

STAR WARS
EPISODE VI
RETURN OF THE JEDI

Written by

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From a story by George Lucas

Third Draft

1

SPACE

1

The boundless heavens serve as a back-drop for the MAIN TITLE, followed by a ROLL-UP, which crawls into infinity.

Episode VI RETURN OF THE JEDI

Luke Skywalker has returned to his home planet of Tatooine in an attempt to rescue his friend Han Solo from the clutches of the evil gangster Jabba the Hutt. Little does Luke know that the GALACTIC EMPIRE has secretly begun construction on a new armored space station even more powerful than the first dreaded Death Star. When completed, this ultimate weapon will spell certain doom for the small band of Rebels struggling to restore freedom to the galaxy...

PAN DOWN to reveal a monstrous half-completed Death Star, its massive superstructure curling away from the completed section like the arms of a giant octopus. Beyond, in benevolent contrast, floats the small, green moon of ENDOR.

An Imperial Star Destroyer moves overhead toward the massive armored space station, followed by two zipping TIE fighters. A small Imperial shuttle rockets from the main bay of the ship and hustles toward the Death Star.

2

INT IMPERIAL SHUTTLE - COCKPIT

2

The shuttle captain makes contact with the Death Star.

SHUTTLE CAPTAIN

Command station, this is ST 321.
Code Clearance Blue. We're starting
our approach. Deactivate the
security shield.

DEATH STAR CONTROLLER (FILTERED VO)

The security deflector shield will be deactivated when we have confirmation of your code transmission. Stand by... You are clear to proceed.

SHUTTLE CAPTAIN

We're starting our approach.

3

INT DEATH STAR - CONTROL ROOM

3

Operators move about among the control panels. A SHIELD OPERATOR hits switches beside a large screen, on which is a display of the Death Star, the moon Endor, and a bright web delineating the invisible deflector shield.

A control officer rushes over to the shield operator.

OFFICER

Inform the commander that Lord
Vader's shuttle has arrived.

OPERATOR

Yes, sir.

The control officer moves to a view port and watches as the Imperial shuttle lands in the massive docking bay. A squad of Imperial stormtroopers moves into formation before the craft.

4

INT DEATH STAR - MAIN DOCKING BAY

4

The DEATH STAR COMMANDER, MOFF JERJERROD, a tall, confident technocrat, strides through the assembled troops to the base of the shuttle ramp. The troops snap to attention; many are uneasy about the new arrival. But the Death Star commander stands arrogantly tall.

The exit hatch of the shuttle opens with a WHOOSH, revealing only darkness. Then, heavy FOOTSTEPS AND MECHANICAL BREATHING. From this black void appears DARTH VADER, LORD OF THE SITH. Vader looks over the assemblage as he walks down the ramp.

JERJERROD

Lord Vader, this is an unexpected
pleasure. We're honored by your
presence.

VADER

You may dispense with the
pleasantries, Commander. I'm here
to put you back on

schedule.

The commander turns ashen and begins to shake.

JERJERROD

I assure you, Lord Vader, my men
are working as fast as they can.

VADER

Perhaps I can find new ways to
motivate them.

JERJERROD

I tell you, this station will be
operational as planned.

VADER

The Emperor does not share your optimistic appraisal of the situation.

JERJERROD

But he asks the impossible. I need more men.

VADER

Then perhaps you can tell him when he arrives.

JERJERROD (AGHAST)

The Emperor's coming here?

VADER

That is correct, Commander. And he is most displeased with your apparent lack of progress.

JERJERROD

We shall double our efforts.

VADER

I hope so, Commander, for your sake. The Emperor is not as forgiving as I am.

5

EXT ROAD TO JABBA'S PALACE - TATOOINE

5

A lonely, windswept road meanders through the desolate Tatooine terrain. We HEAR a familiar BEEPING and a distinctive reply before catching sight of ARTOO-DETOO and SEE-THREEPIO, making their way along the road toward the ominous palace of Jabba the Hutt.

THREEPIO

Of course I'm worried. And you should be, too. Lando Calrissian and poor Chewbacca never returned from this awful place.

Artoo whistles timidly.

THREEPIO (CONT'D)

Don't be so sure. If I told you half the things I've heard about this Jabba the Hutt, you'd probably short-circuit.

The two droids fearfully approach the massive gate to the palace.

THREEPIO (CONT'D)
 Artoo, are you sure this is the
 right place? I better knock, I
 suppose.

6

EXT JABBA'S PALACE - GATE

6

Threepio looks around for some kind of signaling device, then
 timidly knocks on the iron door.

THREEPIO (INSTANTLY)
 There doesn't seem to be anyone
 there. Let's go back and tell
 Master Luke.

A small hatch in the middle of the door opens and a spidery
 mechanical arm, with a large electronic eyeball on the end,
 pops out and inspects the two droids.

STRANGE VOICE
 Tee chuta hhat yudd!

THREEPIO
 Goodness gracious me!

Threepio points to Artoo, then to himself.

THREEPIO (CONT'D)
 Artoo Detoowha bo Seethreepiowha ey
 toota odd mischka Jabba du Hutt.

The eye looks from one robot to the other, there is a laugh
 then the eye zips back into the door. The hatch slams shut.
 Artoo beeps his concern.

THREEPIO (CONT'D)
 I don't think they're going to let
 us in, Artoo. We'd better go.

Artoo beeps his reluctance as Threepio turns to leave.
 Suddenly the massive door starts to rise with a horrific
 metallic SCREECH. The robots turn back and face an endless
 black cavity. The droids look at one another, afraid to
 enter.

Artoo starts forward into the gloom. Threepio rushes after
 his stubby companion. The door lowers noisily behind them.

THREEPIO (CONT'D)
 Artoo, wait. Oh, dear! Artoo.
 Artoo, I really don't think we
 should rush into all this.

Artoo continues down the corridor, with Threepio following.

THREEPIO (CONT'D)
Oh, Artoo! Artoo, wait for me!

7 INT JABBA'S PALACE - HALLWAY

7

The door slams shut with a loud crash that echoes throughout the dark passageway. The frightened robots are met by two giant, green GAMORREAN GUARDS, who fall in behind them. Threepio glances quickly back at the two lumbering brutes, then back to Artoo. One guard grunts an order. Artoo beeps nervously.

THREEPIO
Just you deliver Master Luke's
message and get us out of here. Oh
my! Oh! Oh, no.

Walking toward them out of the darkness is BIB FORTUNA, a humanlike alien with long tentacles protruding from his skull.

BIB
Die Wanna Wanga!

THREEPIO
Oh, my! Die Wanna Wauaga. We -- we
bring a message to your master,
Jabba the Hutt.

Artoo lets out a series of quick beeps.

THREEPIO (CONT) (CONT'D)
...and a gift.
(thinks a moment, then to
Artoo)
Gift, what gift?

Bib shakes his head negatively.

BIB
Nee Jabba no badda. Me chaade su
goodie.

Bib holds out his hand toward Artoo and the tiny droid backs up a bit, letting out a protesting array of squeaks. Threepio turns to the strange-looking alien.

THREEPIO
He says that our instructions are
to give it only to Jabba himself.

Bib thinks about this for a moment.

THREEPIO (CONT'D)
 I'm terribly sorry. I'm afraid he's
 ever so stubborn about these sort
 of things.

Bib gestures for the droids to follow.

BIB
 Nudd Chaa.

The droids follow the tall, tentacled alien into the
 darkness, trailed by the two guards.

THREEPIO
 Artoo, I have a bad feeling about
 this.

8 INT JABBA'S THRONE ROOM

8

The throne room is filled with the vilest, most grotesque
 CREATURES ever conceived in the universe. Artoo and Threepio
 seem very small as they pause in the doorway to the dimly lit
 chamber. Light shafts partially illuminate the drunken
 courtiers as Bib Fortuna crosses the room to the platform
 upon which rests the leader of this nauseating crowd: JABBA
 THE HUTT. The monarch of the galactic underworld is a
 repulsive blob of bloated fat with a maniacal grin. Chained
 to the horrible creature is the beautiful alien female dancer
 named OOLA. At the foot of the dais sits an obnoxious
 birdlike creature, SALACIOUS CRUMB. Bib whispers something in
 the slobbering degenerate's ear. Jabba laughs horribly, at
 the two terrified droids before him. Threepio bows politely.

THREEPIO
 Good morning.

JABBA
 Bo Shuda!

The robots jump forward to stand before the repulsive, loose-
 skinned villain.

THREEPIO
 The message, Artoo, the message.

Artoo whistles, and a beam of light projects from his domed
 head, creating a hologram of LUKE on the floor. The image
 grows to over ten feet tall, and the young Jedi towers over
 the space gangsters.

LUKE
 Greetings, Exalted One. Allow me to
 introduce myself.
 (MORE)

LUKE (CONT'D)

I am Luke Skywalker, Jedi Knight and friend to Captain Solo. I know that you are powerful, mighty Jabba, and that your anger with Solo must be equally powerful. I seek an audience with Your Greatness to bargain for Solo's life.

(Jabba's crowd laughs)

With your wisdom, I'm sure that we can work out an arrangement which will be mutually beneficial and enable us to avoid any unpleasant confrontation. As a token of my goodwill, I present to you a gift: these two droids.

Threepio is startled by this announcement.

THREEPIO

What did he say?

LUKE (CONT)

... Both are hardworking and will serve you well.

THREEPIO

This can't be! Artoo, you're playing the wrong message.

Luke's hologram disappears.

Jabba laughs while Bib speaks to him in Huttese.

JABBA (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)

There will be no bargain.

THREEPIO

We're doomed.

JABBA (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)

I will not give up my favorite decoration. I like Captain Solo where he is.

Jabba laughs hideously and looks toward an alcove beside the throne. Hanging high, flat against the wall, exactly as we saw him last, is a carbonized HAN SOLO.

THREEPIO

Artoo, look! Captain Solo. And he's still frozen in carbonite.

9 INT DUNGEON CORRIDOR

9

One of Jabba's Gamorrean guards marches Artoo and Threepio down a dank, shadowy passageway lined with holding cells. The cries of unspeakable creatures bounce off the cold stone walls. Occasionally a repulsive arm or tentacle grabs through the bars at the hapless droids. Artoo beeps pitifully.

THREEPIO

What could possibly have come over
Master Luke. Is it something I did?
He never expressed any unhappiness
with my work. Oh! Oh! Hold it! Ohh!

A large tentacle wraps around Threepio's neck. He manages to break free, and they move on to a door at the end of the corridor.

10 INT BOILER ROOM

10

The door slides open, revealing a room filled with steam and noisy machinery. The guard motions them into the boiler room, where they are met by a tall, thin humanlike robot named EV-9D9. Behind the robot can be seen a torture rack pulling the legs off a screaming baby work droid. A second power droid is upside down. As smoking branding irons are pressed into his feet, the stubby robot lets out an agonized electronic scream. Artoo and Threepio cringe as the guard grunts to EV-

NINEDENINE

Ah, good. New acquisitions. You are
a protocol droid, are you not?

THREEPIO

I am See-Threepio, human-cy...

NINEDENINE

Yes or no will do.

THREEPIO

Oh. Well, yes.

NINEDENINE

How many languages do you speak?

THREEPIO

I am fluent in over six million
forms of communication, and can
readily...

NINEDENINE

Splendid! We have been without an interpreter since our master got angry with our last protocol droid and disintegrated him.

THREEPIO

Disintegrated?

NINEDENINE (TO A GAMORREAN GUARD)

Guard! This protocol droid might be useful. Fit him with a restraining bolt and take him back to His Excellency's main audience chamber.

The guard shoves Threepio toward the door.

THREEPIO (DISAPPEARING)

Artoo, don't leave me! Ohhh!

Artoo lets out a plaintive cry as the door closes. Then he beeps angrily.

NINEDENINE

You're a feisty little one, but you'll soon learn some respect. I have need for you on the master's Sail Barge. And I think you'll fit in nicely.

The poor work droid in the background lets out another tortured electronic scream.

11 INT JABBA'S THRONE ROOM

11

The court of Jabba the Hutt is in the midst of a drunken, raucous party. Sloppy, smelly monsters cheer and make rude noises as Oola and a fat female dancer perform in front of Jabba's throne.

Jabba leers at the dancers and with a lustful gleam in his eye beckons Oola to come and sit with him. She stops dancing and backs away, shaking her head. Jabba gets angry and points to a spot next to him.

JABBA

Da Eitha!

The lovely alien shakes her head again and screams.

OOLA

Na Chuba negatorie Na! Na!
Natoota...

Jabba is furious and pulls her toward him, tugging on the chain.

JABBA

Boscka!

He pushes a button and, before the dancer can flee, a trap door in the floor springs open and swallows her up. As the door snaps shut, a muffled growl is followed by a hideous scream. Jabba and his monstrous friends laugh hysterically and several revelers hurry over to watch her fate through a grate.

Threepio cringes and glances wistfully at the carbonite form of Han Solo, but is immediately distracted by a gunshot offscreen. An unnatural quiet sweeps the boisterous gathering. On the far side of the room, the crush of debauchers moves aside to allow the approach of two guards followed by BOUSHH, an oddly cloaked bounty hunter, leading his captive, Han Solo's copilot, CHEWBACCA THE WOOKIEE.

Bib takes his place next to his disgusting master, and whispers into his ear, pointing at Chewbacca and the bounty hunter. Jabba listens intently, then the bounty hunter bows before the gangster and speaks a greeting in a strange, electronically processed tongue (Ubese).

BOUSHH (IN UBESE SUBTITLED)

I have come for the bounty on this Wookiee.

THREEPIO

Oh, no! Chewbacca!

JABBA (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)

At last we have the mighty Chewbacca.

Jabba lets out a loud, long, blood-curdling laugh and turns to Threepio, waving him closer. The reluctant droid obeys.

THREEPIO

Oh, uh, yes, uh, I am here, Your Worshipfulness. Uh... yes!

Jabba continues speaking, as Threepio nervously translates. Boushh listens, studying the dangerous creatures around the room. He notices BOBA FETT standing near the door.

THREEPIO (CONT'D)

Oh. The illustrious Jabba bids you welcome and will gladly pay you the reward of twenty-five thousand.

BOUSHH (IN UBESE SUBTITLED)
I want fifty thousand. No less.

Jabba immediately flies into a rage, knocking the golden droid off the raised throne into a clattering heap on the floor. Boushh adjusts his weapon as Jabba raves in Huttese and Threepio struggles back onto the throne. The disheveled droid tries to compose himself.

THREEPIO
Uh, oh... but what, what did I say?
(to Boushh)
Uh, the mighty Jabba asks why he
must pay fifty thousand.

The bounty hunter holds up a small silver ball in his hand. Threepio looks at it, then looks at Jabba, then back to the bounty hunter. The droid is very nervous and Jabba is getting very impatient.

THREEPIO (CONT'D)
Because he's holding a thermal
detonator.

The guards instantly back away, as do most of the other monsters in the room. Jabba stares at the silver ball, which begins to glow in the bounty hunter's hand. The room has fallen into a tense hush. Jabba stares at the bounty hunter malevolently until a sly grin creeps across his vast mouth and he begins to laugh.

JABBA (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)
This bounty hunter is my kind of
scum. Fearless and inventive.

Jabba continues.

THREEPIO
Jabba offers the sum of thirty-
five. And I suggest you take it.

Bib and the other monsters study the bounty hunter and wait for his reaction. Boushh releases a switch on the thermal detonator and it goes dead.

BOUSHH
Zeebuss.

THREEPIO
He agrees!

The raucous crowd of monsters erupts in a symphony of cheers and applause as the party returns to its full noisy pitch. Chewbacca growls.

As he is led away we spot LANDO CALRISSIAN, disguised as a skiff guard in a partial face mask. The band starts up and dancing girls take the center of the floor, to the hoots of the loudly appreciative creatures.

Boushh leans against a column with gunfighter cool and surveys the scene, his gaze stopping only when it connects with a glare from across the room. Boba Fett is watching him. Boushh shifts slightly, cradling his weapon lovingly. Boba Fett shifts with equally ominous arrogance.

12 INT DUNGEON CORRIDOR AND CELL 12

Gamorrean guards lead Chewie down the same hallway we saw before. When a tentacle reaches out at the Wookiee, Chewie's ferocious ROAR echoes against the walls and the tentacle snaps back into its cell in terror. It takes all the guards to hurl Chewie roughly into a cell, slamming the door behind him. Chewie lets out a pathetic howl and bangs on the iron door.

13 EXT JABBA'S PALACE 13

The palace is sitting in the light of the double sunset. On the road in front, a large toadlike creature flicks its tongue out for a desert rodent and burps in satisfaction.

14 INT JABBA'S THRONE ROOM - NIGHT 14

Silence. The room is deserted, only the awful debris of the alien celebration giving mute witness to the activity here before. Several drunk creatures lie unconscious around the room, snoring loudly.

A shadowy figure moves stealthily among the columns at the perimeter of the room and is revealed to be Boushh, the bounty hunter. He picks his way carefully through the snoring, drunken monsters.

Han Solo, the frozen space pirate, hangs spotlighted on the wall, his coffin-like case suspended by a force field. The bounty hunter deactivates the force field by flipping a control switch to one side of the coffin. The heavy case slowly lowers to the floor of the alcove.

Boushh steps up to the case, studying Han, and then turns to the controls on the side of the coffin. He activates a series of switches and, after one last hesitant look at Han, slides the de-carbonization lever. The case begins to emit a sound as the hard shell covering the contours of Han's face begins to melt away.

The bounty hunter watches as Han's body is freed of its metallic coat and his forearms and hands, previously raised in reflexive protest, drop slackly to his side. His face muscles relax from their mask of horror. He appears quite dead.

Boushh's ugly helmet leans close to Han's face listening for the breath of life. Nothing. He waits. Han's eyes pop open with a start and he begins coughing. The bounty hunter steadies the staggering newborn.

BOUSHH

Just relax for a moment. You're free of the carbonite.

Han touches his face with his hand and moans.

BOUSHH (CONT'D)

Shhh. You have hibernation sickness.

HAN

I can't see.

BOUSHH

Your eyesight will return in time.

HAN

Where am I?

BOUSHH

Jabba's palace.

HAN

Who are you?

The bounty hunter reaches up and lifts the helmet from his head, revealing the beautiful face of PRINCESS LEIA.

LEIA

Someone who loves you.

HAN

Leia!

LEIA

I gotta get you out of here.

As Leia helps her weakened lover to stand up, the relative quiet is pierced by an obscene HUTTESE CACKLE from the other side of the alcove.

HAN

What's that? I know that laugh.

The curtain on the far side of the alcove opens, revealing Jabba the Hutt, surrounded by Bib and other aliens. He laughs again, and his gross cronies join in a cacophony of alien glee.

HAN (CONT'D)

Hey, Jabba. Look, Jabba, I was just on my way to pay you back, but I got a little sidetracked. It's not my fault.

Jabba laughs.

JABBA (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)

It's too late for that, Solo. You may have been a good smuggler, but now you're Bantha fodder.

HAN

Look...

JABBA (CONT HUTTESE SUBTITLED)

Take him away!

The guards grab Han and start to lead him away.

HAN

Jabba... I'll pay you triple!
You're throwing away a fortune here. Don't be a fool!

Han is dragged off, as Lando quickly moves forward and attempts to lead Leia away.

JABBA (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)

Bring her to me.

Jabba chuckles as Lando and a second guard drag the beautiful young princess toward him. Threepio peeks from behind a monster and quickly turns away in disgust.

LEIA

We have powerful friends. You're gonna regret this...

JABBA (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)

I'm sure.

Inexorably her lovely face moves to within a few inches of Jabba's ugly blob of a head, and Leia turns away in disgust.

LEIA

Ugh!

THREEPIO

Ohhh, I can't bear to watch.

15

INT DUNGEON CELL

15

The heavy metal door of the dungeon whines and slowly creaks open. A guard throws the blinded star captain into the dark cell and the door slams shut behind him, leaving only a thin sliver of light from a crack in the door. Han is trying to collect himself when suddenly a growl is heard from the far side of the cell. He jumps back against the cell door and listens.

HAN

Chewie? Chewie, is that you?

The shadowy figure lets out a crazy yell and races toward Han, lifting him off the ground with a big hug that carries them into the light, revealing Chewie.

HAN (CONT'D)

Ah! Chew--Chewie!

The giant Wookiee barks with glee.

HAN (CONT'D)

Wait. I can't see, pal. What's goin' on?

Chewie barks an excited blue streak.

HAN (CONT'D)

Luke? Luke's crazy. He can't even take care of himself, much less rescue anybody.

Chewie barks a reply.

HAN (CONT'D)

A...Jedi Knight? I--I'm out of it for a little while, everybody gets delusions of grandeur.

Chewie growls insistently. He holds Han to his chest and pets his head.

HAN (CONT'D)

I'm all right, pal. I'm all right.

16

INT MAIN GATE AND HALL - JABBA'S PALACE

16

Noisily, the main gate lifts to flood the blackness with blinding LIGHT and reveal the silhouetted figure of LUKE SKYWALKER.

He is clad in a robe similar to Ben's and wears neither pistol nor laser sword. Luke strides purposefully into the hallway. Two giant guards move to block Luke's path. Luke halts.

Luke raises his hand and points at the puzzled guards, who immediately lower their spears and fall back. The young Jedi lowers his hand and moves on down the hallway.

Bib Fortuna appears out of the gloom. He speaks to Luke as they approach each other, but Luke doesn't stop and Bib must reverse his direction and hurry alongside the young Jedi in order to carry on the conversation. Several other guards fall in behind them in the darkness.

LUKE

I must speak with Jabba.

Bib answers in Huttese, shaking his head in denial. Luke stops and stares at Bib; he raises his hand slightly.

LUKE (CONT'D)

You will take me to Jabba now!

Bib turns in hypnotic response to Luke's command, and Luke follows him into the gloom.

LUKE (CONT'D)

You serve your master well.

Bib responds.

LUKE (CONT'D)

And you will be rewarded.

17

INT JABBA'S THRONE ROOM

17

Jabba is asleep on his throne, with Leia lying in front of him. Salacious sits by Jabba's tail, watching it wriggle. Leia is now dressed in the skimpy costume of a dancing girl; a chain runs from a manacle/necklace at her throat to her new master, Jabba the Hutt. Threepio stands behind Jabba as Bib comes up to the gangster slug.

THREEPIO

At last! Master Luke's come to
rescue me.

BIB

Master.

Jabba awakens with a start and Bib continues, in Huttese.

BIB (CONT'D)
...Luke Skywalker, Jedi Knight.

JABBA (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)
I told you not to admit him.

LUKE
I must be allowed to speak.

BIB (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)
He must be allowed to speak.

Jabba, furious, clobbers Bib and shoves him away.

JABBA (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)
You weak-minded fool! He's using an
old Jedi mind trick.

Luke stares hard at Jabba.

LUKE
You will bring Captain Solo and the
Wookiee to me.

JABBA (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)
Your mind powers will not work on
me, boy.

LUKE
Nevertheless, I'm taking Captain
Solo and his friends. You can
either profit by this... or be
destroyed! It's your choice. But I
warn you not to underestimate my
powers.

Jabba's laugh is mean and loud. Threepio attempts to warn
Luke about the pit.

THREEPIO
Master Luke, you're standing on...

JABBA (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)
There will be no bargain, young
Jedi. I shall enjoy watching you
die.

Luke reaches out, and a pistol jumps out of a guard's holster
and flies into Luke's hand. The bewildered guard grabs for it
as Jabba raises his hand.

JABBA (CONT'D)
Bascka!

The floor suddenly drops away, sending Luke and the hapless guard into the pit. The pistol goes off, blasting a hole in the ceiling. Jabba laughs and his courtiers join in. Leia starts forward but is restrained by a human guard-- Lando, recognizable behind his mask. She looks at him and he shakes his head "no."

18

INT RANCOR PIT

18

Luke and the guard have dropped twenty-five feet from a chute into the dungeonlike cage. Luke gets to his feet as the guard yells hysterically for help. A crowd gathers up around the edge of the pit as the door in the side of the pit starts to RUMBLE open. The guard screams in panic. Luke looks calmly around for a means of escape.

THREEPIO

Oh, no! The Rancor!

At the side of the pit, an iron door rumbles upward and a giant, fanged RANCOR emerges. The guard runs to the side of the pit and tries futilely to scramble to the top. The hideous beast closes in on him.

The Rancor moves past Luke, and as the guard continues to scramble, the Rancor picks him up and pops him into its slavering jaws. A few screams, and the guard is swallowed with a gulp. The audience cheers and laughs at the guard's fate.

The monster turns and starts for Luke. The young Jedi dashes away just ahead of the monster's swipe at him, and picks up the long arm bone of an earlier victim. The monster grabs Luke and brings him up to his salivating mouth. At the last moment, Luke wedges the bone in the monster's mouth and is dropped to the floor. The monster bellows in rage and flails about, hitting the side of the pit, causing an avalanche.

The monster crushes the bone in its jaws and sees Luke, who squeezes into a crevice in the pit wall. Luke looks past the monster to the holding cave beyond. On the far side of the holding cave is a utility door--if only he can get to it. The Rancor spots Luke and reaches into the crevice for him. Luke grabs a large rock and raises it, smashing it down on the Rancor's finger.

19

HOLDING TUNNEL - RANCOR PIT

19

The Rancor lets out a loud howl as Luke makes a run for the holding cave. He reaches the door and pushes a button to open it. When he succeeds, he sees a heavy barred gate between him and safety. Beyond the gate two guards look up from their dinner. Luke turns to see the monster heading for him, and pulls with all his might on the gate.

The guards move to the gate and start poking at the young Jedi with spears, laughing.

Luke crouches (against the wall) as the monster starts to reach for him. Suddenly he notices a main door control panel halfway up the wall. As the Rancor moves in for the kill, Luke picks up a skull from the cave floor and hurls it at the panel. The giant overhead door comes crashing down on the beast's head, squashing it like a sledgehammer on an egg.

A startled gasp is heard from the stunned court. There's consternation at this turn of events. Heads look to Jabba, who is actually turning red with anger. Leia cannot suppress her joy. Jabba utters harsh commands to his guards and they hurry off.

JABBA (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)
Bring me Solo and the Wookiee. They
will all suffer for this outrage.

21 INT RANCOR PIT 21

The Rancor KEEPERS have come into the cage and are examining their dead beast. One of them breaks down and weeps. The other glares menacingly at Luke, who is unworried. Several guards rush into the holding tunnel and take Luke away.

22 INT THRONE ROOM 22

The crowd of creepy courtiers parts as Han and Chewie are brought into the throne room, and other guards drag Luke up the steps.

LUKE
Han!

HAN
Luke!

LUKE
Are you all right?

HAN
Fine. Together again, huh?

LUKE
Wouldn't miss it.

HAN
How are we doing?

LUKE
The same as always.

HAN
That bad, huh? Where's Leia?

Luke looks to Leia.

LEIA
I'm here.

Threepio is standing behind the grotesque gangster as he strokes Leia like a pet cat. Several of the guards, including Lando, bring Luke from the other side of the room. Boba is standing behind Jabba.

Threepio steps forward and translates for the captives.

THREEPIO
Oh, dear. His High Exaltedness, the great Jabba the Hutt, has decreed that you are to be terminated immediately.

HAN
Good, I hate long waits.

THREEPIO
You will therefore be taken to the Dune Sea and cast into the pit of Carkoon, the nesting place of the all-powerful Sarlacc.

HAN (TO LUKE)
Doesn't sound so bad.

THREEPIO
In his belly, you will find a new definition of pain and suffering, as you are slowly digested over a thousand years.

HAN
On second thought, let's pass on that, huh?

Chewie barks his agreement.

LUKE
You should have bargained, Jabba. That's the last mistake you'll ever make.

Jabba cackles evilly at this.

As the guards drag the prisoners from the throne room, a loud cheer rises from the crowd.

Leia and Chewie exchange concerned looks, but Luke Skywalker, Jedi warrior, cannot suppress a smile.

23

EXT TATOOINE SEA - SKIFF

23

Jabba's huge SAIL BARGE moves above the desert surface accompanied by two smaller Skiffs. One of the skiffs glides close, revealing Luke, Han, and Chewie -- all in bonds -- surrounded by guards, one of whom is Lando in disguise.

HAN

I think my eyes are getting better.
Instead of a big dark blur, I see a
big light blur.

LUKE

There's nothing to see. I used to
live here, you know.

HAN

You're gonna die here, you know.
Convenient.

LUKE

Just stick close to Chewie and
Lando. I've taken care of
everything.

HAN

Oh... great!

24

INT BARGE OBSERVATION DECK

24

Jabba the Hutt rides like a sultan in the massive antigravity ship. His entire retinue is with him, drinking, eating, and having a good time. Leia is watching her friends in the skiff when the chain attached to her neck is pulled tight and Jabba tugs the scantily clad princess to him.

JABBA (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)

Soon you will learn to appreciate
me.

Threepio wanders among the Sail Barge aliens, bumping into a smaller droid serving drinks, spilling them all over the place. The stubby droid lets out an angry series of beeps and whistles.

THREEPIO

Oh, I'm terribly sor... Artoo! What
are you doing here?

Artoo beeps a quick reply.

THREEPIO (CONT'D)
Well, I can see you're serving
drinks, but this place is
dangerous. They're going to execute
Master Luke and, if we're not
careful, us too!

Artoo whistles a singsong response.

THREEPIO (CONT'D)
Hmm. I wish I had your confidence.

25 EXT SARLACC PIT

25

The convoy moves up over a huge sand pit. The Sail Barge stops to one side of the depression, as does the escort skiff. But the prisoner's skiff moves out directly over the center and hovers. At the bottom of the deep cone of sand is a repulsive, mucous-lined hole, surrounded by thousands of needle-sharp teeth. This is the SARLACC. A plank is extended from the edge of the prisoner's skiff. Guards release Luke's bonds and shove him out onto the plank above the Sarlacc's mouth.

26 EXT SAIL BARGE OBSERVATION DECK

26

Jabba and Leia are now by the rail, watching. Threepio leans forward and the slobbering villain mumbles something to him. As Threepio steps up to a comlink, Jabba raises his arm and the motley array of intergalactic pirates fall silent. Threepio's voice is amplified across loudspeakers.

THREEPIO
Victims of the almighty Sarlacc:
His Excellency hopes that you will
die honorably. But should any of
you wish to beg for mercy, the
great Jabba the Hutt will now
listen to your pleas.

27 EXT SKIFF

27

Han steps forward arrogantly and begins to speak.

HAN
Threepio, you tell that slimy piece
of... worm-ridden filth he'll get
no such pleasure from us. Right?

Chewie growls his agreement.

LUKE
Jabba! This is your last chance.
Free us or die.

Lando moves unobtrusively along the skiff as Luke shoots a quick look of conspiracy to him.

28 INT SAIL BARGE OBSERVATION DECK 28

The assembled monsters rock with mocking laughter as Artoo zips unnoticed up the ramp to the upper deck. Jabba's laughter subsides as he speaks into the comlink.

JABBA (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)
Move him into position.

Jabba makes a thumbs-down gesture. Leia looks worried.

29 EXT BARGE - UPPER DECK 29

Artoo appears from below and zips over to the rail facing the pit. Below, in the skiff, Luke is prodded by a guard to the edge of the plank over the gaping Sarlacc. Luke looks up at Artoo, then gives a jaunty salute: the signal the little droid has been waiting for. A flap opens in Artoo's domed head.

JABBA (IN HUTTESE SUBTITLED)
Put him in.

30 EXT SKIFF - PLANK 30

Luke is prodded and jumps off the plank to the cheers of the bloodthirsty spectators. But, before anyone can even perceive what is happening, he spins around and grabs the end of the plank by his fingertips. The plank bends wildly from his weight and catapults him skyward. In midair he does a complete flip and drops down on the end of the plank in the same spot he just vacated, but facing the skiff. He casually extends an open palm and -- his lightsaber, which Artoo has sent arcing toward him, drops into his hand.

With samurai speed, Luke ignites it and attacks the guard who prodded him off the plank, sending the hapless monster screaming overboard. The other guards swarm toward Luke. He wades into them, lightsaber flashing. Lando struggles with another guard at the back of the skiff.

31 EXT SARLACC PIT 31

A bewildered guard lands in the soft, sandy slope of the pit, and begins sliding. He claws desperately as a Sarlacc tentacle grabs him and pulls him screaming into the viscous mouth.

32 INT SAIL BARGE 32

Jabba watches this and explodes in rage. He barks commands, and the guards around him rush off to do his bidding. The scuzzy creatures watching the action from the window are in an uproar.

33 EXT SKIFF 33

Luke knocks another guard off the skiff and into the waiting mouth of the Sarlacc. He starts to untie Chewie's bonds.

LUKE
Easy, Chewie.

At that moment, the deck gunmen on the barge unleash a series of blasts from a big cannon on the upper deck. Lando is tossed from the deck of the rocking skiff. He manages to grab a rope, and dangles desperately above the Sarlacc pit.

LANDO
Whoa! Whoa! Help!

34 EXT UPPER DECK - SAIL BARGE 34

With two swift strides, the dangerous Boba Fett ignites his rocket pack, leaps into the air, and flies from the barge down to the skiff.

35 EXT SKIFF 35

Boba lands on the skiff and starts to aim his laser gun at Luke, who has freed Han and Chewie from their bonds. But before Boba can fire, the young Jedi spins on him, lightsaber sweeping, and hacks the bounty hunter's gun in half.

Immediately, the skiff takes another direct hit from the barge's deck gun. Shards of skiff deck fly. Chewie and Han are thrown against the rail.

HAN
Chewie, you okay? Where is he?

The Wookiee is wounded and he howls in pain.

HAN (CONT'D)
I'm okay, pal.

For a moment, Luke is distracted, and in that moment, Boba fires a cable out of his armored sleeve. Instantly, Luke is wrapped in a strong cable, his arms pinned against his side, his sword arm free only from the wrist down.

Luke bends his wrist so the lightsaber points straight up to reach the wire lasso and cuts through. Luke shrugs away the cable and stands free.

Another blast from the Barge's deck gun hits near Boba and he is knocked unconscious to the deck, next to where Lando is hanging.

LANDO

Han! Chewie?

HAN

Lando!

Luke is a little shaken but remains standing as a fusillade brackets him. The second skiff, loaded with guards firing their weapons, moves in on Luke fast. Luke leaps toward the incoming second skiff. The young Jedi leaps into the middle of the second skiff and begins decimating the guards from their midst.

Chewie, wounded, tries to lift himself as he barks directions to Han, guiding him toward a spear which has been dropped by one of the guards. Han searches the deck as Chewie barks directions; finally he grabs hold of the spear.

Boba Fett, badly shaken, rises from the deck. He looks over at the other skiff, where Luke is whipping a mass of guards. Boba raises his arm, and aims his lethal appendage.

Chewie barks desperately at Han.

HAN (CONT'D)

Boba Fett?! Boba Fett?! Where?

The space pirate turns around blindly, and the long spear in his hand whacks squarely in the middle of Boba's rocket pack.

The impact of the swing causes the rocket pack to ignite. Boba blasts off, flying over the second skiff like a missile, smashing against the side of the huge Sail Barge and sliding away into the pit. He screams as his armored body makes its last flight past Lando and directly into the mucous mouth of the Sarlacc. The Sarlacc burps. Chewie growls a weak congratulations to Han.

36

INT SAIL BARGE

36

Leia turns from the spectacle outside, leaps onto Jabba's throne, and throws the chain that enslaves her over his head around his bulbous neck. Then she dives off the other side of the throne, pulling the chain violently in her grasp. Jabba's flaccid neck contracts beneath the tightening chain.

His huge eyes bulge from their sockets and his scum-coated tongue flops out. The Exalted Hutt's huge tail spasms through its death throes and then slams down into final stillness. Leia struggles to free herself of her bondage.

37

EXT SKIFF

37

Luke continues to destroy the aliens on the guards' skiff, as Han extends his spear downward to Lando, who is still dangling precariously from a rope on the prisoner's skiff.

HAN

Lando, grab it!

LANDO

Lower it!

HAN

I'm trying!

A major hit from the barge deck gun knocks the skiff on its side. Han and almost everything else on board slides overboard. The rope breaks, and Lando falls to the side of the Sarlacc pit. Luckily, Han's foot catches on the skiff railing and he dangles above Lando and the pit. The wounded Wookiee holds onto the skiff for dear life as another hit from the deck gun rocks the skiff violently.

HAN (CONT'D)

Whoa! Whoa! Grab me, Chewie! I'm slipping.

Chewie grabs hold of Han's feet, holding him upside down, as Han extends the spear toward Lando, who is clutching to the side of the pit.

HAN (CONT'D)

Grab it! L--Lando. Grab!

Luke finishes off the last guard on the second skiff. He sees the deck gun blasting away at his helpless companions. Luke leaps from the skiff, across a chasm of air, to the sheer metallic side of the Sail Barge. Barely able to get a fingerhold, he begins a painful climb up the hull, when suddenly an ax smashes through a window an inch from his head. With Jedi agility, Luke grasps the wrist holding the ax and yanks the helpless guard through the broken window and into the deadly pit.

The injured Chewie is reaching over the rail for the dangling Han, who is in turn blindly reaching down toward the desperate Lando. The Baron has stopped his slippage down the sandy slope of the Sarlacc pit by lying very still.

Every time he tries to reach for Han, the loose sand moves him closer to his final reward.

HAN (CONT'D)
Grab it! Almost... You almost got it!

Another blast hits the front of the tilted skiff, causing Lando to let go of the spear.

LANDO
Hold it! Whoa!

Again Han extends the spear toward Lando.

HAN
Gently now. All... all right. Now easy, easy. Hold me, Chewie.

Lando screams. One of the Sarlacc's tentacles has wrapped tightly around his ankle, dragging him down the side of the pit.

HAN (CONT'D)
Chewie! Chewie, give me the gun. Don't move, Lando.

LANDO
No, wait! I thought you were blind!

HAN
It's all right. Trust me. Don't move.

LANDO
All right! A little higher! Just a little higher!

Han adjusts his aim as Lando lowers his head, and the fuzzy-eyed pirate fires at the tentacle. Direct hit. The tentacle releases Lando, and Chewie starts to pull them on board the skiff.

HAN
Chewie, Pull us up! Come on! Okay... up, Chewie, up!

The deck gunners have Chewie and the desperate dangling human chain in their gun sights when something up on deck commands their attention: Luke, standing before them like a pirate king, ignites his lightsaber.

The deck gunners have barely reached for their pistols before the young Jedi has demolished them. Immediately, Luke turns to see two more gunners (who have been uncovering a giant gun at the end of the barge) racing for him, firing their laser pistols.

39 INT SAIL BARGE - OBSERVATION DECK

39

Leia is struggling against her chains in desperation as Artoo zips through the tumult of confused monsters to the rescue; the stubby little droid extends a small laser gun and blasts the chain apart.

LEIA

Come on. We gotta get out of here quick.

Artoo and Leia race for the exit, passing Threepio, who is kicking and screaming as Salacious Crumb, the reptilian monkey-monster picks out one of the golden droid's eyes.

THREEPIO

Not my eyes! Artoo, help! Quickly, Artoo. Oh! Ohhh! You beast!

Artoo zips over and zaps Salacious, sending him skyward with a scream, crashing into the rafters as Artoo, Leia, and Threepio (with his eye dangling from a wire) hurry off.

40 EXT UPPER DECK - SAIL BARGE

40

Luke is warding off laser blasts with his lightsaber, surrounded by guards and fighting like a demon. Leia emerges onto the deck as Luke turns to face another guard.

LUKE (TO LEIA)

Get the gun! Point it at the deck!

Leia turns toward the barge cannon, climbs on the platform, and swivels the gun around.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Point it at the deck!

A laser blast hits Luke's mechanical hand and he bends over in pain, but manages to swing his lightsaber upward and take out the last of the guards. He looks at the wounded hand, which reveals the mechanism. He flexes the hand; it still works.

Near the rail of the upper deck, Artoo and Threepio steady themselves as Threepio gets ready to jump. Artoo beeps wildly.

THREEPIO

Artoo, where are we going? I
couldn't possibly jump.

Artoo butts the golden droid over the edge and steps off himself, tumbling toward the sand.

Luke runs along the empty deck toward Leia and the barge gun, which she has brought around to point down at the deck.

LUKE

Come on!

Luke has hold on one of the rigging ropes from the mast. He gathers Leia in his other arm and kicks the trigger of the deck gun. The gun explodes into the deck as Luke and Leia swing out toward the skiff.

41 EXT SKIFF

41

Han leans panting against the rail as Chewie helps Lando onto the deck. Luke and Leia land on the skiff with flair.

LUKE

Let's go! And don't forget the
droids.

LANDO

We're on our way.

The Sail Barge is exploding in stages in the distance. Half of the huge craft is on fire.

42 EXT SAND DUNE

42

Threepio's legs stick straight up from the dune where he landed. Next to it, Artoo's periscope is the only thing above the sand. The skiff floats above them and two large electromagnets dangle down on a wire. With a loud CLANG, both droids are pulled from the sand.

43 EXT DUNE SEA

43

The little skiff skips around the burning Sail Barge, which continues its chain of explosions. As the skiff sails off across the desert, the barge settles to the sand and disappears in one final conflagration.

44 EXT DUNE SEA - LANDING AREA

44

A ferocious sandstorm blocks our view. Then, through the ROAR, we HEAR THE VOICES of our heroes. They emerge slowly from the veil of sand, pressing on against the wind.