the Millenium Falcon inside your ship.

LO: Yeah, Ninx, the Hyperspace Marauder's got room. But both of you owe me big. If the Imperials find out, I'm dead meat. Got that, Salla?

SALLA: Yeah. And Solo owes me. Byss security impounded my ship, the Starlight Intruder. You know how long it took me to build that ship?

LO: That's a debt you'll never collect. Solo and his pals are probably Rancor food by now.

SALLA: Well, if he's not, he'd better show up soon. Or I'm taking the Falcon and jumping for home.

SHUG: So what's the deal with this bar full of space jockeys, Lo Khan? The Imperials never let deep core haulers planetside before.

LO: It's a military buildup, Ninx. Every pirate ship in a thousand systems is running supplies from Byss to the Imperials offworld.

SALLA: Well, I'm not complaining. It's been a long time since I've been in a joint this classy.

LO: Hmph.

Sound: A comlink beeps for attention.

LO: Hey, that's my comlink.

SHUG: Nah, it's mine. Let's hope it's Solo. Ninx here.

HAN: Ninx, Salla--it's Han. I don't know if you can hear this, but our big plan isn't working out like I wanted. If you're out there, I'm beaming my coordinates. We're in big-- -

VOICE: (loud and amplified on the comlink) NO TRANSMISSIONS ALLOWED!

3-14 INT. PALACE DUNGEON

===== Sound: The man the voice belongs to suckerpunches Han in the gut, knocking the comlink to the ground.

HAN: Hey, you broke my comlink!

DARK GUARD: Who did you contact?

HAN: My mother. She worries about me.

Sound: The Dark Guard wails away on Solo again.

DARK GUARD: You will regret your impudence. Into the cell with your Wookiee friend!

Sound: The Guard kicks Han (literally) into the cell and slams/locks the door.

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS IN CONTEMPT OF THE GUARD.

HAN: I'm okay, Chewie. I'm okay. At least so far. Well, old pal, I think we're in big trouble.

3-15 EXT. BYSS SPACEPORT =====
Sound: A ship zooms by. A low humming (this time of machinery), coming close.

SHUG: You sure this is a good idea, Salla?

SALLA: No, it's a lousy idea, Ninx. But we've gotta get back to the Millenium Falcon. And the Falcon's hidden inside Lo Khan's ship. The only way there is through the spacedock.

SHUG: Yeah, but there's one of those giant hunter-killer droids wandering around the spacedock. Like it's looking for something.

SALLA: It IS. Look at that bright light--it keeps focusing on different ships.

SHUG: Yeah, I've seen those before. That's a sensory enhanced detection array. It'll see right through the hull of a ship and detect anything inside. And it's looking this way!

SALLA: Duck!!

SHUG: (long pause) Did it see us?

SALLA: I don't think so. Come on, we'd better get to Lo Khan's ship before--

SHUG: Too late.....that hunter-killer droid just zeroed in on the Hyperspace Marauder.

SALLA: We've got to make a break for it.

PROBOT: (a steely, mechanical voice) Judgment 12-X7 to Security Command. Freighter Hyperspace Marauder, docking permit X7A97HM, cargo scan in progress. Anomaly--detecting second vessel concealed within. Please confirm identification of Priority One quarry.

SECURITY COMMAND: (over intercom) Priority One Quarry: Corellian YT-1300 transport. Cargo capacity 100 metric tons. Vessel designation: Millenium Falcon.

PROBOT: Identification confirmed. Sensor analysis: Increased energy readings in aft quadrant. Location: Engines. Conclusion: Target ship preparing to--

Sound: The Millenium Falcon blasts out of the Hyperspace Maruader's cargo bay, passing the probot.

3-16 INT. MILLENIUM FALCON COCKPIT

===== SHUG: This is the stupidest thing we've ever done, Salla.

SALLA: Not as stupid as sitting around and waiting to get arrested, Ninx.

PROBOT: (over intercom) Judgment 12-X7 to Security Command. Apprehension and detainment of target ship in progress.

SALLA: He's closing on us fast, Ninx. Hit him, hit him--!

Sound: The Falcon opens fire on the probot.

SHUG: No good. That H-K's got some new kind of deflectors. Th-The Falcon's missiles are bouncing off his shields like pebbles!

Sound: The opening of a giant door from far away, and the roar of--

SALLA: We're caught in a tractor beam! Increase power!

SHUG: No good, we're being drawn in.

SALLA: Looks like Han and Leia will have to take care of business without us.

SHUG: Not if I can help it.....

3-17 INT. EMPEROR'S SUITE

===== EMPEROR: Welcome to my inner sanctum, my dear.

LEIA: I'd be more comfortable if you took this restraining device off me.

EMPEROR: Hmm. Very well. Sentinel, release her.

Sound: The Sentinel removes the restraining device from Leia.

LEIA: (sighs with relief)

EMPEROR: Now leave us. I have secrets that can only be shared with a Jedi.

SENTINEL: Yes, my lord.

Sound: The door closes behind the Sentinel.

EMPEROR: Now, we may talk....privately.

LEIA: I have nothing to say to you.

EMPEROR: My brave little warrior. Just like your brother. Oh, yes. He is brave, despite what you think. In fact, he has been sabotaging my efforts. He can hide nothing from me.

LEIA: Luke? S-sabotaging? But why.....?

EMPEROR: Why do I allow him to continue? It suits my purpose. Everything is as I foresaw it. And everything works according to my plan. In the end, he is insignificant.

LEIA: My brother is a great Jedi!!

EMPEROR: Yessss.....a great Jedi. But YOU are destined to be far greater. (suddenly moans, then weaker:) Forgive me, my dear. I am not well. The time of my transference approaches.

LEIA: "Transference?" Then....it's true. You ARE using clones.

EMPEROR: Soon this body will no longer be able to contain my great power. But, forgive the ramblings of an old man. Come here, little Jedi. I want to show you something.

Sound: A small humming.

LEIA: That small cube? Glowing with inner light?

EMPEROR: Yes. This is the Jedi Holocron, given to me many years ago by a very old Jedi, before his.....(amused) untimely departure.

LEIA: It's.....beautiful.

EMPEROR: Go ahead, my daughter. Don't be afraid. Take it.

Sound: The hum increases as Leia takes the Holocron.

LEIA: Something about it.....so wondrous.....so familiar.....

EMPEROR: Yes. It knows you are a Jedi.

Sound: The hum crests.

LEIA: An image.....springing from the cube.....it's...magical.

EMPEROR: Nothing magical about it, my dear. Primitive hologram technology. The old Jedi you see in the image was part of a group that lived in the Adegia system, 600 years ago. They took it upon themselves to make a record of Jedi history and teachings, for the Jedi of the future. Like yourself.

BODO: (a gravelly, unmistakably alien voice) Jedi.....hear the words of Bodo Baas. Some among us have sought to conquer the Dark Side by learning it's secrets. Three to my knowledge, three have tried this.

Perished, every one of them perished. The first was Ulic Qel-Droma, who fell into the Dark Side in the time--

LEIA: (outraged) This is a Jedi teaching device!! You have no right to this!

EMPEROR: Oh, but I do. Aren't I the master of all the Jedi? Your own father was my apprentice.

LEIA: My father DIED because of you!!! And now my brother-- (catches herself) my brother is in grave danger.

EMPEROR: Your foolish brother has caused me great harm. Look at me!! I am only a helpless old man. Soon, like all great Jedi, like your own father, I will drop this fragile flesh. Please, help a dying old man into his bed.....

LEIA: Into your grave!

EMPEROR: So rude. Very well, I will help myself. (lowers himself with effort into a floating bed.) There. I must lay here a while. Stay with me. Soon you will see what very few have seen. The Dark Side has given me a wonderful power--the power to enter one of my clones. Indeed, I can enter ANYONE.....I can overshadow the soul that dwells therein. I can even enter.....your CHILD.

LEIA: My children?! My children are hidden from you!

EMPEROR: Your FIRST two, yes.....but not the one now stirring in your womb.

LEIA: (shocked whisper)you know?

EMPEROR: Yessss, little Jedi. And this child belongs to ME.

LEIA: NEVER!!!

EMPEROR: Wait, you'll tip the bed--! AGGHH!!!!

Sound: Leia flings the bed over, tumbling the Emperor onto the ground.

EMPEROR: (gasping in pain) My leg.....is broken.....

LEIA: It was a mistake to leave yourself so helpless lying there on your bed, old man!! Now to find Han and get out of here!

Sound: Leia runs off. The door opens and closes.....and the Emperor's gasping becomes laughter.

EMPEROR: I have tested her, and it is exactly as I have foreseen. She has the Skywalker anger. Like her brother, like her father. Let her flee, for now. She will fall to the Dark Side soon enough----eh? What's

this? My Holocron! SHE TOOK MY HOLOCRON!!! (For the first time ever, the Emperor gets ANGRY.) GUARRRRDS!!!!

3-18 INT. THRONE ROOM =====
Sound: Door opens.

CAPTAIN: Guards are posted outside the cell of the space pirate and the Wookiee, Lord Skywalker, and I've brought the two droids, as you've commanded.

LUKE: Very well, Captain. Anything else, Captain?

CAPTAIN: There was, um, one other thing, my Lord. Security reports that the Master Control signal has been tampered with.....by someone in the command section. As a result, we have lost three World Devastators.

LUKE: Hmm, is that so? Have you informed the Emperor of this?

CAPTAIN: I was about to, my Lord, but.....

LUKE: (with a Force echo in his voice) You were saying.....?
Commander?

CAPTAIN: I was about to, Lord Skywalker, but.....I forgot, my Lord. It's very strange.

LUKE: (echoing) Then why don't you keep this information to yourself, Captain. And if anyone else knows, send them to me at once.

CAPTAIN: Yes, sir. Keep it to myself, sir.

LUKE: Very well. Dismissed. (waits for the Captain to leave) Now, Threepio--

THREEPIO: Yes, sir?

LUKE: (talking fast) Unhook Artoo from that tech station and bring him over here!

THREEPIO: Yes, sir, Master Luke.

ARTOO: BLEEPS IN SURPRISE AS HE IS UNHOOKED.

LUKE: I know, Artoo. But you'll have to trust me. I'll restore your main programming....someday. Right now, I need all the space in your memory banks for these plans of--

LEIA: Luke!

THREEPIO: Princess Leia! Master Luke, it's Princess Leia! The Emperor let her go!

LUKE: Hello, Leia. I've been expecting you.

THREEPIO: Oh, Princess, tell Master Luke to be careful. He's putting far too much data in Artoo's memory. He's only a simple astromech droid, you know.

ARTOO: BEEPS "WANNA BET?"

LUKE: You freed yourself from the Emperor, Leia. You did well. The Force is strong in you.

LEIA: Luke....please. The Dark Side is all around us. Get Han. We're leaving. I...I want you to come with us.

LUKE: Leia, you've got the wrong idea. Everything's fine! I know what I'm doing. Leia, it's good that you came to Byss. Your Jedi power, added to my own, has helped me break the grip of the Dark Side.

LEIA: I'm not so sure. I see something happening. I sense great danger for you.... and us. The Emperor is toying with you, Luke.

LUKE: Yes, he may think so, but look--here's Artoo. I've hidden the Master Control code in his circuits. The Emperor's priority battle plans!

ARTOO: WHISTLES WITH EXCITEMENT.

LEIA: How.....how can I believe you?

LUKE: Come on. I'll take you to Han and Chewie. And then we'll ALL return to Pinnacle Base--together!!

Music: The Imperial Theme rises, then fades to silence.

4-1 INT. BYSS DUNGEON CELL

===== Music: The short piece from "Jaws" again, then back to the dripping dungeon.

CHEWBACCA: GRUNTS WITH EFFORT. HAN: Listen, furface, if you'd let me cut off some of that rug you're wearing, we could make ourselves a rope and get out of here a lot quicker.

CHEWBACCA: COMPLAINS.

HAN: Oh, come on, I ain't that heavy! Besides, I'm the one who has to squeeze through this little window and drop twelve stories. (straining) If I can get this bar loose, that is.....Push me up a little higher!

Sound: The humming of the giant probot.

HAN: Uh oh, hold it pal. I don't think this is gonna work. There's a hunter-killer droid spying on us. Let me down! He's charging up his cannons!

CHEWBACCA: GROWLS AS HE LETS HAN DOWN.

Sound: The probot fires, blowing off the cell wall!

HAN: (coughing) You okay, Chewie? If these Imperials are trying to kill us, they're sure going about it the hard way. All they did was blow a big hole in the wall of our cell.

CHEWBACCA: SNARLS IN ANGER.

HAN: Yeah, yeah, I see it. That droid's coming closer, but it's stopped firing and it's.....

Sound: A door opening and a ramp lowering.

HAN:.....it's extending it's gangplank? What kind of a hunter-killer droid is that??

SALLA: My kind, Solo.

HAN: Salla! Am I glad to see YOU!! Hey, you almost got us killed!

SALLA: You're free, aren't you? That's two you owe your old girlfriend. Now come on!

Sound: Inside of droid is closer.

HAN: How's you get hold of a hunter-killer droid?

SALLA: It got hold of us first. But once it detained us, it didn't figure on a genius mechanic like Ninx. He's up inside the mainframe, hotwiring this thing's computer brain. It'll do backflips if we want it to. Now come on--the Falcon's right inside. Planet security knows we stole one of their droids.

CHEWBACCA: SUGGESTS THEY GET GOING.

HAN: Hold it, Chewie, to heck with the Falcon! We're not leaving until we find Leia!

SALLA: But there's no time!

THREEPIO: (in the distance) Wait for us! Wait for us!

SALLA: Somebody's following through the hole we blasted.

THREEPIO: Wait! Oh, it'd be just like them to leave us--

LEIA: Talk less and run faster, Threepio!

ARTOO: BEEPS OUT A FEW WORDS.

THREEPIO: That's easy for you to say. You're on wheels!

HAN: Don't fire, Salla--it's Leia! And Threepio! There's Artoo, and there's.....

LUKE: Han!

HAN: (tone suddenly turns ugly)....the TRAITOR. Give me that blaster, Salla. (takes blaster) Okay, farmboy, here's where I even the score!!

LEIA: Han, STOP!! It's over!!

HAN: Get out of my way, Leia!!! The Dark Side's got him! He's liable to do anything!

LEIA: No, Han. We're all leaving. Together. Luke has the code we need to stop the Devastators.

LUKE: Han, listen to Leia. If what I'm doing succeeds, the Empire will be finished forever!

HAN: Okay. If you're telling the truth, why don't we take out the Emperor right NOW, as long as we're in town?

Sound: A whistling of an approaching vehicle.

CHEWBACCA: CRIES OUT AN ALERT.

Sound: Far-off firing.

SALLA: It's a security patrol. Cut the gab and move it!!

THREEPIO: Ohh, wait for me!!

HAN: Chewie, grab Goldenrod and yank him in. I'm closing the door.

THREEPIO: No one ever cares what happens to me. Oh my....

Sound: Door closes.

SCENE 4-2 INT. HUNTER-KILLER PROBOT

===== CHEWBACCA: GROWLS OUT AN OBSCENITY.

THREEPIO: Chewbacca! Such language! I didn't think there was a translation for that!

HAN: Okay, they're in, they're in! And there's my beautiful ship. I was afraid I'd never see you again.

SALLA: There's Ninx, up on that walkway.

SHUG: Rev up the Falcon! I've programmed the H-K's targeting computer to shoot up everything using Imperial codes! But there's a whole fleet coming down on us.

Sound: Falcon's engines warm up.

SALLA: Okay, Han, Ninx is on board! Let's blast out of here!

HAN: Way ahead of you, Salla, sweetheart!

Sound: Falcon's engines blast off.

SCENE 4-3 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT

===== HAN: Okay, we're clear of the H-K. Shields up, Chewie.

Sound: Close-range blaster fire on the Falcon.

LEIA: Han, you sure have a habit of collecting unwanted attention.

HAN: These security ships are no problem, sweetheart. The Falcon'll lose 'em on one thruster.

THREEPIO: But sir, what about the planetary shield? We'll be smashed up against it!

HAN: I'm on that, too. Leia, calculate the jump to hyperspace from our present coordinates.

CHEWBACCA: "WHAT?!?!"

LEIA: But Han, we're still in the planet's atmosphere! If we make the jump now--

HAN: I know, I know, we're gonna risk high-atmosphere burnup. But unless your pretty smile can open up that shield, it's our only hope!

LEIA: I hope you know what you're doing.....

HAN: Chewie, distance to the shield perimeter?

CHEWBACCA: "TWO KILOMETERS."

THREEPIO: Two kilometers? We'll never make it! 1.5 kilometers....

HAN: Navicomputer's finished it's calculations--

THREEPIO: One kilometer---

HAN: Disengaging sublight engines--

THREEPIO: Half a kilometer---

HAN: We're going hyper--

THREEPIO: We're doomed!!

HAN: NOW!!!

Sound: The Falcon screams into hyperspace.....and everything suddenly goes down several degrees in pitch.

HAN: We're past the energy shield. Weeee mmmaddeeee ittttt.....

LEIA: Mmmaddee iittttt??? Wwwwwhhhhaattt'ssss wrroonnggg wittthh ussss?????

HAN: Llleeggsssss feeellll likkkeee chhhhhuurnnninnggg innnn watterrrrr.....

CHEWBACCA: RRROOARRSS VERRRY SLLOOWWLLYYYY.

ARTOO: BEEEEPPPSS VERRRY SLOOWWLLLLYYYY.

SALLA: Haaaannnddsssss arreeee ddiisappearrinnggg.....

HAN: Weee''reee toooo cloooseeee toooo tthheee woorrmmhoolllee effecttt,,, ttttrriigggerreddd byyy thheee plllannnett''sss maggnettiiicc fiiieellldddd.....

LUKE: Ooouurrr attoommsssss arreeee beeeinnnggg sccattterreedd accroosss hyppeerrspacceeee.....

LEIA: Navviiicccommputtterr''sss (unintelligable)

SALLA: Ooohhhh nooooooooo (unintelligable)

LUKE: Cuuttt innnn yyuurrr suubbbliighhhtt enngginnesss!!

HAN: Arrreee youuuu craazzyyy? Iffff IIIIII cuuttt innnn thheeee subbbliighhhttsss, wwwwee'llll dropppp outttt offff hyyypperrrrspaccceeee,,,, annndddd weeee donnnn'ttt evvveennn knnnowww whheerreeeee wweeee arreeee! Yyyyyouuuu wannntttt tooooo dropppp righhhtt innntttooooo aaaa plannnetttarrrryyy coorrreee???

LEIA: Tttrrrruustttt himmmmm,, Haaannnn.....

HAN: Alll righhhtt.....buuttt evvveryyy timmeee Lukkkkee'sss innnn troublleeee, itt''sss myyyy shippp thatttt getttssss bloowwnn toooo pieceessss.....

Sound: The hyperdrive cuts out, and things go back to normal.

LEIA: There. We're out.

HAN: Yeah. We're back in normal space.

THREEPIO: Thank goodness. I thought my servo motors were going to fall right off!

HAN: Hey, Luke, how'd you know we were gonna be okay?

LUKE: I told you, Han--I can discover things you'll never imagine. With the Force.

HAN: With the Dark Side, you mean.

LEIA: Han, that's not fair. Luke has provided us with everything the Rebels need to beat those World Devastators. It's all stored in Artoo's memory banks.

ARTOO: BEEPS "SHE'S RIGHT!"

LUKE: Take Artoo and plug him into your hyperspace comm system. He'll help you beam interference codes to the World Devastators, even while you're in hyperspace.

HAN: That's great. Why don't you show us? Or maybe you've got a little surprise planned?

LUKE: I can understand why you still don't trust me, Han. But now that all of you are safely away from Byss, I have other work to do.

Sound: The Force rises....

LUKE: If I fail in the task I must now accomplish, the Alliance must be prepared to fight it's greatest battle.

HAN: What do you mean, "all of us are safely away"? Aren't you too?

LUKE: No.

HAN: What are you talking about?

LUKE: Very simple. (Voice becomes immaterial and fades out) I'm on Byss.....

SALLA: He's gone! How?

LEIA: He must have used a Dark Side power to project a double of himself, Salla. He knew I'd never willingly leave him on Byss.

HAN: I knew it. He's STILL a traitor!

LEIA: Han, he did it to save us!

HAN: I don't care what you say, Leia. I'm starting to feel sorry I ever heard the name Luke--

SCENE 4-4 INT. CLONING CHAMBER
===== EMPEROR: --Skywalker?
I sense your presence.

LUKE: Yes. I am here.

EMPEROR: How did you get into my cloning chamber? This laboratory is sealed! My moment of transition is close....no one is allowed in here no--

Sound: Luke's lightsaber ignites.

LUKE: I have come to prevent that transition.

EMPEROR:So you have. Using powers I have given you. Let me offer you a bargain, my friend. I will kill you now, or you can permit me to move into YOUR body. Then, you and I will rule the Universe as one.

LUKE: I've learned many of your secrets, your Majesty. Your power over me is broken. When I destroy your clones, your reign will be at it's end!!

EMPEROR: Hmm.....is it so? Very well.....then I must die!!!
(laughs. The laughter echoes as his body fades out of his clothing.)

LUKE: He's vanished!

EMPEROR: (echoing) Vanished, Skywalker? I exist as energy, remember? I am all around you. Here--and here! And here, and HERE!

LUKE: He's trying to enter one of the clones! Must destroy them all! (Sound: Lightsaber slashes through glass, and water floods as the bodies thump to the floor.) Cut through the cloning chambers! Slash these mindless clones to bits!!

Sound: Screaming as each of Palpatine's mindless clones die.

EMPEROR: Too late, Skywalker. Too late.

(Note: Although the Emperor is in a young body now, his soul is still as old and corrupt as ever--and so is his voice.)

EMPEROR: Yes. You missed ONE clone. And one is all I need, for now. Look at me! I am YOUNG again!! I will live FOREVER!!!

LUKE: Not if I can help it! (slashes at the Emperor, who dodges the attack)

EMPEROR: (laughs) Too slow, Skywalker!

LUKE: (lunges at Palpatine again, screaming.)

EMPEROR: Did you think you could conquer me by coming here to Byss--to the very heart of the Dark Side?

LUKE: You forget, I am a Jedi Master now. And I KNOW something about the Dark Side!

Sound: Luke unleashes his OWN Force lightning on the Emperor. The old (young) man crashes against the wall.

EMPEROR: You try to use the Force against ME?!? All you've succeeded in doing is hurtling me in reach of my collection of Jedi weapons! As for your Dark Side knowledge--

Sound: The Emperor ignites his OWN lightsaber.

EMPEROR: Does it tell you how many other so-called "Jedi Masters" failed to vanquish me? Does your knowledge tell you that I have already beaten you?! Poor Jedi. Your kind will soon be extinct. And how fitting that one of their precious lightsabers brings an end to the Jedi delusion!! Sound: Luke lunges. The two clash sabers, and duel viciously.

EMPEROR: What's the matter, Skywalker? Getting tired? Not quite as young as you were when you fought your father!

LUKE: (breathing hard) You have filled the galaxy with your darkness. But I have seen what my father could not see. I have seen that ultimately, the Dark Side will FAIL!!

EMPEROR: Jedi FOOL! In spite of the stories you tell yourself, I am the stronger! Did I not warn you?!? Now, take the consequences of your failure, like your father before you!!

Sound: Furious dueling--but the Emperor gets the better of Luke, forcing the elder Jedi's lightsaber out of his hands. Both lightsabers deactivate.

EMPEROR: No, Skywalker. It is not your time to die. It is your time to submit. The Dark Side WILL break you. Now get up. We are going to find your sister. I want my Holocron, and I want your sister's child! I am going to crush the Rebellion, once and for ALL!!!

SCENE 4-5 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON
===== LEIA: Can the Millennium Falcon go any faster, Han? I'm worried about the battle on Calamari.

HAN: We're doing twice the speed of light now! Don't worry Leia, once we get Artoo plugged in, his transmission'll reach Lando long before we arrive.

ARTOO: BEEPS AND WHISTLES.

THREEPIO: Please be careful, sir! Artoo says they burned out his differential regulators when they erased his memory banks!

HAN: I know. Why do you think we're having so much trouble accessing the battle codes Luke hid in his subsystems?

Sound: Tinkering.

HAN: There. Okay, Chewie, ready on this end. Hope this works....

THREEPIO: But sir, I think--

HAN: (snaps) LISTEN, Professor, if you want to do something useful, why don't you--

LEIA: Why don't you come with me, Threepio? (whispers) Han hates being wrong about people. And he was wrong about Luke. He's in a grumpy mood.

THREEPIO: I should say so.

LEIA: Come here. I'll plug you into the hyperspace transponder, so you can monitor transmissions for us. Luke says the information he stored in Artoo will paralyze the Devastator's command computers. I want you to tell me if they start beaming distress calls to Byss.

THREEPIO: Of course, Princess Leia. The Imperial network operates on a binary code I am quite familiar with. I'm SO glad somebody appreciates my talents!

LEIA: There. You're all hooked up.

THREEPIO: I've picked up a binary code transmission from Calamari. Translating....Your Highness--oh my word!! Oh hurry, hurry!! They're being slaughtered!!!

SCENE 4-6 EXT. MON CALAMARI BATTLEFIELD
===== GAMMACK: Pull back, pull back!!! We need air support!!

CALAMARIAN SOLDIER: (over intercom) We're hit! World Devastators coming right for us!!! AGGHH!!!!

CALAMARIAN SOLDIER TWO: (over intercom) Get that evac unit over here!!! Gammack, all aircraft have been destroyed! All we have left are these ocean-going attack boats!!

GAMMACK: Well, pull them back! Keep them out from under those World Devastators, or they'll get sucked up along with the rest of this sector!!!

REBEL SOLDIER: (over intercom) Captain Gammack, scanners indicate that the World Devastators have gathered from all areas of Calamari, and are converging on our location! We've got SIX of them bearing down on us!! LOOKS LIKE THIS IS IT!!

GAMMACK: Get those assault boats into attack formation! General Calrissian wants our commando teams ready to board those planet-smashers at a moment's notice!!

REBEL SOLDIER: (over intercom) But that's a suicide mission!!

GAMMACK: Maybe, but Lando thinks Commander Skywalker is doing something to sabotage those World Devastators! I don't know what it could be.....

REBEL SOLDIER: (over intercom) I don't believe it!

GAMMACK: Something strange is happening.....the Devastators just stopped! They're just sitting there, like somebody's switched them off! All right, men---let's go!!

SCENE 4-7 INT. WORLD DEVASTATOR SILENCER SEVEN BRIDGE
===== Sound: Alarm going off.

KLEV: What's going on?

CREWMAN: Commander Klev, we're being jammed by command codes coming over the Emperor's secure hyperspace channel!

KLEV: Then bypass the Master Control computer!

CREWMAN: We're trying, sir! But the system was designed to prevent tampering!!

KLEV: This is ridiculous! We're being paralyzed by our own command center!! (muffled explosion) What was THAT?!?

CREWMAN: The Calamari have launched a counter-assault against us! Our stormtroopers are attempting to repel boarders! There is one option available to us, Commander. We are able to restore power to the onboard factories.

KLEV: Well then DO IT! If we're going to sit here like a dead moon, we might as well give them a good fight!

SCENE 4-8 INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON COCKPIT
===== HAN: Okay, the Falcon's exiting hyperspace.

Sound: You heard what he said.

HAN: And there's Calamari, dead ahead.

LEIA: Entering the upper atmosphere. Careful, Han--we're coming in right on top of the battle.

HAN: Yeah, what's going on? That World Devastator's still got it's furnace blasting! I thought those codes were supposed to shut down the Devastators. I guess your brother decided to pull a fast one on us after all.

LEIA: Han, use your eyes! It's paralyzed! Obviously the Imperial engineers figured out how to keep the recycling factories working.

ARTOO: WHISTLES FOR ATTENTION.

THREEPIO: Sir, If I may say--

HAN: Okay, your Worship, if that's true, what's to stop them from getting the whole thing operational?

THREEPIO: Sir? Sir, please listen---

HAN: Threepio, I thought I told you to SHUT UP!!

THREEPIO: It's Artoo, sir! He says he's created a new command code that will make the Devastators do anything he wants! Frankly, sir, I think---

HAN: Well, why didn't you say so!! It's worth a try--Luke's big plan sure didn't help much.

LEIA: Han, I don't know why you're still so down on Luke. He's taking a great risk for the Alliance.

HAN: Yeah, yeah. Let's see if this chirping three-legged bolt bucket can do any better.

ARTOO: BLATTS.

THREEPIO: Actually, sir, I believe Artoo is having delusions of grandeur.

HAN: He ain't the only one. Okay, he's plugged in. Chewie, radio those commando teams to get 'em clear of the Devastators. They've got three minutes.

CHEWBACCA: BEGINS GROWLING INTO THE INTERCOM.

SCENE 4-9 EXT. MON CALAMARI BATTLEFIELD
===== GAMMACK: We copy, Millenium Falcon! All teams, back to the boats!! Clear off this world-smasher!!

REBEL SOLDIER: (over intercom) But we just fought off a whole platoon of stormtroopers to get on it!

GAMMACK: Move it, soldier!! If my guess is right, this monster's about to---

SCENE 4-10 INT. SILENCER SEVEN BRIDGE
===== CREWMAN:--crash, Commander Klev! We've lost all control of this World Devastator! We're being steered directly towards Silencer Four!!!

KLEV: Don't just stand there, you idiot, do something!! DO SOMETHING!!!

Sound: Deafening explosion as the Devastator hits it's sister---and is blown apart!!!

SCENE 4-11 INT. MILLENIUM FALCON COCKPIT

===== THREEPIO: (ecstatic)
Artoo, you've done it!! Thank the Maker!!! I KNEW you could do it!!
You've saved the day!!

ARTOO: "IT WEREN'T NOTHING. AND BY THE WAY--\$#^#%\$&@!!!!"

THREEPIO: OH!! I've never been so insulted in all my life!! And to think it was I who told them about your grand plan! Too bad you've destroyed all the Devastators--I'd like to feed you to them to be recycled!!

LANDO: (over intercom) Millenium Falcon!

HAN: Lando, you ol' womp rat!

LANDO: Good work, Han. Those World Devastators have destroyed each other. WE WON!!! HA HAA!!!!

SCENE 4-12 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER - PINNACLE BASE - A FEW DAYS LATER.....
===== HAN: Uh, Leia.....uh....b-before the Council meeting begins, I-I'd just like to say....I mean, I wanted to tell you since we returned to Pinnacle Base.....I'm sorry for what I said. I-I guess I'll never figure old Luke out.

LEIA: (gently) Sometimes the actions of a Jedi make no sense toward ordinary men. Luke is sacrificing his life for us, Han.....for our.....three children.

HAN: Yeah, well.....(classic double take) Three?? Did you say...."THREE" children?! (excited) You mean.....?

LEIA: (joyous) Yes, Han, I'm pregnant! I can feel the baby stirring....it will be strong with the Force.

HAN: (chuckles) Pregnant again. Who woulda thought? Me, the father of three Jedi. I guess an "ordinary" guy can do something right.

Sound: Door opens.

LEIA: Shh. Here come Mon Mothma and Admiral Ackbar.

MON MOTHMA: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming to this council of war.

ACKBAR: Thanks to your efforts, the Battle of Calamari has been won.

MON MOTHMA: But according to the plans that Artoo has brought us, Calamari was but a small part of the Emperor's overall scheme. The deep core systems have become inviolable fortresses.

ACKBAR: The Imperial fleet has reaffirmed it's allegiance to the Emperor. Now, the Emperor plans to expand his total area of dominance in stages. He will launch a series of wave- assaults on all worlds in proximity to the Galactic Core. Moving out from the center, he will not rest until the entire galaxy falls under the sway of the Dark Side.

MON MOTHMA: Our only hope lies in Commander Skywalker's attempts to sabotage the Emperor's plans. In the meantime, I have assigned teams to analyze all our possible responses. We'll meet again tomorrow. I want you all rested, and ready to act.

SCENE 4-13 INT. HAN AND LEIA'S QUARTERS

===== LEIA: See you later, Han.

Sound: Door opens.

HAN: Okay, Leia. Just got to check that shipment of Incom GBK's for the X-Wings, and I'll be back. Try and get some rest.

Sound: Door closes.

LEIA: "Rest." That's the last thing on my mind. What could be happening to Luke? Is he safe? Oh--what's this in my pocket? The device I stole from the Emperor! I'd forgotten about it!

Sound: The hum begins as she grabs hold of the Holocron.

LEIA: What a strange thing. So old, constructed by a long- lost science. What did the Emperor call it? The "Holocron".....

Sound: The hum rises to a wail.....

LEIA: Wh---what's happening? M-My room--Pinnacle Base---it's all fading!

BODO: Greeting, Jedi. I am Bodo Baas.

LEIA: You. You're the image I saw in the Holocron. But you're no longer an image--you're real! Where am I?

BODO: Everywhere. Nowhere. You are with the Force.

LEIA: Bodo Baas, am I....inside the Holocron?

BODO: No. The Holocron is a device. It helps us to reach each other. It is the Force which truly brings us together.

LEIA: And you....are you real? I mean....didn't you die, a long time ago?

BODO: Past history and present action are one. The Force surrounds all time, all doing. Bodo Baas is with the Force, that is certain.

LEIA: Can you tell me what will become of Luke?

BODO: For you, Bodo Baas will speak a prophecy written 1,000 years before your time, by my own master:

"A brother and sister, born to walk the sky. But reckless brother falls into Dark Side's eye. Jedi sister carries hope for future in her womb. Only she can save her brother from a certain doom.

A Jedi killer wants to tame her. Now the Dark Side comes to claim her. She must join with her brother to combat this thief, Before the Jedi come to grief."

Sound: The hum fades as the Holocron deactivates.

LEIA: "Join with my brother"? "Join with my brother"??

HAN: Leia? Leia, wake up.

LEIA: Huhh? Han.....where's Bodo Baas?

HAN: Bodo who? You've been dreaming, Leia.

LEIA: It wasn't a dream. It was the Holocron--

HAN: Whatever, come on, we gotta go!

LEIA: What's wrong?

HAN: We got company. Serious company.

SCENE 4-14 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER

===== FEMALE REBEL PILOT:
(over intercom) We count three ships-- repeat, three ships--approaching Pinnacle Base!

CAPTAIN SNUNB: (over intercom) Confirm that. Scanners indicate two Imperial-class Destroyers. The third is---!!!!

FEMALE REBEL PILOT: ENORMOUS!! Measures 10 miles across!!!

LEIA: (rushing in) Mon Mothma, what's happening?

MON MOTHMA: Good. You and Han have arrived. Three Imperial ships just came out of hyperspace right over the planet. Two Star Destroyers, and.....well, it can only be the Emperor's flagship.

Sound: Holographic comm system comes on.

HAN: A hologram. Signal's cut across all our frequencies. We're getting the same image on every channel.

LEIA: It's the Emperor! But he's.....grown young!

EMPEROR: (over holocomm) Leaders of the Rebel Alliance. I have no quarrel with you. Give me the woman Jedi, sister of Skywalker, and return the precious object she stole from me.

HAN: He's gotta be kidding!

MON MOTHMA: Why should we comply with your demands?

EMPEROR: A shuttle is waiting. Send her to my ship, and I will discuss a truce with the Alliance.

Sound: Shocked gasps from all over the chamber.

HAN: I vote we blast him with everything we've got!!! That's what Luke would want!

LEIA: No. I have to go to them. I HAVE to.

HAN: It's too dangerous! There comes a point where you have to choose between this Force business and your own good common sense!

LEIA: You're right, Han. There does. And I have.

HAN: Leia, I won't let you go!! Not with our child!!!

LEIA: (quietly insistent) You WILL let me, Han.

HAN: I--(Leia storms out of the room without even replying).....all right.

MON MOTHMA: You look dazed, General Solo. Almost like Leia used a Jedi mind trick on you.

HAN: No, no mind tricks. I'm just surprised that with all the women in the galaxy, I married the only one as stubborn as I am.

MON MOTHMA: And as brave, General Solo. Do you still think we should prepare our forces for an all-out attack?

HAN: No. It's taken me long enough, but I just realized that whatever's going on here, it has nothing to do with blasters or fighter pilots. It's up to the Jedi now.

SCENE 4-15 INT. EMPEROR'S FLAGSHIP - HANGAR
===== Sound: A shuttle lands inside the hangar.

IMPERIAL OFFICER: Inform the Emperor the shuttle has landed. The Jedi woman is approaching his chambers.

SCENE 4-16 INT. EMPEROR'S FLAGSHIP - THRONE ROOM
===== Sound: Same as in the Emperor's throne room on Byss, except with added ship hum.

EMPEROR: Soon, my young apprentice, your sister will be mine.

LUKE: (back to the Vader-like voice) Yes, my master.

Sound: Footsteps coming up.

EMPEROR: Good, Princess Leia. You have understood.

LEIA: I am here.

EMPEROR: You may leave us, guards. (Guards leave, door closes) Now, my daughter, the time for subtlety is over. Where is my Holocron?

LEIA: I don't have it. I've come for my brother. Luke, are you all right?

EMPEROR: He will not answer you, unless I command him.

LEIA: He WILL answer me. Luke?

EMPEROR: You still defy me? Perhaps you do not know your own heart in these matters. The child in your womb will be given to me. Is that not so?

LEIA: NO!

EMPEROR: (using Force-voice) You cannot resist. I will raise this child in the power of the Dark Side. The child will become an extension of my will.

LEIA: (weakening under Palpatine's voice) Yes....

EMPEROR: At the appropriate age, I will displace the personality that dwells within, take on it's young Jedi body as my own.

LEIA: yes.....

EMPEROR: Now, if I but touch you.....yes.....here.....the child grows....

Sound: An arc of lightning flies from Leia's abdomen onto Palpatine's hand!

EMPEROR: (shrieks in pain) You tricked me!!!

LEIA: You aren't the only one here who understands the power of the Force, "Your Majesty!"

Sound: A lightsaber ignites---Leia's own, handbuilt lightsaber.
LEIA: And if you touch me again, I'll cut off your hand!

EMPEROR: Curse you, Jedi!! No.....a curse is not necessary.....I have something better for you. Skywalker! I have broken you. Now, prove yourself worthy of serving me!!

Sound: Luke's lightsaber activates.

LUKE: (hate-filled voice) Yes, my master.

EMPEROR: Bring your sister over to the Dark Side. You have the power.

LEIA: (waving her lightsaber in defense) I don't know what he's done to you, Luke, but this time we're REALLY leaving.

LUKE: Leia, put the lightsaber away. I don't want to hurt you.

LEIA: The last thing I'D do is hurt you, Luke. What's happened to you is NOT final!

EMPEROR: (laughs) He cannot hear you, child! To him, you are a ghost! A faint memory of a former life!!

LEIA: Luke.....listen!! (shuts off lightsaber) Luke.....? (near crying) Oh, what have you DONE? What's behind his vacant stare??

EMPEROR: Why, nothing, my child. NOTHING.

Sound: We now hear from Luke's POV. The dialogue is all but buried under the whispers of the Dark Side, now deafening and overlapping.

WHISPERS: (the voice of the Emperor) Nothing....you are nothing.....

LUKE: (echoing whisper) Where am I?

WHISPERS: Alone.

LUKE: (echoing whisper) No.....help me..... WHISPERS: There is no one. There is only the Dark Side.

LUKE: I...am....a Jedi.....(moans in pain)

WHISPERS: You are NOT a Jedi. You are nothing. You have no name.

LUKE: My name.....is.....Skywalker.....(cries out in near-silent agony)

WHISPERS: You.....have.....NO.....name!!!

LUKE: I.....

WHISPERS: Accept the Dark Side. You have no name.

LUKE: (losing to despair) I.....have.....no.....name.....

WHISPERS: You serve the Dark Side.

LUKE: I sss.....

WHISPERS: Listen to the voices.

LUKE: The voices.....

WHISPERS:of the Dark Side.

LUKE: (dark voice again) Yes.

WHISPERS: The one law is fear. The one fear is power. The one power is hate.

LUKE: Hate.....

LEIA: (echoing, as if from a far distance) Luke.....

WHISPERS: Hate....

LEIA: (using the Force to "amplify" her voice) Luke.....clear your mind.....

LUKE: Leia.....?

WHISPERS: The one law is fear.....the one fear is power.....the one---

LEIA: Luke, I'm your sister. I NEED you. LUKE: My sister.....

WHISPERS: You are alone.

LEIA: Luke, listen to my voice. My child....will be a very great Jedi. Because YOU will train him. You will train ALL my children in the ways of the Force.

Sound: The whispers seem to be losing power....

WHISPERS: Do not listen!!

LUKE: Leia.....the Force.....I am not alone!!! I AM NEVER ALONE!!!!!!

Sound: The whispers suddenly STOP.

EMPEROR: (shocked) NO!! This can't be!! NO ONE returns from the Dark Side!! You're mine....

LUKE: (now talking aloud, sobbing) Leia....help me.....I've gone too far.....I've found knowledge, all the dark things Father knew so well.....the ability to control others, to destroy others if he chose! If I chose. Ben warned me, Yoda warned me---But I HAD to do it, Leia!! I had to know what happened to our father! I had to know WHY he chose the Dark Side.....

LEIA: And now you know what happened to our father. It's time to come home, Luke.

EMPEROR: Do not listen to her!! Listen to the voice of the Dark Side! Your power is immense!!

LUKE: (new bravery and maturity in his voice) No. The powers of control and destruction weren't the only things I found in the Dark Side, Emperor. I also found great isolation, and sadness. I found fear. These are the feelings my father felt. The feelings YOU feel, in your moments of darkest triumph.

EMPEROR: (He's hit a nerve) NONSENSE!!! CURSE YOU SKYWALKERS, BOTH OF YOU!!!! I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR FATHER----

Sound: The Emperor lashes out with his Force lightning, leveling Luke!

EMPEROR: The "great" Darth Vader was a sick man in an iron mask!!! Yes, that mask inspired terror throughout the galaxy. But the feeble heart within was forever possessed by the impotent side of the Force!! You can be far stronger than he was. Dark Jedi, are you going to let your weak sister get the better of you?!?! GET UP!! I can give you the power to break her! You will KILL YOUR SISTER, if I demand it!!!

LUKE: NO!!! I made a mistake! I thought I had to save the galaxy alone. All by myself. But the way of the Jedi is not a solitary path.

LEIA: (gasps suddenly) The Holocron!! Luke, the Holocron told me to "join with my brother!"

LUKE: (realizing) Yes. The Force binds us. Brings us TOGETHER. Many people are fighting this war---together!! Our ally IS the Force! Through the strength of the Force, your shroud of evil has been lifted from my mind!

Sound: The Emperor's own lightsaber activates.

EMPEROR: So be it. Through the power of the Force, you will DIE!!!

Sound: The Emperor lunges at Luke--who activates his own lightsaber and blocks the blow!! A vicious duel ensues between the two. Both grunt and yell as they lash out.

LEIA: Be careful, Luke! The Force is strong....they're both moving so fast, I can hardly see them....I feel waves of power....the Dark Side and the Light.....But.....I feel.....the Light.....is winning!!

Sound: One blow finally lands---and something thuds on the floor as both lightsabers deactivate!

EMPEROR: NNAAAAARRRGGGHHH!!!! MY HANDD!!! YOU'VE CUT OFF MY HANNNDDDD!!!!!!

LUKE: NOW, "Your Highness," we will escort you to the Alliance base, where you will surrender the Galaxy to the New Republic!!

EMPEROR: (long pause) Look at you. Don't think I don't know your plan.

Sound: A far-off roar begins in the far distance.....the same noise that spirited Luke away from Coruscant.

EMPEROR: The Dark Side HAS you. You intend to rule the Galaxy, in my place. But....utter imbecile that you are....you have STILL failed to understand MY POWERRRRR!!!!!!

LEIA: (hearing the noise) What's happening?!

EMPEROR: Watch the viewscreen!! And listen as your friends DIE!!!!

Sound: The sound becomes louder.....and moving lower.

LUKE: He's created another storm!

LEIA: It's descending on Pinnacle Base, consuming all the ships in its path! (rushes to the comm console and activates the comm) Mon Mothma, can you hear me?!

MON MOTHMA: (on intercom, shouting to be heard) Princess Leia, there's an energy storm! It's suddenly taken over the planet!! We have 12 ships lost already!!! All our hands have been lost--we're being wiped out!!!

HAN: (on intercom) LEIA!! LE----- (ominous static)

LEIA: (tightly controlling her anger) You're going to SLAUGHTER all those people!!

EMPEROR: Yes. Did I not warn you? I've played your Jedi dueling games long enough. Now, you will experience my FULL potency. I live as energy!! I AM THE DARK SIDE!!!!

LUKE: What have you done....? The power you've unleashed....even YOU can't control it!

LEIA: But WE can, Luke. WE can do it. That's what the Holocron meant. Let me add my power to yours.

EMPEROR: Yes. Waste your time on stupid Jedi tricks. The storm will crush your Rebel base to dust.

LUKE: (echoing) Leia....

LEIA: (echoing) I'm here, Luke.

LUKE: (echoing) Concentrate.....

LEIA: (echoing) I'm trying.

EMPEROR: What are you doing?

LEIA: (echoing) Luke, I FEEL the Force!

EMPEROR: (realizing at long last) NO!!!

LUKE: (echoing) Yes. It's surrounding the Emperor. Cutting him off from all the power he poured into the storm....

EMPEROR: Fools!!! If you destroy me, the Dark Force will crush you as well!!!!

LUKE: (echoing)....trapping him in his own dark hatred!!

EMPEROR: NOO!!! NNNNOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!

Sound: The energy storm drowns out the Emperor's dying scream.....drowns out everything.....

SCENE 4-17 INT. COUNCIL CHAMBER

===== MON MOTHMA: The storm!
It's reversed course!

HAN: It's heading for the Emperor's ship!! (hits intercom frantically) Leia! GET OUT OF THERE!! LEIA!!!!

Sound: Groundshaking noise as the storm obliterates the Emperor's flagship.....and fades into silence.

MON MOTHMA: Scanners? This is Mon Mothma--report!!

SCANNER OFFICER: No sign of.....anything!

HAN: No sign of?! What do you mean?!?

SCANNER OFFICER: Sorry, General Solo. The Emperor's ship, it's.....it's just gone.

HAN: (voice about to break) No.....oh, no.....

THREEPIO: (likewise) Oh, dear. The Princess! Master Luke!!

CHEWBACCA: ROARS IN ANGUISH.

HAN: (hits intercom) LEIA!!!

Sound: Static on the comm channel. A long, breath-holding silence. And then.....

"This is the...(static).....ase, do you copy? (crackle) This is the (buzz)do you copy?"

HAN: Leia.....?

LEIA: (on comm) Perk up, flyboy!!

HAN: Leia!!

LUKE: (on comm) Don't forget about me!

THREEPIO: Master Luke!!

SCANNER OFFICER: We've got 'em, sir! A small shuttle just coming into viewscreen!!!

Sound: The Council Chamber explodes with jubilant cheers. Every voice is raised in celebration.

SCENE 4-18 INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT

===== LUKE: Clear the way,
Pinnacle Base. We're coming home! (turns off comm)

LEIA: The last of the great storm is fading, Luke. Vanishing into the void....taking the Emperor with it!

Music: The last minute of the End Theme starts up, quietly at first.....

LUKE: One Jedi cannot conquer the galaxy alone. I guess we proved that. But together, we were a Jedi fire that outshone his evil.

LEIA: Two are more powerful than one. THREE are more powerful than two.

LUKE: What??

LEIA: I felt another join us, Luke. My third child. He's going to be a VERY great Jedi.

LUKE: Your child? (happiest we've heard him) This IS the beginning, Leia. I feel it. GREAT things are coming!! The Jedi Knights WILL rise again!!!

Music: End Theme hits full volume, on through the closing credits.

THE END