Distant Echo: A Star Wars Story

Ву

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Based on characters created by George Lucas

OVER BLACK:

ESTE (V.O.)

That must be it.

KORU (V.O.)

What do you mean?

ESTE (V.O.)

Where they keep it.

KORU (V.O.)

Keep what?

ESTE (V.O.)

The one thing that could save the galaxy.

CUT TO:

EXT. GALAXY - PLANET CORUSCANT

The city planet's dark side is woven with lights of various hues.

A rebel ship BURSTS into frame with great speed.

INT. IMPERIALOSENTRYTSHIPIGHT

Imperial ships patrol the skies.

INT. IMPERIAL SENTRY SHIP

An officer is closely monitoring a screen that shows the readings of a scanner. No dots are present.

INT. REBEL SHIP

The pilot TURNS OFF all lights and turns on a jammer to hide the ships signal.

INT. IMPERIAL SENTRY SHIP

An imperial officer notices a flicker on the screen. The screen appears as it did before. The officer looks out into the night sky and sees nothing. He ignores it.

EXT. PLANET CORUSCANT

The rebel ship navigates through an EXHAUST OPENING to a less illuminated part of the lower level city surface.

EXT. PLANET CORUSCANT - LOWER LEVEL STREETS

The lower levels of Coruscant are not nearly as safe as the surface level, especially since the fall of the Jedi before the Galactic Civil War. They are riddled with crime and homelessness. Crime lords, most notably Duukov, fight for control of the levels against the Empire.

A group of young teens and children dressed in hand-me-downs are huddled around a very small MAKESHIFT FIRE in a clearing between buildings.

ELLJAS

BOOM! Another squad mate goes down.
"Gold five are you there?" The radio
is silent. Luke is on his own now. He
looks over his right shoulder to see-

ANA

Over his shoulder? You'd think they would have mirrors on the ship.

ELLJAS

The dark lord himself, Darth Vader. Nervous as can be, Luke knows he has to finish the mission. He switches off his targeting computer.

BOY TEEN #1

Bold move.

DOMI

Shhhh this is the best part!

ELLJAS

"Red leader, what are you doing?"
"Trust me" remarks Luke. Two TIE
fighters sweep in but one is taken out
from Vader's laser fire that was
intended for Luke!

CHILD #2

Yikes.

ELLJAS

But Vader is still on his tail. What is Luke to do? Before he can decide, he hears a "YAHOO!" over his headset.

CHILD #1

(in southern accent) Yahoo!

3.

CONTINUED: (2)

All the younger kids laugh.

He turns around to see Vader's fighter twirling off into space. "Ohoooo!"

It's General Han Solo and his co-pilot Chewbacca! "You're all clear kid. Now let's blow this thing and go home!"

GIRL TEEN #1

Han sounds like a real man. And he has a wookie for a friend.

ELLJAS

Luke closes his eyes to focus. As he opens his eyes, he fires his cannons!

CHILD #1

Did he use the farce?

DOMI

It's called the force!

ELLJAS

The torpedoes travel straight down an exhaust port and then there is the loudest silence. Luke pulls up to fly away from the surface. What follows is the biggest explosion heard across the galaxy. The Death Star is destroyed. The Rebels win the battle. But the war rages on.

ANA

But wait, did Vader die? You didn't say that he-

A purple visor ignites in the darkness behind them. A NIGHT TROOPER steps into the light. His blaster is modified to silently emit with no flash and his armor is painted with a dark blue paint. He wears a military vest with many pockets.

TROOPER

It's past the imperial curfew. You all need to go home. Now.

ELLJAS

You don't run these streets. Duukov does.

TROOPER

The Empire has complete control of the

(MORE) (CONTINUED)

TROOPER (CONT'D)

planet. We don't bargain with

gangsters.

ELLJAS

I'd like to see you up against some of Duukov's goons. They've done things you couldn't imagine.

The trooper clearly not trying to negotiate, points his blaster at Elljas.

TROOPER

Do you think I care about the opinion of a bottom feeder like you? I won't ask again.

DOMI

Ell, let's go.

Elljas grimaces at the trooper, not willing to give up.

DOMI (CONT'D)

Ell!

Elljas angrily gets up and walks away with Domi. The rest of the children split to different alleyways.

ANA

Guys wait up!

TROOPER

If I see you out past curfew again, I won't be so accommodating.

EXT. LOWER LEVEL OUTER CITY - SMALL ROOFTOP

We get a close-up front view of the rebel pilot's ship. She steps out of the cockpit. She is dressed down to make sure she draws no attention to herself. She then COVERS her ship with a tarp. Finally, she pulls out a pair of ELECTROBINOCULARS to scan the area. As far as she can tell, it's dead silent with no signs of any lifeforms close by. She scales down the building with ease and heads off towards the main city.

EXT. LOWER LEVEL MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Elljas, Ana, and Domi walk along the side of an unkept street illuminated by neon signs and digital screens, much like Bourbon Street in New Orleans. Elljas, still bothered by the

Night Trooper encounter, remains quiet.

ANA

So are we just going to not say anything the whole way home?

Unsure of what to say, Domi shruggs his shoulders.

ANA (CONT'D)

Elljas? Are you going to be okay?

ELLJAS

I'm just tired of always being told what to do.

DOMI

Well that's just growing up.

ELLJAS

Listening to your parents is different-

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

A younger Domi and his mother play in the living room of a run down apartment.

There's a knock at the door. Domi's father answers.

An argument takes place. The father drops to the ground. He's been killed in cold blood.

Domi's mother picks him up and runs to the back bedroom. She kisses his forehead, takes him to the window, and notions for him to run.

EXT. ALLEYWAY

Domi makes his way down the scaffolding. He takes one last look at the window from which he came. There's a bright flash of light.

His heart drops, and he takes off running down the alleyway.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. LOWER LEVEL MAIN STREET

Domi shifts his gaze.

ELLJAS

Than listening to an authority you didn't ask for.

ANA

What do you mean?

ELLJAS

We were born into this. The Empire.

A normal group of stormtroopers walk by.

ELLJAS (CONT'D)

The crime on the lower levels.

A couple of Duukov's goons stand guard with weapons outside a bar. One takes a puff of a DEATHSTICK. Stomps it out on the concrete.

ELLJAS (CONT'D)

We never had a choice.

ANA

Life is full of choices.

Ana puts a coin in the cup of a homeless creature as she walks by. The creature is ecstatic.

ELLJAS

Yeah well I'm not going to get stuck down here.

DOMI

You sure about that?

Elljas brushes off Domi's comment.

ANA

Sometimes you have to get away from home to realize how much you really love it. We'll catch you later Elljas.

ELLJAS

(side-smiles) Right.

Ana and Domi walk inside a large apartment complex that looks like it has ever been renovated. Outer walls are grimy. Foliage in every direction.

Elljas waits for them to go inside before walking away.

ELLJAS (CONT'D)

If my mom catches me, I'm in deep bantha fodder.

EXT. PLANET CORUSCANT - IMPERIAL TOWER LOFT

We see a reflection of the surface level city at night on a window. Even in the middle of the night, the city is bustling with ships and speeders. Nightclubs and tall towers flood the city with a million colors. The camera focuses past the reflection and we are greeted with the face of ALORA, an imperial cadet and daughter of two high ranking officers in the Empire. She has soft features and is a natural beauty. She stares out the window with awe at what life could be. Her mother walks in behind her. She is always dressed sharply no matter the time.

INT. PLANET CORUSCANT - IMPERIAL TOWER LOFT

LILITH

To function at their highest cognitive ability, a cadet needs their rest.

ALORA

I was just admiring the view. It's nice to just...stop for a sec you know?

LILITH

That's what slumber is for.

Alora is annoyed. She masks it with a grin as she turns around.

ALORA

I suppose you aren't wrong.

Lilith starts to gather things.

ALORA (CONT'D)

Coruscant may be beautiful on the surface, but there is an entire galaxy out there I have yet to see.

LILITH

And you will if you continue the program. Your success has not gone unnoticed.

ALORA

Really? They sure have an interesting (MORE)

ALORA (CONT'D)

way of showing it.

Lilith is unsure of what to say. It is SILENT.

ALORA (CONT'D)

I want my life to mean something. I want to help those in need. Surely there is more I could be doing.

LILITH

The Emperor needs you to rid the galaxy of those who oppose order and structure. Only then can we really begin to help.

ALORA

I understand.

Lilith receives a message over her COMLINK. Lilith opens the door.

LILITH

I have to go.

We see a view of the door from the hallway. The door opens and Lilith leaves. In the open door we can see Alora, unhappy. The door seals shut.

INT. ELLJAS BEDROOM

Black. A window lifts up with a hand appearing underneath, letting in little light. Elljas climbs in and silently closes the window.

TOMA

Ooo I hope mom doesn't find out.

A figure shrouded in darkness. A light switch chain is pulled.

ELLJAS

How long have you been waiting here?

TOMA

Doesn't matter. Why do you worry me like this?

ELLJAS

I don't mean to. We were just telling stories.

TOMA

I was your age once. I get it. These streets aren't safe during the day let alone at night. I just don't know what I'd do if I lost you. I need you. Your father needs you.

ELLJAS

Speaking of pops, why isn't he in on this operation?

AMOT

He was finally able to fall asleep. His leg hasn't been holding up well.

ELLJAS

Just a few more weeks of work and I can help him get it replaced. I promise.

AMOT

I knew we hadn't totally failed at parenting but it's not your promise to keep.

ELLJAS

You are the best parents anyone could ask for. I want to help dad. You both have given me everything I've always needed. And more.

TOMA

I wish we could give you more. But you could start out by not sneaking out so late. Deal?

ELITITAS.

So late? Deal!

Elljas smiles and gives his mom a hug.

She starts to leave.

TOMA

You know what I mean. And I mean it. Or you're grounded or...whatever.

EXT. GALAXY - LATER

A fleet of imperial star destroyers menacingly LINGER in space. There is a small patrol fleet of TIE FIGHTERS flying

near the ship.

INT. IMPERIAL STAR DESTROYER

SWEEP DOWN

From the ceiling. A SILHOUETTE. It is completely silent except for the slow respirator on DARTH VADER's suit.

A door opens.

IMPERIAL OFFICER

It's Admiral Rayul, sir.

A large HOLOGRAM of the admiral materializes in front of Vader.

VADER

This better be good news, admiral.

ADMIRAL RAYUL

Everything is going accordingly. We have strictly followed your schedule Lord Vader.

VADER

Speed coincides with quality. We cannot let the fate of the Empire rest on a design flaw.

ADMIRAL RAYUL

Yes, my lord.

EXT. PLANET CORUSCANT - LOWER LEVEL - MORNING

A beam of light slips through an exhaust opening that leads to surface level. The city is illuminated by artificial light, but it doesn't do a sufficient job. A thin layer of smog pollutes the air.

EXT. LOWER LEVEL STREETS

The rebel pilot walks briskly down a bustling street. She pulls out a HYPERTRANSCEIVER.

PILOT

I have made it into the city. I am on my way to find Duukov now.

ALLIANCE HIGH COMMAND Spend as little time there as you have

(MORE) (CONTINUED)

ALLIANCE HIGH COMMAND (CONT'D)

to. Our communication must stay limited. Slipping our signal past imperial scans is near impossible. It would be in your best interest to only report to us once you've left Coruscant. Good luck, and may the force be with you.

Determined, she continues down the street towards the main part of town. Public transportation ship FLIES into frame.

INT. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SHIP

Elljas, Ana, and Domi all are sitting next to each other. The transport is packed.

DOMI

How are your parents Ell?

ELLJAS

They are doing great. My dad's leg has been really hard on him though.

ANA

The replacement not working for him?

ELLJAS

It did for a little while. But he needs a higher quality cybernetic. One that his body won't reject.

DOMI

That's expensive.

ELLJAS

With just a little more work at Duukov's junkyard, I think I can afford it.

ANA

I hope so.

ELLJAS

How is your dad Ana?

ANA

He's well. He's been working nights so I hardly get to talk to him.

ELLJAS

That's rough.

ANA

It can be. But that's why I have Domi.

She grabs his head and gives him a noogie. He painfully laughs.

DOMI

I don't know what I'd do without you guys.

ELLJAS

That's a relief 'cause you're a little pain in the ass.

DOMI

I am not!

ANA

He's just joking, Domi.

There is a moment of silence.

ANA (CONT'D)

You're a big pain in the ass.

They all burst out in laughter.

The transport comes to a stop.

TRANSPORT DROID

Tinam Street.

Two stormtroopers step aboard.

ELLJAS

Great. It's these guys.

DOMI

They aren't any worse than Duukov's goons.

ELLJAS

You saw how that one treated us last night.

DOMI

He was just following his orders. I don't think he was actually going to (MORE)

DOMI (CONT'D)

hurt a bunch of kids.

ELLJAS

They murdered Jedi in cold blood. Slaughtered them.

ANA

I thought those were the clones?

ELLJAS

They were and these are what remain of them.

DOMI

So they are like me.

ELLJAS

You're not a clone.

DOMI

They don't have any parents. And they do what they have to to survive.

Elljas realizes the truth behind his statement.

ELLJAS

Yeah well, there's always another choice.

ANA

Strange to hear that coming from you.

The transport stops again.

TRANSPORT DROID

Grenitt Square.

They gather their things and step off the bus.

INT. IMPERIAL TRAINING ARENA

RACK FOCUS from the barrel of E-11 long range blaster to Alora with her one eye shut.

IMPERIAL COMMANDER

FIRE!

Alora pulls the trigger effortlessly, hitting her target dead center.

IMPERIAL COMMANDER (CONT'D) Multiple targets will begin to appear.

Hit as many as possible. On my mark.

Multiple cadets prone. Awaiting command.

IMPERIAL COMMANDER (CONT'D)

FIRE!

Targets begin flying across the arena quickly from all directions. The cadets begin firing. Alora has yet to miss a target. The male cadet next to her scolds her. Focused, Alora doesn't notice and keeps firing. The targets begin flashing lights to try and blind the sharpshooters. She fires a bit off and misses a target. She fires at it again and nearly misses but at the last second hits the target. Almost as if some FORCE assisted her at the last second. One after another, she continues to knock them down.

IMPERIAL COMMANDER

HALT!

The commander has the scores pulled up on a hologram in front of him.

IMPERIAL COMMANDER (CONT'D)

Viss 20. Mallor 22. Wascaulm 26. Veetz 27.

The commander pauses. Alora nervously waits.

IMPERIAL COMMANDER (CONT'D)

IMPERIAL COMMANDER (CONT'D)

Alora, 42.

Alora's eyes light up and she almost fails to contain her excitement. A group of jealous cadets scold her.

These are your top five. If you did not make it, you are inferior. If you did make it, you will not stay superior without dedication and determination. Winning one battle does not mean a war. Winning a war does not mean control. Control is achieved through continuous elimination of anything that stands in the way. There will always be something in the way.

Especially those who are inferior.

Cadets, dismissed.

Alora quickly gathers her things. She begins to walk towards the locker room alone.

IMPERIAL CADET #1

I know you cheated.

IMPERIAL CADET #2

You scored double that of the person in fifth. That seems near impossible.

ALORA

You're just upset a girl beat you.

The cadet moves in on Alora, getting close to her face.

IMPERIAL CADET #1

I'm upset a girl cheated.

IMPERIAL COMMANDER

Alora, report to my office after blaster breakdown and armor removal.

Alora begins to walk away.

IMPERIAL CADET #2

Better hope he doesn't find out.

She does her best to shrug it off and starts taking apart her blaster while walking away.

EXT. LOWER LEVEL STREETS - INNER CITY

Our rebel pilot is looking in every direction for any sign of information on Duukov. A bar with two large creatures standing outside is nearby. She is almost hit as she crosses the road to go inside.

INT. REKRA'S CANTINA

There is a thin layer of smoke that hovers in the air. It's very dark despite it being almost noon. It's packed with more of Duukov's goons and many different species. The bar is tended by a human. Our pilot draws no attention to herself and grabs a seat at the bar. There is no one to her right and someone passed out to her left.

PILOT

Droid?

BARTENDER

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

hundred percent flesh and bones.

PILOT

Same here. It's a tough life having emotions and feeling pain.

BARTENDER

Pain reminds us we're alive. What can I get ya?

PILOT

Have you heard of a local gangster named Duukov?

The bartender looks around to make sure no one is listening.

BARTENDER

Who hasn't. He basically owns this place. If you're looking for him, he isn't easy to find. I haven't even seen him myself. I just tend to his goons.

PILOT

If one were to go look for him, where would they look?

BARTENDER

He owns a big junkyard on the north side of town in Grenitt Square.

The pilot gets up and tips the bartender.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

What do you want with him anyways?

PILOT

Just business.

BARTENDER

Haven't heard that one before.

The pilot begins to walk away.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

Good luck. You're gonna need it.

The bartender turns around to WASH some glasses.

The man next to her lifts his head. He turns around to get a

quick glimpse. He notions to a goon and points in her direction.

EXT. DUUKOV'S JUNKYARD

Duukov's Junkyard is massive and takes up a few city blocks. Most of the junkyard is visible with only a few smaller buildings nearby. There is huge front gate with no sign.

EXT. DUUKOV'S JUNKYARD - EVENING

Black. A piece of junk then removed from frame. Followed by another. Elljas sifts through garbage on a stopped conveyor belt.

Elljas finds a piece and takes it over to a washing station. He begins SCRUBBING it with might.

The yard boss walks by. Elljas takes notice and hurries over to him.

ELLJAS

How goes it boss?

He's silent.

ELLJAS (CONT'D)

So I was thinking about that raise agai-

BOSS

Duukov is in charge of pay. We've been over this.

ELLJAS

Yeah but if you could just put in word for me...

BOSS

Listen if I can't get a raise, you can't get a raise.

ELLJAS

What if it was only for a few weeks?

He stares Elljas down but eventually cracks.

BOSS

BOSS (CONT'D)

each week. But if you tell anyone, I'm dead. Which means you're dead. Got it?

ELLJAS

Thank you.

BOSS

Don't thank me just yet.

Elljas returns to the belt with a smile impossible to hide.

ANA

Why the long face?

ELLJAS

I can't tell you, but you could probably guess.

ANA

Really?

ELLJAS

Really.

ANA

(loudly) That's awesome Ell! (quieter)
I mean, that's great, really.

ELLJAS

If it weren't for you and Domi putting in good word, I wouldn't even be working here.

They share the moment before getting back to work.

EXT. DUUKOV'S JUNKYARD - SIDE

The pilot walks down the side of the junkyard peering inside at the heaping piles of junk. She finally wanders her way to the front entrance.

EXT. DUUKOV'S JUNKYARD - FRONT ENTRANCE

The gates look even bigger than before. She walks through the gates towards the head office. There is no sign of anyone.

INT. MAIN OFFICE

She walks inside the dimly lit room.

She walks around, studying various objects.

Domi steps up to a desk from a back room. The pilot doesn't take notice.

DOMI

Are you looking for something specific?

She is startled and turns around briskly.

PILOT

Someone actually.

DOMI

You can direct all questions towards me.

PILOT

You're a little young to be running things aren't you?

DOMI

Younger is less intimidating for normal folk who come in. I'm Domi, what's your name?

PILOT

Nice to meet you Domi. My name is Kacey.

DOMI

What brings you here Kacey?

KACEY

I am looking for Duukov. Do you know where I can find him?

DOMI

Nope. But my friends might know. They don't tell me much here. I am just supposed to sell stuff.

KACEY

Do your friends work here too?

DOMI

Yeah they do. Why do you need to find Duukov?

KACEY

He has information that I need.

DOMI

Gotcha. Well I can talk to my friends for you. We usually hang out at Loral's just down the road. Our shift is over in an hour.

KACEY

I appreciate it.

DOMI

Who do you work for?

Kacey smiles.

KACEY

If I told you, I'd have to kill you. I'll see you later, Domi?

DOMI

You might.

Kacey turns around and walks away. Domi is intrigued. He returns to work.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - HALLWAY

Alora walks down a long hallway. There is a clear view of the city. She stares out the window as she is walking.

The door to the commander's office is large and red against the purest black wall. Alora pauses to take a breath. She touches a pad right next to the door.

COMMANDER

Commander Sabok

ALORA

Alora, sir.

COMMANDER SABOK

You may enter.

The door slides open on its own.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - COMMANDER SABOK'S OFFICE

Alora steps in.

The office is very minimal with a singular desk in the middle back-side of the room. In front of it is a singular chair. To the commander's back, a glass wall. There are many different kinds of imperial propaganda on the walls, most noticeably a poster of Clone War Era troopers in formation.

Without looking up, the commander presses a button on his desk and the glass wall frosts up.

COMMANDER SABOK

Sit.

Alora sits down. The commander is still looking down at his desk. There is a parchment his seems to be observing.

COMMANDER SABOK (CONT'D)

I bet you wonder why I asked to come here.

ALORA

Very much so, sir.

COMMANDER SABOK

I have noticed your progress in the program. Most impressive.

ALORA

Thank you.

He still hasn't looked up.

COMMANDER SABOK

Imperial High Command wants to send you to Endor. A soldier with your precision could be greatly utilized in the lush forest terrain. But first, I would like you to go on patrol in the lower levels. While it may not be actual combat experience, you may be tested. We have control of Coruscant, but crime lords are still a nuisance. You will be with Sergeant Sydirn and fitted with your equipment at twenty hundred hours.

ALORA

Understood sir.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF LORAL'S - EVENING

Loral's, a hole in the wall place, has one small sign to indicate its spot on the crowded street. Much like a bar in New York. A trio comes walking up to it.

ELLJAS

What did you say her name was?

DOMI

Kacey.

ANA

Why are we meeting her again?

DOMI

She needs to find Duukov, but didn't tell me why.

ANA

Mysterious...

INT. LORAL'S

There is one large room with many tables and booths. A band playing indie music is on a stage in the back. There is a bar area where food and drink is served. It's filled to the brim with all kinds of species with a twenty-something or younger look to them. Kacey is sitting in the back booth.

DOMI

That's her.

He points. She is distracted by the band.

ELLJAS

She looks normal

ANA

What is normal?

They walk back to her booth.

DOMI

Kacey?

KACEY

Oh, hello Domi. These must be your friends.

She stands up to greet them and shake their hands.

KACEY (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm Kacey.

ELLJAS

Elljas.

ANA

Ana.

KACEY

It's nice to meet you. Shall we?

They all sit down. Ana has a look of distrust on her face.

ELLJAS

So you need to meet Duukov huh?

KACEY

I do.

ANA

Why?

KACEY

He has information I need.

ELLJAS

You know he's a big time thug right? He practically runs the lower levels. Well, him and the Empire.

KACEY

I do know this, yes.

ELLJAS

Well, not just anyone can just waltz right up to the door. If he is expecting you, why aren't you there already?

KACEY

I don't know where he is exactly and he isn't exactly expecting me.

ANA

What information does he have?

DOMI

She told me she would have to kill us if she told us.

KACEY

I was just joking.

DOMI

Who do you work for?

Kacey pauses. She looks around.

KACEY

If I tell you and anyone, especially anyone imperial finds out, I'm dead. Do you understand?

ELLJAS

No way, you're with the Rebellion?

KACEY

Yes.

ELLJAS

Have you met Luke Skywalker? What about Han Solo?

KACEY

Yeah. I mean...I've seen them around.

ANA

She hasn't met them.

KACEY

Okay I haven't. But that's not important right now. I need your guy's help. Can you get me to Duukov?

ELLJAS

What's in it for us?

KACEY

The fulfillment of fighting the good fight.

ANA

The good fight is whatever side you're on?

KACEY

Do you believe the Empire is going to bring peace? I know you've seen how they treat people. It doesn't matter who you are or what you look like.

DOMI

The troopers just do what they are told to do.

KACEY

There's more to it than that. The Empire built a super weapon. For control.

ELLJAS

Yeah the Death Star. You guys destroyed it.

KACEY

But the Empire's occupation is wide. We want to ensure they can't build another and if they do, we need to find its weakness.

ANA

And Duukov has this information?

KACEY

He knows where I can find it.

ELLJAS

Does the Rebellion have any cybernetics?

KACEY

Of course.

ELLJAS

If I, we, helped you I would accept that as payment.

KACEY

Fair enough.

ELLJAS

My father could really use a new one. His body hasn't been accepting his and it's taking a toll on him.

He looks at Ana and then looks at Domi.

ELLJAS (CONT'D)

Guys?

ANA

Do you even have a plan?

ELLJAS

Yeah. Sort of.

ANA

Sort of means we're dead.

ELLJAS

Okay it's a little risky but it's solid.

ANA

Enlighten me.

ELLJAS

People like us just can't get into Duukov's headquarters. You guys know that vendor not far from the junkyard?

DOMI

Yeah...

ELLJAS

I know for a fact he sells for Duukov. I've seen some the junk we find here being transported there. He collects things from all over the galaxy. Surely he has enough stuff to make a convincing disguise. But we don't have enough credits so...

ANA

Are you saying we steal from him?

ELLJAS

More like borrow.

ANA

Oh we're going to put it back?

ELLJAS

It's robbing from Duukov. He doesn't care about anyone but himself.

ANA

I don't agree with it...but unless you have a shipload of credits Kacey, it's our only hope.

KACEY

Well I had to sneak onto the planet. I'm not carrying much...

ELLJAS

We go tonight.

ANA

What about the imperial patrols?

ELLJAS

We will have to avoid them.

DOMI

Can you make it past your parents?

ELLJAS

Making it past them isn't the hard part. It's getting back in.

DOMI

So we're doing this?

ANA

I guess.

KACEY

I appreciate your help. The Rebellion sent me here on a hunch.

ELLJAS

Let's just hope he has the information you're looking for. Kacey, do you have a place until late tonight?

KACEY

I'm sure I could find somewhe-

DOMT

You could stay with me and Ana!

ANA

Uh I'm not sure how my dad would feel about a stranger...

ELLJAS

You can stay with me. My parents are cool. At least they think they are.

KACEY

Sounds good.

ELLJAS

Let's meet outside your house around midnight Ana. If that's okay?

ANA

Yeah.

DOMI

Let's do this thing!

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - BARRACKS - LATER

Alora stands outside the barrack entrance. Her mother's face appears as a small hologram on a communication device.

LILITH

Congratulations. Hard work pays off. Do well tonight.

ALORA

Thank you. I will.

And like just like that, Lilith is gone and the communicator turns off.

Alora opens the door to barracks. There is one lone trooper ASSEMBLING his DARK BLUE armor.

SGT. SYDIRN

Your gear is over to the left. We will depart in 20 minutes.

She walks over to the gear and starts slipping on the black undershirt.

SGT. SYDIRN (CONT'D)

Any questions?

ALORA

No sir.

SGT. SYDIRN

I was nervous on my first patrol. It was in Jedha right before the first test of the Death Star.

ALORA

The first test?

SGT. SYDIRN

They tested one reactor. It wiped the (MORE)

SGT. SYDIRN (CONT'D)

whole city.

Alora stays quiet and continues to put on her gear.

SGT. SYDIRN (CONT'D)

I'll meet you outside.

The sergeant walks away. Alora stares off, questioning if she really believes in the empire.

As she gets up to walk away, she leaves her communicator in her locker.

EXT. LOWER LEVEL STREETS - NIGHTFALL

Elljas, Ana, Domi, and Kacey are all walking along the street, not far from Ana's building.

DOMI

So you can fly really well?

KACEY

Well enough to make it as a rebel pilot.

DOMI

Have you had to kill anyone?

KACEY

I have fought.

DOMI

What did that feel like?

KACEY

It's a rush no doubt.

ANA

Flying or killing?

ELLJAS

It's part of the job. Right?

KACEY

It's inevitable but it's not why I do it. I believe in what the Rebellion fights for.

ANA

Well this is our stop. We'll see you
 (MORE)

ANA (CONT'D)

later Ell.

They go inside with Ana leading the way.

KACEY

I like your friends.

ELLJAS

They can be a lot, but I couldn't live without them. Also, I'd like to apologize in advance for anything my parents might say or do.

KACEY

I'm sure they will be fine.

ELLJAS

What about your parents?

KACEY

What about them?

ELLJAS

Are they embarrassing?

KACEY

Father is a Rebellion general. Mother is an architect.

ELLJAS

Ah so strict.

KACEY

Sometimes. But they always mean well and make sure that they commemorate me on accomplishments.

ELLJAS

Since your parents were part of the Rebellion, were you expected to be?

KACEY

In a way.

At this point they have arrived at Elljas's building.

ELLJAS

I think you picked the right side.

INT. ELLJAS APARTMENT

Elljas opens the door and his mom is standing in the kitchen. The kitchen leads right into the living room where his dad is watching television.

AMOT

Hey there! Who is this? A girl? Hi I'm Toma, Ell's mom.

ELLJAS

Ana is a girl...

His father SPINS around in his chair.

DAVE

Did someone say girl? Hi I'm Dave, cocreator of Elljas.

KACEY

I'm Kacey.

DAVE

What brings you here, Kacey?

She looks at Elljas for approval.

KACEY

I'm with the Rebellion.

TOMA

The Rebellion aye? You've probably seen some shit.

DAVE

What would the Rebellion be doing on Coruscant? It's been occupied by the Empire for years.

KACEY

We got word that Duukov has information I need. Your son is helping me find him.

TOMA

That's the most romantic first date I've ever heard of.

ELLJAS

Yeah so I am going to need permission to go out tonight.

Toma pauses and gives Elljas the "mom look".

ELLJAS (CONT'D)

It's for a cause mom.

DAVE

Honey, Kacey can handle herself. We might let him have this one.

TOMA

Just how exactly are you going to take her to someone you've never met? People like us don't speak to Duukov. You know I hate you being out late on these streets.

ELLJAS

His goons frequent the bars. I was just going to take her to one of them. In and out. Easy.

TOMA

I don't like it. But if you aren't back by midnight, you will be on lock down. Understand?

DAVE

Can't operate on an empty stomach. Are you staying for dinner?

KACEY

That sounds great.

EXT. LOWER LEVEL STREETS - INNER CITY - LATER

Alora and Sgt. Sydirn step off an imperial transport vehicle. It speeds away.

SGT. SYDIRN

You haven't asked what we'll be doing cadet.

ALORA

I've learned it's much easier to not ask questions.

SGT. SYDIRN

So you don't care?

ALORA

I do.

SGT. SYDIRN

Well since this is just a normal patrol, I wouldn't expect much action. It's our job to make sure the streets are clear during the night. There is an imperial curfew enforce.

ALORA

What about those guys?

She notions towards a group of Duukov's goons.

SGT. SYDIRN

Those are men of Duukov's.

ALORA

Duukov?

SGT. SYDIRN

He is a local gangster that has ruled these streets for years. Long before the Empire had power. We tend to leave them be. Frankly, we are outnumbered down here. The Emperor isn't as concerned with anything below the surface.

ALORA

Okay. And that guy?

This time she points towards a peddler on the side of the street.

SGT. SYDIRN

That's more our territory. Follow me.

The sergeant moves briskly towards the man.

SGT. SYDIRN (CONT'D)

It's past imperial curfew.

PEDDLER

I have nowhere to go.

SGT. SYDIRN

You need to get inside now.

PEDDLER

But I have nowher--

He strikes the man with the butt of his blaster. Alora steps

back in shock.

SGT. SYDIRN

I will not ask again. If I come back and you're still here, things won't be as smooth.

He briskly continues down the street with Alora behind him. She looks back at the man gathering himself.

INT. ELLJAS APARTMENT - ELLJAS' ROOM

Kacey and Elljas are in his room. The door is partially open.

KACEY

So you've snuck out of the window? Why not just walk out the front door?

ELLJAS

What?

DAVE

Hey Ell, can I talk to you for a sec?

ELLJAS

Yeah sure.

INT. ELLJAS APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

ELLJAS

What's up?

DAVE

Figured we would have this talk sooner than later.

ELLJAS

Oh dad, we don't have to-

DAVE

When you get older, your body starts to change and you start feeling things and hair starts growing in funny places and-

ELLJAS

It's not like that.

DAVE

Your first love might be your last you never know! I met your mother when we were teenagers and she was my first.

ELLJAS

She's just someone in need and I am helping.

DAVE

Love extends beyond romantic. Love can be for a best friend, like Ana or Domi. Love means helping someone in need.

DAVE (CONT'D)

I know you didn't want a speech, but this blasted leg wakes me up early and puts me to sleep earlier. We don't get to talk as much as I'd like. Thank the stars for your mother.

ELLJAS

Thanks dad, I appreciate it.

DAVE

Good luck tonight son. I expect you back in one piece. Or else.

ELLJAS

I'm on lock down I know.

Dave laughs and watches his son proudly walk away.

EXT. LOWER LEVEL STREETS - ANA'S APARTMENT

The front door the complex opens. Ana and Domi step out to greet Elljas and Kacey.

ELLJAS

You just walked out the front door?

ANA

Yeah my dad was knocked.

ELLJAS

Man I've been doing it the hard way this whole time.

DOMI

So how are we actually going to get (MORE)

DOMI (CONT'D)

inside?

ELLJAS

There has to be a back entrance somewhere in the alleyway. We could try that.

KACEY

If we can't go through that way, we might try from above.

ANA

Alright, but I don't think we should break any windows or anything. Too much noise and such a mess.

ELLJAS

I agree. Let's get this show on the road.

EXT. LOWER LEVEL STREETS - INNER CITY

Alora and Sgt. Sydirn walk along an empty street.

SGT. SYDIRN

Alright cadet, it's time we split up and cover more ground. Meet me at the rendezvous at oh six hundred hours.

ALORA

Yes sir.

The sergeant goes the opposite direction.

EXT. WATTO TRADES & MORE - LATER

The group is across the street from Watto Trades & More. The shop takes up almost a whole block and has one neon sign. There are no lights on inside and there are bars across the windows.

ELLJAS

This is the place.

Elljas looks around before crossing the street. He heads toward the back.

KACEY

There is only one back door.

She tugs on it. Locked.

KACEY (CONT'D)

As expected.

ELLJAS

I've picked a lock or two. Do you have a small, thin object?

Kacey feels around her pockets but no luck.

Ana pulls a pin from her hair.

ANA

I don't know what you'd do without me.

Elljas takes the pin and begins tinkering with the lock on the door.

Meanwhile, Domi notices a ventilation shaft. He climbs on a dumpster to reach it.

ANA (CONT'D)

How many locks did you say you've picked?

The screws are loose. Domi unscrews them with his fingers.

ELLJAS

It takes a little finesse.

Domi climbs into the vent.

Elljas continues to fiddle with the lock until the handle starts to twist. Their hearts drop.

The door opens. Domi is grinning wide.

DOMI

Hey guys!

KACEY

How in the world did you get in there?

Domi points to the vent.

DOMI

Perfect size.

INT. WATTO TRADES & MORE

The shop is dark. They turn on a couple of flashlights to search around.

It's filled to the brim with all kinds of weird armor and gadgets.

ELLJAS

It's cool to think about where all of this may have came from. Each thing has its own story.

He reaches for a chest-piece of an armor set. We catch a glimpse of the eye of a PIT DROID attached to the back.

Kacey notices a helmet facing backwards on top of clothing. She picks it up to try it on. She TAPS a button on the side on the top visor of the BOUSHH HELMET. A scanner dot starts pulsing back and forth.

KACEY

(distorted) Woah.

EXT. WATTO TRADES & MORE

Sgt. Sydirn comes walking up on the shop.

INTERCUT WITH GROUP INSIDE SHOP

INT. WATTO TRADES & MORE

Ana is studying a mannequin in what appears to be MANDALORIAN ARMOR. She grabs the pieces and starts assembling her disguise.

Domi looks around but nothing is peaking his interest. He spots a TUSKEN RAIDER HEADPIECE. He puts it on. It's a little big for his head, but doesn't require him to wear anything else.

EXT. WATTO TRADES & MORE

Sgt. Sydirn notices the flashlights on inside the store. He heads around back.

INT. WATTO TRADES & MORE

ANA

Should we also grab weapons for you know, protection?

ELLJAS

Yeah that would really sell it. Am I blaster guy or a sword guy?

ANA

Well bringing a sword to a blaster fight might not end so well.

ELLJAS

Blaster it is.

He walks over the to counter to grab a blaster.

KACEY

I'm more of a staff girl, myself.

Domi comes walking up behind Ana. She turns around and jumps.

ANA

That's terrifying!

DOMI

Good!

ELLJAS

Alright gang ready to go?

The make towards the back door.

The back door opens. Sgt. Sydirn stands near. They all freeze

SGT. SYDRIN

Something tells me this isn't first time you've been caught out after the imperial curfew.

He raises his blaster.

Kacey THROWS a THERMAL DETONATOR at him.

KACEY

Catch!

He catches it and they run off. Sydirn realizes what it is and throws it behind him. He DIVES into cover and waits for it explode.

Nothing happens.

ELLJAS

Was that a bomb?

KACEY

Yeah but it must have been a dud!

Realizing he has been duped, he fires his blaster at the group. They are escaping. He sprint after them.

As they turn the corner onto the street, Elljas notices a bar not far off in the distance.

ANA

Ell do you have a plan?

ELLJAS

See those speeders at the bar?

ANA

You've never piloted a speeder before!

ELLJAS

First time for everything!

Sydirn rounds the corner behind them. Continuous blaster fire. A bolt almost grazes Kacey's shoulder.

ELLJAS (CONT'D)

Domi go with Kacey!

Elljas spends hops on the nearest speeder.

Ana hops on behind him.

Kacey and Domi hop on the bike next to them. Elljas rips the throttle. Kacey follows suit.

KACEY

Hold on tight Domi!

Sydirn manages to catch up to the speeders. He looks around for a bike. He goes for the first one he sees, but is stopped by a giant creature.

He shoots the creature and steals the speeder.

EXT. LOWER LEVEL STREETS

Alora walks down a mostly barren street.

She spots a homeless man and chooses to ignore him.

EXT. LOWER LEVEL STREETS

ANA

Where are we going?

ELLJAS

Wherever he isn't!

ANA

What a plan!

ELLJAS

Gotta keep things interesting!

Kacey pulls up next to Elljas.

KACEY

You need to shift!

ELLJAS

I need to what?

KACEY

I said you need to-

Sydirn is on their tail and fires his blaster.

KACEY (CONT'D)

SHIFT!

Kacey boosts ahead of Elljas

Ana points to the left handle SHIFTER.

ANA

It's that one!

Elljas FLICKS the shifter.

CLOSE-UP OF EXHAUST AS FIRE SPITS OUT.

Ana grabs on tighter to Elljas.

Kacey drifts around a corner to a more populated street.

Elljas watches her maneuver in awe.

ANA (CONT'D)

Ell. Ell. Don't try it!

Elljas focuses on the turn.

He whips it at the right time but drifts in a messier fashion than Kacey, knocking down a street pole.

ELLJAS

We're good. Everything is fine.

ANA

We're lucky!

Sydirn drifts, barely missing the downed pole.

ELLJAS

Does this thing have a horn?

Elljas swerves to miss hitting an older creature slowly crossing the road. It waves it's fist angrily and lets out a scream.

ELLJAS (CONT'D)

Sorry!

Kacey enters an abandoned parking garage filled with old junkers of nearby bar dwellers.

Elljas follows.

Sydirn continues firing his blaster behind them.

EXT. LOWER LEVEL STREETS

Alora continues down the street, all is quiet. She glances up at a BIG PARKING GARAGE. Red light flashes.

INT. PARKING GARAGE

Kacey and Elljas are midway up.

There is no clear path and they continue to dodge vehicles.

They continue to climb until they reach the top.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE - ROOFTOP

Elljas speeds up to next to Kacey.

ELLJAS

Where are we going?

KACEY

You're going to have to trust me.

DOMI

We're making the jump!

ANA

Are you crazy?

KACEY

What other choice do we have?

Sydirn lets go of both handlebars to AIM his blaster.

Sydirn's blaster fire hits Elljas's speeder and it begins to SMOKES.

EXT. ALLEYWAY

Alora walks between the garage and the adjacent building. She hears the ROAR of the speeder chase. She looks up.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE - ROOFTOP

Kacey makes the jump to the shorter building in slow-motion with Elljas right behind her.

DOMI

Woohoo!

Sydirn punches it to clear the gap.

EXT. ALLEYWAY

Alora recognizes Sydirn's armor and bolts it to the other side of the smaller building.

EXT. SMALLER BUILDING - ROOFTOP

ELLJAS

This guy doesn't give up!

With no way down, Kacey realizes they must make another jump.

KACEY

Round two!

They jump down, landing over a pile of junk to ease the height of the jump.

Alora comes running out in front of them. Blaster to her

side.

Kacey attempts to miss her by turning the speeder on it's side.

KACEY (CONT'D)

Hold on Domi!

Alora jumps to the left.

Elljas takes notice, unsure of what to do.

Sydirn jumps from his speeder onto Elljas's, forcing them to slide on the side.

Everyone is thrown from the speeder.

Sydirn, seemingly untouched, gets up immediately to grab Ana.

SYDIRN

On your feet! All of you!

He gets a firmer hold on Ana.

The gang get up and stand closely coupled.

SYDIRN (CONT'D)

These degenerates have tested my patience for the last time. Cadet, eliminate them.

Alora slowly raises her blaster.

SYDIRN (CONT'D)

What are you waiting for cadet?

ALORA

What about her? We could save time by putting her in line.

Sydirn shoves her towards the group.

Alora keeps her blaster raised.

SYDIRN

Eliminate them! That is an order!

Alora LEANS IN closer to her ironsights.

SYDIRN (CONT'D)

Since you don't have the strength...

Sydirn raises his weapon to fire.

Alora, in the blink of eye, sets her weapon to stun and shoots Sydirn.

He falls back, unconscious.

Alora lowers her weapon.

ANA

Thank you.

ELLJAS

Who are you?

Alora removes her helmet.

ALORA

Someone who can't kill innocent people.

KACEY

What makes you think we are innocent?

ALORA

You're going to tell me that young boy is a criminal?

DOMI

I'm not little!

ALORA

I didn't say little.

She looks to Sydirn.

ALORA (CONT'D)

The Empire does whatever they want to remain in control. Why was he chasing you?

KACEY

And why should we trust you with that information?

ALORA

Well I did just kind of save your life.

ELLJAS

The only way we will tell you is if you help us.

ANA

(aside) How will she be any help?

ELLJAS

Do you know who Duukov is?

ALORA

I've heard of him.

ELLJAS

He doesn't fancy the Empire.

ANA

What are you saying?

ELLJAS

You're going to be our easier way in.

ALORA

I'm listening.

ELLJAS

The reason we are all dressed so fancy is because we might have looted one of Duukov's trader's shop. There's no way he keeps track of everything that goes in and out of his many shops. So we are clear. But, if we walked in with you as our prisoner, it would make the whole operation that much easier.

ALORA

So I'm the thief now?

ELLJAS

You got it.

ALORA

And why would I help you?

ELLJAS

Well seeings how you stunned your boss over there, he will be awake soon. The way I see it, either you help us or face the consequences of your actions. Your choice though. I'm not forcing your hand.

Alora thinks for a second.

ALORA

What happens if this plan doesn't work?

ELLJAS

It will.

Alora smiles.

ALORA

Alright. I'm in.

ELLJAS

Welcome to the gang. I'm Elljas. This is Domi, Kacey, and Ana.

They all remove the helmets they are wearing.

Alora nods and Domi waves.

KACEY

Just know I don't agree with this.

ELLJAS

(aside) Trust me, this will work.

EXT. VARDOS

Vardos sits quietly in the galaxy.

EXT. VARDOS - KESTRO

A tall imperial building towers over the rest.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

The room is dark. A large CHAIR faces the window. A reflection of EMPEROR PALPATINE'S EYES can be seen.

VADER apparates behind him in hologram form.

VADER

Testing commences soon. Upon passing, the plans will be brought to you to approve construction.

PALPATINE

Well done, Lord Vader. The Rebellion is ill prepared for what is to come.

VADER

They stand no chance, my lord.

EXT. DUUKOV'S HIDEAWAY

On the outskirts of town, a large grimy compound sits, surrounded by abandoned buildings and vacant roads. The walls are high. The tops of them lined with barbed wire, much like a prison.

The group walks together, not far from the entrance.

EXT. DUUKOV'S HIDEAWAY - MAIN ENTRANCE

Two guards stand like statues near the doors.

ELLJAS

We have a bounty for Duukov.

GUARD

I was aware of no bounty deliveries.

ELLJAS

We caught this imperial scum robbing a partner of his.

The guard takes a look at Alora. She is shackled with her hands behind her back.

GUARD

All weapons must be relinquished.

ELLJAS

We are unarmed.

The guard walks up to Elljas. He stares him in the eye and then nods to a controller up above them.

What sounds like a thousand locking mechanisms, begin to undo themselves.

The doors slowly swing open to an arena like structure.

INT. DUUKOV'S HIDEAWAY

A large lot of various speeders and ships are to the left. A glass top barrack is to the right. In between, a pathway leading to a circular space.

GUARD

Straight ahead. Do not let your (MORE)

GUARD (CONT'D)

curiosity get the best of you.

The all move forward down the path.

Various species are all working, despite the late hour. Barracks are bustling and a group of goons drinking give them a dirty look.

They approach the circular space. A crowd has formed. Elljas squeezes through to try and catch a glimpse of what is going on.

DUUKOV

(in Huttese subtitled) Pay now or die.

Duukov pets a half grown NEXU that sits next to him. The nexu lets out a LOW PUR and eyes the poor fellow in debt, who is on his knees with his hands tied. He looks to have been beaten.

DEBTOR

I don't have it. My daughter, I had to feed her.

DUUKOV

It would have been the perfect time to teach your daughter a lesson on the importance of paying your debts.

DEBTOR

Please, I can pay at a later-

Duukov lets out a verbal call and the nexu POUNCES and eats the man in one gulp.

Elljas turns his head to not watch.

The crowd cheers and laughs.

Duukov lets out a hideous laugh. The Nexu returns to his side.

Elljas steps forward, grabbing Alora. The gang follow behind him.

DUUKOV

And who have we here?

ELLJAS

This imperial filth was caught robbing

(MORE)

ELLJAS (CONT'D)

one of your traders.

DUUKOV

Unmask it.

Elljas removes her helmet and tosses it to the side.

DUUKOV (CONT'D)

You must be the first imperial trooper I've seen that is female. And what were you stealing?

Elljas and Alora are both frozen.

KACEY

She had unique weaponry in her hands when we caught her.

DUUKOV

Is that so? Curious as to why an imperial soldier would need unique weaponry given the amount of funding the Empire must have.

KACEY

Perhaps they needed it to manifest their own schematics. The Rebels do use unusual methods, I've heard.

ELLJAS

In exchange for her life, we request information.

DUUKOV

All this trouble for no credits? You have my attention.

KACEY

It has been rumored that you may have information about the construction of another imperial space station.

DUUKOV

I know nothing of the sort. I do know of someone who possibly has the information you're looking for. But first, the girl.

ELLJAS

First, the information.

DUUKOV

I suppose there is nowhere for you to run. I trade with the people of Bothawui. They recently had a larger than normal order of steel plating. Maybe for an attack? Este, their leader, has expressed her hatred towards the Empire more than once. Why she is attacking is beyond my knowledge. But, you know what's interesting?

ELLJAS

What's that?

DUUKOV

You never mentioned which trader of mine was being robbed or how you knew that they worked for me.

ELLJAS

It was Watto Tr-

DUUKOV

Even more interesting, that armor you are wearing belonged to Boushh. A ruthless bounty hunter that I personally paid someone to eliminate. I was warned that I might have a visitor tonight.

The man from the bar Kacey first visited, steps out from behind Duukov.

KACEY

Perhaps we can reach some sort of compromise he-.

Kacey pats Elljas' back and accidentally hits the eye of a PIT DROID that was attached to his armor.

The pit droid jumps off his back and SPRINGS into the air, spinning around while letting out a fury of small blaster fire. The gang duck to avoid it.

PIT DROID

Ahhhhhhh!

The little droid lands on the ground. The crowd of goons drop from blaster fire wounds.

PIT DROID (CONT'D)

Wait, you aren't my master.

ELLJAS

Since when do pit droids talk?

ANA

RUN!

Alora scoops up her helmet.

The droid hops on Elljas back, Ana grabs Domi's hand, and Alora and Kacey bolt off.

DUUKOV

Verus!

The nexu jumps from Duukov's pedestal after the group.

They head through a barrack.

The goons stay seated, unsure of the strangers running through.

The nexu squeezes through the door and bites the first goon in sight. They start screaming and scrambling.

ANA

Ell where are we going?

ELLJAS

Anywhere but here!

PIT DROID

Why is that cat so angry?

KACEY

I think I saw a transport on the way in!

ALORA

Seems like our best bet!

They continue to maneuver through the barrack, knocking things down behind them.

KACEY

Out the back and to the right. It's the orange one!

One by one they go through the door. Domi, lagging behind, is almost bitten as the nexu jumps towards him right as he closes the door behind him.

DOMI

Holy shit!

The nexu JUMPS through the glass ceiling of the barrack.

PAN LEFT

The group runs towards an old rebel U-WING that has been repainted from its original blue and grey finish.

A mechanic is at work underneath the ship. He sees them running towards him.

The nexu LEAPS off the barrack and transitions into a full sprint seamlessly.

PIT DROID

One of you can fly this thing right?

They board the ship.

Kacey hops in the pilot's chair and starts up the transport.

The ship starts to hover. The nexu jumps on it, barely hanging on.

ALORA

Punch it!

They blast away into the sky, causing the nexu to lose its grip.

The mechanic, still on his back, watches in horror as the nexu falls right towards him.

EXT. LOWER LEVEL STREETS

Sydirn wakes up in a scare.

He scans to see no one around.

He pulls out a communicator.

SYDIRN

It's Sydirn. Send out an alert. We have a traitor on our hands.

INT. U-WING

Kacey pilots the ship with finesse. Domi sits in the co-pilot seat.

DOMI

Where are we going?

KACEY

Away from Coruscant. I can't contact the Rebellion here. The imperial scans are too thorough.

ANA

We are going to space? I haven't even told my dad goodbye.

ELLJAS

If we don't make it back, my mom is going to kill me.

ANA

Are we really doing this?

She looks extremely concerned.

EXT. LOWER LEVEL EXHAUST

The ship exits the lower level through the exhaust port.

INT. U-WING

Domi is in awe.

ANA

And what about you?

ALORA

I only stunned him. I am certain the Empire is aware of my turning by now. I don't really have a choice.

PIT DROID

I guess I don't have a say in this?

ANA

Ell?

He is staring away from them.

ELLJAS

We've always wanted off this place. I guess this is our chance.

ANA

You've always wanted that. I never said I did.

PIT DROID

What planet are we on again?

ELLJAS

Coruscant. We could really make a difference. I won't let anything happen to you guys.

ANA

That saying only works for so long. Until something happens.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - CORUSCANT - COMMAND

Admiral Rayul stares up to the night sky out of the command center.

ENGINEER

Sir, we can commence the test on your command.

ADMIRAL RAYUL

Shut down all planetary scans. We don't want any interference during the test. It shouldn't affect it, but just to be safe. It won't take but a few minutes.

EXT. CORUSCANT

The U-wing has reached the clear night sky of Coruscant.

INT. U-WING

ANA

I've never been to space before.

PIT DROID

It's just an endless universe of stars, planets, and no oxygen.

ANA

Does this thing have an off button?

PIT DROID

Wouldn't you like to know.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - CORUSCANT - COMMAND

The Admiral looks back up to the sky.

ADMIRAL RAYUL

Engage shield in three...

EXT. CORUSCANT

The U-Wing hits upper atmosphere.

Ana stares out the side window, trying not to panic.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - CORUSCANT - COMMAND

ADMIRAL RAYUL

Two...

EXT. SPACE

The U-Wing hits orbit.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - CORUSCANT - COMMAND

ADMIRAL RAYUL

One.

The engineer pulls lever slowly.

EXT. IMPERIAL TOWER - CORUSCANT

A giant dish from the top of the tower emits a blue ray into the sky and into space.

EXT. SPACE

The shield emits around the planet, almost clipping the ship.

INT. U-WING

Alora looks out the window in awe.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER

Admiral Rayul stares up at the sky, proud of his work.

ENGINEER

Diagnostics are reporting high stability sir.

An imperial officer walks in behind him.

OFFICER

Sir, we have reports of a deserter.

ADMIRAL RAYUL

Find and eliminate them.

OFFICER

Understood.

ADMIRAL RAYUL

Notify Vader that testing has passed and that I will be leaving for Vardos.

INT. U-WING

Alora stares for a second longer and then looks away.

DOMI

Woah those ships are huge!

KACEY

They are imperial Star Destroyers. We don't want to mess with them.

DOMI

How do we get past them?

KACEY

Easy. A little jump to hyperspace should do the trick.

She starts hitting switches and turning knobs.

KACEY (CONT'D)

Do you mind?

She points at a few switches to flip on Domi's side.

He smiles and flips them.

KACEY (CONT'D)

You'll be a pro before you know it.

Elljas walks up to the cockpit.

ELLJAS

So uh, where are we going exactly?

KACEY

Duukov mentioned the planet Bothawui. I suppose we can start there.

ELLJAS

Aye aye.

KACEY

Domi, would you like to do the honors?

He happily grabs the HYPERDRIVE LEVER and pulls it down.

EXT. SPACE

The U-Wing zips away into hyperspace, escaping the imperial fleet.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

A projector lens emits a low blue ray, barely giving the room light. In the reflection of the lens, Palpatine's hooded figure is reflected.

PALPATINE

Operation: Cinder is to begin at once. Resistance.

Vader walks in, but does not interrupt The Emperor.

PALPATINE (CONT'D)

Rebellion. Defiance. These are concepts that cannot be allowed to persist. You are but one of many tools by which these ideas shall be burned away.

The lens shuts off and the glass on the SENTINEL HELMET closes, magnifying the image of Palpatine on the highly reflective surface.

PALPATINE (CONT'D)

Yes, Lord Vader?

VADER

The test was successful. The schematics will be transported here immediately.

PALPATINE

Prepare for their arrival.

VADER

As you wish.

Vader begins to walk away.

PALPATINE

Curious, are you not? I know you overheard that recording.

VADER

I do not question your decisions or tactics, my master.

PALPATINE

Nothing as powerful as the Empire I have built, the Empire we have built, will ever cease to exist. But if I am eliminated and it could have been prevented, the Empire has failed not only me, but themselves. That Empire is no longer deserving of existence.

VADER

I agree.

PALPATINE

Good. Ensure that this droids information is replicated. After the arrival of the schematics.

INT. U-WING

Elljas, Ana, Alora, and the Pit Droid are sitting in the troop compartment.

ELLJAS

So why was it your first response to come out swingin' with a volley of blaster fire?

PIT DROID

You see, the last time I was deployed was on Tattooine in a bar fight. My master returned me to my resting position on his armor, mid fight. Then I awoke to a slug and his cat in a foreign place. I guess he never made it off Tattooine.

ANA

Are all droids of your kind like you?

PIT DROID

Not in the slightest. My master modified me himself. He gave me a voice and a weapons system.

ALORA

What was your master's name?

PIT DROID

He went by the name Dash.

ELLJAS

What about you? You got a name?

PIT DROID

Dash used to call me MK. Although, I don't know what it stands for.

ELLJAS

MK it is.

MK

Enough about me. Where did you delinquents dwell?

ELLJAS

I'm from the same place where the slug and cat stay.

ANA

Ditto.

ALORA

I was born on Vardos but raised on Coruscant, where you woke up.

ΜK

Vardos?

ALORA

I have no memory of it. I do know it is occupied by the Empire, willingly.

ΜK

Oh so your-

ALORA

Was

Alora smiles and looks at the others.

ANA

Ell and I grew up together. My dad adopted Domi when he was really young and I've looked after him ever since.

Ana looks up to Domi in the co-pilots seat.

He is laughing as Kacey is teaching and joking with him.

ELLJAS

The lower levels are dangerous. We've always stuck together.

ΜK

What about her?

ELLJAS

That's Kacey, she's part of the Rebellion.

MK

So we have a rebel, an imperial, and some street fighters?

ANA

And a droid.

ΜK

Sounds like a well-rounded team.

The ship starts shaking as they come out of hyperspace.

EXT. SPACE - BOTHAWUI

The mostly green planet spins slowly in the distance.

INT. U-WING

They've all gathered toward the front of the ship.

ANA

Is that it?

KACEY

I guess so.

ALORA

Let's hope they are friendly. Whoever they are.

EXT. SPACE

The U-Wing heads towards the planet.

INT. ELLJAS APARTMENT

Toma wakes up and gets out of bed. She walks down the hallway to Elljas' bedroom.

It's empty. Her heart drops.

She walks back down to her bedroom.

She shakes Dave.

TOMA

Elljas isn't here.

DAVE

What?

TOMA

He isn't here.

DAVE

Maybe he stayed with Ana and Domi. I wouldn't worry too much. I am sure he is fine.

TOMA

And if he didn't?

DAVE

He did. Our son is a badass. Thanks to you.

TOMA

I guess you're right.

DAVE

He'll probably be back by the time we are home from work. How about I cook you some breakfast?

EXT. BOTHAWUI

The U-Wing breaks through the atmosphere.

INT. U-WING

KACEY

Control, requesting permission to land.

Radio silence.

KACEY (CONT'D)

Control, do you copy?

Silence.

ELLJAS

Well this is awkward.

ANA

Please don't tell me we traveled this far to reach a planet with no one on it.

ALORA

Perhaps only this portion of the planet is uninhabited.

MK

My short range life-form scans aren't picking up a thing.

EXT. BOTHAWUI

A large mountain comes into view.

INT. U-WING

KACEY

I'm going to land us near the base of the mountain.

EXT. BOTHAWUI SURFACE

The U-Wing lands softly in a small clearing.

INT. U-WING

The side-hatch opens and everyone besides Kacey steps out.

DOMI

You coming?

KACEY

I am going to try and contact HQ now that we are far away from imperial scans. I'll meet you all out there in a second. Don't wander too far!

EXT. BOTHAWUI SURFACE

The forest is dense. It's filled with many different kinds of plant wildlife of various shapes, sizes, and colors that were hidden from aerial view by massive bonsai-like trees. A thin fog sits a few feet in the air giving the forest a mystical look.

ANA

It's much more beautiful on the ground.

Ana looks to her left to see Domi messing with a big plant. She begins to walk fast towards him.

Domi sticks his hand in the mouth of a plant that looks very similar to a VENUS FLYTRAP.

It closes shut on him. He gets nervous.

ANA (CONT'D)

Don't touch anything!

She pulls him back.

DOMI

It didn't hurt. Kind of tickled after a bit actually.

ANA

It doesn't matter! You have no clue if any of these are poisonous!

Domi glances back down at his hand. A small dash of purple powder quickly absorbs into his hand.

INT. U-WING

KACEY

We're on a planet called Bothawui. Duukov said he has traded with the people here and that they have the information we need.

REBELLION HIGH COMMAND Good work. Report back to us as soon as you get any information. Are you

still alone?

KACEY

No. The locals on Coruscant helped me escape. If it weren't for them, I wouldn't have made it. We also have an defective imperial cadet with us.

REBELLION HIGH COMMAND Keep a close eye on her. The mission is your priority. If the time comes, do not hesitate to do what needs to be done. We need you back alive. Do not be a hero.

She looks out of the cockpit window at the gang outside.

KACEY

Understood.

REBELLION HIGH COMMAND

May the force be with you.

The transmission ends and Kacey looks away for a second to process what she was told.

She gets up and steps outside.

EXT. BOTHAWUI SURFACE

ELLJAS

So where we headed, captain?

KACEY

I say we pick a direction and be back by sunset.

ALORA

I agree. We should stay together. Sitting here all day surely won't get us anywhere.

ΜK

Mind if I hop on your back?

ELLJAS

Sure.

MK

If you need me, just say the word.

MK seamlessly hops on the space in Elljas' armor and puts himself in standby as they head into the forest.

EXT. BOTHAWUI SURFACE - LATER

The gang, still surrounded by forest, looks whooped.

DOMI

We've been walking for an eternity. I kind of feel funny.

POV from Domi's perspective presents us with vision that pops in and out of focus. He spots a hallucinated BABY CONVOR.

DOMI (CONT'D)

When did it get purple outside?

POV from Domi's vision: the sky is changing colors and things are morphing into weird shapes. The convor is guiding him.

ANA

What are you talking-

ALORA

Guys, what's that?

Alora points forward to a small clearing with a tall structure in the middle.

As they approach, they all look up.

KACEY

Maybe it's some sort of communications tower?

The hallucinated convor at the tower base door notions Domi inside.

ALORA

It looks abandoned.

They hear a door open.

Domi goes inside.

ANA

Ugh, Domi!

As she heads towards the door, she hears a loud CRACK.

They all run towards the door.

INT. BOTHAWUI - COMM TOWER

The door swings open and they hear hysterical laughing.

Ana turns a corner to find Domi, hanging upside down in a snare trap.

DOMI

The bird told me to do it.

ANA

What has gotten into you? Get down from there!

DOMI

Yeah I'll get right on that.

He continues to laugh.

A figure emerges from the dark corner of the room. It's a BOTHAN. They are taller in height and have a thin layer of fur that cover their body. Their snouts protrude from their face, much like a wookie's. This one in particular is dressed in wooded camouflage and is holding a blaster.

DANU

Who are you and why are you here?

ANA

I could ask you the same thing.

The rest of them round the corner.

DANU

I've been tracking you all day. Figured your curiosity would get the best of you. At least, one of you.

He looks at Domi who is making weird shapes with his hands and staring at them.

ELLJAS

Woah, what are you?

KACEY

Do you know who Duukov is?

68.

CONTINUED: (2)

DANU

My people have traded with him before. We do what we must.

KACEY

He said you might have information about the Empire. Are they building a new Death Star?

DANU

We might. And just who might you be?

ALORA

We are with the Rebellion.

DANU

Is that so? You might need a change of attire to be claiming such a thing.

He looks Alora up and down as she realizes she is still in her night trooper armor.

ALORA

Right...

KACEY

She's right we are. Can you help us?

DANU

Follow me.

He cuts Domi down with a swift swing of an exotic blade as he walks towards the door behind them.

DOMI

W000000!

Ana, clearly annoyed, grabs him as they leave.

EXT. SPACE - BOTHAWUI

A Star Destroyer moves slowly past Bothawui.

INT. IMPERIAL STAR DESTROYER

Admiral Rayul sits alone in his quarters, staring out the window into the void of space. In deep thought.

A knock at the door.

Rayul gets up and opens the door with a the press of a

button.

CAPTAIN

Admiral, we will be making the second jump to hyperspace soon. Shortly thereafter, we will dock on Vardos.

ADMIRAL RAYUL

Thank you Captain.

The captain dismisses himself.

Rayul returns to the window to catch a glimpse of Bothawui.

EXT. BOTHAWUI SURFACE - MOUNTAIN BASE

Alora stares at the sky almost as if she can feel a presence nearby.

As they walk towards the base of the mountain, Domi is staring up at the mountain in awe.

DOMI

You guys see that krayt dragon right?

ANA

Do you know what happened to him?

DANU

Certain plants here, most notably the zygalophlum, can have hallucinogenic effects. Did he eat or touch anything odd?

ANA

He did.

Ana grimaces at Domi, who is still admiring the non-existent dragon on the mountaintop.

DANU

Do not worry. The effects will fade and he will return to normal. As for dragons, well there are no dragons here.

As this point, they've reached what appears to be a wall with vines covering it.

DANU (CONT'D)

Follow me.

Danu taps the wall in a few different spots, opening a STONE DOOR that was hidden behind the vines.

INT. BOTHAWUI - NOVEDIKA

Danu leads them through a tunnel so dark, you can barely see.

At the end of the tunnel, an opening lets in light.

As they reach the end, it opens up to a sprawling underground city, much like Derinkuyu, Turkey. It seems to go on forever and looks as if it could easily house twenty thousand people.

DANU

Welcome to Novedika.

ALORA

It's beautiful.

DANU

We've built this city all on our own. Many years ago, during the rise of the Empire, they would go planet to planet and conquer as much as they could. My ancestors were smart enough to start a civilization beneath the surface in order to hide from those who seek to destroy.

KACEY

Did they ever pay you a visit?

DANU

Yes, once. They were looking for something, which they did not find. I will take to someone who might be able to help you.

DOMI

Do you guys have anything to eat? I'm starving.

DANU

We have plenty my friend.

INT. NOVEDIKA - COMMUNICATIONS

Este stands behind a group of comm workers staring at screens. She is taller for a woman and holds herself with confidence. Koru, an ex imperial systems engineer, is seated a desk with many monitors.

KORU

I was able to break through their security, finally. They are headed to a planet called Vardos.

ESTE

That must be it.

KORU

What do you mean?

ESTE

Where they keep it.

KORU

Keep what?

ESTE

The one thing that could save the galaxy.

Danu comes walking in with the gang behind him, stealing Este's attention.

DANU

This is Este, our lead strategist.

ESTE

Hello! And who might you all be?

DOMI

Hungry!

KACEY

We are with the Rebellion. Excuse my friend he, got a little touchy with the wildlife here.

ALORA

You're a strategist?

ESTE

That's right! Specifically with imperial matters. We just made a discovery actually. By the looks of you, you might know a little about imperial matters yourself.

ALORA

I was just a cadet; a pawn in their game.

ESTE

And what are you now?

ELLJAS

She saved our lives by risking her own.

ESTE

At least the Empire teaches valor. They sure don't teach you how to shoot. Isn't that right Koru?

KORU

Yeah yeah yeah.

ESTE

He defected years ago.

ALORA

I was the best shot in my class.

ESTE

Is that so? You are proving your usefulness by the second.

Este walks over to a different console. The wall is completely covered in documents and schematics.

ESTE (CONT'D)

We've been tracking imperial transmissions for months. They recently started traveling by here more often. We think they are building something.

ELLJAS

Another Death Star? Elljas.

He reaches his hand out and Este shakes it.

ESTE

Perhaps but we aren't sure. Koru was able to finally pinpoint where they are going.

KORU

It's a planet called Vardos.

ESTE

They must have plans there.

ALORA

I've only heard stories. It's completely and willingly occupied by the Empire.

ESTE

That's not ideal. Sneaking there won't be easy.

DANU

You want to go there?

ESTE

How else we will find out what is going on? We plan it as a covert operation with backup in case we need to go loud.

DANU

That could be suicide.

ESTE

I won't force anyone to go, but they should want to.

ELLJAS

We could help.

ANA

Hi, I'm Ana. My friend here is a bit impulsive.

ELLJAS

Alora knows how the Empire works. Kacey is a rebel badass. MK has seen a thing or two. We can do this.

ANA

But-

ESTE

We'd greatly appreciate it. The whole galaxy would.

ELLJAS

This is much bigger than us.

ANA

What about your dad? And your mom?
What about my dad? What if we don't
make it back? What if I have to kill
(MORE)

ANA (CONT'D)

someone? I can't do that Ell. I just

can't.

Elljas stares back at Ana, unsure of what to say.

Ana leaves the room in a rush.

ELLJAS

Ana!

DOMI

Where is she going? Hey, do you guys have any nerf nuggets?

Elljas goes after her.

KACEY

I apologize.

DANU

She's right. These types of missions are not for the faint of heart.

ESTE

Even if you don't go, you've been a help. Please allow us to provide you with a meal and lodging for traveling so far.

KACEY

That would be great. I'm Kacey and that's Domi.

ALORA

Alora.

Alora smiles and nods.

ESTE

A delight to meet you both. Danu will escort you and I will join you shortly.

INT. NOVEDIKA - STREETS

They all come walking out. Distraught, Elljas is looking around.

DOMI

We are finally getting food. Wanna (MORE)

DOMI (CONT'D)

come?

ELLJAS

I'll meet you guys there. I have to find Ana.

ALORA

We will save you a seat.

ELLJAS

Thanks guys. I have no idea where she went.

DANU

The city has many great views for thought. If you follow this street a few blocks and make a right, she could be there. We will be feasting the opposite direction.

Elljas takes off without saying a word.

DANU (CONT'D)

Let's get you all into more comfortable attire shall we?

EXT. VARDOS

An imperial Star Destroyer floats menacingly in the sky.

A Lambda-class T-4a Shuttle emerges from the bottom of it.

INT. T-4A SHUTTLE

The interior wall of the shuttle sports many scratched-in operating numbers from past stormtroopers riding inside.

Admiral Rayul and a few officers step into frame. The ship lands with a small shake and flicker of the lights.

The landing hatch opens to reveal Darth Vader.

VADER

The Emperor has been awaiting your arrival. I assume you are prepared?

ADMIRAL RAYUL

I am.

A close-up reveals a suitcase in the admiral's hand.

They step off the shuttle and start walking.

ADMIRAL RAYUL (CONT'D)

I think you will be impressed.

VADER

It is not me that you have to impress.

EXT. NOVEDIKA - CITY OVERLOOK

A small city mammal is in frame and moves out of the way as Elljas steps his way down the street.

As the city crowd starts to clear he notices her standing at an overlook, leaning against the railing.

He comes up next to her and leans against the railing.

ELLJAS

It's beautiful. Especially from this point of view.

ANA

We left the underground, just to end up back underground.

ELLJAS

Well you aren't wrong.

ANA

It is beautiful though.

There is a short silence.

ELLJAS

Listen, I'm sorry

ANA

Are you? Do you even know what you're sorry for?

ELLJAS

I made you, everyone, feel obligated to help.

ANA

It's our future to decide, not yours. But it's not just that. We are here because of you.

ELLJAS

I didn't know it was going to lead to this. I just wanted to help my dad.

ANA

I know Ell, but you're no good to your dad dead. And you can't risk the safety of others just to help him.

Another small silence.

ANA (CONT'D)

I should kick your ass, you know.

ELLJAS

If only you could kick that high.

ANA

Want to test that theory?

ELLJAS

I am going to go.

She gives a discerning look.

ELLJAS (CONT'D)

I know I know. But for once, I finally feel like what I'm doing matters.

ANA

And it didn't before?

ELLJAS

We finally got away from Coruscant and have the chance to do something great. I don't expect you to go. But I'd really like it if you did. I need you. And I really am sorry.

MK

Dinner is probably getting cold.

Elljas spins in a circle to find MK.

MK (CONT'D)

Yes I'm still back here.

Only his head is popped out.

ELLJAS

What? How? You've been listening this (MORE)

ELLJAS (CONT'D)

whole time?

ΜK

Well, I was turned off until the debacle on Coruscant. I now operate in standby unless programmed otherwise.

ANA

That's not creepy at all.

MK

Please remember to remove the armor when you use the bathroom. If I'm still attached at least.

ELLJAS

Yeah we are going to have to figure out this low power mode thing.

Elljas begins to walk away.

ELLJAS (CONT'D)

Come on, let's grab some grub.

INT. NOVEDIKA - DINING HALL

We zoom down a massive table. Exotic foods everywhere.

CLOSE UP

A pile of steaming nerf nuggets with Domi overlooking the mound.

RACK FOCUS

Domi is about to dig in, looking happier than he ever has.

He snatches one and swallows it whole.

DANU

Take your time my friend, we have all night.

DOMI

I've never had nerf nuggets this good!

Ana and Elljas come walking in.

KACEY

Nice of you to join us. You got here (MORE)

KACEY (CONT'D)

just in time. Domi is annihilating the

nuggets.

Domi looks like a savage eating as much as possible.

Ana and Elljas both sit down.

ΜK

Being human sounds exhausting. Having to eat all the time and then sleep.

ANA

I wish that's all we had to do.

ALORA

I am going to grab a bit of fresh air. I will meet you all back in our room before the briefing.

Alora politely excuses herself and walks out through the main doors.

EXT. NOVEDIKA - STREETS

Alora exits the dining hall building and begins walking down the street from which she did not come.

Bothawui streets are just as bustling as Coruscant's. Digital signage line walls of buildings giving way to many different kinds of shops and eatery.

As she nears the end of the street she feels something.

It's a PULL towards the building ahead of her.

That building is a large temple, guarded by a giant Bothan.

Alora feels the pull again as she heads towards the entrance.

The guard steps in her way.

GUARD

This temple is not open to the public.

ALORA

What's inside?

GUARD

It is not open to the public.

ALORA

This place is pulling me. Does that make sense?

GUARD

No. I've been nice and you are testing me.

Alora focuses.

ALORA

You will let me inside.

GUARD

I will let you inside.

The guards steps out of the way.

Alora smiles and walks inside.

INT. NOVEDIKA - TEMPLE

The inside of the temple contains one dimly lit hallway that leads to an open room.

Alora heads down hallway. She feels another pull.

As she reaches the room, she notices a singular spotlight coming from a small opening in the ceiling towards the back of the room. The room is larger than expected.

Alora walks towards the spotlight while glancing around the room, which is covered in darkness.

She steps up to the pedestal that holds the DARKSABER. The pull of the saber is almost overwhelming her.

As she reaches for the saber, a voice starts speaking to her from the abyss.

GUARDIAN

If you take that which is not yours...

Alora freezes, centimeters away from grabbing the saber.

GUARDIAN (CONT'D)

You must be prepared for...

The guardian drops from the dark center of room with an

electrostaff.

Alora grabs the saber while simultaneously igniting it to block the guardian's strike.

GUARDIAN (CONT'D)

When the rightful owner comes to take it back!

Alora firmly holds the block of the guardian's staff which leads to an INTENSE HISS from the clashing blades.

ALORA

Who are you?

GUARDIAN

The more important question is, who are you?

The guardian jumps back to wind up another attack.

ALORA

I'm not a thief.

The guardian charges at her, twirling his staff.

Alora blocks the charge and counters with a swing of her own.

They trade swings back and forth, none of them landing.

GUARDIAN

You managed to get past the guard up front?

ATIORA

I didn't harm him.

The guardian flips over Alora while swinging at the same time. She almost misses her block.

GUARDIAN

Then why are you here?

ALORA

I felt a pull to this temple. From this blade.

Catching her off guard, the guardian disarms her. The darksaber goes flying across the room.

She throws up her hands in a defensive position.

The guardian comes at her with his staff multiple times as she blocks every swing using her arms and legs to hit the hilt of the staff way from her.

Finally, she finds an opening and disarms the guardian, kicks him back, and uses THE FORCE to PULL the darksaber into her hands.

Gritting her teeth, she points the saber at the guardian.

GUARDIAN

Impressive.

Alora disengages the saber.

DANU

Most impressive indeed.

Danu steps out of the doorway towards Alora.

DANU (CONT'D)

I didn't know we had a force sensitive being among the group.

ALORA

I'm not quite sure how I did any of that.

GUARDIAN

The Force can be unpredictable when used by the inexperienced.

ALORA

Who does this belong to?

DANU

It was brought to us by Bo-Katan-Kryze of Mandalore for safekeeping from the clutches of the Empire. It's origin comes from Tarre Vizsla, an ancient Mandalorian Jedi Knight.

ALORA

I've only been trained to use blasters and Teräs Käsi.

GUARDIAN

That explains how you were able to so effectively block my staff being unarmed.

DANU

That or you're getting old, friend. The Force flows through all things. It seems in your time of need, you were able to harness that power. Do the others know?

ALORA

I myself wasn't completely sure until just now. I have, on occasion, been able to make things happen that I couldn't explain. But none of my family are force sensitive to my knowledge.

GUARDIAN

That is not required.

DANU

Blood can help, but the force can be discovered by all living things.

ALORA

Do you use the force?

DANU

While I do not wield it, I do understand it. It takes a special mind to posses its true power. What one chooses to do with that power regulates the possibilities.

ALORA

What do you mean?

DANU

Your choices define who you are. The same goes for the force. If you choose to let anger and fear control you, your abilities may differ from one who does not.

Alora returns the saber to the stand.

DANU (CONT'D)

You said you felt the saber pulling (MORE)

DANU (CONT'D)

you?

ALORA

Yes.

DANU

Perhaps it is telling you something.

ALORA

I couldn't possibly take it.

DANU

We leave tomorrow for Vardos. If you feel you might need it, I grant you permission. You won't have to fight again to attain it.

Danu begins to walk out.

ALORA

You just met me. Why do you trust me?

DANU

I have already been given a glimpse of where your heart lies. You could have easily ended our friend here, but you did not.

Alora thinks to herself as she leaves.

GUARDIAN

I expect a rematch someday! No force use allowed!

Alora uses the force to hit the guardian in the back of his head with his own deactivated electrostaff and laughs to herself as she exits.

INT. NOVEDIKA - COMMUNICATIONS - LATER

Este is slowing pacing back in forth in deep thought. She is surrounded by technology similar in looks to that of what the Rebellion uses.

ESTE

We still have the shuttle you escaped with, right?

KORU

Yeah. She might need a tune up.

ESTE

Perfect.

KORU

I think I caught your drift, but could you elaborate?

The gang comes walking in with Domi moving very sluggishly.

DOMI

Ugh, I ate way too much.

ESTE

Alora, you said the Empire just inhabits Vardos right? So there are normal folk there?

ALORA

From my understanding, yes.

ESTE

So a Bothan or two won't be that out of place.

KORU

Still waiting.

ESTE

Gather round.

Este notions towards a table.

They all sit down. Domi struggles to get comfy and flops himself in a chair.

ESTE (CONT'D)

Alright so here's the plan. We have an imperial shuttle we can use to get directly to the Empire's central area, assuming they have one. Alora, you get to be our trooper on duty. Elljas, we are going to paint up that armor to look a little more sinister and you might have to steal the helmet off of Ana's armor to really sell it. You're our bounty hunter.

ELLJAS

Cool, cool. What is my bounty?

ESTE

Domi and Ana.

ANA

Does Domi really need to come?

ESTE

He is small and might be useful once inside.

DOMI

Finally some appreciation.

ALORA

So I am escorting this bounty hunter to turn in his bounty?

ESTE

Right. Koru has already mocked up a fake imperial bounty.

DOMT

What did we do?

KORU

Still finishing that part up. It'll be done by tomorrow.

KACEY

What about me?

ESTE

You will be with me and Danu. We will be leading a small fleet of Bothans on the outskirts of central imperial territory, in case they need backup.

DANU

In case things need to get loud.

ELLJAS

So that's it?

ESTE

Pretty much. Since there is very little intel on Vardos, a lot of this mission relies on intuition. Koru is coming and we will try to get into their system to help out once you are inside.

KORU

Yeah I got voluntold.

ALORA

What are we looking for?

ESTE

Any information you can gather on a new superweapon. Schematics, reports, anything. It must be on Vardos if it exists. Any questions?

No one speaks up. Domi is passed out sleeping.

ESTE (CONT'D)

It seems he has the right idea. Get some rest tonight. We leave in the morning.

KACEY

May the force be with us.

Danu and Alora trade a slight smile.

INT. NOVEDIKA - QUARTERS

Alora is out on the balcony, leaning against the railing. From there, she can see the temple that houses the darksaber.

Kacey comes up behind her, brushing her hair.

KACEY

Hey!

Alora jumps, caught by surprise.

ALORA

You scared me.

KACEY

I didn't mean to. The rest of us are about to head to bed. Just checking on you.

ALORA

I appreciate it. I will be in soon.

KACEY

Something on your mind?

ALORA

Not particularly.

KACEY

I know I kind of gave you some attitude when we first met. But if we are doing this thing tomorrow, I'd like to start over.

She smiles and reaches her hand towards Alora.

Alora smiles and returns her shake.

ALORA

Thank you, but your attitude was understandable. I'm curious, how did you even get on Coruscant? The Empire has the whole planet pretty locked down.

KACEY

A girl has her ways.

She joins Alora at her side against the balcony railing.

KACEY (CONT'D)

I just shut off my lights on my ship. And possibly used a temporary signal jammer.

ALORA

So it was a night operation? Smart.

KACEY

So what's it like?

ALORA

I'm sorry?

KACEY

Growing up under the Empire?

ALORA

Living quarters are pretty nice. You get fed top tier meals. You get everything you pretty much need actually.

KACEY

Sounds extravagant.

ALORA

That's all so they can trick you into being a cold blooded killing robot. I was the only female in my brigade, so that was fun.

KACEY

Nothing quite as fun as making manly men feel inferior.

ALORA

What's it like being a rebel?

KACEY

Lot of hours. No vacation. Pay is alright. But it's what we fight for that makes me stay. Well that and my parents would kill me if I did anything different.

ALORA

They sound very caring.

KACEY

They are and I love them. They are just a bit controlling. Like caring parents are.

There is a moment of silence.

ALORA

Can I show you something?

KACEY

Yeah sure.

ALORA

Throw your brush at me.

KACEY

You want me to hurl my brush at your face?

ALORA

Yeah.

KACEY

Uh okay.

Kacey throws her brush at Alora.

Using the force, Alora stops it midway between them.

KACEY (CONT'D)

If that's what they are teaching imperial cadets, this whole thing just got a lot whole lot harder.

ALORA

It's just me.

KACEY

Does anyone else know?

ALORA

Danu does.

KACEY

I've never actually seen it used. Only heard the stories. The Rebellion could use someone with your talents.

Alora smiles.

ALORA

Let's make it through tomorrow. Then I'll think about it.

KACEY

I have your word?

Kacey turns around to head to bed.

ALORA

My word.

ALORA (CONT'D)

Kacey?

She turns around

ALORA (CONT'D)

Thank you. For everything.

Kacey smiles and goes inside.

Alora takes one more look at the temple before heading inside.

INT. KESTRO - IMPERIAL TOWER - HALLWAYS

A MSE-6 droid maneuvers its way down a hallway, weaving in and out of troopers and officers taking up the hallway.

It finally makes its way to an elevator to hitch a ride.

Elevator doors open and the droid is alone. It takes off down the hall and stops at a door.

We see it slightly separate from its bottom portion and slip out a folded document.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - QUARTERS

Admiral Rayul sits in his room, going through files to prepare for tomorrow.

A document slips beneath his door.

He picks up the document to read it.

CLOSE-UP of certain lines in the document (in italics).

defected at oh three hundred twenty seven hours.

last seen in Level 2 Sector 1138.

top cadet; armed and highly dangerous.

He lowers the document and takes a second to gather his thoughts.

He sets the paper down and begins to return to his work.

CLOSE-UP almost reveals a name, but the paper is curled up just enough to hide the remainder of the last name: Alora R

INT. ELLJAS APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

A telecommunicator rings violently.

Dave answers the phone.

DAVE

Hello!

Toma scrambles in the background.

TOMA

Is that Elljas?

INT. NOVEDIKA - HANGAR

ELLJAS

Hey dad.

INTERCUT BETWEEN DAVE AND ELLJAS

Elljas leans up against the telecommunicator box.

DAVE

Where have you been young man?

Dave jokingly acts as if he is mad

DAVE (CONT'D)

(quieter voice) somewhere awesome I hope!

ELLJAS

I'm on a planet called Bothawui. It's not too far away.

TOMA

Bothawhere!?

DAVE

How did you get there?

ELLJAS

It's a long story but, the plan went south and we sort of had to outrun Duukov and his goons. By flying into space and then jumping to hypserspace. It's this whole thing.

DAVE

Oh so you won't be home for dinner huh?

ELLJAS

No I won't. Listen, I wanted to apologize. I didn't mean for this to happen and make you guys worry about me.

TOMA

Are you going to let me talk to him?

ELLJAS

I lied to you guys about my plan and I shouldn't have.

Toma grabs the phone from Dave

TOMA

You are so dead dude.

ELLJAS

I'm sorry mo-

TOMA

Sorry won't cut it. I can't believe you lied to us Ell.

Elljas is silent.

TOMA (CONT'D)

You know I get so angry with you because I care, right? You are my rock. You and your dad are why I get up in the morning ya know?

ELLJAS

I'll make it back.

TOMA

And when will you be doing that?

ELLJAS

We have a mission to do first.

TOMA

A mission? What are you some kind of freedom fighter now? What if you don't make it back? That affects everyone else in your life.

DAVE

Honey, I think you are being a little harsh. He can handle himself. He's already there, only thing we can do is trust him.

Elljas overhears his dad's remark.

ELLJAS

I appreciate it dad, but mom is right. But this is so much bigger than me, I just have to do it. I'll make it back,

(MORE) (CONTINUED)

ELLJAS (CONT'D)

I promise.

TOMA

You better. But a word of advice, don't make promises you aren't sure you can keep.

Toma starts to tear up and angrily gives the phone to Dave.

DAVE

We love you Ell. I believe in you and I always will.

ELLJAS

Thanks dad.

Dave hangs up.

Elljas thinks about his decisions, upset with himself.

Ana comes by.

ANA

Hey! You ready? We're about to take off.

ELLJAS

Uhm yeah, I'll be there in a minute.

ANA

Everything good?

ELLJAS

I think I broke my mom's heart a little.

ANA

She's scared for you. For us. I'm scared for us. I think it's good for me at least.

Elljas half-smiles at Ana.

ANA (CONT'D)

Hey. We gonna get your dad a new leg or what?

She touches his shoulder.

His smile grows and they walk together towards the ship.

Alora is piecing together her armor as Danu approaches.

DANU

I made some modifications to your armor.

ALORA

Really? What did you change?

DANU

You'll know when you need it.

EXT. SPACE

A T-4a exits hyperspace.

A view from behind the ship reveals the planet Vardos.

INT. ORANOGUE T-4A SHUTTLE

ANA

So how are we going to actually get on the Vardos?

ALORA

Koru provided us with a recently generated code that should get us through pretty easily.

Elljas is quiet near the back of the ship.

ALORA (CONT'D)

Este, how's it going over there?

INT. BN-95 TRANSPORT

Este presses a button

ESTE

As planned. We will make our way to the capital from the outskirts. Don't want to seem too conspicuous. There appears to be a lot of traffic so we should blend in.

A large group of armored Bothans wait behind them

KORU

Also, you guys have the only code I could decrypt so we can't fly into imperial airspace.

ESTE

We'll be in touch!

EXT. SPACE

The BN-95 leads a small squadron of fighter ships.

INT. ORANOGUE T-4A SHUTTLE

ANA

Here goes nothing.

Alora notions to Domi and he pushes a lever forward.

EXT. SPACE

Oranogue picks up some speed as it heads towards Vardos.

INT. KESTRO - IMPERIAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER

Two imperial controllers are seated in front of a large console. A massive window provides them with a panoramic view of the sky.

CONTROLLER #1

I'm gonna grab a drink. Don't forget to put those new codes in the register.

Controller #1 points to the document sitting in front of the other controller.

Controller #1 heads down an elevator.

The remaining controller whips out a sandwich and bites into it, spilling sauce from the sandwich directly on the document, rendering parts of it illegible.

CONTROLLER #2

Blast!

A static starts to come over the comms, followed by a voice.

KACEY

(Filtered VO) This is Shuttle Oranogue. Transmitting clearance code now.

The controller scrambles to find a place for his sandwich and

watches the code come across the screen.

He presses a button to run the code through the register.

CONTROLLER #1

Code is a no go.

ALORA

That can't be right. This code was just recently generated.

The stained document lays on the desk as sauce drips off of it.

RACK FOCUS from document to worried controller.

ALORA (CONT'D)

Do you read?

He grabs the document but alas, cannot read it due to his mistake.

CONTROLLER #1

You're clear to proceed.

INT. T-4A SHUTTLE

DOMI

Piece of cake.

ALORA

Places everyone!

INT. BN-95 TRANSPORT

ESTE

Koru, what's the status on breaking
into their system?

Koru is heavily typing away.

KORU

Almost there. They've made it a little harder to capture a signal here. Nothing ol' K can't handle.

ESTE

Not to be pushy, but we need that file uploaded immediately. I'm not gonna say that mission depends on it but

KORU

The mission depends on it. I'll get it.

EXT. KESTRO - LANDING BAY

Shuttle Oranogue lands majestically.

A TIE fighter lands in a nearby space, marked with three red strips on its wing attachment pylon and red tinted main viewport.

Pressure emits from each side of Oranoque's landing pad as it lowers.

INTERCUT BETWEEN KORU AND GANG

Alora and Elljas lead Ana and Domi, who are in shackles.

ELLJAS

(to himself) You can do this. You can do this.

ALORA

Does that helmet not a voice distorter?

ELLJAS

A what?

MK's head is pops out

ΜK

Don't worry, I've got this.

ELLJAS

I got a bad feeling about this.

KORU

Almost there.

An imperial officer stands in front of the gate to the capital building and holds a digital tablet. The gate is blocked by lasers that can cut through a diamond. We see a larger sized insect fly into the lasers and vanish into thin air. The officer is guarded by black armored stormtroopers.

OFFICER

Papers?

ALORA

We have none. These are wanted fugitives. This hunter is here to collect his bounty.

OFFICER

And who is this bounty hunter?

The officer scans Elljas with his eyes, not completely convinced of his get up.

ΜK

Fett.

MK's head is still popped out moves with emotion.

OFFICER

Fett?

MK

Uh Jongo. Jongo Fett.

Koru is still typing away

KORU

Found the spot.

OFFICER

I see. And who are these fugitives?

ALORA

You may scan their faces.

The officer is highly suspicious. He looks at them both one more time before he looks down at his tablet.

He holds it up to scan them. The screen appears to be loading.

Alora stands confidently.

Elljas does his best to maintain good posture but appears slightly nervous.

The screen loads for a few seconds more.

KORU

Done!

The officer looks at them again.

A bounty appears miraculously on the screen.

OFFICER

Ah yes. Wanted for armed robbery of an imperial outpost on Sulust.

Elljas lets out the quietest sigh of relief and coughs to cover it up.

The officer presses a few buttons on the screen. The lasers deactivate.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

Through the gate and to the left. The broker will pay you.

Alora nods and they walk towards the gate.

MK hides his head just in time as Elljas passes by the officer.

Going through the gate reveals stormtroopers as far as the eye can see. Marching in formation.

ELLJAS

Alora, where are we going?

ALORA

Still trying to figure that out.

KORU

(Filtered VO) Alora? Do you read me?

ALORA

Hello! How did you-

ESTE

(Filtered VO) Koru works magic. He was able to tap into their comms and give us a secure channel.

ANA

Who are you talking to?

KORU

(Filtered VO) Alright I am going to walk you through getting up the tower. From what I could get out of their system, there is a meeting with the Emperor himself shortly. Perfect chance to eavesdrop.

ALORA

A meeting? About what?

KORU

(Filtered VO) I'm not sure. The meeting is fitted with the subject Project Distant Echo.

ALORA

Distant Echo?

ELLJAS

Alora we sort of need a gameplan.

KORU (V.O.)

(Filtered VO) To your right, there's a loading bay. Get inside that way.

ALORA

How do you know where I am?

KORU

(Filtered VO) Danu added a tracker to your helmet.

ALORA

Brilliant. Guys, take a right.

They move right trying not to look suspicious.

ANA

Where are we going?

ALORA

I've been talking to Koru. He's in their system. Danu added a tracker to my helmet. Once we get inside, he will tell us where to go.

They make their way past a few troopers talking among themselves.

They head through an empty loading bay door and shut it behind them.

INT. KESTRO - IMPERIAL TOWER - LOADING BAY

ALORA

We're in. You knew that already. Sorry, I'm nervous.

INT. BN-95 TRANSPORT

Koru pulls up a projection schematic of the tower. After a few keyboard hits, he highlights a narrow vertical passage in red that lines the whole tower.

KORU

Perfect. I found a service elevator that can get you to any floor. It's not far from you.

ALORA

(Filtered VO) We can't exactly roam the halls of the tower without looking a little odd.

KORU

Good point. One sec.

A few keystrokes later, he highlights a ventilation shaft.

KORU (CONT'D)

There is a ventilation shaft that runs by the elevator door. It should be right in front of you.

INT. KESTRO - IMPERIAL TOWER - LOADING BAY

Alora looks for a ventilation shaft.

She spots one right next to a chute the reads WASTE.

ALORA

Got it.

Elljas unshackles Ana and Domi.

ELLJAS

So?

ALORA

Through there. We will have to do a bit of crawling. It's the safest way to the elevator.

Alora shoots the edges of the grate to remove it.

Domi heads in first, followed by Ana.

ELLJAS

Ladies first.

DOMI

(from the vent) I heard that!

Elljas takes off his helmet.

ELLJAS

It's hard to see a thing with this on.

He tosses it down the waste chute.

Alora climbs in the vent.

Elljas picks up the grate and positions it back in place as he gets in.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

The Emperor sits quietly in his throne, guarded by two Royal Guards, one on each side like statues.

The door opens to throne room opens.

Vader walks in followed by Iden Versio, Garrick Versio, Admiral Rayul, and a small garrison of stormtroopers.

Two stormtroopers post up outside the door and it closes.

Vader kneels before the Emperor and the others follow suit.

VADER

My lord, the Admiral is ready to show our progress.

EMPEROR PALPATINE

Very well. Prepare the presentation Admiral.

Admiral Rayul opens his briefcase

CUT TO

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - VENTS

(All voices below are in whisper)

KORU

(Filtered VO) That's the exit there.

ALORA

This is the one guys.

104.

CONTINUED: (2)

DOMI

How do we get it open?

ALORA

I can't shoot in here, it's too dangerous.

ANA

I have an idea.

Ana begins to kick the vent.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - HALLWAY

A stormtrooper walks out of the elevator and hears the commotion.

STORMTROOPER

What the?

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - VENTS

ANA

(whispers) Come on you son of a bantha!

As Ana kicks, Alora uses the force to push the grate out of the wall.

The grate slams the trooper right on his head and knocks him unconscious.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - VENTS

ANA

Hah! It worked!

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - HALLWAY

Domi pokes his head out and looks down to notice the trooper.

They all jump out.

Ana goes to loot the trooper and grabs his blaster.

ALORA

Check his belt.

Ana searches the belt and finds a KEYCARD.

ANA

Is this the card you're looking for?

ELLJAS

Perfect!

Ana hands tosses the card to Elljas.

Alora and Ana sit the guard up to look as if he is sleeping against the wall.

DOMI

Sleeping on the job?

ALORA

What a shame! Koru, we got a keycard.

Elljas puts the card in the slot by the elevator, the doors open.

KORU

(Filtered VO) Makes my job easier. You want to go to the 42nd floor.

ELLJAS

Going up?

INT. BN-95 TRANSPORT

On the holographic schematic, you can see the red blip that is Alora, going up.

ESTE

So far so good?

KORU

So far. Things could get interesting soon. Once they reach the top, they will be near the meeting room.

KACEY

I feel bad for being here. Not doing anything.

DANU

We hope they don't need our help. But if they do, I'm certain they will be glad it is you.

106.

CONTINUED: (2)

ESTE

Make sure the others are ready. We may only have minutes to respond.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - 42ND FLOOR HALLWAY

The elevator doors open and it appears empty.

Elljas has his back facing the middle of the elevator. MK pops his head out to check if the coast is clear.

The hall is long and empty. It comes to a T at the end.

MK

Clear.

ELLJAS

Thanks, MK.

The gang moves down the hallway slowly and quietly as possible.

ALORA

Koru, which way?

KORU

(Filtered VO) You'll want to head right and then take the only left. The door is in that hallway. I hope you enjoyed the vents. It's looking like our only choice again.

ALORA

Guys, head right and then take a left.

The reach the end and check their corners. They head right.

ALORA (CONT'D)

Left up here.

Domi checks the corner to spot the two troopers guarding the door.

DOMI

There's two troopers.

ANA

Can you peek again?

Domi sticks his head out enough to see down the hallway again.

ANA (CONT'D)

Is there a hall from the other direction?

DOMI

No. Just a window.

ANA

MK, want to do me a favor?

ΜK

It depends on how nicely you ask.

ANA

I need to you to distract those two guards for us.

MK

And how do I do that?

ANA

You're a talking droid! That's plenty!

MK

For the record, you didn't ask.

ALORA

What's your plan?

ELLJAS

Are we going to shoot them?

ANA

I can't.

ALORA

Sure you can.

Alora flips a switch on Ana's E-11 blaster.

The two stormtroopers firmly hold a stare forward. Until someone breaks the silence.

STORMTROOPER #2

Doorman duty. Again. What's a guy gotta do 'round here to get a little involvement?

MK casually STROLLS down the hallway towards them. He has a

spring in his step.

STORMTROOPER #1

Preach brother. Third time this week for me. Walk here, stand here. This is what droids are for. What do I even have this blaster for? I haven't used it in so long my aim has probably gone to sh-

ΜK

-Say, you wouldn't happen to know anything about the meeting happening behind those doors would you?

The stormtrooper opposite of MK's direction pokes his head out to look down the hallway. He doesn't notice him. He then looks down and MK waves.

STORMTROOPER #1

How did you know about that?

STORMTROOPER #2

How did you get up here?

They point their blasters at him.

ΜK

There's only one elevator...wow look at that...

He points at the window. They look in that direction.

MK (CONT'D)

Stunning view isn't it?

A quiet blast happens behind them and an electric blue light surrounds the troopers. They drop to the floor, stunned.

Ana and Alora lower their guns.

ANA

Flawless, MK.

ΜK

I'm offended you expected anything less.

MK hops on Elljas's back.

They move the bodies into a nearby supply closet.

CONTINUED: (4)

Alora removes the grate to a larger ventilation port. She heads in first.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - VENTS

Single file, they come to a crossing in the vents.

ALORA

Let's split up to cover more ground. We must be silent. Once the meeting is over, meet here at the crossing.

Alora heads forward. Ana and Domi right. Elljas and MK left.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

A giant hologram of the Death Star II and the moon of Endor is in the middle of the room.

The Emperor and Vader menacingly peer upon it.

ADMIRAL RAYUL

We've engineered an energy efficient method to power the dish while also keeping the station in orbit at all times. This will cause geological disturbances, but will not affect the the operation of the shield.

INTERCUT WITH

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - VENTS

Alora crawls into a grate opening just above the hologram.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

ADMIRAL RAYUL

It is impenetrable, consisting of a combination of ray, particle, and concussion shields. As you can see on the main dish-

The admiral presses a button on a small controller that zooms in on the planet. A satellite dish is front and center.

ADMIRAL RAYUL (CONT'D) It is equipped with smaller dishes that allow for this.

He clicks the button again. The hologram animates to show the

combining rays shooting out the dish, surrounding Endor and the Death Star II.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - VENTS

Elljas stares through a grate. Ana and Domi through another.

ALORA

(whisper) They're building another Death Star.

KORU

(Filtered VO) You're serious?

ALORA

(whisper) Yes. It's protected by a shield from the nearby moon.

KORU

(Filtered VO) What moon?

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

EMPEROR PALPATINE

Impressive, Admiral. We will begin construction immediately.

ADMIRAL RAYUL

The shield and power source is already constructed. Once it is transported to Endor, it's a simple setup.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - VENTS

ALORA

(whisper) Endor.

Alora looks for anything physical that can be taken.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

The projection machine has a small hard drive sticking out from the side.

Admiral Rayul clicks a button and the hologram disappears.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - VENTS

Alora spots the small hard drive. She waits for an opening.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

EMPEROR PALPATINE

Begin installation immediately.
Admiral Versio, Inferno Squadron is to be stationed on Endor until further notice. Once the second Death Star is operational, the screams of the Rebels will echo throughout the galaxy, spreading fear to every corner.

Everyone's backs are to Alora in the above vent, as they focus on Palpatine.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - VENTS

Alora begins to USE THE FORCE to try and quietly remove the drive.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

The small hard drive WIGGLES back and forth.

I shall personally oversee the final preparations of the station. I expect the shield up and running in the next 72 hours, admiral. We already have bunkers on the forest moon. Your time and commitment to the Empire has not gone unnoticed.

The small hard drive is halfway out.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - VENTS

Alora immensely focuses.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

ADMIRAL RAYUL Understood, my lord.

The drive manages to quietly slip out, and begins to FLOAT UP towards the vent.

Suddenly, it PAUSES midair.

Vader has one hand raised holding the drive in place. He SENSES another FORCE from above. He looks up.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - VENTS

Alora SENSES Vader's pull.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

Vader uses his other hand and pulls the vent down from the ceiling, breaking it.

Alora FALLS out on the way down.

INT. BN-95 TRANSPORT

KORU

Alora? Alora, do you read me?

Este notices Koru's panic.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

Alora attempts to jump up.

Vader FORCE PUSHES Alora to her knees and HOLDS her there.

EMPEROR PALPATINE

What have we here?

VADER

A traitor.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - VENTS

DOMI

What do we do?

ANA

Wait. Ell, don't be a hero.

Elljas is doing his best to think of a plan, but his face shows defeat.

INT. BN-95 TRANSPORT

ESTE

Koru..

KORU

All I heard was a loud crash and I yeah think she's in trouble.

Este grabs a radio headset.

CONTINUED: (2)

ESTE

All units, 42nd floor of the central tower. Strike when I give the order.

Este grabs control of the transport and takes off towards the tower.

EXT. KESTRO

Many ship-shaped shadows scoot across the ground. Some troopers take notice.

The small fleet of Bothan ships race toward the tower.

INT. IMPERIAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER

The controller takes another huge bite of a different sandwich as he attempts to read the codes on the smeared paper and punch them into the computer.

Meanwhile, the small Bothan fleet can be seen through the window, heading towards the tower.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

Iden Versio, blaster raised, removes Alora's helmet.

Admiral Rayul's face burgeons with shock.

ADMIRAL RAYUL

Alora?

ALORA

Hey dad.

ADMIRAL RAYUL

How could you?

ALORA

What does it matter to you? You were never around anyways.

ADMIRAL RAYUL

I was doing everything I had to, to provide for you and your mother.

ALORA

Everything besides being a father. Mom practically raised me on her own. Your work was always more important.

CONTINUED: (2)

EMPEROR PALPATINE

Much anger dwells inside you child. You try to suppress it, but it gives

you strength.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - VENTS

Elljas, Ana, and Domi wear fear on their faces.

EXT. KESTRO - IMPERIAL TOWER

The Bothan fleet forms a circle around the top of the tower.

Kacey and many troops rappel down from the ships, forming a perimeter on every side of the building.

They set small clear charges on glass.

INT. BN-95 TRANSPORT

ESTE

Ready!

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

EMPEROR PALPATINE

It's a shame we will never get to see your full potential. Admiral Rayul, eliminate this renegade.

Admiral Versio hands Admiral Rayul his pistol.

Vader keeps his hold, but looks to the side. He feels for Admiral Rayul.

Alora feels the PULL of the darksaber.

INT. BN-95 TRANSPORT

ESTE

Three.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

Admiral Rayul raises the pistol hesistantly.

EMPEROR PALPATINE

As a servant of the Empire, it is your duty Admiral.

INT. BN-95 TRANSPORT

ESTE

Two.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

Admiral Rayul can't bring himself to pull the trigger, as he looks into his daughter's eyes.

ALORA

You called me a renegade.

INT. BN-95 TRANSPORT

ESTE

One.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

ALORA

I prefer the term rebel.

INT. BN-95 TRANSPORT

ESTE

Breach!

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

The glass behind Palpatine shatters into a million tiny pieces and Bothans from every direction swing in, firing a volley of blaster fire into the room.

Vader loses his grip and Alora FORCE PULLS the DARKSABER from her armor's enlarged THERMAL DETONATOR CANISTER on her back, while simultaneously IGNITING IT and SWINGING towards Vader.

In one swoop motion, Vader IGNITES and BLOCKS Alora's swing. The sabers HISS as they hold, clashed together. The small drive FALLS to the floor.

Admiral Rayul is hit by blaster fire from a Bothan trooper.

Kacey swings in and takes cover. She blind fires at stormtroopers across the room.

Vader kicks Alora away from him to block incoming blaster fire.

Admiral Versio has takes cover.

INT. VENTS

Ana sticks her gun through the grate and begins firing maniacally, still on stun mode.

Elljas spots the drive on the ground. He crawls back the way he came.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - 42ND FLOOR HALLWAY

The two stormtroopers who were previously stunned, open the door to the closet.

A Bothan slams the door on them, opens the door back up, throws a thermal detonator in there, and closes the door again.

We hear a thunderous BOOM.

The Bothans BLOW the door to the Throne Room.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

Alora spots her father, badly wounded. She turns to see royal guards squaring up for a fight.

More Bothans swing in. Vader throws his lightsaber at a few as they swing in, cutting their ropes before they can get in causing them to fall, while force throwing another across the room.

The Emperor watches, highly entertained.

Alora masterfully fends off the two royal guards as they attack from multiple directions.

INT. VENTS

Ana switches her off from stun and shoots the grate out.

DOMI

What do I do?

ANA

Stay here. I will be back for you.

She jumps down, and begins to fire at troopers behind cover.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - 42ND FLOOR HALLWAY

Stormtroopers pile out of the elevator.

CONTINUED: (2)

Elljas takes MK off his back.

ELLJAS

There is a small drive in this room on the floor. I need you to grab it.

ΜK

Okay and then what?

ELLJAS

Meet me back out here!

Elljas grabs MK and throws him into the throne room as stormtroopers round the corner. He begins to fire at them.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

MK lands near the middle of the chaos. He looks around the for the drive and spots it last second. He maneuvers the room, dodging blaster fire.

Alora continues fighting the royal guards. As she steps back to brace for an attack, she kicks the drive towards MK.

MK

Convenient.

MK slides to the middle to grab it and takes cover immediately.

Kacey spots MK. She throws a grenade that explodes just in time to send a trooper flying, saving MK. She lays down suppressing fire.

INT. BN-95 TRANSPORT

DANU

Este, we have company!

EXT. IMPERIAL TOWER

Particle cannon turrets begin firing at the ships near the top of the tower.

EXT. KESTRO - LANDING BAY

TIE fighters take off.

EXT. BN-95 TRANSPORT

Deflector shields take the hits but cause the ship to SHAKE

violently.

INT. BN-95 TRANSPORT

KORU

We can't stay here much longer!

Este grabs control of the ship.

ESTE

(over comms) We have to evacuate! Grab our friends and let's go!

EXT. BN-95 TRANSPORT

Este swings the ship in just enough time to DODGE an ion turret bolt and blast an incoming TIE FIGHTER.

The TIE fighter SPIRALS into the tower.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

The shake of the TIE hitting the building throws Alora's footing off, causing her to take a skim of one of the royal guard's VIBROBLADES, cutting through her armor and into her skin.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - 42ND FLOOR HALLWAY

Elljas retreats back to the supply closet doorway as many troopers advance down the hallway and into the Throne Room.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

MK fires a blaster at an royal guard but misses.

The royal guard uses his staff to pick up MK and throw him out of the way.

MK lands beneath Domi, who is still in the vent. Ana is nearby firing at troopers from behind.

Palpatine, still sitting calmly in his chair, blocks incoming blaster fire like it's nothing. He notices MK is holding the drive.

Domi drops down from the vent to pick up MK.

DOMI

MK, you alright?

MK

My circuits seem fine. I don't feel pain remember?

ANA

Domi what are you doing?

DOMI

We gotta get out of here!

Domi, Ana, and MK head towards the door, popping in and out of cover.

EXT. IMPERIAL TOWER

TIE fighters in all directions. The Bothan fighters do their best to hold them off. One shuttle takes a direct hit to the engine and EXPLODES.

The BN-95 hovers down to the 42nd floor hallway.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - 42ND FLOOR HALLWAY

Elljas notices the BN-95 ship, and hides back in the closet.

The BN-95 fires down the hallway, taking out the remaining stormtroopers.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

Kacey spots the group from across the room and starts moving in the same direction, continuing to lay down fire.

A Bothan throws a thermal detonator at Vader as he blocks blaster fire.

Vader CATCHES it midair and returns it back to the Bothan. It EXPLODES on impact, throwing the Bothan out the window.

Alora takes another hit from the vibroblade. With anger, she FORCE PULLS AND THROWS the weapon from the royal guard and SLASHES him with her darksaber.

MK and Domi make it close to the front door, with Kacey right across from them.

DOMI

Nice to see you!

KACEY

We have to get you out of here! Where (MORE)

KACEY (CONT'D)

is Elljas?

MK

He's in the hallway!

ANA

What about Alora?

Iden Versio takes aim at Alora and pulls the trigger.

The bolt hits Alora's armor and she loses focus.

The remaining royal guard SLICES the darksaber in half and STRIKES Alora through the chest. Alora SCREAMS in agony and drops to the ground.

Domi, MK, Kacey, Ana, and Admiral Rayul watch in terror.

Ana lands a headshot to the royal guard and he drops. She then lays down covering fire as Kacey throws a detonator towards Iden and makes her way to Alora.

Iden jumps to avoid the detonator.

Kacey grabs Alora and bolts towards the door. Adrenaline pumping.

KACEY

Go! Through there!

Domi and MK run through the door. Kacey with Alora over her back, right behind them.

Iden fires at them but misses.

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - 42ND FLOOR HALLWAY

The BN-95 turns to the side and the door opens.

DANU

Come on!

Elljas joins the group as they run by.

ELLJAS

What happened?

KACEY

I'll explain!

They jump into the transport and the ship's door closes.

EXT. IMPERIAL TOWER

Another Bothan ship is hit by a torpedo from a TIE fighter, as it tries to escape.

INT. BN-95 TRANSPORT

KORU

Call me crazy, but I think our best bet is a direct jump into hyperspace from here.

ESTE

What are the odds of us hitting something?

KORU

Well the odds of dying here are much greater.

Este starts flipping switches and pushing buttons to engage the hyperdrive.

They gang huddles around Alora, who is laying on the floor of the transport, barely conscious.

KACEY

She was fighting red guards. One landed a strike.

ALORA

Did we get it?

MK

You mean this?

MK holds up the drive.

ANA

Thanks to you.

Alora smiles and slips away into a valiant death.

Everyone including Danu sport sad eyes filled with water like a dam about to burst.

ESTE

Here goes nothin'

INT. IMPERIAL TOWER - THRONE ROOM

Vader finishes off the last Bothan and looks out of the busted window to watch the BN-95 transport as it ZIPS into hyperspace.

Admiral Rayul still lays wounded, against the wall.

Emperor Palpatine gets up from his chair and heads towards Vader.

EMPEROR PALPATINE Do not worry Lord Vader.

VADER

They got away with the drive.

EMPEROR PALPATINE False hope will be their biggest downfall. As for you Admiral-

Palpatine walks over to Admiral Rayul.

EMPEROR PALPATINE (CONT'D)
Despite your work on the deflector
shield, you raised a coward and a
traitor. You're a loose end that
cannot be left untied.

Palpatine FORCE CHOKES the breath out of the admiral until he dies.

VADER

What about the girl?

EMPEROR PALPATINE
There is no possibility she survived,
despite their efforts. Skywalker is
still your focus.

Vader continues to stare out of the window as the Emperor walks out, followed by stormtroopers and his remaining royal guard.

EXT. BOTHAWUI SURFACE - MOUNTAIN

The BN-95 transport races toward the mountain.

An opening in the middle is revealed. The shuttle settles in

to land.

INT. BOTHAWUI - NOVEDIKA

They all come off the ship, with Danu and Elljas carrying Alora's body on a cot.

The walk past a crowd of many Bothans, who respectfully give them silence.

INT. NOVEDIKA - TEMPLE

A pyre burns inside the temple, in front of where the darksaber was kept. A colored smoke rises out of the top of the building.

Danu places Alora's body on the pyre.

Ana, Domi, Kacey, Elljas, Este, MK, and Koru all pay their respects. The fire reflects in their eyes.

INT. NOVEDIKA - HANGAR

Domi, Ana, Kacey, Elljas, and MK board another T4-a shuttle.

They all turn around to wave goodbye to Danu, Este, and Koru as the shuttle door seals.

EXT. MON CALAMARI SHIP

A T4-a docks.

INT. MON CALAMARI SHIP

Kacey hands over the small hard drive to an officer.

EXT. CORUSCANT - NIGHT

A T4-a shuttle flies into the atmosphere.

INT. ELLJAS'S APARTMENT BUILDING

Elljas knocks on the door to his apartment. Dave opens the door.

Elljas holds up a new CYBERNETIC LEG that he received from the Rebellion.

Toma comes up behind Dave and gives Elljas a loving hug.

EXT. PLANET CORUSCANT - LOWER LEVEL OUTER CITY SMALL ROOFTOP

Kacey removes the tarp from her ship and gives it a friendly tap.

INT. LORAL'S

Elljas, Ana, and Domi all laugh at a table and share a drink together. Life is good and Elljas takes it in.

INT. MON CALAMARI SHIP

A rebel officer walks into a large room.

MON MOTHMA and ADMIRAL ACKBAR turn around to greet the officer.

The officer hands over the small drive.

Mon Mothma takes the drive and says thank you to the officer. He leaves.

EXT. ENDOR - SURFACE

Inferno Squad gets off of a shuttle.

INTERCUT WITH

INT. MON CALAMARI SHIP

Mon Mothma plugs the drive into a hologram projector.

EXT. ENDOR - SURFACE

Two imperial ships DROP the deflector shield dish into place.

INT. MON CALAMARI SHIP

A projection of Endor and the orbiting Death Star apparate in the middle of the room.

EXT. ENDOR - SURFACE

The dish IGNITES, sending a stream of mostly clear light into the sky.

INT. MON CALAMARI SHIP

The hologram ANIMATES showing a shield around the under-

construction Death Star.

Mon Mothma and Admiral Ackbar trade looks of hope.

INT. DEATH STAR II

Vader peers out of a large window that overlooks Endor.

INT. IMPERIAL STAR DESTROYER

Emperor Palpatine stands by a window as he looks at his fully functioning battle station: The Death Star II.