|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | |  | | --- | | **STAR WARS**  Episode IV  **A NEW HOPE**  From the  **JOURNAL OF THE WHILLS**  by  George Lucas  Revised Fourth Draft  January 15, 1976  **LUCASFILM LTD.**    A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far, away...  A vast sea of stars serves as the backdrop for the main title.  War drums echo through the heavens as a rollup slowly crawls  into infinity.  It is a period of civil war. Rebel spaceships,  striking from a hidden base, have won their first  victory against the evil Galactic Empire.  During the battle, Rebel spies managed to steal  secret plans to the Empire's ultimate weapon, the  Death Star, an armored space station with enough  power to destroy an entire planet.  Pursued by the Empire's sinister agents, Princess  Leia races home aboard her starship, custodian of  the stolen plans that can save her people and  restore freedom to the galaxy...  The awesome yellow planet of Tatooine emerges from a total  eclipse, her two moons glowing against the darkness. A tiny  silver spacecraft, a Rebel Blockade Runner firing lasers  from the back of the ship, races through space. It is pursed  by a giant Imperial Stardestroyer. Hundreds of deadly  laserbolts streak from the Imperial Stardestroyer, causing  the main solar fin of the Rebel craft to disintegrate.  **INT. REBEL BLOCKADE RUNNER - MAIN PASSAGEWAY**  An explosion rocks the ship as two robots, Artoo-Detoo (R2-  D2) and See-Threepio (C-3PO) struggle to make their way  through the shaking, bouncing passageway. Both robots are  old and battered. Artoo is a short, claw-armed tripod. His  face is a mass of computer lights surrounding a radar eye.  Threepio, on the other hand, is a tall, slender robot of  human proportions. He has a gleaming bronze-like metallic  surface of an Art Deco design.  Another blast shakes them as they struggle along their way.  **THREEPIO**  Did you hear that? They've shut down  the main reactor. We'll be destroyed  for sure. This is madness!  Rebel troopers rush past the robots and take up positions in  the main passageway. They aim their weapons toward the door.  **THREEPIO**  We're doomed!  The little R2 unit makes a series of electronic sounds that  only another robot could understand.  **THREEPIO**  There'll be no escape for the Princess  this time.  Artoo continues making beeping sounds. Tension mounts as  loud metallic latches clank and the scream of heavy equipment  are heard moving around the outside hull of the ship.  **THREEPIO**  What's that?  **EXT. SPACECRAFT IN SPACE**  The Imperial craft has easily overtaken the Rebel Blockade  Runner. The smaller Rebel ship is being drawn into the  underside dock of the giant Imperial starship.  **INT. REBEL BLOCKADE RUNNER**  The nervous Rebel troopers aim their weapons. Suddenly a  tremendous blast opens up a hole in the main passageway and  a score of fearsome armored spacesuited stormtroopers make  their way into the smoke-filled corridor.  In a few minutes the entire passageway is ablaze with  laserfire. The deadly bolts ricochet in wild random patterns  creating huge explosions. Stormtroopers scatter and duck  behind storage lockers. Laserbolts hit several Rebel soldiers  who scream and stagger through the smoke, holding shattered  arms and faces.  An explosion hits near the robots.  **THREEPIO**  I should have known better than to  trust the logic of a half-sized  thermocapsulary dehousing assister...  Artoo counters with an angry rebuttal as the battle rages  around the two hapless robots.  **EXT. TATOOINE - DESERT WASTELAND - DAY**  A death-white wasteland stretches from horizon to horizon.  The tremendous heat of two huge twin suns settle on a lone  figure, Luke Skywalker, a farm boy with heroic aspirations  who looks much younger than his eighteen years. His shaggy  hair and baggy tunic give him the air of a simple but lovable  lad with a prize-winning smile.  A light wind whips at him as he adjusts several valves on a  large battered moisture vaporator which sticks out of the  desert floor much like an oil pipe with valves. He is aided  by a beatup tread-robot with six claw arms. The little robot  appears to be barely functioning and moves with jerky motions.  A bright sparkle in the morning sky catches Luke's eye and  he instinctively grabs a pair of electrobinoculars from his  utility belt. He stands transfixed for a few moments studying  the heavens, then dashed toward his dented, crudely repaired  Landspeeder (an auto-like transport that travels a few feet  above the ground on a magnetic-field). He motions for the  tiny robot to follow him.  **LUKE**  Hurry up! Come with me! What are you  waiting for?! Get in gear!  The robot scoots around in a tight circle, stops short, and  smoke begins to pour out of every joint. Luke throws his  arms up in disgust. Exasperated, the young farm boy jumps  into his Landspeeder leaving the smoldering robot to hum  madly.  **INT. REBEL BLOCKADE RUNNER - MAIN HALLWAY**  The awesome, seven-foot-tall Dark Lord of the Sith makes his  way into the blinding light of the main passageway. This is  Darth Vader, right hand of the Emperor. His face is obscured  by his flowing black robes and grotesque breath mask, which  stands out next to the fascist white armored suits of the  Imperial stormtroopers. Everyone instinctively backs away  from the imposing warrior and a deathly quiet sweeps through  the Rebel troops. Several of the Rebel troops break and run  in a frenzied panic.  **INT. REBEL BLOCKADE RUNNER**  A woman's hand puts a card into an opening in Artoo's dome.  Artoo makes beeping sounds.  **INT. REBEL BLOCKADE RUNNER**  Threepio stands in a hallway, somewhat bewildered. Artoo is  nowhere in sight. The pitiful screams of the doomed Rebel  soldiers can be heard in the distance.  **THREEPIO**  Artoo! Artoo-Detoo, where are you?  A familiar clanking sound attacks Threepio's attention and  he spots little Artoo at the end of the hallway in a smoke-  filled alcove. A beautiful young girl (about sixteen years  old) stands in front of Artoo. Surreal and out of place,  dreamlike and half hidden in the smoke, she finishes adjusting  something on Artoo's computer face, then watches as the little  robot joins his companion.  **THREEPIO**  At last! Where have you been?  Stormtroopers can be heard battling in the distance.  **THREEPIO**  They're heading in this direction.  What are we going to do? We'll be  sent to the spice mine of Kessel or  smashed into who knows what!  Artoo scoots past his bronze friend and races down the  subhallway. Threepio chases after him.  **THREEPIO**  Wait a minute, where are you going?  Artoo responds with electronic beeps.  **INT. REBEL BLOCKADE RUNNER - CORRIDOR**  The evil Darth Vader stands amid the broken and twisted bodies  of his foes. He grabs a wounded Rebel Officer by the neck as  an Imperial Officer rushes up to the Dark Lord.  **IMPERIAL OFFICER**  The Death Star plans are not in the  main computer.  Vader squeezes the neck of the Rebel Officer, who struggles  in vain.  **VADER**  Where are those transmissions you  intercepted?  Vader lifts the Rebel off his feet by his throat.  **VADER**  What have you done with those plans?  **REBEL OFFICER**  We intercepted no transmissions.  Aaah... This is a consular ship.  Were on a diplomatic mission.  **VADER**  If this is a consular ship... were  is the Ambassador?  The Rebel refuses to speak but eventually cries out as the  Dark Lord begins to squeeze the officer's throat, creating a  gruesome snapping and choking, until the soldier goes limp.  Vader tosses the dead soldier against the wall and turns to  his troops.  **VADER**  Commander, tear this ship apart until  you've found those plans and bring  me the Ambassador. I want her alive!  The stormtroopers scurry into the subhallways.  **INT. REBEL BLOCKADE RUNNER - SUBHALLWAY**  The lovely young girl huddles in a small alcove as the  stormtroopers search through the ship. She is Princess Leia  Organa, a member of the Alderaan Senate. The fear in her  eyes slowly gives way to anger as the muted crushing sounds  of the approaching stormtroopers grow louder. One of the  troopers spots her.  **TROOPER**  There she is! Set for stun!  Leia steps from her hiding place and blasts a trooper with  her laser pistol. She starts to run but is felled by a  paralyzing ray. The troopers inspect her inert body.  **TROOPER**  She'll be all right. Inform Lord  Vader we have a prisoner.  **INT. REBEL BLOCKADE RUNNER - SUBHALLWAY**  Artoo stops before the small hatch of an emergency lifepod.  He snaps the seal on the main latch and a red warning light  begins to flash. The stubby astro-robot works his way into  the cramped four-man pod.  **THREEPIO**  Hey, you're not permitted in there.  It's restricted. You'll be deactivated  for sure..  Artoo beeps something to him.  **THREEPIO**  Don't call me a mindless philosopher,  you overweight glob of grease! Now  come out before somebody sees you.  Artoo whistles something at his reluctant friend regarding  the mission he is about to perform.  **THREEPIO**  Secret mission? What plans? What are  you talking about? I'm not getting  in there!  Artoo isn't happy with Threepio's stubbornness, and he beeps  and twangs angrily.  A new explosion, this time very close, sends dust and debris  through the narrow subhallway. Flames lick at Threepio and,  after a flurry of electronic swearing from Artoo, the lanky  robot jumps into the lifepod.  **THREEPIO**  I'm going to regret this.  **INT. IMPERIAL STARDESTROYER**  On the main viewscreen, the lifepod carrying the two terrified  robots speeds away from the stricken Rebel spacecraft.  **CHIEF PILOT**  There goes another one.  **CAPTAIN**  Hold your fire. There are no life  forms. It must have been short-  circuited.  **INT. LIFEPOD**  Artoo and Threepio look out at the receding Imperial starship.  Stars circle as the pod rotates through the galaxy.  **THREEPIO**  That's funny, the damage doesn't  look as bad from out here.  Artoo beeps an assuring response.  **THREEPIO**  Are you sure this things safe?  **EXT. TATOOINE - ANCHORHEAD SETTLEMENT - POWER STATION - DAY**  Heat waves radiate from the dozen or so bleached white  buildings. Luke pilots his Landspeeder through the dusty  empty street of the tiny settlement. An old woman runs to  get out of the way of the speeding vehicle, shaking her fist  at Luke as he flies past.  **WOMAN**  I've told you kids to slow down!  **INT. POWER STATION - DAY**  Luke bursts into the power station, waking The Fixer, a rugged  mechanic and Camie, a sexy, disheveled girl who has been  asleep in his lap. They grumbled as he races through the  office, yelling wildly.  **FIXER**  Did I hear a young noise blast through  here?  **CAMIE**  It was just wormie on another rampage.  Luke bounces into a small room behind the office where Deak  and Windy, two tough boys about the same age as Luke, are  playing a computer pool-like game with Biggs, a burly,  handsome boy a few years older than the rest. His flashy  city attire is a sharp contrast to the loose-fitting tunics  of the farm boys. A robot repairs some equipment in the  background.  **LUKE**  Shape it up you guys!... Biggs?  Luke's surprise at the appearance of Biggs gives way to great  joy and emotion. They give each other a great bear hug.  **LUKE**  I didn't know you were back! When  did you get in?  **BIGGS**  Just now. I wanted to surprise you,  hot shot. I thought you'd be here...  certainly didn't expect you to be  out working.  (he laughs)  **LUKE**  The Academy didn't change you  much...but you're back so soon? Hey,  what happened, didn't you get your  commission?  Biggs has an air of cool that seems slightly phony.  **BIGGS**  Of course I got it. Signed aboard  The Rand Ecliptic last week. First  mate Biggs Darklighter at your  service...  (he salutes)  ...I just came to say good-bye to  all you unfortunate landlocked  simpletons.  Everyone laughs. The dazzling spectacle of his dashing friend  is almost too much for Luke, but suddenly he snaps out of  it.  **LUKE**  I almost forgot. There's a battle  going on! Right here in our system.  Come and look!  **DEAK**  Not again! Forget it.  **EXT. TATOOINE - ANCHORHEAD - SETTLEMENT - POWER STATION -**  **DAY**  The group stumbles out into the stifling desert sun. Camie  and The Fixer complain and are forced to shade their eyes.  Luke has his binoculars out scanning the heavens.  **LUKE**  There they are!  Biggs takes the binoculars from Luke as the others strain to  see something with the naked eye. Through the binoculars  Biggs sees two small silver specks.  **BIGGS**  That's no battle, hot shot... they're  just sitting there! Probably a  freighter-tanker refueling.  **LUKE**  But there was a lot of firing  earlier...  Camie grabs the binoculars away banging them against the  building in the process. Luke grabs them.  **LUKE**  Hey, easy with those...  **CAMIE**  Don't worry about it, Wormie.  The Fixer gives Luke a hard look and the young farm boy shrugs  his shoulders in resignation.  **FIXER**  I keep telling you, the Rebellion is  a long way from here. I doubt if the  Empire would even fight to keep this  system. Believe me Luke, this planet  is a big hunk of nothing...  Luke agrees, although it's obvious he isn't sure why. The  group stumbles back into the power station, grumbling about  Luke's ineptitude.  **INT. REBEL BLOCKADE RUNNER - HALLWAY**  Princess Leia is led down a low-ceilinged hallway by a squad  of armored stormtroopers. Her hands are bound and she is  brutally shoved when she is unable to keep up with the briskly  marching troops. They stop in a smoky hallway as Darth Vader  emerges from the shadows. The sinister Dark Lord stares hard  at the frail young senator, but she doesn't move.  **LEIA**  Lord Vader, I should have known.  Only you could be so bold. The  Imperial Senate will not sit for  this, when they hear you've attacked  a diplomatic...  **VADER**  Don't play games with me, Your  Highness. You weren't on any mercy  mission this time. You passed directly  through a restricted system. Several  transmissions were beamed to this  ship by Rebel spies. I want to know  what happened to the plans they sent  you.  **LEIA**  I don't know what you're talking  about. I'm a member of the Imperial  Senate on a diplomatic mission to  Alderaan...  **VADER**  You're a part of the Rebel Alliance...  and a traitor. Take her away!  Leia is marched away down the hallway and into the smoldering  hole blasted in the side of the ship. An Imperial Commander  turns to Vader.  **COMMANDER**  Holding her is dangerous. If word of  this gets out, it could generate  sympathy for the Rebellion in the  senate.  **VADER**  I have traced the Rebel spies to  her. Now she is my only link to find  their secret base!  **COMMANDER**  She'll die before she tells you  anything.  **VADER**  Leave that to me. Send a distress  signal and then inform the senate  that all aboard were killed!  Another Imperial Officer approaches Vader and the Commander.  They stop and snap to attention.  **SECOND OFFICER**  Lord Vader, the battle station plans  are not aboard this ship! And no  transmissions were made. An escape  pod was jettisoned during the  fighting, but no life forms were  aboard.  Vader turns to the Commander.  **VADER**  She must have hidden the plans in  the escape pod. Send a detachment  down to retrieve them. See to it  personally, Commander. There'll be  no one to stop us this time.  **COMMANDER**  Yes, sir.  **EXT. SPACE**  The Imperial Stardestroyer comes over the surface of the  planet Tatooine.  **EXT. TATOOINE - DESERT**  Jundland, or "No Man's Land", where the rugged desert mesas  meet the foreboding dune sea. The two helpless astro-droids  kick up clouds of sand as they leave the lifepod and clumsily  work their way across the desert wasteland. The lifepod in  the distance rests half buried in the sand.  **THREEPIO**  How did I get into this mess? I really  don't know how. We seem to be made  to suffer. It's our lot in life.  Artoo answers with beeping sounds.  **THREEPIO**  I've got to rest before I fall apart.  My joints are almost frozen.  Artoo continues to respond with beeping sounds.  **THREEPIO**  What a desolate place this is.  Suddenly Artoo whistles, makes a sharp right turn and starts  off in the direction of the rocky desert mesas. Threepio  stops and yells at him.  **THREEPIO**  Where are you going?  A stream of electronic noises pours forth from the small  robot.  **THREEPIO**  Well, I'm not going that way. It's  much too rocky. This way is much  easier.  Artoo counters with a long whistle.  **THREEPIO**  What makes you think there are  settlements over there?  Artoo continues to make beeping sounds.  **THREEPIO**  Don't get technical with me.  Artoo continues to make beeping sounds.  **THREEPIO**  What mission? What are you talking  about? I've had just about enough of  you! Go that way! You'll be  malfunctioning within a day, you  nearsighted scrap pile!  Threepio gives the little robot a kick and starts off in the  direction of the vast dune sea.  **THREEPIO**  And don't let me catch you following  me begging for help, because you  won't get it.  Artoo's reply is a rather rude sound. He turns and trudges  off in the direction of the towering mesas.  **THREEPIO**  No more adventures. I'm not going  that way.  Artoo beeps to himself as he makes his way toward the distant  mountains.  **EXT. TATOOINE - DUNE SEA**  Threepio, hot and tired, struggles up over the ridge of a  dune; only to find more dunes, which seem to go on for endless  miles. He looks back in the direction of the now distant  rock mesas.  **THREEPIO**  That malfunctioning little twerp.  This is all his fault! He tricked me  into going this way, but he'll do no  better.  In a huff of anger and frustration, Threepio knocks the sand  from his joints. His plight seems hopeless, when a glint of  reflected light in the distance reveals an object moving  towards him.  **THREEPIO**  Wait, what's that? A transport! I'm  saved!  The bronze android waves frantically and yells at the  approaching transport.  **THREEPIO**  Over here! Help! Please, help!  **EXT. TATOOINE - ANCHORHEAD SETTLEMENT - POWER STATION - DAY**  Luke and Biggs are walking and drinking a malt brew. Fixer  and the others can be heard working inside.  **LUKE**  (Very animated)  ...so I cut off my power, shut down  the afterburners and came in low on  Deak's trail. I was so close I thought  I was going to fry my instruments.  As it was I busted up the Skyhopper  pretty bad. Uncle Owen was pretty  upset. He grounded me for the rest  of the season. You should have been  there... it was fantastic.  **BIGGS**  You ought to take it easy Luke. You  may be the hottest bushpilot this  side of Mos Eisley, but those little  Skyhoppers are dangerous. Keep it  up, and one day, whammo, you're going  to be nothing more than a dark spot  on the down side of a canyon wall.  **LUKE**  Look who's talking. Now that you've  been around those giant starships  you're beginning to sound like my  uncle. You've gotten soft in the  city...  **BIGGS**  I've missed you kid.  **LUKE**  Well, things haven't been the same  since you left, Biggs. It's been  so... quiet.  Biggs looks around then leans close to Luke.  **BIGGS**  Luke, I didn't come back just to say  good-bye... I shouldn't tell you  this, but you're the only one I can  trust... and if I don't come back, I  want somebody to know.  Luke's eyes are wide with Biggs' seriousness and loyalty.  **LUKE**  What are you talking about?  **BIGGS**  I made some friends at the Academy.  (he whispers)  ...when our frigate goes to one of  the central systems, we're going to  jump ship and join the Alliance...  Luke, amazed and stunned, is almost speechless.  **LUKE**  Join the Rebellion?! Are you kidding!  How?  **BIGGS**  Quiet down will ya! You got a mouth  bigger than a meteor crater!  **LUKE**  I'm sorry. I'm quiet.  (he whispers)  Listen how quiet I am. You can barely  hear me...  Biggs shakes his head angrily and then continues.  **BIGGS**  My friend has a friend on Bestine  who might help us make contact.  **LUKE**  You're crazy! You could wander around  forever trying to find them.  **BIGGS**  I know it's a long shot, but if I  don't find them I'll do what I can  on my own... It's what we always  talked about. Luke, I'm not going to  wait for the Empire to draft me into  service. The Rebellion is spreading  and I want to be on the right side --  the side I believe in.  **LUKE**  And I'm stuck here...  **BIGGS**  I thought you were going to the  Academy next term. You'll get your  chance to get off this rock.  **LUKE**  Not likely! I had to cancel my  application. There has been a lot of  unrest among the Sandpeople since  you left... they've even raided the  outskirts of Anchorhead.  **BIGGS**  Your uncle could hold off a whole  colony of Sandpeople with one blaster.  **LUKE**  I know, but he's got enough vaporators  going to make the place pay off. He  needs me for just one more season. I  can't leave him now.  **BIGGS**  I feel for you, Luke, you're going  to have to learn what seems to be  important or what really is important.  What good is all your uncle's work  if it's taken over by the Empire?...  You know they're starting to  nationalize commerce in the central  systems... it won't be long before  your uncle is merely a tenant, slaving  for the greater glory of the Empire.  **LUKE**  It couldn't happen here. You said it  yourself. The Empire won't bother  with this rock.  **BIGGS**  Things always change.  **LUKE**  I wish I was going... Are you going  to be around long?  **BIGGS**  No, I'm leaving in the morning...  **LUKE**  Then I guess I won't see you.  **BIGGS**  Maybe someday... I'll keep a lookout.  **LUKE**  Well, I'll be at the Academy next  season... after that who knows. I  won't be drafted into the Imperial  Starfleet that's for sure... Take  care of yourself, you'll always be  the best friend I've got.  **BIGGS**  So long, Luke.  Biggs turns away from his old friend and heads towards the  power station.  **EXT. TATOOINE - ROCK CANYON - SUNSET**  The gargantuan rock formations are shrouded in a strange  foreboding mist and the onimous sounds of unearthly creatures  fill the air. Artoo moves cautiously through the creepy rock  canyon, inadvertently making a loud clicking noise as he  goes. He hears a distant, hard, metallic sound and stops for  a moment. Convinced he is alone, he continues on his way.  In the distance, a pebble tumbles down the steep canyon wall  and a small dark figure darts into the shadows. A little  further up the canyon a slight flicker of light reveals a  pair of eyes in the dark recesses only a few feet from the  narrow path.  The unsuspecting robot waddles along the rugged trail until  suddenly, out of nowhere, a powerful magnetic ray shoots out  of the rocks and engulfs him in an eerie glow. He manages  one short electronic squeak before he topples over onto his  back. His bright computer lights flicker off, then on, then  off again. Out of the rocks scurry three Jawas, no taller  than Artoo. They holster strange and complex weapons as they  cautiously approach the robot. They wear grubby cloaks and  their faces are shrouded so only their glowing eyes can be  seen. They hiss and make odd guttural sounds as they heave  the heavy robot onto their shoulders and carry him off down  the trail.  **EXT. TATOOINE - ROCK CANYON - SANDCRAWLER - SUNSET**  The eight Jawas carry Artoo out of the canyon to a huge tank-  like vehicle the size of a four-story house. They weld a  small disk on the side of Artoo and then put him under a  large tube on the side of the vehicle and the little robot  is sucked into the giant machine.  The filthy little Jawas scurry like rats up small ladders  and enter the main cabin of the behemoth transport.  **INT. SANDCRAWLER - HOLD AREA**  It is dim inside the hold area of the Sandcrawler. Artoo  switches on a small floodlight on his forehead and stumbles  around the scrap heap. The narrow beam swings across rusty  metal rocket parts and an array of grotesquely twisted and  maimed astro-robots. He lets out a pathetic electronic whimper  and stumbles off toward what appears to be a door at the end  of the chamber.  **INT. SANDCRAWLER - PRISON AREA**  Artoo enters a wide room with a four-foot ceiling. In the  middle of the scrap heap sit a dozen or so robots of various  shapes and sizes. Some are engaged in electronic conversation,  while others simply mill about. A voice of recognition calls  out from the gloom.  **THREEPIO**  Artoo-Detoo! It's you! It's you!  A battered Threepio scrambles up to Artoo and embraces him.  **EXT. TATOOINE - ROCK CANYON - SANDCRAWLER - SUNSET**  The enormous Sandcrawler lumbers off toward the magnificent  twin suns, which are slowly setting over a distant mountain  ridge.  **EXT. TATOOINE - DESERT - DAY**  Four Imperial stormtroopers mill about in front of the half-  buried lifepod that brought Artoo and Threepio to Tatooine.  A trooper yells to an officer some distance away.  **FIRST TROOPER**  Someone was in the pod. The tracks  go off in this direction.  A second trooper picks a small bit of metal out of the sand  and gives it to the first trooper.  **SECOND TROOPER**  Look, sir -- droids.  **EXT. TATOOINE - DUNES**  The Sandcrawler moves slowly down a great sand dune.  **INT. SANDCRAWLER**  Threepio and Artoo noisily bounce along inside the cramped  prison chamber. Artoo appears to be shut off.  **THREEPIO**  Wake up! Wake up!  Suddenly the shaking and bouncing of the Sandcrawler stops,  creating quite a commotion among the mechanical men.  Threepio's fist bangs the head of Artoo whose computer lights  pop on as he begins beeping. At the far end of the long  chamber a hatch opens, filling the chamber with blinding  white light. a dozen or so Jawas make their way through the  odd assortment of robots.  **THREEPIO**  We're doomed.  A Jawa starts moving toward them.  **THREEPIO**  Do you think they'll melt us down?  Artoo responds, making beeping sounds.  **THREEPIO**  Don't shoot! Don't shoot! Will this  never end?  **EXT. TATOOINE - DESERT - LARS HOMESTEAD - AFTERNOON**  The Jawas mutter gibberish as they busily line up their  battered captives, including Artoo and Threepio, in front of  the enormous Sandcrawler, which is parked beside a small  homestead consisting of three large holes in the ground  surrounded by several tall moisture vaporators and one small  adobe block house.  The Jawas scurry around fussing over the robots, straightening  them up or brushing some dust from a dented metallic elbow.  The shrouded little creatures smell horribly, attracting  small insects to the dark areas when their mouths and nostrils  should be.  Out of the shadows of a dingy side-building limps Owen Lars,  a large burly man in his mid-fifties. His reddish eyes are  sunken in a dust-covered face. As the farmer carefully  inspects each robot, he is closely followed by his slump-  shouldered nephew, Luke Skywalker. One of the vile little  Jawas walks ahead of the farmer spouting an animated sales  pitch in a queer, unintelligible language.  A voice calls out from one of the huge holes that form the  homestead. Luke goes over to the edge and sees his Aunt Beru  standing in the main courtyard.  **BERU**  Luke, tell Owen that if he gets a  translator to be sure it speaks Bocce.  **LUKE**  It looks like we don't have much of  a choice but I'll remind him.  Luke returns to his uncle as they look over the equipment  for sale with the Jawa leader.  **OWEN**  I have no need for a protocol droid.  **THREEPIO**  (quickly)  Sir -- not in an environment such as  this -- that's why I've also been  programmed for over thirty secondary  functions that...  **OWEN**  What I really need is a droid that  understands the binary language of  moisture vaporators.  **THREEPIO**  Vaporators! Sir -- My first job was  programming binary load lifter...  very similar to your vaporators. You  could say...  **OWEN**  Do you speak Bocce?  **THREEPIO**  Of course I can, sir. It's like a  second language for me... I'm as  fluent in Bocce...  **OWEN**  All right shut up!  (turning to Jawa)  I'll take this one.  **THREEPIO**  Shutting up, sir.  **OWEN**  Luke, take these two over to the  garage, will you? I want you to have  both of them cleaned up before dinner.  **LUKE**  But I was going into Toshi Station  to pick up some power converters...  **OWEN**  You can waste time with your friends  when your chores are done. Now come  on, get to it!  **LUKE**  All right, come on! And the red one,  come on. Well, come on, Red, let's  go.  As the Jawas start to lead the three remaining robots back  into the Sandcrawler, Artoo lets out a pathetic little beep  and starts after his old friend Threepio. He is restrained  by a slimy Jawa, who zaps him with a control box.  Owen is negotiating with the head Jawa. Luke and the two  robots start off for the garage when a plate pops off the  head of the red astro-droid's head plate and it sparks wildly.  **LUKE**  Uncle Owen...  **OWEN**  Yeah?  **LUKE**  This R2 unit has a bad motivator.  Look!  **OWEN**  (to the head Jawa)  Hey, what're you trying to push on  us?  The Jawa goes into a loud spiel. Meanwhile, Artoo has sneaked  out of line and is moving up and down trying to attract  attention. He lets out with a low whistle. Threepio taps  Luke on the shoulder.  **THREEPIO**  (pointing to Artoo)  Excuse me, sir, but that R2 unit is  in prime condition. A real bargain.  **LUKE**  Uncle Owen...  **OWEN**  Yeah?  **LUKE**  What about that one?  **OWEN**  (to Jawa)  What about that blue one? We'll take  that one.  With a little reluctance the scruffy dwarf trades the damaged  astro-droid for Artoo.  **LUKE**  Yeah, take it away.  **THREEPIO**  Uh, I'm quite sure you'll be very  pleased with that one, sir. He really  is in first-class condition. I've  worked with him before. Here he comes.  Owen pays off the whining Jawa as Luke and the two robots  trudge off toward a grimy homestead entry.  **LUKE**  Okay, let's go.  **THREEPIO**  (to Artoo)  Now, don't you forget this! Why I  should stick my neck out for you is  quite beyond my capacity!  **INT. LARS HOMESTEAD - GARAGE AREA - LATE AFTERNOON**  The garage is cluttered and worn, but a friendly peaceful  atmosphere permeates the low grey chamber. Threepio lowers  himself into a large tub filled with warm oil. Near the  battered Landspeeder little Artoo rests on a large battery  with a cord to his face.  **THREEPIO**  Thank the maker! This oil bath is  going to feel so good. I've got such  a bad case of dust contamination, I  can barely move!  Artoo beeps a muffled reply. Luke seems to be lost in thought  as he runs his hand over the damaged fin of a small two-man  Skyhopper spaceship resting in a low hangar off the garage.  Finally Luke's frustrations get the better of him and he  slams a wrench across the workbench.  **LUKE**  It just isn't fair. Oh, Biggs is  right. I'm never gonna get out of  here!  **THREEPIO**  Is there anything I might do to help?  Luke glances at the battered robot. A bit of his anger drains  and a tiny smile creeps across his face.  **LUKE**  Well, not unless you can alter time,  speed up the harvest, or teleport me  off this rock!  **THREEPIO**  I don't think so, sir. I'm only a  droid and not very knowledgeable  about such things. Not on this planet,  anyways. As a matter of fact, I'm  not even sure which planet I'm on.  **LUKE**  Well, if there's a bright center to  the universe, you're on the planet  that it's farthest from.  **THREEPIO**  I see, sir.  **LUKE**  Uh, you can call me Luke.  **THREEPIO**  I see, sir Luke.  **LUKE**  (laughing)  Just Luke.  **THREEPIO**  And I am See-Threepio, human-cyborg  relations, and this is my counterpart,  Artoo-Detoo.  **LUKE**  Hello.  Artoo beeps in response. Luke unplugs Artoo and begins to  scrape several connectors on the robot's head with a chrome  pick. Threepio climbs out of the oil tub and begins wiping  oil from his bronze body.  **LUKE**  You got a lot of carbon scoring here.  It looks like you boys have seen a  lot of action.  **THREEPIO**  With all we've been through, sometimes  I'm amazed we're in as good condition  as we are, what with the Rebellion  and all.  **LUKE**  You know of the Rebellion against  the Empire?  **THREEPIO**  That's how we came to be in your  service, if you take my meaning,  sir.  **LUKE**  Have you been in many battles?  **THREEPIO**  Several, I think. Actually, there's  not much to tell. I'm not much more  than an interpreter, and not very  good at telling stories. Well, not  at making them interesting, anyways.  Luke struggles to remove a small metal fragment from Artoo's  neck joint. He uses a larger pick.  **LUKE**  Well, my little friend, you've got  something jammed in here real good.  Were you on a cruiser or...  The fragment breaks loose with a snap, sending Luke tumbling  head over heels. He sits up and sees a twelve-inch three-  dimensional hologram of Leia Organa, the Rebel senator, being  projected from the face of little Artoo. The image is a  rainbow of colors as it flickers and jiggles in the dimly  lit garage. Luke's mouth hangs open in awe.  **LEIA**  Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi. You're my  only hope.  **LUKE**  What's this?  Artoo looks around and sheepishly beeps an answer for Threepio  to translate. Leia continues to repeat the sentence fragment  over and over.  **THREEPIO**  What is what?!? He asked you a  question...  (pointing to Leia)  What is that?  Artoo whistles his surprise as he pretends to just notice  the hologram. He looks around and sheepishly beeps an answer  for Threepio to translate. Leia continues to repeat the  sentence fragment over and over.  **LEIA**  Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi. You're my  only hope. Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi.  You're my only hope.  **THREEPIO**  Oh, he says it's nothing, sir. Merely  a malfunction. Old data. Pay it no  mind.  Luke becomes intrigued by the beautiful girl.  **LUKE**  Who is she? She's beautiful.  **THREEPIO**  I'm afraid I'm not quite sure, sir.  **LEIA**  Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi...  **THREEPIO**  I think she was a passenger on our  last voyage. A person of some  importance, sir -- I believe. Our  captain was attached to...  **LUKE**  Is there more to this recording?  Luke reaches out for Artoo but he lets out several frantic  squeaks and a whistle.  **THREEPIO**  Behave yourself, Artoo. You're going  to get us in trouble. It's all right,  you can trust him. He's our new  master.  Artoo whistles and beeps a long message to Threepio.  **THREEPIO**  He says he's the property of Obi-Wan  Kenobi, a resident of these parts.  And it's a private message for him.  Quite frankly, sir I don't know what  he's talking about. Our last master  was Captain Antilles, but with what  we've been through, this little R2  unit has become a bit eccentric.  **LUKE**  Obi-Wan Kenobi? I wonder if he means  old Ben Kenobi?  **THREEPIO**  I beg your pardon, sir, but do you  know what he's talking about?  **LUKE**  Well, I don't know anyone named Obi-  Wan, but old Ben lives out beyond  the dune sea. He's kind of a strange  old hermit.  Luke's gazes at the beautiful young princess for a few  moments.  **LUKE**  I wonder who she is. It sounds like  she's in trouble. I'd better play  back the whole thing.  Artoo beeps something to Threepio.  **THREEPIO**  He says the restraining bolt has  short circuited his recording system.  He suggests that if you remove the  bolt, he might be able to play back  the entire recording.  Luke looks longingly at the lovely, little princess and hasn't  really heard what Threepio has been saying.  **LUKE**  H'm? Oh, yeah, well, I guess you're  too small to run away on me if I  take this off! Okay.  Luke takes a wedged bar and pops the restraining bolt off  Artoo's side.  **LUKE**  There you go.  The princess immediately disappears...  **LUKE**  Well, wait a minute. Where'd she go?  Bring her back! Play back the entire  message.  Artoo beeps an innocent reply as Threepio sits up in  embarrassment.  **THREEPIO**  What message? The one you're carrying  inside your rusty innards!  A women's voice calls out from another room.  **AUNT BERU**  Luke? Luke! Come to dinner!  Luke stands up and shakes his head at the malfunctioning  robot.  **LUKE**  All right, I'll be right there, Aunt  Beru.  **THREEPIO**  I'm sorry, sir, but he appears to  have picked up a slight flutter.  Luke tosses Artoo's restraining bolt on the workbench and  hurries out of the room.  **LUKE**  Well, see what you can do with him.  I'll be right back.  **THREEPIO**  (to Artoo)  Just you reconsider playing that  message for him.  Artoo beeps in response.  **THREEPIO**  No, I don't think he likes you at  all.  Artoo beeps.  **THREEPIO**  No, I don't like you either.  **INT. LARS HOMESTEAD - DINING AREA**  Luke's Aunt Beru, a warm, motherly woman, fills a pitcher  with blue fluid from a refrigerated container in the well-  used kitchen. She puts the pitcher on a tray with some bowls  of food and starts for the dining area.  Luke sits with his Uncle Owen before a table covered with  steaming bowls of food as Aunt Beru carries in a bowl of red  grain.  **LUKE**  You know, I think that R2 unit we  bought might have been stolen.  **OWEN**  What makes you think that?  **LUKE**  Well, I stumbled across a recording  while I was cleaning him. He says he  belongs to someone called Obi-Wan  Kenobi.  Owen is greatly alarmed at the mention of his name, but  manages to control himself.  **LUKE**  I thought he might have meant old  Ben. Do you know what he's talking  about? Well, I wonder if he's related  to Ben.  Owen breaks loose with a fit of uncontrolled anger.  **OWEN**  That old man's just a crazy old  wizard. Tomorrow I want you to take  that R2 unit into Anchorhead and  have its memory flushed. That'll be  the end of it. It belongs to us now.  **LUKE**  But what if this Obi-Wan comes looking  for him?  **OWEN**  He won't, I don't think he exists  any more. He died about the same  time as your father.  **LUKE**  He knew my father?  **OWEN**  I told you to forget it. Your only  concern is to prepare the new droids  for tomorrow. In the morning I want  them on the south ridge working out  those condensers.  **LUKE**  Yes, sir. I think those new droids  are going to work out fine. In fact,  I, uh, was also thinking about our  agreement about my staying on another  season. And if these new droids do  work out, I want to transmit my  application to the Academy this year.  Owen's face becomes a scowl, although he tries to suppress  it.  **OWEN**  You mean the next semester before  harvest?  **LUKE**  Sure, there're more than enough  droids.  **OWEN**  Harvest is when I need you the most.  Only one more season. This year we'll  make enough on the harvest so I'll  be able to hire some more hands. And  then you can go to the Academy next  year.  Luke continues to toy with his food, not looking at his uncle.  **OWEN**  You must understand I need you here,  Luke.  **LUKE**  But it's a whole 'nother year.  **OWEN**  Look, it's only one more season.  Luke pushes his half-eaten plate of food aside and stands.  **LUKE**  Yeah, that's what you said last year  when Biggs and Tank left.  **AUNT BERU**  Where are you going?  **LUKE**  It looks like I'm going nowhere. I  have to finish cleaning those droids.  Resigned to his fate, Luke paddles out of the room. Owen  mechanically finishes his dinner.  **AUNT BERU**  Owen, he can't stay here forever.  Most of his friends have gone. It  means so much to him.  **OWEN**  I'll make it up to him next year. I  promise.  **AUNT BERU**  Luke's just not a farmer, Owen. He  has too much of his father in him.  **OWEN**  That's what I'm afraid of.  **EXT. TATOOINE - LARS HOMESTEAD**  The giant twin suns of Tatooine slowly disappear behind a  distant dune range. Luke stands watching them for a few  moments, then reluctantly enters the doomed entrance to the  homestead.  **INT. LARS HOMESTEAD - GARAGE**  Luke enters the garage to discover the robots nowhere in  sight. He takes a small control box from his utility belt  similar to the one the Jawas were carrying. He activates the  box, which creates a low hum, and Threepio, letting out a  short yell, pops up from behind the Skyhopper spaceship.  **LUKE**  What are you doing hiding there?  Threepio stumbles forward, but Artoo is still nowhere in  sight.  **THREEPIO**  It wasn't my fault, sir. Please don't  deactivate me. I told him not to go,  but he's faulty, malfunctioning;  kept babbling on about his mission.  **LUKE**  Oh, no!  Luke races out of the garage followed by Threepio.  **EXT. TATOOINE - LARS HOMESTEAD**  Luke rushes out of the small doomed entry to the homestead  and searches the darkening horizon for the small triped astro-  robot. Threepio struggles out of the homestead and on the  salt flat as Luke scans the landscape with his  electrobinoculars.  **THREEPIO**  That R2 unit has always been a  problem. These astro-droids are  getting quite out of hand. Even I  can't understand their logic at times.  **LUKE**  How could I be so stupid? He's nowhere  in sight. Blast it!  **THREEPIO**  Pardon me, sir, but couldn't we go  after him?  **LUKE**  It's too dangerous with all the  Sandpeople around. We'll have to  wait until morning.  Owen yells up from the homestead plaza.  **OWEN**  Luke, I'm shutting the power down  for the night.  **LUKE**  All right, I'll be there in a few  minutes. Boy, am I gonna get it.  He takes one final look across the dim horizon.  **LUKE**  You know that little droid is going  to cause me a lot of trouble.  **THREEPIO**  Oh, he excels at that, sir.  **INT. LARS HOMESTEAD - PLAZA**  Morning slowly creeps into the sparse but sparkling oasis of  the open courtyard. The idyll is broken be the yelling of  Uncle Owen, his voice echoing throughout the homestead.  **OWEN**  Luke? Luke? Luke? Where could he be  loafing now!  **INT. LARS HOMESTEAD - KITCHEN**  The interior of the kitchen is a worm glow as Aunt Beru  prepares the morning breakfast. Owen enters in a huff.  **OWEN**  Have you seen Luke this morning?  **AUNT BERU**  He said he had some things to do  before he started today, so he left  early.  **OWEN**  Uh? Did he take those two new droids  with him?  **AUNT BERU**  I think so.  **OWEN**  Well, he'd better have those units  in the south range repaired be midday  or there'll be hell to pay!  **EXT. TATOOINE - DESERT WASTELAND - LUKE'S SPEEDER - DAY**  The rock and sand of the desert floor are a blur as Threepio  pilots the sleek Landspeeder gracefully across the vast  wasteland.  **INT./EXT. LUKE'S SPEEDER - DESERT WASTELAND - TRAVELING -**  **DAY**  Luke leans over the back of the speeder and adjusts something  in the motor compartment.  **LUKE**  (yelling)  How's that.  Threepio signals that is fine and Luke turns back into the  wind-whipped cockpit and pops the canopy shut.  **LUKE**  Old Ben Kenobi lives out in this  direction somewhere, but I don't see  how that R2 unit could have come  this far. We must have missed him.  Uncle Owen isn't going to take this  very well.  **THREEPIO**  Sir, would it help if you told him  it was my fault.  **LUKE**  (brightening)  Sure. He needs you. He'd probably  only deactivate you for a day or  so...  **THREEPIO**  Deactivate! Well, on the other hand  if you hadn't removed his restraining  bolt...  **LUKE**  Wait, there's something dead ahead  on the scanner. It looks like our  droid... hit the accelerator.  **EXT. TATOOINE - ROCK MESA - DUNE SEA - COASTLINE - DAY**  From high on a rock mesa, the tiny Landspeeder can be seen  gliding across the desert floor. Suddenly in the foreground  two weather-beaten Sandpeople shrouded in their grimy desert  cloaks peer over the edge of the rock mesa. One of the  marginally human creatures raises a long ominous laser rifle  and points it at the speeder but the second creature grabs  the gun before it can be fired.  The Sandpeople, or Tusken Raiders as they're sometimes called,  speak in a coarse barbaric language as they get into an  animated argument. The second Tusken Raider seems to get in  the final word and the nomads scurry over the rocky terrain.  **EXT. TATOOINE - ROCK MESA - CANYON**  The Tusken Raider approaches two large Banthas standing tied  to a rock. The monstrous, bear-like creatures are as large  as elephants, with huge red eyes, tremendous looped horns,  and long, furry, dinosaur-like tails. The Tusken Raiders  mount saddles strapped to the huge creatures' shaggy backs  and ride off down the rugged bluff.  **EXT. TATOOINE - ROCK CANYON - FLOOR**  The speeder is parked on the floor of a massive canyon. Luke,  with his long laser rifle slung over his shoulder, stands  before little Artoo.  **LUKE**  Hey, whoa, just where do you think  you're going?  The little droid whistles a feeble reply, as Threepio poses  menacingly behind the little runaway.  **THREEPIO**  Master Luke here is your rightful  owner. We'll have no more of this  Obi-Wan Kenobi jibberish... and don't  talk to me about your mission, either.  You're fortunate he doesn't blast  you into a million pieces right here.  **LUKE**  Well, come on. It's getting late. I  only hope we can get back before  Uncle Owen really blows up.  **THREEPIO**  If you don't mind my saying so, sir,  I think you should deactivate the  little fugitive until you've gotten  him back to your workshop.  **LUKE**  No, he's not going to try anything.  Suddenly the little robot jumps to life with a mass of frantic  whistles and screams.  **LUKE**  What's wrong with him now?  **THREEPIO**  Oh my... sir, he says there are  several creatures approaching from  the southeast.  Luke swings his rifle into position and looks to the south.  **LUKE**  Sandpeople! Or worst! Come on, let's  have a look. Come on.  **EXT. TATOOINE - ROCK CANYON - RIDGE - DAY**  Luke carefully makes his way to the top of a rock ridge and  scans the canyon with his electrobinoculars. He spots the  two riderless Banthas. Threepio struggles up behind the young  adventurer.  **LUKE**  There are two Banthas down there but  I don't see any... wait a second,  they're Sandpeople all right. I can  see one of them now.  Luke watches the distant Tusken Raider through his  electrobinoculars. Suddenly something huge moves in front of  his field of view. Before Luke or Threepio can react, a large,  gruesome Tusken Raider looms over them. Threepio is startled  and backs away, right off the side if the cliff. He can be  heard for several moments as he clangs, bangs and rattles  down the side of the mountain.  The towering creature brings down his curved, double-pointed  gaderffii -- the dreaded axe blade that has struck terror in  the heart of the local settlers. But Luke manages to block  the blow with his laser rifle, which is smashed to pieces.  The terrified farm boy scrambles backward until he is forced  to the edge of a deep crevice. The sinister Raider stands  over him with his weapon raised and lets out a horrible  shrieking laugh.  **EXT. TATOOINE - ROCK CANYON - FLOOR - DAY**  Artoo forces himself into the shadows of a small alcove in  the rocks as the vicious Sandpeople walk past carrying the  inert Luke Skywalker, who is dropped in a heap before the  speeder. The Sandpeople ransack the speeder, throwing parts  and supplies in all directions. Suddenly they stop. Then  everything is quiet for a few moments. A great howling moan  is heard echoing throughout the canyon which sends the  Sandpeople fleeing in terror.  Artoo moves even tighter into the shadows as the slight  swishing sound that frightened off the Sandpeople grows even  closer, until a shabby old desert-rat-of-a-man appears and  leans over Luke. His ancient leathery face, cracked and  weathered by exotic climates is set off by dark, penetrating  eyes and a scraggly white beard. Ben Kenobi squints his eyes  as he scrutinizes the unconscious farm boy. Artoo makes a  slight sound and Ben turns and looks right at him.  **BEN**  Hello there! Come here my little  friend. Don't be afraid.  Artoo waddles over to were Luke lies crumpled in a heap and  begins to whistle and beep his concern. Ben puts his hand on  Luke's forehead and he begins to come around.  **BEN**  Don't worry, he'll be all right.  **LUKE**  What happened?  **BEN**  Rest easy, son, you've had a busy  day. You're fortunate you're still  in one piece.  **LUKE**  Ben? Ben Kenobi! Boy, am I glad to  see you!  **BEN**  The Jundland wastes are not to be  traveled lightly. Tell me young Luke,  what brings you out this far?  **LUKE**  Oh, this little droid! I think he's  searching for his former master...  I've never seen such devotion in a  droid before... there seems to be no  stopping him. He claims to be the  property of an Obi-Wan Kenobi. Is he  a relative of yours? Do you know who  he's talking about?  Ben ponders this for a moment, scratching his scruffy beard.  **BEN**  Obi-Wan Kenobi... Obi-Wan? Now thats  a name I haven't heard in a long  time... a long time.  **LUKE**  I think my uncle knew him. He said  he was dead.  **BEN**  Oh, he's not dead, not... not yet.  **LUKE**  You know him!  **BEN**  Well of course, of course I know  him. He's me! I haven't gone by the  name Obi-Wan since oh, before you  were born.  **LUKE**  Then the droid does belong to you.  **BEN**  Don't seem to remember ever owning a  droid. Very interesting...  He suddenly looks up at the overhanging cliffs.  **BEN**  I think we better get indoors. The  Sandpeople are easily startled but  they will soon be back and in greater  numbers.  Luke sits up and rubs his head. Artoo lets out a pathetic  beep causing Luke to remember something. He looks around.  **LUKE**  Threepio!  **EXT. TATOOINE - SAND PIT - ROCK MESA - DAY**  Little Artoo stands at the edge of a large sand pit and begins  to chatter away in electronic whistles and beeps. Luke and  Ben stand over a very dented and tangled Threepio lying half  buried in the sand. One of his arms has broken off.  Luke tries to revive the inert robot by shaking him and then  flips a hidden switch on his back several times until finally  the mechanical man's systems turn on.  **THREEPIO**  Where am I? I must have taken a bad  step...  **LUKE**  Can you stand? We've got to get out  of here before the Sandpeople return.  **THREEPIO**  I don't think I can make it. You go  on, Master Luke. There's no sense in  you risking yourself on my account.  I'm done for.  Artoo makes a beeping sound.  **LUKE**  No, you're not. What kind of talk is  that?  Luke and Ben help the battered robot to his feet. Little  Artoo watches from the top of the pit. Ben glances around  suspiciously. Sensing something, he stands up and sniffs the  air.  **BEN**  Quickly, son... they're on the move.  **INT. KENOBI'S DWELLING**  The small, spartan hovel is cluttered with desert junk but  still manages to radiate an air of time-worn comfort and  security. Luke is in one corner repairing Threepio's arm, as  old Ben sits thinking.  **LUKE**  No, my father didn't fight in the  wars. He was a navigator on a spice  freighter.  **BEN**  That's what your uncle told you. He  didn't hold with your father's ideals.  Thought he should have stayed here  and not gotten involved.  **LUKE**  You fought in the Clone Wars?  **BEN**  Yes, I was once a Jedi Knight the  same as your father.  **LUKE**  I wish I'd known him.  **BEN**  He was the best star-pilot in the  galaxy, and a cunning warrior. I  understand you've become quite a  good pilot yourself. And he was a  good friend. Which reminds me...  Ben gets up and goes to a chest where he rummages around.  As Luke finishes repairing Threepio and starts to fit the  restraining bolt back on, Threepio looks at him nervously.  Luke thinks about the bolt for a moment then puts it on the  table. Ben shuffles up and presents Luke with a short handle  with several electronic gadgets attached to it.  **BEN**  I have something here for you. Your  father wanted you to have this when  you were old enough, but your uncle  wouldn't allow it. He feared you  might follow old Obi-Wan on some  damned-fool idealistic crusade like  your father did.  **THREEPIO**  Sir, if you'll not be needing me,  I'll close down for awhile.  **LUKE**  Sure, go ahead.  Ben hands Luke the saber.  **LUKE**  What is it?  **BEN**  Your fathers lightsaber. This is the  weapon of a Jedi Knight. Not as clumsy  or as random as a blaster.  Luke pushes a button on the handle. A long beam shoots out  about four feet and flickers there. The light plays across  the ceiling.  **BEN**  An elegant weapon for a more civilized  time. For over a thousand generations  the Jedi Knights were the guardians  of peace and justice in the Old  Republic. Before the dark times,  before the Empire.  Luke hasn't really been listening.  **LUKE**  How did my father die?  **BEN**  A young Jedi named Darth Vader, who  was a pupil of mine until he turned  to evil, helped the Empire hunt down  and destroy the Jedi Knights. He  betrayed and murdered your father.  Now the Jedi are all but extinct.  Vader was seduced by the dark side  of the Force.  **LUKE**  The Force?  **BEN**  Well, the Force is what gives a Jedi  his power. It's an energy field  created by all living things. It  surrounds us and penetrates us. It  binds the galaxy together.  Artoo makes beeping sounds.  **BEN**  Now, let's see if we can't figure  out what you are, my little friend.  And where you come from.  **LUKE**  I saw part of the message he was...  Luke is cut short as the recorded image of the beautiful  young Rebel princess is projected from Artoo's face.  **BEN**  I seem to have found it.  Luke stops his work as the lovely girl's image flickers before  his eyes.  **LEIA**  General Kenobi, years ago you served  my father in the Clone Wars. Now he  begs you to help him in his struggle  against the Empire. I regret that I  am unable to present my father's  request to you in person, but my  ship has fallen under attack and I'm  afraid my mission to bring you to  Alderaan has failed. I have placed  information vital to the survival of  the Rebellion into the memory systems  of this R2 unit. My father will know  how to retrieve it. You must see  this droid safely delivered to him  on Alderaan. This is our most  desperate hour. Help me, Obi-Wan  Kenobi, you're my only hope.  There is a little static and the transmission is cut short.  Old Ben leans back and scratches his head. He silently puffs  on a tarnished chrome water pipe. Luke has stars in his eyes.  **BEN**  You must learn the ways of the Force  if you're to come with me to Alderaan.  **LUKE**  (laughing)  Alderaan? I'm not going to Alderaan.  I've got to go home. It's late, I'm  in for it as it is.  **BEN**  I need your help, Luke. She needs  your help. I'm getting too old for  this sort of thing.  **LUKE**  I can't get involved! I've got work  to do! It's not that I like the  Empire. I hate it! But there's nothing  I can do about it right now. It's  such a long way from here.  **BEN**  That's your uncle talking.  **LUKE**  (sighing)  Oh, God, my uncle. How am I ever  going to explain this?  **BEN**  Learn about the Force, Luke.  **LUKE**  Look, I can take you as far as  Anchorhead. You can get a transport  there to Mos Eisley or wherever you're  going.  **BEN**  You must do what you feel is right,  of course.  **EXT. SPACE.**  An Imperial Stardestroyer heads toward the evil planet-like  battle station: the Death Star!  **INT. DEATH STAR - CONFERENCE ROOM**  Eight Imperial senators and generals sit around a black  conference table. Imperial stormtroopers stand guard around  the room. Commander Tagge, a young, slimy-looking general,  is speaking.  **TAGGE**  Until this battle station is fully  operational we are vulnerable. The  Rebel Alliance is too well equipped.  They're more dangerous than you  realize.  The bitter Admiral Motti twists nervously in his chair.  **MOTTI**  Dangerous to your starfleet,  Commander, not to this battle station!  **TAGGE**  The Rebellion will continue to gain  a support in the Imperial Senate as  long as....  Suddenly all heads turn as Commander Tagge's speech is cut  short and the Grand Moff Tarkin, governor of the Imperial  outland regions, enters. He is followed by his powerful ally,  The Sith Lord, Darth Vader. All of the generals stand and  bow before the thin, evil-looking governor as he takes his  place at the head of the table. The Dark Lord stands behind  him.  **TARKIN**  The Imperial Senate will no longer  be of any concern to us. I've just  received word that the Emperor has  dissolved the council permanently.  The last remnants of the Old Republic  have been swept away.  **TAGGE**  That's impossible! How will the  Emperor maintain control without the  bureaucracy?  **TARKIN**  The regional governors now have direct  control over territories. Fear will  keep the local systems in line. Fear  of this battle station.  **TAGGE**  And what of the Rebellion? If the  Rebels have obtained a complete  technical readout of this station,  it is possible, however unlikely,  that they might find a weakness and  exploit it.  **VADER**  The plans you refer to will soon be  back in our hands.  **MOTTI**  Any attack made by the Rebels against  this station would be a useless  gesture, no matter what technical  data they've obtained. This station  is now the ultimate power in the  universe. I suggest we use it!  **VADER**  Don't be too proud of this  technological terror you've  constructed. The ability to destroy  a planet is insignificant next to  the power of the Force.  **MOTTI**  Don't try to frighten us with your  sorcerer's ways, Lord Vader. Your  sad devotion to that ancient religion  has not helped you conjure up the  stolen data tapes, or given you  clairvoyance enough to find the  Rebel's hidden fort...  Suddenly Motti chokes and starts to turn blue under Vader's  spell.  **VADER**  I find your lack of faith disturbing.  **TARKIN**  Enough of this! Vader, release him!  **VADER**  As you wish.  **TARKIN**  This bickering is pointless. Lord  Vader will provide us with the  location of the Rebel fortress by  the time this station is operational.  We will then crush the Rebellion  with one swift stroke.  **EXT. TATOOINE - WASTELAND**  The speeder stops before what remains of the huge Jawas  Sandcrawler. Luke and Ben walk among the smoldering rubble  and scattered bodies.  **LUKE**  It looks like Sandpeople did this,  all right. Look, here are Gaffi  sticks, Bantha tracks. It's just...  I never heard of them hitting anything  this big before.  Ben is crouching in the sand studying the tracks.  **BEN**  They didn't. But we are meant to  think they did. These tracks are  side by side. Sandpeople always ride  single file to hide there numbers.  **LUKE**  These are the same Jawas that sold  us Artoo and Threepio.  **BEN**  And these blast points, too accurate  for Sandpeople. Only Imperial  stormtroopers are so precise.  **LUKE**  Why would Imperial troops want to  slaughter Jawas?  Luke looks back at the speeder where Artoo and Threepio are  inspecting the dead Jawas, and put two and two together.  **LUKE**  If they traced the robots here, they  may have learned who they sold them  to. And that would lead them home!  Luke reaches a sudden horrible realization, then races for  the speeder and jumps it.  **BEN**  Wait, Luke! It's too dangerous.  Luke races off leaving Ben and the two robots alone with the  burning Sandcrawler.  **EXT. TATOOINE - WASTELAND**  Luke races across the wasteland in his battered Landspeeder.  **EXT. TATOOINE - LARS HOMESTEAD**  The speeder roars up to the burning homestead. Luke jumps  out and runs to the smoking holes that were once his home.  Debris is scattered everywhere and it looks as if a great  battle has taken place.  **LUKE**  Uncle Owen! Aunt Beru! Uncle Owen!  Luke stumbles around in a daze looking for his aunt and uncle.  Suddenly he comes upon their smoldering remains. He is  stunned, and cannot speak. Hate replaces fear and a new  resolve comes over him.  **EXT. SPACE**  Imperial TIE fighter races toward the Death Star.  **INT. DEATH STAR - DETENTION CORRIDOR**  Two stormtroopers open an electronic cell door and allow  several Imperial guards to enter. Princess Leia's face is  filled with defiance, which slowly gives way to fear as a  giant black torture robot enters, followed by Darth Vader.  **VADER**  And, now Your Highness, we will  discuss the location of your hidden  Rebel base.  The torture robot gives off a steady beeping sound as it  approaches Princess Leia and extends one of its mechanical  arms bearing a large hypodermic needle. The door slides shut  and the long cell block hallway appears peaceful. The muffled  screams of the Rebel princess are barely heard.  **EXT. TATOOINE - WASTELAND**  There is a large bonfire of Jawa bodies blazing in front of  the Sandcrawler as Ben and the robots finish burning the  dead. Luke drives up in the speeder and Ben walks over to  him.  **BEN**  There's nothing you could have done,  Luke, had you been there. You'd have  been killed, too, and the droids  would be in the hands of the Empire.  **LUKE**  I want to come with you to Alderaan.  There's nothing here for me now. I  want to learn the ways of the Force  and become a Jedi like my father.  **EXT. TATOOINE - WASTELAND**  The Landspeeder with Luke, Artoo, Threepio, and Ben in it  zooms across the desert. The speeder stops on a bluff  overlooking the spaceport at Mos Eisley. It is a haphazard  array of low, grey, concrete structures and semi-domes. A  harsh gale blows across the stark canyon floor. Luke adjusts  his goggles and walks to the edge of the craggy bluff where  Ben is standing.  **BEN**  Mos Eisley Spaceport. You will never  find a more wretched hive of scum  and villainy. We must be cautious.  Ben looks over at Luke, who gives the old Jedi a determined  smile.  **EXT. TATOOINE - MOS EISLEY - STREET**  The speeder is stopped on a crowded street by several combat-  hardend stormtroopers who look over the two robots. A Trooper  questions Luke.  **TROOPER**  How long have you had these droids?  **LUKE**  About three or four seasons.  **BEN**  They're for sale if you want them.  **TROOPER**  Let me see your identification.  Luke becomes very nervous as he fumbles to find his ID while  Ben speaks to the Trooper in a very controlled voice.  **BEN**  You don't need to see his  identification.  **TROOPER**  We don't need to see his  identification.  **BEN**  These are not the droids your looking  for.  **TROOPER**  These are not the droids we're looking  for.  **BEN**  He can go about his business.  **TROOPER**  You can go about your business.  **BEN**  (to Luke)  Move along.  **TROOPER**  Move along. Move along.  **EXT. TATOOINE - MOS EISLEY - STREET**  The speeder pulls up in front of a rundown blockhouse cantina  on the outskirts of the spaceport. Various strange forms of  transport, including several unusual beasts of burden, are  parked outside the bar. A Jawa runs up and begins to fondle  the speeder.  **THREEPIO**  I can't abide these Jawas. Disgusting  creatures.  As Luke gets out of the speeder he tries to shoo the Jawa  away.  **LUKE**  Go on, go on. I can't understand how  we got by those troopers. I thought  we were dead.  **BEN**  The Force can have a strong influence  on the weak-minded. You will find it  a powerful ally.  **LUKE**  Do you really think we're going to  find a pilot here that'll take us to  Alderaan?  **BEN**  Well, most of the best freighter  pilots can be found here. Only watch  your step. This place can be a little  rough.  **LUKE**  I'm ready for anything.  **THREEPIO**  Come along, Artoo.  **INT. TATOOINE - MOS EISLEY - CANTINA**  The young adventurer and his two mechanical servants follow  Ben Kenobi into the smoke-filled cantina. The murky, moldy  den is filled with a startling array of weird and exotic  alien creatures and monsters at the long metallic bar. At  first the sight is horrifying. One-eyed, thousand-eyed, slimy,  furry, scaly, tentacled, and clawed creatures huddle over  drinks. Ben moves to an empty spot at the bar near a group  of repulsive but human scum. A huge, rough-looking Bartender  stops Luke and the robots.  **BARTENDER**  We don't serve their kind here!  Luke still recovering from the shock of seeing so many  outlandish creatures, doesn't quite catch the bartender's  drift.  **LUKE**  What?  **BARTENDER**  Your droids. They'll have to wait  outside. We don't want them here.  Luke looks at old Ben, who is busy talking to one of the  Galactic pirates. He notices several of the gruesome creatures  along the bar are giving him a very unfriendly glare.  Luke pats Threepio on the shoulder.  **LUKE**  Listen, why don't you wait out by  the speeder. We don't want any  trouble.  **THREEPIO**  I heartily agree with you sir.  Threepio and his stubby partner go outside and most of the  creatures at the bar go back to their drinks.  Ben is standing next to Chewbacca, an eight-foot-tall savage-  looking creature resembling a huge grey bushbaby monkey with  fierce baboon-like fangs. His large blue eyes dominate a fur-  covered face and soften his otherwise awesome appearance.  Over his matted, furry body he wears two chrome bandoliers,  and little else. He is a two-hundred-year-old Wookiee and a  sight to behold.  Ben speaks to the Wookiee, pointing to Luke several times  during his conversation and the huge creature suddenly lets  out a horrifying laugh. Luke is more than a little bit  disconcerted and pretends not to hear the conversation between  Ben and the giant Wookiee.  Luke is terrified but tries not to show it. He quietly sips  his drink, looking over the crowd for a more sympathetic ear  or whatever.  A large, multiple-eyed Creature gives Luke a rough shove.  **CREATURE**  Negola dewaghi wooldugger?!?  The hideous freak is obviously drunk. Luke tries to ignore  the creature and turns back on his drink. A short, grubby  Human and an even smaller rodent-like beast join the  belligerent monstrosity.  **HUMAN**  He doesn't like you.  **LUKE**  I'm sorry.  **HUMAN**  I don't like you either.  The big creature is getting agitated and yells out some  unintelligible gibberish at the now rather nervous, young  adventurer.  **HUMAN**  Don't insult us. You just watch  yourself. We're wanted men. I have  the death sentence in twelve systems.  **LUKE**  I'll be careful than.  **HUMAN**  You'll be dead.  The rodent lets out a loud grunt and everything at the bar  moves away. Luke tries to remain cool but it isn't easy. His  three adversaries ready their weapons. Old Ben moves in behind  Luke.  **BEN**  This little one isn't worth the  effort. Come let me buy you  something...  A powerful blow from the unpleasant creature sends the young  would-be Jedi sailing across the room, crashing through tables  and breaking a large jug filled with a foul-looking liquid.  With a blood curdling shriek, the monster draws a wicked  chrome laser pistol from his belt and levels it at old Ben.  The bartender panics.  **BARTENDER**  No blasters! No blaster!  With astounding agility old Ben's laser sword sparks to life  and in a flash an arm lies on the floor. The rodent is cut  in two and the giant multiple-eyed creature lies doubled,  cut from chin to groin. Ben carefully and precisely turns  off his laser sword and replaces it on his utility belt.  Luke, shaking and totally amazed at the old man's abilities,  attempts to stand. The entire fight has lasted only a matter  of seconds. The cantina goes back to normal, although Ben is  given a respectable amount of room at the bar. Luke, rubbing  his bruised head, approaches the old man with new awe. Ben  points the the Wookiee.  **BEN**  This is Chewbacca. He's first-mate  on a ship that might suit our needs.  **EXT. TATOOINE - MOS EISLEY - STREET**  Threepio paces in front of the cantina as Artoo carries on  an electronic conversation with another little red astro-  droid. A creature comes out of the cantina and approaches  two stormtroopers in the street.  **THREEPIO**  I don't like the look of this.  **INT. TATOOINE - MOS EISLEY - CANTINA**  Strange creatures play exotic big band music on odd-looking  instruments as Luke, still giddy, downs a fresh drink and  follows Ben and Chewbacca to a booth where Han Solo is  sitting. Han is a tough, roguish starpilot about thirty years  old. A mercenary on a starship, he is simple, sentimental,  and cocksure.  **HAN**  Han Solo. I'm captain of the  Millennium Falcon. Chewie here tells  me you're looking for passage to the  Alderaan system.  **BEN**  Yes, indeed. If it's a fast ship.  **HAN**  Fast ship? You've never heard of the  Millennium Falcon?  **BEN**  Should I have?  **HAN**  It's the ship that made the Kessel  run in less than twelve parsecs!  Ben reacts to Solo's stupid attempt to impress them with  obvious misinformation.  **HAN**  I've outrun Imperial starships, not  the local bulk-cruisers, mind you.  I'm talking about the big Corellian  ships now. She's fast enough for  you, old man. What's the cargo?  **BEN**  Only passengers. Myself, the boy,  two droids, and no questions asked.  **HAN**  What is it? Some kind of local  trouble?  **BEN**  Let's just say we'd like to avoid  any Imperial entanglements.  **HAN**  Well, that's the trick, isn't it?  And it's going to cost you something  extra. Ten thousand in advance.  **LUKE**  Ten thousand? We could almost buy  our own ship for that!  **HAN**  But who's going to fly it, kid! You?  **LUKE**  You bet I could. I'm not such a bad  pilot myself! We don't have to sit  here and listen...  **BEN**  We haven't that much with us. But we  could pay you two thousand now, plus  fifteen when we reach Alderaan.  **HAN**  Seventeen, huh!  Han ponders this for a few moments.  **HAN**  Okay. You guys got yourself a ship.  We'll leave as soon as you're ready.  Docking bay Ninety-four.  **BEN**  Ninety-four.  **HAN**  Looks like somebody's beginning to  take an interest in your handiwork.  Ben and Luke turn around to see four Imperial stormtroopers  looking at the dead bodies and asking the bartenders some  questions. The bartender points to the booth.  **TROOPER**  All right, we'll check it out.  The stormtroopers look over at the booth but Luke and Ben  are gone. The bartender shrugs his shoulders in puzzlement.  **HAN**  Seventeen thousand! Those guys must  really be desperate. This could really  save my neck. Get back to the ship  and get her ready.  **EXT. TATOOINE - MOS EISLEY - STREET**  **BEN**  You'll have to sell your speeder.  **LUKE**  That's okay. I'm never coming back  to this planet again.  **INT. MOS EISLEY - CANTINA**  As Han is about to leave, Greedo, a slimy green-faced alien  with a short trunk-nose, pokes a gun in his side. The creature  speaks in a foreign tongue translated into English subtitles.  **GREEDO**  Going somewhere, Solo?  **HAN**  Yes, Greedo. As a matter of fact, I  was just going to see your boss.  Tell Jabba that I've got his money.  Han sits down and the alien sits across from him holding the  gun on him.  **GREEDO**  It's too late. You should have paid  him when you had the chance. Jabba's  put a price on your head, so large  that every bounty hunter in the galaxy  will be looking for you. I'm lucky I  found you first.  **HAN**  Yeah, but this time I got the money.  **GREEDO**  If you give it to me, I might forget  I found you.  **HAN**  I don't have it with me. Tell Jabba...  **GREEDO**  Jabba's through with you. He has no  time for smugglers who drop their  shipments at the first sign of an  Imperial cruiser.  **HAN**  Even I get boarded sometimes. Do you  think I had a choice?  Han Solo slowly reaches for his gun under the table.  **GREEDO**  You can tell that to Jabba. He may  only take your ship.  **HAN**  Over my dead body.  **GREEDO**  That's the idea. I've been looking  forward to killing you for a long  time.  **HAN**  Yes, I'll bet you have.  Suddenly the slimy alien disappears in a blinding flash of  light. Han pulls his smoking gun from beneath the table as  the other patron look on in bemused amazement. Han gets up  and starts out of the cantina, flipping the bartender some  coins as he leaves.  **HAN**  Sorry about the mess.  **EXT. SPACE**  Several TIE fighters approach the Death Star.  **INT. DEATH STAR - CONTROL ROOM**  **VADER**  Her resistance to the mind probe is  considerable. It will be some time  before we can extract any information  from her.  An Imperial Officer interrupts the meeting.  **IMPERIAL OFFICER**  The final check-out is complete. All  systems are operational. What course  shall we set?  **TARKIN**  Perhaps she would respond to an  alternative form of persuasion.  **VADER**  What do you mean?  **TARKIN**  I think it is time we demonstrate  the full power of this station.  (to soldier)  Set your course for Princess Leia's  home planet of Alderaan.  **TROOPER**  With pleasure.  **EXT. TATOOINE - MOS EISLEY - STREET**  Four heavily-armed stormtroopers move menacingly along a  narrow slum alleyway crowed with darkly clad creatures hawking  exotic goods in the dingy little stalls. Men, monsters, and  robots crouch in the waste-filled doorways, whispering and  hiding from the hot winds.  **THREEPIO**  Lock the door, Artoo.  One of the troopers checks a tightly locked door and moves  on down the alleyway. The door slides open a crack and  Threepio peeks out. Artoo is barely visible in the background.  **TROOPER**  All right, check that side of the  street. It's secure. Move on to the  next door.  The door opens, Threepio moves into the doorway.  **THREEPIO**  I would much rather have gone with  Master Luke than stay here with you.  I don't know what all the trouble is  about, but I'm sure it must be your  fault.  Artoo makes beeping sounds.  **THREEPIO**  You watch your language!  **EXT. TATOOINE - MOS EISLEY - STREET - ALLEYWAY - USED**  **SPEEDER LOT**  Ben and Luke are standing in a sleazy used speeder lot,  talking with a tall, grotesque, insect-like used speeder  dealer. Strange exotic bodies and spindly-legged beasts pass  by as the insect concludes the sale by giving Luke some coins.  **LUKE**  He says it's the best he can do.  Since the XP-38 came out, they're  just not in demand.  **BEN**  It will be enough.  Ben and Luke leave the speeder lot and walk down the dusty  alleyway past a small robot herding a bunch of anteater-like  creatures. Luke turns and gives one last forlorn look at his  faithful speeder as he rounds a corner. A darkly clad creature  moves out of the shadows as they pass and watches them as  they disappear down another alley.  **BEN**  If the ship's as fast as he's  boasting, we ought to do well.  **INT. DOCKING BAY 94 - DAY**  Jabba the Hut and a half-dozen grisly alien pirates and purple  creatures stand in the middle of the docking bay. Jabba is  the grossest of the slavering hulks and his scarred face is  a grim testimonial to his prowess as a vicious killer. He is  a fat, slug-like creature with eyes on extended feelers and  a huge ugly mouth.  **JABBA**  Come on out, Solo!  A voice from directly behind the pirates startles them and  they turn around to see Han Solo and the giant Wookiee,  Chewbacca, standing behind them with no weapons in sight.  **HAN**  I've been waiting for you, Jabba.  **JABBA**  I expected you would be.  **HAN**  I'm not the type to run.  **JABBA**  (fatherly-smooth)  Han, my boy, there are times when  you disappoint me... why haven't you  paid me? And why did you have to fry  poor Greedo like that... after all  we've been through together.  **HAN**  You sent Greedo to blast me.  **JABBA**  (mock surprise)  Han, why you're the best smuggler in  the business. You're too valuable to  fry. He was only relaying my concern  at your delays. He wasn't going to  blast you.  **HAN**  I think he thought he was. Next time  don't send one of those twerps. If  you've got something to say to me,  come see me yourself.  **JABBA**  Han, Han! If only you hadn't had to  dump that shipment of spice... you  understand I just can't make an  exception. Where would I be if every  pilot who smuggled for me dumped  their shipment at the first sign of  an Imperial starship? It's not good  business.  **HAN**  You know, even I get boarded  sometimes, Jabba. I had no choice,  but I've got a charter now and I can  pay you back, plus a little extra. I  just need some more time.  **JABBA**  (to his men)  Put your blasters away. Han, my boy,  I'm only doing this because you're  the best and I need you. So, for an  extra, say twenty percent I'll give  you a little more time... but this  is it. If you disappoint me again,  I'll put a price on your head so  large you won't be able to go near a  civilized system for the rest of  your short life.  **HAN**  Jabba, I'll pay you because it's my  pleasure.  **EXT. DOCKING PORT ENTRY - ALLEYWAY**  Chewbacca waits restlessly at the entrance to Docking Bay  94. Ben, Luke, and the robots make their way up the street.  Chewbacca jabbers excitedly and signals for them to hurry.  The darkly clad creature has followed them from the speeder  lot. He stops in a nearby doorway and speaks into a small  transmitter.  **INT. MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT - DOCKING BAY 94**  Chewbacca leads the group into a giant dirt pit that is  Docking Bay 94. Resting in the middle of the huge hole is a  large, round, beat-up, pieced-together hunk of junk that  could only loosely be called a starship.  **LUKE**  What a piece of junk.  The tall figure of Han Solo comes down the boarding ramp.  **HAN**  She'll make point five beyond the  speed of light. She may not look  like much, but she's got it where it  counts, kid. I've added some special  modifications myself.  Luke scratches his head. It's obvious he isn't sure about  all this. Chewbacca rushes up the ramp and urges the others  to follow.  **HAN**  We're a little rushed, so if you'll  hurry aboard we'll get out of here.  The group rushes up the gang plank, passing a grinning Han  Solo.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON**  Chewbacca settles into the pilot's chair and starts the mighty  engines of the starship.  **INT. MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT - DOCKING BAY 94**  Luke, Ben, Threepio, and Artoo move toward the Millennium  Falcon passing Solo.  **THREEPIO**  Hello, sir.  **EXT. TATOOINE - MOS EISLEY - STREET**  Eight Imperial stormtroopers rush up to the darkly clad  creature.  **TROOPER**  Which way?  The darkly clad creature points to the door of the docking  bay.  **TROOPER**  All right, men. Load your weapons!  **INT. MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT - DOCKING BAY 94]**  The troops hold their guns at the ready and charge down the  docking bay entrance.  **TROOPER**  Stop that ship!  Han Solo looks up and sees the Imperial stormtroopers rushing  into the docking bay. Several of the troopers fire at Han as  he ducks into the spaceship.  **TROOPER**  Blast 'em!  Han draws his laser pistol and pops off a couple of shots  which force the stormtroopers to dive for safety. The  pirateship engines whine as Han hits the release button that  slams the overhead entry shut.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON**  **HAN**  Chewie, get us out of here!  The group straps in for take off.  **THREEPIO**  Oh, my. I'd forgotten how much I  hate space travel.  **EXT. TATOOINE - MOS EISLEY - STREETS**  The half-dozen stormtroopers at a check point hear the general  alarm and look to the sky as the huge starship rises above  the dingy slum dwellings and quickly disappears into the  morning sky.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Han climbs into the pilot's chair next to Chewbacca, who  chatters away as he points to something on the radar scope.  **EXT. SPACE - PLANET TATOOINE**  The Corellian pirateship zooms from Tatooine into space.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Han frantically types information into the ship's computer.  Little Artoo appears momentarily at the cockpit doorway,  makes a few beeping remarks, then scurries away.  **HAN**  It looks like an Imperial cruiser.  Our passengers must be hotter than I  thought. Try and hold them off. Angle  the deflector shield while I make  the calculations for the jump to  light speed.  **EXT. SPACE - PLANET TATOOINE**  The Millennium Falcon pirateship races away from the yellow  planet, Tatooine. It is followed by two huge Imperial  stardestroyers.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Over the shoulders of Chewbacca and Han, we can see the galaxy  spread before them. Luke and Ben make their way into the  cramped cockpit where Han continues his calculation.  **HAN**  Stay sharp! There are two more coming  in; they're going to try to cut us  off.  **LUKE**  Why don't you outrun them? I thought  you said this thing was fast.  **HAN**  Watch your mouth, kid, or you're  going to find yourself floating home.  We'll be safe enough once we make  the jump to hyperspace. Besides, I  know a few maneuvers. We'll lose  them!  **EXT. SPACE - PLANET TATOOINE**  Imperial cruisers fire at the pirateship.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  The ship shudders as an explosion flashes outside the window.  **HAN**  Here's where the fun begins!  **BEN**  How long before you can make the  jump to light speed?  **HAN**  It'll take a few moments to get the  coordinates from the navi-computer.  The ship begins to rock violently as lasers hit it.  **LUKE**  Are you kidding? At the rate they're  gaining...  **HAN**  Traveling through hyperspace isn't  like dusting crops, boy! Without  precise calculations we could fly  right through a star or bounce too  close to a supernova and that'd end  your trip real quick, wouldn't it?  The ship is now constantly battered with laserfire as a red  warning light begins to flash.  **LUKE**  What's that flashing?  **HAN**  We're losing our deflector shield.  Go strap yourself in, I'm going to  make the jump to light speed.  The galaxy brightens and they move faster, almost as if  crashing a barrier. Stars become streaks as the pirateship  makes the jump to hyperspace.  **EXT. SPACE**  The Millennium Falcon zooms into infinity in less than a  second.  **EXT. DEATH STAR**  Alderaan looms behind the Death Star battlestation.  **INT. DEATH STAR - CONTROL ROOM**  Admiral Motti enters the quiet control room and bows before  Governor Tarkin, who stands before the huge wall screen  displaying a small green planet.  **MOTTI**  We've entered the Alderaan system.  Vader and two stormtroopers enter with Princess Leia. Her  hands are bound.  **LEIA**  Governor Tarkin, I should have  expected to find you holding Vader's  leash. I recognized your foul stench  when I was brought on board.  **TARKIN**  Charming to the last. You don't know  how hard I found it signing the order  to terminate your life!  **LEIA**  I surprised you had the courage to  take the responsibility yourself!  **TARKIN**  Princess Leia, before your execution  I would like you to be my guest at a  ceremony that will make this battle  station operational. No star system  will dare oppose the Emperor now.  **LEIA**  The more you tighten your grip,  Tarkin, the more star systems will  slip through your fingers.  **TARKIN**  Not after we demonstrate the power  of this station. In a way, you have  determined the choice of the planet  that'll be destroyed first. Since  you are reluctant to provide us with  the location of the Rebel base, I  have chosen to test this station's  destructive power... on your home  planet of Alderaan.  **LEIA**  No! Alderaan is peaceful. We have no  weapons. You can't possibly...  **TARKIN**  You would prefer another target? A  military target? Then name the system!  Tarkin waves menacingly toward Leia.  **TARKIN**  I grow tired of asking this. So it'll  be the last time. Where is the Rebel  base?  Leia overhears an intercom voice announcing the approach to  Alderaan.  **LEIA**  (softly)  Dantooine.  Leia lowers her head.  **LEIA**  They're on Dantooine.  **TARKIN**  There. You see Lord Vader, she can  be reasonable.  (addressing Motti)  Continue with the operation. You may  fire when ready.  **LEIA**  What?  **TARKIN**  You're far too trusting. Dantooine  is too remote to make an effective  demonstration. But don't worry. We  will deal with your Rebel friends  soon enough.  **LEIA**  No!  **INT. DEATH STAR - BLAST CHAMBER**  **VADER**  Commence primary ignition.  A button is pressed which switches on a panel of lights. A  hooded Imperial soldier reaches overhead and pulls a lever.  Another lever is pulled. Vader reaches for still another  lever and a bank of lights on a panel and wall light up. A  huge beam of light emanates from within a cone-shaped area  and converges into a single laser beam out toward Alderaan.  The small green planet of Alderaan is blown into space dust.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - CENTRAL HOLD AREA**  Ben watches Luke practice the lightsaber with a small "seeker"  robot. Ben suddenly turns away and sits down. He falters,  seems almost faint.  **LUKE**  Are you all right? What's wrong?  **BEN**  I felt a great disturbance in the  Force... as if millions of voices  suddenly cried out in terror and  were suddenly silenced. I fear  something terrible has happened.  Ben rubs his forehead. He seems to drift into a trance. Then  he fixes his gaze on Luke.  **BEN**  You'd better get on with your  exercises.  Han Solo enters the room.  **HAN**  Well, you can forget your troubles  with those Imperial slugs. I told  you I'd outrun 'em.  Luke is once again practicing with the lightsaber.  **HAN**  Don't everyone thank me at once.  Threepio watches Chewbacca and Artoo who are engrossed in a  game in which three-dimensional holographic figures move  along a chess-type board.  **HAN**  Anyway, we should be at Alderaan  about oh-two-hundred hours.  Chewbacca and the two robots sit around the lighted table  covered with small holographic monsters. Each side of the  table has a small computer monitor embedded in it. Chewbacca  seems very pleased with himself as he rests his lanky fur-  covered arms over his head.  **THREEPIO**  Now be careful, Artoo.  Artoo immediately reaches up and taps the computer with his  stubby claw hand, causing one of the holographic creatures  to walk to the new square. A sudden frown crosses Chewbacca's  face and he begins yelling gibberish at the tiny robot.  Threepio intercedes on behalf of his small companion and  begins to argue with the huge Wookiee.  **THREEPIO**  He made a fair move. Screaming about  it won't help you.  **HAN**  (interrupting)  Let him have it. It's not wise to  upset a Wookiee.  **THREEPIO**  But sir, nobody worries about  upsetting a droid.  **HAN**  That's 'cause droids don't pull  people's arms out of their socket  when they lose. Wookiees are known  to do that.  **THREEPIO**  I see your point, sir. I suggest a  new strategy, Artoo. Let the Wookiee  win.  Luke stands in the middle of the small hold area; he seems  frozen in place. A humming lightsaber is held high over his  head. Ben watches him from the corner, studying his movements.  Han watches with a bit of smugness.  **BEN**  Remember, a Jedi can feel the Force  flowing through him.  **LUKE**  You mean it controls your actions?  **BEN**  Partially. But it also obeys your  commands.  Suspended at eye level, about ten feet in front of Luke, a  "seeker", a chrome baseball-like robot covered with antennae,  hovers slowly in a wide arc. The ball floats to one side of  the youth then the other. Suddenly it makes a lightning-swift  lunge and stops within a few feet of Luke's face. Luke doesn't  move and the ball backs off. It slowly moves behind the boy,  then makes another quick lunge, this time emitting a blood  red laser beam as it attacks. It hits Luke in the leg causing  him to tumble over. Han lets loose with a burst of laughter.  **HAN**  Hokey religions and ancient weapons  are no match for a good blaster at  your side, kid.  **LUKE**  You don't believe in the Force, do  you?  **HAN**  Kid, I've flown from one side of  this galaxy to the other. I've seen  a lot of strange stuff, but I've  never seen anything to make me believe  there's one all-powerful force  controlling everything. There's no  mystical energy field that controls  my destiny.  Ben smiles quietly.  **HAN**  It's all a lot of simple tricks and  nonsense.  **BEN**  I suggest you try it again, Luke.  Ben places a large helmet on Luke's head which covers his  eyes.  **BEN**  This time, let go your conscious  self and act on instinct.  **LUKE**  (laughing)  With the blast shield down, I can't  even see. How am I supposed to fight?  **BEN**  Your eyes can deceive you. Don't  trust them.  Han skeptically shakes his head as Ben throws the seeker  into the air. The ball shoots straight up in the air, then  drops like a rock. Luke swings the lightsaber around blindly  missing the seeker, which fires off a laserbolt which hits  Luke square on the seat of the pants. He lets out a painful  yell and attempts to hit the seeker.  **BEN**  Stretch out with your feelings.  Luke stands in one place, seemingly frozen. The seeker makes  a dive at Luke and, incredibly, he managed to deflect the  bolt. The ball ceases fire and moves back to its original  position.  **BEN**  You see, you can do it.  **HAN**  I call it luck.  **BEN**  In my experience, there's no such  thing as luck.  **HAN**  Look, going good against remotes is  one thing. Going good against the  living? That's something else.  Solo notices a small light flashing on the far side of the  control panel.  **HAN**  Looks like we're coming up on  Alderaan.  Han and Chewbacca head back to the cockpit.  **LUKE**  You know, I did feel something. I  could almost see the remote.  **BEN**  That's good. You have taken your  first step into a larger world.  **INT. DEATH STAR - CONFERENCE ROOM**  Imperial Officer Cass stands before Governor Tarkin and the  evil Dark Lord Darth Vader.  **TARKIN**  Yes.  **OFFICER CASS**  Our scout ships have reached  Dantooine. They found the remains of  a Rebel base, but they estimate that  it has been deserted for some time.  They are now conducting an extensive  search of the surrounding systems.  **TARKIN**  She lied! She lied to us!  **VADER**  I told you she would never consciously  betray the Rebellion.  **TARKIN**  Terminate her... immediately!  **EXT. HYPERSPACE**  The pirateship is just coming out of hyperspace; a strange  surreal light show surrounds the ship.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  **HAN**  Stand by, Chewie, here we go. Cut in  the sublight engines.  Han pulls back on a control lever. Outside the cockpit window  stars begin streaking past, seem to decrease in speed, then  stop. Suddenly the starship begins to shudder and violently  shake about. Asteroids begin to race toward them, battering  the sides of the ship.  **HAN**  What the...? Aw, we've come out of  hyperspace into a meteor shower.  Some kind of asteroid collision.  It's not on any of the charts.  The Wookiee flips off several controls and seems very cool  in the emergency. Luke makes his way into the bouncing  cockpit.  **LUKE**  What's going on?  **HAN**  Our position is correct, except...  no, Alderaan!  **LUKE**  What do you mean? Where is it?  **HAN**  Thats what I'm trying to tell you,  kid. It ain't there. It's been totally  blown away.  **LUKE**  What? How?  Ben moves into the cockpit behind Luke as the ship begins to  settle down.  **BEN**  Destroyed... by the Empire!  **HAN**  The entire starfleet couldn't destroy  the whole planet. It'd take a thousand  ships with more fire power than  I've...  A signal starts flashing on the control panel and a muffled  alarm starts humming.  **HAN**  There's another ship coming in.  **LUKE**  Maybe they know what happened.  **BEN**  It's an Imperial fighter.  Chewbacca barks his concern. A huge explosion bursts outside  the cockpit window, shaking the ship violently. A tiny, finned  Imperial TIE fighter races past the cockpit window.  **LUKE**  It followed us!  **BEN**  No. It's a short range fighter.  **HAN**  There aren't any bases around here.  Where did it come from?  **EXT. SPACE**  The fighter races past the Corellian pirateship.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  **LUKE**  It sure is leaving in a big hurry.  If they identify us, we're in big  trouble.  **HAN**  Not if I can help it. Chewie...jam  it's transmissions.  **BEN**  It'd be as well to let it go. It's  too far out of range.  **HAN**  Not for long...  **EXT. SPACE**  The pirateship zooms over the camera and away into the  vastness of space after the Imperial TIE fighter.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  The tension mounts as the pirateship gains on the tiny  fighter. In the distance, one of the stars becomes brighter  until it is obvious that the TIE ship is heading for it. Ben  stands behind Chewbacca.  **BEN**  A fighter that size couldn't get  this deep into space on its own.  **LUKE**  It must have gotten lost, been part  of a convoy or something.  **HAN**  Well, he ain't going to be around  long enough to tell anyone about us.  **EXT. SPACE**  The TIE fighter is losing ground to the larger pirateship as  they race toward camera and disappear over head.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  The distant star can be distinguished as a small moon or  planet.  **LUKE**  Look at him. He's headed for that  small moon.  **HAN**  I think I can get him before he gets  there... he's almost in range.  The small moon begins to take on the appearance of a monstrous  spherical battle station.  **BEN**  That's no moon! It's a space station.  **HAN**  It's too big to be a space station.  **LUKE**  I have a very bad feeling about this.  **HAN**  Yeah, I think your right. Full  reverse! Chewie, lock in the auxiliary  power.  The pirateship shudders and the TIE fighter accelerates away  toward the gargantuan battle station.  **LUKE**  Why are we still moving towards it?  **HAN**  We're caught in a tractor beam! It's  pulling us in!  **LUKE**  But there's gotta be something you  can do!  **HAN**  There's nothin' I can do about it,  kid. I'm in full power. I'm going to  have to shut down. But they're not  going to get me without a fight!  Ben Kenobi puts a hand on his shoulder.  **BEN**  You can't win. But there are  alternatives to fighting.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - DEATH STAR**  As the battered pirate starship is towed closer to the awesome  metal moon, the immense size of the massive battle station  becomes staggering. Running along the equator of the gigantic  sphere is a mile-high band of huge docking ports into which  the helpless pirateship is dragged.  **EXT. DEATH STAR - HUGE PORT DOORS**  The helpless Millennium Falcon is pulled past a docking port  control room and huge laser turret cannons.  **VOICE OVER DEATH STAR INTERCOM**  Clear Bay twenty-three-seven. We are opening the magnetic  field.  **INT. DEATH STAR - DOCKING BAY 2037**  The pirateship is pulled in through port doors of the Death  Star, coming to rest in a huge hangar. Thirty stormtroopers  stand at attention in a central assembly area.  **OFFICER**  To you stations!  (to another officer)  Come with me.  **INT. DEATH STAR - HALLWAY**  Stormtroopers run to their posts.  **INT. DEATH STAR - HANGAR 2037**  A line of stormtroopers march toward the pirateship in  readiness to board it, while other troopers stand with weapons  ready to fire.  **OFFICER**  Close all outboard shields! Close  all outboard shields!  **INT. DEATH STAR - CONFERENCE ROOM**  Tarkin pushes a button and responds to the intercom buzz.  **TARKIN**  Yes.  **VOICE**  (over intercom)  We've captured a freighter entering  the remains of the Alderaan system.  It's markings match those of a ship  that blasted its way out of Mos  Eisley.  **VADER**  They must be trying to return the  stolen plans to the princess. She  may yet be of some use to us.  **INT. DEATH STAR - DOCKING BAY 2037**  Vader and a commander approach the troops as an Officer and  several heavily armed troops exit the spacecraft.  **VOICE**  (over intercom)  Unlock one-five-seven and nine.  Release charges.  **OFFICER**  (to Vader)  There's no one on board, sir.  According to the log, the crew  abandoned ship right after takeoff.  It must be a decoy, sir. Several of  the escape pods have been jettisoned.  **VADER**  Did you find any droids?  **OFFICER**  No, sir. If there were any on board,  they must also have jettisoned.  **VADER**  Send a scanning crew on board. I  want every part of this ship checked.  **OFFICER**  Yes, sir.  **VADER**  I sense something... a presence I  haven't felt since...  Vader turns quickly and exits the hangar.  **OFFICER**  Get me a scanning crew in here on  the double. I want every part of  this ship checked!  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - HALLWAY**  A trooper runs through the hallway heading for the exit. In  a few moments all is quiet. The muffled sounds of a distant  officer giving orders finally fade. Two floor panels suddenly  pop up revealing Han Solo and Luke. Ben Kenobi sticks his  head out of a third locker.  **LUKE**  Boy, it's lucky you had these  compartments.  **HAN**  I use them for smuggling. I never  thought I'd be smuggling myself in  them. This is ridiculous. Even if I  could take off, I'd never get past  the tractor beam.  **BEN**  Leave that to me!  **HAN**  Damn fool. I knew that you were going  to say that!  **BEN**  Who's the more foolish... the fool  or the fool who follows him?  Han shakes his head, muttering to himself. Chewbacca agrees.  **INT. DEATH STAR - MAIN FORWARD BAY**  The crewmen carry a heavy box on board the ship, past the  two stormtroopers guarding either side of the ramp.  **TROOPER**  The ship's all yours. If the scanners  pick up anything, report it  immediately. All right, let's go.  The crewmen enter the pirateship and a loud crashing sound  is followed by a voice calling to the guard below.  **HAN'S VOICE**  Hey down there, could you give us a  hand with this?  The stormtroopers enter the ship and a quick round of gunfire  is heard.  **INT. DEATH STAR - FORWARD BAY - COMMAND OFFICE**  In a very small command office near the entrance to the  pirateship, a Gantry Officer looks out his window and notices  the guards are missing. He speaks into the comlink.  **GANTRY OFFICER**  TX-four-one-two. Why aren't you at  your post? TX-four-one-two, do you  copy?  A stormtrooper comes down the ramp of the pirateship and  waves to the gantry officer, pointing to his ear indicating  his comlink is not working. The gantry officer shakes his  head in disgust and heads for the door, giving his aide an  annoyed look.  **GANTRY OFFICER**  Take over. We've got a bad  transmitter. I'll see what I can do.  As the officer approaches the door, it slides open revealing  the towering Chewbacca. The gantry officer, in a momentary  state of shock, stumbles backward. With a bone- chilling  howl, the giant Wookiee flattens the officer with one blow.  The aide immediately reaches for his pistol, but is blasted  by Han, dressed as an Imperial stormtrooper. Ben and the  robots enter the room quickly followed by Luke, also dressed  as a stormtrooper. Luke quickly removes his helmet.  **LUKE**  You know, between his howling and  your blasting everything in sight,  it's a wonder the whole station  doesn't know we're here.  **HAN**  Bring them on! I prefer a straight  fight to all this sneaking around.  **THREEPIO**  We found the computer outlet, sir.  Ben feeds some information into the computer and a map of  the city appears on the monitor. He begins to inspect it  carefully. Threepio and Artoo look over the control panel.  Artoo finds something that makes him whistle wildly.  **BEN**  Plug in. He should be able to  interpret the entire Imperial computer  network.  Artoo punches his claw arm into the computer socket and the  vast Imperial brain network comes to life, feeding information  to the little robot. After a few moments, he beeps something.  **THREEPIO**  He says he's found the main computer  to power the tractor beam that's  holding the ship here. He'll try to  make the precise location appear on  the monitor.  The computer monitor flashes readouts.  **THREEPIO**  The tractor beam is coupled to the  main reactor in seven locations. A  power loss at one of the terminals  will allow the ship to leave.  Ben studies the data on the monitor readout.  **BEN**  I don't think you boys can help. I  must go alone.  **HAN**  Whatever you say. I've done more  that I bargained for on this trip  already.  **LUKE**  I want to go with you.  **BEN**  Be patient, Luke. Stay and watch  over the droids.  **LUKE**  But he can...  **BEN**  They must be delivered safely or  other star systems will suffer the  same fate as Alderaan. Your destiny  lies along a different path than  mine. The Force will be with you...  always!  Ben adjusts the lightsaber on his belt and silently steps  out of the command office, then disappears down a long grey  hallway. Chewbacca barks a comment and Han shakes his head  in agreement.  **HAN**  Boy you said it, Chewie.  Han looks at Luke.  **HAN**  Where did you dig up that old fossil?  **LUKE**  Ben is a great man.  **HAN**  Yeah, great at getting us into  trouble.  **LUKE**  I didn't hear you give any ideas...  **HAN**  Well, anything would be better than  just hanging around waiting for him  to pick us up...  **LUKE**  Who do you think...  Suddenly Artoo begins to whistle and beep a blue streak.  Luke goes over to him.  **LUKE**  What is it?  **THREEPIO**  I'm afraid I'm not quite sure, sir.  He says "I found her", and keeps  repeating, "She's here."  **LUKE**  Well, who... who has he found?  Artoo whistles a frantic reply.  **THREEPIO**  Princess Leia.  **LUKE**  The princess? She's here?  **HAN**  Princess? What's going on?  **THREEPIO**  Level five. Detention block A A-twenty-  three. I'm afraid she's scheduled to  be terminated.  **LUKE**  Oh, no! We've got to do something.  **HAN**  What are you talking about?  **LUKE**  The droid belongs to her. She's the  one in the message... We've got to  help her.  **HAN**  Now, look, don't get any funny ideas.  The old man wants us to wait right  here.  **LUKE**  But he didn't know she was here.  Look, will you just find a way back  into the detention block?  **HAN**  I'm not going anywhere.  **LUKE**  They're going to execute her. Look,  a few minutes ago you said you didn't  want to just wait here to be captured.  Now all you want to do is stay.  **HAN**  Marching into the detention area is  not what I had in mind.  **LUKE**  But they're going to kill her!  **HAN**  Better her than me...  **LUKE**  She's rich.  Chewbacca growls.  **HAN**  Rich?  **LUKE**  Yes. Rich, powerful! Listen, if you  were to rescue her, the reward would  be...  **HAN**  What?  **LUKE**  Well more wealth that you can imagine.  **HAN**  I don't know, I can imagine quite a  bit!  **LUKE**  You'll get it!  **HAN**  I better!  **LUKE**  You will...  **HAN**  All right, kid. But you'd better be  right about this.  Han looks at Chewie, who grunts a short grunt.  **LUKE**  All right.  **HAN**  What's your plan?  **LUKE**  Uh... Threepio, hand me those binders  there will you?  Luke moves toward Chewbacca with electronic cuffs.  **LUKE**  Okay. Now, I'm going to put these on  you.  Chewie lets out a hideous growl.  **LUKE**  Okay. Han, you put these on.  Luke sheepishly hands the binders to Han.  **HAN**  Don't worry, Chewie. I think I know  what he has in mind.  The Wookiee has a worried and frightened look on his face as  Han binds him with the electronic cuffs.  **THREEPIO**  Master Luke, sir! Pardon me for  asking... but, ah... what should  Artoo and I do if we're discovered  here?  **LUKE**  Lock the door!  **HAN**  And hope they don't have blasters.  **THREEPIO**  That isn't very reassuring.  Luke and Han put on their armored stormtrooper helmets and  start off into the giant Imperial Death Star.  **INT. DEATH STAR - DETENTION AREA - ELEVATOR TUBE**  Han and Luke try to look inconspicuous in their armored suits  as they wait for a vacuum elevator to arrive. Troops,  bureaucrats, and robots bustle about, ignoring the trio  completely. Only a few give the giant Wookiee a curious  glance.  Finally a small elevator arrives and the trio enters.  **LUKE**  I can't see a thing in this helmet.  A bureaucrat races to get aboard also, but is signaled away  by Han. The door to the pod-like vehicle slides closed and  the elevator car takes off through a vacuum tube.  **INT. DEATH STAR - MAIN HALLWAY**  Several Imperial officers walk through the wide main  passageway. They pass several stormtroopers and a robot  similar to Threepio but with an insect face. At the far end  of the hallway, a passing flash of Ben Kenobi appears, then  disappears down a small hallway. His appearance is so fleeting  that it is hard to tell if he is real or just an illusion.  No one in the hallway seems to notice him.  **INT. DEATH STAR - INTERIOR ELEVATOR - DETENTION SECURITY**  **AREA**  Luke and Han step forward to exit the elevator, but the door  slides open behind them. The giant Wookiee and his two guards  enter the old grey security station. Guards and laser gates  are everywhere. Han whispers to Luke under his breath.  **HAN**  This is not going to work.  **LUKE**  Why didn't you say so before?  **HAN**  I did say so before!  **INT. DETENTION AREA**  Elevator doors open. A tall, grim looking Officer approaches  the trio.  **OFFICER**  Where are you taking this... thing?  Chewie growls a bit at the remark but Han nudges him to shut  up.  **LUKE**  Prisoner transfer from Block one-one-  three-eight.  **OFFICER**  I wasn't notified. I'll have to clear  it.  The officer goes back to his console and begins to punch in  the information. There are only three other troopers in the  area. Luke and Han survey the situation, checking all of the  alarms, laser gates, and camera eyes. Han unfastens one of  Chewbacca's electronic cuffs and shrugs to Luke.  Suddenly Chewbacca throws up his hands and lets out with one  of his ear-piercing howls. He grabs Han's laser rifle.  **HAN**  Look out! He's loose!  **LUKE**  He's going to pull us all apart.  **HAN**  Go get him!  The startled guards are momentarily dumbfounded. Luke and  Han have already pulled out their laser pistols and are  blasting away at the terrifying Wookiee. Their barrage of  laserfire misses Chewbacca, but hits the camera eyes, laser  gate controls, and the Imperial guards. The officer is the  last of the guards to fall under the laserfire just as he is  about to push the alarm system. Han rushes to the comlink  system, which is screeching questions about what is going  on. He quickly checks the computer readout.  **HAN**  We've got to find out which cell  this princess of yours is in. Here  it is... cell twenty-one-eight-seven.  You go get her. I'll hold them here.  Luke races down one of the cell corridors. Han speaks into  the buzzing comlink.  **HAN**  (sounding official)  Everything is under control. Situation  normal.  **INTERCOM VOICE**  What happened?  **HAN**  (getting nervous)  Uh... had a slight weapons  malfunction. But, uh, everything's  perfectly all right now. We're fine.  We're all fine here, now, thank you.  How are you?  **INTERCOM VOICE**  We're sending a squad up.  **HAN**  Uh, uh, negative. We had a reactor  leak here now. Give us a few minutes  to lock it down. Large leak... very  dangerous.  **INTERCOM VOICE**  Who is this? What's your operating  number?  Han blasts the comlink and it explodes.  **HAN**  Boring conversation anyway.  (yelling down the  hall)  Luke! We're going to have company!  **INT. DEATH STAR - CELL ROW**  Luke stops in front of one of the cells and blasts the door  away with a laser pistol. When the smoke clears, Luke sees  the dazzling young princess-senator. She had been sleeping  and is now looking at him with an uncomprehending look on  her face. Luke is stunned by her incredible beauty and stands  staring at her with his mouth hanging open.  **LEIA**  (finally)  Aren't you a little short to be a  stormtrooper?  Luke takes off his helmet, coming out of it.  **LUKE**  What? Oh... the uniform. I'm Luke  Skywalker. I'm here to rescue you.  **LEIA**  You're who?  **LUKE**  I'm here to rescue you. I've got  your R2 unit. I'm here with Ben  Kenobi.  **LEIA**  Ben Kenobi is here! Where is he?  **LUKE**  Come on!  **INT. DEATH STAR - CONFERENCE ROOM**  Darth Vader paces the room as Governor Tarkin sits at the  far end of the conference table.  **VADER**  He is here...  **TARKIN**  Obi-Wan Kenobi! What makes you think  so?  **VADER**  A tremor in the Force. The last time  I felt it was in the presence of my  old master.  **TARKIN**  Surely he must be dead by now.  **VADER**  Don't underestimate the power of the  Force.  **TARKIN**  The Jedi are extinct, their fire has  gone out of the universe. You, my  friend, are all that's left of their  religion.  There is a quiet buzz on the comlink.  **TARKIN**  Yes.  **INTERCOM VOICE**  Governor Tarkin, we have an emergency  alert in detention block A A-twenty-  three.  **TARKIN**  The princess! Put all sections on  alert!  **VADER**  Obi-Wan is here. The Force is with  him.  **TARKIN**  If you're right, he must not be  allowed to escape.  **VADER**  Escape is not his plan. I must face  him alone.  **INT. DEATH STAR - DETENTION AREA - HALLWAY**  An ominous buzzing sound is heard on the other side of the  elevator door.  **HAN**  Chewie!  Chewbacca responds with a growling noise.  **HAN**  Get behind me! Get behind me!  A series of explosions knock a hole in the elevator door  through which several Imperial troops begin to emerge.  Han and Chewie fire laser pistols at them through the smoke  and flame. They turn and run down the cell hallway, meeting  up with Luke and Leia rushing toward them.  **HAN**  Can't get out that way.  **LEIA**  Looks like you managed to cut off  our only escape route.  **HAN**  (sarcastically)  Maybe you'd like it back in your  cell, Your Highness.  Luke takes a small comlink transmitter from his belt as they  continue to exchange fire with stormtroopers making their  way down the corridor.  **LUKE**  See-Threepio! See-Threepio!  **THREEPIO**  (over comlink)  Yes sir?  **LUKE**  We've been cut off! Are there any  other ways out of the cell bay?...  What was that? I didn't copy!  **INT. DEATH STAR - MAIN BAY GANTRY - CONTROL TOWER**  Threepio paces the control center as little Artoo beeps and  whistles a blue streak. Threepio yells into the small comlink  transmitter.  **THREEPIO**  I said, all systems have been alerted  to your presence, sir. The main  entrance seems to be the only way in  or out; all other information on  your level is restricted.  Someone begins banging on the door.  **TROOPER VOICE**  Open up in there!  **THREEPIO**  Oh, no!  **INT. DEATH STAR - DETENTION CORRIDOR**  Luke and Leia crouch together in an alcove for protection as  they continue to exchange fire with troops. Han and Chewbacca  are barely able to keep the stormtroopers at bay at the far  and of the hallway. The laserfire is very intense, and smoke  fills the narrow cell corridor.  **LUKE**  There isn't any other way out.  **HAN**  I can't hold them off forever! Now  what?  **LEIA**  This is some rescue. When you came  in here, didn't you have a plan for  getting out?  **HAN**  (pointing to Luke)  He's the brains, sweetheart.  Luke manages a sheepish grin and shrugs his shoulders.  **LUKE**  Well, I didn't...  The princess grabs Luke's gun and fires at a small grate in  the wall next to Han, almost frying him.  **HAN**  What the hell are you doing?  **LEIA**  Somebody has to save our skins. Into  the garbage chute, wise guy.  She jumps through the narrow opening as Han and Chewbacca  look on in amazement. Chewbacca sniffs the garbage chute and  says something.  **HAN**  Get in there you big furry oaf! I  don't care what you smell! Get in  there and don't worry about it.  Han gives him a kick and the Wookiee disappears into the  tiny opening. Luke and Han continue firing as they work their  way toward the opening.  **HAN**  Wonderful girl! Either I'm going to  kill her or I'm beginning to like  her. Get in there!  Luke ducks laserfire as he jumps into the darkness. Han fires  off a couple of quick blasts creating a smokey cover, then  slides into the chute himself and is gone.  **INT. DEATH STAR - GARBAGE ROOM**  Han tumbles into the large room filled with garbage and muck.  Luke is already stumbling around looking for an exit. He  finds a small hatchway and struggles to get it open. It won't  budge.  **HAN**  (sarcastically)  Oh! The garbage chute was a really  wonderful idea. What an incredible  smell you've discovered! Let's get  out of here! Get away from there...  **LUKE**  No! wait!  Han draws his laser pistol and fires at the hatch. The  laserbolt ricochets wildly around the small metal room.  Everyone dives for cover in the garbage as the bolt explodes  almost on top of them. Leia climbs out of the garbage with a  rather grim look on her face.  **LUKE**  Will you forget it? I already tried  it. It's magnetically sealed!  **LEIA**  Put that thing away! You're going to  get us all killed.  **HAN**  Absolutely, Your Worship. Look, I  had everything under control until  you led us down here. You know, it's  not going to take them long to figure  out what happened to us.  **LEIA**  It could be worse...  A loud, horrible, inhuman moan works its way up from the  murky depths. Chewbacca lets out a terrified howl and begins  to back away. Han and Luke stand fast with their laser pistols  drawn. The Wookiee is cowering near one of the walls.  **HAN**  It's worse.  **LUKE**  There's something alive in here!  **HAN**  That's your imagination.  **LUKE**  Something just moves past my leg!  Look! Did you see that?  **HAN**  What?  **LUKE**  Help!  Suddenly Luke is yanked under the garbage.  **HAN**  Luke! Luke! Luke!  Solo tries to get to Luke. Luke surfaces with a gasp of air  and thrashing of limbs. A membrane tentacle is wrapped around  his throat.  **LEIA**  Luke!  Leia extends a long pipe toward him.  **LEIA**  Luke, Luke, grab a hold of this.  **LUKE**  Blast it, will you! My gun's jammed.  **HAN**  Where?  **LUKE**  Anywhere! Oh!!  Solo fires his gun downward. Luke is pulled back into the  muck by the slimy tentacle.  **HAN**  Luke! Luke!  Suddenly the walls of the garbage receptacle shudder and  move in a couple of inches. Then everything is deathly quiet.  Han and Leia give each other a worried look as Chewbacca  howls in the corner. With a rush of bubbles and muck Luke  suddenly bobs to the surface.  **LEIA**  Grab him!  Luke seems to be released by the thing.  **LEIA**  What happened?  **LUKE**  I don't know, it just let go of me  and disappeared...  **HAN**  I've got a very bad feeling about  this.  Before anyone can say anything the walls begin to rumble and  edge toward the Rebels.  **LUKE**  The walls are moving!  **LEIA**  Don't just stand there. Try to brace  it with something.  They place poles and long metal beams between the closing  walls, but they are simply snapped and bent as the giant  trashmasher rumbles on. The situation doesn't look too good.  **LUKE**  Wait a minute!  Luke pulls out his comlink.  **LUKE**  Threepio! Come in Threepio! Threepio!  Where could he be?  **INT. DEATH STAR - MAIN GANTRY - COMMAND OFFICE**  A soft buzzer and the muted voice of Luke calling out for  See-Threepio can be heard on Threepio's hand comlink, which  is sitting on the deserted computer console. Artoo and  Threepio are nowhere in sight. Suddenly there is a great  explosion and the door of the control tower flies across the  floor. Four armed stormtroopers enter the chamber.  **FIRST TROOPER**  Take over!  (pointing to the dead  officer)  See to him! Look there!  A trooper pushes a button and the supply cabinet door slides  open. See-Threepio and Artoo-Detoo are inside. Artoo follows  his bronze companion out into the office.  **THREEPIO**  They're madmen! They're heading for  the prison level. If you hurry, you  might catch them.  **FIRST OFFICER**  (to his troops)  Follow me! You stand guard.  The troops hustle off down the hallway, leaving a guard to  watch over the command office.  **THREEPIO**  (to Artoo)  Come on!  The guard aims a blaster at them.  **THREEPIO**  Oh! All this excitement has overrun  the circuits of my counterpart here.  If you don't mind, I'd like to take  him down to maintenance.  **TROOPER**  All right.  The guard nods and Threepio, with little Artoo in tow, hurries  out the door.  **INT. DEATH STAR - GARBAGE ROOM**  As the walls rumble closed, the room gets smaller and smaller.  Chewie is whining and trying to hold a wall back with his  giant paws.  Han is leaning back against the other wall. Garbage is  snapping and popping. Luke is trying to reach Threepio.  **LUKE**  Threepio! Come in, Threepio! Threepio!  Han and Leia try to brace the contracting walls with a pole.  Leia begins to sink into the trash.  **HAN**  Get to the top!  **LEIA**  I can't  **LUKE**  Where could he be? Threepio! Threepio,  will you come in?  **INT. DEATH STAR - MAIN FORWARD BAY - SERVICE PANEL**  **THREEPIO**  They aren't here! Something must  have happened to them. See if they've  been captured.  Little Artoo carefully plugs his claw arm into a new wall  socket and a complex array of electronic sounds spew from  the tiny robot.  **THREEPIO**  Hurry!  **INT. DEATH STAR - GARBAGE ROOM**  The walls are only feet apart. Leia and Han are braced against  the walls. The princess is frightened. They look at each  other. Leia reaches out and takes Han's hand and she holds  it tightly. She's terrified and suddenly groans as she feels  the first crushing pressure against her body.  **HAN**  One thing's for sure. We're all going  to be a lot thinner!  (to Leia)  Get on top of it!  **LEIA**  I'm trying!  **INT. DEATH STAR - MAIN FORWARD BAY - SERVICE PANEL**  **THREEPIO**  (to Artoo)  Thank goodness, they haven't found  them! Where could they be?  Artoo frantically beeps something to See-Threepio.  **THREEPIO**  Use the comlink? Oh, my! I forgot I  turned it off!  **INT. DEATH STAR - GARBAGE ROOM**  Meanwhile, Luke is lying on his side, trying to keep his  head above the rising ooze. Luke's comlink begins to buzz  and he rips it off his belt.  **INT. DEATH STAR - MAIN FORWARD BAY - SERVICE PANEL**  Muffled sounds of Luke's voice over the comlink can be heard,  but not distinctly.  **THREEPIO**  Are you there, sir?  **INT. DEATH STAR - GARBAGE ROOM**  **LUKE**  Threepio!  **INT. DEATH STAR - MAIN FORWARD BAY - SERVICE PANEL**  **THREEPIO**  We've had some problems...  **LUKE**  (over comlink)  Will you shut up and listen to me?  Shut down all garbage mashers on the  detention level, will you? Do you  copy?  **INT. DEATH STAR - GARBAGE ROOM**  **LUKE**  Shut down all the garbage mashers on  the detention level.  **INT. DEATH STAR - MAIN FORWARD BAY - SERVICE PANEL**  **LUKE**  (over comlink)  Shut down all the garbage mashers on  the detention level.  **THREEPIO**  (to Artoo)  No. Shut them all down! Hurry!  Threepio holds his head in agony as he hears the incredible  screaming and hollering from Luke's comlink.  **THREEPIO**  Listen to them! They're dying, Artoo!  Curse my metal body! I wasn't fast  enough. It's all my fault! My poor  master!  **LUKE**  (over comlink)  Threepio, we're all right!  **INT. DEATH STAR - GARBAGE ROOM**  The screaming and hollering is the sound of joyous relief.  The walls have stopped moving. Han, Chewie and Leia embrace  in the background.  **LUKE**  We're all right. You did great.  Luke moves to the pressure sensitive hatch, looking for a  number.  **LUKE**  Hey... hey, open the pressure  maintenance hatch on unit number...  where are we?  **INT. DEATH STAR - MAIN FORWARD BAY - SERVICE PANEL**  **HAN**  (over comlink)  Three-two-six-eight-two-seven.  **INT. DEATH STAR - TRACTOR BEAM - POWER GENERATOR TRENCH**  Ben enters a humming service trench that powers the huge  tractor beam. The trench seems to be a hundred miles deep.  The clacking sound of huge switching devices can be heard.  The old Jedi edges his his way along a narrow ledge leading  to a control panel that connects two large cables. He  carefully makes several adjustments in the computer terminal,  and several lights on the board go from red to blue.  **INT. DEATH STAR - UNUSED HALLWAY**  The group exits the garbage room into a dusty, unused hallway.  Han and Luke remove the trooper suits and strap on the blaster  belts.  **HAN**  If we can just avoid any more female  advice, we ought to be able to get  out of here.  Luke smiles and scratches his head as he takes a blaster  from Solo.  **LUKE**  Well, let's get moving!  Chewie begins growling and points to the hatch to the garbage  room, as he runs away and then stops howling.  **HAN**  (to Chewie)  Where are you going?  The Dia Nogu bangs against the hatch and a long, slimy  tentacle works its way out of the doorway searching for a  victim. Han aims his pistol.  **LEIA**  No, wait. They'll hear!  Han fires at the doorway. The noise of the blast echoes  relentlessly throughout the empty passageway. Luke simply  shakes his head in disgust.  **HAN**  (to Chewie)  Come here, you big coward!  Chewie shakes his head "no."  **HAN**  Chewie! Come here!  **LEIA**  Listen. I don't know who you are, or  where you came from, but from now  on, you do as I tell you. Okay?  Han is stunned at the command of the petite young girl.  **HAN**  Look, Your Worshipfulness, let's get  one thing straight! I take orders  from one person! Me!  **LEIA**  It's a wonder you're still alive.  (looking at Chewie)  Will somebody get this big walking  carpet out of my way?  Han watches her start away. He looks at Luke.  **HAN**  No reward is worth this.  They follow her, moving swiftly down the deserted corridor.  **INT. DEATH STAR - POWER TRENCH**  Suddenly a door behind Ben slides open and a detachment of  stormtroopers marches to the power trench. Ben instantly  slips into the shadows as an Officer moves to within a few  feet of him.  **OFFICER**  Secure this area until the alert is  canceled.  **FIRST TROOPER**  Give me regular reports.  All but two of the stormtroopers leave.  **FIRST TROOPER**  Do you know what's going on?  **SECOND TROOPER**  Maybe it's another drill.  Ben moves around the tractor beam, watching the stormtroopers  as they turn their backs to him. Ben gestures with his hand  toward them, as the troops think they hear something in the  other hallway. With the help of the Force, Ben deftly slips  past the troopers and into the main hallway.  **SECOND TROOPER**  What was that?  **FIRST TROOPER**  Oh, it's nothing. Don't worry about  it.  **INT. DEATH STAR - HALLWAY**  Luke, Han, Chewbacca, and Leia run down an empty hallway and  stop before a bay window overlooking the pirateship. Troopers  are milling about the ship. Luke takes out his pocket comlink.  **HAN**  (looking at his ship)  There she is.  **LUKE**  See-Threepio, do you copy?  **THREEPIO**  (voice)  For the moment. Uh, we're in the  main hangar across from the ship.  **LUKE**  We're right above you. Stand by.  Han is watching the dozen or so troops moving in and out of  the pirateship. Leia moves towards Han, touches his arm and  points out the window to the ship.  **LEIA**  You came in that thing? You're braver  that I thought.  **HAN**  Nice! Come on!  Han gives her a dirty look, and they start off down the  hallway. They round a corner and run right into twenty  Imperial stormtroopers heading toward them. Both groups are  taken by surprise and stop in their tracks.  **FIRST TROOPER**  It's them! Blast them!  Before even thinking, Han draws his laser pistol and charges  the troops, firing. His blaster knocks one of the  stormtroopers into the air. Chewie follows his captain down  the corridor, stepping over the fallen trooper on the floor.  **HAN**  (to Luke and Leia)  Get back to the ship!  **LUKE**  Where are you going? Come back!  Han has already rounded a corner and does not hear.  **LEIA**  He certainly has courage.  **LUKE**  What good will it do us if he gets  himself killed? Come on!  Luke is furious but doesn't have time to think about it for  muted alarms begin to go off down on the hangar deck. Luke  and Leia start off toward the starship hangar.  **INT. DEATH STAR - SUBHALLWAY**  Han chases the stormtroopers down a long subhallway. He is  yelling and brandishing his laser pistol. The troops reach a  dead end and are forced to turn and fight. Han stops a few  feet from them and assumes a defensive position. The troops  begin to raise their laser guns. Soon all ten troopers are  moving into an attack position in front of the lone  starpirate. Han's determined look begins to fade as the troops  begin to advance. Solo jumps backward as they fire at him.  **INT. DEATH STAR - SUBHALLWAY**  Chewbacca runs down the subhallway in a last-ditch attempt  to save his bold captain. Suddenly he hears the firing of  laser guns and yelling. Around the corner shoots Han, pirate  extraordinaire, running for his life, followed by a host of  furious stormtroopers. Chewbacca turns and starts running  the other way also.  **INT. DEATH STAR - SUBHALLWAY**  Luke fires his laser pistol wildly as he and Leia rush down  a narrow subhallway, chased by several stormtroopers. They  quickly reach the end of the subhallway and race through an  open hatchway.  **INT. DEATH STAR - CENTRAL CORE SHAFT**  Luke and Leia race through the hatch onto a narrow bridge  that spans a huge, deep shaft that seems to go into infinity.  The bridge has been retracted into the wall of the shaft,  and Luke almost rushes into the abyss. He loses his balance  off the end of the bridge as Leia, behind him, takes hold of  his arm and pulls him back.  **LUKE**  (gasping)  I think we took a wrong turn.  Blasts from the stormtroopers' laser guns explode nearby  reminding them of the oncoming danger. Luke fires back at  the advancing troops. Leia reaches over and hits a switch  that pops the hatch door shut with a resounding boom, leaving  them precariously perched on a short piece of bridge overhang.  Laserfire from the troopers continues to hit the steel door.  **LEIA**  There's no lock!  Luke blasts the controls with his laser pistol.  **LUKE**  That oughta hold it for a while.  **LEIA**  Quick, we've got to get across. Find  the control that extends the bridge.  **LUKE**  Oh, I think I just blasted it.  Luke looks at the blasted bridge control while the  stormtroopers on the opposite side of the door begin making  ominous drilling and pounding sounds.  **LEIA**  They're coming through!  Luke notices something on his stormtrooper belt, when  laserfire hits the wall behind him. Luke aims his laser pistol  at a stormtrooper perched on a higher bridge overhang across  the abyss from them. They exchange fire. Two more troops  appear on another overhang, also firing. A trooper is hit,  and grabs at his chest.  Another trooper standing on the bridge overhang is hit by  Luke's laserfire, and plummets down the shaft. Troopers move  back off the bridge; Luke hands the gun to Leia.  **LUKE**  Here, hold this.  Luke pulls a thin nylon cable from his trooper utility belt.  It has a grappler hook on it. A trooper appears on a bridge  overhang and fires at Luke and Leia. As Luke works with the  rope, Leia returns the laser volley. Another trooper appears  and fires at them, as Leia returns his fire as well.  Suddenly, the hatch door begins to open, revealing the feet  of more troops.  **LEIA**  Here they come!  Leia hits one of the stormtroopers on the bridge above, and  he falls into the abyss. Luke tosses the rope across the  gorge and it wraps itself around an outcropping of pipes. He  tugs on the rope to make sure it is secure, then grabs the  princess in his arms. Leia looks at Luke, then kisses him  quickly on the lips. Luke is very surprised.  **LEIA**  For luck!  Luke pushes off and they swing across the treacherous abyss  to the corresponding hatchway on the opposite side. Just as  Luke and Leia reach the far side of the canyon, the  stormtroopers break through the hatch and begin to fire at  the escaping duo. Luke returns the fire before ducking into  the tiny subhallway.  **INT. DEATH STAR - NARROW PASSAGEWAY**  Ben hides in the shadows of the narrow passageway as several  stormtroopers rush past him in the main hallway. He checks  to make sure they're gone, then runs down the hallway in the  opposite direction. Darth Vader appears at the far end of  the hallway and starts after the old Jedi.  **INT. DEATH STAR - MAIN FORWARD BAY**  Threepio looks around at the troops milling about the  pirateship entry ramp.  **THREEPIO**  Where could they be?  Artoo, plugged into the computer socket, turns his dome left  and right, beeping a response.  **INT. DEATH STAR - CORRIDOR - BLAST SHIELDS DOOR**  Han and Chewbacca run down a long corridor with several  troopers hot on their trail.  **TROOPER**  Close the blast doors!  At the end of the hallway, blast doors begin to close in  front of them. The young starpilot and his furry companion  race past the huge doors just as they are closing, and manage  to get off a couple off laserblasts at the pursuing troops  before the doors slam shut.  **TROOPER**  Open the blast doors! Open the blast  doors!  **INT. DEATH STAR - HALLWAY LEADING TO MAIN FORWARD BAY**  Ben hurries along one of the tunnels leading to the hangar  where the pirateship waits. Just before he reaches the hangar,  Darth Vader steps into view at the end of the tunnel, not  ten feet away. Vader lights his saber. Ben also ignites his  and steps slowly forward.  **VADER**  I've been waiting for you, Obi-Wan.  We meet again, at last. The circle  is now complete.  Ben Kenobi moves with elegant ease into a classical offensive  position. The fearsome Dark Knight takes a defensive stance.  **VADER**  When I left you, I was but the  learner; now I am the master.  **BEN**  Only a master of evil, Darth.  The two Galactic warriors stand perfectly still for a few  moments, sizing each other up and waiting for the right  moment. Ben seems to be under increasing pressure and strain,  as if an invisible weight were being placed upon him. He  shakes his head and, blinking, tries to clear his eyes.  Ben makes a sudden lunge at the huge warrior but is checked  by a lightning movement of The Sith. A masterful slash stroke  by Vader is blocked by the old Jedi. Another of the Jedi's  blows is blocked, then countered. Ben moves around the Dark  Lord and starts backing into the massive starship hangar.  The two powerful warriors stand motionless for a few moments  with laser swords locked in mid-air, creating a low buzzing  sound.  **VADER**  Your powers are weak, old man.  **BEN**  You can't win, Darth. If you strike  me down, I shall become more powerful  than you can possibly imagine.  Their lightsabers continue to meet in combat.  **INT. DEATH STAR - MAIN FORWARD BAY**  Han Solo and Chewbacca, their weapons in hand, lean back  against the wall surveying the forward bay, watching the  Imperial stormtroopers make their rounds of the hangar.  **HAN**  Didn't we just leave this party?  Chewbacca growls a reply, as Luke and the princess join them.  **HAN**  What kept you?  **LEIA**  We ran into some old friends.  **LUKE**  Is the ship all right?  **HAN**  Seems okay, if we can get to it.  Just hope the old man got the tractor  beam out of commission.  **INT. DEATH STAR - HALLWAY**  Vader and Ben Kenobi continue their powerful duel. As they  hit their lightsabers together, lightning flashes on impact.  Troopers look on in interest as the old Jedi and Dark Lord  of The Sith fight. Suddenly Luke spots the battle from his  group's vantage point.  **LUKE**  Look!  Luke, Leia, Han, and Chewie look up and see Ben and Vader  emerging from the hallways on the far side of the docking  bay.  **INT. DEATH STAR - DOCKING BAY**  Threepio and Artoo-Detoo are in the center of the Death Star's  Imperial docking bay.  **THREEPIO**  Come on, Artoo, we're going!  Threepio ducks out of sight as the seven stormtroopers who  were guarding the starship rush past them heading towards  Ben and The Sith Knight. He pulls on Artoo.  **INT. DEATH STAR - HALLWAY**  Solo, Chewie, Luke, and Leia tensely watch the duel. The  troops rush toward the battling knights.  **HAN**  Now's our chance! Go!  They start for the Millennium Falcon. Ben sees the troops  charging toward him and realizes that he is trapped. Vader  takes advantage of Ben's momentary distraction and brings  his mighty lightsaber down on the old man. Ben manages to  deflect the blow and swiftly turns around.  The old Jedi Knight looks over his shoulder at Luke, lifts  his sword from Vader's then watches his opponent with a serene  look on his face.  Vader brings his sword down, cutting old Ben in half. Ben's  cloak falls to the floor in two parts, but Ben is not in it.  Vader is puzzled at Ben's disappearance and pokes at the  empty cloak. As the guards are distracted, the adventurers  and the robots reach the starship. Luke sees Ben cut in two  and starts for him. Aghast, he yells out.  **LUKE**  No!  The stormtroopers turn toward Luke and begin firing at him.  The robots are already moving up the ramp into the Millennium  Falcon, while Luke, transfixed by anger and awe, returns  their fire. Solo joins in the laserfire. Vader looks up and  advances toward them, as one of his troopers is struck down.  **HAN**  (to Luke)  Come on!  **LEIA**  Come on! Luke, its too late!  **HAN**  Blast the door! Kid!  Luke fires his pistol at the door control panel, and it  explodes. The door begins to slide shut. Three troopers charge  forward firing laser bolts, as the door slides to a close  behind them, shutting Vader and the other troops out of the  docking bay. A stormtrooper lies dead at the feet of his  onrushing compatriots. Luke starts for the advancing troops,  as Solo and Leia move up the ramp into the pirateship. He  fires, hitting a stormtrooper, who crumbles to the floor.  **BEN'S VOICE**  Run, Luke! Run!  Luke looks around to see where the voice came from. He turns  toward the pirateship, ducking Imperial gunfire from the  troopers and races into the ship.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Han pulls back on the controls and the ship begins to move.  The dull thud of laser bolts bouncing off the outside of the  ship as Chewie adjusts his controls.  **HAN**  I hope the old man got that tractor  beam out if commission, or this is  going to be a real short trip. Okay,  hit it!  Chewbacca growls in agreement.  **EXT. MILLENNIUM FALCON**  The Millennium Falcon powers away from the Death Star docking  bay, makes a spectacular turn and disappears into the vastness  of space.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - CENTRAL HOLD AREA**  Luke, saddened by the loss of Obi-Wan Kenobi, stares off  blankly as the robots look on. Leia puts a blanket around  him protectively, and Luke turns and looks up at her. She  sits down beside him.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Solo spots approaching enemy ships.  **HAN**  (to Chewie)  We're coming up on the sentry ships.  Hold 'em off! Angle the deflector  shields while I charge up the main  guns!  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - CENTRAL HOLD AREA**  Luke looks downward sadly, shaking his head back and forth,  as the princess smiles comfortingly at him.  **LUKE**  I can't believe he's gone.  Artoo-Detoo beeps a reply.  **LEIA**  There wasn't anything you could have  done.  Han rushes into the hold area where Luke is sitting with the  princess.  **HAN**  (to Luke)  Come on, buddy, we're not out of  this yet!  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - GUNPORTS - COCKPIT**  Solo climbs into his attack position in the topside gunport.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - HOLD AREA**  Luke gets up and moves out toward the gunports as Leia heads  for the cockpit.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - GUNPORTS - COCKPIT**  Luke climbs down the ladder into the gunport cockpit, settling  into one of the two main laser cannons mounted in large  rotating turrets on either side of the ship.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - SOLO'S GUNPORT**  Han adjusts his headset as he sits before the controls of  his laser cannon, then speaks into the attached microphone.  **HAN**  (to Luke)  You in, kid? Okay, stay sharp!  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - GUNPORTS - COCKPIT**  Chewbacca and Princess Leia search the heavens for attacking  TIE fighters. The Wookiee pulls back on the speed controls  as the ship bounces slightly.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - SOLO'S GUNPORT - COCKPIT**  Computer graphic readouts form on Solo's target screen, as  Han reaches for controls.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - GUNPORT - COCKPIT**  Luke sits in readiness for the attack, his hand on the laser  cannon's control button.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT.**  Chewbacca spots the enemy ships and barks.  **LEIA**  (into intercom)  Here they come!  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT - POV (POINT OF VIEW) -**  **SPACE**  The Imperial TIE fighters move towards the Millennium Falcon,  one each veering off to the left and right of the pirateship.  **INT. TIE FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  The stars whip past behind the Imperial pilot as he adjusts  his maneuvering joy stick.  **EXT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - IN SPACE**  The TIE fighter races past the Falcon, firing laser beams as  it passes.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - HOLD AREA**  Threepio is seated in the hold area, next to Artoo-Detoo.  The pirateship bounces and vibrates as the power goes out in  the room and then comes back on.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT - GUNPORTS**  A TIE fighter maneuvers in front of Han, who follows it and  fires at it with the laser cannon. Luke does likewise, as  the fighter streaks into view. The ship has suffered a minor  hit, and bounces slightly.  **EXT. SPACE**  Two TIE fighters dive down toward the pirateship.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - GUNPORTS**  Luke fires at an unseen fighter.  **LUKE**  They're coming in too fast!  **EXT. SPACE - MILLENNIUM FALCON/TIE FIGHTERS**  Pan with pirateship as two TIE fighters charge through the  background. Laserbolts streak from all the craft.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - CHEWBACCA**  The ship shudders as a laserbolt hits very close to the  cockpit. The Wookiee chatters something to Leia.  **EXT. TIE FIGHTER - SPACE**  Full shot of a TIE fighter as it moves fast through the frame,  firing on the pirate starship.  **EXT. SPACE - TIE FIGHTERS**  The two TIE fighters fire a barrage of laserbeams at the  pirateship.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - MAIN PASSAGEWAY**  A laserbolt streaks into the side of the pirateship. The  ship lurches violently, throwing poor Threepio into a cabinet  fill of small computer chips.  **THREEPIO**  Oooh!  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT - GUNPORTS**  Leia watches the computer readout as Chewbacca manipulates  the ship's controls.  **LEIA**  We've lost lateral controls.  **HAN**  Don't worry, she'll hold together.  An enemy laserbolt hits the pirateship's control panel,  causing it to blow out in a shower of sparks.  **HAN**  (to ship)  You hear me, baby? Hold together!  Artoo-Detoo advances toward the smoking sparking control  panel, dousing the inferno by spraying it with fire retardant  beeping all the while.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - GUNPORT**  Luke swivels in his gun mount, following the TIE fighter  with his laser cannon.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - GUNPORT**  Solo aims his laser cannon at the enemy fighter.  **EXT. SPACE**  A TIE fighter streaks in front of the starship.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Leia watches the TIE fighter ship fly over.  **EXT. SPACE**  A TIE fighter heads right for the pirateship, then zooms  overhead.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - GUNPORTS**  Luke follows the TIE fighter across his field of view, firing  laserbeams from his cannon.  **EXT. TIE FIGHTER**  A TIE fighter dives past the pirateship.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - GUNPORTS**  Luke fires at a TIE fighter. At his port, Han follows a  fighter in his sights, releasing a blast of laserfire. He  connects, and the fighter explodes into fiery dust. Han laughs  victoriously.  **EXT. SPACE**  Two TIE fighters move toward and over the Millennium Falcon,  unleashing a barrage of laserbolts at the ship.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - GUNPORTS**  Another TIE fighter moves in on the pirateship and Luke,  smiling, fires the laser cannon at it, scoring a spectacular  direct hit.  **LUKE**  Got him! I got him!  Han turns and gives Luke a victory wave which Luke gleefully  returns.  **HAN**  Great kid! Don't get cocky.  Han turns back to his laser cannon.  **EXT. SPACE**  Two more TIE fighters cross in front of the pirateship.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  While Chewbacca manipulates the controls, Leia turns, looking  over her shoulder out the ports.  **LEIA**  There are still two more of them out  there!  **EXT. SPACE**  A TIE fighter moves up over the pirateship, firing laserblasts  at it.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - GUNPORTS**  Luke and Han look into their respective projected target  screens. An Imperial fighter crosses Solo's port, and Han  swivels in his chair, following it with blasts from his laser  cannon. Another fighter crosses Luke's port, and he reacts  in a like manner, the glow of his target screen lighting his  face.  **EXT. SPACE**  The TIE fighter zooms toward the pirateship, firing  destructive blasts at it.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - GUNPORTS**  Luke fires a laserblast at the approaching enemy fighter,  and it bursts into a spectacular explosion. Luke's projected  screen gives a readout of the hit. The pirateship bounces  slightly as it is struck by the enemy fire.  **EXT. SPACE - TIE FIGHTER**  The last of the attacking Imperial TIE fighters looms in,  firing upon the Falcon.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - GUNPORT**  Solo swivels behind his cannon, his aim describing the arc  of the TIE fighter. The fighter comes closer, firing at the  pirateship, but a well-aimed blast from Solo's laser cannon  hits the attacker, which blows up in a small atomic shower  of burning fragments.  **LUKE**  (laughing)  That's it! We did it!  The princess jumps up and gives Chewie a congratulatory hug.  **LEIA**  We did it!  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - PASSAGEWAY**  Threepio lies on the floor of the ship, completely tangled  in the smoking, sparking wires.  **THREEPIO**  Help! I think I'm melting!  (to Artoo)  This is all your fault.  Artoo turns his dome from side to side, beeping in response.  **EXT. SPACE - MILLENNIUM FALCON**  The victorious Millennium Falcon moves off majestically  through space.  **INT. DEATH STAR - CONTROL ROOM**  Darth Vader strides into the control room, where Tarkin is  watching the huge view screen. A sea of stars is before him.  **TARKIN**  Are they away?  **VADER**  They have just made the jump into  hyperspace.  **TARKIN**  You're sure the homing beacon is  secure aboard their ship? I'm taking  an awful risk, Vader. This had better  work.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Han, removes his gloves and smiling, is at the controls of  the ship. Chewie moves into the aft section to check the  damage. Leia is seated near Han.  **HAN**  Not a bad bit of rescuing, huh? You  know, sometimes I even amaze myself.  **LEIA**  That doesn't sound too hard. Besides,  they let us go. It's the only  explanation for the ease of our  escape.  **HAN**  Easy... you call that easy?  **LEIA**  Their tracking us!  **HAN**  Not this ship, sister.  Frustrated, Leia shakes her head.  **LEIA**  At least the information in Artoo is  still intact.  **HAN**  What's so important? What's he  carrying?  **LEIA**  The technical readouts of that battle  station. I only hope that when the  data is analyzed, a weakness can be  found. It's not over yet!  **HAN**  It is for me, sister! Look, I ain't  in this for your revolution, and I'm  not in it for you, Princess. I expect  to be well paid. I'm in it for the  money!  **LEIA**  You needn't worry about your reward.  If money is all that you love, then  that's what you'll receive!  She angrily turns, and as she starts out of the cockpit,  passes Luke coming in.  **LEIA**  Your friend is quite a mercenary. I  wonder if he really cares about  anything... or anyone.  **LUKE**  I care!  Luke, shaking his head, sits in the copilot seat. He and Han  stare out at the vast blackness of space.  **LUKE**  So... what do you think of her, Han?  **HAN**  I'm trying not to, kid!  **LUKE**  (under his breath)  Good...  **HAN**  Still, she's got a lot of spirit. I  don't know, what do you think? Do  you think a princess and a guy like  me...  **LUKE**  No!  Luke says it with finality and looks away. Han smiles at  young Luke's jealousy.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND FOURTH MOON OF YAVIN**  The battered pirateship drifts into orbit around the planet  Yavin and proceeds to one of its tiny green moons.  **EXT. FOURTH MOON OF YAVIN**  The pirateship soars over the dense jungle.  **EXT. MASSASSI OUTPOST**  An alert guard, his laser gun in hand, scans the countryside.  He sets the gun down and looks toward the temple, barely  visible in the foliage.  **EXT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - JUNGLE TEMPLE**  Rotting in a forest of gargantuan trees, an ancient temple  lies shrouded in an eerie mist. The air is heavy with the  fantastic cries of unimaginable creatures. Han, Luke and the  others are greeted by the Rebel troops.  Luke and the group ride into the massive temple on an armored  military speeder.  **INT. MASSASSI - MAIN HANGAR DECK**  The military speeder stops in a huge spaceship hangar, set  up in the interior of the crumbling temple. Willard, the  commander of the Rebel forces, rushes up to the group and  gives Leia a big hug. Every one is pleased to see her.  **WILLARD**  (holding Leia)  You're safe! We had feared the worst.  Willard composes himself, steps back and bows formally.  **WILLARD**  When we heard about Alderaan, we  were afraid that you were... lost  along with your father.  **LEIA**  We don't have time for our sorrows,  Commander. The battle station has  surely tracked us here.  (looking pointedly to  Han)  It's the only explanation for the  ease of our escape. You must use the  information in this R2 unit to plan  the attack. It is our only hope.  **EXT. SPACE**  The surface of the Death Star ominously approaches the red  planet Yavin.  **INT. DEATH STAR - CONTROL ROOM**  Grand Moff Tarkin and Lord Vader are interrupted in their  discussion by the buzz of the comlink. Tarkin moves to answer  the call.  **TARKIN**  Yes.  **DEATH STAR INTERCOM VOICE**  We are approaching the planet Yavin. The Rebel base is on a  moon on the far side. We are preparing to orbit the planet.  **EXT. YAVIN - JUNGLE**  A lone guard stands in a tower high above the Yavin landscape,  surveying the countryside. A mist hangs over the jungle of  twisted green.  **INT. MASSASSI - WAR ROOM BRIEFING AREA**  Dodonna stands before a large electronic wall display. Leia  and several other senators are to one side of the giant  readout. The low-ceilinged room is filled with starpilots,  navigators, and a sprinkling of R2-type robots. Everyone is  listening intently to what Dodonna is saying. Han and  Chewbacca are standing near the back.  **DODONNA**  The battle station is heavily shielded  and carries a firepower greater than  half the star fleet. It's defenses  are designed around a direct large-  scale assault. A small one-man fighter  should be able to penetrate the outer  defense.  Gold Leader, a rough looking man in his early thirties, stands  and addresses Dodonna.  **GOLD LEADER**  Pardon me for asking, sir, but what  good are snub fighters going to be  against that?  **DODONNA**  Well, the Empire doesn't consider a  small one-man fighter to be any  threat, or they'd have a tighter  defense. An analysis of the plans  provided by Princess Leia has  demonstrated a weakness in the battle  station.  Artoo-Detoo stands next to a similar robot, makes beeping  sounds, and turns his head from right to left.  **DODONNA**  The approach will not be easy. You  are required to maneuver straight  down this trench and skim the surface  to this point. The target area is  only two meters wide. It's a small  thermal exhaust port, right below  the main port. The shaft leads  directly to the reactor system. A  precise hit will start a chain  reaction which should destroy the  station.  A murmer of disbelief runs through the room.  **DODONNA**  Only a precise hit will set up a  chain reaction. The shaft is ray-  shielded, so you'll have to use proton  torpedoes.  Luke is sitting next to Wedge Antilles, a hotshot pilot about  sixteen years old.  **WEDGE**  That's impossible, even for a  computer.  **LUKE**  It's not impossible. I used to bull's-  eye womp rats in my T-sixteen back  home. They're not much bigger than  two meters.  **DODONNA**  Man your ships! And may the Force be  with you!  The group rises and begins to leave.  **EXT. SPACE**  The Death Star begins to move around the planet toward the  tiny green moon.  **INT. DEATH STAR**  Tarkin and Vader watch the computer projected screen with  interest, as a circle of lights intertwines around one another  on the screen showing it's position in relation to Yavin and  the forth moon.  **DEATH STAR INTERCOM VOICE**  Orbiting the planet at maximum velocity. The moon with the  Rebel base will be in range in thirty minutes.  **VADER**  This will be a day long remembered.  It has seen the end of Kenobi and it  will soon see the end of the  Rebellion.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - MAIN HANGAR DECK**  Luke, Threepio and little Artoo enter the huge spaceship  hangar and hurry along a long line of gleaming spacefighters.  Flight crews rush around loading last-minute armaments and  unlocking power couplings. In an area isolated from this  activity Luke finds Han and Chewbacca loading small boxes  onto an armored speeder.  **MAN'S VOICE**  (over loudspeaker)  All flight trooper, man your stations.  All flight troops, man your stations.  Han is deliberately ignoring the activity of the fighter  pilots' preparation. Luke is quite saddened at the sight of  his friend's departure.  **LUKE**  So... you got your reward and you're  just leaving then?  **HAN**  That's right, yeah! I got some old  debts I've got to pay off with this  stuff. Even if I didn't, you don't  think I'd be fool enough to stick  around here, do you? Why don't you  come with us? You're pretty good in  a fight. I could use you.  **LUKE**  (getting angry)  Come on! Why don't you take a look  around? You know what's about to  happen, what they're up against.  They could use a good pilot like  you. You're turning your back on  them.  **HAN**  What good's a reward if you ain't  around to use it? Besides, attacking  that battle station ain't my idea of  courage. It's more like suicide.  **LUKE**  All right. Well, take care of  yourself, Han. I guess that's what  you're best at, isn't it?  Luke goes off and Han hesitates, then calls to him.  **HAN**  Hey, Luke... may the Force be with  you!  Luke turns and sees Han wink at him. Luke lifts his hand in  a small wave and then goes off.  Han turns to Chewie who growls at his captain,  **HAN**  What're you lookin' at? I know what  I'm doing.  **INT. MAIN HANGAR DECK - LUKE'S SHIP**  Luke, Leia, and Dodonna meet under a huge space fighter.  **LEIA**  What's wrong?  **LUKE**  Oh, it's Han! I don't know, I really  thought he'd change his mind.  **LEIA**  He's got to follow his own path. No  one can choose it for him.  **LUKE**  I only wish Ben were here.  Leia gives Luke a little kiss, turns, and goes off. As Luke  heads for his ship, another pilot rushes up to him and grabs  his arm.  **BIGGS**  Luke! I don't believe it! How'd you  get here... are you going out with  us?!  **LUKE**  Biggs! Of course, I'll be up there  with you! Listen, have I got some  stories to tell...  Red Leader, a rugged handsome man in his forties, comes up  behind Luke and Biggs. He has the confident smile of a born  leader.  **RED LEADER**  Are you... Luke Skywalker? Have you  been checked out on the Incom T-sixty-  five?  **BIGGS**  Sir, Luke is the best bushpilot in  the outer rim territories.  Red Leader pats Luke on the back as they stop in front of  his fighter.  **RED LEADER**  I met your father once when I was  just a boy, he was a great pilot.  You'll do all right. If you've got  half of your father's skill, you'll  do better than all right.  **LUKE**  Thank you, sir. I'll try.  Red Leader hurries to his own ship.  **BIGGS**  I've got to get aboard. Listen, you'll  tell me your stories when we come  back. All right?  **LUKE**  I told you I'd make it someday, Biggs.  **BIGGS**  (going off)  You did, all right. It's going to be  like old times, Luke. We're a couple  of shooting stars that'll never be  stopped!  Luke laughs and shakes his head in agreement. He heads for  his ship.  As Luke begins to climb up the ladder into his sleek, deadly  spaceship, the crew chief, who is working on the craft, points  to little Artoo, who is being hoisted into a socket on the  back of the fighter.  **CHIEF**  This R2 unit of your seems a bit  beat up. Do you want a new one?  **LUKE**  Not on your life! That little droid  and I have been through a lot  together.  (to Artoo)  You okay, Artoo?  The crewmen lower Artoo-Detoo into the craft. Now a part of  the exterior shell of the starship, the little droid beeps  that he is fine.  Luke climbs up into the cockpit of his fighter and puts an  his helmet. Threepio looks on from the floor of the massive  hangar as the crewmen secure his little electronic partner  into Luke's X-wing. It's an emotional-filled moment as Artoo  beeps good-bye.  **CHIEF**  Okay, easy she goes!  **THREEPIO**  Hang on tight,Artoo, you've got to  come back.  Artoo beeps in agreement.  **THREEPIO**  You wouldn't want my life to get  boring, would you?  Artoo whistles his reply.  All final preparations are made for the approaching battle.  The hangar is buzzing with the last minute activity as the  pilots and crewmen alike make their final adjustments. The  hum of activity is occasionally trespassed by the distorted  voice of the loudspeaker issuing commands. Coupling hoses  are disconnected from the ships as they are fueled. Cockpit  shields roll smoothly into place over each pilot. A signalman,  holding red guiding lights, directs the ships. Luke, a trace  of a smile gracing his lips, peers about through his goggles.  **BEN'S VOICE**  Luke, the Force will be with you.  Luke is confused at the voice and taps his headphones.  **EXT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - JUNGLE**  All that can be seen of the fortress is a lone guard standing  on a small pedestal jutting out above the dense jungle. The  muted gruesome crying sounds that naturally permeate this  eerie purgatory are overwhelmed by the thundering din of ion  rockets as four silver starships catapult from the foliage  in a tight formation and disappears into the morning cloud  cover.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  The princess, Threepio, and a field commander sit quietly  before the giant display showing the planet Yavin and its  four moons. The red dot that represents the Death Star moves  ever closer to the system. A series of green dots appear  around the fourth moon. A din of indistinct chatter fills  the war room.  **MASSASSI INTERCOM VOICE**  Stand-by alert. Death Star  approaching. Estimated time to firing  range, fifteen minutes.  **EXT. SPACE**  The Death Star slowly moves behind the massive yellow surface  of Yavin in the foreground, as many X-wing fighters flying  in formation zoom toward us and out of the frame.  **EXT. SPACE - ANOTHER ANGLE**  Light from a distant sun creates an eerie atmospheric glow  around a huge planet, Yavin. Rebel fighters flying in  formation settle ominously in the foreground and very slowly  pull away.  **INT. RED LEADER STARSHIP - COCKPIT**  Red Leader lowers his visor and adjusts his gun sights,  looking to each side at his wing men.  **RED LEADER**  All wings report in.  **INT. ANOTHER COCKPIT**  One of the Rebel fighters checks in through his mike.  **RED TEN**  Red Ten standing by.  **INT. BIGGS' COCKPIT**  Biggs checks his fighter's controls, alert and ready for  combat.  **RED SEVEN**  (over Biggs' headset)  Red Seven standing by.  **BIGGS**  Red Three standing by.  **INT. PORKINS' COCKPIT**  **PORKINS**  Red Six standing by.  **RED NINE**  (over headset)  Red Nine standing by.  **INT. WEDGE'S FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  **WEDGE**  Red Two standing by.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  **RED ELEVEN**  (over headset)  Red Eleven standing by.  **LUKE**  Red Five standing by.  **EXT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER**  Artoo-Detoo, in position outside of the fighter, turns his  head from side to side and makes beeping sounds.  **INT. RED LEADER'S FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  **RED LEADER**  Lock S-foils in attack position.  **EXT. SPACE**  The group of X-wing fighters move in formation toward the  Death Star, unfolding the wings and locking them in the "X"  position.  **INT. BIGGS' COCKPIT**  **READ LEADER**  (over headset)  We're passing through their magnetic  field.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  **RED LEADER**  Hold tight!  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke adjusts his controls as he concentrates on the  approaching Death Star. The ship begins to be buffeted  slightly.  **RED LEADER**  (over headset)  Switch your deflectors on.  **INT. ANOTHER COCKPIT**  **RED LEADER**  (over headset)  Double front!  **EXT. SPACE**  The fighters, now X-shaped darts, move in formation. The  Death Star now appears to be a small moon growing rapidly in  size as the Rebel fighters approach. Complex patterns on the  metallic surface begin to become visible. A large dish antenna  is built into the surface on one side.  **INT. WEDGE'S COCKPIT**  Wedge is amazed and slightly frightened at the awesome  spectacle.  **WEDGE**  Look at the size of that thing!  **RED LEADER**  (over headset)  Cut the chatter, Red Two.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  **RED LEADER**  Accelerate to attack speed. This is  it, boys!  **EXT. SPACE**  As the fighters move closer to the Death Star, the awesome  size of the gargantuan Imperial fortress is revealed. Half  of the deadly space station is in shadow and this area  sparkles with thousands of small lights running in thin lines  and occasionally grouped in large clusters; somewhat like a  city at night as seen from a weather satellite.  **INT. GOLD LEADER'S COCKPIT**  **GOLD LEADER**  Red Leader, this is Gold Leader.  **RED LEADER**  (over headset)  I copy, Gold Leader.  **GOLD LEADER**  We're starting for the target shaft  now.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  Red Leader looks around at his wingmen; the Death Star looming  in from behind. Two Y-wing fighters bob back and forth in  the background. He moves his computer targeting device into  position.  **RED LEADER**  We're in position. I'm going to cut  across the axis and try and draw  their fire.  **EXT. SPACE**  Two squads of Rebel fighters peel off. The X-wings dive  towards the Death Star surface. A thousand lights glow across  the dark grey expanse of the huge station.  **INT. DEATH STAR**  Alarm sirens scream as soldiers scramble to large turbo-  powered laser gun emplacements. Electronic drivers rotate  the huge guns into position as crew adjust their targeting  devices.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Laserbolts streak through the star-filled night. The Rebel X-  wing fighters move in toward the Imperial base, as the Death  Star aims its massive laser guns at the Rebel forces and  fires.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  Princess Leia listens to the battle over the intercom.  Threepio is at her side.  **WEDGE**  (over war room speaker  system)  Heavy fire, boss! Twenty-degrees.  **RED LEADER**  (over speaker)  I see it. Stay low.  **EXT. SPACE**  An X-wing zooms across the surface of the Death Star.  **INT. DEATH STAR**  Technical crews scurry here and there loading last-minute  armaments and unlocking power cables.  **INT. WEDGE'S COCKPIT**  Wedge maneuvers his fighter toward the menacing Death Star.  **EXT. SPACE**  X-wings continue in their attack course on the Death Star.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke nosedives radically, starting his attack on the monstrous  fortress. The Death Star surface streaks past the cockpit  window.  **LUKE**  This is Red Five; I'm going in!  **EXT. SPACE**  Luke's X-wing races toward the Death Star. Laserbolts streak  from Luke's weapons, creating a huge fireball explosion on  the dim surface.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Terror crosses Luke's face as he realizes he won't be able  to pull out in time to avoid the fireball.  **BIGGS**  (over headset)  Luke, pull up!  **EXT. SURFACE OF DEATH STAR**  Luke's ship emerges from the fireball, with the leading edges  of his wings slightly scorched.  **INT. BIGGS' COCKPIT**  **BIGGS**  Are you all right?  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke adjusts his controls and breathes a sigh of relief.  Flak bursts outside the cockpit window.  **LUKE**  I got a little cooked, but I'm okay.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Rebel fighters continue to strafe the Death Star's surface  with laserbolts.  **INT. DEATH STAR**  Walls buckle and cave in. Troops and equipment are blown in  all directions. Stormtroopers stagger out of the rubble.  Standing in the middle of the chaos, a vision of calm and  foreboding, is Darth Vader. One of his Astro-Officers rushes  up to him.  **ASTRO-OFFICER**  We count thirty Rebel ships, Lord  Vader. But they're so small they're  evading our turbo-lasers!  **VADER**  We'll have to destroy them ship to  ship. Get the crews to their fighters.  **INT. DEATH STAR**  Smoke belches from the giant laser guns as they wind up their  turbine generators to create sufficient power. The crew rushes  about preparing for another blast. Even the troopers head  gear is not adequate to protect them from the overwhelming  noise of the monstrous weapon. One troopers bangs his helmet  with his hand in an attempt to stop the ringing.  **INT. READ LEADER'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT - TRAVELING**  Red Leader flies through a heavy hail of flak.  **RED LEADER**  Luke, let me know when you're going  in.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT - TRAVELING**  The Red Leader's X-wing flies past Luke as he puts his nose  down and starts his attack dive.  **LUKE**  I'm on my way in now...  **RED LEADER**  Watch yourself! There's a lot of  fire coming from the right side of  that deflection tower.  **LUKE**  I'm on it.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Luke flings his X-wing into a twisting dive across the horizon  and down onto the dim grey surface.  **EXT. LUKE'S X-WING TRAVELING**  A shot hurls from Luke's guns. Laserbolts streak toward the  onrushing Death Star surface. Several small radar emplacements  erupt in flame. Laserfire erupts from a protruding tower on  the surface.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT - TRAVELING**  The blurry Death Star surface races past the cockpit window  as a big smile sweeps across Luke's face at the success of  his run. Flak thunders on all sides of him.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  The Death Star superstructure races past Luke as he maneuvers  his craft through a wall of laserfire and peels away from  the surface towards the heavens.  **INT. DEATH STAR**  The thunder and smoke of the big guns reverberate throughout  the massive structure. Many soldiers rush about in the smoke  and chaos, silhouetted by the almost continual flash of  explosions.  **INT. BIGGS' COCKPIT - TRAVELING**  Biggs dives through a forest of radar domes, antennae, and  gun towers as he shoots low across the Death Star surface. A  dense barrage of laserfire streaks by on all sides.  **INT. DEATH STAR**  Imperial star pilots dash in unison to a line of small  auxiliary hatches that lead to Imperial TIE fighters.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  Princess Leia, surrounded by her generals and aides, paces  nervously before a lighted computer table. On all sides  technicians work in front of many lighted glass walls. Dodonna  watches quietly from one corner. One of the officers working  over a screen speaks into his headset.  **CONTROL OFFICER**  Squad leaders, we've picked up a new  group of signals. Enemy fighters  coming your way.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT - TRAVELING**  Luke looks around to see if he can spot the approaching  Imperial fighters.  **LUKE**  My scope's negative. I don't see  anything.  **INT. RED LEADER'S X-WING - COCKPIT - TRAVELING**  The Death Star's surface sweeps past as Red Leader searches  the sky for the Imperial fighters. Flak pounds at his ship.  **RED LEADER**  Keep up your visual scanning. With  all this jamming, they'll be on top  of you before your scope can pick  them up.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Silhouetted against the rim lights of the Death Star horizon,  four ferocious Imperial TIE ships dive on the Rebel fighters.  Two of the TIE fighters peel off and drop out of frame. Pan  with the remaining two TIE ships.  **INT. BIGGS' COCKPIT - TRAVELING**  Biggs panics when he discovers a TIE ship on his tail. The  horizon in the background twists around as he peels off,  hoping to lose the Imperial fighter.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  **RED LEADER**  Biggs! You've picked one up... watch  it!  **BIGGS**  I can't see it! Where is he?!  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Biggs zooms off the surface and into space, closely followed  by an Imperial TIE fighter. The TIE ship fires several  laserbolts at Biggs, but misses.  **INT. BIGGS' COCKPIT - TRAVELING**  Biggs see the TIE ship behind him and swings around, trying  to avoid him.  **BIGGS**  He's on me tight, I can't shake him...  I can't shake him.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Biggs, flying at high altitude, peels off and dives toward  the Death Star surface, but he is unable to lose the TIE  fighter, who sticks close to his tail.  **INT. X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT - TRAVELING**  Luke is flying upside down. He rotates his ship around to  normal attitude as he comes out of his dive.  **LUKE**  Hang on, Biggs, I'm coming in.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Biggs and the tailing TIE ship dive for the surface, now  followed by a fast-gaining Luke. After Biggs dives out of  sight, Luke chases the Imperial fighter.  **EXT. SURFACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  In the foreground, the Imperial fighter races across the  Death Star's surface, closely followed by Luke in the  background.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT - TRAVELING**  There is a shot from Luke's X-wing of the TIE ship exploding  in a mass of flames.  **LUKE**  Got him!  **INT. DEATH STAR**  Darth Vader strides purposefully down a Death Star corridor,  flanked by Imperial stormtroopers.  **VADER**  Several fighters have broken off  from the main group. Come with me!  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  A concerned Princess Leia, Threepio, Dodonna, and other  officers of the Rebellion stand around the huge round readout  screen, listening to the ship-to-ship communication on the  room's loudspeaker.  **BIGGS**  (over speaker)  Pull in! Luke... pull in!  **WEDGE**  (over speaker)  Watch your back, Luke!  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  **WEDGE**  (over headset)  Watch your back! Fighter's above  you, coming in!  **EXT. SPACE**  Luke's ship soars away from the Death Star's surface as he  spots the tailing TIE fighter.  **INT. TIE FIGHTER'S COCKPIT**  The TIE pilot takes aim at Luke's X-wing.  **EXT. SPACE**  The Imperial TIE fighter pilot scores a hit on Luke's ship.  Fire breaks out on the right side of the X-wing.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke looks out of his cockpit at the flames on his ship.  **LUKE**  I'm hit, but not bad.  **EXT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER**  Smoke pours out from behind Artoo-Detoo.  **LUKE'S VOICE**  Artoo, see what you can do with it.  Hang on back there.  Green laserfire moves past the beeping little robot as his  head turns.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT**  Luke nervously works his controls.  **RED LEADER**  (over headset)  Red Six...  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  In the war room, Leia stands frozen as she listens and worries  about Luke.  **RED LEADER**  (over speaker)  Can you see Red Five?  **RED TEN**  (over speaker)  There's a heavy fire zone on this  side. Red Five, where are you?  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT**  Luke spots the TIE fighter behind him and soars away from  the Death Star surface.  **LUKE**  I can't shake him!  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Luke's ship soars closer to the surface of the Death Star,  an Imperial TIE fighter closing in on him in hot pursuit.  **INT. WEDGE'S COCKPIT**  The Death Star whips below Wedge.  **WEDGE**  I'm on him, Luke!  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT**  **WEDGE**  (over headset)  Hold on!  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Wedge dives across the horizon toward Luke and the TIE  fighter.  **INT. WEDGE'S COCKPIT**  Wedge moves his X-wing in rapidly.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT**  Luke reacts frantically.  **LUKE**  Blast it! Wedge where are you?  **INT. TIE FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  The fighter pilot watches Wedge's X-wing approach. Another X-  wing joins him, and both unleash a volley of laserfire on  the Imperial fighter.  **EXT. SPACE**  The TIE fighter explodes, filling the screen with white light.  Luke's ship can be seen far in the distance.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT**  Luke looks about in relief.  **LUKE**  Thanks, Wedge.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  Leia, Threepio, Dodonna and other Rebel officers are listening  to the Rebel Fighter's radio transmissions over the war room  intercom.  **BIGGS**  (over speaker)  Good shooting, Wedge!  **GOLD LEADER**  (over speaker)  Red Leader...  **INT. GOLD LEADER'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  Gold Leader peels off and starts toward the long trenches at  the Death Star surface pole.  **GOLD LEADER**  This is Gold Leader. We're starting  out attack run.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Three Y-wing fighters of the Gold group dive out of the stars  toward the Death Star surface.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  Leia and the others are grouped around the screen, as  technicians move about attending to their duties.  **RED LEADER**  (over speaker)  I copy, Gold Leader. Move into  position.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Three Imperial TIE ships in precise formation dive toward  the Death Star surface.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Darth Vader calmly adjusts his control stick as the stars  whip past in the window above his head.  **VADER**  Stay in attack formation!  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  Technicians are seated at the computer readout table.  **GOLD LEADER**  (over speaker)  The exhaust post is...  **INT. GOLD LEADER'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  **GOLD LEADER**  ...marked and locked in!  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Gold Leader approaches the surface and pulls out to skim the  surface of the huge station. The ship moves into a deep  trench, firing laserbolts. The surface streaks past as  laserfire is returned by the Death Star.  **INT. GOLD FIVE'S Y-WING - COCKPIT - TRAVELING**  Gold Five is a pilot in his early fifties with a very battered  helmet that looks like it's been through many battles. He  looks around to see if enemy ships are near. His fighter is  buffeted by Imperial flak.  **INT. GOLD LEADER'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  Gold Leader races down the enormous trench that leads to the  exhaust port. Laserbolts blast toward him in increasing  numbers, occasionally exploding near the ship causing it to  bounce about.  **GOLD LEADER**  Switch power to front deflector  screens.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Three Y-wing skim the Death Star surface deep in the trench,  as laserbolts streak past on all sides.  **EXT. DEATH STAR SURFACE - GUN EMPLACEMENTS**  An exterior surface gun blazes away at the oncoming Rebel  fighters.  **INT. GOLD LEADER'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  **GOLD LEADER**  How many guns do you think, Gold  Five.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  **GOLD FIVE**  (over speaker)  I'd say about twenty guns. Some on  the surface, some on the towers.  Leia, Threepio, and the technicians view the projected target  screen, as red and blue target lights glow. The red target  near the center blinks on and off.  **MASSASSI INTERCOM VOICE**  (over speaker)  Death Star will be in range in five  minutes.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  The three Y-wing fighters race toward camera and zoom overhead  through a hail of laserfire.  **INT. GOLD LEADER'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  Gold Leader pulls his computer targeting device down in front  of his eye. Laserbolts continue to batter the Rebel craft.  **GOLD LEADER**  Switching to targeting computer.  **INT. GOLD TWO'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  Gold Two, a younger pilot about Luke's age, pulls down his  targeting eye viewer and adjusts it. His ship shudders under  intense laser barrage.  **GOLD TWO**  Computer's locked. Getting a signal.  As the fighters begin to approach the target area, suddenly  all the laserfire stops. An eerie clam clings over the trench  as the surface whips past in a blur.  **GOLD TWO**  The guns... they've stopped!  **EXT. GOLD FIVE'S COCKPIT**  Gold Five looks behind him.  **GOLD FIVE**  Stabilize your read deflectors. Watch  for enemy fighters.  **INT. GOLD LEADER'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  **GOLD LEADER**  They've coming in! Three marks at  two ten.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Three Imperial TIE ships, Darth Vader in the center flanked  by two wingmen, dive in precise formation almost vertically  toward the Death Star surface.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Darth Vader calmly adjusts his control stick as the stars  zoom by.  **VADER**  I'll take them myself! Cover me!  **WINGMAN'S VOICE**  (over speaker)  Yes, sir.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Three TIE fighters zoom across the surface of the Death Star.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader lines up Gold Two in his targeting computer. Vader's  hands grip the control stick as he presses the button.  **INT. GOLD LEADER'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  The cockpit explodes around Gold Two. His head falls forward.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  As Gold Two's ship explodes, debris is flung out into space.  **INT. GOLD LEADER'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  Gold Leader looks over his shoulder at the scene.  **EXT. DEATH STAR TRENCH**  The three TIE fighters race along in the trench in a tight  formation.  **INT. GOLD LEADER'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  Gold Leader panics.  **GOLD LEADER**  (into mike)  I can't maneuver!  **INT. GOLD FIVE'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  Gold Five, the old veteran, trys to calm Gold Leader.  **GOLD FIVE**  Stay on target.  **INT. GOLD LEADER'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  The Death Star races by outside the cockpit window as he  adjusts his targeting device.  **GOLD LEADER**  We're too close.  **INT. GOLD FIVE'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  The older pilot remains calm.  **GOLD FIVE**  Stay on target!  **INT. GOLD LEADER'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  Now he's really panicked.  **GOLD LEADER**  Loosen up!  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader calmly adjusts his targeting computer and pushes the  fire button.  **INT. GOLD LEADER'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  Gold Leader's ship is hit by Vader's laser.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Gold Leader explodes in a ball of flames, throwing debris in  all directions.  **INT. GOLD FIVE'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  Gold Five moves in on the exhaust port.  **GOLD FIVE**  Gold Five to Red Leader...  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke looks over his shoulder at the action outside of his  cockpit.  **GOLD FIVE**  (over headset)  Lost Tiree, lost Dutch.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  **RED LEADER**  I copy, Gold Five.  **INT. GOLD FIVE'S Y-WING - COCKPIT**  **GOLD FIVE**  They came from behind...  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  One of the engines explodes on Gold Five's Y-wing fighter,  blazing out of control. He dives past the horizon toward the  Death Star's surface, passing a TIE fighter during his  descent. Gold Five, a veteran of countless campaigns, spins  toward his death.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke looks nervously about him at the explosive battle.  **INT. DEATH STAR - CONTROL ROOM**  Grant Moff Tarkin and a Chief Officer stand in the Death  Star's control room.  **OFFICER**  We've analyzed their attack, sir,  and there is a danger. Should I have  your ship standing by?  **TARKIN**  Evacuate? In out moment of triumph?  I think you overestimate their  chances!  Tarkin turns to the computer readout screen. Flames move  around the green disk at the center of the screen, as numbers  read across the bottom.  **VOICE**  (over speaker)  Rebel base, three minutes and closing.  **INT. READ LEADER'S COCKPIT**  Red Leader looks over at his wingmen.  **RED LEADER**  Red Group, this is Red Leader.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  Dodonna moves to the intercom as he fiddles with the computer  keys.  **RED LEADER**  (over speaker)  Rendezvous at mark six point one.  **WEDGE**  (over speaker)  This is Red Two. Flying toward you.  **BIGGS**  (over speaker)  Red Three, standing by.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  **DODONNA**  (over headset)  Red Leader, this is Base One. Keep  half your group out of range for the  next run.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  **RED LEADER'S VOICE**  (over headset)  Copy, Base One. Luke, take Red Two  and Three. Hold up here and wait for  my signal... to start your run.  Luke nods his head.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  The X-wing fighters of Luke, Biggs, and Wedge fly in formation  high above the Death Star's surface.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke peers out from his cockpit.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Two X-wings move across the surface of the Death Star. Red  Leader's X-wing drops down to the surface leading to the  exhaust port.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  Red Leader looks around to watch for the TIE fighters. He  begins to perspire.  **RED LEADER**  This is it!  **EXT. SPACE**  Red Leader roams down the trench of the Death Star as lasers  streak across the black heavens.  **EXT. DEATH STAR SURFACE - GUN EMPLACEMENTS**  A huge remote-control laser cannon fires at the approaching  Rebel fighters.  **EXT. DEATH STAR TRENCH**  The Rebel fighters evade the Imperial laser blasts.  **INT. RED TEN'S COCKPIT**  Red Ten looks around for the Imperial fighters.  **RED TEN**  We should be able to see it by now.  **EXT. DEATH STAR TRENCH**  From the cockpits of the Rebel pilots, the surface of the  Death Star streaks by, with Imperial laserfire shooting toward  them.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  **RED LEADER**  Keep your eyes open for those  fighters!  **INT. RED TEN'S COCKPIT**  **RED TEN**  There's too much interference!  **EXT. SPACE - DEATH STAR TRENCH**  Three X-wing fighters move in formation down the Death Star  trench.  **RED TEN'S VOICE**  Red Five, can you see them from where  you are?  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke looks down at the Death Star surface below.  **LUKE**  No sign of any... wait!  **INT. RED TEN'S COCKPIT**  Red Ten looks up and sees the Imperial fighters.  **LUKE**  (over headset)  Coming in point three five.  **RED TEN**  I see them.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Three TIE fighters, Vader flanked by two wingmen, dive in a  tight formation. The sun reflects off their dominate solar  fins as they loop toward the Death Star's surface.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  Red Leader pulls his targeting device in front of his eyes  and makes several adjustments.  **RED LEADER**  I'm in range.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Red Leader's X-wing moves up the Death Star trench.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  **RED LEADER**  Target's coming up!  Red Leader looks at his computer target readout screen. He  then looks into his targeting device.  **RED LEADER**  Just hold them off for a few seconds.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader adjusts his control lever and dives on the X-wing  fighters.  **VADER**  Close up formation.  **EXT. DEATH STAR TRENCH**  The three TIE fighters move in formation across the Death  Star surface.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  Red Leader lines up his target on the targeting device cross  hairs.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Vader and his wingmen zoom down the trench.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader rapidly approaches the two X-wings of Red Ten and Red  Twelve. Vader's laser cannon flashes below the view of the  front porthole. the X-wings show in the center of Vader's  computer screen.  **EXT. SPACE**  Red Twelve's X-wing fighter is hit by Vader's laserfire, and  it explodes into flames against the trench.  **INT. RED TEN'S COCKPIT**  Red Ten works at his controls furiously, trying to avoid  Vader's fighter behind him.  RED TEN: You'd better let her loose.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  Red Leader is concentrating on his targeting device.  **RED LEADER**  Almost there!  **INT. RED TEN'S COCKPIT.**  Red Ten panics.  **RED TEN**  I can't hold them!  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Vader and his wingmen whip through the trench in pursuit of  the Rebel fighters.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader cooly pushes the fire button on his control stick.  **INT. RED TEN'S COCKPIT**  Darth Vader's well-aimed laserfire proves to be unavoidable,  and strikes Red Ten's ship. Red Ten screams in anguish and  pain.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Red Ten's ship explodes and bursts into flames.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  Grimly, Red Leader takes careful aim and watches his computer  targeting device, which shows the target lined up in the  cross hairs, and fires.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  **RED LEADER**  It's away!  **INT. DEATH STAR**  An armed Imperial stormtrooper is knocked to the floor from  the attack explosion. Other troopers scurrying about the  corridors are knocked against the wall and lose their balance.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  Leia and the others stare at the computer screen.  **RED NINE'S VOICE**  (over speaker)  It's a hit!  **RED LEADER**  (over speaker)  Negative.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  Red Leader looks back at the receding Death Star. Tiny  explosions are visible in the distance.  **RED LEADER**  Negative! It didn't go in. It just  impacted on the surface.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR - TIE FIGHTER**  Darth Vader peels off in pursuit as Red Leader's X-wing passes  the Death Star horizon.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader swings his ship around for the next kill.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  **LUKE**  (over headset)  Red Leader, we're right above you.  Turn to point...  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke tries to spot Red Leader. He looks down at the Death  Star surface.  **LUKE**  ...oh-five; we'll cover for you.  **RED LEADER**  (over headset)  Stay there...  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  A wary Red Leader looks about nervously.  **RED LEADER**  ...I just lost my starboard engine.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke looks excitedly toward Red Leader's X-wing.  **RED LEADER**  (over headset)  Get set to make your attack run.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader's gloved hands make contact with the control sticks,  and he presses their firing buttons.  **INT. RED LEADER'S COCKPIT**  Red Leader fights to gain control of his ship.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Laserbolts are flung from Vader's TIE fighter, connecting  with Red Leader's Rebel X-wing fighter. Red Leader buys it,  creating a tremendous explosion far below. He screams and is  destroyed.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke looks out the window of his X-wing at the explosion far  below. For the first time, he feels the helplessness of his  situation.  **INT. DEATH STAR**  Grand Moff Tarkin casts a sinister eye at the computer screen.  **DEATH STAR INTERCOM VOICE**  Rebel base, one minute and closing.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  Dodonna and Princess Leia, with Threepio beside them, listen  intently to the talk between the pilots. The room is grim  after Red Leader's death. Princess Leia nervously paces the  room.  **LUKE**  (over speaker)  Biggs, Wedge, let's close it up.  We're going in. We're going in full  throttle.  **INT. WEDGE'S COCKPIT**  The horizon twists as Wedge begins to pull out.  **WEDGE**  Right with you, boss.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  The two X-wings peel off against a background of stars and  dive toward the Death Star.  **INT. BIGGS' COCKPIT**  **BIGGS**  Luke, at that speed will you be able  to pull out in time?  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  **LUKE**  It'll be just like Beggar's Canyon  back home.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  The three X-wings move in, unleashing a barrage of laserfire.  Laserbolts are returned from the Death Star.  **INT. BIGGS' COCKPIT**  Luke's lifelong friend struggles with his controls.  **BIGGS**  We'll stay back far enough to cover  you.  **INT. LUKE'S COCKPIT**  Flak and laserbolts flash outside Luke's cockpit window.  **WEDGE**  (over headset)  My scope shows the tower, but I can't  see the exhaust port! Are you sure  the computer can hit it?  **EXT. DEATH STAR - GUN EMPLACEMENTS**  The Death Star laser cannon slowly rotates as it shoots  laserbolts.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke looks around for the Imperial TIE fighters. He thinks  for a moment and then moves his targeting device into  position.  **LUKE**  Watch yourself! Increase speed full  throttle!  **INT. WEDGE'S COCKPIT**  Wedge looks excitedly about for any sign of the TIE fighters.  **WEDGE**  What about the tower?  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  **LUKE**  You worry about those fighters! I'll  worry about the tower!  **EXT. DEATH STAR SURFACE**  Luke's X-wing streaks through the trench, firing lasers.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke breaks into a nervous sweat as the laserfire is returned,  knicking one of his wings close to the engine.  **LUKE**  (to Artoo)  Artoo... that, that stabilizer's  broken loose again! See if you can't  lock it down!  **EXT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER**  Artoo works to repair the damages. The canyon wall rushes by  in the background, making his delicate task seem even more  precarious.  **EXT. DEATH STAR**  Two laser cannons are firing on the Rebel fighters.  **INT. WEDGE'S COCKPIT**  Wedge looks up and sees the TIE ships.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke's targeting device marks off the distance to the target.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Vader and his wingmen zoom closer.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader adjusts his controls and fires laserbolts at two X-  wings flying down the trench. He scores a direct hit on Wedge.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  Leia and the others are grouped around the computer board.  **WEDGE**  (over speaker)  I'm hit! I can't stay with you.  **LUKE**  (over speaker)  Get clear, Wedge.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  **LUKE**  You can't do any more good back there!  **INT. WEDGE'S COCKPIT**  **WEDGE**  Sorry!  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Wedge pulls his crippled X-wing back away from the battle.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader watches the escape but issues a command to his wingmen.  **VADER**  Let him go! Stay on the leader!  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Luke's X-wing speeds down the trench; the three TIE fighters,  still in perfect unbroken formation, tail close behind.  **INT. BIGGS' COCKPIT**  Biggs looks around at the TIE fighters. He is worried.  **BIGGS**  Hurry, Luke, they're coming in much  faster this time. I can't hold them!  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  The three TIE fighters move ever closer, closing in on Luke  and Biggs.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke looks back anxiously at little Artoo.  **LUKE**  Artoo, try and increase the power!  **EXT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER**  Ignoring the bumpy ride, flak, and lasers, a beeping Artoo-  Detoo struggles to increase the power, his dome turning from  side to side.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Stealthily, the TIE formation creeps closer.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader adjusts his control stick.  **INT. BIGGS' COCKPIT**  Biggs looks around at the TIE fighters.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER**  Luke looks into his targeting device. He moves it away for a  moment and ponders its use. He looks back into the computer  targeter.  **BIGGS**  (over headset)  Hurry up, Luke!  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Vader and his wingmen race through the Death Star trench.  Biggs moves in to cover for Luke, but Vader gains on him.  **INT. BIGGS' COCKPIT**  Biggs sees the TIE fighter aiming at him.  **BIGGS**  Wait!  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader squeezes the fire button on his controls.  **INT. BIGGS' COCKPIT**  Biggs' cockpit explodes around him, lighting him in red.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Biggs' ship bursts into a million flaming bits and scatters  across the surface.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  Leia and the others stare at the computer board.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING COCKPIT**  Luke is stunned by Biggs' death. His eyes are watering, but  his anger is also growing.  **INT. DEATH STAR - CONTROL ROOM**  Grand Moff Tarkin watches the projected target screen with  satisfaction.  **DEATH STAR INTERCOM VOICE**  Rebel base, thirty seconds and  closing.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader takes aim on Luke and talks to the wingmen.  **VADER**  I'm on the leader.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR - LUKE'S SHIP**  Luke's ship streaks through the trench of the Death Star.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  Princess Leia returns her general's worried and doubtful  glances with solid, grim determination. Threepio seems  nervous.  **THREEPIO**  Hang on, Artoo!  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT**  Luke concentrates on his targeting device.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Three TIE fighters charge away down the trench toward Luke.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader's finger's curls around the control stick.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT**  Luke adjusts the lens of his targeting device.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Luke's ship charges down the trench.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT**  Luke lines up the yellow cross-hair lines of the targeting  device's screen. He looks into the targeting device, then  starts at a voice he hears.  **BEN'S VOICE**  Use the Force, Luke.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  The Death Star trench zooms by.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT**  Luke looks up, then starts to look back into the targeting  device. He has second thoughts.  **BEN'S VOICE**  Let go, Luke.  A grim determination sweeps across Luke's face as he closes  his eyes and starts to mumble Ben's training to himself.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Luke's fighter streaks through the trench.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  **VADER**  The Force is strong with this one!  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Vader follows Luke's X-wing down the trench.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT**  Luke looks to the targeting device, then away as he hears  Ben's voice.  **BEN'S VOICE**  Luke, trust me.  Luke's hand reaches for the control panel and presses the  button. The targeting device moves away.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  Leia and the others stand watching the projected screen.  **BASE VOICE**  (over speaker)  His computer's off. Luke, you switched  off your targeting computer. What's  wrong?  **LUKE**  (over speaker)  Nothing. I'm all right.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Luke's ship streaks ever close to the exhaust port.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT**  Luke looks at the Death Star surface streaking by.  **EXT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER**  Artoo-Detoo turns his head from side to side, beeping in  anticipation.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  The three TIE fighters, manned by Vader and his two wingmen,  follow Luke's X-wing down the trench.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader maneuvers his controls as he looks at his doomed target.  He presses the fire buttons on his control sticks. Laserfire  shoots toward Luke's X-wing fighter.  **EXT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER**  A large burst of Vader's laserfire engulfs Artoo. The arms  go limp on the smoking little droid as he makes a high-pitched  sound.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke looks frantically back over his shoulder at Artoo.  **EXT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER**  Smoke billows out around little Artoo and sparks begin to  fly.  **LUKE**  I've lost Artoo!  Artoo's beeping sounds die out.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  Leia and the others stare intently at the projected screen,  while Threepio watches the Princess. Lights representing the  Death Star and targets glow brightly.  **MASSASSI INTERCOM VOICE**  The Death Star has cleared the planet.  The Death Star has cleared the planet.  **INT. DEATH STAR - CONTROL ROOM**  Tarkin glares at the projected target screen.  **DEATH STAR INTERCOM VOICE**  Rebel base, in range.  **TARKIN**  You may fire when ready.  **DEATH STAR INTERCOM VOICE**  Commence primary ignition.  An officer reaches up and pushes buttons on the control panel,  as green lighted buttons turn to red.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  The three TIE fighters zoom down the Death Star trench in  pursuit of Luke, never breaking formation.  **INT. LUKE'S COCKPIT**  Luke looks anxiously at the exhaust port.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader adjusts his control sticks, checking his projected  targeting screen.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Luke's ship barrels down the trench.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader's targeting computer swings around into position. Vader  takes careful aim on Luke's X-wing fighter.  **VADER**  I have you now.  He pushes the fire buttons.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  The three TIE fighters move in on Luke. As Vader's center  fighter unleashes a volley of laserfire, one of the TIE ships  at his side is hit and explodes into flame. The two remaining  ships continue to move in.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke looks about, wondering whose laserfire destroyed Vader's  wingman.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader is taken by surprise, and looks out from his cockpit.  **VADER**  What?  **INT. DARTH VADER'S WINGMAN - COCKPIT**  Vader's wingman searches around him trying to locate the  unknown attacker.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Han and Chewbacca grin from ear to ear.  **HAN**  (yelling)  Yahoo!  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  The Millennium Falcon heads right at the two TIE fighters.  It's a collision course.  **INT. WINGMAN'S COCKPIT**  The wingman spots the pirateship coming at him and warns the  Dark Lord.  **WINGMAN**  Look out!  **EXT. DEATH STAR TRENCH**  Vader's wingman panics at the sight of the oncoming pirate  starship and veers radically to one side, colliding with  Vader's TIE fighter in the process. Vader's wingman crashes  into the side wall of the trench and explodes. Vader's damaged  ship spins out of the trench with a damaged wing.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Vader's ship spins out of control with a bent solar fin,  heading for deep space.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S COCKPIT**  Vader turns round and round in circles as his ship spins  into space.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Solo's ship moves in toward the Death Star trench.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Solo, smiling, speaks to Luke over his headset mike.  **HAN**  (into mike)  You're all clear, kid.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM**  Leia and the others listen to Solo's transmission.  **HAN**  (over speaker)  Now let's blow this thing and go  home!  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke looks up and smiles. He concentrates on the exhaust  port, then fires his laser torpedoes.  **EXT. SURFACE OF THE DEATH STAR**  Luke's torpedoes shoot toward the port and seems to simply  disappear into the surface and not explode. But the shots do  find their mark and have gone into the exhaust port and are  heading for the main reactor.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke throws his head back in relief.  **INT. DEATH STAR**  An Imperial soldier runs to the control panel board and pulls  the attack lever as the board behind him lights up.  **INTERCOM VOICE**  Stand by to fire at Rebel base.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  Two X-wings, a Y-wing, and the pirateship race toward Yavin  in the distance.  **INT. DEATH STAR**  Several Imperial soldiers, flanking a pensive Grand Moff  Tarkin, busily push control levers and buttons.  **INTERCOM VOICE**  Standing by.  The rumble of a distant explosion begins.  **EXT. SPACE AROUND THE DEATH STAR**  The Rebel ships race out of sight, leaving the moon-like  Death Star alone against a blanket of stars. Several small  flashes appear on the surface. The Death Star bursts into a  supernova, creating a spectacular heavenly display.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  **HAN**  Great shot, kid. That was one in a  million.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING FIGHTER - COCKPIT**  Luke is at ease, and his eyes are closed.  **BEN'S VOICE**  Remember, the Force will be with  you... always.  The ship rocks back and forth.  **EXT. DARTH VADER'S TIE FIGHTER**  Vader's ship spins off into space.  **EXT. SPACE**  The Rebel ships race toward the fourth moon of Yavin.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - MAIN HANGAR**  Luke climbs out of his starship fighter and is cheered by a  throng of ground crew and pilots. Luke climbs down the ladder  as they all welcome him with laughter, cheers, and shouting.  Princess Leia rushes toward him.  **LEIA**  Luke! Luke! Luke!  She throws her arms around Luke and hugs him as they dance  around in a circle. Solo runs in toward Luke and they embrace  one another, slapping each other on the back.  **HAN**  (laughing)  Hey! Hey!  **LUKE**  (laughing)  I knew you'd come back! I just knew  it!  **HAN**  Well, I wasn't gonna let you get all  the credit and take all the reward.  Luke and Han look at one another, as Solo playfully shoves  at Luke's face. Leia moves in between them.  **LEIA**  (laughing)  Hey, I knew there was more to you  than money.  Luke looks toward the ship.  **LUKE**  Oh, no!  The fried little Artoo-Detoo is lifted off the back of the  fighter and carried off under the worried eyes of Threepio.  **THREEPIO**  Oh, my! Artoo! Can you hear me? Say  something!  (to mechanic)  You can repair him, can't you?  **TECHNICIAN**  We'll get to work on him right away.  **THREEPIO**  You must repair him! Sir, if any of  my circuits or gears will help, I'll  gladly donate them.  **LUKE**  He'll be all right.  **INT. MASSASSI OUTPOST - MAIN THRONE ROOM**  Luke, Han, and Chewbacca enter the huge ruins of the main  temple. Hundreds of troops are lined up in neat rows. Banners  are flying and at the far end stands a vision in white, the  beautiful young Senator Leia. Luke and the others solemnly  march up the long aisle and kneel before Senator Leia. From  one side of the temple marches a shined-up and fully repaired  Artoo-Detoo. He waddles up to the group and stands next to  an equally pristine Threepio, who is rather awestruck by the  whole event. Chewbacca is confused. Dodonna and several other  dignitaries sit on the left of the Princess Leia. Leia is  dressed in a long white dress and is staggeringly beautiful.  She rises and places a gold medallion around Han's neck. He  winks at her. She then repeats the ceremony with Luke, who  is moved by the event. They turn and face the assembled  troops, who all bow before them. Chewbacca growls and Artoo  beeps with happiness.  **FADE OUT:**  **END CREDITS OVER STARS**  **THE END** | |

|  |
| --- |
|  |