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|  |  | |  | | --- | | **THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK**  Written by    Lawrence Kasdan  and  Leigh Brackett    From a story by George Lucas        **EXT. GALAXY - PLANET HOTH**  A Star Destroyer moves through space, releasing Imperial probe robots  from its underside.  One of these probes zooms toward the planet Hoth and lands on its ice-  covered surface. An explosion marks the point of  impact.  **EXT. HOTH - METEORITE CRATER - SNOW PLAIN - DAY**  A weird mechanical sound rises above the whining of the wind. A  strange probe robot, with several extended sensors, emerges from the  smoke-shrouded crater. The ominous mechanical probe floats across the  snow plain and disappears into the distance.  **EXT. PLAIN OF HOTH - DAY**  A small figure gallops across the windswept ice slope. The bundled  rider is mounted on a large gray snow lizard, a Tauntaun. Curving  plumes of snow rise from beneath the speeding paws of the two-legged  beast.  The rider gallops up a slope and reins his lizard to a stop. Pulling  off his protective goggles, Luke Skywalker notices something in the  sky. He takes a pair of electrobinoculars from his utility belt and  through them sees smoke rising from where the probe robot has crashed.  The wind whips at Luke's fur-lined cap and he activates a comlink  transmitter. His Tauntaun shifts and moans nervously beneath him.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Echo Three to Echo Seven. Han,  old buddy, do you read me?  After a little static a familiar voice is heard.  **HAN**  (over comlink)  Loud and clear, kid. What's up?  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Well, I finished my circle. I  don't pick up any life readings.  **HAN**  (over comlink)  There isn't enough life on this  ice cube to fill a space cruiser.  The sensors are placed, I'm going  back.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Right. I'll see you shortly.  There's a meteorite that hit the  ground near here. I want to check  it out. It won't take long.  Luke clicks off his transmitter and reins back on his nervous lizard.  He pats the beast on the head to calm it.  **LUKE**  Hey, steady girl. What's the  matter? You smell something?  Luke takes a small device from his belt and starts to adjust it when  suddenly a large shadow falls over him from behind. He hears a  monstrous howl and turns to see an eleven-foot-tall shape towering over  him. It is a Wampa Ice Creature, lunging at him ferociously.  **LUKE**  Aaargh!  Luke grabs for his pistol, but is hit flat in the face by a huge white  claw. He falls unconscious into the snow and in a moment the terrified  screams of the Tauntaun are cut short by the horrible snap of a neck  being broken.  The Wampa Ice Creature grabs Luke by one ankle and drags him away  across the frozen plain.  **EXT. HOTH - REBEL BASE ENTRANCE - DAY**  A stalwart figure rides his Tauntaun up to the entrance of an enormous  ice cave.  **INT. HOTH - REBEL BASE - MAIN HANGAR DECK**  Rebel troopers rush about unloading supplies and otherwise securing  their new base. The rider, Han Solo, swings off his lizard and pulls  off his goggles.  He walks into the main hangar deck toward the Millennium Falcon, which  is parked among several fighters. Mechanics, R2 units, and various  other droids hurry about. Han stops at the Millennium Falcon where his  Wookiee copilot, Chewbacca, is welding on a central lifter. Chewie  stops his work and lifts his face shield, growling an irritated  greeting to his boss.  **HAN**  Chewie!  The Wookiee grumbles a reply.  **HAN**  All right, don't lose your temper.  I'll come right back and give you  a hand.  Chewbacca puts his mask back on and returns to his welding as Han  leaves.  **INT. HOTH - REBEL BASE - COMMAND CENTER**  A makeshift command center has been set up in a blasted area of thick  ice. The low-ceilinged room is a beehive of activity. Controllers,  troops, and droids move about setting up electronic equipment and  monitoring radar signals.  General Rieekan straightens up from a console at Han's approach.  **RIEEKAN**  Solo?  **HAN**  No sign of life out there, General.  The sensors are in place. You'll  know if anything comes around.  **RIEEKAN**  Commander Skywalker reported in yet?  **HAN**  No. He's checking out a meteorite  that hit near him.  **RIEEKAN**  (indicates radar  screen)  With all the meteor activity in this  system, it's going to be difficult  to spot approaching ships.  Taking a deep breath, Han blurts out what is on his mind.  **HAN**  General, I've got to leave. I  can't stay anymore.  Princess Leia, standing at a console nearby, is dressed in a short  white combat jacket and pants. Her hair is braided across her head in  a Nordic fashion. She overhears their conversation and seems somewhat  distressed.  **RIEEKAN**  I'm sorry to hear that.  **HAN**  Well, there's a price on my head.  If I don't pay off Jabba the Hut,  I'm a dead man.  **RIEEKAN**  A death mark's not an easy thing  to live with. You're a good  fighter, Solo. I hate to lose you.  **HAN**  Thank you, General.  He turns to Leia as Rieekan moves away.  **HAN**  (with feeling)  Well, Your Highness, I guess this  is it.  **LEIA**  That's right.  Leia is angry. Han sees she has no warmth to offer him. He shakes his  head and adopts a sarcastic tone.  **HAN**  (cooly)  Well, don't get all mushy on me.  So long, Princess.  Han walks away into the quiet corridor adjoining the command center.  Leia stews a moment, then hurries after him.  **INT. HOTH - REBEL BASE - ICE CORRIDOR**  **LEIA**  Han!  Han stops in the corridor and turns to face Leia.  **HAN**  Yes, Your Highnessness?  **LEIA**  I thought you decided to stay.  **HAN**  Well, the bounty hunter we ran  into on Ord Mantell changed my  mind.  **LEIA**  Han, we need you!  **HAN**  We?  **LEIA**  Yes.  **HAN**  Oh, what about you need?  **LEIA**  (mystified)  I need? I don't know what you're  talking about.  **HAN**  (shakes his head,  fed up)  You probably don't.  **LEIA**  And what precisely am I supposed  to know?  **HAN**  Come on! You want me to stay  because of the way you feel about  me.  **LEIA**  Yes. You're a great help to us.  You're a natural leader...  **HAN**  No! That's not it. Come on.  Aahhh - uh huh! Come on.  Leia stares at him, understanding, then laughs.  **LEIA**  You're imagining things.  **HAN**  Am I? Then why are you following  me? Afraid I was going to leave  without giving you a goodbye kiss?  **LEIA**  I'd just as soon kiss a Wookiee.  **HAN**  I can arrange that. You could use  a good kiss!  Angrily, Han strides down the corridor as Leia stares after him.  **INT. HOTH - REBEL BASE - ANOTHER ICE CORRIDOR**  A familiar stream of beeps and whistles herald the approach of Artoo-  Detoo and See-Threepio, who appear around a corner and move along an  ice wall toward the main hangar.  **THREEPIO**  Don't try to blame me. I didn't  ask you to turn on the thermal  heater. I merely commented that it  was freezing in the princess'  chamber. But it's supposed to be  freezing. How are we going to dry  out all her clothes? I really don't  know.  Artoo beeps a stream of protesting whistles.  **THREEPIO**  Oh, switch off.  **INT. HOTH - REBEL BASE - MAIN HANGAR DECK**  The two robots stop at Han Solo's space freighter. Han and Chewie are  struggling with their central lifters.  **HAN**  (to Chewie)  Why do you take this apart now?  I'm trying to get us out of here  and you pull both of these.  Chewie grumbles in irritation.  **THREEPIO**  Excuse me, sir.  **HAN**  (to Chewie)  Put them back together right now.  **THREEPIO**  Might I have a word with you,  please?  **HAN**  What do you want?  **THREEPIO**  Well, it's Princess Leia, sir.  She's been trying to get you on  the communicator.  **HAN**  I turned it off. I don't want to  talk to her.  **THREEPIO**  Oh. Well, Princess Leia is wondering  about Master Luke. He hasn't come  back yet. She doesn't know where he  is.  **HAN**  I don't know where he is.  **THREEPIO**  Nobody knows where he is.  **HAN**  What do you mean, "nobody knows"?  Han glances at the fading light at the entrance of the ice cave as  night slowly begins to fall on the planet.  **THREEPIO**  Well, uh, you see...  Han jumps down off the lift, as Threepio follows him.  **HAN**  Deck Officer. Deck Officer!  **THREEPIO**  Excuse me, sir. Might I inqu...  Han abruptly puts his hand over Threepio's mouth as the deck officer  approaches.  **DECK OFFICER**  Yes, sir?  **HAN**  Do you know where Commander  Skywalker is?  **DECK OFFICER**  I haven't seen him. It's possible  he came in through the south entrance.  **HAN**  It's possible? Why don't you go  find out? It's getting dark out there.  **DECK OFFICER**  Yes, sir.  The deck officer leaves hurriedly, as Han takes his hand off Threepio's  mouth.  **THREEPIO**  Excuse me, sir. Might I inquire  what's going on?  **HAN**  Why not?  **THREEPIO**  Impossible man. Come along, Artoo,  let's find Princess Leia. Between  ourselves, I think Master Luke is  in considerable danger.  **INT. HOTH - REBEL BASE - MAIN ICE TUNNEL**  The deck officer and his assistant hurry toward Han as he enters the  tunnel.  **DECK OFFICER**  Sir, Commander Skywalker hasn't  come in through the south entrance.  He might have forgotten to check in.  **HAN**  Not likely. Are the speeders ready?  **DECK OFFICER**  Not yet. We're having some trouble  adapting them to the cold.  **HAN**  Then we'll have to go out on  Tauntauns.  **DECK OFFICER**  Sir, the temperature's dropping too  rapidly.  **HAN**  That's right. And my friends out  in it.  **ASSISTANT OFFICER**  I'll cover sector twelve. Have  com-control set screen alpha.  Han pushes through the troops and mounts a Tauntaun.  **DECK OFFICER**  Your Tauntaun'll freeze before you  reach the first marker.  **HAN**  Then I'll see you in hell!  Han maneuvers his mount out of the cave and races into the dark bitter  night.  **EXT. HOTH - ICE GORGE - DUSK**  The jagged face of a huge ice wall sits gloomily in the dim twilight of  a Hoth day. Luke hangs upside down, ankles frozen into icy  stalactites, his extended arms within a foot of the snow floor. One  side of his face is covered in a dried mask of frozen blood. He opens  his eyes as a chilling moan of the hideous ice creature echoes off the  gorge walls. Luke pulls himself up, grabs hold of his ankles, and  futilely tries to unfasten the throngs.  Exhausted, he drops back into his hanging position. As he hangs there,  he spies his lightsaber lying near a pile of his discarded gear, about  three feet out of reach.  He focuses on the saber and, as his hand strains toward the weapon, he  squeezes his eyes tight in concentration.  Just as the ice creature looms over Luke, the lightsaber jumps into  Luke's hand.  The young warrior instantly ignites his sword, swinging up, and cuts  himself loose from the ice. He flops to the snow in a heap. The  startled creature moves back, his giant yellow eyes blinking. Luke  scrambles to his feet. He swings his lightsaber and the beast screams  in pain.  **EXT. HOTH - ENTRANCE TO ICE GORGE - DUSK**  Luke staggers out of the gorge into the dark and snowy twilight. Weak  and exhausted, he stumbles down a snow bank.  **EXT. HOTH - SNOW PLAIN - DUSK**  A small, lone figure riding a Tauntaun races through the hostile  vastness of snow and cold. As it runs, the Tauntaun's legs kick up  large clouds of snow and ice into the snowy air.  **EXT. HOTH - OUTSIDE ICE HANGAR - DUSK**  Artoo stands in the falling snow, beeping worriedly. Threepio moves  stiffly over to him.  **THREEPIO**  You must come along now, Artoo.  There's really nothing more we can  do. And my joints are freezing up.  Artoo beeps, long and low.  **THREEPIO**  Don't say thing like that! Of  course we'll see Master Luke again.  He'll be quite all right, you'll see.  (to himself)  Stupid little short-circuit. He'll  be quite all right.  Threepio turns to go back inside the main hangar as Artoo mournfully  keeps his vigil.  **EXT. HOTH - SNOW DRIFT - DUSK**  The wind is blowing quite strong now. Luke struggles to stay upright,  but a blast of freezing snow knocks him over. He struggles to get up,  but he can't. The young warrior from Tatooine drags himself a couple  of feet and then collapses.  **INT. REBEL BASE - MAIN HANGAR DECK - ENTRANCE - NIGHT**  Princess Leia stands inside the dark entrance to the Rebel base,  waiting for a sign of the two Rebel heroes. She shivers in the cold  wind as, nearby, Chewie sits with his head in his hands. In the  background, Artoo and Threepio move through the doors.  A Rebel lieutenant moves to Major Derlin, an officer keeping watch with  the princess.  **LIEUTENANT**  Sir, all the patrols are in.  There's still no contact from  Skywalker or Solo.  **THREEPIO**  Mistress Leia, Artoo says he's been  quite unable to pick up any signals,  although he does admit that his own  range is far too weak to abandon  all hope.  Leia nods an acknowledgment, but she is lost in thought.  **DERLIN**  Your Highness, there's nothing  more we can do tonight. The shield  doors must be closed.  He turns to the lieutenant.  **DERLIN**  Close the doors.  **LIEUTENANT**  Yes, sir.  The lieutenant walks away. Chewie lets out a long, mournful howl,  somewhat like a coyote. At the same moment, Artoo begins a complex  series of efficient beeps.  **THREEPIO**  Artoo says the chances of survival  are seven hundred seventy-five...  to one.  Leia stands praying to herself as the huge metal doors slam across the  entrance of the ice cave. The loud booms echo throughout the huge  cavern. Chewie lets out another suffering howl.  **THREEPIO**  Actually, Artoo has been known to  make mistakes... from time to time.  Oh, dear, oh, dear. Don't worry  about Master Luke. I'm sure he'll  be all right. He's quite clever,  you know... for a human being.  **EXT. HOTH - SNOW DRIFT - DUSK**  Luke lies face down in the snow, nearly unconscious. Slowly he looks  up and sees Ben Kenobi, barely visible through the blowing snow. It is  hard to tell if Kenobi is real or a hallucination.  **BEN**  Luke... Luke.  **LUKE**  (weakly)  Ben?  **BEN**  You will go to the Dagobah system.  **LUKE**  Dagobah system?  **BEN**  There you will learn from Yoda,  the Jedi Master who instructed me.  The image of Ben fades, revealing a lone Tauntaun rider approaching  from the windswept horizon.  **LUKE**  (groaning faintly)  Ben... Ben.  Luke drops into unconsciousness.  Han pulls up and leaps off his mount. He hurries to his snow-covered  friend, cradling him in his arms. Han's Tauntaun lets out a low,  pitiful bellow. But Han's concern is with Luke, and he shakes him  urgently.  **HAN**  Luke! Luke! Don't do this, Luke.  Come on, give me a sign here.  Luke doesn't respond. Han begins frantically rubbing and slapping  Luke's unconscious face. As he starts to lift the youth, Han hears a  rasping sound behind him. He turns, just in time to see his Tauntaun  stagger and then fall over into the snow.  Han carries Luke to the moaning beast. Then, with a final groan, the  Tauntaun expires.  **HAN**  Not much time.  He pushes Luke's inert form against the belly of the dead beast.  **LUKE**  (moaning)  Ben... Ben...  **HAN**  Hang on, kid.  **LUKE**  Dagobah system...  Han ignites Luke's saber and cuts the beast from head to toe. He  quickly tosses it's steaming innards into the snow, then lifts Luke's  inert form and stuffs him inside the carcass.  **HAN**  (reeling from the  odor)  Whew...  **LUKE**  Dagobah...  **HAN**  This may smell bad, kid...  **LUKE**  (moaning)  Yoda...  **HAN**  ...but it will keep you warm...  til I get the shelter built.  (struggling to get  Luke inside the  carcass)  Ooh... I thought they smelled bad  on the outside!  The wind has picked up considerably, making it difficult to move. Han  removes a pack from the dead creature's back, taking out a shelter  container. He begins to set up what can only be a pitiful protection  against a bitter Hoth night.  **EXT. HOTH - SNOWDRIFT - DAWN**  Four snub-nosed armored snowspeeders race across the white landscape.  **INT. SNOWSPEEDER COCKPIT**  There is only one pilot, Zev, in the enclosed two-man craft. He  concentrates on the scopes which ring his cockpit. He hears a low beep  from one of his monitors.  **ZEV**  (into transmitter)  Echo Base... I've got something! Not  much, but it could be a life form.  **EXT. HOTH - SNOWDRIFT**  The small craft banks and makes a slow arc, then races off in a new  direction.  **INT. SNOWSPEEDER - COCKPIT**  The pilot switches over to a new transmitter.  **ZEV**  (into transmitter)  This is Rogue Two. this is Rogue  Two. Captain Solo, so you copy?  Commander Skywalker, do you copy?  This is Rogue Two.  There is a sharp crackle of static, then a faint voice.  **HAN**  (filtered over  Zev's receiver)  Good morning. Nice of you guys  to drop by.  **ZEV**  (switching transmitters)  Echo Base... this is Rogue Two. I  found them. Repeat, I found them.  **EXT. HOTH - SNOWDRIFT - DAY**  The small shelter Han set up is covered with snow on the windward side.  A makeshift antenna rests gingerly on top the snowdrift. Han spots  Zev's snowspeeder approaching in the distance, and begins waving his  arms frantically at the tiny craft.  **INT. REBEL BASE - MEDICAL CENTER**  Strange robot surgeons adjust a mass of electronic equipment. A switch  is thrown and a sudden blinding flash obscures Luke in a bacta tank  filled with a thick, gelatinous slime. He begins to thrash about,  raving in delirium.  **INT. REBEL BASE - MEDICAL CENTER - RECOVERY ROOM**  Luke sits up in a recovery-room bed, weak but smiling. His face shows  terrible wounds from the Wampa's attack. Threepio and Artoo enter the  room.  **THREEPIO**  Master Luke, sir, it's so good  to see you fully functional again.  Artoo beeps his good wishes.  **THREEPIO**  Artoo expresses his relief, also.  Han and Chewie make their entrance. The Wookiee growls a greeting.  **HAN**  How are you feeling, kid? You  don't look so bad to me. In  fact, you look strong enough to  pull the ears off a Gundark.  **LUKE**  Thanks to you.  **HAN**  That's two you owe me, junior.  Han turns as Leia enters the room. He looks at her with a big,  devilish grin.  **HAN**  Well your Worship, looks like  you managed to keep me around for  a little while longer.  **LEIA**  (haughtily)  I had nothing to do with it. General  Rieekan thinks it's dangerous for  any ships to leave the system until  we've activated the energy shield.  **HAN**  That's a good story. I think you  just can't bear to let a gorgeous  guy like me out of your sight.  **LEIA**  I don't know where you get your  delusions, laser brain.  Chewie is amused; he laughs in his manner. Han, enjoying himself,  regards Chewie good-humoredly.  **HAN**  Laugh it up, fuzzball. But you  didn't see us alone in the south  passage.  Luke sparks to this; he looks at Leia.  **HAN**  She expressed her true feelings  for me.  Leia is flushed, eyes darting between Luke and Han.  **LEIA**  My...! Why, you stuck up,... half-  witted... scruffy-looking ...nerf-  herder!  **HAN**  Who's scruffy-looking?  (to Luke)  I must have hit pretty close to  the mark to get her all riled up  like that, huh, kid?  Leia looks vulnerable for a moment, then the mask falls again, and she  focuses on Luke.  **LEIA**  Why, I guess you don't know  everything about women yet?  With that she leans over and kisses Luke on the lips. Then she turns  on her heel and walks out, leaving everyone in the room slightly  dumbstruck. With some smugness, Luke puts his hands behind his head  and grins.  Suddenly, in the distance, the muffled sound of an alarm is heard.  **ANNOUNCER**  (over loudspeaker)  Headquarters personnel, report to  command center.  The voice repeats the order and Han, Chewie, Artoo, and Threepio hurry  out of the room, bidding farewell to Luke.  **HAN**  Take it easy.  **THREEPIO**  Excuse us, please.  **INT. HOTH - REBEL BASE - COMMAND CENTER**  Rieekan looks up grimly from a console screen. He calls over to Leia  and Han.  **RIEEKAN**  Princess... we have a visitor.  The group hurries over to Rieekan.  **RIEEKAN**  We've picked up something outside  the base in zone twelve, moving  east.  **SENIOR CONTROLLER**  It's metal.  **LEIA**  Then it couldn't be one of those  creatures that attacked Luke.  **HAN**  It could be a speeder, one of ours.  **SENIOR CONTROLLER**  No. Wait - there's something very  weak coming through.  Threepio steps up to the control panel and listens intently to the  strange signal.  **THREEPIO**  Sir, I am fluent in six million  forms of communication. This signal  is not used by the Alliance. It  could be an Imperial code.  The transmission ends in static.  **HAN**  It isn't friendly, whatever it is.  Come on, Chewie, let's check it out.  **RIEEKAN**  Send Rogues Ten and Eleven to  station three-eight.  **EXT. HOTH - SNOW PLAIN - DAY**  The dark probe robot moves past the smoldering ruins of station three-  eight and down a ridge toward the Rebel base. It raises a large  antenna from the top of its head and begins to send out a piercing  signal.  The probe droid has spotted Chewbacca who, not thirty feet away, has  popped his head over a snow bank. Instantly, the probe robot swings  around, its deadly ray ready to fire. But before it can get a shot  off, it is hit from behind by a laser bolt, and explodes in a million  pieces.  Han Solo replaces his blaster in its holster and peers intently at the  smoldering remains of the Imperial probe.  **INT. HOTH - REBEL BASE - COMMAND CENTER**  Leia and Rieekan listen to Han on the comlink.  **HAN**  (over comlink)  Afraid there's not much left.  **LEIA**  (into comlink)  What was it?  **HAN**  (over comlink)  Droid of some kind. I didn't hit  it that hard. It must have had a  self-destruct.  **LEIA**  (into comlink)  An Imperial probe droid.  **HAN**  (over comlink)  It's a good bet the Empire knows  we're here.  **RIEEKAN**  We'd better start the evacuation.  **EXT. SPACE - IMPERIAL FLEET**  Darth Vader's Star Destroyer, larger and more awesome than the five  Imperial Star Destroyers that surround it, sits in the vastness of  space. The six huge ships are surrounded by a convoy of smaller  spacecraft. TIE fighters dart to and fro.  **INT. DARTH VADER'S STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE - MAIN CONTROL DECK**  Controllers working the vast complex of electronic controls hear  ominous approaching footsteps and look up from their controls. The  squat, evil-looking Admiral Ozzel and the young, powerfully built  General Veers, who have been conferring near the front, also feel the  approaching presence and turn toward it. Darth Vader, Lord of the  Sith, enters like a chill wind. As Vader moves across the wide bridge,  Captain Piett hurries up to Ozzel.  **PIETT**  Admiral.  **OZZEL**  Yes, Captain  **PIETT**  I think we've got something, sir.  The report is only a fragment from  a probe droid in the Hoth system,  but it's the best lead we've had.  **OZZEL**  (irritated)  We have thousands of probe droids  searching the galaxy. I want proof,  not leads!  **PIETT**  The visuals indicate life readings.  **OZZEL**  It could mean anything. If we  followed every lead...  **PIETT**  But, sir, the Hoth system is supposed  to be devoid of human forms.  Vader moves to a large screen showing an image of the Rebel snow base.  Rebel speeders can be seen approaching the base in the distance.  **VADER**  You found something?  **PIETT**  Yes, my lord.  **VADER**  (studying the image  on the console screen)  That's it. The Rebels are there.  **OZZEL**  My lord, there are so many uncharted  settlements. It could be smugglers,  it could be...  **VADER**  That is the system. And I'm sure  Skywalker is with them. Set your  course for the Hoth system. General  Veers, prepare you men.  **INT. HOTH - REBEL BASE - TRANSPORT BAY**  A captain issues instructions to two of his men at the entrance to the  main transport bay. Several Rebel transports behind them are being  loaded by men carrying heavy boxes and moving quickly, but not in  panic.  **REBEL CAPTAIN**  Groups seven and ten will stay  behind to fly the speeders. As  soon as each transport is loaded,  evacuation control will give  clearance for immediate launch.  **REBEL FIGHTER**  Right, sir.  **INT. HOTH - REBEL BASE - MAIN HANGAR DECK**  Alarms sound. Troops, ground crews, and droids rush to their alert  stations. Armored snowspeeders are lined up in attack formation near  the main entrance.  In the midst of all this activity, Han does some frantic welding on the  lifters of the Millennium Falcon.  Han finishes his work and hops down to the hangar floor. He pulls out  his comlink, all the while eyeing problematic lifters.  **HAN**  (into comlink, to  Chewie)  Okay, that's it. Try it... Off!  Turn it off! Turn it off! Off!  Smoke rises from a minor explosion on the lifter. Exasperated, Han  surveys the new damage.  **INT. REBEL BASE - MEDICAL CENTER**  Luke dresses in readiness for the evacuation as his attending medical  droid stands by.  **MEDICAL DROID**  Sir, it will take quite a while  to evacuate the T-forty- sevens.  **LUKE**  Well, forget the heavy equipment.  There's plenty of time to get the  smaller modules on the transports.  **MEDICAL DROID**  Take care, sir.  **LUKE**  Thanks.  **INT. REBEL BASE - MAIN HANGAR DECK**  Pilots, gunners, and R2 units scurry about. Luke, pulling on his  heavy-weather jacket, is headed toward a row of armored speeders. He  stops at the rear of the Millennium Falcon, where Han and Chewie are  trying to repair the right lifter with even more haste than before.  **LUKE**  Chewie, take care of yourself,  okay?  As Luke pats Chewie on the arm, Chewie puts his arms around Luke and  gives him a tight hug. Han is discussing the lifter with a repair  droid when he sees Luke.  **HAN**  Hi, kid.  (to droid)  There's got to be a reason for  it. Check it at the other end.  Wait a second.  (to Luke)  You all right?  **LUKE**  Yeah.  **HAN**  Be careful.  **LUKE**  You, too.  Luke smiles, then waves at his friend and walks on. After a few steps,  he stops and looks back. Han glances up and the two exchange a silent  communication, each wishing the other safety, happiness - many things,  all difficult to verbalize.  **INT. REBEL BASE - CONTROL ROOM.**  Alarms sound throughout the hidden Rebel base. In the control room, a  controller urgently gestures for General Rieekan to check a computer  scan.  **CONTROLLER**  General, there's a fleet of Star  Destroyers coming out of hyperspace  in sector four.  **RIEEKAN**  Reroute all power to the energy  shield. We've got to hold them till  all transports are away. Prepare  for ground assault.  Rieekan exits hurriedly.  **INT. VADER'S STAR DESTROYER - VADER'S CHAMBER - MEDITATION CUBICLE**  The dark cubicle is illuminated by a single shaft of light which falls  on the brooding Dark Lord as he sits on a raised meditation cube.  General Veers enters the room and approaches the silent, unmoving  Vader. Although seemingly very sure of himself, Veers is still not  bold enough to interrupt the meditating lord. The younger general  stands quietly at attention until the evil presence speaks.  **VADER**  What is it, General?  **VEERS**  My lord, the fleet has moves out  of light-speed. Com-Scan has  detected an energy field protecting  an area around the sixth planet of  the Hoth system. The field is  strong enough to deflect any  bombardment.  **VADER**  (angrily)  The Rebels are alerted to our  presence. Admiral Ozzel came out  of light-speed too close to the  system.  **VEERS**  He felt surprise was wiser...  **VADER**  He is as clumsy as he is stupid.  General, prepare your troops for a  surface attack.  **VEERS**  Yes, my lord.  Veers turns smartly and leaves as Vader activates a large viewscreen  showing the bridge of his mighty ship. Admiral Ozzel appears on the  viewscreen, standing slightly in front of Captain Piett.  **OZZEL**  Lord Vader, the fleet has moved  out of light-speed, and we're  preparing to... Aaagh!  **VADER**  You have failed me for the last  time, Admiral. Captain Piett.  Piett steps forward, as the admiral moves away, slightly confused,  touching his throat as it begins to constrict painfully.  **PIETT**  Yes, my lord.  **VADER**  Make ready to land out troops beyond  the energy shield and deploy the  fleet so that nothing gets off that  system. You are in command now,  Admiral Piett.  **PIETT**  Thank you, Lord Vader.  Piett's pleasure about his unexpected promotion is not an unmixed  emotion. He glances warily at the struggling Admiral Ozzel who, with a  final choke, stumbles and falls in a lifeless heap before him.  **INT. REBEL BASE - MAIN HANGAR DECK**  With a sense of urgency, Leia quickly briefs a group of pilots gathered  in the center of the hangar.  **LEIA**  All troop carriers will assemble  at the north entrance. The heavy  transport ships will leave as  soon as they're loaded. Only two  fighter escorts per ship. The  energy shield can only be opened  for a short time, so you'll have  to stay very close to your transports.  **HOBBIE**  Two fighters against a Star Destroyer?  **LEIA**  The ion cannon will fire several  shots to make sure that any enemy  ships will be out of your flight  path. When you've gotten past the  energy shield, proceed directly to  the rendezvous point. Understood?  **PILOTS**  (in unison)  Right. Okay.  **LEIA**  Good luck.  **DERLIN**  Okay. Everyone to your stations.  Let's go!  The pilots hurry away.  **EXT. HOTH - ICE PLAIN - SNOW TRENCH - DAY**  Rebel troops carry heavy bazooka-type weapons and position them along  the snow trench. Men hurriedly respond to their officers' yelled  orders and brace themselves against the rhythmic gusts of bitter-cold  wind.  Other troops load power packs into a gun turret and swing its guns into  position.  **EXT. HOTH - ICE PLAIN - POWER GENERATORS**  Near the base power generators, troops rush to set up their heavy  battle equipment. Buzzing loudly, the generators send along, sparking  fingers of energy into the bitter Hoth wind.  **INT. REBEL BASE - COMMAND CENTER**  The long line of Rebel controllers is tense, as are Princess Leia and  General Rieekan, who are trying very hard not to show any fear.  **RIEEKAN**  Their primary target will be the  power generators. Prepare to  open the shield.  **EXT. ICE PLAIN**  The Rebel transport and two escort fighters begin their departure from  the ice planet.  **EXT. SPACE - IMPERIAL STAR DESTROYER**  A huge Imperial Star Destroyer rest against a sea of stars, far above  the white surface of the planet Hoth.  **INT. IMPERIAL STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE**  An Imperial controller approaches his commander.  **CONTROLLER**  Sir, Rebel ships are coming into  our sector.  **CAPTAIN**  Good. Our first catch of the day.  **INT. REBEL BASE - COMMAND CENTER**  **WOMAN CONTROLLER**  Stand by, ion control... Fire!  **EXT. REBEL BASE ICE CAVE - ION CANNON**  The giant ball-shaped ion cannon rotates into position and blasts two  red energy beams skyward.  **EXT. SPACE - HOTH - REBEL TRANSPORT**  The Rebel transport and its escort race away from the white planet,  closely followed by the two red energy beams.  As the Rebel transport races toward the waiting Imperial Star  Destroyer, it is overtaken by the two scarlet energy bolts. The  Imperial Star Destroyer is hit in the conning tower by the powerful  bolts, which set up fiery explosions on its metal hull.  The big Star Destroyer veers, then spins wildly out of control. As the  Imperial ship careers into deep space, the Rebel transport races away  to safety.  **INT. REBEL BASE - MAIN HANGAR DECK**  Pilots, gunners, and troopers hurry to their stations and their  vehicles.  **ANNOUNCER**  (over loudspeaker)  The first transport is away.  Everyone cheers at the announcement, which echoes through the hangar.  Luke turns and walks on, heading toward his snowspeeder. His gunner,  Dack, a fresh-faced, eager kid, is glad to see him. They climb in.  **DACK**  Feeling all right, sir?  **LUKE**  Just like new, Dack. How about  you?  **DACK**  Right now I feel like I could take  on the whole Empire myself.  **LUKE**  (quietly, strapping  in)  I know what you mean.  **EXT. HOTH - ICE PLAIN**  A thin horizon line cuts across the bleak landscape. Small dot-size  objects begin to appear on the horizon, moving in the direction of the  Rebel base.  **EXT. HOTH - ICE PLAIN - SNOW TRENCH**  A Rebel officer lifts a pair of electrobinoculars to his eyes. Through  the lens he sees a very close view of a giant Imperial snow walker. He  adjusts the view which then zooms back to reveal three more of the  ominous battle machines. Small flashes of yellow fire billow from the  guns of the lumbering snow walkers.  The officer lowers his binoculars as the regular rhythmic pounding  begins to make the ground vibrate. The pounding grows louder and is  accompanied by a high-pitched, metallic rattling. The officer speaks  into his comlink.  **TRENCH OFFICER**  Echo Station Three-T-Eight.  **INT. REBEL BASE - CORRIDOR**  Pilots and gunners race to their waiting snowspeeders. Ice and snow  begin falling from the walls of the corridor, shaken by the pounding  Imperial snow walker as they draw ever nearer.  **TRENCH OFFICER**  (over comlink)  We have spotted Imperial walkers!  **CONTROLLER**  Imperial walkers on the north  ridge.  **EXT. HOTH - ICE PLAIN - SNOW TRENCH**  The Rebel troops aim their weapons at the horizon as explosions erupt  all around them. They are nervous and their grip on their weapons  tightens from the cold and from fear.  Behind the troops a dozen snowspeeders race through the sky.  **INT. LUKE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE LEADER - COCKPIT**  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Echo station Five-Seven. We're  on our way.  **EXT. HOTH - ICE PLAIN - BATTLEFIELD**  The fleet of snowspeeders races above the ice field at full throttle.  They accelerate away from the base and head toward the distant walkers.  **INT. LUKE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE LEADER - COCKPIT**  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  All right, boys, keep tight now.  **DACK**  Luke, I have no approach vector.  I'm not set.  **LUKE**  Steady, Dack. Attack pattern  delta. Go now!  **EXT. HOTH - ICE PLAIN - BATTLEFIELD**  The cannons mounted on the walker head fire at the speeders. Other  walkers loom in the background. Two speeders race away past two of the  enormous walkers and bank to the right.  **INT. LUKE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE LEADER - COCKPIT**  **LUKE**  All right, I'm coming in.  He turns his speeder and heads directly at one of the walkers, flying  toward its towering legs. The horizon twists as the speeder banks  between the legs.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Hobbie, you still with me?  **EXT. HOTH - ICE PLAIN - BATTLEFIELD**  Two speeders race directly at the head of a walker, then split and fly  past it.  Three other walkers march onward, firing all cannons.  **EXT. HOTH - ICE PLAIN - SNOWTRENCH**  Rebel troops fire on the approaching walkers, as the snow and ice  explode all around them.  **EXT. HOTH - ICE PLAIN - BATTLEFIELD**  A speeder banks through and away from the legs of a walker. Two other  speeders pass the first speeder from the opposite direction. Other  Rebel craft race just above the icy plain.  A giant walker head swivels and fires, striking a snowspeeder and  sending it crashing in a ball of flames.  **INT. IMPERIAL SNOW WALKER - COCKPIT**  General Veers and two walker pilots keep a careful eye on the racing  Rebel snowspeeders as they maneuver their lumbering war machine  forward.  Luke's speeder banks in from the side of Veers's walker and heads  straight for its viewport, blasting away. An explosion hits the walker  window, but dissipates, doing no harm. The speeder roars up and over  the impregnable war machine.  **INT. LUKE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE LEADER - COCKPIT**  Luke looks back at the walker as it grows smaller in the distance.  **LUKE**  That armor's too strong for  blasters.  On the horizon, another walker moves up past Luke's cockpit window,  twisting out of sight as Luke banks and starts another run.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Rogue Group, use your harpoons  and tow cables. Go for the legs.  It might be our only chance of  stopping them.  (to Dack)  All right, stand by, Dack.  Dack is at the gunner's controls.  **DACK**  Luke, we've got a malfunction in  fire control. I'll have to cut in  the auxiliary.  **LUKE**  Just hang on. Hang on, Dack. Get  ready to fire that tow cable.  Barely keeping his seat in the tumbling ship, Dack struggles to set up  his harpoon gun.  Luke swings his speeder around and heads toward an oncoming walker.  Laser bolts and flak fill the air, creating a deadly obstacle course  for the tiny craft.  **EXT. HOTH - ICE PLAIN - BATTLEFIELD**  Rogue Leader and another snowspeeder fly in tight formation toward the  walker as explosions burst all around them.  **INT. LUKE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE LEADER - COCKPIT**  After sustaining a heavy volley of fire, Luke turns around to see if  Dack is all right.  **LUKE**  Dack? Dack!  Dack is lost. Blood streams down his forehead, which rests on his  smoldering controls. Out the back window, an Imperial walker recedes  in the distance.  **EXT. HOTH - ICE PLAIN - SNOW TRENCH AREA**  Rebel troops fire the dishlike ray gun while explosions erupt around  them.  **EXT. HOTH - ICE PLAIN - BATTLEFIELD**  Two walkers lumber toward the Rebel base as a speeder between them  explodes in a ball of flames.  **EXT. HOTH - ICE PLAIN - SNOW TRENCH**  The dislike ray gun is hit by a laser bolt and instantly explodes.  **INT. IMPERIAL SNOW WALKER - COCKPIT**  Through the cockpit window, Veers and his pilot can see the Rebel power  generators in the distance.  A hologram of Darth Vader appears on a control panel screen.  **VEERS**  Yes, Lord Vader. I've reached the  main power generator. The shield  will be down in moments. You may  start your landing.  **INT. LUKE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE LEADER - COCKPIT**  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Rogue Three.  **INT. WEDGE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE THREE - COCKPIT**  **WEDGE**  (into comlink)  Copy, Rogue Leader  **LUKE**  (over comlink)  Wedge, I've lost my gunner. You'll  have to make this shot. I'll cover  for you. Set your harpoon. Follow  me on the next pass.  **WEDGE**  (into comlink)  Coming around, Rogue Leader.  **INT. LUKE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE LEADER - COCKPIT**  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Steady, Rogue Two  **EXT. HOTH - BATTLEFIELD**  Wedge's speeder races through the legs of one of the monstrous walkers.  **INT. WEDGE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE THREE - COCKPIT**  **WEDGE**  (to gunner)  Activate harpoon.  Wedge's gunner reaches for a firing switch to activate the harpoon.  The harpoon flashes out, and speeds toward the receding legs of the  walker.  **EXT. HOTH - BATTLEFIELD**  The harpoon hurtles toward the walker, In an instant it is embedded in  one of the walker's legs.  **INT. WEDGE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE THREE - COCKPIT**  **WEDGE**  (to gunner)  Good shot, Janson.  **EXT. HOTH - BATTLEFIELD**  The speeder Rogue Three races around one of the giant walker's feet,  trailing the cable behind it. Continuing around the back foot, Rogue  Three then circles the walker around the tail end.  **INT. WEDGE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE THREE - COCKPIT**  Wedge checks his controls and banks around the front of the walker.  **WEDGE**  One more pass.  **JANSON**  Coming around. Once more.  **EXT. HOTH - BATTLEFIELD**  The speeder sweeps left to right in front of the giant legs, towing the  cable behind it.  **INT. WEDGE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE THREE - COCKPIT**  **JANSON**  Once more.  Wedge swings the speeder between the legs of the giant walker.  **JANSON**  Cable out! Let her go!  **WEDGE**  Detach cable.  **EXT. WEDGE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE THREE**  The cable release on the back of the speeder snaps loose and the cable  drops away.  **INT. WEDGE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE THREE - COCKPIT**  **JANSON**  Cable detached.  **EXT. HOTH - BATTLEFIELD**  The speeder zooms away into the distance. The tangled legs of the  enormous war machine attempt a step, but as they do the giant Imperial  walker begins to topple. It teeters for a moment, and then crashes  onto the icy ground, sending snow and metal pieces flying.  **EXT. HOTH - ICE PLAIN - SNOW TRENCH**  The troops in the trenches cheer at the sight of the crashing walker.  An officer gives a signal to his men and Rebel troops charge the fallen  war machine.  **TRENCH OFFICER**  Come on!  The troops run toward the downed walker, followed by two Rebel speeders  flying overhead. Just as they reach the walker, it explodes, the  impact throwing some of the men onto the frozen ground.  **INT. WEDGE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE THREE - COCKPIT**  Wedge lets out a triumphant yell, banking his speeder away from the  fallen walker.  **WEDGE**  (into comlink)  Whooha! That got him!  **INT. LUKE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE LEADER - COCKPIT**  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  I see it, Wedge. Good work.  **INT. REBEL BASE - COMMAND CENTER**  Large chunks of ice tumble into the command center as Leia and General  Rieekan monitor computer screens.  **RIEEKAN**  I don't think we can protect two  transports at a time.  **LEIA**  It's risky, but we can't hold out  much longer. We have no choice.  **RIEEKAN**  (into comlink)  Launch patrols.  **LEIA**  (to an aide)  Evacuate remaining ground staff.  **INT. REBEL BASE - MAIN HANGAR**  Muffled distant explosions create widening cracks in the ice roof of  the hangar. Trying to ignore the noise and falling bits of snow, Han  works on one of the Falcon's lifters while Chewie works on one of the  wings. Noticing Chewie attach a wrong part, Han grows impatient.  **HAN**  No, no! No! This one goes there,  that one goes there. Right?  In another area of the hangar, Threepio watches as Artoo is raised up  into Luke's X-wing fighter.  **THREEPIO**  Artoo, you take good care of  Master Luke now, understand? And  ... do take good care of yourself.  Oh, dear, oh, dear.  **EXT. HOTH - BATTLEFIELD**  The fierce battle on the vast snow plains of Hoth rages on. The  Imperial walkers continue their slow, steady assault on the Rebel base,  firing lasers as they lumber ever onward. In the snow trench, Rebel  troops fire large bazookalike guns and dishlike ray guns as explosions  erupt around them. A gun tower is hit by a laser bolt and instantly  explodes. Another blast destroys a ray gun.  **INT. IMPERIAL SNOW WALKER - COCKPIT**  General Veers studies various readouts on his control panel.  **VEERS**  All troops will debark for ground  assault. Prepare to target the  main generator.  **EXT. HOTH - BATTLEFIELD**  Luke's speeder and Rogue Two fly in formation, banking from right to  left and flying above the erupting battlefield. Flak bursts all around  them.  **INT. LUKE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE LEADER - COCKPIT**  Luke, glancing over, sees Rogue Two on his left. His ship shudders as  flak bursts nearby.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Rogue Two, are you all right?  **INT. ZEV'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE TWO - COCKPIT**  **ZEV**  (into comlink)  Yeah. I'm with you, Rogue Leader.  **INT. LUKE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE LEADER - COCKPIT**  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  We'll set harpoon. I'll cover for you.  **EXT. HOTH - BATTLEFIELD**  The two speeders race across the horizon toward the giant walkers.  **INT. ZEV'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE TWO - COCKPIT**  **ZEV**  (into comlink)  Coming around.  **INT. LUKE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE LEADER - COCKPIT**  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Watch that cross fire, boys.  **INT. ZEV'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE TWO - COCKPIT**  **ZEV**  (into comlink)  Set for position three.  (to gunner)  Steady.  **LUKE**  (over comlink)  Stay tight and low.  **EXT. ZEV'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE TWO**  Luke's speeder moves in formation with Rogue Two, when suddenly Zev's  speeder is hit by a laser bolt. His ship bucks violently under the  impact and the cockpit explodes in a ball of flame.  Spewing smoke, the speeder hurtles toward a looming walker. Before  they collide. Rogue Two explodes in a million flaming pieces.  **INT. LUKE'S SNOWSPEEDER, ROGUE LEADER - COCKPIT**  Desperately, Luke works the controls of his flak-buffeted ship.  Suddenly, the speeder is rocked by a huge explosion. Luke struggles  with the controls with a look of terror on his face. The speeder fills  with smoke, and electrical sparks jump about the cockpit.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Hobbie, I've been hit!  **INT. REBEL BASE - COMMAND CENTER**  Apart from the distant thunder of laser blasts, the corridor is  strangely quiet and empty. Running footsteps echo through the freezing  hallway, then Han appears. Cracks have appeared in some of the walls  and some pipes have broken, sending hot steam billowing into the  underground hallways. Han hurries into the command center. It is a  shambles, but some people are still at their posts. As he enters, a  gigantic cave-in almost obliterates the room. He finds Leia and  Threepio near one of the control boards.  **HAN**  You all right?  Leia nods. She is surprised to see him.  **LEIA**  Why are you still here?  **HAN**  I heard the command center had  been hit.  **LEIA**  You got your clearance to leave.  **HAN**  Don't worry. I'll leave. First  I'm going to get you to your ship.  **THREEPIO**  Your Highness, we must take this  last transport. It's our only hope.  **LEIA**  (to controller)  Send all troops in sector twelve  to the south slope to protect the  fighters.  A blast rocks the command center, throwing Threepio backward into Han's  arms.  **ANNOUNCER**  (over loudspeaker)  Imperial troops have entered the  base.  **HAN**  Come on... that's it.  **LEIA**  (to head controller)  Give the evacuation code signal.  And get to your transports!  Leia looks exhausted. Han grabs her and starts to lead her out.  As Han, Leia, and Threepio run out of the command center, the code  signal can be heard echoing off the corridor walls.  **HEAD CONTROLLER**  K-one-zero... all troops disengage.  **THREEPIO**  (to Han and Leia)  Oh! Wait for me!  **EXT. BATTLEFIELD - SNOW TRENCH**  Rebel troops retreat under the awesome Imperial onslaught.  **OFFICER**  Begin retreat!  **SECOND OFFICER**  Fall back!  Troops flee from the battle, the ground exploding around them.  **EXT. HOTH - BATTLEFIELD**  Three of the giant walkers, firing lasers, advance toward the Rebel  headquarters.  **EXT. HOTH - SNOW TRENCH**  Continuing their retreat, the Rebels see the walkers looming ever  nearer.  **EXT. HOTH - BATTLEFIELD - ICE PLAIN**  On the battlefield, Luke watches as a walker foot rises and moves over  him. He looks up at the underbelly of the huge walker, passing  overhead.  Running beneath the monstrous machine, Luke fires his harpoon gun at  the walker's underside. A thin cable follows the projectile from the  gun. The magnetic head and cable attach firmly to the metal hull.  Still running under the walker, Luke attaches the cable drum to his  belt buckle. Soon he is pulled up the cable and hangs dangling  underneath the walker.  The walker's giant feet continue to pound onward across the frozen  snow. Stray laser bolts whistle by Luke as he climbs up the cable to  the walker's hull, reaching a small hatch. Hanging precariously, Luke  cuts the solid metal hatch with his laser sword.  He takes a landmine from around his neck and throws it inside the  Imperial machine. Quickly, Luke starts down the cable and crashes onto  the icy ground far below. He lies unconscious as a giant rear leg  passes by - and just misses him.  The giant walker stops in mid-step. A muffled explosion comes from  within - and then the walker's mechanical insides are spewed out every  conceivable opening. The machine sits dead in its tracks, smoking like  a locomotive on stilts.  **EXT. HOTH - BATTLEFIELD**  Veers's walker continues to advance toward the Rebel base. The  smoldering walker that Luke exploded stands smoking just to the right  of Veers's path.  **INT. IMPERIAL SNOW WALKER - COCKPIT**  Inside his walker, General Veers prepares to fire on the Rebel power  generators.  **VEERS**  Distance to power generators?  **PILOT**  One-seven, decimal two-eight.  Veers reaches for the electrorangefinder and lines up the main  generator.  **VEERS**  Target. Maximum fire power.  **EXT. HOTH - BATTLEFIELD**  The Rebel troops continue their desperate retreat, pushed back by the  relentless Imperial assault.  **INT. HOTH - REBEL BASE - ICE CORRIDORS**  With Threepio lagging behind, Han and Leia race through the crumbling  ice corridors. Suddenly, there is an explosion. Han turns, grabs the  princess, and pulls her to the wall as a tremendous cave-in blacks  their path.  He takes the comlink from his pocket.  **HAN**  (into comlink)  Transport, this is Solo. Better  take off - I can't get to you.  I'll get the princess out on the  Falcon.  Han and Leia turn and race down the corridor.  **THREEPIO**  But... but... but... where are  you going? Uh... come back!!  **INT. HOTH - REBEL BASE - COMMAND CENTER**  Imperial troops have reached the base. As they push through the  blocked passageway, Darth Vader strides behind them.  **INT. HOTH - REBEL BASE - ICE CORRIDOR**  Han and Leia run toward the entrance of the main hangar where the  Millennium Falcon is docked. Threepio still lags behind.  **THREEPIO**  Wait! Wait for me! Wait! Stop!  The door to the hangar closes in his face.  **THREEPIO**  (exasperated)  How typical.  Quickly, the door reopens as Han reaches out and pulls the golden droid  through.  **HAN**  Come on.  **INT. HOTH - REBEL BASE - MAIN HANGAR**  Chewie paces under the shelter of the Millennium Falcon's landing gear.  The giant Wookiee pats the underbelly of his beloved ship and barks a  few reassuring words. As he searches worriedly for his captain,  something at last catches his eye.  Chewie lets out a relieved shriek at seeing Han and Leia running toward  the ship. The Wookiee runs out into the falling ice, lets out a howl,  then runs up the ship's ramp. Han and Leia run up the ramp after him,  closely followed by Threepio.  **HAN**  Hurry up, goldenrod, or you're  going to be a permanent resident!  **THREEPIO**  Wait! Wait!  **INT. HOTH - REBEL BASE - ICE CORRIDOR**  Imperial troops run through the base corridors. Vader surveys the  place. A huge chunk falls, almost hitting him, but he calmly,  purposefully, continues around it.  **INT. REBEL BASE - MAIN HANGER - MILLENNIUM FALCON**  A distant, huge, explosion rocks the hangar deck. Ice cakes come  crashing down on the Millennium Falcon.  **INT. MAIN HANGAR - MILLENNIUM FALCON - MAIN HOLD**  Han, standing before a control panel, is busy flipping switches as  Chewie watches a troublesome gauge. A worried Leia observes their  efforts.  **HAN**  (to Chewie)  How's this?  The Wookiee barks a negative reply.  **LEIA**  Would it helped if I got out and  pushed?  **HAN**  It might.  Threepio clanks into the hold.  **THREEPIO**  Captain Solo, Captain Solo... sir,  might I suggest that you...  Han gives the gold robot a devastating look.  **THREEPIO**  It can wait.  **INT. MAIN HANGAR - MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  They move to the cockpit where Han flips some more switches. Leia  watches him, impatient, disbelieving.  **LEIA**  This bucket of bolts is never going  to get us past that blockade.  **HAN**  This baby's got a few surprises  left in her, sweetheart.  Han and Leia look out the cockpit window and see a squad of  stormtroopers rushing into the far side of the hangar.  Quickly, Han straps himself into the pilot's seat and Leia into the  navigator's chair.  **INT. HOTH - REBEL BASE - MAIN HANGAR**  Stormtroopers hurriedly set up a large bazookalike weapon. Behind them  the giant hangar doors open slowly.  **EXT. MAIN HANGAR - MILLENNIUM FALCON**  A laser gun appears on the Falcon and swings around to aim at the  Imperial troops.  The stormtroopers, preparing to fire their bazooka cannon, are hit by  the Falcon's fire and are thrown about in all directions.  **INT. MAIN HANGAR - MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Chewie rushes into the cockpit.  **HAN**  Come on! Come on! Switch over.  Let's hope we don't have a burnout.  A laser hits the window near Chewie as he is settling into his chair.  Letting out a loud whelp, Chewie quickly pulls back on the controls and  the first stage of engine fire can be heard. Han flashes a big grin at  Leia.  **HAN**  See?  **LEIA**  Someday you're going to be wrong,  and I hope I'm there to see it.  Han looks at Chewie.  **HAN**  Punch it!  The roar of the Falcon's main engines blasts out everything as the ice-  cave wall rushes by outside the cockpit window.  **INT. REBEL BASE - MAIN HANGAR**  More stormtroopers run into the hangar, closely followed by Vader.  Hearing the loud roar of the Millennium Falcon's engines, Vader looks  toward the main hangar doors just in time to see the Falcon lift up and  disappear outside the cave.  **EXT. HOTH - ICE SLOPE - DAY**  Luke and two other pilots look up as the Millennium Falcon races above  them, flying very close to the ground.  The three pilots turn then, and trudge onward toward their X-wing  fighters, each going to his own ship. Luke waves farewell, then heads  toward his own fighter.  Artoo, seated on his cubbyhole, chirps an excited greeting as Luke  climbs aboard the spacecraft.  **LUKE**  Artoo! Get her ready for takeoff.  From his ship, Luke sees Wedge in his own X-wing, preparing for  takeoff.  **WEDGE**  Good luck, Luke. See you at  the rendezvous.  Luke smiles and nods at Wedge, then lowers himself into the cockpit of  his X-wing while Artoo waits in the cubbyhole, beeping impatiently.  **LUKE**  Don't worry, Artoo. We're going,  we're going.  The canopy over the X-wing lowers and snaps shut.  **EXT. SPACE - LUKE'S X-WING**  Luke's fighter, its wings closed, speeds away from the icy planet.  Soon it disappears into the stars.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT**  Luke, looking thoughtful, suddenly makes a decision. He flips several  switches. The stars shift as he takes his fighter into a steep turn.  The X-wing banks sharply and flies away in a new direction.  The monitor screen on Luke's control panel prints out a question from  the concerned Artoo.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  There's nothing wrong, Artoo.  I'm just setting a new course.  Artoo beeps once again.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  We're not going to regroup with  the others.  Artoo begins a protest, whistling an unbelieving, "What?!"  Luke reads Artoo's exclamation on his control panel.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  We're going to the Dagobah system.  Luke checks his readouts and makes a few adjustments. He rides along  with only the soft hum of the instruments to break the silence.  Finally, Artoo chirps up.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Yes, Artoo?  Artoo utters a soft, carefully phrased steam of whistles.  **LUKE**  (into comlink, chuckling)  That's all right. I'd like to  keep it on manual control for a  while.  The little droid lets out a defeated whimper. Luke smiles, and  continues on his course.  **EXT. SPACE - MILLENNIUM FALCON**  The Millennium Falcon speeds away from Hoth, closely followed by one  huge Star Destroyer and four tiny TIE fighters.  As it is pursued, the Falcon races toward two very bright star-sized  objects.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Inside the cockpit, Chewie lets out a loud howl. Han checks as the  ship is buffeted by exploding flak. He appears to be doing six things  at once.  **HAN**  (harried)  I saw them! I saw them!  **LEIA**  Saw what?  **HAN**  Star Destroyers, two of them,  coming right at us.  Threepio bumps and bangs his way into the cockpit.  **THREEPIO**  Sir, sir! Might I suggest...  **HAN**  (to Leia)  Shut him up or shut him down!  (to Chewie)  Check the deflector shield!  Chewie barks a reply as he readjusts an overhead switch.  **HAN**  Oh, great. Well, we can still  outmaneuver them.  **EXT. SPACE - MILLENNIUM FALCON - STAR DESTROYERS**  The Millennium Falcon races toward one of the huge oncoming Star  Destroyers. Suddenly, the Falcon starts into a deep dive straight  down, closely followed by four TIE fighters. The underside of the Star  Destroyer continues on a collision course with two oncoming Star  Destroyers. Slowly, it starts to veer to the left.  **INT. STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE**  Out the front window, the two approaching Star Destroyers can be seen  veering to the left.  **IMPERIAL OFFICER**  Take evasive action!  Alarms sound all over the huge ship. The two other Star Destroyers get  closer, one of them moving over the bridge so close that it makes  brushing contact with it.  **EXT. SPACE - MILLENNIUM FALCON - TIE FIGHTERS**  The Millennium Falcon races away from the colliding Star Destroyers,  still followed by four TIE fighters. Laser bolts spark the pitch-black  skies.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Things have calmed down a bit, but the race isn't over yet. Chewie  barks at Han. Leia is still trying to recover from the steep dive.  The ship is buffeted by laser blasts.  **HAN**  Prepare to make the jump to light-  speed.  **THREEPIO**  But, sir!  The buffeting of lasers becomes louder and stronger.  **LEIA**  They're getting closer!  **HAN**  (with a gleam in his  eye)  Oh yeah? Watch this.  Expectantly, they look out the cockpit window as stars do not go into  hyperspace, but just sit there.  Han and Chewie look at each other and are thrown into an acute state of  concern.  **LEIA**  Watch what?  Han tries again. Still nothing.  **HAN**  I think we're in trouble.  **THREEPIO**  If I may say so, sir, I noticed  earlier that the hyperdrive  motivator has been damaged. It's  impossible to go to light-speed!  **HAN**  We're in trouble!  The explosions become heavier.  **EXT. SPACE - MILLENNIUM FALCON - TIE FIGHTERS - STAR DESTROYER**  The Falcon races into the starry vastness, followed by the four  Imperial TIE fighters and an Imperial Star Destroyer.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Stars race by as flak bursts outside the Falcon's window.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - HOLD**  Han works furiously at some control panels while giving various orders  to Chewie.  **HAN**  Horizontal boosters...!  (Chewie barks)  Alluvial dampers...! Well that's  not it.  (Chewie barks)  Bring me the hydrospanners!  Chewie hurries over to the pit and places the tools on the edge.  **HAN**  I don't know how we're going to  get out of this one.  Suddenly, a loud thump hits the side of the Falcon, causing it to lurch  radically. Chewie barks. The tools fall into the pit on top of Han.  **HAN**  Oww! Chewie!  More turbulence rocks the ship.  **HAN**  That was no laser blast! Something  hit us.  **LEIA**  (over comlink)  Han, get up here!  **HAN**  Come on, Chewie!  Han climbs out of the hold like a shot. Both he and Chewie run out of  the hold and toward the cockpit.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Out the front cockpit window, they see hundreds of asteroids racing by.  **LEIA**  Asteroids!  Han changes places with Leia who has been at the controls, and Chewie  gets into his chair. Han works his controls as a chunk of rock crosses  in front of the ship.  **HAN**  Oh, no! Chewie, set two-seven-  one.  **LEIA**  What are you doing? You're not  actually going into an asteroid  field?  **HAN**  They'd be crazy to follow us,  wouldn't they?  Another asteroid thumps against the ship and Leia winces at the jolt.  **LEIA**  You don't have to do this to  impress me.  **THREEPIO**  Sir, the possibility of successfully  navigating an asteroid field is  approximately three thousand, seven  hundred and twenty to one.  **HAN**  Never tell me the odds!  **EXT. ASTEROID BELT - MILLENNIUM FALCON**  The Falcon turns into the asteroid storm and as the ship completes its  turn, asteroids start coming straight at the cockpit windows.  A large asteroid tumbles away from the Falcon's path at top speed.  Several smaller asteroids crash into the big one, creating small  explosions on its surface. Other asteroids of all sizes pass by in  every direction, some colliding and exploding. The tiny Millennium  Falcon veers around the big asteroid and races past it through the rain  of rocks, followed by four TIE fighters, which bob and weave around the  asteroids.  One of the pursuing TIE fighters connects with an asteroid and  explodes. The other fighters are pelted with a steady stream of  smaller explosions.  Two huge asteroids tumble toward the Millennium Falcon, which quickly  banks around both of them. The three TIE fighters follow in hot  pursuit until one of the fighters scrapes an asteroid and tumbles out  of control into deep space.  **EXT. SPACE - STAR DESTROYER - ASTEROID BELT**  The massive Star Destroyer blasts oncoming asteroids as it follows the  Falcon. Smaller asteroids explode across its vast surface.  **EXT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - TIE FIGHTERS - ASTEROID BELT**  The Falcon twists on its side as it races around an oncoming asteroid.  Two TIE fighters follow in the distance, coming from either side.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Asteroids race by the cockpit window as Han pilots his trusty craft  through the dangerous field.  Looking out the cockpit window, the Falcon crew sees a big asteroid  drop past the window, narrowly missing their ship.  Chewie barks in terror as a slightly smaller asteroid comes especially  close - to close - and bounces off the Falcon with a loud crunch.  Threepio's hands cover his eyes. He manages a short peek at the  cockpit window. Princess Leia sits stone-faced, staring at the action.  Han gives her a quick look.  **HAN**  You said you wanted to be around  when I made a mistake; well, this  could be it, sweetheart.  **LEIA**  I take it back. We're going to  get pulverized if we stay out here  much longer.  The group watches as more asteroids race by outside the window.  **HAN**  I'm not going to argue with that.  **THREEPIO**  Pulverized?  **HAN**  I'm going in closer to one of  those big ones.  **LEIA**  Closer?  **THREEPIO**  Closer?!  Chewbacca barks the same word, only louder.  **EXT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - ASTEROID BELT**  The Millennium Falcon dives toward the surface of one of the moon-sized  asteroids. There is a continued display of explosions against the  starry void as smaller asteroids collide with larger chunks of rock.  The two remaining TIE fighters follow the Falcon to the large asteroid.  The Falcon skims the surface of the giant asteroid as, all the while,  small asteroids explode on the surface of the ship.  The TIE fighters approach the Falcon, but a giant asteroid hurtles  directly into their path. As the asteroid continues on its way, it  leaves remains of the two exploded TIE fighters to tumble into deep  space.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Rattled by the violent rocking of the starship, Threepio is nearly in  hysterics.  **THREEPIO**  Oh, this is suicide!  Han notices something on his main scope and nudges his faithful  Wookiee, pointing.  **HAN**  There. That looks pretty good.  **LEIA**  What looks pretty good?  **HAN**  Yeah. That'll do nicely.  **THREEPIO**  (to Leia)  Excuse me, ma'am, but where are  we going?  Out the cockpit window, they see that they are skimming the surface of  the enormous asteroid and nearing a large crater.  **EXT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - GIANT ASTEROID CRATER**  The Millennium Falcon dives into the huge crater and disappears.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  **LEIA**  I hope you know what you're doing.  **HAN**  Yeah, me too.  **INT. GIANT ASTEROID CRATER**  The Falcon races down into the crater. The walls are barely visible as  the ship speed through the tunnellike opening. A small cave appears on  one side of the crater, and the Falcon turns, slows, and scoots into  it.  **EXT. SPACE - LUKE'S X-WING**  The tiny X-wing speeds toward the cloud cover of Dagobah. Artoo,  riding on the back of the fighter, turns his head back and forth with  some anxiety.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT**  Luke watches Artoo's words as they are translated and screened on the  computer scope.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Yes, that's it. Dagobah.  Artoo beeps a hopeful inquiry.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  No, I'm not going to change my  mind about this.  (getting a little nervous)  I'm not picking up any cities or  technology. Massive life-form  readings, though. There's something  alive down there...  Artoo beeps, this time a slightly worried question.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Yes, I'm sure it's perfectly safe  for droids.  **EXT. SPACE - DAGOBAH - LUKE'S X-WING**  The X-wing continues its flight through the twilight above the cloud-  covered planet.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT**  Luke sees the cloud race by as he takes his craft closer to the planet.  He must operate his controls carefully since the cloud cover has  completely obscured his vision. An alarm buzzes in the background,  Artoo beeps and whistles frantically.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  I know, I know! All the scopes are  dead. I can't see a thing! Just  hang on, I'm going to start the  landing cycle...  The blast of the retrorockets is deafening, drowning out Artoo's  electronic squeals. Suddenly, there is a cracking sound as if limbs  were being broken off trees and then a tremendous jolt as the  spacecraft stops. Luke pulls a switch and his canopy pops open.  **EXT. DAGOBAH - DUSK**  The mist-shrouded X-wing fighter is almost invisible in the thick fog.  Luke climbs out onto the long nose of the spacecraft as Artoo pops out  of his cubbyhole on the back. The young warrior surveys the fog, which  is barely pierced by the ship's landing lights. About all he can make  out are some giant, twisted trees nearby. Artoo whistles anxiously.  **LUKE**  No, Artoo, you stay put. I'll  have a look around.  Artoo lets out a short beep. As Luke moves along the nose, Artoo loses  his balance and disappears with a splash into the boggy lake.  **LUKE**  Artoo?  Luke kneels and leans over the plane looking for Artoo, but the water  is still and reveals no sign of the little droid.  **LUKE**  Artoo! Where are you?  A small periscope breaks the surface of the water and a gurgly beep is  heard. The periscope starts to move to shore. Relieved, Luke starts  running along the nose of the fighter to its tip.  **LUKE**  Artoo! You be more careful.  The outline of the shore is now more than ten feet away.  Luke jumps off the plane into the water, scrambles up to the shore, and  turns to look for Artoo. The periscope still steadily moves toward  shore.  **LUKE**  Artoo - that way!  Suddenly, through the thick fog layer, a dark shape appears, moving  toward the little droid. The dark, sinuous bog beast dives beneath the  swampy water, making a loud clunk against Artoo's metal hull. The  droid disappears from sight, uttering a pathetic electronic scream.  Holding his ignited lightsaber before him, Luke wades a few feet into  the murky pool, looking for any sign of his little friend.  **LUKE**  Artoo!  The black surface is still as death itself... until a few bubbles begin  to appear. Then, phheewaat!! The runt-size robot is spit out of the  water, makes a graceful arc, and comes crashing down into a patch of  soft gray moss.  **LUKE**  Oh, no! Are you all right? Come  on. You're lucky you don't taste  very good. Anything broken?  Luke helps Artoo to his feet and begins wiping the mud and roots from  his round metal body. Artoo responds with feeble, soggy beeps.  **LUKE**  If you're saying coming here was  a bad idea, I'm beginning to agree  with you. Oh, Artoo, what are we  doing here? It's like... something  out of a dream, or, I don't know.  Maybe I'm just going crazy.  As Luke glances around at the spooky swamp jungle that surrounds him,  Artoo ejects a stream of muddy water from one of his cranial ports.  **EXT. VADER'S STAR DESTROYER - VADER'S CHAMBER**  Admiral Piett hesitates in the entryway to Vader's private cubicle.  After a moment, he steps into the room and pauses at the surprising  sight before him.  Darth Vader, his back turned, is silhouetted in the gloom on the far  side of the chamber. A black, insectlike droid attends him. Among the  various apparatuses surrounding them, a respirator tube now retracts  from Vader's uncovered head. The head is bald with a mass of ugly scar  tissue covering it. The black droid then lowers the mask and helmet  onto Vader's head. When it is in place, the Dark Lord turns to face  Piett.  **VADER**  Yes, Admiral?  **PIETT**  Our ships have sighted the  Millennium Falcon, lord. But...  it has entered an asteroid field  and we cannot risk...  **VADER**  (interrupting)  Asteroids do not concern me,  Admiral. I want that ship and  not excuses.  **PIETT**  Yes, lord.  **EXT. ASTEROID CAVE - MILLENNIUM FALCON**  The pirate starship rests in a dark, dripping asteroid cave. It is so  dark that the cave's exact dimensions are impossible to determine.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Han and Chewie busily shut down the engine and all electronic systems.  Threepio and Leia watch worriedly.  **HAN**  I'm going to shut down everything  but the emergency power systems.  **THREEPIO**  Sir, I'm almost afraid to ask,  but... does that include shutting  me down, too?  Chewie barks "yes". But Han thinks otherwise.  **HAN**  No, I need you to talk to the  Falcon, find out what's wrong with  the hyperdrive.  Suddenly, the ship lurches, causing all the loose items in the cockpit  to go flying. Chewie howls.  **THREEPIO**  Sir, it's quite possible this  asteroid is not entirely stable.  **HAN**  Not entirely stable? I'm glad you're  here to tell us these things. Chewie,  take the professor in the back and  plug him into the hyperdrive.  **THREEPIO**  Oh! Sometimes I just don't  understand human behavior. After  all, I'm only trying to do my job  in the most...  The sliding door closes behind the indignant Threepio as Chewie and he  move back to the hold. Suddenly, the ship lurches again, throwing Leia  across the cabin into Han's arms. Then, abruptly, the motion stops as  suddenly as it started. With some surprise, Han and Leia realize they  are in each other's arms.  **LEIA**  Let go.  **HAN**  Sshh!  **LEIA**  Let go, please.  Leia flushes, averting her eyes. She's not exactly fighting to get  free. But, of course, Han blows it...  **HAN**  Don't get excited.  The anger rises in Leia.  **LEIA**  Captain, being held by you isn't  quite enough to get me excited.  **HAN**  Sorry, sweetheart. We haven't  got time for anything else.  Han grins quickly wickedly at Leia as he turns and exits through the  door. Leia's confused emotions show clearly on her lovely face.  **EXT. DAGOBAH - BOG CLEARING - DUSK**  The mist has dispersed a bit, but it is still a very gloomy-looking  swamp.  Luke pulls an equipment box from the shore to the clearing. He ignites  a little fusion furnace and warms his hands before it. Taking a power  cable, he plugs it into Artoo's noselike socket.  **LUKE**  Ready for some power? Okay.  Let's see now. Put that in  there. There you go.  The droid whistles his appreciation. Luke then opens a container of  processed food and sits before the thermal heater.  **LUKE**  (sighs)  Now all I have to do is find this  Yoda... if he even exists.  Nervously, he looks around at the foreboding jungle.  **LUKE**  Still... there's something familiar  about this place. I feel like...  I don't know...  **STRANGE VOICE**  Feel like what?  Luke jumps out of his skin. Artoo screeches in terror. The young  warrior grabs for his lightsaber as he spins around, looking for the  speaker. Mysteriously standing right in front of Luke is a strange,  bluish creature, not more than two feet tall. The wizened little thing  is dressed in rags. It motions toward Luke's sword.  **LUKE**  (looking at the  creature)  Like we're being watched!  **CREATURE**  Away with your weapon! I mean  you no harm.  After some hesitation, Luke puts away his weapon, although he really  doesn't understand why. Artoo watches with interest.  **CREATURE**  I am wondering, why are you here?  **LUKE**  I'm looking for someone.  **CREATURE**  Looking? Found someone, you have,  I would say, hmmm?  The little creature laughs.  **LUKE**  (Trying to keep from  smiling)  Right.  **CREATURE**  Help you I can. Yes, mmmm.  **LUKE**  I don't think so. I'm looking  for a great warrior.  **CREATURE**  Ahhh! A great warrior.  (laughs and shakes  his head)  Wars not make one great.  With the aid of a walking stick, the tiny stranger moves over to one of  the cases of supplies. He begins to rummage around.  Artoo moves to the edge of the case - standing almost eye level to the  creature who is carelessly handling the supplies - and squeaks his  disapproval.  Their tiny visitor pick up the container of food Luke was eating from  and takes a bite.  **LUKE**  Put that down. Hey! That's my  dinner!  The creature spits out the bite he has taken. He makes a face.  **CREATURE**  How you get so big, eating food  of this kind?  He flips the container in Luke's direction and reaches into one of  Luke's supply cases.  **LUKE**  Listen, friend, we didn't mean to  land in that puddle, and if we  could get our ship out, we would,  but we can't, so why don't you just...  **CREATURE**  (teasing)  Aww, cannot get your ship out?  The creature spots something of interest in Luke's case. Luke loses  patience and grabs the case away. The creature retains his prize - a  tiny power lamp - and examines it with delight.  **LUKE**  Hey, you could have broken this.  Don't do that. Ohhh... you're  making a mess. Hey, give me that!  **CREATURE**  (retreating with  the lamp)  Mine! Or I will help you not.  Clutching its treasure, the creature backs away from Luke, drawing  closer to Artoo. As Luke and the creature argue, one of Artoo's little  arms slowly moves out toward the power lamp, completely unnoticed by  the creature.  **LUKE**  I don't want your help. I want  my lamp back. I'll need it to  get out of this slimy mudhole.  **CREATURE**  Mudhole? Slimy? My home this is.  Artoo grabs hold of the lamp and the two little figures are immediately  engaged in a tug-of-war over it.  Artoo beeps a few angry, "Give me thats."  **CREATURE**  Ah, ah, ah!  **LUKE**  Oh, Artoo, let him have it!  **CREATURE**  Mine! Mine!  **LUKE**  Artoo!  **CREATURE**  Mine!  The creature lets go with one hand and pokes Artoo lightly with one  finger. Artoo reacts with a startled squeal, and lets go.  **CREATURE**  Mine!  **LUKE**  (fed up)  Now will you move along, little  fella? We're got a lot of work  to do.  **CREATURE**  No! No, no! Stay and help you,  I will.  (laughs)  Find your friend, hmm?  **LUKE**  I'm not looking for a friend.  I'm looking for a Jedi Master.  **CREATURE**  Oohhh. Jedi Master. Yoda. You  seek Yoda.  **LUKE**  You know him?  **CREATURE**  Mmm. Take you to him, I will.  (laughs)  Yes, yes. But now, we must eat.  Come. Good food. Come.  With that, the creature scurries out of the clearing, laughing merrily.  Luke stares after him. All he sees is the faint light from the small  power lamp moving through the fog. Luke makes his decision and starts  after the creature.  **CREATURE**  (in the distance)  Come, come.  Artoo, very upset, whistles a blue streak of protest.  **LUKE**  Stay here and watch after the  camp, Artoo.  Artoo beeps even more frantically. But as Luke disappears from view,  the worried little droid grows quieter, and utters a soft electronic  sigh.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - MAIN HOLD AREA**  Threepio whistles and beeps a strange dialect into the control panel in  front of him. The control panel whistles back a few mystifying beeps.  **THREEPIO**  Oh, where is Artoo when I need  him?  Han enters the hold area and kneels on the floor near the control box.  **THREEPIO**  Sir, I don't know where your ship  learned to communicate, but it  has the most peculiar dialect. I  believe, sir, it says that the  power coupling on the negative  axis has been polarized. I'm  afraid you'll have to replace it.  **HAN**  Well, of course I'll have to replace  it.  He hands a wire coil up to Chewie who is working near the ceiling.  **HAN**  Here! And Chewie...  Chewie brings his head back through the trap door in the ceiling and  whines. Han glances back at Threepio, then speaks quietly to Chewie so  only he can hear.  **HAN**  (continuing)  ... I think we'd better replace  the negative power coupling.  Leia finishes welding the valves she has been working on and attempts  to reengage the system by pulling a lever attached to the valve. It  doesn't budge. Han notices her struggle, and moves to help her. She  rebuffs him.  **HAN**  Hey, Your Worship, I'm only  trying to help.  **LEIA**  (still struggling)  Would you please stop calling me  that?  Han hears a new tone in her voice. He watches her pull on the lever.  **HAN**  Sure, Leia.  **LEIA**  Oh, you make it so difficult  sometimes.  **HAN**  I do, I really do. You could be  a little nicer, though.  (he watches her  reaction)  Come on, admit it. Sometimes you  think I'm all right.  She lets go of the lever and rubs her sore hand.  **LEIA**  Occasionally...  (a little smile,  haltingly)  ... when you aren't acting like  a scoundrel.  **HAN**  (laughs)  Scoundrel? Scoundrel? I like  the sound of that.  With that, Han takes her hand and starts to massage it.  **LEIA**  Stop that.  **HAN**  Stop what?  Leia is flushes, confused.  **LEIA**  Stop that! My hands are dirty.  **HAN**  My hands are dirty, too. What  are you afraid of?  **LEIA**  (looking right  into his eyes)  Afraid?  Han looks at her with a piercing look. He's never looked more  handsome, more dashing, more confident. He reaches out slowly and  takes Leia's hand again from where it is resting on a console. He  draws it toward him.  **HAN**  You're trembling.  **LEIA**  I'm not trembling.  Then with an irresistible combination of physical strength and  emotional power, the space pirate begins to draw Leia toward him...  very slowly.  **HAN**  You like me because I'm a scoundrel.  There aren't enough scoundrels in  your life.  Leia is now very close to Han and as she speaks, her voice becomes an  excited whisper, a tone completely in opposition to her words.  **LEIA**  I happen to like nice men.  **HAN**  I'm a nice man.  **LEIA**  No, you're not. You're...  He kisses her now, with slow, hot lips. He takes his time, as though  he had forever, bending her body backward. She has never been kissed  like this before, and it almost makes her faint. When he stops, she  regains her breath and tries to work up some indignation, but finds it  hard to talk.  Suddenly, Threepio appears in the doorway, speaking excitedly.  **THREEPIO**  Sir, sir! I've isolated the  reverse power flux coupling.  Han turns slowly, icily, from their embrace.  **HAN**  Thank you. Thank you very much.  **THREEPIO**  Oh, you're perfectly welcome, sir.  The moment spoiled, Han marches out after Threepio.  **EXT. SPACE - ASTEROID FIELD**  The Imperial fleet moves through the asteroid-filled void, intently  seeking its prey.  **INT. VADER'S STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE**  Asteroids collide, creating a fireworks display outside the bridge  window. Darth Vader stands, staring out the window above the control  deck. Then slowly turns toward the bridge. Before him are the  hologram images of twenty battleship commanders. One of these images,  the commander of a ship that has just exploded, is fading away quickly.  Another image, in the center and a little apart from the others, is  faded and continually disrupted by static. It is the image of Captain  Needa, commander of the Star Destroyer most hotly on the tail of the  Millennium Falcon. Admiral Piett and an aide stand behind the Dark  Lord.  **NEEDA**  (in hologram)  ... and that, Lord Vader, was the  last time they appeared in any of  our scopes. Considering the amount  of damage we've sustained, they  must have been destroyed.  **VADER**  No, Captain, they're alive. I  want every ship available to  sweep the asteroid field until  they are found.  The Imperial star captains fade out one by one as Vader turns to  Admiral Piett.  **PIETT**  Lord Vader.  **VADER**  Yes, Admiral, what is it?  The admiral is scared, his face white as a sheet.  **PIETT**  The Emperor commands you make  contact with him.  **VADER**  Move the ship out of the asteroid  field so that we can send a clear  transmission.  **PIETT**  Yes, my lord.  **EXT. ASTEROID FIELD - VADER'S STAR DESTROYER**  Vader's Imperial Star Destroyer moves against the vast sea of stars  away from the rest of the fleet.  **INT. VADER'S STAR DESTROYER - VADER'S CHAMBER**  The Dark Lord, Darth Vader, is alone in his chamber. A strange sound  enters the room and a light begins to play across Vader's black figure.  He looks up and bows quickly.  A twelve-foot hologram of the Galactic Emperor materializes before  Vader. The Emperor's dark robes and monk's hood are reminiscent of the  cloak worn by Ben Kenobi. His voice is even deeper and more  frightening than Vader's.  **VADER**  What is thy bidding, my master?  **EMPEROR**  There is a great disturbance in  the Force.  **VADER**  I have felt it.  **EMPEROR**  We have a new enemy - Luke  Skywalker.  **VADER**  Yes, my master.  **EMPEROR**  He could destroy us.  **VADER**  He's just a boy. Obi-Wan can no  longer help him.  **EMPEROR**  The Force is strong with him. The  son of Skywalker must not become a  Jedi.  **VADER**  If he could be turned, he would  become a powerful ally.  **EMPEROR**  Yes. Yes. He would be a great  asset. Can it be done?  **VADER**  He will join us or die, my  master.  Vader kneels. The supreme Emperor passes a hand over the crouched Lord  of the Sith and fades away.  **EXT. DAGOBAH - CREATURE'S HOUSE - NIGHT**  A heavy downpour of rain pounds through the gnarled trees. A strange  baroque mud house sits on a moss-covered knoll on the edge of a small  lagoon. The small, gnomish structure radiates a warm glow from its  thick glass windows. As rain tap-dances a merry tune on Artoo's head,  the stubby little droid rises up on his tip-toes to peek into one of  the glowing portals.  **INT. CREATURE'S HOUSE**  Artoo, peeking in the window, sees the inside of the house - a very  plain, but cozy dwelling. Everything is in the same small scale as the  creature. The only thing out of place in the miniature room is Luke,  whose height makes the four-foot ceiling seem even lower. He sits  cross-legged on the floor of the living room.  The creature is in an adjoining area - his little kitchen - cooking up  an incredible meal. The stove is a steaming hodgepodge of pots and  pans. The wizened little host scurries about chopping this, shredding  that, and showering everything with exotic herbs and spices. He rushes  back and forth putting platters on the table in front of Luke, who  watches the creature impatiently.  **LUKE**  Look, I'm sure it's delicious.  I just don't understand why we  can't see Yoda now.  **CREATURE**  Patience! For the Jedi it is  time to eat as well. Eat, eat.  Hot. Good food, hm? Good, hmm?  Moving with some difficulty in the cramped quarters, Luke sits down  near the fire and serves himself from the pot. Tasting the unfamiliar  concoction, he is pleasantly surprised.  **LUKE**  How far away is Yoda? Will it  take us long to get there?  **CREATURE**  Not far. Yoda not far. Patience.  Soon you will be with him.  (tasting food from  the pot)  Rootleaf, I cook. Why wish you  become Jedi? Hm?  **LUKE**  Mostly because of my father, I  guess.  **CREATURE**  Ah, your father. Powerful Jedi  was he, powerful Jedi, mmm.  **LUKE**  (a little angry)  Oh, come on. How could you know  my father? You don't even know  who I am.  (fed up)  Oh, I don't know what I'm doing  here. We're wasting our time.  The creature turns away from Luke and speaks to a third party.  **CREATURE**  (irritated)  I cannot teach him. The boy has  no patience.  Luke's head spins in the direction the creature faces. But there is no  one there. The boy is bewildered, but it gradually dawns on him that  the little creature is Yoda, the Jedi Master, and that he is speaking  with Ben.  **BEN'S VOICE**  He will learn patience.  **YODA**  Hmmm. Much anger in him, like his father.  **BEN'S VOICE**  Was I any different when you  taught me?  **YODA**  Hah. He is not ready.  **LUKE**  Yoda! I am ready. I... Ben! I  can be a Jedi. Ben, tell him I'm  ready.  Trying to see Ben, Luke starts to get up but hits his head on the low  ceiling.  **YODA**  Ready, are you? What know you  of ready? For eight hundred years  have I trained Jedi. My own counsel  will I keep on who is to be trained!  A Jedi must have the deepest  commitment, the most serious mind.  (to the invisible  Ben, indicating Luke)  This one a long time have I watched.  All his life has he looked away...  to the future, to the horizon.  Never his mind on where he was.  Hmm? What he was doing. Hmph.  Adventure. Heh! Excitement. Heh!  A Jedi craves not these things.  (turning to Luke)  You are reckless!  Luke looks down. He knows it is true.  **BEN'S VOICE**  So was I, if you'll remember.  **YODA**  He is too old. Yes, too old to  begin the training.  Luke thinks he detects a subtle softening in Yoda's voice.  **LUKE**  But I've learned so much.  Yoda turns his piercing gaze on Luke, as though the Jedi Master's huge  eyes could somehow determine how much the boy had learned. After a  long moment, the little Jedi turns toward where he alone sees Ben.  **YODA**  (sighs)  Will he finished what he begins?  **LUKE**  I won't fail you - I'm not afraid.  **YODA**  (turns slowly toward  him)  Oh, you will be. You will be.  **EXT. SPACE - STAR DESTROYERS - ASTEROID FIELD**  The Imperial fleet around Vader's ship is surrounded by the asteroid  storm. Asteroids big and small pelt the vast exteriors of the menacing  ships. One of the smaller Imperial vessels is hit by a huge asteroid  and explodes in a brilliant flash of light.  **INT. ASTEROID CAVE - MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  The cockpit is quiet and lit only by the indicator lights on the  control panel. Princess Leia sits in the pilot's seat.  She runs her hand across the control panel as she thinks of Han and the  confusion he has created within her. Suddenly, something outside the  cockpit window catches her eye. The reflection of the panel lights  obscures her vision until a soft suctionlike cup attaches itself to the  windscreen. Leia  moves closer to see what it might be. Large, yellow eyes flash open  and stare back at her. Startled, she jumps back into her seat, her  heart pounding. There is a scurry of feet and a loud screech, and in  an instant the eyes are gone. The young princess catches her breath,  jumps out of her chair, and races from the cockpit.  **INT. ASTEROID CAVE - MILLENNIUM FALCON - HOLD AREA**  The lights go bright for a second then out again. Threepio and  Chewbacca watch as Han finishes with some wires.  **THREEPIO**  Sir, if I may venture an opinion...  **HAN**  I'm not really interested in your  opinion, Threepio.  Leia rushes into the cabin just as Han drops the final floor panel into  place.  **LEIA**  (out of breath)  There's something out there.  **HAN**  Where?  **LEIA**  Outside, in the cave.  As she speaks, there comes a sharp banging on the hull. Chewie looks  up and barks anxiously.  **THREEPIO**  There it is. Listen! Listen!  **HAN**  I'm going out there.  **LEIA**  Are you crazy?!  **HAN**  I just got this bucket back  together. I'm not going to let  something tear it apart.  He and Chewie grab their breath masks off a rack and hurry out. Leia  follows.  **LEIA**  Then I'm going with you.  **THREEPIO**  I think it might be better if I  stay here and guard the ship.  (hears another  mysterious noise)  Oh, no.  **EXT. ASTEROID CAVE - MILLENNIUM FALCON**  It is very dark inside the huge asteroid cave, too dark to see what is  attacking the ship.  Leia stamps her foot on the floor of the cave.  **LEIA**  This ground sure feels strange.  It doesn't feel like rock at all.  Han kneels and studies the ground, then attempts to study the outline  of the cave.  **HAN**  There's an awful lot of moisture  in here.  **LEIA**  I don't know. I have a bad feeling  about this.  **HAN**  Yeah.  Chewie barks through his face mask, and points toward the ship's  cockpit. A five-foot-long shape can be seen moving across the top of  the Falcon. The leathery creature lets out a screech as Han blasts it  with a laser bolt.  **HAN**  (to Leia)  Watch out!  The black shape tumbles off the spaceship and onto the ground in front  of the princess. Han bends down to investigate the dead creature.  **HAN**  Yeah, that's what I thought.  Mynock. Chewie, check the rest  of the ship, make sure there  aren't any more attached. They're  chewing on the power cables.  **LEIA**  Mynocks?  **HAN**  Go on inside. We'll clean them  off if there are any more.  Just then, a swarm of the ugly creatures swoops through the air. Leia  puts her arms over her head to protect herself as she runs toward the  ship. Chewie shoos another Mynock away with his blaster. Several of  the batlike creatures flap their wings loudly against the cockpit  window of the Falcon. Inside, Threepio shudders at their presence.  **THREEPIO**  Ohhh! Go away! Go away! Beastly  little thing. Shoo! Shoo!  Han looks around the strange, dripping cave.  **HAN**  Wait a minute...  He unholsters his blaster and fires at the far side of the huge cave.  The cavern begins to shake and the ground starts to buckle.  Chewie barks and moves for the ship, followed closely by Leia and Han.  The large wings of the Mynocks flap past them as they protect their  faces and run up the platform.  **INT. ASTEROID CAVE - MILLENNIUM FALCON - ENTRY AREA**  As soon as Han and Leia are on board, Chewie closes the main hatch.  The ship continues to shake and heave.  **HAN**  All right, Chewie, let's get  out of here!  The Wookiee heads for the cockpit as Han, followed by Threepio, rushes  to the hold area and checks the scopes on the control panel. Leia  hurries after.  **LEIA**  The Empire is still out there.  I don't think it's wise to...  Han rushes past her and heads for the cockpit.  **HAN**  (interrupting)  No time to discuss this in  committee.  And with that he is gone. The main engines of the Falcon begin to  whine. Leia races after him, bouncing around in the shaking ship.  **LEIA**  (angry)  I am not a committee!  **INT. ASTEROID CAVE - MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Han is already in the pilot's seat pulling back on the throttle. The  cave-quake has greatly diminished.  **LEIA**  You can't make the jump to light-  speed in this asteroid field...  **HAN**  Sit down, sweetheart. We're  taking off!  As the ship begins to move forward, Chewie barks. He notices something  out the window ahead. Threepio sees it too.  **THREEPIO**  Look!  **HAN**  I see it, I see it.  Suddenly, a row of jagged white stalagmites and stalactites can be seen  surrounding the entrance. And as the Falcon moves forward, the  entrance to the cave grows ever smaller. Han pulls hard on the  throttle, sending his ship surging forward.  **THREEPIO**  We're doomed!  **LEIA**  The cave is collapsing.  **HAN**  This is no cave.  **LEIA**  What?  Leia's mouth drops open . She sees that the rocks of the cave entrance  are not rocks at all, but giant teeth, quickly closing around the tiny  ship. Chewie howls.  **INT. SPACE SLUG MOUTH**  The Millennium Falcon, zooming through the monster's mouth, rolls on  its side and barely makes it between two of the gigantic white teeth  before the huge jaws slams closed.  **EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE - GIANT ASTEROID**  The enormous space slug moves its head out of the cave as the Falcon  flies out of its mouth. The monster tilts its head, watching the  starship fly away.  **EXT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - GIANT ASTEROID**  The Falcon races out of the asteroid crater and into the deadly rain of  the asteroid storm.  **EXT. DAGOBAH - DAY**  With Yoda strapped to his back, Luke climbs up one of the many thick  vines that grow in the swamp. Panting heavily, he continues his course  - climbing, flipping through the air, jumping over roots, and racing in  and out of the heavy ground fog.  **YODA**  Run! Yes. A Jedi's strength  flows from the Force. But beware  of the dark side. Anger... fear...  aggression. The dark side of  the Force are they.  Easily they flow, quick to join  you in a fight. If once you  start down the dark path, forever  will it dominate your destiny,  consume you it will, as it did  Obi-Wan's apprentice.  **LUKE**  Vader. Is the dark side stronger?  **YODA**  No... no... no. Quicker, easier,  more seductive.  **LUKE**  But how am I to know the good side  from the bad?  **YODA**  You will know. When you are calm,  at peace. Passive. A Jedi uses  the Force for knowledge and  defense, never for attack.  **LUKE**  But tell me why I can't...  **YODA**  (interrupting)  No, no, there is no why. Nothing  more will I teach you today.  Clear your mind of questions.  Mmm. Mmmmmmmm.  Artoo beeps in the distance as Luke lets Yoda down to the ground.  Breathing heavily, he takes his shirt from a nearby tree branch and  pulls it on.  He turns to see a huge, dead, black tree, its base surrounded by a few  feet of water. Giant, twisted roots form a dark and sinister cave on  one side. Luke stares at the tree, trembling.  **LUKE**  There's something not right here.  Yoda sits on a large root, poking his Gimer Stick into the dirt.  **LUKE**  I feel cold, death.  **YODA**  That place... is strong with the  dark side of the Force. A domain  of evil it is. In you must go.  **LUKE**  What's in there?  **YODA**  Only what you take with you.  Luke looks warily between the tree and Yoda. He starts to strap on his  weapon belt.  **YODA**  Your weapons... you will not  need them.  Luke gives the tree a long look, than shakes his head "no." Yoda  shrugs. Luke reaches up to brush aside some hanging vines and enters  the tree.  **INT. DAGOBAH - TREE CAVE**  Luke moves into the almost total darkness of the wet and slimy cave.  The youth can barely make out the edge of the passage. Holding his lit  saber before him, he sees a lizard crawling up the side of the cave and  a snake wrapped around the branches of a tree. Luke draws a deep  breath, then pushes deeper into the cave.  The space widens around him, but he feels that rather than sees it.  His sword casts the only light as he peers into the darkness. It is  very quiet here.  Then, a loud HISS! Darth Vader appears across the blackness,  illuminated by his own just-ignited laser sword. Immediately, he  charges Luke, saber held high. He is upon the youth in seconds, but  Luke sidesteps perfectly and slashes at Vader with his sword.  Vader is decapitated. His helmet-encased head flies from his shoulders  as his body disappears into the darkness. The metallic banging of the  helmet fills the cave as Vader's head spins and bounces, smashes on the  floor, and finally stops. For an instant it rests on the floor, then it  cracks vertically. The black helmet and breath mask fall away to  reveal... Luke's head.  Across the space, the standing Luke gasps at the sight, wide-eyed in  terror.  The decapitated head fades away, as in a vision.  **EXT. DAGOBAH - CAVE - DUSK**  Meanwhile, Yoda sits on the root, calmly leaning on his Gimer Stick.  **EXT. SPACE - VADER'S STAR DESTROYER**  Vader's Imperial Star Destroyer moves through space, guarded by its  convoy of TIE fighters.  **INT. VADER'S STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE - CONTROL DECK**  Vader stands in the back control area of his ship's bridge with a  motley group of men and creatures. Admiral Piett and two controllers  stand at the front of the bridge and watch the group with scorn.  **PIETT**  Bounty hunters. We don't need  that scum.  **FIRST CONTROLLER**  Yes, sir.  **PIETT**  Those Rebels won't escape us.  A second controller interrupts.  **SECOND CONTROLLER**  Sir, we have a priority signal  from the Star Destroyer Avenger.  **PIETT**  Right.  The group standing before Vader is a bizarre array of galactic fortune  hunters There is Bossk, a slimy, tentacled monster with two huge,  bloodshot eyes in a soft baggy face; Zuckuss and Dengar, two battle-  scarred, mangy human types; IG-88, a battered, tarnished chrome war  droid; and Boba Fett, a man in a weapon-covered armored space suit.  **VADER**  ... there will be a substantial  reward for the one who finds the  Millennium Falcon. You are free  to use any methods necessary, but  I want them alive. No disintegrations.  **BOBA FETT**  As you wish.  At that moment, Admiral Piett approaches Vader in a rush of excitement.  **PIETT**  Lord Vader! My lord, we have  them.  **EXT. IMPERIAL STAR DESTROYER, AVENGER - ASTEROID BELT**  The Millennium Falcon speeds through deep space, closely followed by a  firing Imperial Star Destroyer. A large asteroid about the same size  as the Falcon tumbles rapidly toward the starship. The tiny Falcon  banks to avoid the giant asteroid as smaller rocks pelt its surface.  Then the small craft roars under the asteroid which explodes harmlessly  on the hull of the vast Star Destroyer.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  The ship shudders as flak explodes near the cockpit window. Threepio  checks a tracking scope an the side control panel while Leia watches  tensely out the window.  **THREEPIO**  Oh, thank goodness we're coming  out of the asteroid field.  Chewie barks excitedly as the rain of asteroids begins to subside. A  bolt from the Star Destroyer sets up a fiery explosion on the back side  of the Falcon, causing it to lurch to one side.  **EXT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - STAR DESTROYER, AVENGER - ASTEROID FIELD**  The Falcon is hit hard by another bolt from the Star Destroyer which  creates a huge explosion near the cockpit of the smaller ship. The  Falcon tilts steeply, then rights itself.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Han corrects the angle of his ship.  **HAN**  Let's get out of here. Ready for  light-speed? One... two... three!  Han pulls back on the hyperspace throttle and - nothing happens. Flak  bursts continue to rock the ship.  **HAN**  (frantic)  It's not fair!  Chewie is very angry and starts to growl and bark at his friend and  captain. Again, Han desperately pulls back on the throttle.  **HAN**  The transfer circuits are working.  It's not my fault!  Chewie puts his head in his hands, whining.  **LEIA**  (almost expecting  it)  No light-speed?  **HAN**  It's not my fault.  **THREEPIO**  Sir, we just lost the main rear  deflector shield. One more direct  hit on the back quarter and we're  done for.  Han pauses for a moment, makes a decision, and pulls back on a lever.  **HAN**  Turn her around.  Chewie barks in puzzlement.  **HAN**  I said turn her around! I'm  going to put all power in the  front shield.  **LEIA**  You're going to attack them?!  **THREEPIO**  Sir, the odds of surviving a  direct assault on an Imperial  Star Destroyer...  **LEIA**  Shut up!  **EXT. SPACE - MILLENNIUM FALCON - ASTEROID FIELD**  The Falcon banks, makes a steep, twisting turn. In the next moment it  is racing toward the Star Destroyer, looking very small against the  massive surface of the Imperial ship. As it moves across the surface  of the Star Destroyer, the Falcon bobs and weaves to avoid the numerous  flak bursts.  **INT. STAR DESTROYER, AVENGER - BRIDGE**  The tiny Falcon heads directly for the Avenger's bridge. The Imperials  stationed there are stunned to see the small spaceship racing low  across the hull, headed directly at the huge windows of the bridge  area. Alarms go off everywhere. The Destroyer's commander, Captain  Needa, can scarcely believe his eyes.  **NEEDA**  They're moving to attack  position! Shields up!  Needa and his men duck as the Falcon nears the bridge window. At the  last minute, the Falcon veers off and out of sight. All is quiet.  **NEEDA**  Track them. They may come  around for another pass.  **TRACKING OFFICER**  Captain Needa, the ship no longer  appears on our scopes.  **NEEDA**  They can't have disappeared. No  ship that small has a cloaking  device.  **TRACKING OFFICER**  Well, there's no trace of them,  sir.  **COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**  Captain, Lord Vader demands an  update on the pursuit.  **NEEDA**  (drawing a breath)  Get a shuttle ready. I shall  assume full responsibility for  losing them, and apologize to Lord  Vader. Meanwhile, continue to  scan the area.  **COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**  Yes, Captain Needa.  **EXT. DAGOBAH - BOG - DAY**  Luke's face is upside-down and showing enormous strain. He stands on  his hands, with Yoda perched on his feet. Opposite Luke and Yoda are  two rocks the size of bowling balls. Luke stares at the rocks and  concentrates. One of the rocks lifts from the ground and floats up to  rest on the other.  **YODA**  Use the Force. Yes...  Yoda taps Luke's leg. Quickly, Luke lifts one hand from the ground.  His body wavers, but he maintains his balance. Artoo, standing nearby,  is whistling and beeping frantically.  **YODA**  Now... the stone. Feel it.  Luke concentrates on trying to lift the top rock. It rises a few feet,  shaking under the strain. But, distracted by Artoo's frantic beeping,  Luke loses his balance and finally collapses. Yoda jumps clear.  **YODA**  Concentrate!  Annoyed at the disturbance, Luke looks over at Artoo, who is rocking  urgently back and forth in front of him.  Artoo waddles closer to Luke, chirping wildly, then scoots over the  edge of the swamp. Catching on, Luke rushes to the water's edge. The  X-wing fighter has sunk, and only the tip of its nose shows above the  lake's surface.  **LUKE**  Oh, no. We'll never get it out  now.  Yoda stamps his foot in irritation.  **YODA**  So certain are you. Always with  you it cannot be done. Hear you  nothing that I say?  Luke looks uncertainly out at the ship.  **LUKE**  Master, moving stones around is  one thing. This is totally  different.  **YODA**  No! No different! Only different  in your mind. You must unlearn  what you have learned.  **LUKE**  (focusing, quietly)  All right, I'll give it a try.  **YODA**  No! Try not. Do. Or do not.  There is no try.  Luke closes his eyes and concentrates on thinking the ship out.  Slowly, the X-wing's nose begins to rise above the water. It hovers  for a moment and then slides back, disappearing once again.  **LUKE**  (panting heavily)  I can't. It's too big.  **YODA**  Size matters not. Look at me.  Judge me by my size, do you?  Hm? Mmmm.  Luke shakes his head.  **YODA**  And well you should not. For my  ally in the Force. And a powerful  ally it is. Life creates it, makes  it grow. Its energy surrounds us  and binds us. Luminous beings  are we...  (Yoda pinches  Luke's shoulder)  ... not this crude matter.  (a sweeping gesture)  You must feel the Force around you.  (gesturing)  Here, between you... me... the  tree... the rock... everywhere!  Yes, even between this land and  that ship!  **LUKE**  (discouraged)  You want the impossible.  Quietly Yoda turns toward the X-wing fighter. With his eyes closed and  his head bowed, he raises his arm and points at the ship.  Soon, the fighter rises above the water and moves forward as Artoo  beeps in terror and scoots away.  The entire X-wing moves majestically, surely, toward the shore. Yoda  stands on a tree root and guides the fighter carefully down toward the  beach.  Luke stares in astonishment as the fighter settles down onto the shore.  He walks toward Yoda.  **LUKE**  I don't... I don't believe it.  **YODA**  That is why you fail.  Luke shakes his head, bewildered.  **EXT. SPACE - IMPERIAL FLEET**  The fleet around Vader's Star Destroyer now includes Needa's Star  Destroyer, the Avenger.  **INT. VADER'S STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE**  **VADER**  Apology accepted, Captain Needa.  Clutching desperately at his throat, Captain Needa slumps down, then  falls over on his back, at the feet of Darth Vader. Two stormtroopers  pick up the lifeless body and carry it quickly away as Admiral Piett  and two of his captains hurry up to the Dark Lord.  **PIETT**  Lord Vader, our ships have  completed their scan of the area  and found nothing. If the  Millennium Falcon went into light-  speed, it'll be on the other side  of the galaxy by now.  **VADER**  Alert all commands. Calculate  every possible destination along  their last know trajectory.  **PIETT**  Yes, my lord. We'll find them.  **VADER**  Don't fail me again, Admiral.  Vader exits as the admiral turns to an aide, a little more uneasy than  when he arrived.  **PIETT**  Alert all commands. Deploy the fleet.  **EXT. SPACE - IMPERIAL FLEET**  Vader's ship moves away, flanked by its fleet of smaller ships. the  Avenger glides off into space in the opposite direction. No one on  that ship or on Vader's is aware that, clinging to the side of the  Avenger, is the pirateship, the Millennium Falcon.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  **THREEPIO**  Captain Solo, this time you have  gone too far.  (Chewie growls)  No, I will not be quiet, Chewbacca.  Why doesn't anyone listen to me?  **HAN**  (to Chewie)  The fleet is beginning to break  up. Go back and stand by the  manual release for the landing claw.  Chewie barks, struggles from his seat, and climbs out of the cabin.  **THREEPIO**  I really don't see how that is  going to help. Surrender is a  perfectly acceptable alternative  in extreme circumstances. The  Empire may be gracious enough...  Leia reaches over and shuts off Threepio, mid-sentence.  **HAN**  Thank you.  **LEIA**  What did you have in mind for  your next move?  **HAN**  Well, if they follow standard  Imperial procedure, they'll dump  their garbage before they go to  light-speed, then we just float  away.  **LEIA**  With the rest of the garbage.  Then what?  **HAN**  Then we've got to find a safe  port somewhere around here. Got  any ideas?  **LEIA**  No. Where are we?  **HAN**  The Anoat system.  **LEIA**  Anoat system. There's not much  there.  **HAN**  No. Well, wait. This is  interesting. Lando.  He points to a computer mapscreen on the control panel. Leia slips out  of her chair and moves next to the handsome pilot. Small light points  representing several systems flash by on the computer screen.  **LEIA**  Lando system?  **HAN**  Lando's not a system, he's a man.  Lando Calrissian. He's a card  player, gambler, scoundrel. You'd  like him.  **LEIA**  Thanks.  **HAN**  Bespin. It's pretty far, but I  think we can make it.  **LEIA**  (reading from the  computer)  A mining colony?  **HAN**  Yeah, a Tibanna gas mine. Lando  conned somebody out of it. We  go back a long way, Lando and me.  **LEIA**  Can you trust him?  **HAN**  No. But he has no love for the  Empire, I can tell you that.  Chewie barks over the intercom. Han quickly changes his readouts and  stretches to look out the cockpit window.  **HAN**  (into intercom)  Here we go, Chewie. Stand by.  Detach!  Han leans back in his chair and gives Leia an invisible smile. She  thinks for a moment, shakes her head; a grin creeps across her face and  she gives him a quick kiss.  **LEIA**  You do have your moments. Not  many, but you have them.  **EXT. SPACE - IMPERIAL STAR DESTROYER**  As the Avenger Star Destroyer moves slowly into space, the hatch on its  underbelly opens, sending a trail of junk behind it. Hidden among the  refuse, the Falcon tumbles away. In the next moment, the Avenger roars  off into hyperspace. The Falcon's engines are ignited, and it races  off into the distance. Amidst the slowly drifting junk, Boba Fett's  ship appears and moves after the Falcon.  **EXT. DAGOBAH - BOG - CLEARING - DAY**  In the clearing behind Yoda's house, Luke again stands upside-down, but  his face shows less strain and more concentration than before. Yoda  sits on the ground below the young warrior. On the other side of the  clearing, two equipment cases slowly rise into the air. Nearby Artoo  watches, humming to himself, when suddenly he, too, rises into the air.  His little legs kick desperately and his head turns frantically,  looking for help.  **YODA**  Concentrate... feel the Force  flow. Yes. Good. Calm, yes.  Through the Force, things you  will see. Other places. The  future... the past. Old friends  long gone.  Luke suddenly becomes distressed.  **LUKE**  Han! Leia!  The two packing boxes and Artoo fall to the ground with a crash, then  Luke himself tumbles over.  **YODA**  (shaking his head)  Hmm. Control, control. You must  learn control.  **LUKE**  I saw... I saw a city in the  clouds.  **YODA**  Mmm. Friends you have there.  **LUKE**  They were in pain.  **YODA**  It is the future you see.  **LUKE**  Future? Will they die?  Yoda closes his eyes and lowers his head.  **YODA**  Difficult to see. Always in  motion is the future.  **LUKE**  I've got to go to them.  **YODA**  Decide you must how to serve  them best. If you leave now,  help them you could. But you  would destroy all for which they  have fought and suffered.  Luke is stopped cold by Yoda's words. Gloom shrouds him as he nods his  head sadly.  **EXT. BESPIN SYSTEM - MILLENNIUM FALCON - DAWN**  The powerful pirate starship blasts through space as it heads toward  the soft pink planet of Bespin.  **EXT. BESPIN SURFACE - MILLENNIUM FALCON**  It is down on the gaseous planet. Huge billowing clouds form a canyon  as the ship banks around them, heading toward the system's Cloud City.  Suddenly, two twin-pod cloud cars appear and move toward the Falcon.  The cloud cars draw up alongside the starship.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  One of the cloud cars opens fire on the Falcon, its flak rocking the  ship. Chewie barks his concern.  **HAN**  (into transmitter)  No, I don't have a landing  permit. I'm trying to reach  Lando Calrissian.  More flak bursts outside the cockpit window and rattles the ship's  interior. Leia looks worried.  **HAN**  (into transmitter)  Whoa! Wait a minute! Let me  explain.  **INTERCOM VOICE**  You will not deviate from your  present course.  **THREEPIO**  Rather touchy, aren't they?  **LEIA**  I thought you knew this person.  Chewie barks and growls at his boss.  **HAN**  (to Chewie)  Well, that was a long time ago.  I'm sure he's forgotten about  that.  **INTERCOM VOICE**  Permission granted to land on  Platform Three-two-seven.  **HAN**  (into transmitter)  Thank you.  Angry, Han snaps off the intercom. Chewie looks at him and grunts.  Han turns to the worried princess and her droid.  **HAN**  There's nothing to worry about.  We go way back, Lando and me.  Leia doesn't look convinced.  **LEIA**  Who's worried?  **EXT. CLOUD CITY - MILLENNIUM FALCON - CLOUD CARS**  The clouds part to reveal a full view of the city as it bobs in and out  of the cloud surface. The cloud cars and the Falcon head for the  gleaming white metropolis.  **EXT. CLOUD CITY - LANDING PLATFORM - MILLENNIUM FALCON**  With the cloud cars still guarding it, the Falcon lands on one of the  Cloud City's platforms.  **EXT. LANDING PLATFORM - DOOR OF MILLENNIUM FALCON**  Han and Leia stand at the open door, armed. Behind them, Chewie, also  armed, surveys the scene warily.  **THREEPIO**  Oh. No one to meet us.  **LEIA**  I don't like this.  **HAN**  Well, what would you like?  **THREEPIO**  Well, they did let us land.  **HAN**  Look, don't worry. Everything's  going to be fine. Trust me.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - CORRIDOR - DAY**  Lando Calrissian, a suave, dashing black man in his thirties, leads a  group of aides and some Cloud City guard rapidly toward the landing  platform.  The group, like the other citizens of the city, is a motley collection  of aliens, droids, and humans of all descriptions. Lando has a grim  expression on his face as he moves onto the landing platform.  **EXT. LANDING PLATFORM - DOOR OF MILLENNIUM FALCON**  **HAN**  See? My friend.  (to Chewie)  Keep your eyes open, okay?  Chewie growls as Han walks down the ramp. Lando and his men head  across the bridge to meet the space pirate.  **EXT. CLOUD CITY - LANDING PLATFORM**  Lando stops ten feet from Han. The two men eye each other carefully.  Lando shakes his head.  **LANDO**  Why, you slimy, double-crossing,  no-good swindler! You've got a  lot of guts coming here, after  what you pulled.  Han points to himself innocently, mouthing, "Me?"  Lando moves threateningly toward Han. Suddenly, he throws his arms  around his startled, long-lost friend and embraces him.  **LANDO**  (laughs)  How you doing, you old pirate?  So good to see you! I never thought  I'd catch up with you again. Where  you been?  The two old friends embrace, laughing and chuckling.  **EXT. LANDING PLATFORM - DOOR OF MILLENNIUM FALCON.**  **THREEPIO**  Well, he seems very friendly.  **LEIA**  (wary)  Yes... very friendly.  **EXT. CLOUD CITY - LANDING PLATFORM**  **LANDO**  What are you doing here?  **HAN**  (gestures toward  the Falcon)  Ahh... repairs. I thought you  could help me out.  **LANDO**  (in mock panic)  What have you done to my ship?  **HAN**  Your ship? Hey, remember, you  lost her to me fair and square.  Chewie growls a reserved greeting. Lando suddenly notices the princess  and smiles.  **LANDO**  Hello. What have we here?  Welcome. I'm Lando Calrissian.  I'm the administrator of this  facility. And who might you be?  **LEIA**  Leia.  **LANDO**  Welcome, Leia.  Lando bows before Leia and kisses her hand.  **HAN**  All right, all right, you old  smoothie.  Han takes Leia by the hand and steers her away from Lando.  **THREEPIO**  Hello, sir. I am See-Threepio,  human-cyborg relations. My  facilities are at your...  Before Threepio can finish his self-introduction, Lando has turned to  follow Han and Leia, who are walking toward the city.  **THREEPIO**  Well, really!  Lando, his aide, Lobot, and Han lead the way across the bridge,  followed by Threepio, Chewie and Leia.  **LANDO**  What's wrong with the Falcon?  **HAN**  Hyperdrive.  **LANDO**  I'll get my people to work on it.  **HAN**  Good.  Lando turns to Leia.  **LANDO**  You know, that ship saved my life  quite a few times. She's the  fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - CORRIDOR**  The group has crossed the narrow bridge and entered the city. They  walk down the lovely Art Deco passageway, rounding several corners and  passing many small plazas as they go. Threepio lags a bit behind.  **HAN**  How's the gas mine? Is it  paying off for you?  **LANDO**  Oh, not as well as I'd like.  We're a small outpost and not  very self-sufficient. And I've  had supply problems of every kind.  I've had labor difficulties...  (catches Han  grinning at him)  What's so funny?  **HAN**  You. Listen to you - you sound  like a businessman, a responsible  leader. Who'd have thought that,  huh?  Lando is reflective. He looks at Han a moment.  **LANDO**  You know, seeing you sure  brings back a few things.  **HAN**  Yeah.  **LANDO**  (shakes his head)  Yeah. I'm responsible these days.  It's the price you pay for being  successful.  Han and Lando laugh together, and the group moves on through the  corridor.  The lagging Threepio passes a Threepio-type silver droid who is coming  out of a door.  **THREEPIO**  Oh! Nice to see a familiar face.  **SECOND THREEPIO**  (mumbles)  E chu ta!  **THREEPIO**  How rude!  Threepio stops, watching the silver droid move away. Then he hears the  muffled beeping and whistling of an R2 unit coming from within the  room.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - ANTEROOM**  Curious, Threepio enters the room.  **THREEPIO**  That sounds like an R2 unit in  there. I wonder if...  Threepio walks through the doorway to the main room. He looks in.  **THREEPIO**  Hello? How interesting. Oh, my.  **MAN'S VOICE**  (from within)  Who are you?  **THREEPIO**  Oh, I'm terribly sorry. I... I  didn't mean to intrude. No, no,  please don't get up. No!  A laser bolt to Threepio's chest sends him flying in twenty directions.  Smoldering mechanical arms and legs bounce off the walls as the door  whooshes closed behind him.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - CORRIDOR**  Lando, Han, and Leia continue down the corridor unaware of Threepio's  dreadful accident. Chewbacca glances around, sniffs the air, but  shrugs his shoulders and follows the group.  **EXT. DAGOBAH - BOG - DUSK**  In the bright lights of the fighter, Luke loads a heavy case into the  belly of the ship. Artoo sits on top of the X-wing, settling down into  his cubbyhole. Yoda stands nearby on a log.  **YODA**  Luke! You must complete the  training.  **LUKE**  I can't keep the vision out of my  head. They're my friends. I've  got to help them.  **YODA**  You must not go!  **LUKE**  But Han and Leia will die if I  don't.  **BEN'S VOICE**  You don't know that.  Luke looks toward the voice in amazement. Ben has materialized as a  real, slightly shimmering image near Yoda. The power of his presence  stops Luke.  **BEN**  Even Yoda cannot see their fate.  **LUKE**  But I can help them! I feel  the Force!  **BEN**  But you cannot control it. This  is a dangerous time for you,  when you will be tempted by the  dark side of the Force.  **YODA**  Yes, yes. To Obi-Wan you listen.  The cave. Remember your failure  at the cave!  **LUKE**  But I've learned so much since  then. Master Yoda, I promise to  return and finish what I've begun.  You have my word.  **BEN**  It is you and your abilities the  Emperor wants. that is why your  friends are made to suffer.  **LUKE**  And that is why I have to go.  **BEN**  Luke, I don't want to lose you to  the Emperor the way I lost Vader.  **LUKE**  You won't.  **YODA**  Stopped they must be. On this  all depends. Only a fully trained  Jedi Knight with the Force as his  ally will conquer Vader and his  Emperor. If you end your training  now, if you choose the quick and  easy path, as Vader did, you will  become an agent of evil.  **BEN**  Patience.  **LUKE**  And sacrifice Han and Leia?  **YODA**  If you honor what they fight for  ... yes!  Luke is in great anguish. He struggles with the dilemma, a battle  raging in his mind.  **BEN**  If you choose to face Vader, you  will do it alone. I cannot  interfere.  **LUKE**  I understand.  (he moves to his  X-wing)  Artoo, fire up the converters.  Artoo whistles a happy reply.  **BEN**  Luke, don't give in to hate -  that leads to the dark side.  Luke nods and climbs into his ship.  **YODA**  Strong is Vader. Mind what you  have learned. Save you it can.  **LUKE**  I will. And I'll return. I promise.  Artoo closes the cockpit. Ben and Yoda stand watching as the roar of  the engines and the wind engulf them.  **YODA**  (sighs)  Told you, I did. Reckless is  he. Now matters are worse.  **BEN**  That boy is our last hope.  **YODA**  (looks up)  No. There is another.  **EXT. SPACE - PLANET DAGOBAH**  Luke's tiny X-wing rockets away from the green planet of Dagobah and  off into space.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - LIVING QUARTERS - DAY**  Within the quarters assigned her on Cloud City, Leia paces in  agitation. She has changed from her cold-weather pants and jacket to a  lovely dress. Her hair is down, tied back with ribbons. She moves  from a large, open window and turns to see Han entering through the  doorway.  **HAN**  The ship is almost finished.  Two or Three more things and  we're in great shape.  **LEIA**  The sooner the better. Something's  wrong here. No one has seen or  knows anything about Threepio.  He's been gone too long to have  gotten lost.  Han takes Leia by the shoulders and gently kisses her forehead.  **HAN**  Relax. I'll talk to Lando and  see what I can find out.  **LEIA**  I don't trust Lando.  **HAN**  Well, I don't trust him, either.  But he is my friend. Besides,  we'll soon be gone.  **LEIA**  And then you're as good as gone,  aren't you?  Not speaking, Han considers her words and gazes at her troubled face.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - JUNK ROOM**  The room is piled high with broken and discarded machine parts. Four  Ugnaughts, small hoglike creatures, separate the junk and throw some  pieces onto a conveyer belt which moves briskly toward a pit of molten  metal. Pieces of Threepio's golden body move down the belt. Chewie  enters the room and spots an Ugnaught picking up and inspecting  Threepio's head. The Wookiee barks a command, startling the Ugnaught,  then reaches to grab the head. But the Ugnaught tosses it away from  him to another Ugnaught. This game of keep-away goes on until  Threepio's head falls from their grip and bounces with a clang onto the  ground.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - LIVING QUARTERS - DAY**  The door zaps open. Chewbacca walks in, carrying a packing case of  Threepio, arms and legs hanging over the edge.  **LEIA**  What happened?  Chewie sets the case on a table, grunting and groaning an explanation.  **HAN**  Where? Found him in a junk pile?  **LEIA**  Oh, what a mess. Chewie, do you  think you can repair him?  The giant Wookiee studies the array of robot parts. He looks at the  princess and shrugs sadly.  **HAN**  Lando's got people who can fix  him.  **LEIA**  No, thanks.  There is a buzz and the door slides open, revealing Lando.  **LANDO**  I'm sorry. Am I interrupting  anything?  **LEIA**  Not really.  **LANDO**  You look absolutely beautiful.  You truly belong here with us  among the clouds.  **LEIA**  (coolly)  Thank you.  **LANDO**  Will you join me for a little  refreshment?  Han looks at Lando suspiciously, but Chewie barks at the mention of  food and licks his lips.  **LANDO**  Everyone's invited, of course.  Leia takes Lando's proffered arm, and the group turns to go. Lando  spots Threepio's remains.  **LANDO**  Having trouble with you droid?  Han and Leia exchange a quick glance.  **HAN**  No. No problem. Why?  Han and Leia move arm-in-arm through the door, followed by Lando and  Chewie. The door slides closed behind them.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - CORRIDOR - DAY**  Leia walks between Han and Lando as Chewie follows a short distance  behind. Long shafts of light pour across the corridor between tall,  pure-white columns.  **LANDO**  So you see, since we're a small  operation, we don't fall into  the... uh... jurisdiction of the  Empire.  **LEIA**  So you're part of the mining  guild then?  **LANDO**  No, not actually. Our operation  is small enough not to be noticed...  which is advantageous for everybody  since our customers are anxious  to avoid attracting attention to  themselves.  The group walks into another corridor and heads for a huge doorway at  the far end.  **HAN**  Aren't you afraid the Empire's  going to find out about this  little operation and shut you down?  **LANDO**  That's always been a danger looming  like a shadow over everything we've  built here. But things have  developed that will insure security.  I've just made a deal that will  keep the Empire out of here forever.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - DINING ROOM**  The mighty doors to the dining room slide open and the group enters the  dining room. At the far end of a huge banquet table sits Darth Vader.  Standing at his side and slightly behind him is Boba Fett, the bounty  hunter.  Faster than the wink of an eye, Han draws his blaster and pops off a  couple of shots directly at Vader. The Dark Lord quickly raises his  hand, deflecting the bolts into one of the side walls, where they  explode harmlessly. Just as quickly, Han's weapon zips into Vader's  hand. The evil presence calmly places the gun on the table in front of  him.  **VADER**  We would be honored if you would  join us.  Han gives Lando a mean look.  **LANDO**  I had no choice. They arrived  right before you did. I'm sorry.    **HAN**  I'm sorry, too.  **EXT. LUKE'S X-WING - BESPIN SYSTEM**  Luke's X-wing races through thick clouds toward Cloud City.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT**  Luke is grim-faced as he pilots his course toward Bespin's shining  city. Artoo's beeps and whistles are transmitted onto the scope.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  No, Threepio's with them.  Artoo whistles another worried inquiry.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Just hang on. We're almost there.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - LARGE CELL**  Chewbacca is in a Cloud City prison cell. The stark room is flooded  with hot light. To add to Chewie's misery, a high-pitched whistle  screeches loudly. Chewie is going mad. He hits the wall with giant  fists as he paces back and forth across the cell floor. The upper  lights go off abruptly. The prisoner rubs his eyes and moves to a  wall, where he listens for a moment. Then, moaning to himself, he  moves to a platform where the disassembled pieces of Threepio lie. He  picks up the golden droid's head and meditates on it for a moment,  barking a few philosophical remarks. Chewie sticks the robot's head on  its torso and starts adjusting wires and circuits.  Suddenly, the lights in Threepio's eyes spark to life as Chewie touches  two connectors together. Threepio immediately begins to speak, but his  voice is so slow and so low as to be nearly unintelligible.  **THREEPIO**  Mmmm. Oh, my. Uh, I, uh - Take  this off! I, uh, don't mean to  intrude here. I, don't, no, no,  no... Please don't get up. No!  Chewie looks at Threepio in bewilderment, then scratches his furry  head. He gets an idea and adjusts some connections, whereupon Threepio  immediately begins speaking normally.  **THREEPIO**  Stormtroopers? Here? We're in  danger. I must tell the others.  Oh, no! I've been shot!  **INT. CLOUD CITY - PRISON ENTRY AREA**  Darth Vader strides through the room as two stormtroopers prepare an  elaborate torture mechanism. Han is strapped to a rack which tilts  forward onto the torture device. Vader activates the mechanism,  creating two bursts of sparks, one of which strikes Han's face.  The door opens, and Vader leaves the torture room just as Han screams a  sharp, piercing cry of agony. Darth Vader moves to the holding  chamber, where Lando and Boba Fett await him.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - HOLDING CHAMBER**  **LANDO**  Lord Vader.  **VADER**  (to Fett)  You may take Captain Solo to  Jabba the Hut after I have  Skywalker.  Han's screams filter through the torture room door.  **BOBA FETT**  He's no good to me dead.  **VADER**  He will not be permanently damaged.  **LANDO**  Lord Vader, what about Leia and  the Wookiee?  **VADER**  They must never again leave this  city.  **LANDO**  That was never a condition of our  agreement, nor was giving Han to  this bounty hunter!  **VADER**  Perhaps you think you're being  treated unfairly.  **LANDO**  No.  **VADER**  Good. It would be unfortunate if  I had to leave a garrison here.  Vader turns and sweeps into the elevator with Boba Fett. Lando walks  swiftly down another corridor, muttering to himself.  **LANDO**  This deal's getting worse all  the time.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - LARGE CELL**  Chewie now has a little more of Threepio back together. One arm is  connected, but the legs are yet to be attached. There is one small  problem, however. It seems the Wookiee has managed to put the droid's  head on backwards.  **THREEPIO**  Oh, yes, that's very good. I like  that. Oh! Something's not right  because now I can't see. Wait.  Wait! Oh, my! what have you done?  I'm backwards, you stupid furball.  Only an overgrown mophead like you  would be stupid enough...  Threepio is cut off in mid-sentence as Chewie angrily deactivates a  circuit and the droid shuts down. The Wookiee smells something and  sits up. The door to the chamber slides open and a ragged Han Solo is  shoved into the room by two stormtroopers. Barking his concern, the  huge Wookiee gives Han a big hug. Han is very pale, with dark circles  under his eyes.  **HAN**  I feel terrible.  Chewie helps Han to a platform and then turns as the door slides open  revealing Leia. She, too, looks a little worse for wear. The troopers  push her into the cell, and the door slides closed. She moves to Han,  who is lying on the platform, and kneels next to him, gently stroking  his head.  **LEIA**  Why are they doing this?  **HAN**  They never even asked me any  questions.  The cell door slides open. Lando and two of his guards enter.  **LEIA**  Lando.  **HAN**  Get out of here, Lando!  **LANDO**  Shut up and listen! Vader has  agreed to turn Leia and Chewie  over to me.  **HAN**  Over to you?  **LANDO**  They'll have to stay here, but at  least they'll be safe.  **LEIA**  What about Han?  **LANDO**  Vader's giving him to the bounty  hunter.  **LEIA**  Vader wants us all dead.  **LANDO**  He doesn't want you at all. He's  after somebody called Skywalker.  **HAN**  Luke?  **LANDO**  Lord Vader has set a trap for him.  Leia's mind is racing.  **LEIA**  And we're the bait.  **LANDO**  Well, he's on his way.  Han's rage peaks.  **HAN**  Perfect. You fixed us all pretty  good, didn't you?  (spits it out)  My friend!  Han hauls off and punches Lando. The two friends are instantly engaged  in a frantic close-quarters fight. The guards hit Han with their rifle  butts and he flies across the room. Chewie growls and starts for the  guards. They point their laser weapons at the giant Wookiee, but Lando  stops them.  **LANDO**  Stop! I've done all I can. I'm  sorry I couldn't do better, but  I have my own problems.  **HAN**  Yeah, you're a real hero.  Lando and the guards leave. Han wipes the blood from his chin as Leia  and Chewie help him up.  **LEIA**  (dabs at his wound)  You certainly have a way with  people.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - CARBON-FREEZING CHAMBER**  Four armor-suited stormtroopers stand at the ready in the large  chamber, which is filled with pipes and chemical tanks. In the middle  of the room is a round pit housing a hydraulic platform. Darth Vader  and Lando stand near the platform.  **VADER**  This facility is crude, but it  should be adequate to freeze  Skywalker for his journey to the  Emperor.  An Imperial soldier appears.  **IMPERIAL SOLDIER**  Lord Vader, ship approaching.  X-wing class.  **VADER**  Good. Monitor Skywalker and allow  him to land.  The soldier bows and leaves the chamber.  **LANDO**  Lord Vader, we only use this  facility for carbon freezing. If  you put him in there, it might  kill him.  **VADER**  I do not want the Emperor's prize  damaged. We will test it... on  Captain Solo.  Lando's face registers dismay.  **EXT. SPACE - BESPIN SYSTEM - LUKE'S X-WING**  Luke's X-wing moves through the clouds as it nears the city.  **INT. LUKE'S X-WING - COCKPIT**  Encountering no city guards, Luke scans the display panel with concern.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - CARBON-FREEZING CHAMBER**  There is a great activity on the carbon-freezing platform. Six  Ugnaughts frantically prepare the chamber for use. A special  coffinlike container is put in place. With Boba Fett in the lead, a  squad of six stormtroopers brings in Han, Leia and Chewie. Strapped to  Chewie's back, with only his head, torso, and one arm assembled, is  Threepio. Threepio's head faces the opposite direction from Chewie's  and the droid is constantly twisting around in a vain effort to see  what is happening. His one attached arm is animate and expressive,  intermittently pointing, gesturing, and covering his eyes. The  remaining pieces of his body are randomly bundled to the Wookiee's back  so that his legs and other arm stick out at odd angles from the pack.  **THREEPIO**  If only you had attached my legs,  I wouldn't be in this ridiculous  position. Now, remember, Chewbacca,  you have a responsibility to me,  so don't do anything foolish.  **HAN**  (to Lando)  What's going on... buddy?  **LANDO**  You're being put into carbon freeze.  Boba Fett moves away from the group to Darth Vader.  **BOBA FETT**  What if he doesn't survive? He's  worth a lot to me.  **VADER**  The Empire will compensate you  if he dies. Put him in!  Realizing what is about to happen, Chewie lets out a wild howl and  attacks the stormtroopers surrounding Han. Within seconds, other  Imperial reinforcements join the scuffle, clubbing the giant Wookiee  with their laser weapons.  From the instant of Chewie's first move, Threepio begins to scream in  panic while he tries to protect himself with his one arm.  **THREEPIO**  Oh, no! No, no, no! Stop,  Chewbacca, stop...!  The stormtroopers are about to bash Chewie in the face.  **HAN**  Stop, Chewie, stop! Do you hear  me? Stop!  **THREEPIO**  Yes, stop, please! I'm not ready  to die.  Han breaks away from his captors. Vader nods to the guards to let him  go and the pirate breaks up the fight.  **HAN**  Chewie! Chewie, this won't help  me. Hey!  Han gives the Wookiee a stern look.  **HAN**  Save your strength. There'll be  another time. The princess - you  have to take care of her. You  hear me?  Han winks at the Wookiee, who wails a doleful farewell.  In a flash the guards have slipped binders on Chewbacca, who is too  distraught to protest. Han turns to Princess Leia. They look  sorrowfully at one another, then Han moves toward her and gives her a  final, passionate kiss.  **LEIA**  I love you!  **HAN**  I know.  Tears roll down Leia's face as she watches the dashing pirate walk to  the hydraulic platform. Han looks one final time at his friends - and  then, suddenly, the platform drops. Chewie howls. Leia turns away in  agony.  Lando winces in sorrow; it makes a life-changing impression on him.  Instantly, fiery liquid begins to pour down in a shower of sparks and  fluid as great as any steel furnace. Holding Leia, Chewie half-turns  away from the sight, giving Threepio a view of the procedure.  **THREEPIO**  What... what's going on? Turn  round, Chewbacca, I can't see.  Oh... they've encased him in  carbonite. He should be quite  well-protected - if he survives  the freezing process, that is.  Chewie is in no mood for technical discussion; he gives the droid an  angry glance and bark.  A huge mechanical tong lifts the steaming metal-encased space pirate  out of the vat and stands him on the platform. Some Ugnaughts rush  over and push the block over onto the platform. They slide the  coffinlike structure to the block and lift the metal block, placing it  inside. They then attach an electronic box onto the structure and step  away. Lando kneels and adjusts some knobs, measuring the heat. He  shakes his head in relief.  **VADER**  Well, Calrissian, did he survive?  **LANDO**  Yes, he's alive. And in perfect  hibernation.  Vader turns to Boba Fett.  **VADER**  He's all yours bounty hunter.  Reset the chamber for Skywalker.  **IMPERIAL OFFICER**  Skywalker has just landed, my  lord.  **VADER**  Good. See to it that he finds  his way here. Calrissian, take  the princess and the Wookiee to  my ship.  **LANDO**  You said they'd be left in the  city under my supervision.  **VADER**  I am altering the deal. Pray I  don't alter it any further.  Lando's hand instinctively goes to his throat as he turns to Leia,  Chewie, and Threepio.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - CORRIDOR - DAY**  As Luke and Artoo move carefully down a deserted corridor, they hear a  group of people coming down a side hallway. Artoo lets out an excited  series of beeps and whistles. Luke glares at the tiny droid, who stops  in his tracks with a feeble squeak.  Boba Fett enters from a side hallway followed by two guards pushing the  floating, encased body of Han Solo. Two stormtroopers, who follow,  immediately spot Luke and open fire on him. The youth draws his weapon  and blasts the two troopers before they can get off a second shot. The  two guards whisk Han into another hallway as Fett lowers his arm and  fires a deadly laser at Luke, which explodes to one side and tears up a  huge chunk of wall.  Luke rushes to a side hallway, but by the time he reaches it, Fett,  Han, and the guards are gone. A think metal door blocks the passage.  Luke turns to see Leia, Chewie, Threepio, and Lando being herded down a  second hallway by several other stormtroopers. Leia turns just in time  to see Luke.  **LEIA**  Luke! Luke, don't - it's a  trap! It's a trap!  Before she can finish, she is pulled through a doorway and disappears  from sight. Luke races after the group, leaving little Artoo trailing  behind.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - ANTEROOM**  Luke runs into an anteroom and stops to get his bearings. Leia and the  others are nowhere to be seen. Behind Luke, Artoo scoots down the  corridor toward the anteroom when suddenly a giant metal door comes  slamming down, cutting off Luke's exit. Several more doors clang shut,  echoing through the chamber.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - HALLWAY LEADING TO ANTEROOM**  Artoo stands with his nose pressed against the giant metal door. He  whistles a long sigh of relief and, a little dazed, wanders off in the  other direction.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - CARBON-FREEZING CHAMBER - ANTEROOM**  Luke cautiously walks forward among hissing pipes and steam. Seeing an  opening above him, he stops to look up. As he does, the platform he  stands on begins to move.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - CARBON-FREEZING CHAMBER**  Luke rises into the chamber, borne by the platform. The room is  deathly quiet. Very little steam escapes the pipes and no one else  seems to be in the large room. Warily, Luke walks toward the stairway.  Steam begins to build up in the chamber. Looking up through the steam,  Luke sees a dark figure standing on a walkway above him. Luke holsters  his gun and moves up the stairs to face Vader. He feels confident,  eager to engage his enemy.  **VADER**  The Force is with you, young  Skywalker. But you are not a  Jedi yet.  Luke ignites his sword in answer. In an instant, Vader's own sword is  lit. Luke lunges, but Vader repels the blow. Again Luke attacks, and  the swords of the two combatants clash in battle.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - CORRIDOR**  Leia, Lando, and Chewie, with Threepio on his back, march along,  guarded by six stormtroopers. The group reaches an intersection where  Lobot and a dozen of Lando's guards stand at attention.  The guards immediately aim their weapons at the startled stormtroopers.  Taking the stormtroopers' weapons from them, Lobot hands one to Leia  and one to Lando.  **LANDO**  Well done. Hold them in the  security tower - and keep it  quiet. Move.  As Lando's guards quickly march the stormtroopers away, Lando begins to  undo Chewie's binding.  **LEIA**  What do you think you're doing?  **LANDO**  We're getting out of here.  **THREEPIO**  I knew all along it had to be a  mistake.  Chewie turns on Lando and starts to choke him.  **LEIA**  Do you think that after what you  did to Han we're going to trust  you?  Lando tries to free himself from Chewie.  **LANDO**  (choking)  I had no choice...  Chewie barks ferociously.  **THREEPIO**  (to Chewie)  What are you doing? Trust him,  trust him!  **LEIA**  Oh, so we understand, don't we,  Chewie? He had no choice.  **LANDO**  I'm just trying to help...  **LEIA**  We don't need any of your help.  **LANDO**  (choking)  H-a-a-a...  **LEIA**  What?  **THREEPIO**  It sounds like Han.  **LANDO**  There's still a chance to save  Han... I mean, at the East  Platform...  **LEIA**  Chewie.  Chewie finally releases Lando, who fights to get his breath back.  **THREEPIO**  (to Lando)  I'm terribly sorry about all this.  After all, he's only a Wookiee.  **EXT. CLOUD CITY - EAST LANDING PLATFORM - BOBA FETT'S SHIP**  The two guards slide Han's encased body into an opening in the side of  the bounty hunter's ship. Boba Fett climb aboard on a ladder next to  the cargo hold.  **BOBA FETT**  Put Captain Solo in the cargo  hold.  And with that, the door slams shut.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - CORRIDOR**  Lando, Leia, and Chewie run down a Cloud City corridor when suddenly  they spot Artoo who rushes toward them, beeping wildly.  **THREEPIO**  Artoo! Artoo! Where have you  been?  Chewie turns around to see the stubby droid, causing Threepio to be  spun out of sight of his friend.  **THREEPIO**  Turn around, you wooly...!  (to Artoo)  Hurry, hurry! We're trying to  save Han from the bounty hunter!  Whistling frantically to Threepio, Artoo scoots along with the racing  group.  **THREEPIO**  Well, at least your still in  one piece! Look what happened to  me!  **EXT. EAST LANDING PLATFORM - SIDE BAY**  An elevator door slides open and Lando, Leia, and Chewbacca race for a  large bay overlooking the East Landing Platform.  Just as they arrive, Boba Fett's ship takes off against a cloudy sunset  sky.  In wild anguish, Chewie howls and starts firing at the ship.  **THREEPIO**  Oh, no! Chewie, they're behind  you!  A laser bolt explodes near the princess. Everyone turns to see what  Threepio has already spotted coming from the other direction; a squad  of stormtroopers running toward them. Artoo peeks out from the  elevator.  Leia and Chewbacca start firing at the troopers as Lando makes a break  for the elevator. Laser bolts continue to explode around the princess  and the Wookiee, but they refuse to budge. Lando sticks his head out  of the elevator and motions for the pair to run, but they barely  notice. They seem possessed, transported, as all the frustration of  captivity and anger of loss pour through their death-dealing weapons.  But after a few moments, they begin to move through the rain of laser  fire toward the elevator. Once they are inside, the door slams shut  and the stormtroopers race forward.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - CARBON-FREEZING CHAMBER**  Luke and Vader are locked in combat on the platform overlooking the  chamber. Their swords clash, the platform sways. Luke aggressively  drives Vader back, forcing Vader to use defensive tactics.  **VADER**  You have learned much, young one.  **LUKE**  You'll find I'm full of surprises.  Vader makes two quick moves, hooking Luke's sword out of his hand and  sending it flying. Another lightning move at Luke's feet forces the  youth to jump back to protect himself. Losing his balance, Luke rolls  down the stairs to the circular carbon-freezing platform. There he  sprawls on the floor, surprised and shaken. Just in time he looks up  to see Vader, like a giant black bird, flying right at him. Luke rolls  away as Vader lands. Crouching, Luke keeps his gaze steadily on his  enemy.  **VADER**  Your destiny lies with me,  Skywalker. Obi-Wan knew this to  be true.  **LUKE**  No!  Behind Luke the hydraulic elevator cover has opened noiselessly. All  the while, Luke slowly, cautiously moves back, away from the Dark Lord.  Suddenly, Vader attacks so forcefully that Luke loses his balance and  falls back into the opening. There is a rumble, and in an instant  freezing steam rises to obscure Vader's vision. Vader turns aside and  deactivates his sword.  **VADER**  All to easy. Perhaps you are not  as strong as the Emperor thought.  Through the steam behind Vader something blurs upward. Liquid metal  begins to pour into the pit.  Vader turns around - and then looks up. He sees Luke, who has leaped  fifteen feet straight up and who now hangs from some hoses on the  carbonite outlet.  **VADER**  Impressive... most impressive.  Luke jumps down to the platform where he is separated from Vader by the  steaming carbonite pit. He raises his hand. His sword, which had  fallen on another part of the platform, swiftly jumps into his  outstretched hand and is instantly ignited. Vader immediately lights  his sword as well.  **VADER**  Obi-Wan has taught you well. You  have controlled your fear... now  release your anger.  Luke is more cautious, controlling his anger. He begins to retreat as  Vader goads him on. As Luke takes a defensive position, he realizes he  has been foolhardy. A quick sword exchange and Luke forces Vader back.  Another exchange and Vader retreats. Luke presses forward.  **VADER**  Only your hatred can destroy me.  Breathing hard, Luke jumps in the air, turning a somersault over Vader.  He lands on the floor and slashes at Vader as the room continues to  fill up with steam.  Vader retreats before Luke's skillful sword. Vader blocks the sword,  but looses his balance and falls into the outer rim of pipes. The  energy Luke has used to stop Vader has brought him to the point of  collapse. Luke moves to the edge and looks down, but sees no sign of  Vader. He then deactivates his sword, hooks it on his belt, and lowers  himself into the pit.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - TUNNEL AND REACTOR CONTROL ROOM**  Moving through a tunnellike entrance, Luke cautiously approaches the  reactor room. He ignites his sword and moves into the room and toward  a large window as Vader enters.  Luke raises his sword and moves forward to attack.  Behind Luke a large piece of machinery detaches itself from the wall  and comes smashing forward toward his back. Luke turns and cuts it in  half just as another machine comes hurtling at him. Using the Force,  Luke manages to deflect it and send it flying as if it had hit an  invisible shield.  A large pipe detaches and comes flying at Luke. He deflects it.  Sparking wires pull out of the wall and begin to whip at the youth.  Small tools and equipment come flying at him. Bombardment from all  sides, Luke does his best to deflect everything, but soon he is  bloodied and bruised. Finally, one machine glances off his and goes  flying out the large window. A fierce wind blows into the room,  unmoving, stands the dark, rocklike figure of Vader.  A piece of machinery hits Luke and he is knocked out of the window.  **INT. GANTRY - OUTSIDE CONTROL ROOM - REACTOR SHAFT**  Luke falls onto the gantry, rolls, and hangs over the edge, holding his  deactivated sword in hand. He puts the sword on his belt and begins to  scramble up.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - CORRIDOR LEADING TO LANDING PLATFORM**  Leia, Lando, Chewie and the droids come round a corner and head for the  door to the landing platform. They glimpse the Millennium Falcon for a  moment before the door slams shut. The group ducks into an alcove as  stormtroopers arrive at the end of the corridor. The troopers send a  rain of laser bolts at the group. Chewie returns their fire as Lando  punches desperately at the door's control panel.  **LANDO**  The security codes has been changed!  **THREEPIO**  Artoo, you can tell the computer  to override the security system.  Threepio points to a computer socket on the control panel. Artoo beeps  and scoots toward it. Lando meanwhile has connected up to the panel's  intercom.  **LANDO**  Attention! This is Lando  Calrissian. The Empire has takes  control of the city. I advise  everyone to leave before more  Imperial troops arrive.  Artoo takes off a computer cover and sticks his computer arm into the  socket. Suddenly, a short beep turns into a wild scream. Artoo's  circuits light up, his head spins wildly, and smoke begins to seep out  underneath him. Quickly, Chewie pulls him away.  **LANDO**  This way.  Lando, Leia, Artoo, and Chewie flee down the corridor. As he scoots  along with them, Artoo sends some angry beeps Threepio's way.  **THREEPIO**  Don't blame me. I'm an interpreter.  I'm not supposed to know a power  socket from a computer terminal.  **INT. CLOUD CITY - CORRIDOR**  In a panic, Cloud City residents are trying to get out of the city.  Some carry boxes, others packages. They run, then change direction.  Some are shooting at stormtroopers, others simply try to hide.  Other stormtroopers pursue Lando, Leia, and Chewie who are firing back  at them. Artoo works on another door to the landing platform while  Threepio berates him for his seeming ineptitude.  **THREEPIO**  What are you talking about? We're  not interested in the hyperdrive  on the Millennium Falcon. It's  fixed! Just open the door, you  stupid lump.  Chewie, Leia, and Lando retreat along the corridor. A triumphant beep  from Artoo - and the door snaps open.  **THREEPIO**  (to Artoo)  I never doubted you for a second.  Wonderful!  Artoo lays a cloud fog, obscuring everything, as the group dashes  outside.  **EXT. LANDING PLATFORM - CLOUD CITY - DUSK**  They race for the Millennium Falcon as a battalion of stormtroopers  reaches the main door. Lando and Leia hold off the troops as the  droids get on board with Chewie. As Chewie bounds to the ship the  Threepio on his back, Threepio hits his head on the top of the ramp.  **THREEPIO**  Ouch! Oh! Ah! That hurt. Bend  down, you thoughtless... Ow!  Chewie starts up the ship. The giant engines begin to whine as Lando  and Leia race up the ramp under a hail of laser fire.  **LANDO**  Leia! Go!  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - CORRIDOR**  Artoo drags the partially assembled Threepio down the corridor of the  Falcon.  **THREEPIO**  I thought that hairy beast would  be the end of me. Of course, I've  looked better.  Artoo beeps understandingly.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Chewie works the controls as Leia sits in Han's seat and Lando watches  over their shoulders. As Chewie pulls back on the throttle, the ship  begins to move.  **EXT. CLOUD CITY - LANDING PLATFORM - DUSK**  The Millennium Falcon lifts gracefully into the twilight sky and roars  away from the city. Troops fire after it and TIE fighters take off in  pursuit.  **INT. GANTRY - OUTSIDE CONTROL ROOM - REACTOR SHAFT**  Luke moves along the railing and up to the control room.  Vader lunges at him and Luke immediately raises his lit sword to meet  Vader's. Sparks fly as they duel, Vader gradually forcing Luke  backward toward the gantry.  **VADER**  You are beaten. It is useless  to resist. Don't let yourself  be destroyed as Obi-Wan did.  Luke answers by rolling sideways and thrusting his sword at Vader so  viciously that he nicks Vader on the shoulder. The black armor sparks  and smokes and Vader seems to be hurt, but immediately recovers.  Luke backs off along the narrow end of the gantry as Vader comes at  him, slashing at the young Jedi with his sword. Luke makes a quick  move around the instrument complex attached to the end of the gantry.  Vader's sword comes slashing down, cutting the complex loose; it begins  to fall, then is caught by the rising wind and blown upward.  Luke glances at the instrument complex floating away. At that instant,  Vader's sword comes down across Luke's right forearm, cutting off his  hand and sending his sword flying. In great pain, Luke squeezes his  forearm under his left armpit and moves back along the gantry to its  extreme end. Vader  follows. The wind subsides. Luke holds on. There is nowhere else to  go.  **VADER**  There is no escape. Don't make  me destroy you. You do not yet  realize your importance. You  have only begun to discover your  power. Join me and I will complete  your training. With our combined  strength, we can end this destructive  conflict and bring order to the  galaxy.  **LUKE**  I'll never join you!  **VADER**  If you only knew the power of the  dark side. Obi-Wan never told  you what happened to your father.  **LUKE**  He told me enough! It was you  who killed him.  **VADER**  No. I am your father.  Shocked, Luke looks at Vader in utter disbelief.  **LUKE**  No. No. That's not true!  That's impossible!  **VADER**  Search your feelings. You know  it to be true.  **LUKE**  No! No! No!  **VADER**  Luke. You can destroy the Emperor.  He has foreseen this. It is your  destiny. Join me, and together  we can rule the galaxy as father  and son. Come with me. It is the  only way.  Vader puts away his sword and holds his hand out to Luke.  A calm comes over Luke, and he makes a decision. In the next instant  he steps off the gantry platform into space. The Dark Lord looks over  the platform and sees Luke falling far below. The wind begins to blow  at Vader's cape and the torrent finally forces him back, away from the  edge. The wind soon fades and the wounded Jedi begins to drop fast,  unable to grab onto anything to break his fall.  **INT. REACTOR SHAFT**  Suddenly Luke is sucked into an exhaust pipe in the side of the shaft.  When Vader sees this, he turns and hurries off the platform.  **INT. EXHAUST PIPE**  Luke tumbles through the exhaust pipe.  He slides to the end of the slickly polished pipe and stops as his feet  hit a circular grill and knock it open. Luke claws at the surface of  the pipe, trying to keep from sliding out into space.  **EXT. BOTTOM OF CLOUD CITY - WEATHER VANE - DUSK**  Unable to hang onto the pipe, Luke tumbles out, emerging at the  undermost part of Cloud City. Reaching out desperately, he manages to  grab onto on electronic weather vane.  **LUKE**  Ben... Ben, please!  Luke tries to pull himself up on the weather vane but slips back down.  He hooks one of his legs around the fragile instruments. All the  while, a powerful current of air rushes out at him from the exhaust  pipe.  **LUKE**  Ben. Leia!  There is an ominous cracking sound from the base of the  weather vane and a piece breaks off, falling into the clouds far below.  **LUKE**  Hear me! Leia!  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Leia seems to be lost in a fog, her expression troubled. Chewie is  busy operating the ship. Lando stands next to the Wookiee, watching a  readout on the control panel.  **LEIA**  Luke... We've got to go back.  Chewie growls in surprise.  **LANDO**  What?  **LEIA**  I know where Luke is.  **LANDO**  But what about those fighter?  Chewie barks in agreement with Lando.  **LEIA**  Chewie, just do it.  **LANDO**  But what about Vader?  Chewie turns on Lando, the newcomer, with an ominous growl.  **LANDO**  All right, all right, all right.  **EXT. CLOUD CITY - MILLENNIUM FALCON - DUSK**  The Falcon makes a graceful banking turn back toward Cloud City.  **EXT. CLOUD CITY - LANDING PLATFORM**  Vader enters the landing platform and watches as the speck that is the  Falcon disappears. The wind blows at his cape.  He turns to two aides who are standing near the entrance to the landing  platform.  **VADER**  Bring my shuttle.  **EXT. BOTTOM OF CLOUD CITY - WEATHER VANE**  Nearly unconscious, Luke hangs upside-down on the weather vane as his  body shifts in the wind.  **EXT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - BOTTOM OF CLOUD CITY**  The Falcon dives to the underside of the floating city. Three TIE  fighter close in on the starship.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON**  Leia tries to remain calm.  **LANDO**  (pointing out the  cockpit window)  Look, someone's up there.  **LEIA**  It's Luke. Chewie, slow down.  Slow down and we'll get under him.  Lando, open the top hatch.  Lando rushes out of the cockpit.  **EXT. BOTTOM OF CLOUD CITY - WEATHER VANE**  Luke hangs by one arm from the crossbar of the weather vane. He slips  from the bar and grabs onto the pole of the vane as the Falcon banks  toward him. The Falcon positions itself under Luke as Lando moves up  through the opening of the hatch. Luke begins to slide and finally  falls from the vane into space.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Out the cockpit window, Leia sees Luke falling from the bottom of the  city. The ship gains on him.  **LEIA**  Okay. Easy, Chewie.  The Falcon closes in on Luke.  **EXT. BOTTOM OF CLOUD CITY**  Three TIE fighters race toward the Falcon, firing away.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - HATCH**  The hatch pops open with a hiss of pressure. Lando reaches out to help  the battered warrior inside the ship.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Flak bursts all around it as the Falcon banks away from the city. Leia  and Chewie struggle with the controls.  **LEIA**  (into intercom)  Lando?  **LANDO**  (over intercom)  Okay, let's go.  **EXT. BOTTOM OF CLOUD CITY**  The Falcon races away. It is closely followed by three TIE fighters,  all of which keep up a heavy laser assault on the fleeing starship.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Explosions erupt all around the cockpit, buffeting the ship wildly.  Chewie howls as he frantically tries to control the ship.  Leia and Chewie turns to see Luke, bloody and battered, enter the  cockpit supported by Lando. Leia jumps up and hugs him while Chewie  barks in joyous relief.  **LUKE**  Oh, Leia.  **LANDO**  All right, Chewie. Let's go.  Leia helps Luke from the cockpit as another huge blast rocks the ship.  **EXT. SPACE - CLOUD CITY - DAY**  The Falcon, still followed by the three TIE fighters, races away from  the cloud-covered city.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - SLEEPING QUARTERS**  Luke rests on a cot, his injured arm wrapped in a protective cuff.  Leia gently wipes his face. The ship lurches again.  **LEIA**  I'll be back.  She kisses him, then leaves the quarters.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  All over the ship muted alarm buzzers sound. Lando anxiously watches  the flashing lights on the control panel and hurriedly adjusts some  switches. Seated next to him, Chewie points out a new blip appearing  on the panel. Leia, watching over their shoulders, recognizes the  shape.  **LEIA**  Star Destroyer.  **LANDO**  All right, Chewie. Ready for  light-speed.  **LEIA**  If your people fixed the  hyperdrive.  Another explosion rocks the ship. Leia notices as a green light on the  panel next to her flashes on.  **LEIA**  All the coordinates are set.  It's now or never.  Chewie barks in agreement.  **LANDO**  Punch it!  The Wookiee shrugs and pulls back on the light-speed throttle. The  sound of the ion engine changes...it is winding up. Faces are tense,  expectant. But nothing happens, and the engine goes off. Chewie lets  out a frustrated howl. The flak still violently rocks the ship.  **LANDO**  They told me they fixed it. I  trusted them to fix it. It's not  my fault!  Chewie gets up from his chair and starts out of the cockpit. He gives  Lando and angry shove as he storms past him.  **EXT. SPACE**  In the distance the TIE fighters continue their chase, still shooting  lasers. Vader's Star Destroyer moves behind them, determinedly  following the Falcon.  **INT. VADER'S STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE**  Vader stands on the bridge looking out the window as Admiral Piett  approaches him.  **PIETT**  They'll be in range of our  tractor beam in moments, my lord.  **VADER**  Did your men deactivate the  hyperdrive on the Millennium  Falcon?  **PIETT**  Yes, my lord.  **VADER**  Good. Prepare the boarding party  and set your weapons for stun.  **PIETT**  Yes, my lord.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON**  Beeping while he works, Artoo is busy connecting some wires to Threepio  who now has one leg attached.  Chewie enters through the doorway, grunting to himself.  **THREEPIO**  Noisy brute. Why don't we just  go into light-speed?  Artoo beeps in response.  **THREEPIO**  We can't? How would you know the  hyperdrive is deactivated?  Artoo whistles knowingly.  **THREEPIO**  The city's central computer told  you? Artoo-Detoo, you know better  than to trust a strange computer.  Ouch! Pay attention to what  you're doing!  Chewie is in the pit. He is trying to loosen something with an  enormous wrench. Frustrated, he uses the wrench like a club and hits  the panel...  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Leia and Lando, seated in front of the control panel, are suddenly  sprayed by a shower of sparks.  **INT. VADER'S STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE**  Vader stands on the bridge, watching as the Millennium Falcon is chased  by the TIE fighters. As his Destroyer draws nearer, Vader's breathing  gets slightly faster.  **VADER**  Luke.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - SLEEPING QUARTERS**  Luke realizes that Vader's ship is very near. He feels resigned to his  fate. He senses that he is beaten, more emotionally than physically.  **LUKE**  Father.  **INT. VADER'S STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE**  **VADER**  Son, come with me.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - SLEEPING QUARTERS**  **LUKE**  (moaning)  Ben, why didn't you tell me?  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Lando and Leia are at the controls of the Falcon. Meanwhile, in the  ship's hold, Chewie continues to work frantically on the hyperdrive  mechanism.  **LANDO**  (into intercom)  Chewie!  **EXT. SPACE**  The Falcon races through space followed very closely by the TIE  fighters and the huge Imperial Star Destroyer.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Luke enters the cockpit and looks out the window. He is almost  unconscious with pain and depression.  **LUKE**  It's Vader.  **INT. VADER'S STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE**  **VADER**  Luke... it is your destiny.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  **LUKE**  Ben, why didn't you tell me?  **INT. VADER'S STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE**  **PIETT**  Alert all commands. Ready for  the tractor beam.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - HOLD**  Artoo races to a control panel and starts working on a circuit board.  Furious, Threepio stands on one leg, yelling.  **THREEPIO**  Artoo, come back at once! You  haven't finished with me yet!  You don't know how to fix the  hyperdrive. Chewbacca can do  it. I'm standing here in pieces,  and you're having delusions of  grandeur!  Artoo moves a circuit on a control panel. Suddenly, the control panel  lights up.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Leia and Lando are thrown into their seats as the Millennium Falcon  unexpectedly shoot into hyperspace.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - HOLD**  The ship tilts up and Artoo topples into the pit on top of Chewie.  **THREEPIO**  Oh, you did it!  **EXT. SPACE**  The Falcon soars into infinity and away from the huge Star Destroyer  which seems, by contrast, to stand still.  **INT. VADER'S STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE**  Admiral Piett and another captain glance at Vader in terror. Vader  turns slowly and walks off the bridge, his hands held behind his back  in a contemplative gesture.  **EXT. SPACE - REBEL CRUISER**  The Millennium Falcon is attached to a huge Rebel cruiser by a docking  tube. Rebel fighters move about the giant cruiser, and a Rebel  transport ship hovers near the fleet.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  Lando sits in the pilot's seat as he talks into the comlink. Chewie  busily throws a variety of switches in preparation for takeoff.  **LANDO**  (into comlink)  Luke, we're ready for takeoff.  **LUKE**  (over comlink)  Good luck, Lando  **LANDO**  (into comlink)  When we find Jabba the Hut and  that bounty hunter, we'll contact  you.  **INT. STAR CRUISER - MEDICAL CENTER**  Luke speaking into the comlink as a medical droid works on his hand.  Leia stands near him while Threepio and Artoo look out the window.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  I'll meet you at the rendezvous  point on Tatooine.  **INT. MILLENNIUM FALCON - COCKPIT**  **LANDO**  (into comlink)  Princess, we'll find Han. I  promise.  **INT. STAR CRUISER - MEDICAL CENTER**  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Chewie, I'll be waiting for your  signal.  Chewie's wail comes over the comlink.  **LUKE**  (into comlink)  Take care, you two. May the  Force be with you.  Luke looks down at his hand. A metalized type of bandage has been  wrapped around his wrist. The medical droid makes some adjustments in  a tiny electronic unit, then pricks each one of Luke's fingers.  **LUKE**  Ow!  Luke wriggles his fingers, makes a fist, and relaxes it. His hand is  completely functional.  He gets up and walks over to Leia. There is a new bond between them, a  new understanding. Leia is thinking about Han; Luke is thinking about  his uncertain and newly complicated future. Together they stand at the  large window of the medical center looking out on the Rebel Star  Cruiser and a dense, luminous galaxy swirling in space.  Luke puts his arm around Leia. The droids stand next to them, and  Threepio moves closer to Artoo putting his arm on him. The group  watches as the Millennium Falcon moves into view, makes a turn, and  zooms away into space.  **EXT. SPACE - REBEL STAR CRUISER**  While Luke, Leia, and the droids stand, looking out the window of the  star cruiser, two escort fighters join the large ship. Slowly, the  cruiser turns and moves away into space.  **DISSOLVE TO**  **EXT. GALAXY - SPACE**  **END CREDITS FADE IN AND OUT OVER BACKGROUND**  **THE END** | |

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