

AGENTS OF THE EMPIRE

written by

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FADE IN

EXT. AKEEN CITY, PLANET GULON II - HIGH NOON

Camera opens to the cityscape of a vaguely Middle Eastern city. Sun-bleached brick slums dominate the majority of the frame, with impossibly high glass skyscrapers in the background. As the camera pans over the city, three militaristic troop transports fly past.

CUT TO:

EXT. SMALL MARKET, AKEEN SLUMS - SAME TIME

The ships land in the clearing of an abandoned open-air market in the slums. The ship doors open and soldiers with intimidating armored bodysuits storm out, heading down one of the cramped alleys.

CUT TO:

EXT. TENAMENT BUILDING, AKEEN SLUMS - SAME TIME

The soliders come to a door, surrounding it "SWAT" style. They breach and the camera follows as they clear room by room. Empty.

CUT TO:

INT. CREW SAFEHOUSE, AKEEN SLUMS - SAME TIME

From a second story window across the street, DORUN watches the raid. Specks of grey in his hair, he looks like he belongs in a classroom. He turns away from the window.

DORUN

We have to get off this planet.

Before anyone can answer, TARSIS enters the room. Blaster in hand, nondescript armored vest, scars peppering his grizzled face. He closes the door, leaving it slight ajar to keep watch through.

TARSIS

We got out just in time. We're safe  
for now.

Hands clasped in front of him, ELLIS sits nearby deep in thought. Younger, well dressed, handsome if a bit naive.

ELLIS  
Dorun, if they're raiding our  
safehouse it means-

DORUN  
It means we have to get off this  
planet.

Pensively watching the scene below, EKELLE stands close to the window. Middle Eastern descent; pretty in a determined, makes-the-hard-choices kind of way.

EKELLE  
This is a setback, yes, but you  
can't run now.

TARSIS  
Ekelles is right. If we run now we  
trash months of work setting up to  
cripple the Empires' control on  
Gulon Two.

EKELLE  
The Empire that took my family. The  
Rebellion can help-

DORUN  
The Empire has taken something from  
all of us. And we're not part of  
your Rebellion.

ELLIS  
Do you know how much we'll be  
losing if we run now? Not even  
counting bribes, we'll be  
abandoning contacts its taken  
months to establish.

TARSIS  
I'm finally making headway with my  
black market connections.

DORUN  
None of which matters if we're  
dead. Look I don't want to run any  
more than you lot do, but we just  
got very lucky. It's only a matter  
of time before they connect the  
dots. I don't plan on being here  
when they do.

Dorun pulls a small handheld communicator out of his pocket.

DORUN (CONT'D)  
Arianne, get the ship ready. We're  
leaving.

CUT TO:

INT. SHIP: WINDSWIFT; COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Cables, tools and hardware are strewn about the run-down cockpit of the Crew Freighter. ARIANNE's head pops out from under the console she was in the process of fixing.

Arianne curses as she tries to find the communicator amid the mess. Picking it up she attempts to sound calm and composed.

ARIANNE  
Yes, Dorun. Right away.

She looks around at the mess.

ARIANNE (CONT'D)  
I'll get right on that...

DORUN  
(From Communicator)  
Have you been sleeping on the job?

ARIANNE  
Excuse me? I haven't slept in days.  
I barely got the ignition coil  
working again and now the Nav  
console keeps losing power.

DORUN  
You better not be breaking my ship.

ARIANNE  
I'm the only reason this junker can  
even get off the ground.

ARIANNE flips several switches. A negative sounding "wump" responds.

ARIANNE (CONT'D)  
Or not.

She tries again. Same negative Wump.

ARIANNE (CONT'D)  
"Wump"? You're not supposed to  
"Wump". When I start primary  
ignition you go "Dee-Dee-Deep".

ARIANNE taps at the panel looking for the issue.

ARIANNE (CONT'D)  
It can't be the Nav causing this.  
We have enough fuel. Ignition coil  
OK. Oh. Oh that's not good.

CUT TO:

INT. CREW SAFEHOUSE, AKEEN SLUMS - SAME TIME

EKELLE  
You said you would help us!

DORUN  
I said I *could* help you, there's a  
difference.

ARIANNE  
(From communicator)  
Dorun, we have a problem. Something  
is blocking engine startup.

Pause

ARIANNE (CONT'D)  
All ships on the planet are  
affected.

Worried look shared by DORUN/ELLIS

ELLIS  
Imperial Inhibitor Tech.

DORUN  
The situation is worse than I  
thought.

EKELLE  
What's going on?

ELLIS  
The Empire has overridden control  
of all ships on the planet.

DORUN  
Only authorized Imperial ships are  
able to fly.

EKELLE  
That means-

DORUN

It means that the Empire knows all about your revolt.

EKELLE

Thats... That's not possible.

DORUN

Our safehouse gets raided the same day all ships on the planet are grounded? The Empire is making their move.

ELLIS

What do we do?

DORUN

What I've been saying all along. We have to get off this planet.

[ROLL TITLE CREDITS]

INT. AKEEN SLUMS SAFEHOUSE

DORUN

So we have a planet about to tear itself apart, a ship that can't fly, and the most dangerous troops in the galaxy between us and freedom. What do we do?

Silence.

DORUN (CONT'D)

Well don't everyone speak at once.

TARSIS

Can we hack in and clear our ship for launch?

ELLIS

I have access codes that can get us into the Imperial Network.

DORUN

Too suspicious. They'll have cruisers patrolling, we'll be shot down before we get into orbit.

EKELLE

I have to warn the others.

TARSIS

I say we go in blasters blazing.

ELLIS

Tarsis, we won't get far if we just start shooting. We still have those Imperial uniforms from the Ikketar job. We could get into the Restricted Zone without firing a shot.

TARSIS

Ellis, The last time we used those uniforms I nearly got blasted at the first checkpoint!

ELLIS

Well if you hadn't called him a drunken Telosin maybe it wouldn't have blown our cover!

EKELLE

We can still save the rebellion but we have to act now!

DORUN

OI!

Everyone's attention snaps to Dorun

DORUN (CONT'D)

I've made my decision. And we're doing it your way.

ELLIS

Uh. Who's way?

DORUN

All of yours.

TARSIS

Huh?

DORUN

We won't get far if we try and shoot our way in, but those uniforms will only get us so far. Tarsis, that means you get to shoot something today.

Tarsis looks pleased.

EKELLE

But the rebel-

DORUN  
 (interuppting)  
 -The rebellion can help us help  
 them. I assume whatever plan you  
 had for this uprising includes  
 having flyable ships?

Ekelles reluctantly nods.

DORUN (CONT'D)  
 Then taking down that Inhibitor  
 helps us both.

TARSIS  
 So... what are we gonna do?

DORUN  
 Ekelles, contact the rebellion. Tell  
 them that if they want to be useful  
 to meet us North of the Bazaar in  
 one hour. We're going back to the  
 ship to get ready.

ELLIS  
 Ready for what, exactly?

DORUN  
 The Empire's made their move, it's  
 time we made ours.

TARSIS  
 There's an intergalactic army  
 between us and that Inhibitor.

EKELLE  
 The rebellion doesn't trust you.

ELLIS  
 We have no time to prepare for this  
 plan.

The camera closes on Dorun, totally confident.

DORUN  
 Perfect.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SHIP: WINDSWIFT; MAIN ROOM  
 The main room is cramped, lived-in, with a small cluttered  
 table on one side and a cylindrical console on the other.  
 Open to see Dorun dressed in an officers uniform.



He looks slightly uncomfortable. Ellis beside him is dressed in Imperial soldiers armor. They size each other up.

ELLIS  
You look terrible.

DORUN  
These uniforms never did fit me.

Enter Tarsis, also in soldier uniform. He is heavily armed, comically so.

ELLIS  
You must be joking.

TARSIS  
What?

DORUN  
One gun, Tarsis. You'll raise suspicion.

ELLIS  
He'll raise hell.

Tarsis sniffs, but accepts. He pulls out the CAMO ENERGY SHIELD and SENSOR DISRUPTION MINE, laying the equipment out on the table.

TARSIS  
(Petuently)  
Fine, but I am bringing these. Camo energy shield, sensor disruption mine, and *this*.

Tarsis pulls out an UNKNOWN GRENADE

ELLIS  
What is it?

TARSIS  
(with a child's wonder)  
I have no idea. I got it off a arms dealer back on Ungvar Four.

ELLIS  
And he didn't tell you what it was?

TARSIS  
He... didn't get the chance.

ELLIS  
You stole it.

Tarsis sputters thinking of a lie

DORUN  
He stole it.

ELLIS (CONT'D)  
He stole it.

Enter Ekelle with KURDEER, a Middle Eastern man who looks like he's endured a hard life.

DORUN (CONT'D)  
How did you get on my ship? How did you even know where my ship was?

EKELLE  
Perhaps you should give the Resistance more credit.

DORUN  
(To Kurdeer)  
We'll see about that. I don't like strangers on my ship.

KURDEER  
I am Kurdeer.

DORUN  
Well Kurdeer you can call me Dor-

KURDEER  
You are Dorun Pepsis Ryzer, owner of the cargo freighter *Windswift* and the legitimate trading business you run from it. Of course, that's a front for the blackmarket and mercenary outfit you run.

DORUN  
You know my middle name. Ellis didn't even know my middle name. Perhaps I *should* give your little rebellion more credit.

KURDEER  
We know much, Captain Ryzer-

DORUN  
I'm no captain. Call me Dorun.

KURDEER  
As you wish, Dorun. Although now that I see this ship, I do not think *Windswift* is an appropriate name.

DORUN

She's faster than she looks.

KURDEER

I doubt that. Regardless, Ekelle has convinced me to meet with you.

TARSIS

Too late, the Empires already sprung their trap.

DORUN

I assume our safehouse wasn't the only one raided?

KURDEER

Many of our comrades have been captured. What's more concerning is our grounded ships. Ekelle says you can help us.

DORUN

We can help each other. Come.

Dorun motions for everyone to gather around the cylindrical console. After punching a few buttons a 3D hologram appears suspended from the base of the console. The hologram shows 3D blueprints of a large facility. Different sections highlight in a loop, notes pointing to different rooms/sections.

DORUN (CONT'D)

This is the Governor's Fortress. Since the Empire took control, this facility has become the center of government administration for the entire planet. If the Inhibitor is going to be anywhere, it will be here.

EKELLE

That complex is huge. The Inhibitor could be anywhere in there.

DORUN

An inhibitor that can stop ships planet-wide is going to be large. Very large. Also, it would have to be installed quite recently, or we would have seen the signs.

ELLIS

Has there been any large construction efforts near the Fortress?

DORUN

I don't know. We could only get blueprints from the initial construction.

TARSIS

So we don't know about any changes since it was built. Great.

KURDEER

But we do. We have been watching the Fortress for some time. On the west side, here **[points to blueprint]**, an extension to the spaceport is underway.

EKELLE

Security is high there. Too high for simple construction.

DORUN

That has to be it. I think I might be impressed after all.

TARSIS

So how do we get in?

DORUN

(To Kurdeer)

You're not going to like this.

Kurdeer eyes Dorun suspiciously.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. IMPERIAL INHIBITOR; GOVERNORS FORTRESS; PLANET GULON II

The camera shows a beautiful, statuesque blonde with a clean, commanding uniform, hair pulled back in a severe ponytail. With an aura of absolute authority, Imperial Adjunct STEELA POLIS stands at a console, aides bustling around her. Hologram projections flank the Adjunct showing supply rates, troop positioning and other logistical information.

She taps at the holograms, dismissing some, highlighting others. An Aide, HARPER, approaches with a holographic tablet in hand, saluting Steela.

STEELA

Status Report.

HARPER

Troop positioning planet-wide is underway, as per your orders. The Inhibitor is running sufficiently, but Engineering continues to report facility-wide system failures due to the power required to operate it.

STEELA

Tell them to work with what they have. It is imperative the Inhibitor stays active.

HARPER

Yes, sir. Also, raids against rebel safehouses are complete, but were less successful than projected.

STEELA

Explain.

HARPER

Many were empty by the time we got there.

Steele waits a beat, considering.

STEELA

Bad intel?

HARPER

We're interrogating our informants now, but it appears the targets were warned by an outside source.

Steele frowns.

STEELA

(to herself)

There's an unknown variable here.  
(To Harper) Get me the raid debriefings. Something is off, and we can't afford any surprises.

HARPER

Yes sir, right away sir.

Harper retreats. As she leaves through the door, GOVERNOR KASSUS enters. A belligerent man with a receding hairline and a glib demeanor.

AIDE

Atten-HUT!

Everyone snaps to attention, not Steela. She closes her eyes, gathering strength to deal with another distraction.

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
Everyone out!

STEELA  
Halt! Everyone stays.

Everyone in the room shifts uncomfortably, unsure of the protocol. No one leaves, and Kassus snarls- not used to be outranked. He stalks towards Steela.

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
Do you have any idea the danger  
you've put us in? Your orders have  
put my entire defense force in  
disarray. Hell the Fortress is  
nearly undefended, rebels could  
walk right in!

Steela wait a long beat before answering. Aides and attendants in the room strain to appear uninterested.

STEELA  
Kassus, you are simple, weak,  
coward.

Kassus face flushes, rage building. Seeing this, Steela's head of security, OTIB, steps forward. He gives Kassus a threatening look. As the Governor regains control of his emotions, Steela dismisses Otib with a lazy hand gesture.

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
(tightly controlled)  
I had hoped, Steela, we could have  
a civil discussion-

STEELA  
You refer to me as Adjunct, Kassus.  
Imperial Adjunct. The only one on  
this backwards planet that outranks  
you.

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
I am not disputing that, but I have  
several concerns-

STEELA  
I am not disputing that *sir*. You  
don't seem to be getting the point,  
Governor.

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
Apologies... sir.

STEELA  
Let me be clear, I have full  
authority on this planet. Troops,  
supplies, even you. I could order  
you to the front line if I wanted  
to.

Kassus blanches at the prospect.

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
You wouldn't dare!

STEELA  
Try me.

Kassus waits before answering, his anger subsiding as he  
swallows his pride.

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
With respect... Sir... It is my  
duty to raise concerns about your  
coming offensive. My... Our troops  
are stretched too thin. This  
Fortress is barely defended.

Steela lightens slightly hearing his tone.

STEELA  
Your concerns have been noted,  
Governor. The troops guarding this  
facility have been moved to  
reinforce key positions. This  
Inhibitor protects the Fortress  
now. Without ships no enemy can  
approach in force.

A wall to the Adjuncts side is revealed to be part of a very  
large, complex machine. The Planetary Ship Inhibitor.  
Engineers huddle near open compartments of the machine at  
various locations.

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
And if the rebels do find a way to  
attack the fortress?

STEELA  
I don't want to be on this planet  
any longer than I have to be,  
Governor. Attacking this Fortress  
would be a suicide mission.

GOVERNOR KASSUS

But-

STEELA

That is quite enough, Governor. You are dismissed.

Kassus nearly chokes at the abrupt dismissal.

GOVERNOR KASSUS

Yes, sir.

Kassus leaves, walking quickly while snapping at his attendants. Steela is briefly pleased before returning to her reports.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CREW FREIGHTER: MAIN ROOM

Establishing shot of the Windswift in a crowded public shipyard. Cut to inside the main room of the ship.

KURDEER

(hostile)

You want us to do what!?

EKELLE

This is a suicide mission!

DORUN

It's the only way.

EKELLE

It's lunacy.

DORUN

It will work!

KURDEER

Let me get this straight. You want to us to march up to the Restricted Zone checkpoint and *get arrested*?

DORUN

Well, I'll be the one arresting you, but yeah that's the jist.

KURDEER

Who do you think you are?



DORUN

The only one on this planet that  
can get your ships off the ground.

A long beat. Kurdeer and Ekelle share a look.

EKELLE

We'll do it.

KURDEER

What? Ekelle! He can't be trusted!

Kurdeer pulls Ekelle aside. A hushed, heated conversation ensues, words indistinguishable. Body language shows Ekelle getting the upper hand. It's obvious they're "together".

Kurdeer acquiesces, turns back to group.

KURDEER (CONT'D)

(begrudgingly)

Fine. We will be at the Bazaar as  
you ask. If this is some trick-

DORUN

It's not a trick. (To Ekelle) Thank  
you.

EKELLE

Tell me, truthfully. Will this  
work?

DORUN

It has to.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CHECKPOINT BAZAAR - AKEEN SLUMS; GULON II

Open to show Dorun, Ellis, and Tarsis walking through an abandoned bazaar. Stalls are fully stocked, animals feast on unguarded foodstuffs, it looks like the area was abandoned in a hurry. The trio are on edge as they make their way through the bazaar.

TARSIS

Where is everyone?

ELLIS

People smell trouble. Only fools  
would be out here when the Empire  
cracks down.

TARSIS  
Including us?

ELLIS  
Especially us.

As they pass through the bazaar they nearly miss Ekelle and Kurdeer standing inconspicuously near one of the stalls.

EKELLE  
Psst.

The trio spin nervously, raising their weapons.

KURDEER  
I would ask you to not shoot us.

TARSIS  
You scare me like that again I'll shoot you out of principle.

DORUN  
Ekelle, Kurdeer. I do hope there will be more joining us?

EKELLE  
You do not see them?

Ekelle motions with her hand. Several poorly dressed rebels appear from nowhere, evidently blended in with the area.

DORUN  
Very good. Alright, my alias should get us through the checkpoint. With any luck we'll walk right through.

ELLIS  
And if we don't have any luck?

Dorun gives Ellis a look.

DORUN  
We improvise. Tarsis, show them how it's done.

Tarsis takes on the demeanor of a drill sergeant.

TARSIS  
MOVE IT YOU SLOVENLY LOT. I HAVEN'T SEEN A SADDER DISPLAY OF SLUMRATS IN MY ENTIRE LIFE. MOVE IT!

The rebel group is surprised, some taking offence.

TARSIS (CONT'D)  
 (conspiratorially)  
 This won't work if it looks like  
 you're going to jump me, put your  
 heads down and play the part... AND  
 IF I SEE SO MUCH AS A FINGER OUT OF  
 PLACE I'LL PERSONALLY RIP YOUR  
 THROAT OUT.

ELLIS  
 (privately to Dorun)  
 He enjoys this a bit too much...

The group, led by the Imperial-disguised crew march towards  
 the checkpoint.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RESTRICTED ZONE CHECKPOINT - LATE AFTERNOON

The group arrive near the end of the bazaar. Abruptly the  
 bazaar ends and the scene opens up to a fortified military  
 complex.

The "checkpoint" turns out to be very large gates surrounded  
 by heavily armed soldiers. Watchtowers, gun nests, barbed  
 wire, a small army defends the area. The gates are closed,  
 guards dot the various watchtowers surrounding the area. A  
 main guardhouse sit behind fortified heavy weaponry.

The disguised trio march the rebel group through to the  
 checkpoint proper, a small outpost in front of the massive  
 metal gates. Soldiers watch the group pass with a range of  
 looks ranging from boredom to confusion to apathy.

Tarsis stops the group in front of the outpost.

TARSIS  
 HALT!

An imperial trooper rushes towards the crew. He salutes  
 Dorun.

CHECKPOINT GUARD  
 Sir! Apologies sir, we do not have  
 your arrival on the order sheet,  
 Officer \_\_\_?

DORUN  
 (haughty, a bit forced)  
 Never mind, soldier. I assume our  
 transport is ready.

Ellis and Tarsis share a look. "Really, that's your Officer voice?"

CHECKPOINT GUARD  
Uhh... sorry sir... uhh... let me  
check with the Duty Officer.

Dorun shares a look with Ellis/Tarsis

DORUN  
Very well.

The soldier turns away and calls it in. Ellis turns to his companions.

TARSIS  
A lot of troops here for a simple  
checkpoint.

ELLIS  
It must be a staging area for  
whatever the Empire has planned.

DORUN  
This was a mistake.

TARSIS  
Too late now.

The guard turns back to the group.

CHECKPOINT GUARD  
One moment, the Officer is on his  
way.

A rotund officer steps out of the Checkpoints main office. Red cheeks snarl as he tucks his top into his trousers and marches towards the group. He barks some orders at some nearby troopers as he makes his way to the group.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTRICTED ZONE CHECKPOINT - CONTINUOUS

Dorun sees the Officer heading his way. He turns quietly to Ellis.

DORUN  
(quietly)  
We have a problem. He outranks me.

Ellis doesn't have time to react as the officer reaches the group.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER  
What the hell is this?

Dorun snaps to attention.

DORUN  
Sir. Junior Dominant Reese Karsor reporting.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER  
Junior Dominant Reese Karsor what the hell are you doing at my checkpoint? And why the hell do you have these stinking slumrats with you?

Dorun looks at the rebels, seeing flashes of anger from the group he puts his hand on the officer's arm.

DORUN  
(quietly, respectfully)  
Perhaps sir, it would be best if we chatted in private.

The officer casts a look of disgust across the rebels

CHECKPOINT OFFICER  
Come.

The Officer leads Dorun his private office in the main guardhouse.

CUT TO:

INT. CHECKPOINT OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The office is tastefully furnished. The warm, inviting room is decorated with cultural artifacts and emits a warm glow-stark contrast to the efficient functionality of the rest of the checkpoint. Hand-sized native statues stand on a cabinet on one of the walls. As the officer leans on his main desk, Dorun goes to the statues.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER  
Well?

DORUN  
These are original Gulonese ritual statues, aren't they?

CHECKPOINT OFFICER  
Cut the crap, Junior Dominant.

Dorun turns toward the Officer and leans back against the cabinet.

DORUN

Sir, my orders are to publicly arrest and transport those informants.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER

Informants?

DORUN

Yes sir, rebels considered assets by the Intelligence Division.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER

If they're "assets" why arrest them?

DORUN

My guess, sir, is to maintain their cover.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER

Just like Intelligence to waste my time.

DORUN

Yes sir.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER

So you've come to my checkpoint with a dozen rebels on some halfbaked plan to arrest them?

DORUN

Thats... Exactly right, sir.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER

Wasted effort. These Gulon's are cattle. I was posted at Hyrus Seven. Now *they* were something.

DORUN

I heard about Hyrus Seven. Violent.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER

These fringe planets are all the same. Get the natives under the heel of your boot. Then squeeze.

Dorun shakes off the disgust. Checkpoint Officer frowns, smelling weakness. He shifts off the desk he was leaning against and shifts towards Dorun suspiciously.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER (CONT'D)  
(menacingly)  
Where are you stationed out of,  
Junior Dominant?

DORUN  
(hesitant)  
Central Planets... mostly... This  
is my first tour on the Outer Rim.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER  
You soft Centralites. That's what I  
hate. I've been out here for years.

DORUN  
Yes... Sir-

CHECKPOINT OFFICER  
I'm not finished! You Centralites  
are all the same. Cozy posts on  
safe planets, only coming out here  
to sniff out a promotion. I'm  
bringing civilization to these  
savages. What have you done?

DORUN  
I'm just following orders, sir.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER  
Well I'm giving you an order to get  
out of my sight!

DORUN  
Sir... I'd be happy to, as soon as  
you give us a troop transport.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER  
(exploding)  
WHAT? You think I'm going to give  
you one of MY transports?

The officer gets closer to Dorun.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER (CONT'D)  
You impetuant little man. Do you  
have any idea who I am?

The officer is getting closer. A closeup shot shows Dorun's  
hand groping for one of the statues, his eyes remaining on  
the Officer. The officer is breathing down Dorun's neck.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER (CONT'D)  
I'll have you buried Junior  
Dominant, you hear me, buried!

Dorun swings the statue across the head of the Officer in one smooth motion. He's dead before he hits the ground.

DORUN  
Looks like you'll be the one  
getting buried.

Dorun rushes to the door, listening to see if anyone outside heard. Satisfied, he goes to the console on the main desk, authorizing a transport.

Task complete, Dorun moves to the Officer, taking a keycard and a communicator. He takes a moment to compose himself before leaving the office, closing the door behind him.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESTRICTED ZONE CHECKPOINT - CONTINUOUS

DORUN  
The transport is being readied now.

Dorun moves to the checkpoint guard.

DORUN (CONT'D)  
The good officer says he's not to  
be disturbed. He didn't seem to be  
in a very good mood, I suggest you  
listen.

The guard is well aware of his Officer's temper.

CHECKPOINT GUARD  
Yes sir.

The guard leaves and returns to his post, giving the order to open the gates. As the large doors open, Dorun returns to the group.

ELLIS  
(quietly)  
What happened?

DORUN  
(quietly)  
I improvised.

CUT TO:



EXT. CHECKPOINT LANDING PAD - CONTINUOUS

Behind the gates a landing port for small ships sits with a number of troop transports. One is being prepped for launch. The group approaches the ship.

DORUN

We don't have much time. You still know how to fly those things right?

Dorun motions to the transport.

ELLIS

Well I'm no ace fighter pilot like Arianne, but I can fly it.

DORUN

You'll have to. We can't afford to land in the main spaceport. We won't be able to slip away.

ELLIS

So what do we do?

DORUN

What do you have to do? Deal with it.

Ellis blanches, but covers it up quickly. Dorun nods for Ellis to put the ruse back up as the group approaches the ship.

CUT TO:

EXT. TROOP TRANSPORT - CONTINUOUS

Ship technicians check the ship as the group approach. They ignore the group as they disconnect hoses and tap at diagnostic panels. Tarsis pushes the rebels towards the large main door of the transport.

TARSIS

Move it!

The rebels file in and Tarsis orders the doors to be closed. He joins Dorun and Ellis as they make their way towards the cockpit entrance.

CUT TO:

## INT. TROOP TRANSPORT COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

The cockpit features four seats two by two, with the entrance to the rear of the cockpit. The pilot is in the left front seat, Ellis takes the seat beside him, Dorun and Tarsis sit in the backseats.

PILOT  
Destination?

DORUN  
Governor's Fortress.

PILOT  
Strap in.

CUT TO:

## EXT. TROOP TRANSPORT - CONTINUOUS

The ship technicians scatter before the ship takes off, turning in a smooth arc away from the landing pad.

DISSOLVE TO:

## EXT. TROOP TRANSPORT - EARLY EVENING

The transport flies in the air, breaking through light clouds.

CUT TO:

## INT. TROOP TRANSPORT COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

We see an indifferent pilot, a self-conscious Ellis, an impatient looking Dorun, and a snoring Tarsis.

Ellis is quite busy not looking at Dorun. Fed up, Dorun leans forward and tugs Ellis' shoulder. Ellis gestures "who me?", Dorun "Get on with it". Ellis "Ok, ok, I'll do it.". Dorun "I'm watching you." All this without a sound.

ELLIS  
Ah... We... We need you to land  
somewhere else.

PILOT  
What are you talking about?

Dorun shoots Ellis with a "Not good enough" expression. Ellis considers his options.

He moves to speak again, but stops before saying anything. He grows frustrated, then realizes what he's going to do. He looks to Dorun, then the Pilot.

ELLIS  
Sorry about this.

PILOT  
What?

Ellis punches the Pilot hard, then brings his hand back and shakes it off, realizing the stupidity of punching a man with a helmet on in the head. The Pilot looks at Ellis confused. Seeing his gambit failing, Ellis punches the Pilot again, this time on the jaw.

The punch is enough to lurch the transport, a quick camera shot in the main compartment shows the rebels falling over with the unexpected shift in direction. Tarsis wakes abruptly.

TARSIS  
(half-dreaming)  
What? Aww yeah GUT HIM!

The Pilot tries to grab Ellis, who attempts to strike the pilot again. The Pilot fends off the attack, getting a decent hold on Ellis and pulling him down. From his viewpoint, Ellis sees a red "Eject" lever on the pilots chair. Ellis breaks from the Pilots grip, strikes again, then puts both hands on the lever. The pilot looks down, realizing what Ellis is going to do. He looks back up to Ellis.

PILOT  
(sad and scared)  
Please no.

ELLIS  
I said I was sorry.

Ellis pulls the lever. The Pilots chair explodes laterally from his side of the ship with awesome force. The other seats are unaffected, and Ellis flails to catch his grip. The room roars as air rushes in the cockpit.

Ellis manages to get back into his seat, and struggles to get the ship back under control. The ship is roaring with a rising pitch like a WWII dive bomber. Pulling up, he finally gets the ship back on course and puts on the comm helmet.

CUT TO:

INT. FLIGHT CONTROL CENTER, GOVERNORS FORTRESS - CONTINUOUS

Flight Control isn't a hard job, mostly tedious, but the last several weeks have been particular bad with long days and few breaks. The message that a Troop Transport has just had an ejection event sparks mild interest in an otherwise exhausted Flight Controller.

FLIGHT CONTROLLER

Transport Three-Seven-Two this is Flight Control. We just detected an ejection event on your ship, please respond.

[Intercut between Flight Control Interior and Transport Cockpit Interior]

Ellis is startled, not exactly sure what to do.

FLIGHT CONTROLLER (CONT'D)

I say again, we've detected someone ejecting from your ship. Please respond.

ELLIS

Uh... Everything is fine here, I don't know what you're talking about.

FLIGHT CONTROLLER

Transport Three-Seven-Two your ship has clearly logged an ejection event. You're also showing significant yaw drag.

ELLIS

No, no ejection here. Your sensors must be off.

The Flight Controller scoffs.

FLIGHT CONTROLLER

Our sensors are working just fine. You-

ELLIS

Look I don't know what to tell you. I would know if someone ejected.

FLIGHT CONTROLLER

Your ship must be logging bad flight data.

Ellis struggles at the controls, the ejection hole has produced significant drag.

ELLIS

If you say so, she's running smooth on my end.

FLIGHT CONTROLLER

Transport Three-Seven-Two you're hereby ordered to Shipyard B-Nine-Alpha for immediate diagnostics and repair.

ELLIS

Oh kay.

FLIGHT CONTROLLER

Transport Three-Seven-Two correct your flight trajectory to Shipyard-

ELLIS

I have, your sensors must be off again.

FLIGHT CONTROLLER

Why I have never- Transport Three-Seven-Two I will have you written up so fast-

Ellis pulls off the helmet. As he speaks he alternates the helmet from close to far from his mouth.

ELLIS

Sorry... breaking up... Can't... hear you.

Ellis tosses the helmet out the ejection hole.

DORUN

What the hell was that?

ELLIS

Improvising.

Dorun looks towards Tarsis, who nods his head agreeably.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. IMPERIAL INHIBITOR; GOVERNORS FORTRESS - EARLY EVENING

Steela continues to sift through her hologram reports. She appears more stressed than before. Harper approaches.

HARPER  
Sir, you asked to be alerted if  
there was any odd reports?

STEELA  
Yes?

HARPER  
A transport has gone AWOL.

STEELA  
Oh?

HARPER  
We're attempting to determine the  
cause, it looks like equipment  
malfunction.

STEELA  
Where is the transport headed?

HARPER  
At it's current course it will  
arrive here in minutes.

STEELA  
Continue monitoring the transport,  
and find out where it came from.

HARPER  
Already on it, sir.

Steela dismisses Harper with a hand wave. As Harper leaves,  
she puts a hand to her ear as she receives a report. She  
frowns, realizes the relevance of the report and looks to  
Steela. She approaches Steela again.

HARPER (CONT'D)  
Sir, the transport was found to  
come from a checkpoint near the  
grand bazaar. The officer who  
ordered the transport has been  
found dead. It can't be  
coincidence.

STEELA  
Agreed.

HARPER  
I'll alert the Fortress Defenses.

STEELA  
Wait.

She closes her eyes, doing the math in her head.

STEELA (CONT'D)  
I won't give that sniffing  
Governor the satisfaction of  
knowing he was right. Otib, take  
your men and deal with it.

OTIB  
Yes, sir.

Otib gathers his troops with a hand gesture and leaves in a hurry.

STEELA  
Harper, are troop deployments  
completed.

HARPER  
Not yet, sir.

STEELA  
This purge can end the resistance  
on this planet tonight. We need  
those troops in place before we can  
start.

CUT TO:

INT. TROOP TRANSPORT - EARLY EVENING

ELLIS  
There it is.

CUT TO:

EXT. GOVERNORS FORTRESS - CONTINUOUS

The ship breaks through the clouds and reveals the magnitude of the Governors Fortress. With a length and width that measure in kilometers, the Fortress is massive.

Near the west side construction is underway, and ships buzz to and fro from the Fortress as bees from a hive. The transport speeds towards its destination.

CUT TO:

## INT. TROOP TRANSPORT - CONTINUOUS

DORUN

There, you can see the construction  
on the west side.

TARSIS

We can't fly right in, security  
will be too high.

ELLIS

He's right. Looks like there's an  
empty service bay just outside the  
construction zone.

DORUN

Do it.

CUT TO:

## EXT. LANDING SITE; GOVERNORS FORTRESS - CONTINUOUS

The landing site turns out to be a minor service bay for the  
major construction effort underway on the Fortress. While  
outside the construction zone proper, is littered with  
construction equipment, open panels and other errata.

Usually used as a shortcut for providing/retrieving  
equipment, the area is currently empty. Two large service  
doors are closed beside a small console coloured with  
distinct red "no entry" message.

The edge of the landing site is a sheer dropoff, a small  
outcropping on the massive structure.

The ship lands, a bit sloppily, and the main doors open.  
Dorun and the others meet with the shaken group of rebels.

EKELLE

Who the hell was flying that thing.

ELLIS

It's harder than it looks.

DORUN

Kurdeer, get your men behind cover.  
Tarsis, go with them. We'll have  
company soon enough. Ellis, let's  
get this door open.

The rebels spread out, taking cover near equipment and the  
transport. Dorun and Ellis run to the console. It's mostly  
red, with bright letters stating "AUTHORIZED ACCESS ONLY"



ELLIS  
Can you get in?

Dorun taps at the console, entering an authorization code.  
"ACCESS DENIED" responds.

DORUN  
My access code isn't good enough.

ELLIS  
Let me try.

Ellis takes over at the console. He taps for a bit, then reaches behind the console between the panel and the wall. Something short-circuits and the console goes black.

DORUN  
What did you do?

ELLIS  
Just hold on.

The console sputters to life. Instead of the brightly colored graphical interface seen before, a much more primitive terminal spews text. Ellis taps at the console.

DORUN  
Hurry up.

ELLIS  
Hold on, hold on.

DORUN  
We don't have much time!

ELLIS  
Would you let me concentrate? Just have to reroute power and...

Sirens start blaring as an alarm is tripped. Dorun and Ellis take a moment looking to look at each other.

DORUN  
Did you just trip the alarm?

ELLIS  
I don't know, that should have worked!

DORUN  
Did you just trip that alarm?

ELLIS

Well maybe if you had let me concentrate.

DORUN

I gave you one job.

ELLIS

What? You've given me like seventeen jobs, and pile more on before I can finish any. You don't show me any respect, you micromanage everything, and I always get the smallest room!

DORUN

Really, you want to have this conversation now?

Tarsis approaches.

TARSIS

What the hell is going on here?

DORUN

Ellis is dissatisfied with my management decisions.

TARSIS

What does that even mean? You know what, I don't care.

Tarsis shoots the wailing siren, it stops.

TARSIS (CONT'D)

We're sitting ducks out here.

Suddenly several troops, led by Otib, burst forth from around the corner. Blasters fire and several rebels go down.

TARSIS (CONT'D)

INCOMING!

Tarsis pushes Ellis towards some construction equipment and follows, shielding Dorun like a bodyguard as he follows. Both the rebels and the crew are pinned down by the suppressing fire.

Tarsis look past the cover, takes aim and fires. A trooper goes down. The rest of the troops scramble to get to cover themselves.

Otib slides towards some cover. While Imperial Troopers and Rebels exchange fire, Otib takes out a small sphere.

He presses a button on it then throws it in the air above him. Mid-air, the device snaps open along its seams, revealing a small jet and a camera.

Otib expands a holographic screen from his wristband. We see the flying devices camera perspective on the screen. From it's vantage we see the rebels and crew fighting. Enemies become highlighted in red, able to be seen even behind cover.

Pleased, Otib closes the tablet. On the back of head we see a helmet base (as part of his armor), Otib presses a button on the helmet and it expands to cover his face. Once fully covered, Otib looks towards the rebels. From his perspective, we see that he sees the red highlighted enemy generated by the flying device.

OTIB

You won't be getting away from me.

Otib fires. With his extended vision he's able to hit several rebels. Other rebels stop firing back, once again pinned by the troopers fire.

Tarsis sees the rebels go down. He looks at Dorun and Ellis, also trying to stay out of the line of fire. Expression firming with resolve, he jumps out from his cover. He fires while running towards the transport.

DORUN

Cover him!

As Tarsis charges, Dorun and Ellis lean out from their cover to help lay down suppressing fire, giving Tarsis a chance.

Tarsis makes it to the transport. He gets in and quickly turns the ship on. We see the transport hover, then turn towards the enemy troops.

ELLIS

What the hell is he doing?

We see Tarsis push the acceleration level all the way, then jump out of the ejection hole, rolling into a crouch. The transport speeds toward the enemy troops, who scramble to get out of the way. We see Otib realize whats coming and barely jump out of the way of the oncoming ship.

This ship takes out a few troopers, then continues to fly past. We follow the transport as it arcs towards a far tower on the Fortress. It collides in a massive explosion.

CUT TO:

INT. GOVERNORS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Governor Kassus sits at his desk tapping at holographic reports. The building shakes around him as he holds on for dear life. The shaking stops.

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
What the hell is going on?

He points to a confused attendant.

GOVERNOR KASSUS (CONT'D)  
Find out what happened. Quickly  
man.

CUT TO:

EXT. LANDING SITE - CONTINUOUS

Tarsis and the rebels continue shooting, several Troopers going down. We see Otib nearly get hit.

OTIB  
Fall back! With me!

The troopers follow Otib, firing as they retreat around the corner they had originally come from.

DORUN  
We need to get those doors open!  
They'll be back with  
reinforcements.

The crew and the rebels huddle by the door. Ellis taps at the console. He throws up his hands in futility. Suddenly, with no one touching the console, it lights up in a bright green color showing the words "ACCESS GRANTED". The doors open.

ELLIS  
I... I didn't do that.

EKELLE  
No time for standing around.

DORUN  
Get in!

The group files into the Fortress proper. Tarsis keeps an eye out as everyone files in, before bringing up the rear. Tarsis takes out the SENSOR DISRUPTION MINE, activates it, and tosses it behind him.

TARSIS

This will hide our tracks for a while.

From Otib's perspective, we see he sees the red outlined rebels are in the building from his vantage point.

OTIB

They've gotten in, follow me!

Otib charges around the corner and after the rebels. As he reaches the SENSOR DISRUPTION MINE an electric shock bursts forth. The troops squirm in pain momentarily. We see the red outlined targets Otib could see are gone. Otib deactivates his helmet.

OTIB (CONT'D)

Damn!

INT. INHIBITOR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Harper quickly approaches Steela.

HARPER

Sir, the transport we were tracking has collided-

STEELA

I know, Otib has failed to prevent the rebels from getting into the Fortress.

HARPER

What do we do?

STEELA

Order all remaining guards to rally here. The Inhibitor must be protected at all costs.

HARPER

Yes sir.

STEELA

And order the Purge to start.

HARPER

It's too early-

STEELA

Early be damned! We need to take back the initiative.

HARPER  
Yes sir.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ACCESS TUNNELS; GOVERNORS FORTRESS - EVENING

The crew and rebels enter a junction room with hallways leading in several different directions. They stop, unsure of which direction to choose.

EKELLE  
Where do we go?

ELLIS  
Where are we?

KURDEER  
Bad time to get lost.

TARSIS  
They won't be far behind, we need to move.

Dorun pulls up the holographic Fortress Blueprint from his wristband. Several levels zoom in to find the exact floorplan of their location.

DORUN  
We're close to a small armory. They should have explosives. We get the explosives, blow up the Inhibitor, get back to the ship and off this planet.

All eyes are on Dorun as he starts down one of the hallways.

DORUN (CONT'D)  
This way.

All eyes continue to follow as he turns around and heads for the exact opposite hallway.

DORUN (CONT'D)  
This way.

The others share an amused look before falling in after Dorun.

CUT TO:

## INT. GOVERNORS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

An attendant approaches the Governor. No longer sitting, Kassus leans over the desk imposing.

ATTENDANT

Sir, the Fortress is under attack.

GOVERNOR KASSUS

I knew it.

ATTENDANT

Insurgents are responsible for the explosion and we've confirmed they've penetrated the fortress.

GOVERNOR KASSUS

How many?

ATTENDANT

Unknown, sir. The Imperial Adjunct sent her personal guard, who lost them. Officially our orders are to rally at the Inhibitor.

GOVERNOR KASSUS

What? We should be hunting the enemy, not cowering as the enemy let's loose in my Fortress. As if the Inhibitor is the only thing here worth defending.

The Governor raps the table, coming to a decision.

GOVERNOR KASSUS (CONT'D)

It's time I paid the Adjunct another visit. She's over-extended herself.

The Governor moves to exit.

GOVERNOR KASSUS (CONT'D)

With me!

Attendants and troopers fall in behind the Governor as he confidently strides out the room.

CUT TO:

## INT. ARMORY ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Dorun carefully looks around a corner. Two guards flank a door marked "ARMORY". Dorun turns back to the group.

DORUN  
Tarsis, Ellis, you're with me.  
We'll deal with the guards. The  
rest of you follow.

The three round the corner, Dorun in front with Tarsis and Ellis flanking him. Dorun looks imperious in the officers uniform. The two guards snap to attention.

DORUN (CONT'D)  
Any trouble here?

No sir. GUARD 1 No sir. GAURD 2

DORUN  
You're in trouble now.

The guards looks confused. Ellis and Tarsis take the butt of their blaster and knock the guards out.

DORUN (CONT'D)  
We're in!

The rebels follow down the hallway and the group enter the armory.

INT. ARMORY - CONTINUOUS

The armory contains rows of blasters, grenades, armor and explosive devices. The group wander slightly awed by the display. Tarsis rounds a corner and squee's in excitement.

TARSIS  
It's so beautiful.

The camera reveals the object of Tarsis's delight. A large HEAVY REPEATER with attached backpack. Tarsis puts it on, laughing manically. Dorun and Ekelle share a look.

EKELLE  
I wonder what he's compensating  
for.

Dorun laughs, shaking his head.

DORUN  
There must be explosives here.

ELLIS  
Over here!

Ellis inspects a rack of small square explosives.



DORUN  
That'll do the trick. All of them.

Dorun opens a bag and starts pulling explosives into it. The others follow suit. While doing this, a small grenade scatters across the floor through the armory entrance.

KURDEER  
GET DOWN!

The bright light of a flashbang explodes in the room. Blinding white light, the room ringing with burst eardrums, words and noises subdued momentarily as imperial troopers charge through the armory entrance. Tarsis is the first to react.

TARSIS  
Oh no you don't.

Tarsis sets himself in a strong stance and pulls the trigger of the HEAVY REPEATER. The violent rate of fire is remarkable as troopers fly back from the force. Large rents in their armor is seen as they get hit with ship-grade laser fire. Weapon racks and other objects are torn asunder as the weapon rips the room apart.

TARSIS (CONT'D)  
WHOOO! WHOOO! GET SOME! GET  
SOOOOME!

The HEAVY REPEATER finally goes quiet, even though Tarsis still has his finger on the trigger. A message on the gun stock blinks "CHARGE DEPLETED". Tarsis' disappointment is clear. Laser fire resumes from the armory entrance and Tarsis jumps for cover, pulling the large weapon off.

DORUN  
Feel better?

TARSIS  
That was magical.

ELLIS  
Well I hope you enjoyed it, because  
we're trapped.

EKELLE  
That's the only entrance to the  
armory.

Laser fire from the troops outside makes it impossible to approach. Rebels take potshots out the door.

DORUN  
But it's not the only exit.

The three look to Dorun confused. Dorun takes out the explosives.

DORUN (CONT'D)  
Take these and place them around  
the room.

The three carefully place the explosives along the edges of the room. They meet back together.

DORUN (CONT'D)  
This is going to be loud and  
painful. Do it.

Ellis tosses a bag of explosives out the door. A large explosion is seen as laser fire hit the bag.

DORUN (CONT'D)  
Everyone in the middle of the room!

Rebels and the crew huddle together in the middle of the room. Dorun closes his eyes.

DORUN (CONT'D)  
Hold on!

Dorun presses the small trigger in his hand. The room around them explodes. The explosives blow holes in the floor and the floor below the group falls to the level below. Dust and debris scatter as the group picks themselves up from the rubble.

CUT TO:

INT. ARMORY ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Otib pulls himself from the floor, shaking off debris. He looks around at the dead and injured troopers around him. Other troopers also pick themselves up and check on their injured comrades.

OTIB  
This prey is clever.

Otib walks up to the entrance, which is deformed and covered with large debris.

OTIB (CONT'D)  
Fall in. We will not allow them  
slip away again.

Otib jogs down the hallway in search of his prey. Troopers fall in behind him.

CUT TO:

INT. ARMORY REMAINS - CONTINUOUS

Dust covered and dazed, the group gets up, patting themselves off and checking for wounds.

DORUN  
Everyone OK?

TARSIS  
Ellis isn't.

ELLIS  
What?

Ellis's armor is clearly ripped.

ELLIS (CONT'D)  
Good thing I was just borrowing  
this.

EKELLE  
Where are we?

DORUN  
Good question.

Dorun pulls up the blueprint, searching for their current position.

DORUN (CONT'D)  
Hmm. There's a detention center  
that way.

Dorun point down a hallway.

DORUN (CONT'D)  
But the Inhibitor is this way.

Dorun points to the other direction.

KURDEER  
We're close to the prison? Our  
comrades are there.

EKELLE  
We must free them.

Dorun thinks for a moment, then nods.

DORUN  
Go. We'll destroy the Inhibitor.

Dorun points to a section of the blueprint.

DORUN (CONT'D)  
There's a small landing bay here.  
We'll meet you there once the  
Inhibitor is down.

ELLIS  
Let's go.

DORUN  
Not you. We need to blend in, your  
armor is a dead giveaway.

ELLIS  
You can't-

DORUN  
Ellis, we don't have time. Go with  
them, they'll need your help.

ELLIS  
What about you?

Dorun pauses. He doesn't like this.

DORUN  
We'll muddle through.

It pains him, but Ellis accepts the logic.

ELLIS  
We better get to it then.

DORUN  
Remember, if anything goes wrong,  
improvise.

Ellis smiles, then turns towards the rebels.

ELLIS  
We don't have much time. Come on!

The rebels leave, leaving Dorun and Tarsis alone.

TARSIS  
I'm surprised we've made it this  
far.

DORUN  
Let's go.

The two head in the other direction.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. INHIBITOR ROOM - EVENING

Kassus enters the room imperiously. Attendants and aides flanking him.

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
Imperial Adjunct.

Steela looks up from her console.

STEELA  
(cooly)  
Governor.

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
I can only assume that your mishandling of this situation is due to your inability to accept I was right.

STEELA  
The situation is under control.

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
Adjunct, I am shocked how out of control the situation has become. Insurgents able to infiltrate our defenses, explosives ripping the Fortress apart, and what few troopers we have defending the wrong target.

STEELA  
The Inhibitor must be the target!

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
Adjunct, please. Their target is the prison. It has been all along.

STEELA  
How would they escape even if they did free the prisoners?

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
You give these rebels too much credit. They are a simple people with simple motivations.

STEELA  
They've been quite effective for  
"simple people".

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
Yes, Adjunct. They have. Something  
I intend to put a stop to right  
now.

The Governor steps away and addresses the troops in the room.

GOVERNOR KASSUS (CONT'D)  
ATTEN-HUT!

The troops snap to attention.

GOVERNOR KASSUS (CONT'D)  
(speaking to room)  
Enemies of the state have attacked  
us. As we speak they are  
infiltrating the detention center,  
and if successful, will release  
some of the most dangerous enemies  
on the planet. I am going to stop  
them. Anyone who values the careful  
peace we have brought to Gulon Two  
is welcome to join me, else show  
your true colors.

Troopers look uneasily at each other, then to Steela.

GOVERNOR KASSUS (CONT'D)  
Now, who's with me.

Nothing at first. Then, a brutal-faced veteran steps forward.

VETEREN  
I'm with you, SIR. And so is  
everyone else.

Kassus looks at Steela, daring her to overrule him. Steela  
holds his gaze, calculating. She relents, assenting with a  
hand wave. Kassus looks supremely pleased as he turns.

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
Do not stop until we have killed  
every one of them.

The veteran smiles as the troops form up.

VETEREN  
On me!

The troops file out. Kassus eyes Steela as the troops pass. Steela folds her arms, not giving Kassus a thing. As the last of the troops file out, Kassus gives a triumphant chin raise as he follows. Alone, Steela grabs a communicator from her workdesk.

STEELA

Otib, get back to the Inhibitor room. Now.

CUT TO:

INT. GOVERNORS FORTRESS HALLWAY 1 - CONTINUOUS

OTIB

Yes, Adjunct. On my way.

Otib puts down the communicator. He flashes to rage, punching and breaking a nearby door console. His squad backs away slightly, well versed in his violent outbreaks- not so much to draw attention, but enough to not be within striking distance. Otib returns to normal as quickly as he exploded. Without a word or a look to his squad, he turns around to head back to the Inhibitor Room.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GOVERNORS FORTRESS HALLWAY 2 - CONTINUOUS

Dorun and Tarsis walk down the corridor rigidly. Troops, officers, and various staff walk by without giving the two any notice.

TARSIS

Looks like it's working.

DORUN

Yes, but I don't have any idea where we're going. This section differs from my blueprints.

TARSIS

We don't have much time.

DORUN

I know.

Dorun pulls out his communicator.

DORUN (CONT'D)  
Ellis, what's your status?

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Ellis is behind cover, shooting at soldiers in a large room marked "DETENTION CENTER CONTROL ROOM". Rebels are spread out behind cover, also trying to blast their way through. Dead troopers are seen behind the rebels, they have obviously cut a bloody path through to the Control Room.

ELLIS  
We've hit resistance getting to the control room. We're almost in but they're not making it easy.

CUT TO:

INT. GOVERNORS FORTRESS HALLWAY 2 - CONTINUOUS

DORUN  
Well hurry up, you have trouble coming your way.

Dorun and Tarsis snaps to attention as Governor Kassus and his troops run past.

TARSIS  
There's no way they can survive that.

DORUN  
All the more reason we need to figure out where that Inhibitor is.

Rounding the corner Otib runs with his squad. Tarsis and Dorun snap back to attention. Otib doesn't notice them as he travels down the corridor and round the next corner.

TARSIS  
I'd put credits on where he's going.

DORUN  
Come on, let's follow.

The two jog after Otib.

CUT TO:



INT. PRISON CONTROL CENTER - EVENING

We see a trooper go down, Ellis overtop him. Rebels stream in from the entrance door behind Ellis.

ELLIS  
Open the cell doors, and arm the  
prisoners. We don't have much time.

EKELLE  
Here.

Ekelles taps at console.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON CELLS - CONTINUOUS

Cell doors open, and cheering prisoners rush out. Kurdeer and rebels pass out extra weapons among them. Ellis and Ekelles meet Kurdeer and the larger group of rebels/prisoners.

ELLIS  
We need to go.

Laser fire flies past Ellis, nearly hitting him. He jumps to cover. Troopers storm in from the entrance, blasters firing. The rebel group fires back.

ELLIS (CONT'D)  
We can't stay. Fall back, fall  
back!

Rebels start falling back to the far door. As they file out the door Ellis lays down fire from his position. Kurdeer is near him, also firing from cover.

KURDEER  
Go. Go now!

Ellis looks back at the rebels, most of them have gotten through the door. Ellis nods, then runs to join them. He reaches the door and looks back at Kurdeer.

ELLIS  
Kurdeer, let's go!

Kurdeer looks back, then runs towards the door. Laser fire hits him several feet from the exit. Ellis curses and Ekelles screams.

ELLIS (CONT'D)  
Kurdeer!

EKELLE  
NOOOO!

Ellis rushes forward shooting at the troopers, who are now swarming the detention center. Ellis grabs the wounded Kurdeer and pulls him back to the door. Ekelle lays down suppressing fire as the two return to the door. They get through as the Detention Center is totally overrun.

CUT TO:

INT. GOVERNORS FOTRESS HALLWAY 3 - CONTINUOUS

Ellis and Ekelle support Kurdeer as they continue their retreat.

KURDEER

Stop... Stop... I can't-

The group sets Kurdeer down. Ellis looks at the wound.

ELLIS

This looks bad.

KURDEER

It feels bad. I am not going to make it, I think.

EKELLE

No. Don't you dare say that.

KURDEER

You must go. Leave me here.

ELLIS

They're right behind us.

EKELLE

I don't care. You're all I have left. They've taken so much from me, I won't let them take you too.

KURDEER

I love you.

Ekelle is reduced to tears.

EKELLE

I love you.

Troopers are heard coming around the corner. Kurdeer pushes Ekelle towards Ellis.

KURDEER

Go. I will hold them off.

Ekelles resists, but Ellis pulls her away. He gives a nod of appreciation to Kurdeer, who smiles. Ellis throws an explosive to Kurdeer.

ELLIS  
Last explosive. Take as many of  
them as you can.

Kurdeer nods as Ellis pulls a devastated Ekelles away. Kurdeer lays his head back as he primes the explosive device. Humming softly, troopers reach the hallways.

CUT TO:

INT. EXIT HANGER ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Ellis drags Ekelles around the corner. Ekelles breaks from Ellis's grip.

EKELLE  
No. NO! I won't leave him.

Ekelles turns to go back, but a blast is heard from the hallway they just exited. Ekelles stops. Her head drops, then shoulders, until she crumples to the ground, sobbing. Ellis, at first moving to restrain her, consoles her instead.

ELLIS  
I'm so sorry.

EKELLE  
(to herself)  
What am I going to do? What am I  
going to do?

ELLIS  
Ekelles, listen to me.

Ekelles looks up at Ellis.

ELLIS (CONT'D)  
I know this pain is raw, I know it  
all too well. There will be time to  
mourn him, but right now we need to  
move.

Ekelles shakes her head, unable to move. Ellis grows slightly frustrated.

ELLIS (CONT'D)  
Kurdeer just sacrificed everything  
to give you a chance. Don't  
disrespect him.

Ekelles shoots Ellis with a dangerous look.

ELLIS (CONT'D)  
Lean into that anger. Honor him by  
killing them.

Ekelles closes her eyes and nods her head, pulling herself together.

EKELLE  
Let's go.

Ellis pulls Ekelles up and they retreat after the rebels.

CUT TO:

INT. INHIBITOR ROOM ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Otib runs through the Inhibitor Room entrance. Behind, Dorun and Tarsis follow carefully. Dorun pulls Tarsis to a stop.

DORUN  
There it is.

TARSIS  
What's the plan? There's a lot more  
of them than there are of us, and  
you're a terrible shot.

DORUN  
I'm not that bad.

TARSIS  
Dorun, you haven't hit a single  
target today.

DORUN  
Well... I'm more of the idea guy.

TARSIS  
So then what's your big idea for  
getting near that thing?

Dorun pauses, thinking. He lightens when he gets an idea.

DORUN  
We tell them to leave.

Tarsis drops his head, tired of hearing the same terrible idea over and over again.

DORUN (CONT'D)

What? No, this will work. You have the explosives, right?

Tarsis shows the satchel he has with him.

DORUN (CONT'D)

Good. I go in and I tell them that rebels are approaching. The explosive blows, they believe me, they run out to kill the rebels, we get to the Inhibitor.

TARSIS

That's not a very good plan.

DORUN

Do you have anything better.

Tarsis does not.

DORUN (CONT'D)

Then let's get to it already. Set the charge, then hang back as I approach.

Tarsis sets a charge. He looks at Dorun, nodding his head. Dorun steadies himself to attempt the ruse.

CUT TO:

INT. INHIBITOR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dorun steps through the entrance and turns into the room. As he approaches we see Otib and his squad milling about. The few squad troopers that notice Dorun don't seem to give him any mind as he walks steadily, if nervously. Steela is hard to make out with her back turned away, talking to an Aide.

We see Tarsis moving to a column behind Dorun. Switching back to Dorun's perspective we see Steela dismiss the Aide and turn towards Dorun. Dorun, getting his first good look at her, stops dead in his tracks. His face is set in a stunned expression, a mixture of shame and regret.

DORUN

Steela.

We see a close-up of Steela as she lays eyes on the approaching Dorun. She squints, trying to place him. Eyes widen, recognition. Recognition to love. Love to confusion. Confusion to betrayal. Betrayal to hatred.

Without saying a word, she pulls the gun out of Otib's hands. Amid Otib's confusion, she points the weapon at Dorun. We see Tarsis rush towards Dorun. Steela shoots as Tarsis collides into the still stunned Dorun.

Tarsis cries out in pain as the laser fire hits him, barely getting Dorun out of the way. The milling troopers don't waste any time readying their weapons and firing at the two.

Tarsis pulls out the CAMO ENERGY SHIELD and tosses it in front of them. It expands into a rectangle a few feet squared, the area see-through but with a slight color tinge. In the center of the rectangle a circular status bar appears along with an easy-to-read "100%". As the laser fire hits the shield, it ripples like a pebble in a pond. Each hit of a laser reduces the the circular status bar and the number slightly.

From Steela's perspective we see the device expand. On her side, the two disappear completely as the rectangle expands.

TROOPER

Where'd they go?

Otib activates his helmet. Once his face is covered, he presses another button near the helmet viewport. The viewport changes from a dull, uninteresting color to a red glow. From his perspective we see a world colored by heat-signatures. Dorun and Tarsis go from invisible in regular color to clearly visible heat-signatures.

OTIB

Activate Heat-Seeking Sensors!

The troopers comply, and as their helmets activate with the same reddish glow, they resume firing at the two.

The shield is degenerating quickly, in the mid-thirties percentile.

TARSIS

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

DORUN

Honestly, I didn't think we'd make it this far.

Tarsis smiles, then looks through the sheild again. He pulls out the UNKNOWN GRENADE.

TARSIS

Well, if I'm gonna die, I may as well figure out what this thing does.

Tarsis activates the grenade, then tosses it at the group of enemies. They get behind cover, but nothing happens. Seeing this, they continue firing.

TARSIS (CONT'D)

What? I'm going to kill the guy I stole that from!

Suddenly, the grenade 'pops'. Bright purple arcing lighting surrounds an expanding deep purple sphere. Loose objects shoot into the sphere. We see as the sphere fully expands, troopers have trouble standing their ground. The troopers start getting pulled into the sphere. They don't actually enter the sphere, but hover around it in a jumble. Steela and Otib are also caught.

Tarsis and Dorun are far enough away to not be affected. Seeing the display, Tarsis jumps up despite his wound. Awed by the interesting way to inflict pain, he gloats.

TARSIS (CONT'D)

YEAHHH! HOW YOU LIKE THAT? GET SOOOOME!

The sphere subsides quite quickly, and the enemies drop to the ground. It takes a moment to register that they have not been injured. Dorun realizes it, and starts pulling Tarsis towards the entrance they arrived through. Tarsis resists, not quite understanding the point of a grenade that doesn't kill things.

TARSIS (CONT'D)

They're not dead.

The enemy troopers have shaken off the experience and start picking up their guns, realizing themselves they haven't been killed. Dorun picks up the pace pulling Tarsis away.

DORUN

No, no they are not.

The two round the corner and leave the Inhibitor Room. Steela speaks to the troopers.

STEELA

Get them. I want them alive!

The Troopers, still slightly shaken, rush out hesitantly at first, then with more confidence.

CUT TO:

INT. INHIBITOR ROOM ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Dorun is supporting an injured Tarsis. Tarsis is starting to slump against Dorun.

DORUN  
You placed that charge?

TARSIS  
Uh-huh.

DORUN  
Have we passed it?

TARSIS  
Uh-huh.

DORUN  
Can you trigger it?

TARSIS  
Uh-huh.

Tarsis pull up a detonator and clicks it without any hesitation. Dorun is taken by surprise as the explosion at the door makes him stumble.

CUT TO:

INT. INHIBITOR ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Troopers fly back as the explosion hits them. Seeing this, Steela whirls to Harper.

STEELA  
Lock down the Fortress. Highest level.

HARPER  
Ma'am, our troops won't be able to get to the other rebels at highest level.

STEELA  
Do it!



Harper speaks into a communicator. Steela addresses the Troopers.

STEELA (CONT'D)  
Go around, they're not going  
anywhere. I want him alive!

CUT TO:

INT. INHIBITOR ROOM ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Dorun rights himself from the blast, Tarsis still leaning on him, and continues on. The Inhibitor Room Entrance is covered in debris. Dorun leads them down the hall, and as they reach the open door, it suddenly closes. The console to the side turns red: "AUTHORIZED ACCESS ONLY"

CUT TO:

INT. EXIT HANGER - SAME TIME

Ellis and the rebels are fighting off the approaching troops. They don't have anywhere else to retreat to, and every trooper they kill two more appear from the entrance.

Suddenly the entrance door slams shut, console going red. The troopers that just passed through turn and slam on the door, unsure why it's closed. They die as laser fire cuts them down. The other troopers look concerned as they continue fighting.

INT. EXIT HANGER ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

From the other side of the entrance door, we see confused looking troopers looking at the door. Governor Kassus approaches the door, angrily pushing and pulling troopers out of the way.

Kassus types in a key code on the door. "ACCESS DENIED". Kassus hits the console, now enraged. He turns to the troopers.

GOVERNOR KASSUS  
Open this door. I don't care how.  
Rip the walls out if you have to!

TROOPER  
Yes sir!

Kassus stalks off.

## INT. INHIBITOR ROOM ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Dorun tries to enter a code for the door. Nothing is working. Tarsis is leaning against the wall, nursing his wound. Dorun tries a locked down door beside the one he just tried. Also fails. Dorun throws up his hands in frustration.

DORUN

Well, that's it. We're finished.

Suddenly, the door he tried last clicks green. Dorun spins, looking at the console.

DORUN (CONT'D)

This isn't the first time today  
this has happened.

TARSIS

It's going the wrong way.

DORUN

We don't have much choice.

Dorun supports Tarsis as the door opens and they pass through.

CUT TO:

## INT. FORTRESS HALLWAY 4 - CONTINUOUS

Dorun and Tarsis walk down another hallway. All doors are locked as they go by. As they pass by another door, it clicks green.

TARSIS

It's gotta be a trap.

DORUN

They already had us trapped.

Tarsis looks doubtful as they turn towards the door. It opens into a waiting elevator. The two get in, the door closes, and before any button can be pressed, it's moving.

TARSIS

What the hell is going on?

DORUN

I don't know.

The elevator stops, and the door opens. A small hallway with a single door at the end.

TARSIS

I have a bad feeling about this.

The two approach the door cautiously. The console doesn't click green.

DORUN

Well don't stop now.

After another pause, the console clicks green and the door opens. We see a small room, filled with consoles. Only two people are inside, a trooper and TENNA. She is a young, short, slightly squat woman. White with tattoos, with blue hair. Despite the alternative look, she holds herself slightly awkwardly.

The trooper turns to the two, frowns. He realizes they're enemies and pulls out his gun. Dorun is faster as he shoots the trooper down. He trains his weapon on TENNA.

TENNA pulls away raising her keyboard in front of her for protection. Dorun pauses.

DORUN (CONT'D)

Is that, is that a *keyboard*?

TENNA hugs the keyboard defensively.

TENNA

I'm old school.

DORUN

How old are you?

TENNA

Younger than you, old man.

Dorun is shocked, it's the first time someone has called him an old man. He's not exactly sure how to react.

TARSIS

I like her.

Tarsis groans and slumps lower.

TENNA

Is he gonna die?

TARSIS

I've survived worse. I think.

DORUN

Who are you?

TENNA

Names Tenna, and I just happen to be the best damn hacker this side of the galaxy.

DORUN

I've never heard of you, "best damn hacker this side of the galaxy".

TENNA

The best hackers are the ones you don't hear about.

DORUN

Then what are you doing working here for *them*?

TENNA

Ah. Right. I crossed that blonde officer you've been pissing off.

DORUN

Ah.

TARSIS

Who the hell is she, anyways?

DORUN

My wife.

Tarsis bridles, Tenna whistles.

TENNA

You're telling me you're married to *Imperial Adjunct Steela Telomar*.

DORUN

She's an Adjunct now. Of course she is.

TENNA

Well unless you want to stick around for a family reunion, I brought you here for a reason.

DORUN

Oh, and what's that?

TENNA

To deal with him, mostly.

Tenna points to the downed trooper.

TENNA (CONT'D)

They don't leave me alone for a minute. Scared of what I might do with the access I have.

TARSIS

If you're as good as you say you are, I would have killed you.

DORUN

Steela has a penchant for using dangerous tools.

TENNA

I'm no tool, but I am dangerous.

DORUN

Dangerous enough to shut down the Inhibitor?

Tenna smiles

TENNA

With the elevated privileges they've given me, I going to bring this Fortress to its knees.