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WILLIAM  
SHAKESPEARE'S  
**STARWARS**<sup>®</sup>

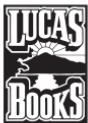
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VERILY, A NEW HOPE

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*By Ian Doescher*

INSPIRED BY THE WORK OF GEORGE LUCAS  
AND WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



TO GRAHAM AND LIAM,  
MY YOUNG PADAWANS,  
AND JENNIFER, "BUT NEVER  
DOUBT I LOVE . . . "

# D R A M A T I S   P E R S O N A E

## CHORUS

LUKE SKYWALKER, *a boy of Tatooine*

OWEN LARS, *his uncle*

BERU LARS, *his aunt*

OBI-WAN KENOBI, *a Jedi knight*

PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA, *of Alderaan*

HAN SOLO, *a smuggler*

CHEWBACCA, *a Wookiee and Han's first mate*

DARTH VADER, *a Sith Lord*

GOVERNOR TARKIN, *of the Imperial army*

C-3PO, *a droid*

R2-D2, *his companion*

JABBA THE HUTT, *a boss*

GREEDO, *his bounty hunter*

WEDGE ANTILLES, *a rebel pilot*

BIGGS DARKLIGHTER, *a rebel pilot*

REBEL LEADERS, CHIEF PILOTS, STORMTROOPERS, CAPTAINS, COMMANDERS, ADMIRALS, GUARDS, JAWAS, DROIDS, TUSKEN RAIDERS, BAR PATRONS, IMPERIAL LEADERS, *and* REBEL PILOTS

# PROLOGUE.

*Outer space.*

*Enter CHORUS.*

CHORUS      It is a period of civil war.  
The spaceships of the rebels, striking swift  
From base unseen, have gain'd a vict'ry o'er  
The cruel Galactic Empire, now adrift.  
Amidst the battle, rebel spies prevail'd      5  
And stole the plans to a space station vast,  
Whose pow'rful beams will later be unveil'd  
And crush a planet: 'tis the DEATH STAR blast.  
Pursu'd by agents sinister and cold,  
Now Princess Leia to her home doth flee,      10  
Deliv'ring plans and a new hope they hold:  
Of bringing freedom to the galaxy.  
In time so long ago begins our play,  
In star-crossed galaxy far, far away.

*[Exit.]*





# ACT I

## SCENE 1.

*Aboard the rebel ship.**Enter C-3PO and R2-D2.*

C-3PO Now is the summer of our happiness  
 Made winter by this sudden, fierce attack!  
 Our ship is under siege, I know not how.  
 O hast thou heard? The main reactor fails!  
 We shall most surely be destroy'd by this.  
 I'll warrant madness lies herein!

R2-D2 —Beep beep,  
 Beep, beep, meep, squeak, beep, beep, whee!

C-3PO —We're doomed.  
 The princess shall have no escape this time!  
 I fear this battle doth portend the end  
 Of the Rebellion. O! What misery!

5

10

*[Exeunt C-3PO and R2-D2.*

CHORUS Now watch, amaz'd, as swiftly through the door  
 The army of the Empire flyeth in.  
 And as the troopers through the passage pour,  
 They murder sev'ral dozen rebel men.

*[Fighting begins.**Enter REBELS. Many die. Enter STORMTROOPERS and DARTH VADER.**Exeunt. Enter R2-D2 with PRINCESS LEIA. C-3PO is across  
 the stage.*

C-3PO Pray, R2-D2, where art thou?

*[Exit Princess Leia.]*

R2-D2                     —Beep, beep.                         15

C-3PO                     At last, where hast thou been? I fear they come  
In this direction. Pray, what shall we do?  
My circuitry o'erloads, my mind's o'erthrown!  
And fear hath put its grip into my wires.  
We shall be sent unto that place I dread—  
The Kessel spice mines whence no droid returns—  
And there be blasted into who knows what!                         20

*[R2-D2 begins to exit.]*

Anon, anon, R2! Where dost thou go?  
O prithee, patience, leave me not alone.  
[Aside:] Aye, even though I mock and injure thee,  
I'll surely die if e'er thou leavest me!                         25

*[Exeunt droids.]*

## SCENE 2.

*Aboard the rebel ship.*

*Enter DARTH VADER, carrying REBEL LEADER 1 by the neck,  
and STORMTROOPERS.*

REBEL 1                     The Death Star plans we could not find herein,  
Nor are they on the main computer, Lord.  
In short, they are not here, and there's an end.

VADER                     Thou speakest well, my stormtrooper, and yet  
Not well upon my ear the message falls.                         5  
I turn to thee, thou rebel. Aye, I lift  
Thy head above my own. Thou canst now choose

To keep thy secrets lock'd safe in that head,  
And therefore lose the life thou holdest dear,  
Or else to keep thy head and, thus, thy life.  
My patience runneth quickly out much like  
The sands across the dunes of Tatooine.  
So tell me, else thou diest quick: where shall  
We find transmissions thou didst intercept?  
What hast thou done, say, with those plans?

*[Darth Vader begins to choke Rebel Leader 1.]*

REBEL 1

—My Lord,

15

My head and life I value—certain 'tis!  
And yet to thee I must report we have  
Not intercepted one transmission! Ahh!  
This is a cons'lar ship, and nothing more,  
On diplomatic mission. Ugh!

VADER

—Thou knave!

20

With thy last breath hear thou this word: if this  
Is but a cons'lar ship, then where is the  
ambassador? [Rebel Leader 1 dies.] Commander,

prithee, go!

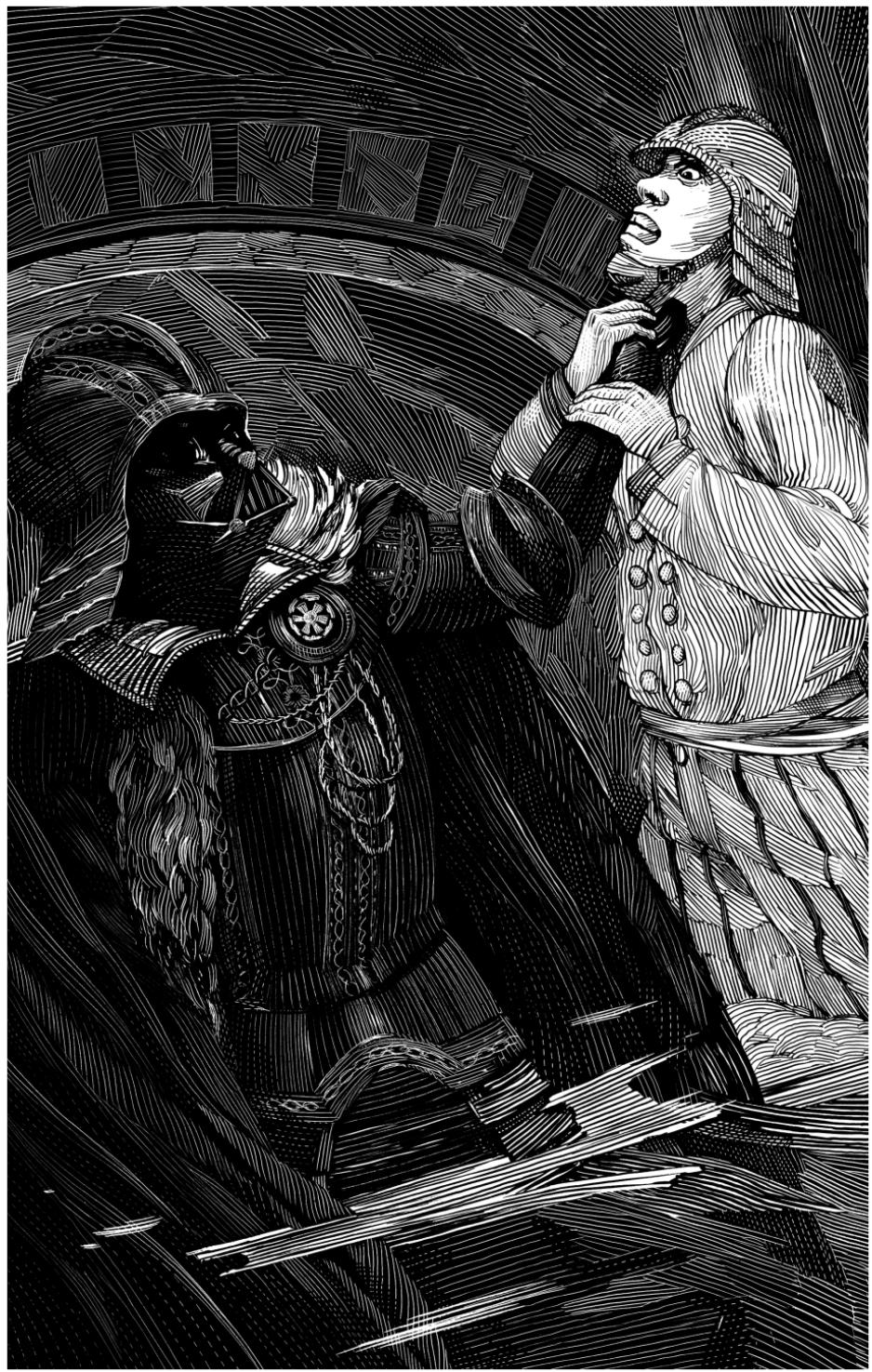
Rend thou this ship apart until the plans  
Are found, and bring me any passengers—  
Upon thy life, I want them brought alive!

25

*[Exeunt stormtroopers.]*

And so another dies by my own hand,  
This hand, which now encas'd in blackness is.  
O that the fingers of this wretched hand  
Had not the pain of suff'ring ever known.  
But now my path is join'd unto the dark,  
And wicked men—whose hands and fingers move

30



To crush their foes—are now my company.  
 So shall my fingers ever undertake  
 To do more evil, aye, and this—my hand—  
 Shall do the Emp'rор's bidding evermore.  
 And thus we see how fingers presage death  
 And hands become the instruments of Fate.

35

*[Exit Darth Vader.]*

*Enter STORMTROOPERS, searching. Enter PRINCESS LEIA,  
 holding a blaster.*

TROOPER 1 Aye, there is one. My comrades, set for stun!

*[Princess Leia shoots, Stormtrooper 1 dies.]*

*Stormtroopers stun Princess Leia.*

TROOPER 2 She shall be well. Go now, inform the dread  
 Lord Vader we have caught a prisoner.

40

*[Aside:]* And may Mos Eisley drinks flow swift and  
 free  
 When Vader grants rewards for work well done!

*[Exeunt stormtroopers with Princess Leia.]*

*Enter C-3PO and R2-D2 as the latter enters escape pod.*

C-3PO Hold! Thou art not permitted to go in.  
 Deactivated thou shalt surely be.

45

R2-D2 Beep, beep, beep, meep!

C-3PO —Thou shalt not label me  
 A mindless, brute philosopher! Nay, nay,  
 Thou overladen glob of grease, thou imp,  
 Thou rubbish bucket fit for scrap, thou blue

- And silver pile of bantha dung! Now, come,                                   50  
And get thee hence away lest someone sees.  
R2-D2      Beep, beep, beep, squeak, beep, beep, beep,  
                                                                                                 beep, whee!  
C-3PO      What secret mission? And what plans? What dost  
Thou talk about? I'll surely not get in!  
                                                                                         [Sound of blast.  
I warrant I'll regret this. So say I!                                   55  
                                                                                                 [Exit C-3PO into escape pod.  
R2-D2      This golden droid has been a friend, 'tis true,  
And yet I wish to still his prating tongue!  
An imp, he calleth me? I'll be reveng'd,  
And merry pranks aplenty I shall play  
Upon this pompous droid C-3PO!                                           60  
Yet not in language shall my pranks be done:  
Around both humans and the droids I must  
Be seen to make such errant beeps and squeaks  
That they shall think me simple. Truly, though,  
Although with sounds oblique I speak to them,                           65  
I clearly see how I shall play my part,  
And how a vast rebellion shall succeed  
By wit and wisdom of a simple droid.  
                                                                                         [Exit R2-D2 into escape pod.  
CHORUS     Now climb the metal pair into the pod,  
Which shooteth from the ship like laser blast.                           70  
And to the planet's face, as straight as rod,  
The capsule takes the droids by power vast.

*Enter CHIEF PILOT and CAPTAIN.*

PILOT            There strays another one.

CAPTAIN        —Pray, hold thy fire:  
For certain there are no life forms aboard.  
And truly what may be the chance that aught      75  
But life alone could fly within that pod?  
The rebels could not be so cunning bold  
To put the Death Star plans therein. If I  
Were one to bet, I'd stake my life on it!  
All's well that endeth well, so say the wise,      80  
And so that pod shall live to land below.

*[Exeunt chief pilot and captain.]*

*Enter DROIDS, aside in escape pod.*

C-3PO            'Tis but a jest—aye surely, we are mock'd!  
For R2-D2, plainly canst thou see  
The damage looks but minor from below.  
Can thou be sure this pod is safe?

R2-D2            —Beep.

C-3PO            —O.      85

*[Exeunt.]*

## SCENE 3.

*Aboard the rebel ship.*

*Enter DARTH VADER and STORMTROOPERS with PRINCESS LEIA.*

LEIA            Darth Vader, only thou couldst be so bold.  
When first my ship was under siege, I knew

'Twas thee who had this peaceful vessel sack'd.  
Th'Imperi'l Senate shall not stand for this.  
For when they hear thou hast attack'd a ship  
On diplomatic mission—

5

VADER —Highness, peace!

Be thou not so surpris'd. For well thou knowst  
A mercy mission this was not, this time.  
Thine innocent appearance doth disguise  
A heart with revolution at its core.

10

Aye, several transmissions were there beam'd  
Unto this ship by rebel spies. I want  
To know what happen'd to the plans they sent!  
And prithee, speak thou well, or speak thy last,  
For fairer necks than thine my hand hath crush'd.

15

LEIA Thine idle threat is meaningless to me.

My neck, my tongue, my mouth—these instruments  
Of speech have not the power to relate  
The knowledge that thou seek'st. For certain 'tis  
I nothing know of what thou ask of me.

20

For I am but a member of the great  
Imperi'l Senate, bound for Alderaan  
On mission diplomatic.

VADER —Nay, thou liest!

For thou art with the reb'l alliance vile,  
And worse, a traitor! Take this one away!

25

*[Exeunt stormtroopers with Princess Leia.]*

The blood and wires within me leap with fire  
When all these trait'rous words I must endure.

*Enter COMMANDER.*

COMMAND. Lord, holding her is dangerous. If word  
Of this is told, then sympathy may rise  
For the Rebellion in the Senate's mind.  
So shall our pow'r o'er all the universe  
Be weaken'd by this wicked, cunning wretch.  
'Tis like the tale my mother told me once  
Of bygone emperor whose reign was lost  
When putrid Ugnauths rose against his throne.

30

So hath my mother said, and I with her:  
A deathly blow oft comes from tiny fist,  
And greatest tree may fall by smallest axe.

35

VADER Commander, peace, and trouble not thy mind  
With tales of old. The princess shall reveal  
Her treachery when all's to do is done.  
The rebel spies are aptly traced to her,  
And now is she my only link to find  
The hidden rebel base.

40

COMMAND. —I'll wager she  
Will die ere she tells thee.

VADER —Leave that to me.

45

Now go, be on thy way, and take this task:  
Send thou a signal of distress, and then  
Inform the Senate all aboard were kill'd.  
So shall our presence here be hid from sight,  
And thus our swift attack shall not be known.

50

*Enter CAPTAIN.*

CAPTAIN Lord Vader, sorry am I to report:  
There are no battle plans aboard this ship,

And neither were transmissions made. There was  
But one escape pod jettison'd amid  
The fighting. But no life forms were aboard.  
For certain 'twas a harmless accident.

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VADER With purpose rank must she have quickly hid  
The plans in the escape pod.

CAPTAIN —Woman vile!

Howe'er could she deceive my subtle mind?  
The plans in the escape pod! O, most rare!

60

VADER Pray, cease thy speech and mark ye what I say:  
Take thou a keen and swift detachment down,  
And bring me back the plans. Commander, go!  
See to the task thyself, before the chime—  
There shall be none to stop our plan this time!

65

*[Exeunt.]*