

The logo features the letters 'MZIP' in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. A thick black arrow curves from the top left, pointing down towards the 'M'. A smaller, thinner black arrow curves from the bottom right, pointing up towards the 'P'. The letters 'tv' are positioned at the bottom right of the 'P' in a smaller, white, lowercase sans-serif font. Below the 'MZIP' text, the words 'MOVIES & MINIS' are written in a bold, black, uppercase sans-serif font, with an ampersand between 'MOVIES' and 'MINIS'.

MZIP tv
MOVIES & MINIS

STAR WARS
VOLUME ONE
A NEW HOPE

E P I S O D E T W O
THE DESTROYER OF WORLDS

WRITTEN BY
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BASED ON THE CHARACTERS AND STORY
CREATED BY
GEORGE LUCAS

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

Against the stars rests a TINY BLUE JEWEL.

DANTOOINE

It sits peacefully, undisturbed and serene, until--

A FLEET of IMPERIAL STAR DESTROYERS appear, gliding silently through the vacuum.

Ten of the massive WEDGES push forward, approaching the ever growing planet.

From the belly of each spills forth a hundreds of TIE fighters, like ravenous insects swarming toward fresh prey.

EXT. DANTOOINE - DAY

BOOM! BOOM!

SONIC BOOM'S break the still air as hundreds of fighters and transports descend upon the planet, screaming forward in steady succession.

EXT. RUINS - DAY

MASSIVE RUINS dot the DENSE forest. Tall buildings crumbling under the weight of time, their pain stripped by millennia of elemental bombardment.

This was once a proud and sprawling METROPOLIS.

Within a large courtyard near the center, hundreds of armor-clad STORMTROOPERS are marching around the ruins.

A large LAMBDA-CLASS shuttle lands in the middle of the field, soldiers quickly moving into parade formation around it. There is a *hiss* as pressure equalizes inside and outside the ship COOLING NOZZLES belch out white spray.

The ramp LOWERS and DARTH VADER immediately stalks down, his robes tight around his body.

He stops at the base of the ramp, his HIDDEN FACE turning and looking at the ruins.

VADER

Now that is... interesting...

An OFFICER, Mid-forties, clean shaven, every bit the uptight, follow every order to the T.

This is COLONEL VEERS.

VEERS

My Lord, we have searched the entire compound. It is empty.

Vader doesn't seem to pay him any attention.

VEERS

My Lord?

Vader looks back to him.

VADER

Was there any evidence of recent occupation?

VEERS

Yes, sir. It looks like it was abandoned just several days ago.

Vader goes back to surveying the ruins.

VEERS

What is it, my Lord?

Vader approaches one of the buildings. Veers watches in confusion as Vader ENTERS.

INT. ANCIENT TEMPLE - CONTINUOUS

Vader steps through the doorway into a large foyer.

Sunlight SLICES through murky darkness from cracks and holes HIGH above. As he breathes, a startled animal SCURRIES in the darkness, knocking over loose debris.

VADER

(to himself)

The Force is strong here...

He turns from the darkness and heads back out to the troops.

EXT. RUINS - CONTINUOUS

Vader STALKS out from the crumbling building.

VEERS

(as Vader passes)

Is everything all right, my Lord?

Vader CONTINUES past him, without looking at him.

VADER

Destroy this place.

He marches up the ramp, not waiting for Veers to acknowledge his orders.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY ABOVE RUINS - LATER

The ruins are EMPTY of Imperial troops. A final shuttle raises off the ground and takes for the SKY.

There's a brief moment of SILENCE.

BOOM!

A SONIC BOOM shatters the still air and two or three DOZEN TIE fighters SCREAM through the clouds.

TIE FIGHTER--

One of the fighters twists and turns then levels out over the forest.

On the bottom, a DOOR opens up and several spheres DROP out.

TRACK ON THE SPHERES as they fall toward the RUINS below. They begin to slowly turn green then white--

EXT. RUINS - CONTINUOUS

The white ball FALLS then EXPLODES! RIPPING through the ancient ruins.

The screen goes WHITE...

FADE TO:

EXT. DEATH STAR

The MASSIVE space station moves through space, the main "bowl" of it slowly spinning out of sight...

INT. DEATH STAR - CORRIDOR

The passages are empty. Only the steady HUM of the stations systems are audible.

A pair of doors from an elevator open--

PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA, flanked on either side by two Stormtroopers, each standing at least a good foot taller than her. One looks down and nods forward.

The ordeal she has recently endured is visible, bags under her eyes, crusted blood on her white tunic and a deep sadness on her face. She's looking tired and pale, though the idea of strength and defiance remain.

Her hands are bound in front of her by a pair of thick metal cuffs. She eyes everything as they walk through the corridors, her eyes bouncing from side to side, taking it in.

They approach a HUGE METAL DOOR that splits the corridor.

STORMTROOPER #1

Halt.

Leia does. There's no obvious mode of entry.

Before Leia can say anything, the door opens from the ground, moving upwards until it has passed into a small frame. She gapes into the MASSIVE ROOM before her.

A slight nudge from behind pushes her forward and into--

INT. WAR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The entry is a slight RAMP with two slate black walls leading into the CIRCULAR room. The walls are adorned with computers and monitors and manned by a small army of Imperial Officers.

In the center is a large table with a HOLOGRAPHIC MAP of a spiral galaxy displayed above it.

Next to it stands TARKIN with Vader at his side. Their attention is on the map and one BRIGHT SPOT in particular.

Both turn to greet their guest, a thin smile across Tarkin's lips. There's charm there, but also the patronising glimpse of a man above all of this.

TARKIN

Princess, it's nice to see you again. I'm sorry it's under such circumstances.

She shoots him a look of pure disgust.

LEIA

Tarkin. I didn't expect you to find you anywhere that wasn't adjacent to a swamp.

He smiles, amused by her spirit. She gives as good as she gets, even if she is genuinely surprised to see him.

TARKIN

Charming, to the last.

He turns to Vader who only nods.

TARKIN

I am impressed with your tenacity, Princess. Sending us to that planet has cost the Empire millions of credits, and with nothing there, you have succeeded in an embarrassing misuse of Imperial resources.

(smiling)

My congratulations.

LEIA

Any time.

Tarkin gestures and the Stormtroopers lead Leia up the stairs to the main display.

Vader looks across the table at her, the black pits of his helmet starring deep into her.

She's visibly scared, and looks away, her eyes to the floor.

VADER

I do not appreciate being lied to.

Leia musters as much strength as she can.

LEIA

And I don't appreciate my rights
being violated.

(glaring)

Whose do you think is the worse
offence?

Darth Vader continues to stare down at her. His left hand twitches slightly, as if moving to render a fate worse than death upon Leia.

At the last second, he's stopped by:

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Leia...

Leia reacts to the voice of her FATHER. It's equal parts horror and relief.

She looks up at the display, in place of the galactic map is KING BAIL ORGANA, ruler of Alderaan.

LEIA

Father?

He's a regal man in his late forties. He sports a neatly trimmed beard and nice robes. He sits on a large THRONE. His expression goes from worry to HATRED as Vader and Tarkin reveal themselves.

BAIL

What is the meaning of this, Vader?
You have blocked all our
communications.

It dawns on Leia. Tears fill her eyes.

LEIA

(quiet horror)

No.

TARKIN

I had hoped our conversation would be private.

Bail is SEETHING.

BAIL

Explain yourselves!

TARKIN

You thought you could get away with it, didn't you? The black market deals? The increased smuggler traffic and heavily encoded transmissions?

Tarkin is enjoying this as Bail's face transforms into worry.

BAIL

What are you talking about?

TARKIN

Did you really think that the vast resources of the Empire would not be able to crack your codes and realize your little secrets?

Leia looks up at her father, both of them sharing a knowing look. The jig is up.

BAIL

(defeated)

Then what?

TARKIN

You'll be made an example of.

VADER

The galaxy will be shown what happens to those who would betray and rise up against the Empire.

Leia looks from Tarkin to Vader, the realization of what is going on slowing coming to her.

Bail also comes to the realization of what is going on.

BAIL

I see. And the communications black out is to make sure no one gets out a call for help...

A SLICK smile crosses Tarkin's face.

TARKIN

I'm not completely without heart, however.

(re: Leia)

(MORE)

TARKIN (CONT'D)

I thought I'd give you two chance
to say goodbye.

Bail looks to his daughter and the feed goes BLANK. The map
of the Galaxy replaces him.

Leia's eyes begin to fill with FEAR.

LEIA

Please, Moff! No! The people--

TARKIN

Will be made an example of, as
well.

(beat)

The people of the Galaxy will know
that those who's leaders conspire
against the Empire will be held
responsible.

Leia is SPEECHLESS. She can't fathom the words to stop him.

Tarkin turns from her, a thin smile across his lips. He nods
to an officer sitting at a station who turns back and begins
entering in commands.

Tarkin turns back to Leia.

TARKIN

This will be quite a spectacle, I
assure you.

At the "front" of the room the MASSIVE blast doors begin to
PART, revealing a beautiful sight:

The planet of Alderaan framed perfectly against the stars.

Leia turns away.

TARKIN

(to Vader)

I think she should watch.

Vader nods in agreement and with a gesture from his hand, he
uses the Force to pull her head back up to the screen.

VADER

Do not make me hold your eyes open
as well.

OFFICER (O.S.)

Ready to fire!

Leia's eyes are streaming tears as she's forced to watch.

VADER

Fire at will.

LEIA
 (weakly)
 No...

CUT TO:

EXT. DEATH STAR - CONTINUOUS

A long rod extends from the center of the BOWL, a constantly rotating PRISM on the end.

INT. DEATH STAR FIRING TUBE - CONTINUOUS

Several men monitor the readouts as a gentle HUM turns into a RUMBLE and a MASSIVE green laser zips past.

EXT. DEATH STAR - CONTINUOUS

Lasers from eight points around the bowl shoot into the PRISM. The prism GLOWS for a moment then a final beam FIRES outward and into the PLANET.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The green laser PUNCTURES through the ground and grass with no difficulty, blowing the ground apart and throwing debris in all directions.

CUT TO:

INT. WAR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Everyone watches, Leia in horror, as the laser stops, CRACKS appear in the surface and the planet then EXPLODES.

Cheers and yells of celebration echo around the room. Tarkin revels in it with a snide smile.

TARKIN
 Congratulations everybody on a
 successful test firing.
 (looking at Leia)
 May all enemies of the Empire
 tremble with fear now.

Leia can't move, shock gripping her body. Tarkin looks at her with venom in his eyes. Vader looks down at her.

VADER
 Now, I believe you and I have to
 finish our discussion...

He motions and two Stormtroopers come up and take her by the arms. She looks up at Vader, her eyes conveying her emotions... defeat.

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

ESTABLISHING...

A small camp. A fire burns in the center, Luke's landspeeder is parked close by. R2-D2 and C-3PO are nearby, chirping quietly to one another.

OBI-WAN KENOBI sits on a stone, his eyes locked on the fire.

LUKE SKYWALKER is covered with a blanket, asleep on the desert floor.

Obi-Wan's eye twitches slightly and he closes his eyes, FEELING outward with the Force.

Luke SITS UP! His eyes darting everywhere, his breath quick and short, he's TERRIFIED.

LUKE

Ben?

Obi-Wan doesn't respond.

He continues to stare.

It sets Luke on edge. He's not seen Obi-Wan look this determined. It baffles him.

OBI-WAN

You felt it too?

Obi-Wan turns.

He lets his guard down. Appears physically and mentally weaker than we've seen him, his eyes glisten with tears.

LUKE

W-What was that?

(he wipes his eyes)

Why do I feel like this?

OBI-WAN

A billion voices crying out in terror then being silenced forever.

(beat)

Such death sends massive ripples through the Force. We feel it as sadness.

LUKE

This has happened before?

OBI-WAN

(quietly)

No. Not like this.

The notion strikes Luke to the very core. He turns from Obi-Wan looking out, we can faintly make out TWO graves.

LUKE

Were they responsible?

Obi-Wan doesn't have to answer with his voice, his face tells the whole story.

Resolve consumes Luke.

LUKE

Okay. Then we take them down.

Obi-Wan lets out a small laugh. It takes Luke back.

OBI-WAN

Revenge is not the path of a Jedi.

Obi-Wan stands. He strains as he does so, still weakened by the tremor within the force.

OBI-WAN

Justice is, however.

(standing)

But first, we must leave Tatooine.
I fear it's no longer safe here.

Luke breathes his anger away. He looks eager, casting expectant glances at Obi-Wan.

LUKE

Where will we go?

OBI-WAN

(dark)

Mos Eisley. A wretched hive of scum and villainy. A place better wiped off the planet.

(smiles)

The perfect place to hide. From the Imperials at least.

LUKE

Why there?

OBI-WAN

Most of the best pilots in the Outer Rim end up there at some point. We'll find someone willing to get us off the planet.

Obi-Wan goes to Luke and helps him up.

LUKE

We're going now?

OBI-WAN
No time like the present my old
master used to say.
(smiles)
Maybe not in that exact order...

Luke is puzzled at the comment.

Obi-Wan stoops down and grabs some sand. He goes to the fire
releases it, snuffing the flames.

LUKE
They'll know we were here.

OBI-WAN
Imperials train in bulk, not in
skill. We'll be long gone before
they know what to do.

He stands. Shakes excess sand from his hands.

LUKE
Is Mos Eisley really the best
place?

OBI-WAN
Stormtroopers can explore the edges
of Mos Eisley. But the interior is
controlled by the Hutts. Their
influence stretches far.

Obi-Wan steps forward. Luke stays where he is, troubled by
the situation.

LUKE
Are you sure about this?

Obi-Wan stops.

LUKE
I mean, it's... it's late, will
anyone be awake?

Obi-Wan turns a smile splitting his face. The naivety of the
young man amusing him.

OBI-WAN
You have a lot to learn, Luke.

He motions for Luke to help him.

Luke lingers for a moment, unsure. He musters up some
courage, and follows Obi-Wan.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLDING CELL

The survivors from the Tantive IV are gathered around the massive cell.

WEDGE ANTILLIES is obviously visible, still looking a bit rough from his previous encounters with the Imperials.

Several others look similar.

He looks up as the door opens.

Leia is thrown inside. She's been beaten as well. Her neck is red-raw, and her lip is swollen.

The door shuts behind her.

Everyone stands, Wedge immediately going to her and helping her. They clear the way to a bench/bed where Wedge leads her.

DACK appears with a small cup filled with water.

WEDGE

Are you okay?

Tears fill her eyes. She allows herself to be vulnerable now, letting out all of the pain that she was trying to conceal from the Imperials.

LEIA

They destroyed it...

WEDGE

What Princess?

LEIA

Alderaan...

A ripple moves through the men.

Wedge shuts his eyes. Lets out a sigh.

Leia wraps her arms around Wedge. The two of them stand there for a moment, a small amount of comfort found in each other.

WEDGE

I'm so sorry.

She nods, lost for words.

He opens his eyes, parting from her slightly. Wipes some tears from her eyes.

DEEK appears next to his brother.

DEEK

What do we do now then?

LEIA
I-I don't know...

Wedge looks at her, sees the fight gone from her eyes.

WEDGE
In adversity, we take ten seconds
to panic. And then we stand up, and
make our voices heard.
(then)
A pretty smart woman told me that.

Leia smiles at him, her strength coming back.

EXT. MOS EISLEY - LATER

The speeder comes to a stop between several other speeders of various designs and states of upkeep. Luke hops over the edge while Obi-Wan climbs out. They help the droids out.

They look to a squat building, noise and music coming through.

Citizens of various ages and races mill about the streets, talking, shopping, fighting. An eclectic mix.

Intermingled with them are TWO Stormtroopers (#3 and #4) who are stopping people and checking for ID.

OBI-WAN
Do not worry.

Obi-Wan, Luke and the droids approach. As they do so:

LUKE
I thought you said Stormtroopers
only explored the edges.

OBI-WAN
(simple)
I'm not perfect.

LUKE
(exasperated)
Anything else you may have been
wrong about?

OBI-WAN
Now is not the time.

They stop just shy of the Stormtroopers. Stormtrooper #3 approaches Obi-Wan.

STORMTROOPER #3
Where is your identification?

Obi-Wan waves his left hand to the side.

OBI-WAN

I don't require any identification.
I am a diplomat from the Chommell
Sector. These droids, and this
young man, are with me on a
diplomatic mission.

Stormtrooper #3 turns to Stormtrooper #4.

STORMTROOPER #3

He's a diplomat from the Chommell
Sector. How shall I proceed?

Stormtrooper #4 starts forward. Obi-Wan turns to Luke, who
appears impressed.

STORMTROOPER #4

Where is your identification?

Obi-Wan waves his left hand to the side.

OBI-WAN

I do not require any
identification.

STORMTROOPER #4

(to Stormtrooper #3)
He doesn't require any
identification.
(then, apologetic)
I apologize for the inconvenience.
It will be dealt with promptly.

Stormtrooper #3 gulps.

OBI-WAN

That's quite all right.
(then)
Why, may I ask, have you installed
check-points in this location?

STORMTROOPER #4

A family of settlers were murdered
by bandits, their droids stolen. We
have a lead on the culprits.

Throughout the preceding dialogue, Luke has ceased to be
impressed. He's turned to anger, and has stepped forward as
if to strike the oblivious Stormtroopers. He's stopped with a
look from Obi-Wan.

Luke stands there, frozen, as Stormtrooper #4 finishes.

STORMTROOPER #4

It was a direct order from the
Emperor.

OBI-WAN

We understand. Thank you for your time.

The Stormtroopers move to the side, letting them pass. Luke, Obi-Wan and the droids step forward.

As they continue, both Stormtroopers are shaking their heads.

LUKE

How'd you do that?

OBI-WAN

I convinced them that letting us in the right course of action.

(smiles)

The Force has a strong influence on the weak minded, such as those conditioned to follow orders without question.

Luke, Obi-Wan and the droids walk forward for a beat, neither aware of their surroundings.

LUKE

Influence?

OBI-WAN

The Force is not something you can turn on, or off. It bonds with the mind. Sometimes you may do it without meaning to, at other times, it can be used as an ally.

They stop.

OBI-WAN

Welcome to the rancor's den.

We get our first good look at Mos Eisley.

It's seedy, grimy, unkempt, the back-alley of Tatooine. Buildings are shacks, tents are the order of the day, the drunk and beaten litter the ground.

Luke looks less than impressed.

LUKE

This is Mos Eisley?

OBI-WAN

Was a wretched hive of scum and villainy not apt?

(re: droids)

Perhaps it best they stay out here.

Luke looks at Artoo and Threepio.

LUKE
Will you guys be okay out here?

THREEPIO
Yes, sir.

Threepio looks at a gathering of other droids.

THREEPIO
We should be able blend in.

The two of them go to the other droids as Obi-Wan and Luke near a large building. It has the aesthetic of a strip-club in the exterior...

INT. MOS EISLEY CANTINA - CONTINUOUS

...and in the interior.

It also has a Greasy Spoon like feel, a real trashy joint with various illicit card games going on and stirring music provided by Figrin D'an and the Modal Nodes. They're dressed in black, and have large heads shaped like crystal skulls.

Luke takes the place in with a sense of both wonder and intense bewilderment.

He's broken by his reverie when HAN SOLO (late 30s, well-worn clothes, tired eyes) bumps into him. Han spills a bit of his drink.

HAN
Hey...

Han looks at Luke with anger. Luke tries to be defiant, but struggles under the intense gaze.

HAN
Watch where you're going, kid.
Tusken Raiders can always use scraps.

He brushes past Luke again, the threat all too clear.

Luke doesn't make further eye contact, staring ahead. He's relieved to see Obi-Wan walk over.

LUKE
I met a local.

OBI-WAN
Friendly?

LUKE
He threatened to feed me a Tusken Raider.

OBI-WAN
There are worse fates.

Luke goes to speak. Before he can:

OBI-WAN
As I thought, it was good to leave
the droids outside.

Luke goes to speak again, and before he can...

OBI-WAN
Look.

He points over to the area above the bar. There are various trophies - droid parts that have been stripped of their components. There's also a few droids patrolling the area, emitting sparks and looking weak and timid.

Luke nods, catching the disturbing gist.

OBI-WAN
(looking off-screen)
I see someone who may be able to
help us get off this rock. Stay
here.

He walks off-screen.

Luke remains still for a moment, heeding Obi-Wan's words. Gradually, he becomes more comfortable in the environment, and not wanting to stand out, he goes to the bar.

LUKE
I'd like a drink.

The BARTENDER turns around. His name is WUHER, a dirty and ill-looking human in his fifties. He greets Luke with a snort. He speaks with a gruff voice, weathered by the harsh environment, but not the desert.

WUHER
Blue milk, Juri juice, or Sarlacc
kicker. Pick one, pay, drink it,
leave.

LUKE
I'll take a Sarlacc kicker.

Wuher smirks.

WUHER
Your funeral, kid.

He begins pouring.

OBI-WAN--

Who has taken a seat at Han's table. Han puts down his nearly finished drink, gives Obi-Wan an inquisitive look.

HAN

Let me guess, you're here to apologize for the kid.

OBI-WAN

Would you accept an apology?

HAN

Probably not.

OBI-WAN

Then perhaps you'd be interested in a business proposal?

Han leans in, intrigued.

HAN

What kind of business?

OBI-WAN

Charter off planet for four. Myself, the boy, and two droids. No questions.

He stops. A low rumble emanates from above.

It belongs to CHEWBACCA - a Wookiee. He's tall, imposing, and hairy. A crossbow is slung over his back and a bandolier of energy packs over his chest.

HAN

Don't mind Chewie. He hates everyone equally.

Obi-Wan nods to Chewie.

OBI-WAN

I'm here for business, and business only.

Chewbacca relaxes. Obi-Wan turns back to Han.

OBI-WAN

I know all your tricks. Let's not waste time with such games. I cannot be intimidated, cannot be manipulated, and you know this to be true, don't you?

Han takes a long hard look at Obi-Wan, searching for any cracks in the old man's demeanor. There are NONE.

HAN

So what sort of trouble is after you two that makes you want to leave this den of debauchery?

OBI-WAN

I said no questions.

HAN

You see, that's a bit of a problem. Silence has it's cost.

Han smiles while Obi-Wan just looks at him.

BACK TO LUKE--

As he spits out the Sarlacc kicker, spraying it all over the bar. Wuher laughs, as do nearby patrons.

BACK TO HAN

As he shakes his head.

HAN

If it's Imperial, I doubt you have the coin to keep me that quiet.

OBI-WAN

I have enough credits.

BACK TO LUKE--

Who turns, looking rather sheepish, and finds himself face to face with CORNELIUS EVAZAN, an ugly looking human with light skin, a swollen left eye, and a large (and piggish) nose.

CORNELIUS

You spit out your drink.

Luke nods, turns back to the bar.

LUKE

(pained)
Hit me again.

Wuher goes to pour another drink for Luke. Cornelius reaches out, taps Luke on the shoulder.

As Luke turns.

CORNELIUS

You spit out your drink all over my friend.

Luke looks at the friend in question.

His name is PONDA BABA. He's a tall Quaray with aquatic features. He has light green skin, and black eyes.

LUKE

I'm sorry.

(taking a fresh drink)

Just never had a kicker before. It
won't happen again.

Luke turns away from them.

He starts to take another drink but is pulled around by
Cornelius. The drink spills over the bar. Luke sighs, and
turns back, frustrated.

LUKE

Look....

Cornelius cuts off Luke by grabbing him by the face, and
slamming it down onto the bar.

OBI-WAN--

Looks up as Luke is held against the bar.

OBI-WAN

Please excuse me for a moment.

Han watches with interest as Obi-Wan stands.

HAN

Hey Chewie, check this out...

LUKE--

Looking worried as Ponda Baba babbles on in his native
language. Cornelius translates...

CORNELIUS

He doesn't like you. I don't like
you. And I have the death penalty
in twelve systems.

(cold)

Your money or your arm. Choose.

HAN--

Unclips his blaster. Chewie gives him a soft growl.

HAN

Just going to make it an even
fight.

Han watches Obi-Wan approach cautiously. Chewie continues to
growl.

HAN

They're gonna kill the kid and the
old man.

Chewie gives him a short bark.

HAN
I know it's not our fight!

LUKE--

Looks relieved as Obi-Wan steps up.

Wuher steps forward to defuse things.

WUHER
Easy, Cornelius.

Cornelius BACKHANDS him.

CORNELIUS
Did I ask for you to get involved
you piece of poodoo?

Wuher gulps. Backs off.

CORNELIUS
Now.
(to Luke, dark)
Make your choice.

Luke's face fills the frame. He's pained. Ever so slightly, the pain disappears. His eyes darken. Conviction fills them. He lets out a deep breath.

LUKE
None of the above.

He pushes up.

As he does so, Cornelius flies backwards - as if hit by a gust of wind. It's not much, but he staggers backwards and clashes with the edge of a table.

It temporarily disorients him.

Luke stares at Ponda Baba, enraged. There's a moment of mutual contemplation, and then--

--Luke swings his fist.

It's caught in mid air by Ponda Baba, effortlessly. He twists the wrist to the side, prompting a howl of pain to emerge from Luke.

Luke slumps down, forced to his knees.

Cornelius rises. He reaches into his pocket, and pulls a sharp dagger.

The entire cantina has stopped, taking in these events.

Cornelius stomps towards Luke, ready to cut and carve until there's nothing left.

HAN--

Who continues to watch, blaster in hand, as Obi-Wan puts his hand on Ponda Baba's shoulder.

OBI-WAN--

Looks as calm as can be as Ponda Baba looks over his shoulder while holding Luke in place. He babbles on.

OBI-WAN

Look friend, we don't want any trouble. Let me buy you a drink, you've proven your point.

Cornelius reappears, wiping a bit of something from his shirt, a BLADE in his other hand. The bar has become STILL and QUIET as they watch the commotion.

CORNELIUS

I'm going to start with your kidney.

He moves to bring the blade into Luke when...

THWACK

Obi-Wan moves with unnatural speed. His LIGHTSABER slices Cornelius's arm clean in half.

The arm drops to the floor twitching, the end cauterized from the extreme heat of the weapon.

Cornelius WAILS in pain on his KNEES, grasping the stump that used to be an arm.

Obi-Wan twists around, getting Ponda to release Luke and put himself between the boy and the attacker.

He holds his BLUE lightsaber at Ponda Baba's chin.

OBI-WAN

I suggest you two leave unless you'd like to lose additional parts of your body.

Ponda Baba doesn't hesitate, grabbing Cornelius (and Cornelius's arm), and fleeing the place as quickly as he can.

The bar returns to business, like nothing happened.

Obi-Wan clicks the hilt disengaging the Lightsaber. He takes one last look at a few wary glances then turns to Luke.

OBI-WAN

(helping him up)
Are you okay?

LUKE
Not so much.

Obi-Wan pats Luke on the shoulder.

OBI-WAN
You have learned a valuable lesson
today.

LUKE
What's that?

OBI-WAN
(smiling)
It will come to you, I'm sure.

EXT. MOS EISLEY - NIGHT

Threepio and Artoo are beeping away with about a dozen other droids gathered in a small area. Most are unkempt, in various states of disrepair of jury-rigging.

THREEPIO
(subtitled)
...and now we're here, trying to
get out.

There's a series of beeps and chirps from all the droids, mostly agreeing and understanding with what Threepio was telling him.

One lets out a SHRILL beep, an alarm...

They all turn to see...

STORMTROOPERS--

TWO of them (#5 and #6) which are checking each droid for identification. There's a good ten droids between their location and Threepio and Artoo.

Artoo beeps.

THREEPIO
No. I do not have our idents. I was
under the impression you did.

Artoo gives a SQUAT beep.

THREEPIO
Watch your language. And no, not
even the fake ones.

Artoo beeps a third time.

THREEPIO

I was not aware of that, but I do not see how it has any relevance to the situation at hand.

Artoo beeps a fourth time.

THREEPIO

And if I translate that to them, I am pretty sure it will end in both of us being stripped apart and sold to a Jawa for scrap.

Artoo lets out a sad beep.

THREEPIO

Precisely.

The Stormtroopers have reached Artoo and Threepio, and have blasters at the ready.

STORMTROOPER #5

Ident?

THREEPIO

I am afraid I do not know what you are talking about.

Stormtrooper #5 sighs.

Stormtrooper #6 charges his blaster.

THREEPIO

(quickly)

Oh, you meant ident. Well, in that case, I... um...

Before he can say anything else, a PROTOCOL DROID begins to malfunction, sparks flying from it's tiny head.

The Stormtroopers turn to it.

STORMTROOPER #5

I thought you checked this one.

STORMTROOPER #6

The ident came back positive.

A spark of electricity flies out from the protocol droid, and slams into both Stormtroopers, taking them off guard.

As they're neutralised--

--Artoo nudges Threepio, and quickly begins moving away. Threepio follows without any hesitation. He looks over his shoulder.

THREEPIO
 (quietly)
 Thank you, friend.

In the background, the Stormtroopers pursue the Protocol Droid. Their blaster-fire narrowly missing.

EXT. MOS EISLEY. SECLUDED AREA - NIGHT

Han and Chewbacca are seated. Luke and Obi-Wan just across from them.

HAN
 Not bad old man. If you want out of here, we want the money up-front.

Luke and Obi-Wan trade a look.

Reaching into his robe, Luke pulls out a small bag. He throws it over to Han, who catches it, feeling it over in his hands.

LUKE
 That's my family's life savings.

Han laughs.

HAN
 (eying the bag)
 Must have been a crappy life.

LUKE
 (scowling)
 Stormtroopers burned them alive.

That gets to Han briefly. He shows a hint of remorse for his comment. It doesn't last long, as he shrugs it away.

HAN
 (darkly)
 I'm sorry. But it happens more than you think.
 (to Chewbacca)
 Count it.

He throws the bag to Chewbacca, who catches it.

Chewbacca bounces the bag in his hands and pours it out on the table and immediately slides it back into the bag. He doesn't appear pleased with the amount. He gives a low roar.

HAN
 He says it isn't enough.
 (to Obi-Wan)
 We ain't in the business of charity.

Obi-Wan nods in understanding.

OBI-WAN
I can get you the rest of the money
that you seek. And a bonus.

HAN
Bonus?

OBI-WAN
You're trying to get away from the
Hutts, are you not?

That freaks Han out a tad, his cards having been read and
mocked by Obi-Wan.

HAN
How the hell...

OBI-WAN
The Force reveals many things to
the one who listens.

Han is shocked and amused.

HAN
The Force!
(aside)
What do ya think, Chewie? Should we
just do a trade? We can use him at
your next birthday, he does magic
tricks.

Obi-Wan takes the jab in stride as Chewie gives a low laugh.
Luke stands, angered and irritated.

LUKE
We don't have to listen to this--

HAN
Easy kid. Just having a laugh.

He thinks for a moment while Obi-Wan puts a calm hand on
Luke's arm and brings him back to the seat.

HAN
Okay, you got a deal.

Chewbacca roars.

HAN
I hear you Chewie, but we ain't got
much of a choice.

He looks in the distance. Some Stormtroopers are walking
through the frame, grilling locals.

HAN
Docking Bay 94. An hour.
(beat)
(MORE)

HAN (CONT'D)

If you're not there, we're leaving
without you. And keeping the money.

OBI-WAN

We'll be there.

Han looks off screen.

HAN

Make enough noise...

Obi-Wan and Luke turn to see several Stormtroopers milling
about, asking questions. A few point back to them.

HAN

(nodding to side door)
I'll hold them off.

Obi-Wan nods in understanding and grabs Luke. They get up and
melt into the crowd as three Stormtroopers approach Han. He
smiles.

HAN

What can I help you boys with?

STORMTROOPER #7

The two men you were talking to,
where did they go?

HAN

Don't know, not my problem.

He gives them a smirk and they move on.

Chewies shakes his head at Han.

HAN

I know what I'm doing.

CUT TO:

EXT. CANTINA - MOMENTS LATER

Obi-Wan and Luke rush out. They look to the grouping of
droids, a handful of Stormtroopers gathered around them.

OBI-WAN

This can't be good.

There's a BEEP from a near-by alley. Both look and see the
glowing eyes of Threepio turn on then look away. Obi-Wan
motions Luke in that direction.

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Threepio and Artoo are sunk as far as they can be into the
darkness.

LUKE
What happened?

THREEPIO
Several Stormtroopers were looking for idents. We don't have ours and were almost grabbed. Another droid distracted them and we got away.

Obi-Wan pats Threepio on the shoulder.

OBI-WAN
You did good.

He looks back out into the streets, more Stormtroopers have arrived.

OBI-WAN
We need to move quickly.

Obi-Wan ushers the three deeper into the alley.

EXT. DEATH STAR

ESTABLISHING--

The massive station hangs silently in space, the sun rising over its horizon.

If it wasn't the incarnation of EVIL, it might be beautiful...

INT. CELL

Leia is asleep on the cot.

Wedge is sitting against it, right below her, keeping watch.

Her eyes OPEN, wide and clear, looking for something. She takes a deep breath, realizing where she is.

She sits up. Wedge turns to her and gets onto the edge of the bed with her.

WEDGE
You okay?

She rubs her head.

LEIA
Just a nightmare. One I've had since I was a little girl.
(beat)
It was about the destroyer of worlds.

Wedge nods and pats the bulkhead.

WEDGE
Seems to have come true.

LEIA
(distant)
Yes...

She looks around the room, taking in the condition of her men and their collective situation.

LEIA
We need to get out of here.

WEDGE
And go where? Alderaan is gone,
there's nothing left on Dantooine.

LEIA
There's one last place.

WEDGE
Where?

LEIA
(quietly)
Yavin.

CUT TO:

EXT. CANTINA - NIGHT

Han steps out, pulling his coat up over his shoulders. Chewbacca walks out behind him. They notice the troopers leaving the area.

HAN
(watching them leave)
Get to the Falcon, Chewie, make
sure we're ready to go. These two
reek of trouble.

Chewie gives a soft growl.

HAN
Because reeking of trouble usually
means a big pay day.

Chewie whines slightly, obviously not sharing Han's sentiment.

HAN
Come on buddy, we've done worse.

Chewie gives a throaty huff.

HAN
Well, I didn't count that, and we
got out of it didn't we?
(MORE)

HAN (CONT'D)

(smiles)

Go get it cleared. I'm going to grab the last of the supplies.

Chewie nods, heading into the dimly lit streets of Mos Eisley.

Han reaches into his pocket and pulls out a thin plastic tube. He puts it between his lips and inhales, the end of it glowing a bright green. He exhales and smoke puffs out from his nose.

HAN

So, you gonna show yourself Greedo, or we going to play hide-and-seek.

In the shadows behind him, a figure steps out. He's a tall Rodian with a thick green scar down his face.

(GREEDO is subtitled.)

GREEDO

Ah, Solo, good to know you still have your wits about you.

HAN

Don't need wits when you smell like a dying gundark.

Han turns around to greet Greedo with a sly smile. He looks down and sees the blaster in his hands. He removes the tube from his lips and drops it back into his pocket.

HAN

Now, that's unnecessary, don't you think?

GREEDO

After our last meeting, no. I don't think so.

Han moves his coat to show his two blasters on his hips.

HAN

`Last meeting?' Greedo, buddy, that was just a misunderstanding. Didn't you get the flowers I sent?

GREEDO

They were dead!

HAN

(jabbing)

I thought your people preferred them that way.

Greedo is bristling with anger.

GREEDO
I'm here to take you in, Solo.

HAN
'Take me in?' Since when did you
start searching for bounty?

GREEDO
I'm part of Jabba's crew now.

Han smirks.

HAN
Jabba, huh? You really think you've
moved up to that level?

GREEDO
He pays me, and I get to pay you
back.

Greedo's finger traces the scar on the side of his face.

HAN
Gives you character.

GREEDO
You're nothing without that beast,
Solo. Now shut your mouth, and
start walking.

Han's face grows dark at the "beast" comment.

HAN
Careful, Greedo.

GREEDO
No! You think you're tough and
hard, someone no one can touch. But
you've double crossed Jabba, you've
doubled crossed me, and he's going
to show you what happens when you
do that!

HAN
I gave him his share, not my fault
I found a price triple his offer.

GREEDO
I'm done with you, Solo. Maybe I'll
just shoot you and take your head
to Jabba. Not as much, but an
option.

Greedo motions with the gun.

HAN
I'm not going anywhere.

With uncanny speed, Han pulls BOTH blasters from his hips and put two shots into Greedo's chest.

The bounty hunter falls back, his head slamming against the wall. He drops his gun.

Somehow...

He's STILL breathing.

Han holsters his left blaster and takes a step forward. Greedo looks up at him weakly. He pulls the tube out and takes another breath.

HAN

I told you if I ever saw you again
I'd kill you.

Han pulls the trigger and fires a shot into Greedo's head.

He takes a long look at him the holsters his other blaster. He takes another deep breath from the tube and looks around: no one saw. He takes one last look at his fallen enemy.

HAN

Idiot...

He turns away from the dead body and makes his way down the street into the darkness.

EXT. DOCKING BAY 94 - LATER

Obi-Wan and Luke approach, the droids in tow.

Chewbacca is standing outside, crossbow in hands, ready to shoot anyone that he doesn't like the look of. He nods through the door and the four enter, him right behind.

INT. DOCKING BAY 94 - CONTINUOUS

The bay is large, with the DOME on top already retracted and opened to the clear night sky.

Resting in the middle of the bay is the *Millennium Falcon*, an OLDER gray transport with an uneven hull, its cockpit to the side. It's a ship that's seen better days, but still has fight in her.

LUKE

Wow... no wonder he's charging so
much.

Han is at the foot of the ramp of the ship.

HAN

Careful kid.

LUKE
Need a new ship, eh?

Han smirks, liking Luke's harmless jabs.

HAN
I'll admit, she ain't the most
beautiful bird in the sky, but damn
if she ain't fast.

LUKE
If it makes it off the ground...

Chewie gives him a low growl.

HAN
Easy buddy, he doesn't mean
anything.

OBI-WAN
I'm sure you know that time is of
the most importance?

HAN
(offering the ramp)
Well, if you'll just be aboard,
we'll get underway.

Obi-Wan motions to Luke. The four of them go up the ramp.
Chewie comes up to Han, gives him a few short barks.

HAN
Stop worrying. We'll be fine.

Almost as if on cue, three Stormtroopers enter the docking
bay. Chewie shoots them a menacing look and ROARS in anger.

STORMTROOPER #8
Control that animal!

HAN
It's okay buddy, I got this.
(quietly)
Go get everything ready. Power up
the cannons.

Chewie growls.

HAN
(almost angry)
Just do it!

Chewie gives him a soft whine, an apology perhaps?

He takes one last look at the Stormtroopers who have frozen
at the entrance, their hands on their weapons.

HAN
(soothing)
Sorry about that guys, he just gets
spooked when people sneak up on
him. He's really a nice guy.
Really!

INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - MOMENTS LATER

Chewie makes his way to the cockpit. Obi-Wan and Luke following.

INT. COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

The cockpit is cramped and filled with controls, displays, and readouts of the ship's status. On either side are two chairs, one behind the other.

Chewie sits in the right chair, the "co-pilot's" chair. Obi-Wan looks out the forward window and sees Han approaching Han three Stormtroopers.

INT. DOCKING BAY 94 - CONTINUOUS

Han smiles.

STORMTROOPER #8
You have fugitives on board your
ship.

Han shrugs.

HAN
I don't know what you're talking
about. I got an old man and his kid
taking a vacation.

The Stormtroopers raise their weapons.

Han stops moving forward and begins backing up. For every step back he takes, the Stormtroopers take one forward.

STORMTROOPER #8
In the name of the Empire, we are
seizing your ship!

Han's face instantly grows dark.

HAN
Over my dead body.

Again, with UNCANNY speed, Han has BOTH blasters in hand and begins shooting.

One Stormtrooper drops IMMEDIATELY from a shot in the head. Bolts BOUNCE off the armor of the others as they dive for cover.

STORMTROOPER #8
This is TUI-1101, we need back-up!

EXT. DOCKING BAY 94

About a dozen Stormtroopers are outside, waiting for word.

STORMTROOPER #8
(filtered)
Repeat, we need back-up!

One Stormtrooper motions to the others and the rush for the entrance to the docking bay.

INT. DOCKING BAY 94 - CONTINUOUS

The Stormtroopers burst into the bay taking up positions.

Han realizes he's outnumbered and makes for the ramp as blast bolts ZIP past him.

HAN
CHEWIE!

INT. COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Chewie sees the troopers and flips a switch.

EXT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - CONTINUOUS

A blaster cannon drops out from under the ship and begins firing indiscriminately into the Stormtroopers.

EXT. DOCKING BAY 94 - CONTINUOUS

Several armor clad soldiers are blown back as they advance towards the ship, which is starting to lift off.

One jumps and gets onto the ramp.

I/E. RAMP - CONTINUOUS

The Stormtrooper holds onto one of the struts as the ship raises up. He looks down and sees the city falling behind them, blaster bolts futilely tracing it. He looks up and sees Han pointing a blaster right at his head.

Han just glares.

The Stormtrooper twitches, begins to move his rifle up and Han FIRES, the close range BLOWING A HOLE straight through the armor and head of the trooper.

Han doesn't waste time and kicks the body off of the ramp and watches the body fall into the desert far below. He moves into the Falcon, slamming the ramp control as he passes.

EXT. SKY - MOMENTS LATER

The ramp closes as it STREAKS upwards.

INT. COCKPIT

Han pushes past Luke and Obi-Wan and takes the pilot's seat.

OBI-WAN
You didn't have to protect us...

HAN
(distant)
You're too big of a pay day to let
slip through my fingers.

Han looks at a read out.

HAN
We'll break atmo in fifteen
seconds. Chewie, start up the
hyperdrive engines and calculate
the jump to light speed.
(beat)
Where are we going, anyway?

OBI-WAN
Alderaan.

Han whistles.

HAN
Should have charged more.

EXT. ORBIT

The Falcon SHOOTS past, into open space.

CUT TO:

EXT. ORBIT OF TATOOINE MOON

The Stardestroyer *Juggernaut* orbits in silence.

INT. BRIDGE

Officers are moving around quickly, the place is a bustle. CAPTAIN TYRUS stands at the front of the bridge looking out at the yellow planet.

OFFICER #1 (O.S.)
Sir, we're getting reports that the
men from the bar are on that ship--

OFFICER #2 (O.S.)
Sir, five are dead in the docking
bay--

Tyrus' face grows dark.

TYRUS
Launch all fighters.

EXT. SPACE

The Millennium Falcon ZOOMS by, breaking orbit.

INT. COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Obi-Wan and Luke have taken up seats behind Han and Chewbacca. An alarm is going off.

LUKE
(pointing)
What is that?

Han slaps his hand away. He looks worried.

HAN
We're being pinged!

Chewie barks and motions towards one of the moons. The silver wedge of the Star Destroyer is approaching...

OBI-WAN
How much longer?

Han takes a look at another display.

HAN
Three minutes...

OBI-WAN
Can we make it?

Han looks at Chewbacca who shakes his head.

LUKE
(pointing off screen)
What are those?

They look forwards and see dozens of small silver dots coming at them in formation.

HAN
Interceptors... go get on the cannon, Chewie.

Chewie starts to protest.

HAN
Just DO IT!

He grumbles as he gets up. He pushes past Luke and Obi-Wan then stops and reaches back and grabs Luke, pulling him along, barking the whole way.

OBI-WAN
(after Luke)
He says he's going to see if you're
worth it!

INT. TOP CANNON

As Chewbacca gets into one of the chairs for a cannon he looks behind/below him and sees Luke climb into another.

The ship ROCKS from weapon's fire as they get into place.

BEGIN INTERCUT

HAN--

Starts TWISTING the controls of the ship, Obi-Wan behind him trying to hold on for dear life.

THE *FALCON*--

TWISTS and PIVOTS at near impossible angles and directions, but the TIE Interceptors, crafts with SPHERES as cockpits and broad, angled wings, match with little trouble.

LUKE--

TWISTS and TURNS, his chair on a rotating gimbal, the cannon's in front of him SPEWING orange laser blasts.

CHEWIE--

Does the same, he grips the trigger tightly, a BURST of fire lancing forward and blowing one of the Interceptor's to pieces.

He HOWLS in celebration.

HAN--

Monitors the countdown, in an alien numbering system.

HAN
Thirty seconds...

The ship rocks from another hit, the shields FLARE with green light and a monitor goes out.

OBI-WAN
I'm guessing that's not good.

Han rolls his eyes and SLAMS his fist into the monitor and it comes back on.

LUKE--

Presses the triggers and lets loose a VOLLEY of laser fire, BLOWING one TIE Interceptor into PIECES.

He grins to himself, pleased with getting some small amount of vengeance on the Imperials.

HAN--

Looks over as the counter stops counting down and begins flashing.

HAN
Got a solution!

He flips a switch and pushed a lever forward...

HAN
Hold on!

THE *FALCON*--

Begins to ROLL as green lasers FLY past it or are absorbed by the shields.

The *Falcon* continues to roll as the back engine manifold GLOWS and then the ship ROCKETES out of sight. Leaving the TIE fighters alone.

INT. BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Captain TYRUS stands and the LARGE windows, looking out at the planet and the swirling fighters as the return to the ship.

His face is worried and streaked with sweat. He knows he's going to have to tell his boss.

TYRUS
Communications, send message to
Lord Vader. The ship has escaped.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

TO ESTABLISH

The Death Star floats silently among the debris of the former planet Alderaan.

INT. CELL BLOCK

Several Stormtroopers march down the tight and dark corridor. They get to a cell and press a button to open the door.

I/E. CELL

Leia and the others look up as the door is parted and three Stormtroopers enter, their weapons drawn.

They look around a second then one points to Leia.

The other two move to take her. They grab her under the arms and begin to pull her.

SOLDIER #1

No!

He rushes the troopers, trying to break Leia free.

LEIA

Pras! No!

The other Stormtrooper doesn't hesitate: he pulls the trigger, blasting a hole in the soldier's chest. The other soldiers freeze as their companion slumps to the ground, his eyes wide and EMPTY.

Leia looks back as she's dragged out of the cell, tears in her eyes.

Another one of her men dead.

She's taken out, her men left alone.

They watch as the Stormtrooper backs out, slowly, his weapon still trained on them.

The door closes--

CUT TO:

EXT. HYPERSPACE

The *Millennium Falcon* flies by, its hull illuminated by the blue of Hyperspace.

INT. PASSENGER AREA

Obi-Wan is sitting at a side terminal watching a blind folded Luke stand with his lightsaber just in front of him. A small ORB floats around, softly hissing as it changes directions.

OBI-WAN

Can you feel it? That force pulling
your hands, your body, your mind,
in one direction?

Luke doesn't answer, he just blindly follows the orb.

OBI-WAN

Feel it flowing through you,
guiding you, like a second instinct
that permeates your every fiber.

LUKE

(following the orb)
So it controls you?

OBI-WAN
It works with you. It is you, and
you are it.

The Orb FIRES!

Luke twists, the blade ABSORBING the laser blast.

OBI-WAN
It's a guide, taking you to where
you want to go.

Obi-Wan turns as Han enters the passenger area. We see for the first time, Chewbacca and the droids at a table, small holographic figures moving across the table.

Han notices the lightsaber as Luke blocks another bolt.

HAN
You know, I charge extra for
intergalactic fugitives.

He sits down at a small separate table and pulls out a bottle from a small compartment. He pops the top and takes a drink. Obi-Wan looks at the bottle.

OBI-WAN
While flying?

Han smacks his lips as he finishes his drink.

HAN
Computers do the hard stuff.
(another drink)
Besides, after what happened
earlier, I think I deserve one.

Chewbacca barks out.

HAN
(to Chewie)
Buy your own, then.

Chewie gives a gruff laugh.

OBI-WAN
(back to Luke)
Don't force it, feel it.

Luke is getting frustrated. Han watches and smirks with a casual interest.

HAN
Ancient weapons and hokey beliefs
are no match for a good blaster in
your hand, kid.

Luke turns off the lightsaber and pulls off the blindfold.

LUKE
You don't believe in The Force?

HAN
Careful, son. The way you're swinging that "laser sword" around and he's mouthin' off his nonsense, neither did you before long ago.

Obi-Wan smirks while ANGER flashes across Luke's face.

LUKE
You think you know everything, don't you?

HAN
Kid--

LUKE
Stop calling me that.

Han hesitates then smiles.

HAN
Okay.
(takes a drink)
Look, I've flown from one end of the galaxy to the other. Been places you've only seen in your nightmares, and not once, do I find any proof of an all powerful "Force" leading me from one point to another.

Obi-Wan nods at Han's comment and stands.

OBI-WAN
Now, Luke. Just let go.

He grabs the orb and turns it off. He holds his hand out and Han's blaster FLIES from his left hip and into Obi-Wan's hand.

HAN
Cute.

Chewbacca growls.

HAN
I got this, buddy. Everything's fine.

Obi-Wan smiles and turns back to Luke.

OBI-WAN
Let go of what you know and stretch out with your feelings.

Luke looks nervous. Chewbacca lifts an eyebrow.

LUKE
W-what are you doing?

OBI-WAN
Defend yourself!

Luke IMMEDIATELY raises the LIGHTSABER as Obi-Wan FIRES. The blade absorbs the blast. Obi-Wan fires AGAIN and AGAIN!

Luke SWINGS, blocking each bolt with GRACEFUL ease.

Han begins CLAPPING.

LUKE
What the hell was that?

Obi-Wan smiles again and tosses the blaster back to Han. He goes to Luke and pats him on the shoulder.

OBI-WAN
You're taking your first steps into
a larger world.

Luke looks at him with shocked disbelief.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

SCREAMING!

Leia is screaming on the floor, tears streaming from her eyes as Vader stands over her.

LEIA
Please! Stop!

Vader just STARES, his black eyes impassable.

She stops screaming. Breathing heavily on the floor. She looks up at him.

VADER
Who were you after?

Leia doesn't-- can't-- say anything.

VADER
Who were you searching for on
Tatooine?

Leia looks up, something sparking in her eyes. She realizes that things have changed.

VADER
There is no hope for you, Princess.

CUT TO:

INT. PASSENGER AREA

Luke is asleep on a small bed. Across from him is Obi-Wan on another bed.

Luke is tossing and turning.

FLASH--

A planet EXPLODES!

Luke turns over.

FLASH--

A black circle begins to ECLIPSE a star.

Luke sits up, sweat beading on his face. His chest heaves with fear and anxiety.

Obi-Wan turns and looks at him.

OBI-WAN
Our lives are connected to the
living force. Sometimes it shows us
things in ways we cannot understand
at the moment.
(beat)
What did you see?

Luke falls back to his bed, his eyes unblinking.

OBI-WAN
(concerned)
Luke? What did you see, son?

Luke finally blinks, the shock of the vision wearing off. He licks his lips and talks quietly.

LUKE
The destroyer of worlds.

Luke closes his eyes while Obi-Wan watches on, a look of deep concern etched into his face.

INT. CELL - LATER

Leia is dropped at the door. The troopers back out, their weapons trained until the door closes.

Leia collapses to her knees. Her men come to her and help her up.

SOLDIER
What is going on?

Leia winces from pain and tries to relax herself. She can't. She almost looks delirious.

LEIA
Just hold on.

WEDGE
For how long, Princess...?

Leia looks up and smiles at him.

LEIA
Someone is coming.

FADE TO:

EXT. HYPERSPACE

The Millennium Falcon FLIES by, it's dirty grey hull illuminated by the BLUE of hyperspace.

TWO DAYS LATER

INT. PASSENGER AREA

Chewbacca is sitting at the table again, dozens of holographic figures dancing across the board in virtual battle. Artoo sits across from him, quietly chirping to himself while Threepio watches.

THREEPIO
No, Artoo. I will not help you win.

Artoo beeps again and Chewie gives a bark of a laugh.

THREEPIO
No, I will not convince him to not rip you apart if he loses. You're the one who got into a game of Dajil with a Wookiee, not me.

Chewbacca gives another big laugh as he signals for several pieces to move.

PAN AWAY as the game continues. Obi-Wan is sitting in a chair as a once again blind folded Luke stands ready with his lightsaber drawn.

In front of him, the same small ORB levitates and moves, Luke cautiously tracking it.

OBI-WAN
Feel it, Luke. Feel it without seeing it, without hearing it.

HAN (O.S.)
Hyperbole.

Obi-Wan turns to see Han standing at the entrance to passenger area. He's leaning against the wall, his arms across his chest as he tries to look the part of the rogue. Obi-Wan cocks an eye and turns back to Luke.

He smiles and waves his hand. A BLAST sparks from the orb! Luke swings the lightsaber but misses and is stung in the leg.

OBI-WAN
Do not lose your focus!

The orb shoots AGAIN and AGAIN. The first hits Luke but he's able to block the second.

He disengages his lightsaber and rips the blindfold off.

LUKE
You cheated!

Obi-Wan is amused by this.

OBI-WAN
Oh, did I?

LUKE
You knew he distracted me.

OBI-WAN
And had this been a real battle, a real test of your abilities, do you think that with that distraction you would still be standing here?

Luke doesn't respond. An uneasy silence settles between the master and his pupil.

HAN
Man, you could cut the tension with a knife!

Luke shoots him a look, to which Han only grins at.

OBI-WAN
Luke, ease yourself.

Luke looks back to his mentor and takes a deep breath, calming himself.

Han stands upright as a red light begins to flash.

HAN
Come on, Chewie.

Chewbacca nods and gets up from the table. As he walks around, he pats Artoo on the dome.

OBI-WAN
Is everything all right?

Han and Chewie begin walking towards the cockpit. He talks to them over his shoulder.

HAN
Yeah. We're about to drop out of hyperspace.

The two disappear into the hallway to the cockpit.

Obi-Wan gets up from his chair and goes to Luke. He puts a reassuring hand on his shoulder.

OBI-WAN
It's all right, Luke. As I said, these are the first steps into a larger, and more dangerous, world. More dangerous than you could have ever imagined. You will get the hang of it. I promise.

Luke doesn't look convinced.

LUKE
I hope so.

He turns and makes his way towards the cockpit hallway.

OBI-WAN
So do I.

He looks to the droids and motions for them to come with him.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

The *Millennium Falcon* EXPLODES into normal space. MILLIONS of pieces of rock and debris fill the area.

INT. COCKPIT

Han is seated in the pilots seat, Chewbacca next to him. Alarms SCREAM in warning. The ship shakes violently as small pieces of rock SLAM into the ship.

HAN
Chewie! Bring up the deflector shields!

Chewbacca lets off a string of barks and growls at him.

HAN
Burn them out then!

Obi-Wan and Luke watch on in horror as rocks fly by. Many small, some larger. The droids try to stay up right.

THREEPIO
This is different...

Han twists the *Falcon* around some larger ones. He reaches up and turns off the alarms.

LUKE
(pointing)
There!

Han WRENCHES the flight yoke...

EXT. DEBRIS FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The *Falcon* BANKS and DROPS, narrowly missing a speeding boulder half the size of it.

INT. COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Han sighs with relief.

HAN
Thanks kid.

Obi-Wan looks at the computer read outs.

OBI-WAN
What has happened here...?

Han checks everything.

HAN
Stars line up. Coordinates are within an acceptable margin of error.
(beat)
We're at the right spot...

Everyone looks out the cockpit into the NOTHING beyond.

LUKE
The destroyer of worlds...

HAN
What?!

Luke looks to Obi-Wan, a shared moment of realization passes between them.

OBI-WAN
This is the work of the Empire.

Han spins around, his face between terror and anger, his cool bravado being tried by the realization of a DESTROYED PLANET.

HAN

Are you crazy! It'd take a million starships with more fire power than I've ever seen!

(turning back around)

This... this is something else. A natural accident...

Obi-Wan shakes his head, he's about to speak when another alarm goes off.

Han spins around and shuts it off.

OBI-WAN

What was that?

A small ship BUZZES by the cockpit, everyone looks up to see the TIE fighter move towards the edge of the debris field.

HAN

We were just pinged!

The smaller ship TWISTS and ZIPS between the debris, it's smaller frame much more agile than the larger frigate.

HAN

We can't let it get away.

OBI-WAN

A ship that small couldn't have got out here on it's own...

Han looks up, realizing the same.

HAN

Where is it going?

Luke notices a small grey ball in the distance.

LUKE

To that moon?

Han pulls up a display.

HAN

No... that's not where Alderaan's moon should be...

CUT TO:

INT. WAR ROOM

Vader and Tarkin stand on the center platform of the command center. They look to be talking quietly between themselves when a young officer comes up.

OFFICER
Lord Vader, Moff Tarkin.

Both turn to him.

OFFICER
M'Lord, Sir, a scout fighter has detected and pinged a ship that just entered the Alderaan system. It's construction matches that of a ship that fought its way off of Tatooine.

TARKIN
Thank you.

The Officer salutes and turns away.

Vader and Tarkin turn back to the center table. Tarkin punches up a holographic display of the debris field. A small dot lights up.

Tarkin and Vader talk quietly.

TARKIN
What could they be doing here?

VADER
Perhaps this is the Jedi that the Princess sought out.

TARKIN
Their plan was to bring a Jedi in and start a rebellion, and now, we have him.

VADER
The Force does not allow for coincidence.

Tarkin gives him a long look, his face revealing how much he doesn't really believe that.

TARKIN
No, I suppose not.
(beat)
Do we want to let someone so dangerous onto the station?

Vader is silent a moment.

VADER
I will deal with the Jedi.

He spins and marches down the ramp and out of the room. Tarkin watches him go then turns back to the display and reaches down to press a button.

TARKIN

Docking control. Link up to sensors and lock onto that incoming ship. I want it inspected.

He releases the button and looks at the dot.

TARKIN

Who are you...?

He crosses his arms and stares intently at the display.

CUT TO:

INT. COCKPIT

Han is straining against the Yoke. There's a loud WHINE from the ship, the sound of straining metal.

HAN

They got us locked in a tractor beam.

He and Chewbacca begin flipping switches.

HAN

Need to get this thing shut down before we have a burn out.

He grips the stick.

HAN

But they won't take me without a fight.

Obi-Wan puts his hand on Han's shoulder.

OBI-WAN

I would never suggest so...

Han looks up at him.

OBI-WAN

But there is something going on here. This thing is wrapped in the Dark Side. We need to figure out what has happened.

(beat)

After all, there are alternatives to fighting.

Han looks forward as they near the Death Star, his eyes filled with uncertainty as they near the station.

EXT. DEATH STAR

The *Millennium Falcon* is pulled CLOSER by an invisible force.

It TWISTS slowly, lining up with the equator of the station.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOCKING BAY 3221 - CONTINUOUS

The ship gets closer, guns on the outside of the bay following the ship as it nears one of the DOZENS of docking bays in this section of the station.

INT. DOCKING BAY 3221 - CONTINUOUS

The *Falcon* is turned as it enters the bay, a soft static buzzing around it as it passes through the energy field keeping the atmosphere inside.

The bay is the same sterile black, white and grey of the rest of the station's interior. The floor is a black mirror lined with bright white lights to signal the landing area.

INT. DOCKING CONTROL ROOM

Several officers are working at stations, one watches at the window looking out as the ship enters. Another nods as a screen goes green.

OFFICER #3

I'm in, sir. Extending their landing gear.

OFFICER #4

Good. Send the troops in.

INT. DOCKING BAY 3221 - CONTINUOUS

Doors on either side of the bay OPEN and dozens of Stormtroopers have entered, their weapons ready.

Leaders point and shout orders as the troopers take up position around the ship.

The ship settles onto the DECK with a soft thud.

The troops wait, weapons ready.

From the middle end of the bay, a third door opens and Vader appears, flanked by several Stormtroopers.

He strides across the deck with long, even steps. He stops several meters from the ship, his masking hiding any thoughts from us as he stares at the ship.

A pair of TECHNICIANS appear with equipment and approach the still drawn ramp. They set down their materials and begin hooking up wires to a PORT on the side of the ship. He punches in a few commands and with a hiss the ramp lowers.

A Stormtrooper motions and two dozen rush up the ramp, their weapons at point.

Vader watches on, still and waiting.

INT. PASSENGER AREA

The troopers rush in, some breaking off. They begin searching.

They toss the chairs, rip open panels. Open doors.

Nothing.

INT. COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Several troops come in, survey the area and see nothing.

INT. CREW QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

Several troopers pull the cushions off the two beds in the room. They open the doors into the cleaning area, searching but to no avail.

INT. DOCKING BAY 3221 - MOMENTS LATER

The Stormtroopers walk down the ramp, their weapons finally lowered. One speaks to another and he nods. He approaches Vader and salutes.

STORMTROOPER

Sir, the ship is empty.

Vader says nothing, just stares forward, his breathing even and deep.

BLACK OUT.

A N E W H O P E

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The logo features the letters 'MZIP' in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. A thick black arrow curves from the top left, pointing down towards the 'M'. A smaller, thinner black arrow curves from the bottom right, pointing towards the 'P'. The letters 'tv' are positioned at the bottom right of the 'P' in a smaller, white, lowercase sans-serif font. Below the main text, the words 'MOVIES & MINIS' are written in a bold, black, uppercase sans-serif font.

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