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�THE STAR WARS�

From The

Adventures of Luke Starkiller

By

George Lucas

Third Draft Lucasfilm Limited

August 1, 1975

"... and in the time of greatest despair,

there shall come a savior, and he shall

be known as The Son of The Suns."

Journal of the Whills, 3:127

"THE STAR WARS"

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SPACE 1

A vast sea of star serves as the backdrop for the MAIN

TITLE, which is followed by a ROLL UP:

The REPUBLIC GALACTICA is dead. Ruthless

trader barons, driven by greed and the

lust for power, have replaced enlighten-

ment with oppression, and "rule by the

people" with the FIRST GALACTIC EMPIRE.

For over a thousand years, generations of

JEDI KNIGHTS were the guardians of peace

and justice in the galaxy. Now these

legendary warriors are all but extinct.

One by one they have been hunted down and

destroyed by the sinister agents of the

Emperor: the DARK LORDS OF THE SITH.

It is a period of civil wars. Rebel

Armies, striking from fortresses hidden

deep within the Great rift, have won a

crushing victory over the powerful Imper-

ial Starfleet. The Emperor knows that

one more such defeat will bring a thou-

sand more solar systems into the rebellion,

and Imperial control of the Outland systems

could be lost forever. To crush the

rebellion once and for all, the Emperor

has sent one of his most ferocious Dark

Lords to find the secret rebel strongholds

and destroy them...

The awesome yellow planet of Utapau emerges from total

eclipse. A tiny silver spacecraft races into view, fol-

lowed by a giant Imperial stardestroyer. Hundreds of

deadly laser bolts streak from the Imperial warship as

it dives on the smaller craft. The overwhelming concen-

tration of laser fire causes the main solar fin of the

rebel craft to disintegrate, creating a spectacular

heavenly display. The smoldering rebel ship is quickly

overtaken by the giant Imperial warship.

2 INT. REBEL SPACEFIGHTER - MAIN PASSAGEWAY 2

The chaos of battle echoes through the narrow, main cor-

ridor of the starfighter.

An explosion rocks the ship as two construction robots,

ARTOO DETOO (R2-D2) and SEE THREEPIO (C-3PO) struggle

to make their way through the shaking, bouncing passage-

way. Both robots are old and battered. Artoo is a

short (36 inches), claw-armed, triped. His face is a

mass of computer lights, surrounding a radar eye.

Threepio, on the other hand, is a tall, slender robot

of human proportions. He has a gleaming bronze-like

metallic surface of an "Art Deco" design.

THREEPIO

Did you hear that? They've shut down

the main reactor. We'll be destroyed

for sure. This is madness!

The little dwarf robot makes a series of electronic sounds

that only another robot could understand. Rebel troops

rush past the robots, and take up positions in the main

passageway. Everything is suddenly still and quiet.

Tension mounts as the rebels wait for the pending attack.

Loud metallic footsteps are heard moving around on the

outside the hull of the ship. The scraping screams of heavy

equipment being dragged across the metal skin of the star-

ship run chills up Threepio's bronze spine. He huddles in

a small alcove with little Artoo watching the passageway

ceiling.

THREEPIO

There is no escape for the Captain

this time...

A tremendous blast opens up a hole six feet wide in the

side of the main passageway and a score of fearsome storm-

troopers, armed with powerful multi-laser rifles, make

their way into the smoking corridor. The rebel warriors

draw their chrome, laser pistols, and blast out several

shots that rip through the Imperial stormtroopers.

In a few moments, the entire passageway blazes with laser

fire. The deadly bolts ricochet in wild random patterns,

creating small explosions. Stormtroopers scatter and duck

behind storage lockers. Laser bolts hit several storm-

troopers who scream and stagger through the smoke, holding

shattered arms and faces.

In the confusion, Artoo and Threepio are blown slipping

and sliding into a power canister, but rushing gas from a

broken pipe keeps knocking them over. The lanky Threepio

becomes entangled in the mass of dangling wires, which

spark and pop every time he attempts to move. Artoo clings

to a pipe for dear life.

THREEPIO

Help me! I think something is

melting... This is all your fault!

I should have known better than to

trust the logic of a half-sized

thermocapsulary dehousing-assister...

Artoo counters with an angry rebuttal as he struggles to

free the larger robot. The battle rages around the two

hapless robots. Suddenly, there is a slight lull in the

fighting, then a deathly quiet sweeps over the passageway

as an awesome, seven-foot tall DARK LORD OF THE SITH makes

his way into the blinding light of the main passageway.

This is DARTH VADER, right hand of the Emperor. His face

is obscured by his flowing black robes and grotesque

breath mask which stands out next to the fascist white

armored suits of the Imperial stormtroopers. Everyone

instinctively backs away from the imposing warrior.

Vader raises his arms and objects that aren't bolted down,

including the rebel warriors, are picked up by an invisi-

ble force and hurled to the end of the passageway. In

the excitement, Artoo and Threepio have fled down a

sub-hallway.

3 EXT. UTAPAU - DESERT WASTELAND - DAY 3

A death white wasteland stretches from horizon to hori-

zon. The tremendous heat of two huge twin suns settles

on a lone figure, LUKE STARKILLER, a farm-boy with

heroic aspirations; who looks much younger than his

twenty years. His short hair and baggy tunic give him

the air of a simple-minded, but lovable lout with a

prize-winning smile. His face is partially covered by

a breath mask and goggles.

A light wind whips at him as he adjusts several valves

on a large chrome pipe, which sticks out of the desert

floor much like and oil-rig christmas tree. He is aided

by a small, very beat-up tread-robot with six claw arms.

The little robot appears to be barely functioning, and

moves with jerky motions. A bright sparkle in the morn-

ing sky catches Luke's eye, and he instinctively grabs a

pair of electrobinoculars from his utility belt.

LUKE

Holy maker.

He stands transfixed for a few moments, studying the

heavens, then dashes toward his dented, crudely repaired

Landspeeder (an auto-like transport that travels a few

feet above the ground on a magnetic field).

He motions to the tiny robot, who is scooting around in

a tight circle, to follow him.

LUKE

Hurry up! Come with me.

The robot stops short and smoke begins to pour out of

every joint. Luke throws up his arms in disgust.

LUKE

Great, just great!

He gives the dwarf robot a swift kick in the side, which

doesn't seem to make much difference. The young farm boy

rushes to his landspeeder and zooms off leaving the

smoldering robot to hum madly.

4 INT. REBEL SPACEFIGHTER - SUB-HALLWAY 4

A series of explosions echo throughout the ship as the

tall, gleaming Threepio rushes through the narrow sub-

hallway yelling at Artoo, who is racing along on a small

set of wheels under his center foot.

THREEPIO

They're heading in this direction!

We'll be sent to the spice mines of

KESSEL or smashed into who-knows-

what!

Artoo stops before the small hatch of an emergency life-

pod. He snaps the seal on the main latch and a red

warning light begins to flash. The stubby, dwarf-robot

works his way into the cramped four-man pod.

THREEPIO

Hey! You're not permitted in there.

It's restricted. You'll be

deactivated for sure. Now come out

before someone sees you. Come on!

Artoo whistles something at his reluctant friend.

THREEPIO

I'm not getting in there. No more

adventures. It's too dangerous. I'm

not that desperate.

Artoo isn't happy with Threepio's stubbornness and he beeps

and twangs angrily.

THREEPIO

Don't call me a mindless philosopher,

you overweight glob of grease...

A new explosion, this time very close, sends dust and

debris through the narrow sub-hallway. Flames lick at

Threepio, and after a flurry of electronic swearing from

Artoo, the lanky robot jumps into the lifepod.

THREEPIO

I'm going to regret this.

The safety door snaps shut, and with the thunder of ex-

ploding latches, the tiny lifepod ejects from the dis-

abled starfighter.

5 INT. IMPERIAL STARDESTROYER - COCKPIT 5

On the main viewscreen, the lifepod carrying the two ter-

rified robots speeds away from the stricken rebel space-

craft.

CHIEF PILOT

There goes another one.

CAPTAIN

Hold you fire. No life forms.

It must have short-circuited. Don't

waste your power...

6 INT. REBEL SPACEFIGHTER - COCKPIT CORRIDOR 6

Darth Vader, the black knight, takes a short restraining

pole from one of the guards and brutally jabs a captured

rebel officer in the chest.

VADER

Where is she? Where is it?

The rebel cries out as the spooky looking Sith Lord be-

gins to twist his arm, creating a gruesome snapping and

popping of broken bones.

7 EXT. SKY OVER UTAPAU - LIFEPOD 7

The reddish-yellow mass of Utapau seems to engulf the

tiny lifepod containing the two robots. The grouping

of starships grows smaller as the pod descends toward

the planet.

THREEPIO

That's funny. the damage doesn't

look as bad from out here. Are you

sure this thing is safe?

8 EXT. ANCHORHEAD SETTLEMENT - POWER STATION - DAY 8

A small settlement, consisting of a few rundown block-

house type buildings, rests against one of the huge rock

mesas. Heat waves radiate from the dozen or so bleached

white buildings. Luke pilots his landspeeder through

the dusty, empty street of the tiny settlement. An old

WOMAN runs to get out of the way of the speeding vehicle,

shaking her fist at Luke as he flies past.

WOMAN

I've told you kids to slow down!

Luke pulls up behind a low concrete service station that

is all but covered by the shifting desert sands. The

rusted hulk of a landspeeder lies half-buried to one side

of the building. Luke jumps out of the speeder and runs

into the dilapidated power station.

9 INT. POWER STATION - DAY 9

A dismantled speeder rests in the repair bay of the sta-

tion. Inside the station's "office" sits THE FIXER,

rugged-looking, about thirty years old, with a big mous-

tache. On his lap sits CAMIE, a sexy, disheveled girl

about eighteen. Her cloak is pulled up and one of the

Chief's hands rests on her beautiful thigh. They are

both sound asleep. In a small room behind the office

DEAK and WINDY, two tough boys about the same age as

Luke, are playing a computer pool-like game with BIGGS,

a tall, handsome startrooper cadet. His flashy uniform

is a sharp contrast to the loose-fitting tunic of farm

boys. A robot repairs some equipment in the background.

Luke bounces in yelling excitedly, waking The Fixer and

Camie. The others come in from the other room, and

Camie jumps off The Fixer's lap, pulling her dress down

in a sexy manner. Luke is surprised at the appearance

of Biggs.

LUKE

Biggs, you're back! You graduated

from the academy, you're in the

Starforce.

Biggs has an air of cool that seems slightly phony.

BIGGS

Of course, where you been kid?

LUKE

You look great! The uniform and

everything!

Biggs snaps to attention.

BIGGS

Startrooper Biggs Darklighter,

guardian of the Bendu. At your

service...

The dazzling spectacle of his uniformed friend is almost

too much for Luke. His eyes glaze over. Suddenly he

snaps out of it.

LUKE

I almost forgot. There's a battle

going on! Right here in our system.

Come and look!

10 EXT. ANCHORHEAD SETTLEMENT - POWER STATION - DAY 10

The group stumbles out into the stifling desert sun.

Deak and The Fixer complain, and are forced to shade

their eyes. Luke has his binoculars out, scanning the

heavens.

LUKE

There they are!

Biggs takes the binoculars from Luke, as the others

strain to see something with the naked eye. Through

the binoculars Biggs sees two small silver specks.

BIGGS

That's no battle, kid... They're just

sitting there!

LUKE

But there was a lot of firing earlier...

Camie grabs the binoculars away from Biggs, banging them

against the building in the process. Luke reaches for

them.

LUKE

Hey, easy with those...

CAMIE

Don't worry about it, Wormie.

Fixer gives Luke a hard look, and the young farm boy

shrugs his shoulders in resignation.

BIGGS

You're dreaming, kid. I don't think

the Empire wants to control this

system. Believe me, this place is

a big hunk of nothing...

Luke agrees, although it's obvious he isn't sure why.

The group stumbles back into the power station, grumb-

ling about Luke's ineptitude,

11 INT. REBEL SPACEFIGHTER - NARROW SUB-HALLWAY 11

A beautiful young girl about sixteen years old huddles

in a small alcove as the stormtroopers search through

the ship. She is LEIA ORGANA, a rebel princess. The

fear in her eyes slowly gives way to anger as the muted

crushing sounds of the approaching stormtroopers grows

louder. She steps from her hiding place and blasts two

troopers with her laser pistol, but she is greatly out-

numbered and quickly captured.

12-13 INT. REBEL SPACEFIGHTER - HALLWAY - CABIN 12-13

Princess Leia is led down a low-ceilinged hallway by a

squad of armored stormtroopers. Her hands are bound

with brass bracelets, and she is brutally shoved when

she is unable to keep up with the briskly marching

troops. They enter a small gloomy chamber where Darth

Vader, the Dark Lord of the Sith, is sitting. Vader

speaks in an oddly filtered voice through his complex

breathing mask.

VADER

Did you find anything?

OFFICER

Nothing, sir.

VADER

It must be on board somewhere. Destroy

the ship and everything on it.

OFFICER

What if they sent a signal?

VADER

We would have picked it up... Nothing

got through... It's on the ship.

The Officer bows and leaves the chamber.

LEIA

I'm a member of the senate. You can't

hold me... Organa Major is a neutral...

Vader raises his arm and as a sudden pain grips Leia,

she doubles up unable to continue. Vader raises his arm

and a flask on the table mysteriously jumps into his

open hand. He casually drinks from the flask.

VADER

Enough! I already know about the

data you've intercepted, but its'

too late. Whatever information you've

gathered will be destroyed... You will

come to know such suffering as only

the Master of the Bogan Force can

provide...

LEIA

You'll get no information from me.

You have no authority... the council

can't hold me!

VADER

It appears your ship had an accident.

I will see to it that your death is

duely reported. There will be no one

to save you this time.

His frightening laugh rings throughout the ship.

14 EXT. UTAPAU - EDGE OF THE DUNE SEA 14

JUNDLAND, or "No Man's Land," where the rugged desert

mesas meet the foreboding dune sea. The two helpless

astro-robots kick up clouds of dust as they leave the

lifepod and clumsily work their way across the desert

coastline.

THREEPIO

What a forsaken place this is.

We seem to be made to suffer. It's

our lot in life. I've got to rest

before I fall apart. My joints are

almost frozen.

Suddenly Artoo makes a sharp right turn and starts off

in the direction of the rocky desert mesas. Threepio

stops and yells at him.

THREEPIO

Where do you think you're going?!?

A stream of electronic noises pour forth from the small

robot.

THREEPIO

Well, I'm not going that way. It's

too rocky. This way is much easier.

What makes you think there are

settlements that way?

Artoo counters with a long whistle.

THREEPIO

Don't get technical with me. I've

had just about enough of you. Go

that way, go on! You'll be

malfunctioning within a day, you

near-sighted scrap pile!

He shoves Artoo and the tiny robot tumbles down a small

dune. Threepio starts off in the direction of the vast

dune sea as little Artoo struggles to his feet and shakes

a metallic claw at his ex-partner.

THREEPIO

... and don't let me catch you

following me, begging for help...

because you won't get it!

Artoo's reply is a rather rude sound. He turns and

trudges off in the direction of the towering mesas.

15 EXT. UTAPAU - DUNE SEA 15

Threepio, hot tired, struggles up over the ridge of

a dune, only to find more dunes, which seems to go on

for endless miles. He looks back in the direction of

the now distant rock mesas.

THREEPIO

You little malfunctioning twerp.

This is all your fault. You tricked

me into going this way, but you'll do

no better.

He sits in a huff of anger and frustration, knocking the

sand from his joints. His plight seems hopeless, when

a glint of reflected light in the distance reveals an

object moving toward him. The bronze android waves

frantically and yells at the approaching transport.

16 INT. POWER STATION - DAY 16

Luke and Biggs are sitting in a corner of the now empty

power station. Biggs has had a little too much to drink

and sloppily leans close to Luke.

BIGGS

I'll tell you, Luke, and this is

between you and me. The star force

isn't all it's cracked up to be.

Frankly, it's a bore, and it's going

to stay that way as long as this

system is neutral...

LUKE

But you always said things were so

great at the academy... What happened?

BIGGS

The academy is fantastic... Of course,

they won't teach you anything about

flying you don't already know. Most

of the instructors are very conservative

pilots. You can fly circles around

them... but there is a lot on the

scientific side that is down-right

amazing, and you get a lot of

discipline... but after you graduate,

don't join the star force -- go

free-lance. It's the only way to get

into the action... I can't wait until

my hitch is up.

LUKE

At least you're doing something... I'd

give anything to be in your position.

BIGGS

Just be warned, that things aren't

always as they seem... especially the

starforce recruiting posters.

They quietly sit in the dim coolness of the station hav-

ing run out of things to say. Luke finishes his drink

and stands up.

LUKE

It's getting late. I've got to get

back or my uncle's going to kill me.

17 EXT. UTAPAU - ROCK CANYON 17

The gargantuan rock formations are shrouded in a strange

foreboding mist, and the ominous sounds of unearthly

creatures fill the air. Artoo moves cautiously through

the creepy rock canyon, inadvertently making a loud

clicking noise as he goes. He hears a distant, hard

metallic sound and stops for a moment. Convinced he is

alone, he continues on his way.

In the distance, a pebble tumbles down the steep canyon

wall and a small, dark figure darts into the shadows. A

little further up the canyon a slight flicker of light

reveals a pair of eyes in the dark recesses, only a few

feet from the narrow path.

The unsuspecting robot waddles along the rugged trail

until suddenly, out of nowhere, a powerful magnetic ray

shoots out of the rocks and engulfs him in an eerie glow.

He manages one short electronic squeak before he topples

over onto his back. His bright computer lights flicker

off, then on, then off again. Out of the rocks scurry

three MEN, no taller than Artoo. They holster strange

and complex weapons as they cautiously approach the

robot. They wear grubby cloaks, and their faces are

shrouded so that only their yellow eyes can be seen.

They hiss and make odd guttural sounds as they heave the

heavy robot to their shoulders and carry him off down the

trail.

18 EXT. UTAPAU - ROCK CANYON - SANDCRAWLER - SUNSET 18

The eight dwarves, or JAWAS as they're sometimes called,

carry Artoo out of the canyon to a huge tank-like vehicle

the size of a two-story house. They place the robot under

a large tube on the side of the vehicle, and the little

robot is sucked into the giant machine.

The filthy little Jawas scurry like rats up small lad-

ders and enter the main cabin of the behemoth transport.

19 INT. SAND CRAWLER - HOLD AREA 19

It is dim inside the hold area of the sand crawler.

Artoo switches on a small floodlight on his forehead and

stumbles around the scrap heap. The narrow beam swings

across rusty metal rocket parts and an array of gro-

tesquely twisted and maimed astro-robots. He lets out a

pathetic electronic whimper and stumbles off toward what

appears to be a door at the end of the chamber.

20 INT. SAND CRAWLER - PRISON AREA 20

Artoo enters a wide room with a four-foot ceiling. In

the middle of the scrap heap sit a dozen or so robots

of various shapes and sizes. Some are engaged in elec-

tronic conversation, while others simply mill about.

A voice of recognition calls out from the gloom.

THREEPIO

Artoo Detoo! It's you!

A battered Threepio scrambles up to Artoo and embraces

him.

21 EXT. UTAPAU - ROCK CANYON - SAND CRAWLER - SUNSET 21

The enormous sand crawler lumbers off toward the mag-

nificent twin suns, which are slowly setting over a

distant mountain ridge.

22-23 INT. ALDERAAN - PRISON CORRIDOR AND CELL 22-23

Two stormtroopers open an electronic cell door and allow

a group of Imperial guards to enter. Princess Leia's

face is filled with defiance, which slowly gives way to

fear as Darth Vader enters with a giant black torture

robot.

VADER

Now you will tell me what you did

with the data you gathered. Even

if that information should find its

way to Mouff Tarkin's legions, it

will do them no good. Your plight

is truly hopeless.

Leia stares at the evil lord with determination.

VADER

(continuing)

You will tell me the location of

your hidden bases, and you will tell

me what happened to the data you stole.

The door slides shut. The long cell block hallway

appears peaceful with armored stormtroopers marching

back and forth. The muffled sounds of the princess'

screaming are barely heard.

24 EXT. SAND CRAWLER - DESERT WASTELAND - DAY 24

A harsh gale blows across the bleak gray surface of the

endless desert wasteland. The morning sky presses down

on the huge sand crawler as it slowly climbs one of the

massive sand dunes, then disappears down the other side.

25 INT. SAND CRAWLER - PRISON AREA 25

Threepio and Artoo noisily bounce along inside the

cramped prison chamber. Artoo appears to be shut off.

THREEPIO

Will this never end?

Suddenly the trembling and bouncing of the sand crawler

stops, creating quite a commotion among the mechanical

men. Threepio shakes Artoo, and his computer lights

pop on.

THREEPIO

Wake up! Wake up! We've stopped!!

We're doomed! This is the end... Do

you think they'll melt us down?

At the far end of the long chamber a hatch opens, filling

the chamber with blinding white light. A dozen or so

Jawas make their way through the odd assortment of

robots, placing a small chrome ring to the wrists of the

ones they select. Artoo and Threepio are among the

chosen, and are herded outside with several other

unfortunates.

26 EXT. UTAPAU - LAR'S HOMESTEAD - AFTERNOON 26

Five battered robots, including Artoo and Threepio, are

lined up in front of the enormous sand crawler, which

is parked beside a small homestead consisting of three

rundown block houses.

The Jawas scurry around fussing over the robots,

straightening them up, or brushing some dust from a

dented metallic elbow. The shrouded little creatures

smell horribly, attracting small insects to the dark

areas where their mouths and nostrils should be.

Out of the shadows of a dingy side-building limps OWEN

LARS, a large burly man in his mid-fifties. His reddish

eyes are sunken in a dust-covered face. As the weather-

beaten farmer carefully inspects each of the robots, he

is closely followed by his slump-shouldered nephew, Luke

Starkiller. One of the vile little Jawas walks ahead

of the farmer spouting an animated sales pitch in a

queer unintelligible language.

Owen picks out a small astro-robot similar to Artoo, and

it waddles along behind the group. The limping farmer

stops in front of Threepio and studies him carefully.

OWEN

Do you speak 'Bocce'?

THREEPIO

Yes, sir, I'm See Threepio, Human-

Cyborg relations. I have a full T-6

capacity, and...

OWEN

That's enough. Luke, take them to

the garage and I want you to have

both of them cleaned up by dinner.

As the Jawas start to lead the three remaining robots

back into the sand crawler, Artoo lets out a pathetic

little beep and starts after his old friend Threepio,

but is restrained by a slimy little Jawa, who zaps him

with a little control box. Owen is negotiating with the

head Jawa, when Luke notices something on the R-2 unit.

LUKE

Uncle Owen, this R-2 unit has a bad

motivator, look!

He lifts the R-2 unit's claw arm and it drops lifelessly

to the robot's side. Owen argues with the Jawas for a

few moments; then with a little reluctance the scruffy

dwarf trades the damaged astro-robot for Artoo Detoo.

Owen pays off the whining Jawa as Luke and the two

robots trudge off toward a grimy and decaying building

on the far side of the homestead. Several large rodents

scatter as they pass.

27 INT. LAR'S HOMESTEAD - GARAGE AREA - LATE AFTERNOON 27

The garage is cluttered and worn, but a friendly, peace-

ful atmosphere permeates the low gray chamber. In the

center of the room Threepio lowers himself into a large

tub filled with warm oil. Near the battered "land-

speeder" little Artoo rests on a large battery with a

cord attached to his face.

THREEPIO

Thanks the maker! This is going to

feel sooo good. I've got such a bad

case of dust contamination, I can

barely move.

Artoo beeps a muffled reply. Luke is slouched in the

corner with his feet up on a bench, watching a magazine

sized TV set. A woman's voice calls out from the other

room.

BERU

Luke!

Luke jumps to his feet, turns off the TV set and starts

dusting little Artoo with an oily rag.

LUKE

Yes, Aunt Beru... I'm in here.

BERU

Come to dinner.

Luke drops the rag and dashes out of the garage.

28 INT. LAR'S HOMESTEAD - LIVING AREA - LATE AFTERNOON 28

Luke and his uncle Owen sit before a table covered with

steaming bowls of food. AUNT BERU, a plump, gray-

haired matron, carries in a pitcher of blue milk. Luke

is in a good mood, and gobbles down his food.

LUKE

Well, I'm sure glad we finally

bought those extra 'droids.' I'm

sending my application to the

academy first thing in the morning.

Luke's Uncle Owen has a scowl on his face and appears

to be in a very grumpy mood.

OWEN

First thing tomorrow morning you're

going to check those condensing units

on the south ridge.

LUKE

I will, but I'll have enough time

to transmit my application first.

OWEN

You'll check the condensing unit

first... and you're not going to bed

until those 'droids' are completely

cleaned up...

LUKE

But you promised! I've saved enough

money and now you have the extra help

... you promised!

OWEN

I said we'd see.

(pauses for a

moment)

And as it is, I was forced to borrow

your academy savings to buy the new

'droids.' When you've saved it up

again, I'll let you go.

LUKE

You used my savings! You stole my

savings. If my father were here...

OWEN

Your father's dead. Don't ever forget

who's taking care of you, giving you

food, giving you shelter, and giving

you the allowance in the first place.

If you plan to work at the academy the

way you work around here, you won't

last very long. I don't want another

word. Finish your dinner, then finish

cleaning those 'droids.'

Luke pushes his half-eaten plate of food aside and rushes

out of the room. Owen mechanically finishes his dinner

afraid to look at his quietly sympathetic wife.

BERU

Owen, you know it means so much to

him. Couldn't you have been a little

easier with him?

OWEN

The academy won't treat him any

differently. If he's going to

become a cadet, he'll have to get used

to it.

29 EXT. UTAPAU - LAR'S HOMESTEAD - GARAGE AREA - DUSK 29

The giant twin suns of Utapau slowly disappear behind

a distant dune range. Luke stands watching them for a

few moments, then reluctantly enters the dimly lit

garage.

30 INT. LAR'S HOMESTEAD - GARAGE AREA - DUSK 30

Threepio is wiping the oil from his glistening bronze

body and little Artoo is still plugged into the power

unit. Luke is very angry and slams a wrench across the

workbench.

LUKE

It just isn't fair!

Threepio timidly approaches the fuming youth.

THREEPIO

I beg your pardon, sir, but you appear

to be quite distraught. Is there

anything I might do to help?

Luke glances at the battered robot and a bit of his anger

drains and a tiny smile creeps across his face.

LUKE

Not unless you could get me into the

military academy at Anchorhead.

THREEPIO

I'm sorry, sir, I'm only a 'droid,'

and not very knowledgeable of such

things... not on this system anyway.

As a matter of fact, I'm not even

sure which system we're on.

LUKE

That's all right. There is nothing

anyone can do about it. You can

call me Luke.

THREEPIO

Thank you, sir. I'm See Threepio,

Human Cyborg relations, and this is

my counterpart, Artoo Detoo.

Luke unplugs Artoo and begins to scrape several connectors

on the robot's head with a chrome pick. Threepio con-

tinues to dry himself.

LUKE

There's a lot of carbon scoring here.

It looks like you boys have seen a

lot of action...

THREEPIO

Indeed, sir, sometimes I'm amazed

we're in as good shape as we are,

what with the rebellion and all...

Luke sparks to life at the mention of rebellion.

LUKE

You've been in the Counter Wars?...

Against the Empire?

THREEPIO

That's how we came to be in your

service, if you take my meaning...

LUKE

Tell me where you've been. I am

going to become a startrooper and

fight in the wars. My father was a

Jedi! Were you in many battles?

THREEPIO

Several, I think. There is not much

to tell. I'm not much more than an

interpreter, and not very good at

telling stories, not at making them

interesting anyway...

Luke struggles to remove a small metal fragment from

Artoo's neck joint. He uses a larger pick.

LUKE

Well, my little friend, you've got

something jammed in here real good...

Were you on a star-cruiser or a...

The fragment breaks loose with a snap, sending Luke tumb-

ling head over heels. He sits up and sees a small (15

inch) 3-D hologram of Leia Organa, the rebel princess,

being projected from the face of little Artoo. The image

is a rainbow of colors as it flickers and jiggles in the

dimly lit garage. Luke's mouth hangs open in awe.

LEIA

Whoever finds this message, I beg you

see this R-2 unit delivered safely to

the authorities on Organa Major.

It is of the most vital importance

to all free systems. I guarantee in

the name of the United Assembly that

you will be richly rewarded for your

efforts... My Commanders, use fix

Arra Code... X loc tan too nine, I am

lost. The Sith Lord will surely take

me to Alderaan. You must continue

alone...

There is a little static, then the transmission is cut

short. A grave concern sweeps over Luke, and he runs

out of the garage.

LUKE

Uncle Owen! Aunt Beru!

31 INT. LAR'S HOMESTEAD - KITCHEN AREA - NIGHT 31

Now that night has fallen, the interior of the home-

stead is filled with a warm glow. Luke rushes in as

his Aunt Beru is putting the last of the dinner plates

away.

LUKE

Aunt Beru!

BERU

What is is, dear?

Luke is out of breath and takes a few moments to compose

himself. A realization crosses his mind and he suddenly

seems much calmer.

LUKE

Ahh... I... I'm finished with the

droids and I wondered if I could...

ahhh... work on my speeder before I

turn in...

BERU

I'm sure that would be all right.

But not too late, dear.

Luke gives his aunt a big hug. He seems suddenly very

sentimental and serious.

LUKE

I love you, Aunt Beru. I really do.

He gives her a little kiss on the cheek and leaves.

BERU

(to herself)

Now what's gotten into that boy?

32 EXT. UTAPAU - LAR'S HOMESTEAD - COURTYARD - MORNING 32

Morning slowly creeps into the sparse, but sparkling

oasis of the open courtyard. The idyll is broken by the

yelling of Uncle Owen, his voice echoing throughout the

building.

OWEN

Luke! Luke! Where could he be

loafing now?

Owen enters the courtyard in a huff, scattering the large

gopher-like rodents. He opens the garage and notices the

battered old landspeeder id missing.

OWEN

Beru! Come here!

33 INT. LAR'S HOMESTEAD - GARAGE AREA - MORNING 33

Owen enters the garage and looks around. He picks up

a magazine-like video slate sitting propped up on the

bench. It generates a soft glow, as if it had been left

on "hold." Beru hurries into the garage.

BERU

What is it?

As Owen picks up the video-slate, it turns itself on and

Luke's image appears.

LUKE

Aunt Beru, Uncle Owen, I don't mean

to hurt you and I know you've been

good to me, but I'm leaving. There

are important things I must do. I've

taken my speeder and the 'droids' which

you bought with my savings. I've also

taken my father's lightsaber. You can

keep everything else. I am grateful

for all you've done. I'll miss you,

Aunt Beru. I love you both...

The image fades and the old couple stare at one another.

Beru's face is filled with a great loos. Finally she

turns and leaves the garage, and Owen in disbelief.

OWEN

That boy is going to get himself

killed... He's just like his father.

34 INT. LUKE'S SPEEDER - DESERT WASTELAND (TRAVELING) - DAY 34

The rock and sand of the desert floor are a blur as

Threepio pilots the sleek landspeeder gracefully across

the vast wasteland. Luke rides precariously on the back

trunk of the vehicle adjusting something in the motor

compartment.

LUKE

(yelling)

How's that?

Threepio signals that it is fine, and Luke climbs back

into the wind-whipped cockpit and slides the canopy shut.

LUKE

I've never been this far beyond the

dune sea before. Biggs said the wild

things out here were weird and savage,

but it doesn't look like there is much

out here to me. I think we should

be there soon. General Kenobi was my

father's commander, and he is probably

the greatest of all the Jedi knights...

or at least my father thought so. He

will certainly know what to do.

35 EXT. UTAPAU - ROCK MESA - DUNE SEA - COASTLINE - DAY 35

From high on a rock mesa, the tiny landspeeder can be

seen gliding across the desert floor. Suddenly in the

foreground two weather-beaten Tusken Raiders, shrouded in

their grimy desert cloaks, peer over the edge of the

rock mesa. One of the marginally human creatures raises

a long ominous laser-rifle, and points it at the speeder,

but the second creature grabs the gun before it can be

fired.

The Tusken Raiders speak in a coarse barbaric language

as they begin to get into an animated argument.

The second Tusken seems to get in the final word and

the nomads scurry over the rocky terrain to where two

large BANTHAS are standing tied to a rock. The mon-

sterous bear-like creatures are as large as elephants,

with huge red eyes, tremendous looped horns, and long

furry dinosaur-like tails. The raiders mount saddles

strapped to the huge creature's shaggy backs and ride

off down the rugged bluff.

36 EXT. UTAPAU - SAND DUNE - DAY 36

The battered landspeeder is parked on the top of a huge

sand dune. Luke, with his long-barreled laser-rifle

slung over his shoulder, makes his way past the bleached

bones of a dinosaur-like beast. When he reaches the top

of the ridge, he searches the landscape with his electro-

binoculars. Threepio lifts Artoo out of the speeder and

the stubby little robot struts around stretching his

joints between irritated whistles. Luke is depressed as

he returns to the speeder.

LUKE

According to my father's tapes, this

is the spot where General Kenobi lives,

but the instruments just don't match

up with the landscape... There is no

doubt about it, we're lost...

THREEPIO

If you don't mind my saying so, sir,

I don't see how anyone could live in

this forsaken place.

LUKE

Well, I don't know what to do now.

We'll just have to head inland and

see if we can't find a settlement.

37 INT. LUKE'S LANDSPEEDER - ROCK CANYON FLOOR (TRAVELING) 37

- DAY

Threepio maneuvers the powerful landspeeder around

several massive boulders in the narrow canyon, as Luke

intently studies the pulsing radar scope.

LUKE

Something is definitely in the next

canyon. There are two or three of

them, maybe more.

I don't like the looks of it. It

could be Tusken Raiders or...

anything. You'd better stop and I'll

try to get a look at them.

38 EXT. UTAPAU - CANYON RIDGE - DAY 38

Luke carefully makes his way to the top of a rocky ridge

and scans the canyon with his electrobinoculars, until

he spots the two riderless Banthas. Threepio struggles

up behind the young adventurer.

LUKE

I think we'd better go another way.

There are two Banthas down there.

I don't see any... wait a minute.

They're Tusken Raiders all right!

I see one of them...

Luke watches the distant Tusken Raider through his elec-

trobinoculars. Suddenly something huge moves in front

of his field of view. Before Luke or Threepio can

react, a large gruesome Tusken Raider looms over them.

Threepio is startled and backs away, right off the side

of the cliff. He can be heard for several moments as he

clangs, bangs and rattles down the side of the mountain.

The towering creature brings down his glowing red laser-

sword, but Luke manages to block the blow with his

laser-rifle, which is neatly cut in half. The terrified

farm boy scrambles backward until he is able to ignite

his own laser-sword and defend himself. In a flurry of

blows Luke is forced to the edge of a deep crevice. Luke

stumbles under the mighty blows of the fearsome creature,

drops his sword and almost tumbles over the cliff to his

death. He hangs on for dear life as his feet dangle

over the abyss. The sinister Raider stands over him and

lets out a horrible shrieking laugh that echoes

throughout the canyon.

39 EXT. UTAPAU - ROCK CANYON FLOOR - DAY 39

Artoo forces himself into the shadows of a small alcove

in the rocks as the vicious Tuskens walk past carrying

armloads of supplies from the battered landspeeder. As

they disappear, Artoo squirms out of his hiding place

and waddles into the clearing where the speeder is

parked.

The vehicle has been ransacked, and Luke is hanging in

a state of bewilderment about ten feet in the air.

Large gold bracelets with small antenna are attached

to his wrists and ankles. He is spread-eagle and

slowly rotating. Artoo stands above his master and

beeps a few words of astonishment.

LUKE

Well, don't just sit there. Get

something to get me down!

Artoo starts searching for something in the speeder that

he might use to get his master down. He pulls a long

length of wire out of the engine compartment and ties it

into a lasso. As Luke slowly rotates around, Artoo

swings the rope and catches the boy around the foot.

The line goes taut but rather than pulling Luke down,

little Artoo is pulled up as if he had roped a windmill.

The stubby robot lets out an electronic shriek and drops

to the ground with a crash.

LUKE

We'll have to short circuit these

things somehow...

At that moment footsteps are heard coming through the

narrow canyon. Artoo scampers back into his hiding place.

Luke's face is a roadmap of agony as the footsteps get

louder.

A huge menacing shadow on the canyon wall gives way to a

shabby old desert rat of a man, who appears to be at

least seventy years old. His ancient leathery face,

cracked and weathered by exotic climates, is set off by

dark, penetrating eyes, and a scraggly white beard. BEN

KENOBI squints his eyes as he scrutinizes Luke in his

predicament.

BEN

Good morning!

LUKE

What do you mean, 'good morning'?

Do you mean that it is a good morning

for you, or do you wish me a good

morning, although it is obvious I'm

not having one, or do you find that

mornings in general are good?

BEN

All of them altogether.

You seem to have gotten yourself

into a fine mess! What happened?

The wizened old man begins to giggle like a child,

putting his frail hand to his mouth in a vain attempt

to contain himself. Luke becomes annoyed.

LUKE

Tusken Raiders caught me off guard...

Well, kill me or cut me down, but

don't just leave me here, 'cause

I'm about to go out off my mind.

Much to Luke's surprise, the old codger draws his laser-

pistol and blasts Luke point blank. The young farmer

disappears in a cloud of smoke and drops to the ground.

The old man leans over the boy as he rolls over with a

loud groan.

BEN

Sorry, but that was the only way to

get you down.

LUKE

Couldn't we have tried to think of

something else first!

BEN

You're lucky those Tuskens didn't

boil you before they hung you out to

dry. They're not the friendly sort.

You'd best be moving on before they

come back.

Luke staggers to his feet as Artoo waddles up behind him

and lets out a pathetic little beep.

LUKE

Threepio!

Luke hobbles off toward the canyon bluff.

40 EXT. UTAPAU - GRAVEL PIT- ROCK MESA - DAY 40

Little Artoo stops at the edge of a large gravel pit

and begins to chatter away in electronic whistles and

beeps. Luke slides down to where a very dented and

tangled Threepio lies half buried in the gravel.

He tries to revive the inert robot by shaking him, and

then flips a hidden switch on his back several times

until finally the mechanical man's systems turn on.

THREEPIO

What happened? I'm sorry, sir, I

must have taken a bad step...

LUKE

Can you stand? We've got to get out

of here before those Tuskens come

back.

THREEPIO

I can't make it. You go on, master

Luke. It doesn't make sense for you

to risk yourself on my account. I'm

done for.

LUKE

No, you're not. What kind of talk

is that...

The young farmer helps the battered robot to his feet.

Old Ben and little Artoo watch from the top of the pit.

41 EXT. UTAPAU - ROCK CANYON FLOOR - DAY 41

Luke and Old Ben struggle to help Threepio into the

low-slung speeder. Artoo follows them, carrying a

clawful of tiny parts which have dropped of his friend.

BEN

What brings a young boy like you way

out here?

Luke bristles at the use of "boy."

LUKE

I'm Luke Starkiller, guardian of the

Bendu.

BEN

Oh, so you're a warrior then?

LUKE

Of course. I'm a Bendu officer.

Ben studies the young farmer through narrowed eyes. He

suppresses a smile.

LUKE

Did you take me for a trapper of a

farmer? Good! Then my disguise is

all right. I was afraid I might not

look authentic.

Luke notices the old man is impressed with his story,

and begins to feel expansive.

LUKE

You can never be too careful in these

times. A Bendu officer never gives

himself away. I'm actually on a

dangerous mission that's of the

gravest importance to the...

Luke suddenly realizes the old man might be an Imperial

spy and a worried look crosses his face. Ben laughs

heartily.

BEN

You're right! I could be an Imperial

spy. For a Bendu officer, you're

quite a fool.

Luke is embarrassed and concentrates on making Threepio

comfortable.

LUKE

Who are you anyway?

BEN

You might say I'm part of the

landscape here. They call me Ben

Kenobi.

Luke is dumbstruck. Then with a combination of awe and

excitement he finds his voice.

LUKE

You're General Kenobi?!? The Jedi

knight! The commander of the White

Legions?

BEN

I'm afraid it's been a long time

since the White Legions roamed the

stars. But I have the memories.

Luke drops to his knees and bows before the old Jedi.

LUKE

I should have recognized you.

The old man rubs his beard in wonder.

BEN

I don't see why. I don't believe

we've ever met.

LUKE

I am the son of Annikin Starkiller.

The scruffy old Jedi smiles at the kneeling boy.

BEN

I know who you are. Stand up so

that we can talk properly. You're

embarrassing me. I'm not that

important.

LUKE

But you are... I know your 'Diary

of the Clone Wars' by heart. My

father...

A sudden thought crosses Luke's mind and his enthusiasm

turns to embarrassed silence.

LUKE

I... I'm not a Bendu Officer. I'm

not even a startrooper.

BEN

I know that.

LUKE

You saw through me?

BEN

You could put it that way.

LUKE

I assure you my intentions weren't

bad.

BEN

I know your intentions. I probably

know much more about you than you

realize. In many ways you're a lot

like your father. He was an indulgent

man, but a clever warrior. Now what

brings you out here?

LUKE

My father told me many stories about

you. He said if I was ever in trouble,

to come here... I need your help.

42 INT. CAVE DWELLING - MAIN LIVING AREA - NIGHT 42

The clean but spartan cave dwelling radiates an air of

time worn comfort and security. The image of the beau-

tiful rebel princess is projected from Artoo's face.

LEIA

... that you will be richly rewarded

for your efforts... My commanders use

fix Arra code... X loc tan too nine.

I am lost. The Sith lords will surely

take me to Alderaan. You must continue

alone.

There is a little static and the transmission is cut

short. The old man leans back and scratches his head.

He silently puffs on a tarnished chrome water pipe.

BEN

I'm afraid I've gotten too old for

this sort of thing.

LUKE

But you must! I can't do it alone.

I'm not at all like my father. I'd

never make it.

BEN

I already know you think you're

worthless. I recommend you learn to

think of yourself in a better light,

for what you believe you are is what

you become. I haven't been involved

in anything like this for many years.

LUKE

But the Sith Lords are involved!

Whatever information this R-2 unit

is carrying, it must be awfully

important. They're probably looking

for him... I'm no match for the Sith.

This is a Jedi's work. This is your

responsibility!

BEN

Not any more!

The old man suddenly ignites in a rage and swings his

left forearm down across the solid metal table with a

mighty blow. His arm cracks in two, spewing forth

wires and electronic components.

BEN

I'm not the same. I'm too old. I've

lost too much. You don't seem to

realize I've become an outlaw, to be

hunted... and killed.

Luke bows his head in sorrow for one of the greatest

warriors in the galaxy and a fallen idol. Ben is em-

barrassed and makes a needless adjustment on the pot

belly thermal heater, which radiates a warm glow through-

out the room. Little Artoo begins to pick up the pieces

of the old man's arm and reassemble them. The badly

dented Threepio breaks the awkward silence by noisily

standing up.

THREEPIO

If you'll not be needing me any more,

I think I'll shut down for awhile.

Luke nods his head. Old Ben leans back in his chair.

BEN

Son, I'm sorry I lost control.

Perhaps we should talk about this in

the morning.

43 INT. CAVE DWELLING - SLEEPING AREA - NIGHT 43

Luke tosses and turns in his sleep. Threepio sleeps

peacefully. Luke keeps hearing the voice of Princess

Leia calling out for help. Suddenly he sits up with a

start. He hears Leia's voice coming from the main

living area. Luke climbs out of bed and quietly makes

his way through the darkened dwelling. He stops at the

entrance to the main room.

44 INT. CAVE SWELLING - MAIN LIVING AREA - NIGHT 44

Ben is sitting before the flickering hologram image of

Princess Leia. The old man rests his head in his one

good arm. His back is to Luke, but he senses the boy's

presence.

BEN

Luke, come here... sit down.

Luke walks over and sits across from the old man.

BEN

You were right. It is my

responsibility. The Force of

Others brought the message to you and

then it brought you to me.

LUKE

My father used to talk about the

Force of Others. But he never told

me what it was...

BEN

Let's just say the Force is something

a Jedi Warrior deals with. It is an

energy field in oneself, a power that

controls ones acts, yet obeys ones

commands. It is nothing, yet it makes

marvels appear before your very eyes.

All living things generate this Force

field, even you.

LUKE

(amazed)

You mean I generate an energy field?

BEN

It surrounds you and radiates from

you. A Jedi can feel it flowing from

him...

(patting his

stomach)

... from here!

LUKE

Could I learn to feel it?

The old man leans back and scratches his head smiling

slightly.

BEN

That is not a human decision, not

your or mine.

LUKE

What do you mean?

BEN

It means you'd better get some rest.

We'll be leaving for Mos Eisley

first thing in the morning. The

trip will be difficult and dangerous,

but it's the only spaceport with

ships large enough to get us to

Organa Major. Now go on!

Luke reluctantly stands and heads for the bedroom.

45 EXT. UTAPAU - ENTRANCE TO CAVE DWELLING - MORNING 45

Artoo and Threepio carry supplies out of the cave dwell-

ing to where Luke loads them into the landspeeder. Old

Ben emerges into the sunlight and stretches his new arm.

BEN

It looks like a good day for travel.

The Force is with us.

Ben walks over to the speeder and puts his hand on Luke's

shoulder.

BEN

Luke, I'm coming along to do what

I can, but I'm tired and I'm depending

on you to get us through.

LUKE

But you're still a powerful Jedi.

You don't need my help.

BEN

A Jedi's power is measured by the

amount of the Force that is stored

within him, and I have little of the

Force left in me.

LUKE

How can you store an energy field

within you?

BEN

When a creature dies, the force it

generated remains. The Force is all

around us. It can be collected and

transmitted through the use of a

Kiber crystal. It's the only way to

amplify the power of the Force within

you.

LUKE

Don't you have a Kiber crystal?

BEN

I had one, but it was taken at the

battle of Condawn...

LUKE

That's where my father was killed.

BEN

Yes. It was a black day. One of

my disciple's took the crystal and

became a Sith Lord. It was a black

day. The few crystals that remain

are in the possession of the Sith

Lords on Alderaan. That's how they've

become so powerful.

LUKE

Do the Sith know the ways of the

Force?

BEN

They use the Bogan Force.

LUKE

Like Bogan weather, or bogan times.

I thought that was just a saying.

BEN

There are two halves of the Force of

Others. One is positive and will help

you if you learn how to use it. But

the others half will kill you if you

aren't careful. This negative side

of the Force is called the Bogan,

which is where the expression came

from, and it is the part that is used

by the Dark Lords to destroy their

opponents. Both halves are always

present. The Force is on your right,

the Bogan is on your left. The Kiber

Crystal can amplify either one. The

Crystal Darth stole was the last one

in the possession of the Jedi. When

he joined the Sith, the power of the

Dark Lords was completed.

Artoo and Threepio are already in the speeder, as Luke

and old Ben climb in. The speeder starts with a low hum.

46 INT. ALDERAAN - CRYSTAL CHAMBER 46

Three SITH LORDS are on their knees praying before a

shining crystal placed on a tall altar. They mumble a

strange electronic chant.

1ST SITH

Darth, did you feel that?

Darth stands and stares at the crystal.

2ND SITH

Was it an omen? What is it?

VADER

Something old has been awakened. The

Force has suddenly grown stronger, We

must travel future paths with caution.

They file out of the chamber.

47 EXT. UTAPAU - BLUFF OVERLOOKING MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT 47

- DAY

The speeder zooms across the desert wasteland and

eventually stops on a bluff overlooking the spaceport

at MOS EISLEY. It is a haphazard array of low gray con-

crete structures and semi-domes. A harsh gale blows

across the stark canyon floor. Luke adjusts his goggles

and walks to the edge of the craggy bluff, where Ben is

standing.

BEN

Well, there it is, Mos Eisley. A

more wretched hive of scum and

villainy can't be found this side

of the empire...

48 EXT. MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT - SLUM DWELLING - DAY 48

Luke stops the speeder before the remains of a burnt-

out spaceship the size of a large jet fighter. Two

scruffy figures huddle around a small thermal heater,

attempting to use the decaying building as shelter

against the howling winds. One of the rag-tag figures

ventures over to the group in the speeder. It is

obvious from his pint size that he is a Jawa. Artoo

lets out a string of electronic beeps and whistles.

THREEPIO

I begging your pardon, sir, but watch

out for this thing.

The wretched little creature moves close to the speeder

and begins to run his gnarled hand across it.

JAWA

Clinga fouf. Zoom zoom. Chiq?

LUKE

Where are the men who fly in the

ships?

Saliva dribbles from the dark hole where the Jawa's face

should be and drops, splat on the hood of the speeder.

Threepio repeats the question in the Jawa's language,

and the vile creature points to the far end of the street

and mumbles something.

THREEPIO

He says there's an inn down the

street. Lots of fliers there. But

I wouldn't take his word for it.

The Jawa continues to fondle the speeder as Luke starts

the magno-system. The filthy creature reluctantly jumps

away as the speeder takes off and glides down the dingy

spaceport street. A giant lizard scurries out of the

wretched spaceship chased by a stubby Jawa.

49 EXT. MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT - CANTINA - DAY 49

The speeder pulls up in front of a rundown, blockhouse

cantina on the outskirts of the spaceport. Various

strange forms of transport, including several unusual

beasts of burden, are parked outside the bar.

THREEPIO

I can't abide those Jawas. Disgusting

creatures.

BEN

Take care in here. I don't like the

looks of this place.

Luke, Ben and the two robots climb out of the speeder,

and brace themselves against the constant shipping wind.

50 INT. MOS EISLEY CANTINA - DAY 50

The young adventurer and his two mechanical servants fol-

low Ben Kenobi into the smoke-filled cantina. The

murky, moldy den is filled with a startling array of

weird and exotic alien creatures and monsters, laughing

at the long metallic bar. At first the sight is horrifying.

One-eyed, thousand-eyed, slimy, furry, scaly tentacles

and claws huddle over drinks. Ben and Luke move to an

empty spot at the bar near a group of repulsive but

human Corellian pirates. A huge, rough-looking

BARTENDER comes over to Luke and the robots.

BARTENDER

We don't serve 'their kind' in here.

Luke, still recovering from the shock of seeing so many

outlandish creatures, doesn't quite catch the Bartender's

drift.

LUKE

What?

BARTENDER

Your 'droids' will have to wait

outside. We don't serve 'em here.

Luke looks to Old Ben who is busy talking to one of the

Corellian pirates. He notices that several of the grue-

some creatures along the bar are giving him a very un-

friendly glare.

LUKE

Yes, of course. I'm so sorry.

(turns to Threepio)

You'd better stay with the speeder.

We don't want any trouble. I'll...

ahh... bring you something.

Threepio and his stubby partner go outside and most of

the creatures at the bar go back to their drinks. Ben

is standing next to CHEWBACCA, an eight foot tall,

savage-looking creature resembling a huge gray bushbaby-

monkey with fierce 'baboon-like' fangs. His large

yellow eyes dominate a fur-covered face and soften his

otherwise awesome appearance. Over his matted, furry

body he wears two chrome bandoliers, a flak jacket

painted in a bizarre camouflage pattern, brown cloth

shorts, and little else. He is a two hundred year old

WOOKIEE, and a sight to behold. Ben speaks to the

Wookiee in his own language, which is a little more than

a series of grunts. The old man points to Luke several

times during the conversation and the huge creature

suddenly lets out a horrifying laugh. Luke is more than

a little bit disconcerted, and pretends not to hear the

conversation between Ben and the Giant Wookiee. He is

terrified, but tries not to show it. He quietly sips

his drink, looking over the crowd for a more sympathetic

ear or whatever.

A large, multiple-eyed CREATURE gives Luke a rough

shove.

CREATURE

Negola dewaghi wooldugger?!?

The hideous freak is obviously drunk. Luke tries to

ignore the Creature and turns back to his drink. A

short, grubby HUMAN and an even smaller RODENT-like

beast join the belligerent monstrosity.

HUMAN

He doesn't like you.

LUKE

I'm sorry.

HUMAN

I don't like you either.

The big Creature is getting agitated and yells some

unintelligible gibberish at the now rather nervous

young adventurer.

HUMAN

Don't insult us. You just watch

yourself. We're wanted men. I

have the death sentence on twelve

systems.

LUKE

I'll be careful then.

HUMAN

You'll be dead.

The rodent lets out a loud grunt and everything at the

bar moves away. Luke tries to remain cool, but it

isn't easy. His three adversaries ready their weapons.

Old Ben moves in behind Luke.

BEN

This little one isn't worth the

effort. Come let me buy you

something...

A powerful blow from the unpleasant Creature sends the

young would-be Jedi sailing across the room, crashing

through tables and breaking a large jug filled with a

foul-looking liquid. With a blood-curdling shriek, the

monster draws a wicked chrome laser pistol from his belt

and levels it at Old Ben. The Bartender panics.

BARTENDER

No blasters! No blasters!

With an astounding agility, Old Ben's laser-sword sparks

to life and in a flash an arm lies on the floor. The

rodent is cut in two and the giant, multiple-eyed Creature

lies doubled, cut from chin to groin. Ben carefully and

precisely turns off his laser-sword and replaces it on

his utility belt. Luke, shaking and totally amazed at

the old man's abilities, attempts to stand. The entire

fight has lasted only a matter of seconds. The cantina

goes back to normal, although Ben is given a respectable

amount of room at the bar. Luke, rubbing his bruised

head, approaches the old man with new awe.

BEN

Chewbacca here is first-mate on a

ship that might suit our needs.

Luke is still giddy, and downs a fresh drink.

51 EXT. MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT - ALLEYWAY - DUSK 51

Luke, Ben and the two lumbering robots follow the giant

Wookiee along a narrow slum alleyway crowded with

darkly-clad creatures hawking exotic goods in dingy

little stalls. Men, monsters and robots crouch in waste-

filled doorways whispering and hiding from the hot winds.

The group enters a small doorway n a decaying stone

building at the far end of the alley. Several robots

guide a small herd of anteaters down the street.

52 INT. MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT - DOCKING AREA 23 52

Chewbacca leads the group along a tall gantry over-

looking a long Rube Goldburg-pieced together contrap-

tion, which can only be loosely called a spaceship.

Luke gives Old Ben a skeptical look. Old Ben just

smiles. As they approach the ship, it looks even more

homemade and shabby than it did at a distance. The

Wookiee calls out to someone inside the ship, but there

is no reply.

LUKE

What a piece of junk. This ship

isn't going to get us anywhere!

A tall figure steps out of the shadows of the imposing

spacecraft.

This is HAN SOLO, a tough James Dean style starpilot

about twenty-five years old. A cowboy in a starship

-- simple, sentimental and cocksure of himself.

HAN

This ship has been to Terminus and

back. There isn't anyplace she

can't go. She may not look like

much, but she's special. I built

her myself, and there is nothing

faster... What can I do for you?

Chewbacca steps forward and explains who the strangers

are and what they want.

HAN

I'm Han Solo, Captain of this

vessel. Who's in charge then?

BEN

I'm Ben Kenobi. Luke Starkiller

here is leading our expedition.

Luke is taken by surprise, thinking that Ben was going

to take care of things. Han turns to Luke.

HAN

Organa Major is a rebel system.

There will be quite a few starfleet

patrols between here and there...

It could be a little tricky if you

want to avoid them... ten thousand.

LUKE

That's pretty steep. We'd like to

talk it over first.

Ben and Luke step to one side.

LUKE

We don't have that kind of money.

How much do you think I can get for

the speeder?

BEN

Five, maybe. Let me handle it.

Ben turns back to the young starcaptain.

BEN

Five thousand now and five thousand

on arrival.

Han thinks about this for a second.

HAN

You got yourself a ship. We can leave

as soon as you're ready.

LUKE

We have a little business to take care

of first, but it shouldn't take long.

We'll be back shortly.

Artoo and Threepio follow Luke and Ben as they hurry

out of the starship hangar.

LUKE

What if we can't get five thousand?

Ben glances back at Threepio.

BEN

We may have to sell one the

droids.

A great worry sweeps across Luke's face as he looks back

at the two unaware robots faithfully following after

them.

Han Solo grins and slaps the monsterous wookiee across

the back.

HAN

Well, old buddy, we're free, and it's

an easy charter at that.

Chewbacca doesn't share Han's enthusiasm, and makes a

couple of worrisome grunts.

HAN

Yeah, yeah, I know we still have a

problem, but maybe we'll be gone by

the time H2 gets back.

A commotion filters down from the entry gantry and Chew-

bacca whines pessimistic comment. A dozen or so gruff

and grisly pirates approach the ship. The grossest of

the slavering hulks is JABBA THE HUTT. His scarred face

is a grim testimonial to his prowess as a vicious killer.

HAN

You're back early.

JABBA

A shipment of Covina just took off

for Gordon. I thought we might

reroute it back here.

He laughs maniacally. Han is not amused.

HAN

You'll have to get yourself another

boy, Jabba. I've got a charter.

JABBA

Forget it. We settled this before,

remember? There's no getting out.

Now get this 'can' started...

It's a moment of great tension. Han glances at the

four pirates standing near them. Two of the greasy

brigands have their weapons pointed at him. The young

starcaptain stands firm for a few moments with his hand

resting on his utility belt only inches from his

blaster. Chewbacca sways back and forth as he adjusts

his weight from one foot to the other.

JABBA

Well??

Han turns and reluctantly boards the ship. Jabba walks

alongside Han and puts his arm around him.

JABBA

Han, after all we've been through,

I'm disappointed we're not closer.

You're getting soft now that the

ship's finished. You may have built

this bucket, but never forget who

paid for it, 'cause if you try to

take her out again, I won't be so

understanding.

53 INT. MOS EISLEY - USED SPEEDER LOT - GARAGE OFFICE - 53

NIGHT

Ben, Luke and the robots are standing in a sleazy

used-speeder lot, talking with a tall, grotesque, insect-

like used speeder dealer. Only Threepio can understand

the creature's weird buzzing dialogue. Strange exotic

bodies and spindly legged beasts pass by outside. Once

in a while a large lizard or strange animal scurries

across the junk-strewn floor.

THREEPIO

He says it's the best he can do.

Since the XP-21 came out, they just

aren't in demand any more.

Luke scratches his head and ponders the situation.

LUKE

Four thousand isn't going to do it...

He looks at Ben, then Artoo, and finally Threepio.

LUKE

(to Ben)

I think we're going to need them.

Blast it!

THREEPIO

Sir, I have a couple of extra

circuits. Perhaps they might bring

something.

LUKE

Well, ask him. Tell him we need

five thousand.

Threepio buzzes to the salesman, who shakes his head.

THREEPIO

Forty-seven hundred, no more.

BEN

He's bluffing. He'll pay five. Let's

go.

They turn and start out of the rundown showroom.

LUKE

This is the last place. Shouldn't

we just take what we can get and

think of something else?

BEN

He's bluffing...

Ben helps Artoo into the speeder as Luke climbs in the

pilot's seat. The speeder starts up with a loud hum,

but before Luke can back out of the garage area, the

insect stops them.

THREEPIO

Five thousand!

Luke breaks out in a big smile and Ben manages a slight

grin.

54 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - MAIN PASSAGEWAY 54

As Han and the huge Wookiee work their way past the sin-

ister Jabba the Hutt, the pirate hands the young star-

captain a bulky cloak.

JABBA

Take this back with you, boy.

Han doesn't mask his hatred for the loathsome pirate

very well, but takes the cloak and follows the Chew-

bacca toward the back of the ship. He stops by a small

control panel, knocking it loose with his foot. The

cover falls to the floor with a muted clang and the

young mechanic looks around to see if anyone heard.

HAN

This is it. If this doesn't work,

we're diced!

He takes a small metal bar and jams it between two cir-

cuits, causing sparks to fly. He quickly replaces the

cover and Han casually heads back toward the cockpit.

55 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - COCKPIT 55

A short greasy looking pirate sits at the complex con-

trols of the ship.

PIRATE PILOT

We're on our way...

He pulls back on the power lever and the ship erupts

into a cacophony of warning alarms and flashing lights.

Smoke begins to issue from the panels. The pilot is

startled and begins flipping switches wildly.

PIRATE PILOT

I think... ahh, I have a problem here

... one of the reactor's gone wild.

Captain, I have a reading way over

a thousand.

Han rushes into the cockpit with a look of mock sur-

prise on his face.

HAN

What's going on?

PIRATE PILOT

You tell me! You built it.

Han works at the control console in a vain attempt to

figure out what's going on.

HAN

I don't understand it. Look at that

gauge. We should have all been clown

to micro-dust by now... Did I

remember to...

Before Han can finish, the pilot has fled.

56 EXT. PIRATE STARSHIP - ENTRY RAMP - NIGHT 56

Jabba the Hutt and his crew scramble over one another

trying to flee the starship before it goes super-nova.

57 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - MAIN PASSAGEWAY 57

The alarm system is suddenly cut short. Han quickly

replaces the control panel and turns to see a foul-

looking pirate named MONTROSS standing over him.

MONTROSS

So, you've solved the problem, or

maybe you are the problem. Get up.

I'm taking you to the captain. He'll

sting you good...

HAN

Not this time!

Montross reaches for his laser-pistol, but Han is

faster and gets the drop on him.

HAN

Drop it, Montross. I always said

you were slow. You clumsy oaf, a

club is more your style.

Han struggles to his feet and leads the pirate to the

escape hatch.

58 EXT. PIRATE STARSHIP - ENTRY RAMP 58

Chewbacca appears at the main hatch holding a hidden

gun on Montross as Ben, Luke and the robots saunter up

to the starship. The huge Wookiee lets out with a

loud wail that startles Luke.

BEN

We're coming! We're coming.

Han rushes toward the cockpit as Chewbacca helps Ben

aboard the starship. The Wookiee shoves Montross out

the hatch just as it slams shut.

HAN

We're a little rushed, so if you'll

settle in, we'll be off.

Luke is a little puzzled by all the smoke and confusion.

59 EXT. MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT - ALLEYWAY - NIGHT 59

A lumbering Jabba the Hutt and the remains of his ter-

rified crew stop in the street and try to collect

themselves.

JABBA

What happened? Han? Montross,

where's Han? Montross? Where is

everybody?

A strange assortment of alien creatures and robots watch

Jabba from their cool alcoves along the edge of the

street. The ground trembles and the pirates turn to see

the mighty pirate starship riding above the dingy slum

dwellings. The pirates stand dumbfounded, as the star-

ship quickly disappears.

JABBA

He took the ship. He took the ship!!

60 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - COCKPIT 60

Han sits back in the huge pilot's chair and puts his

feet up on the control panel. Chewbacca, crowded into

the copilot's seat, mutters his amazement.

HAN

I know. Sometimes I amaze myself.

He chuckles as the surface of Utapau slowly drifts out

of view of the cockpit windows and is replaced by a

sparkling carpet of stars.

Chewbacca barks a few words of caution.

HAN

That's the price of freedom. But

then again, they may never find us.

Once we cash in on this little venture

we'll head for the southern systems.

He'll be a long time coming there.

Little Artoo appears momentarily in the doorway, makes

a few beeping remarks, then scurries away.

61 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - SLEEP AREA 61

Threepio helps Ben and Luke put away their gear in the

cramped bunk area of the starship.

LUKE

When we get Artoo's message to them,

you think they'll try to rescue the

princess?

BEN

I doubt it. It would be foolish for

the rebel forces to come out of hiding.

I know your feelings. You'd best

forget them. It's for your own good.

There will be no saving her from the

prisons of Alderaan. It's the heart

of the Sith. The Bogan Force is the

most heavy there.

LUKE

But she's a member of The Twelve

Families. How can they hold her?

BEN

These are doubtful times. The

Empire has grown bold in its disregard

of the...

Suddenly Ben grabs his head and slowly collapses to the

floor. Luke rushes to him.

LUKE

What's wrong? What's happening?

BEN

Keep away, I'm fine, I'm fine.

The old man lapses into unconsciousness for several

moments. Luke doesn't know what to do. Finally he goes

to Old Ben and lifts his head. The battered old Jedi

shudders all over, then regains consciousness.

LUKE

Are you all right?

BEN

Yes... the Force... something horrible

has happened. I couldn't see what it

was, or where it was, but it was

terrible... terrible beyond

description... the cry of millions

dying at once.

Luke helps Ben to his bunk. He's still shaking from

the experience.

62 INT. ALDERAAN - PRISON CELL 62

Princess Leia is awakened by the blinding light of the

hallway as the cell door silently slides open and

Darth Vader enters the cell.

VADER

It is unfortunate you are able to

resist my mind probe. You are

going through so much needless

suffering.

Leia watches her captor impassionately.

VADER

The 'Death Star' has become

operational. There is no force

in the universe that can stop us now.

LEIA

They'll find its weakness.

VADER

It's too late... We already tested

it on Organa Major. It appears your

data never got through.

Leia tries not to reveal the shock and pain, but she

is stunned.

LEIA

No!...

VADER

It would be much easier if you were

to tell us where the outposts are...

Otherwise we'll be forced to destroy

every suspicious system... What a

waste...

Vader starts to leave.

LEIA

You'll never stop them... No matter

how many machines you build.

The door slides closed behind Vader, leaving Leia alone

in the darkness.

63 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - MAIN HOLD AREA 63

Han enters the cramped but comfortable main hold area

of the starship and begins checking charts and various

computer readouts.

LUKE

Who's the pilot?

HAN

It's automatic.

Chewbacca and the two robots sit around a lighted table

covered with many small hologram figures. Each side of

the table has a small computer monitor embedded in it.

Luke and Old Ben are sitting in the corner, the old

man apparently asleep as Luke cleans a chrome laser-

pistol. he acts like it's brand new. he seems very

proud of it.

Chewbacca seems very pleased with himself as he rests his

lanky fur-covered arms over his head. Artoo immediately

reaches up and taps the computer with his stubby claw

hand, causing one of the hologram figures to walk to a

new square. A sudden frown crosses Chewbacca's face and

he begins yelling gibberish at the tiny robot. Threepio

intercedes on behalf of his small companion and begins to

argue with the huge Wookiee.

LUKE

(to Threepio)

Let him have it. You're winning

anyway. It doesn't make any difference.

THREEPIO

I know, sir, but it's the principle

of the thing.

Luke sights down the barrel of his new pistol. Old

Ben opens his eyes. It's obvious he wasn't asleep.

LUKE

(to Ben)

Are you sure you don't need it?

BEN

I rarely use it any more. I have

the Force. The Force is more

powerful than any pistol. You

shouldn't put too much faith in that

weapon. Work on becoming aware of

the Force... learn to feel its

presence within you. Try to sense

what it's telling you. It's the

only thing you can rely on.

LUKE

What do I do?

BEN

All you have to do is lose your

thinking self. Don't focus on

anything. Let your body do your

thinking... You have to learn to act

on what you feel, not what you think

... If I had the crystal, it would

be much easier. You could feel the

Force immediately... but for now,

let yourself go. You'll pick it

up... and someday you'll have no

need for that pistol either.

Han has been overhearing what Ben has been telling Luke

and obviously has a low opinion of the Force of Others.

HAN

I'd keep that thing close just in

case, if I were you... I've been

around from one end of the galaxy

to the other and believe me this

Force of Others stuff may make for

good religion, but there is no

substitute for a good weapon at

your side.

LUKE

You don't believe in the Force?

HAN

Sorcery! I believe in myself...

I determine my destiny, not some

mystical energy field.

BEN

Well, we'll see...

HAN

You might get your stuff together.

We'll be coming up on Organa Major

soon.

64 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - COCKPIT 64

The cockpit is alive with humming meters and softly

buzzing readouts. Han is busy at the controls as Luke

looks on in wonder.

HAN

It checks out again. There is no

mistake...

Old Ben enters the crowded cockpit.

BEN

What is it?

LUKE

He can't find Organa Major.

Han is rather grim-faced.

HAN

I found it... It's just not there.

LUKE

What are you saying?

BEN

Organa Major has been destroyed.

Ben moves in and studies the monitors.

HAN

What's left of it is contaminated.

That's it there. Look at those

radiation readouts! It's impossible.

I've never seen anything like it.

What's going on?

Luke sits back and stares blankly at the monitors.

BEN

The Empire must have gotten here

first.

HAN

The planet has been totally blown

away! It would have taken a

thousand ships with a lot more fire

power than I've ever seen... If the

Empire had a new weapon that could

do this... I would have heard

something... I'd know about it.

BEN

Well, now you know... The enemy is

on the move. We haven't much time.

HAN

Well, I've brought you here. What

now?

BEN

We have to find he rebels... What

we're carrying belongs to them.

HAN

Their bases are very well hidden.

All the power of the Empire can't

find them... Do you know where they

are?

Ben shakes his head sadly.

BEN

No, not anymore.

HAN

I'm not taking you on an impossible

search across the galaxy... I was

only paid to get you here and now

you're here. I'll take my other

five thousand and you're on your

own... I'll leave you on the nearest

system.

LUKE

You can't! We've come this far. We

must find them...

HAN

Why?

BEN

Well, for one reason, we don't have

your other five thousand.

HAN

Who's going to pay me then?

BEN

I think there are some things we

should talk about.

HAN

I'm beginning not to like you.

65 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - MAIN HOLD AREA 65

Little Artoo is standing on the gaming table projecting

the princess into the middle of the group. Han has a

perplexed look on his face as he ponders the hologram.

Ben leans back in his chair quietly waiting, while Luke

watches the princess with a wistful, smile, far-away look.

Finally the hologram ends.

HAN

How much do you think she's talking

about?

BEN

A million at least... If this robot

has information related to the

destruction of Organa Major, you'll

be able to name the reward...

HAN

Anything I want! Now that's

interesting.

He thinks about this for a few moments. Luke begins to

get a little edgy.

LUKE

Maybe you should just drop us off.

I'm sure we can find someone willing

to take the risk.

HAN

All right, all right!

You've got a ship! But where do

we go from here? They probably took

her to find the hidden bases... I

don't see how we can find the rebels

before she breaks. The Empire has

already beat us out.

BEN

She's part of the royal family.

They won't get any information from

her... She knows the art of mind

control... She's a swan sensana.

Ben gets lost in his thoughts for a few moments.

BEN

But she is the only link between us

and the hidden bases.

LUKE

You mean we should go after her!...

BEN

I didn't say that, but it appears to

be a logical alternative.

HAN

Now wait a minute. She's in Alderaan!

Ben is thinking and doesn't hear Han's protest. He

turns to Luke.

HAN

No, it's impossible... No one, and I

mean no one would venture anywhere

near the Alderaan system... I'm a

free booter, not revolutionary. You're

aboard the wrong ship, son!

LUKE

Maybe the fact that no one would go

there voluntarily could help us.

They probably don't think anyone

would dare try.

HAN

Don't you believe it.

BEN

Luke's got a point...

... Fear is their greatest defense...

I doubt if the actual security there

is much greater than on Aquilae or

Sullust, and what there is is most

likely directed toward large-scale

assault.

HAN

This isn't a game, you know.

LUKE

How many more systems have to get

blown away before you have no place

to hide and are forced to fight...

Don't you realize what's going on?

Han is slightly embarrassed by Luke.

HAN

Kid, you take the glory and the good

intentions and I'll take the reward.

BEN

Fear is their greatest weapon.

HAN

I'm not afraid of anything...

Everyone looks at Han, and he instantly regrets what

he has said.

66 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - COCKPIT - APPROACHING ALDERAAN 66

The cockpit is a quiet hum of computers as Han works

diligently on a complex calculation. Chewbacca enters

the cabin just as the ship begins to shudder violently.

After a few moments the buffeting stops.

HAN

We've just passed into the first

perimeter. It won't be long now.

Chewbacca grunts an acknowledgement and points to a

very large and bright star out the front window bay.

HAN

There it is! Alderaan, the prison

system. Take over.

I'm going to go back and see if

they have come up with a plan, or if

we're just going to cruise on in

until they disintegrate us.

67 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - MAIN HOLD AREA 67

Luke stands in the middle of the small hold area. He

seems frozen in place, a humming laser-sword held high

over his head. Ben watches him from the corner, study-

ing his movements. Han enters and watches with a bit

of smugness.

Suspended at eye level -- about ten feet in front of

Luke -- a chrome baseball covered with antenna hovers

slowly in a wide arc. The ball floats to one side of

the youth, then to the other. Suddenly it makes a

lightning swift lunge and stops within a few feet of

Luke's face. Luke doesn't move, and the ball backs off.

It slowly moves behind the boy, then makes another quick

lunge, this time emitting a blood red laser beam as it

attacks.

Luke sparks to life. With one amazingly swift move, he

turns and swings his laser-sword, deflecting the beam.

The seeker shuts off and lands on the floor.

Ben is pleased, and Han is quite impressed.

BEN

You have your father's style. You've

done very well.

HAN

Not bad.

Luke is sort of embarrassed with all the attention.

LUKE

Well, I practice a lot...

HAN

You're good with 'remotes,' but how

are you against something living?

LUKE

I don't know... I've never fought

anyone.

Han smiles knowingly.

BEN

Enough. Now try it without thinking.

It's no good talking about the Force.

You must learn to feel it. Wear this.

Ben places a large helmet on Luke's head which covers

his eyes.

LUKE

I can't see! How can I fight?

BEN

Try to feel it. Use the Force...

LUKE

I can't do it. I'll get hit.

BEN

Stop thinking, and start feeling.

Let yourself go.

Han skeptically shakes his head as Ben throws the

seeker into the air. The ball shoots straight up in

the air, then drops like a rock. Luke swings the laser-

sword around blindly missing the seeker, which fires off

a laser bolt, which hits Luke square on the seat of his

pants. He lets out a painful yell and attempts to hit

the seeker, coming amazingly close, but he is hit

several more times before he manages to finally deflect

one of the bolts. The ball ceases firing and moves back

to its original position. Luke removes the helmet and

is a sweaty, exhausted mess.

BEN

See, once you let yourself go you

can do it. You'll get it.

LUKE

I don't get it, but I guess I did

block it.

HAN

I'd call it a lucky move.

Han in a split second draws his laser-pistol and blasts

the seeker. The ship begins to shudder, then a distant

warning signal goes off.

HAN

We're into the second perimeter.

They'll be coming out to blast us

shortly. I was wondering if you

had some kind of a plan or are we

going to try to blast our way in?

BEN

Check your data banks for all the

information you have on Imperial

procedures. Both of you will have

to learn...

HAN

We're going to get in by studying

Imperial procedures? I don't like

it.

BEN

All right then, we'll use your plan.

Han slumps in his seat with a dejected look.

HAN

I'll get the information.

BEN

... and I want you to start cleaning

the equipment out of the scan-

shielded compartments.

HAN

What do you want with our scan-proof

lockers?

68 INT. ALDERAAN - CONTROL ROOM 68

A CONTROLLER sits in a huge complex control room with

massive screens projecting maps of various star

systems. An Imperial COMMANDER sits next to him.

CONTROLLER

No reply on any circuits... It's

drifting on a point twenty-seven

skew. It's not close enough to

identify.

COMMANDER

Alert squad five, but hold them

until we know what it is.

CONTROLLER

Should we alert the Sith Lords?

COMMANDER

I'll make a report later.

CONTROLLER

As close as we can make out, it

appears to be a Corellian gypsy

vessel... It's not under power.

COMMANDER

Send one squad up.

69 INT. ALDERAAN - READY ROOM 69

Chaos. Red scramble lights are flashing. Alert horns

and attack buzzers create an unbelievable cacophony.

Imperial starpilots in black armored spacesuits grab

their helmets and space packs as they scramble out the

door.

70 INT. ALDERAAN - HALLWAY 70

Pilots dash in unison to a line of small auxiliary

corridors that lead to Imperial "tie" fighters. Tech-

nical crews scurry here and there loading last minute

armament and unlocking power cables.

71 EXT. SPACE AROUND PLANET ALDERAAN 71

The long ornate pirate starship approached the gray

gaseous planet of Alderaan. The ship is not propelled,

but simply drifts crab-like toward the planet. As it

approaches the surface, huge billowing clouds extend

out like menacing tentacles. The peacefulness of this

nebulous idyll is broken by the increasing wail of ion

engines. Suddenly four sleek spacefighters from the

Imperial third fleet burst from the huge cumulus range.

The craft are small cylindrical power shells dominated

by two huge solar fins. They are flying in a tight

formation. Then two bank steeply and head toward the

drifting starship.

72 INT. IMPERIAL FIGHTER - COCKPIT 72

The Imperial fighters are one-man craft crammed with

sophisticated electronic weaponry.

The pilot is cold and professional as his craft closes

in on the drifting starship.

PILOT

No life forms appear on the scanner.

Escape pods four, seven and oh-three

have been jettisoned. Life systems

are still functioning. It appears

to be in good shape... Should we

destroy it, or attempt salvage?...

Do you copy?

73 INT. ALDERAAN - CONTROL ROOM 73

The controller looks to the Commander for instructions.

COMMANDER

We don't get many visitors. Let's

take a look at it.

CONTROLLER

(into intercom)

Send out a boarding party. Full

assault gear.

74 EXT. ALDERAAN - CLOUD SEA 74

Several of the tiny Imperial fighters drift in orbit

around the pirate starship as a block-like boarding

vessel attaches itself to the underside of the disabled

starship.

75 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - HALLWAYS 75

Entering through an escape hatch, several heavily armed

Imperial stormtroopers cautiously work their way down

the main corridor of the pirate starship. As they are

about to enter the cockpit area, they hear a loud

clanking movement. The ferocious stormtroopers freeze

and simultaneously direct their awesome weapons at the

cockpit hatchway. Two of the troopers start to edge

their way toward the cockpit. The tension becomes

almost palpable, until finally the gangling, bronze

Threepio pops his "Art Deco" head out of the hatchway.

THREEPIO

Greetings! I'm See Threepio, Human

Cyborg relations. I'm glad you

arrived.

I've been lost for some time. My

master and the crew departed after

we passed through a solar plague

zone. I've been drifting ever since.

The operation of astro-vehicles is

not within my capacity...

The OFFICER talks to his commander on his head phones.

OFFICER

Apparently a plague scare... no

contamination.... We found a droid...

proceeding to check out the rest of

the ship.

The Officer indicates that Threepio should move out of

the cockpit. Two guards grab the puzzled robot.

OFFICER

(to guard)

Hold this thing for inspection.

76 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - COCKPIT 76

The Officer enters the cockpit. Threepio is completely

confused as the stormtroopers rush around completely

ignoring him. The troops search the ship with small

hand scanners. The Officer sits in the pilot's seat

of the deserted ship and begins to feed information

into the computer. He opens a com-line to the main base.

OFFICER

Base one, this is Kuro four. The

aft generator systems are out, but

most everything else seems to be in

order... I think I can bring it in

on its own power.

A TROOPER enters the cockpit.

TROOPER

All clean, sir. We couldn't get

into some of the supply lockers.

Should we blast them open.

OFFICER

Let the scavenger crews take care

of it.

77 EXT. ALDERAAN - CLOUD SEA 77

The towering white oxide clouds pass, revealing the

Imperial city of Alderaan. The magnificent domed and

gleaming city is perched, mushroom-like, on a tall

spire which disappears deep into the misty surface of

the planet. The little procession of Imperial "tie"

fighters follows the larger pirate ship toward the

city. The Imperial Officer guides the ship toward one

of the numerous huge open bays that ring the specta-

cular city.

78 INT. ALDERAAN - PRISON CELL CORRIDOR 78

A cell door silently slides open revealing the uncon-

scious body of the princess slumped on a table-like

bed. Vader and two OFFICERS exit the cell and the door

silently slides shut again.

VADER

We'll get nothing more out of her.

1ST OFFICER

The hidden bases have to be somewhere

in the southwest. That's something...

I'll start a search operation.

VADER

Start a destroy operation... Wipe out

every system in that sector if you

have to.

The Commander approaches the Dark Lord and bows.

COMMANDER

We've picked up a Corellian ship which

was hit by plague. It's been sterilized

and we're bringing it in.

VADER

Don't worry about that. Alert all

commands to prepare the death star.

We're going into the southwest.

The Commander exits. The Officer points back to Leia's

cell.

1ST OFFICER

What about her?

VADER

Terminate her... but make it slow.

We might still get some information.

79 INT. ALDERAAN - MAIN FORWARD BAY 79

The pirate starship rests in a huge hangar bay. Thirty

or so guards march up to the craft as a ramp lowers and

the boarding troops disembark.

BOARDING OFFICER

It's just a piece of drift junk. It

has some interesting innovations

though. Send in a research team

before you start the salvage operation.

Post your guards.

80 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - HALLWAY 80

A lone trooper runs through the hallway heading for the

exit. In a few moments, all is quiet. The muffled

sounds of a distant officer giving orders finally fade.

Threepio sneaks down the hallway, pulls on a latch, and

a panel on a row of low cabinets crashes to the floor.

Han Solo's head pokes out of the hold and looks around

the hallway. He then pulls himself out of his cramped

quarters and struts around, stretching his legs. A

second locker breaks open and Luke emerges. Chewbacca

pokes his furry head out of the first locker and Han

tells him the way is clear.

HAN

This is ridiculous. I tell you it's

not going to work. We're never going

to get out alive.

Ben Kenobi sticks his head out of one of the lockers.

BEN

Darth Vader is on this system. I

can feel him. I can feel the Kiber

Crystal.

HAN

Is that good or bad?

BEN

It's not good... unless I could find

the Crystal. Then it could be very

good.

LUKE

What about the princess?

BEN

You go after the princess.

I am an old man and would be of little

help. I must try to find the Crystal.

LUKE

I'm not going alone!

Luke is suddenly seized with panic. He turns to Han.

HAN

Don't look at me. I'm just a pilot.

I got you here... You've got to do

the rest.

BEN

There is a greater risk in staying

here, you know. If you don't find

the princess, then the whole trip

was for nothing... wasn't it?

HAN

I'm not going out there.

He slams a panel to the deck and immediately regrets it.

Everyone looks around as if an alarm had gone off.

81 INT. ALDERAAN - MAIN FORWARD BAY 81

Two GUARDS stand on either side of the ramp leading to

the pirate starship. One of the guards hears something

inside the spacecraft. The second guard hears it also

and speaks into the headphone in his helmet.

SECOND GUARD

We've picked up a disturbance

inside the starship. Proceeding to

investigate.

The two Guards enter the spacecraft.

82-83 INT. ALDERAAN - MAIN BAY GANTRY - CONTROL TOWER 82-83

In a small control tower above the starship a GANTRY

OFFICER speaks into his intercom.

GANTRY OFFICER

What is it?

SECOND GUARD (V.O.)

I don't hear it now... It must have

been the droid... Wait... what?

The transmission goes dead. The Gantry Officer

switches to another channel. The Officer's aide looks

up from his desk.

GANTRY OFFICER

T-4, come in, T-4... Do you copy?

Are you all right?

There is a bit of static and a heavily filtered voice

comes on.

LUKE'S VOICE

We're fine... Com-link jammed.

GANTRY OFFICER

Find anything?

LUKE

Nothing...

The Gantry Officer gives his aide a puzzled look, then

speaks into the com-link.

GANTRY OFFICER

T-4, you sound a little funny... T-4,

what's your operating code?... T-4,

are you there?

The only thing that comes over the com-link is static.

The Gantry Officer gets up and heads for the door.

GANTRY OFFICER

Take over. It could just be another

bad transmitter, but I'd better check.

As the Officer approaches the door, it slides open

revealing the towering Chewbacca. The Gantry Officer

is in a momentary state of shock, as he stumbles back-

ward. With a bone-chilling howl, the giant Wookiee

flattens the Officer with one blow. The aide imme-

diately reaches for his pistol, but is blasted by

Han, which sets off a series of small explosions on

the control panel. Han and Luke enter the room dressed

as Imperial stormtroopers.

LUKE

Between his howling and your blasting

everything in sight, the entire city

is going to know we're here.

HAN

Good! I prefer a straight fight to

all this sneaking around.

Ben feeds some information into the computer, and a

map of the city appears on the monitor. He begins to

inspect it carefully. Threepio and Artoo look over

the control panel. Artoo finds something that makes

him whistle wildly.

THREEPIO

We've found it, sir. Bless the

maker, this control board has one.

Han and Luke rush over to the robots. Chewbacca busies

himself with hanging the Gantry Officer by his toes.

LUKE

Plug him in. Let's see what we get.

Artoo punches his claw arm into the computer socket and

the vast Imperial brain network comes to life, feeding

information to the little robot. After a few moments

he beeps something to Threepio.

THREEPIO

Level five, Detention block A-23,

cell 2187. She's still alive...

LUKE

Send feed-back into the control

sensors in that Detention block.

BEN

That's straight through the central

core... up toward the top of the

city... Once you've got her, avoid

the main transports, they'll shut

down immediately. Your only chance

is through the service shafts.

There are no sensors there... All

right now, get going, you don't

have time. I hope you can remember

everything.

HAN

We'll be back before you are, old

man.

BEN

May the Force be with you.

Old Ben slips out of the control bay and disappears

down a long gray hallway. Han whistles for Chewbacca

to join them. Luke binds the huge Wookiee with elec-

tronic cuffs. The Wookiee has a worried and slightly

frightened look on his face. Han reassures him and

straightens his jacket.

THREEPIO

Luke, sir! pardon me for asking

... but, ah... what are we to do if

someone should discover us here?

HAN

Hope they don't have blasters.

THREEPIO

That isn't very reassuring.

Luke and Han put on their armored helmets and start off

into the giant Imperial city of Alderaan.

84-85 INT. ALDERAAN - DETENTION AREA - ELEVATOR TUBE 84-85

Han and Luke try to look inconspicuous in their armored

suits as they wait for a vacuum elevator to arrive.

Troops, bureaucrats and robots bustle about ignoring

the trio completely. Only a few give the giant Wookiee

a curious glance. Finally a small elevator arrives

and the trio enter. A bureaucrat races to get aboard

also, but is signaled away by Han. The door to the

pod-like vehicle slides closed and it takes off

through a vacuum tube. Han rubs his hand across a

series of small holes.

HAN

Gas... Old Ben was definitely right.

If they discover us, we'll never get

out this way.

He gives Luke a skeptical look.

86-87 INT. ALDERAAN - HALLWAY AND SUB-HALLWAY 86-87

Old Ben walks very quietly behind two Imperial officers

who don't seem to be aware of his presence. They pass

several stormtroopers and a robot similar to Threepio

but no one appears to notice Ben. The old man deftly

slips down a sub-hallway and hides in a shallow alcove

as a patrol of twenty guards passes. He rushes down an

ever smaller hallway and disappears.

88 INT. ALDERAAN - DETENTION AREA - DUNGEON 88

The giant Wookiee and his two guards enter the old,

gray security station. Guards and laser gates are

everywhere. Han whispers to Luke under his breath.

HAN

This isn't going to work.

LUKE

Why didn't you say so before.

HAN

I think I did.

A tall, grim-looking OFFICER approaches the trio.

OFFICER

What code is this?

LUKE

I've got it here somewhere... It's

SPT 188544. You can check it through

the... ahh, oh yes, lex-321.

OFFICER

It will take a while -- the cross

mode is acting up... getting feedback

from somewhere.

The Officer goes back to his console and begins to punch

in the information. There are only three other troopers

in the area. Luke and Han survey the situation, checking

all of the alarms, laser gates and camera eyes. Han

unfastens one of Chewbacca's electronic cuffs and shrugs

to Luke.

Suddenly Chewbacca throws up his hands and lets out with

one of his ear-piercing howls. He grabs Han's laser-

sword and ignites it, pushing Han against the wall.

HAN

Look out! He's loose!

The startled guards are momentarily dumbfounded. Luke

and Han have already pulled out their laser-pistols

and are blasting away at the terrifying Wookiee. Their

barrage of laser fire misses Chewbacca, but hits the

camera eyes, laser gate controls and the Imperial guards.

The Officer is the last of the guards to fall under the

laser fire, just as he is about to push the alarm

system. Luke rushes over to the com-link system, which

is screeching questions about what is going on. Han and

Chewbacca disappear down one of the sub-hallways.

LUKE

A Wookiee broke loose up here, but

we've subdued him... There is a lot

of damage, and three, no four,

casualties...

INTERCOM VOICE

We'll send a squad up.

LUKE

No need, everything's under control.

INTERCOM VOICE

With four casualties?!

LUKE

The... ah door's jammed. Give us

a few minutes to get it fixed.

INTERCOM VOICE

Who is this? What's your operating...

Luke cuts off the com-link and yells down the cell row

to Han.

LUKE

Hurry up. I think we're going to

have company.

89-90 INT. ALDERAAN - PRISON CORRIDOR - CELL 89-90

Han stops before cell 2187 and yells something to Chew-

bacca, who covers his face as the young pirate blasts

the door away with his laser pistol. When the smoke

clears, Han looks in the cell and an expression of

horror crosses his face.

HAN

'Holy Maker,' NO!

Suspended inside the cell by invisible rays, a bloody

and mutilated Leia Organa hangs upside down. A strange

yellow glow radiates from her eyes. Chewbacca rushes

into the cell past the dazed Han. The Wookiee yells

something and Han comes to, firing his pistol at a

small control box in the wall. The unconscious princess

drops like a rock into the giant Wookiee's arms. Chew-

bacca slings her over his shoulder and joins Han in the

hallway.

HAN

Luke, we've got her, let's go...

91-92 INT. ALDERAAN - DETENTION AREA - DUNGEON - HALLWAY 91-92

A series of explosions knock a hole in the wall through

which several Imperial troops begin to emerge. Luke

fires his laser pistol at them through the smoke and

flames. He turns and runs down the cell hallway. He

takes a small com-link transmitter from his belt.

LUKE

See Threepio -- See Threepio -- Jam

the emergency communications network.

Monitor what you can... What was that?

I didn't copy...

93 INT. ALDERAAN - SUB-HALLWAY 93

Han pulls up the rusty grate leading to a service pas-

sageway and helps Chewbacca lift the inert princess

into the black tunnel.

94 INT. ALDERAAN - MAIN BAY GANTRY - CONTROL TOWER 94

Threepio paces the control center as little Artoo beeps

and whistles a blue streak. Threepio yells into the

small com-link transmitter.

THREEPIO

I said, all systems have been alerted

to your presence, sir. I respectfully

suggest you return at once...

The transmitter squawks a short reply and Threepio peeks

out the tower window at the starship. All is quiet. He

then moves to the door and it slides open a crack.

Several troops rush past, yelling and shouting order.

Threepio slams the door shut and pushes the lock lever.

Someone begins banging on the door.

THREEPIO

Oh, no!

95 INT. ALDERAAN - HALLWAY LEADING TO CRYSTAL CHAMBER 95

Ben starts into the hallway leading to the crystal cham-

ber, just as two Sith Lords are leaving. the old man

ducks into the nearest doorway which opens and swallows

him up.

96 INT. ALDERAAN - CLASSROOM 96

Ben finds himself in a small conference room filled

with about a dozen or so bureaucrats listening to an

instructor who is explaining a type of technical

philosophy. The class turns and stares at the old man.

Ben raises his hands and all the bureaucrats, including

the instructor, begin coughing and grabbing at their

throats. They are unable to breather and eventually

collapse on the floor.

97 INT. ALDERAAN - HALLWAY LEADING TO THE CRYSTAL CHAMBER 97

One of the Sith Lords stops in the hallway opposite the

classroom door.

1ST LORD

What is it?

2ND LORD

Do you feel that?

1ST LORD

I don't feel anything.

2ND LORD

Maybe you're too young. It's the

Force... If I didn't know better I'd

say we were in the presence of a Jedi

knight.

The first Sith Lord puts his hand to his ear as a message

comes through on his helmet intercom.

1ST LORD

They're calling for us again on the

prison level.

The two Dark Lords hurry off down the hallway and Old

Ben silently exits the classroom.

98 INT. ALDERAAN - DUNGEON - PASSAGEWAY 98

Luke leads Han and the Wookiee down the ever-darkening,

narrow passageway. Han and Luke switch on small lights

in their gunbelts. The rhythmic marching of storm-

troopers seem to be getting louder. Muffled voices can

be heard. Luke stops before an intersecting hallway.

HAN

They're right behind us. Which way?

Luke grabs his belt com-link and attempts to contact

Threepio.

LUKE

See Threepio, do you read me?

Compute our position... See Threepio?...

Static and no reply.

LUKE

Something has happened to them.

Let's try this way...

HAN

Let's try this way! Holy Maker.

LUKE

See Threepio, come in, See Threepio.

I wonder where they are?? See

Threepio...

As they descend into the bowels of the city, the eerie,

slimy corridor becomes narrower and filled ankle-deep

with water and ooze.

99 INT. MAIN BAY GANTRY - CONTROL TOWER 99

A soft buzzer and the muted voice of Luke calling out

for See Threepio can be heard on Threepio's hand com-

link which is sitting on the deserted computer console.

Artoo and Threepio are nowhere in sight. Suddenly there

is a great explosion and the door to the control tower

flies across the floor. Four armed stormtroopers enter

the chamber. A muffled voice can be heard coming from

one of the supply cabinets.

THREEPIO

Help! Help! Let us out.

The troops inspect the dead bodies and release Threepio

from the supply cabinets. Artoo is shut down and does

not move.

THREEPIO

They're madman! They are heading

for the prison level. If you hurry,

you might catch them... they just

left.

The troops hustle off down the hallway, leaving two

guards to watch over the control room.

Threepio takes a round disk-like object and attaches it

to Artoo's head, which lifts him a foot off the ground

and moves him toward the door.

THREEPIO

All this excitement has burned out

my counterpart. If you don't mind,

I have to take him down to maintenance.

The guard nods and Threepio with little Artoo in tow

hurries out the door.

100 INT. ALDERAAN - HALLWAY 100

Artoo sparks to life and the two robots scurry off down

the empty hallway.

THREEPIO

That was too close. Now we'll have

to find another control socket an

plug you back in or everything is

lost.

101 INT. ALDERAAN - CRYSTAL CHAMBER 101

Old Ben carefully approaches the pedestal on which the

Kiber Crystal is resting. He gracefully sidesteps a

series of invisible beams. It looks as if he is doing

a strange dance. Ben stops about five feet in front of

the Crystal. His eyes light up, and it appears he is

renewed with a new inner strength.

Ben lifts his arms and slowly the Crystal begins to

rise off the pedestal and move toward the old Jedi.

The intense glow of the magical stone increases as it

passes through an invisible protective death ray.

Just before it reaches Ben's hand, it passes through

a blue beam that sets off an alarm which instantan-

eously slams the door shut and the room glows a bright

red.

102-103 INT. ALDERAAN - DUNGEON - PASSAGEWAY 102-103

The passageway has gotten so small that Han, Luke and

Chewbacca must walk sideways. The princess is standing

between Luke and the Wookiee and is semi-conscious.

102-103 CONTINUED: 102-103

LUKE

I think she's going to be all right.

HAN

Not if this tunnel deadends.

Suddenly the way opens up to a wide, low-ceilinged

corridor that is filled with water about waist high.

At the far end of the tunnel is a small light. Chew-

bacca puts the princess back over his shoulder.

HAN

I see a light. We may get out of

this yet.

The princess wakes up and is thoroughly confused by

her surroundings.

LEIA

What is it? What's going on? Where

are we?

LUKE

You're safe. We've come to get you

out of here... Just relax.

The two boys wade into the submerged corridor, but Chew-

bacca won't enter. He frantically begins sniffing the

air and jabbers something to Han.

HAN

There is no choice. The troops are

right behind us. Come on.

Chewbacca won't budge. He seems terribly afraid of

something in the water. Han wades back and pulls the

huge Wookiee carrying the princess into the water.

LUKE

Is he afraid of the water?

HAN

No, he smells something... but we

haven't time to worry about it now.

The group moves forward through the dark corridor,

unaware of the ominous ripples on the water's surface.

The giant Wookiee stops and howls something to Han. The

young starcaptain talks to the frightened creature and

eventually calms him down. The dim light at the end of

the corridor glimmers and becomes stronger.

A loud, horrible, inhuman moan works its way up from

the murky depths followed by a huge jellyfish-like form,

which shoots out of the water and towers above the pet-

rified group. Chewbacca lets out a terrified howl and

begins to back away. Han and Luke stand fast with their

laser-pistols drawn. The Wookiee is cowering near one

of the walls with the groggy princess on his shoulder.

Han fires directly at the center of the beast. His laser

bolt passes through the huge creature and explodes against

a far wall. The light from the blast reveals a little

more of the Dia Nogu, which is transparent with long

slimy tentacles.

HAN

It's not a natural creature... our

weapons are no good against it.

The huge shape, breathing loud and deep, submerges again

and the telltale ripples head toward Luke.

HAN

Watch it! Move back.

LUKE

Get Chewbacca. Try to get around it.

I'll draw it away.

Han turns and wades back to Chewbacca, who is huddled

against the wall. The Wookiee is shaking and wailing

like a small child. In the thin light provided by the

small door at the end of the passageway, the faint out-

line of the Dia Nogu can be seen as it swims by Luke.

LUKE

It just passed me. Maybe it's

harmless. I'm gong to try for that

opening.

Suddenly Luke is yanked underwater. Han has blindfolded

Chewbacca and is attempting to lead the Wookiee and the

princess toward the lighted opening at the far end of

the tunnel.

HAN

Luke! Where are you? What happened?

Luke surfaces with a gasp of air and thrashing of limbs

with a membrane tentacle wrapped around his throat.

LUKE

Get gong! I'll keep it busy.

Luke is dragged under again. Han grabs the princess and

makes his way around the treacherous creature to the

small opening at the end of the passageway. Luke bobs

to the surface with a severed tentacle dangling around

his neck.

LUKE

It's only light that doesn't affect

it. Solid things, like rocks, can

hurt it! Fire above him!

HAN

Move out of the way!

Luke tries to swim away, but is grabbed by the creature.

Han fires his laser-pistol into the ceiling above the

creature, knocking rocks and debris on top of it. The

Dia Nogu thrashes about for a few moments, then the water's

calm, and all is quiet. There is no sign of Luke. Han

bows his head as the hope drains from his face. Chewbacca

lifts the princess through the small opening in the wall,

then struggles to squeeze himself through also. Han

starts to turn back toward the escape hole, when Luke

pops out of the water with a gasp and starts swimming

like mad toward the starcaptain.

LUKE

It's still alive. It's gone crazy.

Get out of here!

The boys rush up to the small escape port only to find

Chewbacca stuck. Luke begins pushing the Wookiee as Han

turns and fires off another blast at the ceiling. A rush

of rock and debris temporarily holds off the charging

Dia Nogu. Han helps Luke push Chewbacca through the hole.

Then the two boys scamper to safety just before the fear-

some creature begins another charge.

104 INT. ALDERAAN - UNUSED HALLWAY 104

The group is standing in a dusty unused hallway. The

Dia Nogu bangs against the opening and a long slimy

tentacle works its way out of the doorway searching for

a victim. Han aims his pistol. The princess is groggy,

but conscious. She takes command of the situation.

LEIA

No, wait!! They'll hear...

Han fires at the doorway, creating an avalanche of

rubble which buries the monster.

The noise of the blast echoes relentlessly throughout

the empty passageway. Luke simply shakes his head in

disgust.

LEIA

Listen, blockhead, I don't know

where you came from, and I'm

grateful, but from now on you do

as I tell you.

Han is stunned at the command of the petite young girl.

Luke bows before the princess.

LUKE

I am Luke Starkiller at your service.

LEIA

There'll be time for that later.

Now let's get out of here.

The group moves swiftly down the deserted corridor. The

awkward silence is broken by Han, who's about had it with

the princess.

HAN

I don't care if the entire city heard

me. All this sneaking around is going

to get us killed. I'd rather fight

my way out.

105 INT. ALDERAAN - MAIN FORWARD BAY - SERVICE PANEL 105

Troops carry the two unconscious guards from the pirate

starship and march past Threepio and little Artoo, who

are hidden near a tiny service panel. Artoo removes

the panel and sticks his claw arm into the socket. The

little robot's circuits immediately light up and one of

his antenna begins to spin wildly. Smoke begins to pour

from him before Threepio can pull him loose. Artoo lets

out with a few wilted beeps as he cools off.

THREEPIO

Well, next time pay more attention.

You could have been fried... Are

there any other sockets around here?...

You must get back into the system

right away... or Master Luke will be

caught for sure.

Artoo whistles a mournful reply and trudges off behind

some canisters to look for another socket.

106 INT. ALDERAAN - HALLWAY LEADING TO CRYSTAL CHAMBER 106

A half dozen troops are milling around outside the

crystal chamber. An Imperial COMMANDER approaches, and

they all snap to attention.

COMMANDER

What are you waiting for? Open it up!

No one moves. Finally a SERGEANT speaks up.

SERGEANT

We were told to wait for the Sith

Lords to arrive.

COMMANDER

They're all up on the prison level.

The alarms short circuited again. A

relay feedback probably tripped it.

I think we can handle it. Unlock the

door.

The troops lower their weapons as the heavy door is un-

locked. The door swings open to reveal the withered old

Jedi, standing with his laser-sword drawn. For a brief

moment the Commander and his men are stunned.

COMMANDER

Shoot him down!

Before the troops can fire their weapons Old Ben has

moved through them swinging his deadly blade, cutting

the troops to ribbons. The old man flees down the hall-

way with what's left of the troops vainly attempting

to blast him.

107-108 INT. ALDERAAN - HALLWAY 107-108

Luke, Han, Chewbacca and Princess Leia run down an empty

hallway and stop before a bay window overlooking the

pirate starship. Luke takes out his pocket com-link.

LUKE

See Threepio... do you copy?

THREEPIO

I read you sir.

LUKE

You're back. What happened? Never

mind. What's going on?

THREEPIO

I'm afraid we're not plugged in at

the moment, sir. We've had some

problems.

LUKE

Are you safe?

THREEPIO

For the moment. We're in the main

hangar. Artoo is trying to plug into

the system now.

LUKE

Good. We're right above you. Stand

by.

Han is watching the dozen or so troops moving in and out

of the starship.

HAN

It's going to take a little doing to

get back to the ship. It looks like

I'm going to get a fight after all.

The two boys rush down the hallway, followed by the lum-

bering Chewbacca and Princess Leia. They round a corner

and run smack dab into twenty Imperial stormtroopers

heading towards them. Both groups are taken by surprise

and stop in their tracks. Before even thinking, Han

draws his laser-pistol and charges the troops, yelling

at the top of his lungs. The troops are startled by

this assault and start to back off. Han manages to cut

several down before the rest flee in panic. Pleased

with his prowess, Han starts after them, yelling back to

Luke as he goes.

HAN

Get to the ship!

LUKE

Come back here... Where are you

going?

Han has already rounded a corner and does not hear. Chew-

bacca, quite upset at his master's disappearance, lets out

a mighty howl and chases after him.

LUKE

Holy Maker!

Luke is furious but doesn't have time to think about it,

for muted alarms begin to go off down on the hangar deck.

Luke and the princess start off toward the starship

hangar.

109 INT. ALDERAAN - SUB-HALLWAY 109

Han chases the ten stormtroopers down a long sub-hallway.

He is yelling and brandishing his laser-pistol. The

troops reach a deadend and are forced to turn and fight.

Han stops a few feet from them and assumes a defensive

position. He is ready to cut them down. The troops

begin to raise their laser guns. Soon all ten troopers

are moving into an attack position in front of the lone

starpirate. Han's determined look begins to fade as

the troops begin to advance.

110 INT. ALDERAAN - SUB-HALLWAY 110

Chewbacca runs down the sub-hallway in a last-ditch

attempt to save his bold captain. Suddenly he hears the

firing of laser guns and yelling. Around the corner

shoots Han Solo, pirate extraordinaire, running for his

life, followed by a host of furious stormtroopers.

Chewbacca turns and starts running the other way also.

They run around several corners and the troops drop

behind.

111 INT. ALDERAAN - NARROW PASSAGEWAY 111

Old Ben hides in the shadows of a narrow passageway as

twenty or thirty stormtroopers rush past him in the

main hallway. He checks to make sure they're gone,

then runs down the hallway in the opposite direction.

112 INT. ALDERAAN - MAIN FORWARD BAY - SERVICE PANEL 112

Little Artoo carefully plugs his claw arm into a new

wall socket, and a complex array of electronic sounds

spew from the tiny robot.

THREEPIO

Wait a minute, slow down!... That's

better. They're where? They what?

They are? Oh, no!

We're going to be mashed into conduit

before this is over...

LUKE

See Threepio! Do you copy?

113 INT. ALDERAAN - HALLWAY - BLAST SHIELD DOOR 113

Luke and the princess run down a hallway and reach a

complex blast shield door. Luke is talking into his

com-link.

LUKE

Are you hooked into the system?...

Good. Open the shield door... 11054B...

hurry...

Han and Chewbacca come lumbering around the corner and

rush up to Luke and the princess.

HAN

Can you get it open?

A multi-layered series of doors begin to open behind

them, just as the squad of stormtroopers that are

chasing Han and Chewbacca round the corner and start

firing on the rebels. Han returns the fire and the

hallway quickly fills up with smoke and confusion

as the final hatch swings open.

They turn and start into the main spaceport causeway.

A few steps into the causeway the group stops short.

Two Dark Lords of the Sith, leading about thirty storm-

troopers, stride toward them. Luke and Han let loose

with their blasters, then follow the princess and the

Wookiee back into the first hallway. Luke takes out

his com-link.

LUKE

See Threepio... Close the shield door!

Close the shield door quickly... lock

it tight!

The five layers of the door instantly slam shut. Laser bolts

continued to ricochet around them.

HAN

Now what!?!

Luke shrugs his shoulders. The stormtroopers continue

their assault, filling the hallway with smoke and debris.

LEIA

This way, hurry!

She rushes over to a large slit in the wall somewhat

like a storm drain. She jumps through the narrow open-

ing as Han and Chewbacca look on in amazement. Chew-

bacca says something.

HAN

Go on! You big furry oaf.

He shoves the Wookiee into the tiny opening and the

Wookiee disappears into the darkness followed quickly

by Han. Luke fires off a couple of quick blasts,

creating a smoky cover, then slides into the garbage

chute and is gone. When the smoke clears, the troops

advance.

SERGEANT

Get this shield door open!

114 INT. ALDERAAN - SPACEPORT - GARBAGE ROOM 114

Luke tumbles into a large room filled with garbage and

muck. Han and Chewbacca are already stumbling around

looking for an exit. He finds a small hatchway and

struggles to get it open. It won't budge.

HAN

(sarcastic)

The garbage chute wasn't a bad idea,

your highness, but unfortunately these

trash rooms are vacuum sealed.

He draws his laser-pistol and fires at the hatch. The

laser bolt ricochets wildly around the small metal

room. Everyone dives for cover in the garbage as the

bolt explodes almost on top of them. Leia climbs out

of the garbage with a rather grim look on her face.

LEIA

Put that thing away or you're going

to get us all killed.

HAN

(sarcastic)

Yes, your highness.

I'll let you open it then. It won't

be too long before they figure out

what happened to us. This has

turned into a brilliant escape!

LEIA

It could be worse...

Luke and the princess go over to help Chewbacca, who is

straining to open the emergency latch. Han moves about

in the muck. Suddenly the walls of the garbage recep-

tacle shudder and move in a couple of inches. Then

everything is deathly quiet.

HAN

I've got a very bad feeling about

all this.

Before anyone can say anything the walls begin to rumble

and edge toward the rebels.

LEIA

Don't just stand there. Try to brace

it with something.

They place poles and long metal beams between the closing

walls, but they are simply snapped and bent as the giant

trash masher rumbles on. The situation doesn't look

good.

HAN

This isn't working, your highness.

The room gets smaller and smaller until it is only three

feet wide. Garbage is snapping and popping as it is

crushed by the relentless walls. Luke's com-link begins

to buzz, and he pulls it off his belt.

LUKE

Holy Maker, Threepio. I forgot...

THREEPIO

Are you there, sir? We're going...

LUKE

Threepio! Shut down all garbage

mashers on your level... Do you copy??

Threepio, shut down all garbage...

The rumbling walls continue. It looks hopeless, and

then they stop. Everyone breathes a sigh of relief.

Luke goes over to the pressure hatch and scrapes some

muck off a number.

LUKE

Open the pressure maintenance hatch

on unit 366117891...

115 INT. ALDERAAN - HALLWAY - BLAST SHIELD DOOR 115

The huge blast shield door slides open and the storm-

troopers on either side almost shoot each other, but

quickly realize they have been tricked. The Sith Lords

point to the garbage chute.

116 INT. ALDERAAN - HALLWAY LEADING TO MAIN FORWARD BAY 116

Old Ben hurries along one of the tunnels leading to the

starship hangar. Just before he is about to reach the

hangar, Darth Vader steps into view at the end of the

tunnel not more than ten feet away.

VADER

I've been waiting... At least we meet

again... It could only have been you...

BEN

The Force of the Bogan has grown

strong with you. I expected your

master...

VADER

You were once my master, but I am the

master now... the Crystal will be of

little use to you...

The fearsome dark knight ignites his laser-sword and takes

a defensive stance. The two galactic warriors stand per-

fectly still for a few moments, sizing each other up and

waiting for the right moment. Old Ben seems to be under

increasing pressure and strain, as if an invisible weight

were being placed upon him. He shakes his head and,

blinking, tries to clear his eyes.

VADER

Your powers are weak... Old man, you

should never have come back.

Ben makes a sudden lunge at the huge warrior but is

checked by a lightning movement of the Sith. A master-

ful slash-stroke by Vader is blocked by the old Jedi.

Another of the Jedi's blows is blocked, then countered.

Ben moves around the Dark Lord and starts backing into

the massive starship hangar. The two powerful warriors

stand motionless for a few moments with laser-swords

locked in mid-air, creating a low buzzing sound.

117 INT. ALDERAAN - MAIN FORWARD BAY - STARSHIP 117

Threepio looks up and sees Ben emerging from the hallway.

THREEPIO

There's the general! Where are the

others?... Oh, no!

Threepio ducks out of sight as the seven stormtroopers

who were guarding the starship rush past them heading

toward Ben and the Sith knight. When the robot ven-

tures another peek, he spots Han, Luke, Chewbacca and

the princess running out of a tunnel on the other side

of the starship and heading toward them. He pulls on

Artoo.

THREEPIO

Unplug yourself. We're going!

Ben sees the troops charging toward him and realizes

that he is trapped. Vader takes advantage of Ben's

momentary distraction and brings his mighty laser-sword

down on the old man. But Ben manages to deflect the

blow, swiftly turning around, cutting a safety lock on

the blast door. Vader is standing in the access tunnel,

while Ben is in the huge hangar, and the heavy blast

door slams down between them, trapping Vader in the

tunnel.

Ben instantly turns toward the troops. They stop in

their tracks and start to raise their weapons. Before

they can fire a shot, a laser bolt explodes in the

middle of them, creating havoc. The troops turn around

to see Luke and Han firing on them from the ramp of the

starship. Threepio and Artoo run up the ramp and dis-

appear inside the ship. Chewbacca appears at the door

of the pirate ship and throws a dead stormtrooper onto

the hangar floor. Luke turns to Han.

LUKE

Get the ship started!

As Han starts up the ramp, Leia grabs the laser-pistol

out of his hand. Han starts to grab it back, then

thinks better of it and rushes into the starship. Ben

charges into the troops, cutting them down as he goes.

Luke is forced to stop firing and runs to the old man's

aid with his laser-sword drawn. Several of the troops

flee in panic, but the two that remain fire their laser-

pistols point blank at the old man. Ben deflects the

bolt, but it explodes near him and he slumps to the

floor in a heap. Luke cuts down the remaining troops

and rushes to the old Jedi's side.

Ben is still alive, but badly hurt. A fresh squad of

stormtroopers appear at a second tunnel, and Leia fires

off a blast that makes them duck for cover.

LEIA

Luke, quickly! There are more coming!

Luke struggles to drag the old man toward the ship under

the constant fire of the Imperial troops. Luke fires

back whenever possible and manages to keep the troops at

bay. The princess takes careful aim and hits the safety

lock on the blast door, causing it to slam shut, leaving

only three troops left in the hangar. The princess runs

down the ramp and helps Luke drag the old man aboard.

Luke puts away his laser-pistol and takes out his com-link.

LUKE

Han, close the main hatch and get

this thing moving!

118 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - COCKPIT 118

Han pulls back on the controls and the ship begins to

move. The dull thud of laser bolts can be heard bounc-

ing of the outside of the ship. The princess enters

the cockpit with a worried look on her face.

HAN

Don't worry. They aren't going to

hurt us with those peashooters...

This ship is fully shielded.

119 INT. ALDERAAN - MAIN FORWARD BAY - STARSHIP 119

The pirate starship lifts away from the starship bay

and quickly disappears into the cloud sea of Alderaan.

The three troops continue to fire at the retreating

ship.

The blast doors quickly slide open revealing Darth

Vader, an Imperial commander and many troops. The Dark

Lord casually enters the hangar bay and speaks to the

commander.

VADER

Very good. It worked. Slow them

down, but don't stop them. Alert

all the tracking stations. We should

soon know the location of at least

one of their hidden bases. Alert the

Death Star.

120 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - COCKPIT 120

Chewbacca enters the crowded cockpit and jabbers away

to Han. The young starcaptain jumps up while speaking

into the com-link.

HAN

Luke, you'd better get to on of the

gun ports. We've got four tie ships

coming in on grid five.

Chewbacca squeezes into the pilot's chair next to the

princess. Han notices the skeptical look on Leia's

face.

HAN

With your permission I will go and

assist young Luke. Don't worry.

Chewbacca's a better pilot than I am.

121 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - GUN PORTS - AFT SECTION - 121

TRAVELING

Luke is firing one of the two main laser cannons

mounted in large rotating bubble turrets. He adjusts

his headphones and searches his electronic tracking

screen for the Imperial fighters.

LEIA (V.O.)

(over headphones)

Here come six more... grid two!

HAN

Was this trip really necessary?

Han jumps into the turret opposite Luke and begins to

strap himself in. The pirate starship shudders as the

Imperial fighters open fire. Luke's turret swings

around as he continues to return the fire. Moments

later Han lowers his glare reflector and with a burst

of smoke and electrical charge opens up on the enemy

craft. One of the Imperial fighters is hit by a con-

centrated barrage and begins spinning out of control,

until it finally explodes. Han gives Luke a victory

wave, which Luke gleefully returns.

122 EXT. SPACE AROUND ARLDEAAN 122

Imperial fighters buzz about everywhere. The constant

flashing of deflected laser bolts reflect in the inter-

ior of the turret bubble.

123 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - SLEEP AREA 123

The robots secure the wounded Ben Kenobi in a bunk. A

huge explosion throws Artoo and Threepio crashing

against the passageway wall.

THREEPIO

Here we go again. How did we manage

to get into this mess again?

Over the com-link the princess gives instructions as to

the enemy formations. Several more Imperial ships ex-

plode and disappear from view. The pirate starship

undergoes a great deal of punishment as the battle rages.

124 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - COCKPIT - TRAVELING 124

The cockpit is alive with warning lights and buzzers,

but Chewbacca manages to keep things under control.

LEIA

There are only three or four left.

HAN

(over intercom)

Chewbacca, it's time we showed them

this isn't the regulation F8-88

Cargo Trawler.

Chewbacca pulls back on several of the levers before

him and the ship surges away from the tiny fighters.

The pirate starship races through the galaxy at an

incredible speed.

125 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - GUN PORTS - AFT SECTION - 125

TRAVELING

Luke and Han continue to fire at the Imperial fighters.

HAN

At this speed they aren't very

maneuverable...

One explodes, then another.

LEIA

(over intercom)

They're dropping away... We made it.

Luke and Han congratulate each other on their victory.

126-127 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - HALLWAY - SLEEP AREA 126-127

Leia follows little Artoo into the sleep area where

Threepio and Luke are trying to make Old Ben comfortable.

Han finishes putting away some medical supplies as the

princess enters.

LEIA

All the data banks in Artoo are still

secure.

HAN

Then I think we're due the reward

you offered... and it had better be

substantial after what we've been

through.

LEIA

When Artoo has been safely delivered

to my forces, you get your reward.

You have my guarantee.

HAN

What's that little 'droid' carrying

that's so blasted important?

LEIA

The plans and specifications to a

battle station with enough fire

power to destroy an entire system...

Our only hope in destroying it is

to find its weakness, which we will

determine from the data I stored in

Artoo.

LEIA (CONT'D)

We captured the plans in a raid on

the Imperial shipyards, but we fell

under attack before I could get the

data to safety, so I hid it in this

Artoo unit and sent him off.

HAN

Where are you taking us now anyway?

LEIA

The fourth moon of Yavin. I've given

the coordinates to Chewbacca.

HAN

I'd better go see how he's doing.

Han exits as Old Ben painfully lifts himself on one

elbow.

BEN

They let us go... They're tracking

us. They want to find your hidden

bases. They'll destroy the system.

LEIA

I know they'll follow... and they'll

bring the Death Star, but our only

hope is to destroy it before it

destroys us. Hiding is useless now.

With the Death Star they will continue

to destroy systems until they have

found us. We have no alternative

but to process the information and

use it while there is still time.

Threepio helps the old man lie back.

LUKE

Are there medical facilities on Yavin?

LEIA

He'll be well cared for.

128 EXT. SPACE AROUND FOURTH MOON OF YAVIN 128

The battered pirate starship drifts into orbit around

the emerald green fourth moon of Yavin.

129 INT. PIRATE STARSHIP - COCKPIT - TRAVELING 129

Han and Chewbacca are at the controls as Luke hurries

into the cockpit.

HAN

I don't pick up any life form

concentration down there. She'd

better be right.

LUKE

They must be shielded somehow. I'm

sure the base is there.

HAN

Well, if it's not, we'll be facing

that Death Star all by our lonesome.

130 EXT. SPACE AROUND FOURTH MOON OF YAVIN 130

Two small lifepods jettison away from the starship and

slowly drift toward the awesome deep green surface of

the moon. Retro-rockets automatically kick in and

slow the pods. The two tiny craft break through the

light cloud cover and disappear in the dense, steaming

jungles of Yavin's fourth moon.

131 EXT. FOURTH MOON OF YAVIN - VINE JUNGLE 131

One of the lifepods has come to rest in the middle of

a small clearing. Han, Luke and Threepio emerge from

the capsule into a forest of gargantuan trees shrouded

in an eerie mist. The air is heavy with the fantastic

cries of unimaginable creatures.

LUKE

I don't see how we got through those

trees in one piece.

A loud crashing sound is heard coming through the

jungle. Han instantly draws his laser-pistol and

then relaxes when he sees that it is Chewbacca leading

Leia and little Artoo into the clearing.

HAN

I don't see how we're going to find

anything out here. This terrain is

hopeless.

LEIA

Did it occur to you they might find us?

The princess has a knowing smile on her face as Han

looks around in the nearby jungle and realizes they are

surrounded by twenty rebel Aquillian rangers. The

rebel soldiers break out of the dark foliage and approach

the group. The princess meets them a short way from the

group and gives out a series of animated orders. The

soldiers begin to rush about. Four of them attach a

lifting disk on Artoo and easily carry him off. Two

other rangers help Luke lift Old Ben out of the landing

pod and onto a stretcher. The princess rejoins the

group.

LEIA

We must hurry to the base. We have

little time before the Death Star

arrives.

HAN

I'd like to get paid before that

eventually. I don't plan to stick

around for the fireworks.

Luke is surprised at Han's desire to leave and is clearly

disappointed.

132 EXT. FOURTH MOON OF YAVIN - MASASSI OUTPOST 132

An ancient temple rots in the dense jungle.

133 INT. MASASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM 133

In the bowels of the temple a massive and sophisticated

war room has been constructed. The princess stands

before a large electronic wall display surrounded by a

half dozen field commanders. Luke, Han, Chewbacca and

Threepio are milling around just outside the war room.

An OFFICER enters and hooks up a headphone to the dis-

play board. Artoo is standing near the princess with

his arm plugged into a computer panel.

OFFICER

The analysis is coming through now.

Everyone turns to the big board where various schematics

of a large round space station are displayed.

OFFICER

The cross analysis confirms a weak

point here, near the north axis...

The display flashes a close angle of the north pole of

the complex globe.

OFFICER

In an area somewhere below the

generating towers there is a small

thermal exhaust port. It is an

unshielded shaft that runs directly

into the reactor system.

A large, sallow-eyed general named AAY ZAVOS fiddles

nervously with a small hand computer.

ZAVOS

The greatest concentration of fire

power is at the poles... That exhaust

port looks too small to hit from the

air... We'll have to land an assault

force and use delayed link-weapons.

The GRAND MOUFF TARKIN, the thin commander of the out-

land Kesselian Dagoons, stands.

TARKIN

An assault force is too big. Their

lateral defenses are too strong for

that type of landing. With all due

respect, I suggest an attack with

our smallest, most maneuverable

ships. If we can get close enough,

I think we can target it.

LEIA

Correlate the plan into the master

logic system. If there is any kind

of probability ratio at all, we'll

go ahead with it. Send out the alert

... We haven't much time.

Most of the commanders hurry out of the room. Two of

the generals stay with the princess and go over the

Death Star readout. Han and Luke watch as the com-

manders rush out of the war room. Han is getting im-

patient and before Luke can stop him, he has pushed

past the guards and approached the princess.

HAN

What about us? Are we to wait

forever? Is our reward to be blown

to bits on this forsaken system,

while your fleet mounts some suicidal

attack on that Death Star?

Part of my reward is that I be

around to spend it.

LEIA

I have little time for your

mercenary concerns, but I am

grateful for the service you have

given to our cause. What is your

price?

A grin slides across Han's face.

HAN

Ten million.

The two rebel generals look at one another almost not

believing their ears. Luke starts to say something,

but the princess turns to an officer.

LEIA

See that he gets it and quickly.

The princess then turns to Luke. She is very cold and

businesslike.

LEIA

And you?

LUKE

I... I don't know. I guess I never

thought about it... I just want to

help. I want to be in on the attack.

I want my own ship.

LEIA

If you're as good a pilot as you are

a swordsman... We're the ones who

have been rewarded.

134 INT. MASASSI OUTPOST - MEDICAL CHAMBER 134

Old Ben rests in the cool, dim quiet of an electronic

medical chamber. Luke and Han are by his side.

HAN

Goodbye, Ben, goodbye, Luke. This

is a charter I won't soon forget.

And I thought it would be a snap.

He shakes his head. Luke extends his hand.

LUKE

You're a good pilot... I've learned

a lot from you... I wish you...

HAN

I know, but the chances for survival

here just aren't great enough in my

book. I've got what I came for.

Now I've got to get back to my ship.

They shake hands. Han starts to leave, then turns and

winks.

HAN

May the Force be with you.

Chewbacca is waiting for him outside the room, and they

hurry off down the hallway. Luke turns back to Ben.

BEN

I want you to take this.

He pulls the Kiber Crystal out of his tunic and it radi-

ates a warm glow through out the small room. Luke takes

it.

LUKE

The Kiber Crystal.

BEN

Keep it with you always. You'll have

more need of it than I. It will

bring the Force to you. You've

already learned to feel it... Now you

must learn to use it.

Luke lowers his head in a kind of meditation.

BEN

You'd better hurry if you're going

to get to that briefing.

Luke stands up as Threepio and Artoo enter.

LUKE

You'd better be up and around by

the time I get back. Threepio, take

good care of him.

Luke pats the lanky robot on the back.

LUKE

You've done well, Threepio. You

have both served us well beyond your

programming. When I return, I'll

have both you and Artoo retired, if

you like.

Artoo lets out with a couple of soft beeps.

THREEPIO

Thank you, sir. Your kindness is

greatly appreciated, but if it's

at all possible, Artoo and I would

like to remain in your service.

LUKE

I'd consider it an honor.

He turns and starts out the door.

LUKE

Come on, Artoo. We've got some work

to do.

The stubby little droid waddles out of the room after

his master.

135 INT. MASASSI OUTPOST - BRIEFING ROOM 135

The Grand Mouff Tarkin stands before a large projection

of the north pole of the Death Star. Four squad com-

manders (BLUE LEADER, RED LEADER, etc.) sit to one side

of the giant readout. The low ceilinged room is filled

with starpilots, navigators, and a sprinkling of Artoo-

type robots. Everyone is listening intently to what

Tarkin is saying.

TARKIN

... You'll have to come straight in,

then at the last possible moment

level off and skim the surface to

this point. The target is a four by

four thermal exhaust port that runs

directly into the reactor system.

A direct hit straight into the shaft

should set up a chain reaction that

will destroy the station... the post

is ray-shielded, so you'll have to

use your torpedoes.

Luke is sitting next to CHEWIE ANTILLES, a hot-shot

pilot about sixteen years old. Artoo is sitting next

to a little R-2 robot, who lets out a long whistle of

hopelessness and skepticism.

CHEWIE (BLUE TWO)

A four by four target at maximum

speed with a torpedo yet! That's

going to be a neat trick.

LUKE

It's not so bad. We used to bulls-

eye womprats in my T-16 back home.

CHEWIE (BLUE TWO)

This will take a little more than

a barnyard marksmanship, believe me.

Red Leader, a roguish looking man in his early thirties,

stands and addresses the pilots.

RED LEADER

Take a special note of these

emplacements. There is a heavy

concentration of fire power on the

lateral axis... also their generating

towers will probably create a strong

magnetic field. It is calculated

that maneuverability in this sector

will be less than point three.

TARKIN

We must have a direct hit. Yellow

squadron will cover for red on the

first run. Then green will cover

for blue on the second. Any questions?

A muted buzz moves throughout the room, but there are

no questions.

TARKIN

Then man your ships and may the Force

be with you.

136 INT. MASASSI OUTPOST - MAIN HANGAR DECK 136

Luke and little Artoo enter a huge spaceship hangar

carved out of the interior of the crumbling temple and

hurry along a long line of gleaming spacefighters.

Flight crews rush here and there loading last minute

armament and unlocking power couplings. Luke is

stopped by Blue Leader, a rugged, handsome man in his

forties. He has the confident smile of a born leader.

BLUE LEADER

You're Starkiller?

LUKE

Yes, sir.

BLUE LEADER

Have you been checked out?

LUKE

Yes, sir. I was considered one of

the best bush pilots on Sullust.

I've also had six hours on the T-2.

Blue Leader has a skeptical look on his face.

BLUE LEADER

Six hours, huh? Well, that's your

ship there. You're blue five. You

stay glued to me. I don't want any

independent operations out there.

Personally I think it's foolish for

them to be sending fresh kids out

on a job like this. This is no joy

ride we're going on.

LUKE

Yes, sir.

A warning buzzer sounds and Blue Leader smiles.

BLUE LEADER

May the Force be with you.

Luke makes a short bow from the waist as Blue Leader

hurries to his ship. Luke's ground crew has hoisted

little Artoo into a socket on the back of the one-man

starship fighter. Luke climbs aboard the sleek, deadly

spacecraft. Blue Leader gives his ground crew the sig-

nal that he is starting his ion engines. Luke's CREW CHIEF

pats him on the helmet and has to yell to be heard over

the ion engines.

CHIEF

That R-2 unit of yours seems a little

beat-up. Do you want a new one?

Luke shakes his head no.

CHIEF

Knock them all the way back to

Alderaan.

The canopy is closed and the powerful starship moves

into a deep runway shaft that leads to the outside. Luke

checks out the computer readouts as his crew locks down

the armament.

LUKE

Artoo, are you secure?

The little droid, who is now part of the exterior shell

of the starship, beeps that he is fine, which reads out

over the computer monitor. One of the crewman climbs

up to the cockpit.

CREWMAN

I've removed the lateral casings,

which should make you about a

thousand pounds lighter.

He hangs a small good luck charm inside the cockpit as

the canopy starts to slide closed. Luke signals to the

crewmen that everything is okay. Other crewmen say

goodbye to their pilots, some serious, some kidding --

all with a great deal of hidden emotion.

137 EXT. FOURTH MOON OF YAVIN - MASASSI OUTPOST - JUNGLE 137

All that can be seen of the fortress is a lone guard

standing on a small pedestal jutting out above the

dense jungle. The muted, gruesome crying sounds that

naturally permeate this eerie purgatory are overwhelmed

by the thundering din of ion rockets as four silver

starships catapult from the foliage in a tight forma-

tion and disappear into the morning cloud cover.

138 INT. MASASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM 138

The princess sits quietly before the giant display show-

ing the planet of Yavin and her four moons. The red dot

that represents the Death Star moves ever closer to the

system. A series of green dots appear around the fourth

moon. The Grand Mouff Tarkin stands behind the princess

with several other field commanders.

TARKIN

They're all away. For the first

time since the take-over, I feel

real hope.

Everyone turns as Threepio enters with Old Ben who is

walking with a chrome cane. The old man smiles at the

young princess.

LEIA

Switch them to the main com-link

system. Let everyone hear it.

The voices of the starpilots are broadcast into the

room.

BLUE LEADER (V.O.)

Masassi Base, we have visual contact.

139 EXT. SPACE AROUND FOURTH MOON OF YAVIN 139

A small bright speck orbiting the huge red planet of

Yavin sparkles in the light of the distant sun. Eight

rebel starships settle ominously into the foreground,

moving swiftly toward the orbiting speck. As the

starships move closer, the awesome size of the gargan-

tuan Imperial space fortress is revealed.

140 INT. BLUE LEADER STARSHIP - COCKPIT - TRAVELING 140

Blue Leader, in the first ship, signals to the other

pilots in his wing group. The many monitors are filled

with various computer readouts and displays. Over the

com-link one of the other starpilots (BLUE SIX) reports

to Blue Leader.

BLUE SIX (V.O.)

(intercom)

Look at the size of that thing!

BLUE LEADER

Cut off, Blue Six. Stand by. Blue

group, move in to cover the south.

Red group, try for the exhaust port.

Settle in. Here we go.

141 INT. LUKE'S STARSHIP - COCKPIT - TRAVELING 141

Luke adjusts the controls of the tiny starfighter and

lowers the sunshade on his goggles.

BLUE LEADER (V.O.)

Blue Five, does that glare bother

you?

LUKE (BLUE FIVE)

I've got it blocked. I'm all right.

142 EXT. SPACE AROUND FOURTH MOON OF YAVIN - BATTLE 142

Fuel pods are jettisoned. The starship fighters extend

their dart-like wings and break off into a power dive

attack on the space fortress. A barrage of laser fire

from the huge fortress creates a wall of death through

which most of the rebel craft miraculously emerge --

undamaged. Multiple laser bolts streak from the star-

ship fighters, creating small explosions on the complex

surface of the fort. Luke directs his fire at one of

the prime power terminals. It explodes, generating

weird electronic arcs that leap off the station's surface.

143-163 INT. DEATH STAR - MAIN STATION 143-163

Walls buckle and cave in, sucking debris and personnel

into the vacuum of space. Alarm sirens scream as sol-

diers scramble to large turbo-powered laser gun emplace-

ments. Officers yell orders through the smoke and con-

fusion. Man and robots of various shapes and sizes run

to their battle stations. Standing in the middle of the

chaos, a vision of calm and foreboding, is the evil Sith

knight, Darth Vader. Several astro-officers run up to

him, still putting on the helmets and equipment.

VADER

Get to your ships. I'll take the

lead myself. We finally have them

where we want them.

164 INT. MASASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM 164

The princess and her generals listen silently to the

action of the starships over the com-link. The aides

and troops move about very quietly listening to the

battle as they work.

BLUE LEADER (V.O.)

Blue One to Masassi Base, we're

nearing the south pole transmitter

area. The magnetic concussion is

getting very rough.

We're starting our run. Tighten it

up. Blue Two, tighten it up. Watch

those towers.

CHEWIE (BLUE TWO)(V.O.)

Heavy fire, boss. Twenty-three

degrees.

BLUE LEADER (V.O.)

I see it. Pull in. Pull in. We're

picking up some interference.

BLUE SIX (V.O.)

Wow, I've never seen such fire power.

BLUE LEADER (V.O.)

Pull in, Blue Two. Pull in. Chewie,

do you read me? Chewie?

CHEWIE (V.O.)

I'm all right, boss. I've got a

target. I'm going in to check it out.

BLUE SIX (V.O.)

There is too much action, Chewie. Get

out!

BLUE LEADER (V.O.)

Break off, Chewie. Acknowledge.

We've hit to much interference. Blue

Six, can you see Blue Two?

BLUE SIX (V.O)

I've lost him. There's a heavy fire

zone on this side. My scanner's

jammed. Blue Five?

LUKE (V.O.)

He's gone. No, wait. There he is.

Fin damage, but he's all right.

A sigh of relief sweeps across the war room.

BLUE LEADER (V.O.)

Watch your back, Luke. Watch your

back! Squad above you, Blue Five!

Coming in -- about six ships.

165-171 EXT. SPACE AROUND FOURTH MOON OF YAVIN - BATTLE - 165-171

REBEL FIGHTERS

Two fin-winged Imperial fighters dive on Luke, but he

does a quick spiral turn and eludes them.

RED LEADER

Blue Leader, this is Red Leader...

We've marked the target and are

starting our attack run.

BLUE LEADER

I copy, Red Leader. We'll try to

keep them busy on this end. Blue

Five, stay close now...

Blue Leader and Luke (Blue Five) and Blue Four dive in

unison through a forest of radar domes, antenna and gun

towers. They are followed by four Imperial tie fighters.

The two rebel ships make a sharp turn and come around

behind the Imperial ships. Blue Four and Blue Leader

fire into the tie fighters as the six ships crisscross

the surface of the fortress.

Suddenly a dense barrage of laser fire erupts from a

protruding tower, catching Blue Four broadside. The

rebel spacecraft bursts into a million flaming pieces.

Luke has a sudden realization of the danger he is in,

but it quickly fades as another Imperial fighter moves

onto his tail and begins firing. Luke rolls away from

the enemy ship.

Blue Leader reacts to the loss of his wing man with a

renewed attack on the Imperial ships -- one of which

falls away and hits a prime power terminal, creating an

arching spectacle. A chain reaction is set off, creat-

ing a series of explosions leaping across the surface of

the fortress from terminal to terminal.

172-174 INT. Y WING REBEL STARFIGHTER - RED LEADER COCKPIT 172-174

A blazing and out of control Red Leader dives toward the

Death Star surface followed by Darth Vader in a small,

spider-like Imperial fighter.

RED LEADER

Blue Leader, this is Red Leader.

They hit us before we could get down.

You'll need more air cover. Sith

Lords...

175-190 EXT. DEATH STAR - SOUTH POLE 175-190

Blue Leader see Luke has an Imperial fighter on his

tail.

BLUE LEADER

We're on our way, Red Leader.

Blue Two (Chewie) miraculously dives his ship through

a virtual sea of laser fire and blasts the Imperial

fighters chasing Luke into dust. Chewie signals to

Luke, who lets out a whooping cheer as Chewie veers

into a victory roll.

BLUE LEADER

Great moves, Chewie. Red Leader

needs some help. We're going to try

for the exhaust port. Coincide, Blue

Five.

Luke and Blue Three bob and weave in formation toward a

group of giant towers at the north pole.

LUKE (BLUE FIVE)

I see the target. It looks good.

BLUE THREE

I've got it. We're hit! We're hit!

LUKE (BLUE FIVE)

Eject... Eject. Blue Three, do you

read?

BLUE THREE

I'm all right. I can hold it. Give

me a little room, Blue Five. Watch

it! Watch it!

Blue Three wobbles a little, then drops away sharply,

plowing into a huge laser gun emplacement, causing a

hideous series of chain reaction explosions. The re-

maining starships of the Blue group fly in a tight

formation and dive between the tall towers near the

exhaust port.

BLUE LEADER

Masassi Base, we're in position and

staring for the target. Chewie,

hold your fire until we're within

point zero five four. Make it count.

Luke, stay close.

Several ack-ack lasers begin to open fire on the

approaching spacecraft. The rebel ships direct their

fire at a small, glowing blue hole at the base of one

of the towers. One of the Blue Four's engines begins

to smoke and an R-2 unit pops out of the back and

attempts to repair it.

CHEWIE (BLUE TWO)

I'm on it.

Blue Two dives directly at the small target, is unable

to pull out and crashes into the base of one of the

towers. Blue Leader dives between the towers, firing

away, but is unable to hit the small hole.

BLUE LEADER

It's very small. It's going to be

difficult. Send in the green group.

I'll try again.

Luke chases an Imperial chip that is chasing Blue Leader.

One of the two large fins on the Imperial fighter explodes

and it careens wildly, leaving an erratic trail of smoke

before eventually crashing into a solar panel.

191-195 EXT. LUKE'S STARSHIP - BATTLE 191-195

Luke swings the small craft around the many outcroppings

of laser towers and transmitters.

LUKE (BLUE FIVE)

I'm right behind you, Blue Leader.

BLUE LEADER

What's that?

Out of the gloom streaks Darth Vader firing on Blue

Leader. Luke tries to intercept the Imperial ship, but

Vader outmaneuvers him. Blue Leader dives on the ex-

haust port, followed by Darth Vader, who is followed by

Luke, desperately trying to catch up.

BLUE LEADER

Blue Five, break off your cover

attack. It's too late. Make your

own run on the exhaust port. Do

you copy, Luke?

LUKE (BLUE FIVE)

Yes, sir, but I can get him...

BLUE LEADER

Forget it, son.

One of the five large engines on Blue Leader's fighter

explodes. He careens wildly, leaving an erratic trail

of smoke before eventually crashing into a solar panel.

Luke can hear the sharp laugh of Vader over the com-link.

196 INT. VADER'S IMPERIAL TIE FIGHTER - COCKPIT - TRAVELING 196

Darth Vader laughs maniacally as he swings his craft

around and starts after Luke's ship.

VADER

You're next, Blue Five... I have

this feeling I know you. The Force

is strong with you.

197 INT. LUKE'S STARSHIP - COCKPIT - TRAVELING 197

Luke's hand instinctively goes to the pocket that holds

the Kiber Crystal. Its glow lights up the entire cabin.

LUKE (BLUE FIVE)

I am Luke Starkiller. Had we met

earlier, you would not be here.

198 INT. MASASSI OUTPOST - WAR ROOM 198

On the computer display board, several of the markers

indicating rebel fighters go dark. The princess gives

Old Ben a look of amused surprise at Luke's boldness.

GENERAL DODANA approaches the princess.

DODANA

Over sixty percent of our craft have

been destroyed. The probability

projection shows little hope. The

Death Star will be in position to

fire on us shortly. We will be

destroyed. We must escape while

there is still time.

The princess gives Dodana a hard look and the cowardly

general back away.

LEIA

There will be no retreat.

199-225 EXT. BATTLE 199-225

Luke (Blue Five) dives on the Death Star at an incredi-

ble speed. He soon realizes Vader is on his tail. He

spins his ship to evade the pursuing Dark Lord, but

Vader is still there. His ship rock and shudders under

the nearby impact of Vader exploding laser bolts. Luke

straightens his ship out and it skims across the surface

of the fortress, creating a blur.

LUKE (BLUE FIVE)

Approaching target. I', almost home.

VADER (V.O.)

Not yet, my bold friend.

Vader hits one of Luke's engines and parts scatter in

all directions. The ship wobbles, but Luke keeps the

craft on target and fires his torpedo... It explodes

harmlessly to one side of the tiny exhaust port. He

pulls his ship up to try for another run.

LUKE (BLUE FIVE)

Blast it! Artoo, we tool a little

back there. My stability is off

about twelve degrees. See if you

can't jam the connecting relays.

We have to get stabilized.

Artoo pops out of his socket and carefully makes his

way back to the smoldering engine. Two other rebel

ships make a dive on the exhaust port. One is blasted

away by Vader, the other fires at the exhaust port and

misses.

BLUE EIGHT

There is just too much interference

with that Sith Lord out there. It's

impossible to get an accurate target

line-up with him there.

LUKE (BLUE FIVE)

Hurry with those relays, Artoo.

We're going to try again.

Luke's tiny rebel fighter banks and prepares for a second

attack on the exhaust port.

Artoo struggles to repair the damage to one of the huge

engines. blue Eight moves in next to him.

BLUE EIGHT

I'll cover for you, Blue Five.

The two rebels start their attack dive. The surface of

the Death Star races toward them. Suddenly, streaking

down from above them, Vader and two other Imperial

fighters sweep into view with all of their laser cannons

blazing away. Laser bolts explode around little Artoo

as he works frantically to repair the stabilizer. Laser

fire hits Blue Eight and he explodes.

VADER

You were foolish enough to try again,

Blue Five.

The three Imperial fighters dive on the lone rebel star-

ship. Luke struggles to keep control of the ship with

laser bolts streaking past him on all sides.

LUKE (BLUE FIVE)

Blast!

VADER

The Force is with you, my bold little

friend, but now I have you...

Suddenly Vader's wing man explodes into a shower of

burning fragments. Vader is surprised and looks around

for the cause of his wing man's misfortune.

VADER

CTR-5, where did that come from?

CTR-5

Collision course... watch out!

Heading right for the two Imperial fighters is Han Solo

in the battered old pirate starship. CTR-5 veers radi-

cally, clipping Vader's solar fin in the maneuver.

Vader spins out of control. Han blasts CTR-5 to smoke.

HAN

I noticed you were having some

problems, Blue Five... I thought

I'd help.

LUKE (BLUE FIVE)

Thanks, old buddy. I'll be with you

in a second.

Luke levels his fighter and skims the surface of the

fortress, through a wall of laser fire. Artoo beeps a

message to Luke.

LUKE (BLUE FIVE)

That's good, Artoo. Just keep it

that way.

As he passes the exhaust port, Luke fires a torpedo,

which goes directly down the exhaust shaft. Luke looks

down at the glowing Kiber Crystal in his hand.

LUKE (BLUE FIVE)

We did it! I hit it perfectly.

Let's get out of here.

Luke veers sharply away from the Death Star as ominous

rumbles and explosions are heard coming from within the

huge super fortress. The rebel ship speeds past the

large pirate starship and several other surviving

rebel fighters as they flee from the pending holocaust.

A sudden great flash replaces the fortress, and a rain-

storm of rubble pelts the starships. Several giant ex-

plosions follow until there is only a smoke cloud where

the mighty fortress once orbited Yavin.

HAN

Not bad, kid.

226-227 INT. VADER IMPERIAL TIE FIGHTER - COCKPIT - TRAVELING 226-227

Vader's starship with a bent solar fin limps into the

vast darkness of space attempting to make it back to

the relative safety of Alderaan.

228 INT. MASASSI OUTPOST - MAIN HANGAR 228

Luke climbs out of his starship and is cheered by a

throng of ground crews and pilots. Little Artoo is

helped off the back of the starship and he's greeted by

Threepio. Luke spots Han and Chewbacca as they enter

and runs over to them. he hugs the Corellian pirate and

the giant Wookiee. They all laugh and cheer. The crowd

parts, revealing Old Ben. Luke goes to him and bows

from waist. The old man embraces him.

229 INT. MASASSI OUTPOST - MAIN THRONE ROOM 229

Luke, Artoo, Threepio, Han and Chewbacca enter the huge

ruins of the main temple.

Hundreds of troops are lined up in neat rows. Banners

are flying and at the far end stands a vision in white,

the beautiful young Princess Leia. Luke and the others

solemnly march up the long aisle and kneel before

Princess Leia. Artoo and Threepio are rather awestruck

at the whole event. Chewbacca is confused. Old Ben is

sitting to the right of the Princess, while the Grand

Mouff Tarkin sits on her left. Leia is dressed in a

long, white dress and is staggeringly beautiful. She

rises and places a gold medallion around Han's neck,

then repeats the ceremony with Chewbacca, the robots

and finally Luke. They turn and face the assembled

troops, who all bow before them.

FADE OUT.

END CREDITS.

THE END