

STAR WARS EPISODE ONE: CASTLE AMIDALA

Written by

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Based on, the works of George Lucas

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A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away....

STAR WARS

Episode I

CASTLE AMIDALA

The worst has come to pass. The galactic republic has fallen. Senator Palpatine, now styled Emperor, demands that systems declare their allegiance.

On the resource-rich planet of Naboo, Queen Amidala has declared against the emperor but is forced into hiding after her general, Kuto, betrays her.

The Jedi Knight Qui-Gon Jinn, assigned to Naboo, has decided to seek out the Queen, hoping to restore her to the people before the EMPIRE can arrive in earnest....

EXT. AMONG THE LANES OF THEED - DAY

QUI-GON JINN, 50s, formidable, wearing simple Jedi robes, stalks through the lanes. He keeps close to the walls.

Glancing around a corner he sees two soldiers.

Qui-Gon takes a slow breath and stares beyond them. A sound rings out, the slamming of a door. The two soldiers walk off in the direction of the sound.

Qui-Gon enters the new lane and continues safely.

He arrives at an empty crossroads. In the distance, the faint sound of the curfew announcement plays on. He steps out to look.

Two soldiers appear from nearby.

Qui-Gon leaps effortlessly to the second floor balcony of a house and waits.

The soldiers walk by below and turn a corner.

Qui-Gon drops down and affords himself a slight smile.

He turns and takes a couple of steps, but up ahead, a single soldier wanders out of a house and turns into his path.

Young and nervous, he raises his blaster.

QUI-GON
Wait. I'm not going to fight.

YOUNG SOLDIER
(shaking)
Stop or I'll shoot.

There's a length of lane between them.

QUI-GON
Relax ...

He slowly raises his hands but as he does so, his robe falls open revealing his light saber at his belt.

The soldier panics.

He lets off a haphazard shot.

It cuts across Qui-Gon's hip, scorching the robe. Qui-Gon drops to one knee. He grimaces but stays calm.

His hand goes slowly to his belt as he rises.

QUI-GON (CONT'D)
Don't shoot ...

The soldier raises his blaster again and stumbles back, afraid.

Qui-Gon glances quickly around the lane.

Another shot.

The light saber springs to life.

Qui-Gon deflects carefully.

The bolt hits a wall by the soldier and explodes. He goes down in cloud of dust.

QUI-GON (CONT'D)
Stop! It's over, boy.

No movement.

QUI-GON (CONT'D)
Boy?

He retracts the saber beam and runs to the fallen soldier.

The soldier holds his neck and has blood on his lips. A random piece of shrapnel has hit him, fatally.

Qui-Gon shakes his head.

QUI-GON (CONT'D)
Forgive me.

The young soldier dies.

The sounds of running and shouting echo around the lanes.

Qui-Gon leaves.

EXT. THE LANES OF THEED

Qui-gon dashes from lane to lane.

EXT. A COURTYARD - MOMENTS LATER

He bursts into a small courtyard. Three soldiers are waiting there. Before they can react, Qui-Gon gets among them.

He uses blocks and palm strikes to knock them down, disarming them with skill and sending them flying back with blows augmented by the force.

As the third soldier is knocked down. Qui-gon snaps the barrel of his blaster.

He turns and misses a step. Looking down, blood seeps through the robes on his hip where he was shot.

EXT. EDGE OF THE FOREST BY THEED - DAY

A patch of ground where the houses end and the forest begins.

OBI-WAN KENOBI, 25, head shaved up one side, Jedi robes, watches the lanes.

Next to him, a speeder bike hovers above the ground, humming and ready.

A moment.

Obi-Wan frowns.

Qui-Gon appears at the head of a lane. He comes out towards Obi-Wan.

OBI-WAN
Master ...

Qui-Gon turns back to the houses and stares, thinking.

Obi-Wan looks down and sees the blood.

OBI-WAN (CONT'D)
Master, your leg ...

QUI-GON
(harsh)
Not now!

OBI-WAN
Yes, master.

He turns to the bike and mounts it.

Qui-Gon walks over, he gives Obi-Wan a brief conciliatory look.

OBI-WAN (CONT'D)
We should leave.

QUI-GON
You are right.

He gets on behind Obi-Wan.

The speeder starts and they shoot off into the forest.

EXT. SPACE OVER CORUSCANT

The sun has all but disappeared behind the planet of Coruscant. Its darkened globe is covered in myriad urban lights.

Above, in space, an imperial Star Destroyer sits in silence.

Closer now, sparks and flashes of light erupt sporadically across its hull as automated units work to finish construction.

INT. TRAINING FACILITY ON STAR DESTROYER VICTUS

A spacious martial arts dojo.

DARTH MAUL, Zabrak, stands ready in the center. He wears a black combat uniform, his face is black and red cheques like a harlequin.

He performs a fast and dynamic kata, gliding from move to move.

He holds a single arm hand-stand and closes his eyes.

Across the hall, his light saber haft rises into the air and floats towards him.

As it nears it starts to twist and spin.

A red beam fires up, still twirling in the air ... then a second beam emits from the base of the grip. It spins like a rotor blade.

Maul's eyes open.

He flips to his feet and reaches out.

The weapon snaps to his hand perfectly. He turns his body and spins the weapon creating a web of arcs.

He backflips into the air. Closes the weapon and lands in a pose. He lets out a deep focused warrior shout.

Darth Maul walks calmly to the edge of the practice mat, he kneels and places his hands on his legs.

DARTH MAUL

(murmured chant)

I live in service of the master, so
that I may die in service of the
master. My weapon is an extension
of the will, the will is an
extension of the mind, victory
occurs in the mind and the will
carries it out ...

He stops and looks across to the door.

It slides open.

CAPTAIN DANOR walks in flanked by two stormtroopers in white armor.

Maul stands up.

CAPTAIN DANOR

Lord Maul.

Maul nods and they walk out of the room together.

INT. BRIDGE OF THE VICTUS

The lights of Coruscant are visible through the window of the ship's bridge.

Engineers work with officers to test and adjust displays.

Darth Maul and Captain Danor stand in a central space. In front them a holo-projection of EMPEROR PALPATINE, face part covered by his hood, is speaking.

EMPEROR

... yes, captain, go on ...

CAPTAIN DANOR

Orbital strikes on cities would
destroy vital infrastructure and
manpower needed for the plasma
resources, it would set us back
years and allow rebel systems to
group. A full ground war would be
produce much the same result.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN DANOR (CONT'D)
General Kuto is holding the capital
now, he has the spaceports
blockaded, this game is already
won, it is the best course of
action ...

EMPEROR
He's not telling you everything.

CAPTAIN DANOR
My emperor?

EMPEROR
Naboo always has a Jedi Knight in
attendance. General Kuto has lost
him.

Maul's eyes glower.

EMPEROR (CONT'D)
We know this Jedi has not tried to
contact the council and he hasn't
left Naboo.

CAPTAIN DANOR
A single Jedi could not ...

The emperor talks over him, addressing Darth Maul.

EMPEROR
... it is time to reveal ourselves,
Lord Maul. The captain is right
about the importance of Naboo. You
will lead an advance team there,
branch out from the capital, find
this Jedi Knight and eliminate him
yourself, face to face. Then there
will be no doubt of the coup's
success.

DARTH MAUL
You give me a great honour, my
master.

The emperor looks back at the captain.

CAPTAIN DANOR
Thank you, emperor. This *is* the
best way.

The hologram disappears.

Darth Maul stares out at Coruscant intensely. He looks back
across at a self-satisfied Danor.

EXT. CITY OF JORDA ON NABOO - DAY

Jorda, the second city of Naboo, now an overflowing refugee camp on the brink of collapse.

Plazas overflow with tents and desperate families. We see people of all systems and races, fleeing the empire and stranded by the blockade.

The contrast to Theed, a mono-cultural collaborator city, is sharp.

A sprinkling of rebel Naboo soldiers with white armbands distribute dwindling rations and blankets.

Anger easily rises up at any given moment.

Obi-Wan and Qui-Gon make their way through.

A Twi-lek child wanders and is overwhelmed by a crowd. Obi-Wan helps and takes her to the sides. He stops and looks around.

OBI-WAN

Master, we must help them.

QUI-GON

Obi-wan, we are helping them. We restore the queen, we can lift the blockade. Do you trust me?

OBI-WAN

(upset)

Most of these people won't make it that far.

QUI-GON

A Jedi must stay focused and in control ...

OBI-WAN

The force ... I feel their pain ... all of them.

QUI-GON

Focus on the best way to help them.

OBI-WAN

Master, don't you feel it?

QUI-GON

Padawan. Of course I sense their pain. I have broken my oath to the Jedi Council to come here.

(MORE)

QUI-GON (CONT'D)

We are acting alone. Do you doubt
me now, when I need you the most
...

Obi-Wan bows his head.

QUI-GON (CONT'D)

I feel ... I feel ...

He frowns and looks about.

OBI-WAN

Master?

QUI-GON

Wait here. Don't draw attention to
yourself. Obi-Wan ... I'm certain
that we walk the correct path. The
force guides us. It works to
achieve balance, and thus informs
greater good for all. You must have
faith. Do not let me down.

Obi-Wan nods.

Qui-Gon walks into a side alley.

EXT. THE LANES OF JORDA - DAY

A narrow back alley.

Qui-Gon enters and pauses. He closes his eyes and breathes.

His eyes open, surprised. He continues.

EXT. BACK ALLEY IN JORDA - DAY

The squalid alley runs across the back of some residences.

ANAKIN SKYWALKER, 14, dark hair, wiry, hangs around an open
gate. His clothes are ragged and worn.

TAL AMOR middle-aged, out of shape, appears at the gate. He
holds a wrench like a weapon.

TAL AMOR

What are you doing back here? Get
going before I make you.

ANAKIN

I saw you have some fruit in there,
I'm hungry, just one piece, that's
all I ask.

TAL AMOR

(brandishes wrench)

No one will notice one more body in
the alley come the morning, go!

Anakin relaxes his brow, he looks hard into the man's eyes.

ANAKIN

Today is your lucky day.

TAL AMOR

(repeating)

Today is your lucky day.

ANAKIN

Take this pear, it's fresh.

Amor reaches back to a box and takes a pear.

TAL AMOR

Take this pear, it's fresh.

Anakin takes the pear.

ANAKIN

You're a good kid, take care out
there. You'll make it.

TAL AMOR

You're a good kid, take care out
there. You'll make it.

ANAKIN

I've got to go do some exercise ...
and take a bath.

TAL AMOR

I've got to go ...

Amor hesitates and looks confused. Anakin smiles.

ANAKIN

(loud)

Hey, I'm leaving, I'm leaving.

Amor snarls and waves the wrench at him.

As Anakin walks away, Qui-Gon appears from a nearby doorway
and follows him.

EXT. AN OUTDOOR COURTYARD IN JORDA - DAY

Anakin takes a bite from his pear.

QUI-GON
You shouldn't steal.

ANAKIN
(turning)
... .. who are you?

Qui-Gon stands still, his robes have become increasingly dirty, he has long hair and a beard.

ANAKIN (CONT'D)
Look around, old man. You're going to blame me for stealing one pear.

QUI-GON
You're not the same as them.

ANAKIN
What?

QUI-GON
Listen to me ...

He takes a step forward.

ANAKIN
Stay there, my mother told me about strange old guys like you.

QUI-GON
Where is your mother?

Silence.

QUI-GON (CONT'D)
How long have you been able to do that?

Anakin looks at the half eaten pear.

ANAKIN
Eat a pear?

QUI-GON
You know what I'm talking about. You can feel it. You have a power.

ANAKIN
Alright, that's enough, this is creeping me out ...

The pear lifts out of his hand and floats over towards Qui-Gon. It holds for a moment then floats back and settles on Anakin's hand once more.

QUI-GON

My name is Qui-Gon Jinn, I am a Jedi Knight.

He pulls back his robe to reveal the light saber at his hip.

ANAKIN

(smiles)

A Jedi. That's a light saber. You're really a Jedi Knight?

Qui-gon nods.

Anakin looks at him for a moment.

ANAKIN (CONT'D)

(serious)

Can you get me out of here?

QUI-GON

If you come with now, I will take you as my charge. I will protect you, I will feed you and I will teach you. I will undertake an oath and you will become my disciple. I swear it.

ANAKIN

Do the Jedi ever break an oath?

Pause.

QUI-GON

This is what I offer you. You can take it now, or I will leave you and we'll never meet again. If you come it must be of your own freewill.

ANAKIN

(starts to tear up)

Why would you do this for me?

QUI-GON

Time is not with us, boy. What's your name?

ANAKIN

Anakin Skywalker.

QUI-GON
Anakin, you must do what you feel
is right.

Anakin takes a breath and wipes his face. He takes a look around the squalid courtyard. Then he looks back to Qui-Gon and nods.

EXT. CITY OF JORDA ON NABOO - DAY

Obi-Wan waits at the head of the alley.

A small group of Naboo soldiers appear with a hover-cart loaded with supplies. Refugees crowd desperately around them.

Qui-Gon and Anakin step out.

QUI-GON
Padawan.

OBI-WAN
Master.

He looks at Anakin.

Anakin looks back.

ANAKIN
Who's he?

QUI-GON
Anakin, this is Obi-Wan, from today
he is your brother.

OBI-WAN
Master?

QUI-GON
Your *sworn* brother.

Anakin smiles and shrugs subtly. Obi-Wan turns to face him fully then pauses, sensing the force.

Qui-Gon looks at him. Obi-Wan acknowledges the look.

OBI-WAN
Brother.

ANAKIN
So, where are we going?

QUI-GON
To see Queen Amidala.

ANAKIN

The queen of the whole planet.
(sardonic)
Really.

QUI-GON

(earnest)
Really.

ANAKIN

Fine.

They turn and walk on.

INT. A HALL IN THE ABANDONED SUMMER PALACE - NIGHT

Grime and decay mar the once palatial hall. Lights are openly wired up to generators.

Close to three-hundred nobles and civil service staff in exile hover around the walls in clusters.

A traditional wooden throne sits on a platform at the far end.

Qui-Gon, Obi-Wan and Anakin are ushered in.

Anakin looks around and opens his mouth to speak.

Obi-Wan frowns at him and models an upright respectful pose.

A woman in a blue ceremonial gown takes the stage, CIRA AMIDALA, the queen's aunt.

CIRA AMIDALA

All present, we thank you. I give you Queen Padme Amidala, regent of Naboo, protector of the realm, guarantor of parliament and the freedoms of our citizens.

The room drops to one knee.

Anakin and Obi-Wan hesitate, but follow suit as Qui-Gon kneels too.

TAG AMIDALA the queen's uncle comes out first, a portly man in his 60s. He carries a ceremonial scepter and staff.

Next are six personal guards, then four uniformed handmaidens and finally PADME AMIDALA. She wears an intricate costume and full headpiece. Her face is fully painted to look stern and tight lipped.

She is only 14 years old.

Anakin is transfixed.

Qui-Gon notices. He leans in to Anakin.

QUI-GON

(quietly)

There was another branch of the family who tried to take power on Naboo, they stormed the palace ... the King and Queen, her parents, they were executed in front of her. The coup failed and she was made Queen at eight years old.

Anakin continues to stare at her.

The people rise on cue from Cira.

CIRA AMIDALA

Let me start with good tidings. Our royal sister, my own niece, the commander of our airforce - Kai Amidala has escaped the capital and joined us here to support our claim.

Applause starts as KAI AMIDALA steps out from the crowd. She is 33, athletic and has the look of off-duty military.

Padme sees her and starts to break a smile.

Her uncle Tag flashes her a look. He brings the heavy staff down onto the ground, calling the room to attention.

Padme speaks in a practiced and affected regal tone.

PADME AMIDALA

Dignitaries of Naboo, friends and citizens. General Kuto's betrayal will not last. The citizens of Theed are civilized. At this moment they do not know what to do, they are scared and confused. But they hate this treachery and they do not support it. This ploy is shallow and weak. Senator Palpatine needs the resources of this planet if he is to expand his fleet before the systems can unite against him. Believe me. He dare not strike our cities.

(MORE)

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)

Out there, other systems know this, they will come to our aid. It is their sacred duty, and it is in everyone's interest. Kuto's treachery will fail, the blockade will fall and free systems will come to defend us. Kuto has built a tower made of sticks, we only need for one to snap and the rest will come crashing down. This new empire will not have Naboo, it will stutter and fail as the galaxy comes together to oppose it. We only need to stay strong and be ready to take the opportunity. Be strong my people. Loyalists come us day after day. We will prevail.

Scattered applause.

Qui-Gon Jinn steps into the middle of the hall.

QUI-GON

Your majesty the queen.

PADME AMIDALA

Qui-Gon Jinn. You have come to us from the capital.

QUI-GON

I believe you are right, I present myself, I put myself at your service.

A silence. Padme stares. Her regal visage starts to crack. She's still a young girl.

PADME AMIDALA

I would that you had taken a side when I needed you in the past ...

Qui-Gon drops to one knee and bows his head.

She stares at him.

The moment breaks - Tag Amidala brings his staff down once more. He glares sternly at Padme.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)

We thank you, loyal friends. Your strength is our strength.

CIRA AMIDALA

The Queen Amidala.

The entourage departs.

The hall breaks into chatter.

Qui-Gon is still kneeling in the same spot.

INT. HALLWAY IN THE SUMMER PALACE - NIGHT

A high ceilinged hallway with rows of traditional wooden doors.

People drift in and out, the atmosphere subdued.

Kai Amidala leans up against a wall. She wears a low slung gunbelt with a blaster.

Obi-Wan passes by.

KAI AMIDALA
Obi-Wan Kenobi.

He stops and grimaces.

OBI-WAN
Miss Amidala.

KAI AMIDALA
Miss Amidala?

OBI-WAN
Kai Amidala. Kai.

KAI AMIDALA
So. You still a monk?

OBI-WAN
A padawan. I'm an apprentice, not a monk.

KAI AMIDALA
Yeah, but, you're like twenty-five or something. You know what I mean ... still off the girls?

OBI-WAN
This isn't appropriate. It's not the time or place.

KAI AMIDALA
So there is a chance.

OBI-WAN
No.

KAI AMIDALA

Let me ask you a question. Ever touched a woman, ever seen one ... you know ...

OBI-WAN

Look, I'm glad you're with us. By the way. How did you get out?

KAI AMIDALA

I flew out, of course.

OBI-WAN

They didn't try to shoot you down, or intercept.

KAI AMIDALA

(casual)

The air-force? I'm their hero, and their boss. And, I'm *good*. Flew low and close to the seams, magnetism blinded their scans ... Of course, blinded my read-out too, I had to fly manual all the way ... some of us have just got it ...

OBI-WAN

(interrupting)

Well it's good to see you and I must be on my way.

KAI AMIDALA

You know, you won't keep those boyish looks for ever ...

OBI-WAN

Please.

KAI AMIDALA

Come on, I'm messing with you. I'm glad you're here too, we'll need you.

Obi-Wan smiles.

KAI AMIDALA (CONT'D)

... want to know which room I'm in tonight?

Obi-Wan scuttles off.

KAI AMIDALA (CONT'D)

I'm messing with you!

INT. AN ANTE-CHAMBER IN THE SUMMER PALACE - NIGHT

Anakin lurks around an old palatial room.

A dusty rotting portrait fills one wall.

It shows the former King and Queen of Naboo. A six year old Padme sits in front of them. To the side stands, Kai Amidala at 25, in a ceremonial military uniform.

The distant echo of voices sound out.

Anakin walks over to an inner door. He closes his eyes and focuses.

The sound of a man shouting suddenly fills his ears, then fades again.

He opens the door and walks through.

INT. THE GHOSTLY HALLS OF THE SUMMER PALACE - NIGHT

Anakin stalks through the abandoned chambers.

All the while he hears the echoing, distant sounds of a man shouting angrily. It's hard to catch the words.

At one point a phrase becomes clear then fades again.

TAG AMIDALA (V.O.)
Useless! Useless! Useless!

Then it stops.

Anakin hurries onward.

He emerges through a hidden panel-door, into a corridor.

At one end, he sees the backs of two guards.

INT. PADME'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Padme sits alone at a mirror desk, her finery discarded, make-up intact. She stares at herself.

The door at the back of the room opens slowly and noiselessly.

Anakin slips in unnoticed.

Padme wipes off her make up, staring at herself in the mirror all the time.

Anakin takes a sharp breath.

Padme stops.

PADME AMIDALA
Who's there?

ANAKIN
I'm so sorry. I can't explain it
... I followed a feeling ... I ...

PADME AMIDALA
What's your name?

Anakin stares.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)
What's your name?

Exposed beneath the wiped off make-up is a bruise across her cheek. She realizes what he's staring at.

Padme turns away.

ANAKIN
I'm Anakin.

Padme doesn't turn around.

PADME AMIDALA
I'm Padme. I'm ... sorry, I ...

Anakin walks slowly over. Padme sees him appear in the mirror.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)
(sharp)
What are you doing?

ANAKIN
(backing off)
I'm sorry, I'm sorry ... I'm so
stupid.

PADME AMIDALA
No, I'm sorry.

A pause.

ANAKIN
I'm ... more sorry?

Padme smiles.

PADME AMIDALA
Hey. I'm more sorry, OK?

ANAKIN
(smiling)
OK.

PADME AMIDALA
I saw you today. With Qui-Gon Jinn,
you're a Jedi.

ANAKIN
I'm not a Jedi. Master Qui-Gon has
taken me in, he seems like a good
man. I'm to be a padawan. That's my
life now.

Padme looks at herself in the mirror.

PADME AMIDALA
That's pretty amazing. What about
your parents? Are they OK with it?

Anakin's gaze lowers.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)
Oh, wait ... I ...

ANAKIN
It's OK. We came here before the
blockade. When we heard the war was
coming to Naboo, my parents tried
to get us on another ship but we
were almost out of money. There
were so many people, trying for the
same seats. They managed to get out
before, you know ... they ... It
was a lucky break to get the
places. I got lost in the crowds,
it was my fault.

He takes a breath.

Padme stays quiet.

ANAKIN (CONT'D)
Are you OK?

PADME AMIDALA
Sure. I mean ... I'll be fine.

ANAKIN
OK.

PADME AMIDALA
(touches her face)
My uncle. He's angry with himself,
about my father. It's not all the
time.

ANAKIN
(flash of anger)
That's no excuse.

PADME AMIDALA
I know.

ANAKIN
Sorry. I'm ... I'm kind of an
idiot.

PADME AMIDALA
No. It's weird.

ANAKIN
Weird?

PADME AMIDALA
I'm the queen. Everyone wants
something from me.

ANAKIN
I guess.

PADME AMIDALA
I want to save the people. I really
do. They are innocent and this is
my home.
(looking around)
But it's all different now.

ANAKIN
I'm sorry, I'd better go, I've no
right to be here.

PADME AMIDALA
Stop saying sorry.

ANAKIN
I don't know what I'm talking
about, I don't know anything about
politics ...

PADME AMIDALA
Anakin.

ANAKIN

I don't know about any of that ...
stuff ... 'the people' ...

PADME AMIDALA

Please stay, it's really OK.

Anakin relaxes.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)

Before we came to this place, I'd
never ... Everything is always
official. Could we start again and
just, kind of ...

(smiles)

Hang out?

He nods.

EXT. LANDING PAD AT THEED - DAY

A transport lands.

GENERAL KUTO's delegation awaits. Commander Lok stands behind
him. They wear tall ceremonial helmets and regalia.

The transport opens up and Darth Maul walks out. Behind him,
a squad leader orders out a platoon of stormtroopers and they
fall into formation.

DRACO FETT, walks slowly behind - a bounty hunter wearing
full battle armor.

General Kuto tries to hide his surprise at Darth Maul's
physical appearance.

Maul arrives in front of him, a stormtrooper captain stands
directly next to Maul. Fett stands next to them.

A pause.

Kuto looks between all three imposing figures.

An awkward silence.

DARTH MAUL

(abrupt)

I am Lord Maul.

GENERAL KUTO

(embarrassed)

General Kuto. We are honoured to
receive you. Follow me.

They all head inside.

INT. THE CAPITAL TOWER - DAY

Kuto, Lok, Maul, Fett and two stormtroopers stand at a large window near the top of capital tower.

The view behind them is breathtaking.

A waterfall cascades off a cliff at the back of the city. On top of the cliff is a perfectly round sinkhole whose sides descend in spiralling tiers. It is augmented by tech and masts, it seems to spill green lush lines out on to the plateau.

The stormtroopers stand to attention. One can't help but cock his head to snatch glances at the view.

GENERAL KUTO

(proud)

A bio-well. Geothermal heat, a plasma reserve and a controlled flow of edited bacteria ... the ultimate in non-destructive planetary engineering. It's quite the marvel.

Maul doesn't look.

Fett watches silently from behind his helmet visor.

DARTH MAUL

Have you prepared a base of operations?

GENERAL KUTO

Yes, we ...

DARTH MAUL

Your queen is at Jorda.

GENERAL KUTO

Sorry ... Jorda? Wait, how do we know this?

DARTH MAUL

I know because Qui-Gon Jinn is there. It is so.

A pause.

GENERAL KUTO

You ... You are a Jedi, like Qui-Gon?

No reply.

GENERAL KUTO (CONT'D)

Forgive me, I meant to report his absence but ...

DARTH MAUL

I will go there and eliminate him.

GENERAL KUTO

We have a small air force. It may be sufficient to take Jorda.

LOK

General. Our pilots would never fire on civilians, I must object. They will fight, if we are fired on first.

DARTH MAUL

The emperor wants the spaceport and infrastructure intact. Kuto, you call yourself a general, but not one of your soldiers is a warrior. I have one hundred stormtroopers with me. A platoon of special forces is enough to take an ungoverned blockaded city. And I will take care of the Queen while I am there.

Commander Lok is shocked. Kuto moves to speak.

DARTH MAUL (CONT'D)

(cutting them off)

Your orders have not changed. I also have my orders. We serve the emperor. We live to serve. I wish to start immediately.

He turns and walks off, Fett and the two troopers follow.

LOK

General, Jorda is packed with unarmed refugees, most of them are families.

GENERAL KUTO

(avoiding eye contact)

Most of them are not our people.

LOK

The mercenary they brought. It's Draco Fett. There is a galactic warrant on him. That village on Harloff Minor ...

GENERAL KUTO

A warrant? By whose law? The republic?

Lok's face drops.

GENERAL KUTO (CONT'D)

The facade has crumbled, Lok, and Duke Amidala is in denial. You too, apparently. There is a new power in the galaxy and the best they can come up with is that *hopefully* the natural goodness of the citizens will come through, and do ... what? Pathetic.

He turns and follows Maul.

INT. A RUINED SOLARIUM IN THE SUMMER PALACE - DAY

The broken dome of the solarium is missing most of its glass.

Old furniture and rubble lies piled around the edges of the large floorspace.

Obi-Wan and Anakin train, Anakin copies Obi-Wan's body positions as they run a simple warm-up kata.

Qui-Gon watches from the side.

Obi-Wan gestures to a clump of stone between them.

OBI-WAN

(haughty)

The force flows through everything, around everything, in fact, it is everything. Like the universe, it is in motion. If we are still, we can feel it flow. A Jedi can sense it at all times.

Anakin looks at Obi-Wan, unimpressed.

ANAKIN

Why isn't Master Qui-Gon teaching me?

OBI-WAN

Master believes in you completely. The force is strong in you. I can feel it too. Have faith in me brother.

ANAKIN

You're a student, not a master.

OBI-WAN

Yes, only the Jedi Council can confer the rank of master. You are right. But between the student and the master is the Jedi Knight.

ANAKIN

I see.

Obi-Wan is patient but disconcerted.

OBI-WAN

You don't want to train?

Anakin looks at the light saber.

ANAKIN

Can I try? All Jedi have a light-saber, right?

OBI-WAN

That comes back to what I was saying. To use it safely, you first have develop a constant sense of the force in the space around you. One careless move with a light saber and you'd slice off your own arm.

ANAKIN

How long have you been training?

OBI-WAN

(self-satisfied, not missing a beat)

Everyday for fourteen years and three months - Coruscant years. Not one day off.

ANAKIN

(sarcastic)

Is there a down side?

OBI-WAN
(not realizing it's
sarcastic)
You cannot take a spouse.

ANAKIN
A spouse?

OBI-WAN
No husband, wife or ...

ANAKIN
No family?

OBI-WAN
(earnest)
No family? No. Anakin, we're your
family.

Anakin relaxes.

ANAKIN
OK. Let's keep going. Sorry.

Obi-Wan takes a step back and focuses on the stone.

It rises and hovers between them. He raises his hand and opens up his palm. The stone moves towards Anakin.

Anakin raises his hand and concentrates. The stone halts.

They both push on it.

Anakin manages to make the stone retreat towards Obi-Wan. He smiles and relaxes.

In that moment Obi-Wan dominates. The stone shoots forward and stops just short of his face.

Anakin grabs the stone in his hand, annoyed. In the split second he takes to do this, Obi-wan is suddenly in front of him, an outstretched fist inches from Anakin's head.

Obi-Wan looks too pleased.

QUI-GON
Obi-Wan.

Obi-Wan immediately stands to attention.

Qui-Gon takes a fist sized spherical device from his robe, a remote.

He throws it to Obi-Wan who catches it.

QUI-GON (CONT'D)
Anakin. Sit ... observe.

Obi-Wan activates the remote.

It hovers and darts about him, trying to put his footing off. Obi-Wan athletically shifts combat stances. He activates his light saber.

The remote takes shots at him.

Obi-Wan jumps, spins, deflects and performs impressively as the remote works him.

Qui-Gon walks over to where Anakin sits cross legged, jealous at being left out.

He speaks softly at his shoulder.

QUI-GON (CONT'D)
Do not think of this as combat training. Think of it as ... focus training.

ANAKIN
Yes, master Qui-Gon.

Tag Amidala and Padme Amidala enter the solarium.

Padme wears full ceremonial garb.

Qui-Gon walks back to the edge to talk to them.

Anakin looks back and sees her. Their eyes meet.

QUI-GON
Queen Amidala, Duke Amidala.

TAG AMIDALA
Qui-Gon Jinn. You wished to see me?

QUI-GON
Yes.

Padme watches Obi-Wan shake his arms out then restart the remote and continue training.

QUI-GON (CONT'D)
Queen Amidala, would you like watch a while? My padawan Anakin can accompany you, it is perfectly safe.

Tag flashes her a look.

PADME AMIDALA
Thank you, my place is here.

He nods.

QUI-GON
I have a way to communicate beyond the blockade. I would be able to speak with my superior on the Jedi Council, Mace Windu. Let me be frank, we have a man on one of the blockade ships. When I signal him and he opens the line, he will be detected and caught.

TAG AMIDALA
A man's life for a message. But a vital one.

QUI-GON
I know this man.

TAG AMIDALA
He would save Naboo.

QUI-GON
He would save the republic.

TAG AMIDALA
The republic is the reason we don't have a big enough army to refuse the empire in the first place.

PADME AMIDALA
Uncle!

Tag is surprised but he stops talking.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)
Master Qui-Gon, Naboo supports the republic in every way. You will not have to sacrifice your man. Each day doubt grows in General Kuto and we receive more word of loyal citizens organizing against him. The blockade will not last. I have faith in our people.

Qui-Gon bows.

EXT. CITY OF JORDA ON NABOO - NIGHT

A clear night sky over Jorda.

Dark patches blight the city lights.

INT. A CORRIDOR IN THE SUMMER PALACE - NIGHT

Tag Amidala walks angrily along the dim corridor, towards Padme's chamber.

Kai Amidala steps out of the shadows, blocking his way.

KAI AMIDALA
Uncle Tag.

TAG AMIDALA
You mean Duke Amidala.

Tag goes to walk around her.

She shifts her stance to the side.

He tuts and tries to go the other way, she blocks him again.

TAG AMIDALA (CONT'D)
What do you want?

KAI AMIDALA
It's been a long time since I lived
under the family roof, Uncle. A
long time.

TAG AMIDALA
Yes ...

KAI AMIDALA
Now we're all together.

TAG AMIDALA
Very astute.

KAI AMIDALA
That's right. I notice things.

TAG AMIDALA
Do you? That's nice, now let me
pass ...

Leaning in close.

KAI AMIDALA
Listen to me, sweat-bag. Padme is
still my sister. Our esteemed royal
status is not very esteemed these
days. If I hear anything else about
Padme, I'll come looking for you.

TAG AMIDALA

You threaten me? What you say is treason!

KAI AMIDALA

That's right, pity you don't have a country right now.

TAG AMIDALA

I do what I must to lead the people, to serve Naboo ... as did your father.

Kai stares.

TAG AMIDALA (CONT'D)

Your aunt and I raised her. Raised her to rule. You should have thought about this before you joined the service and ran away.

KAI AMIDALA

(losing composure)

You think you care about the people? Then I guess I'll see you on the front lines, alongside them, when this all goes down.

Tag snorts.

Kai turns and walks away.

Tag goes back down the corridor. He pauses outside Padme's door.

He takes a breath, shakes his head and walks past and into the dark distance.

INT. PADME'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Padme's chamber is empty.

Her bed is perfectly made and unused.

EXT. THE LANES OF JORDA - NIGHT

Padme and Anakin run excitedly through the lanes by night.

Padme is agile and fit. She leads the way.

Two people walk out into the lane, accidently blocking the way.

Before they know what's happening, Padme and Anakin shoot past them deftly.

They run on, revelling in their freedom.

EXT. THE FRINGES OF JORDA - NIGHT

A group of Sullustan run a lively food stand in a run down part of the city.

The street around is cluttered with pop-up market stalls and eating tables, with strings of colored lights draped between.

Anakin and Padme walk through.

Padme smiles and stares at the stalls and food. Anakin notices the tension underneath.

Enamoured of the whole scene, Padme clumsily walks into a tall blue-skinned Twi-lek female, AAYLA ERTAY. Aayla's drink spills out onto the ground.

AAYLA ERTAY

(in Bocce)

Watch it, little miss. Look around you. No one's gonna help if I smash that pretty face of yours.

PADME AMIDALA

I don't know what you're saying.

AAYLA ERTAY

(in Bocce)

You think you're better than me, human, is that it?

Anakin leans in.

ANAKIN

(in Bocce)

Humans don't speak Bocce on Naboo.

AAYLA ERTAY

(in Bocce)

Who are you?

ANAKIN

(in Bocce)

Just a kid from near Anchorhead.

AAYLA ERTAY
(in Bocce)
Humans on Tatooine don't speak
Bocce either, not many.

ANAKIN
(in Bocce)
They do if they run in Mos Eisley.

AAYLA ERTAY
(switching to Basic)
You kids are alright, but you owe
me for that one.

PADME AMIDALA
Hey-

Aayla smiles and walks off.

ANAKIN
(teasing)
Having trouble with the commoners,
my queen?

PADME AMIDALA
I speak five languages, just not
that one.

ANAKIN
She's Twi-lek, must have grown up
on Tatooine. A lot of them were
brought in by the Hutts as pleasure
slaves.

PADME AMIDALA
Pleasure slaves?

ANAKIN
Tatooine is not Naboo.

Padme looks around at the refugees again. Anakin flashes her
a smile to break the ice.

They approach a stall and Anakin buys a Sullustan wrist band
for Padme. She puts it on and they become normal teenagers
for a moment.

Happy with her gift, she motions him to follow and they leave
the market.

INT. QUI-GON'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Qui-gon Jinn kneels on the floor of his spartan chamber. A single light shines from atop a dusty table.

He holds his Jedi symbol between his hands and prays with closed eyes.

Qui-gon pauses to take controlled breaths. His mantra is barely audible.

His eyes open.

QUI-GON
May the force guide me and show me
the way.

INT. A RUINED SOLARIUM - NIGHT

The solarium is in darkness.

The edges of the broken dome are shadows against the night sky.

A blue light flares in the center.

Obi-wan activates his lightsaber.

He runs some moves in the dark hall then reaches down and picks up the remote. He adjusts a slider to maximum then releases it.

The remote moves fast, disappearing into the darkness and only revealing itself when it shoots.

Obi-wan concentrates, he focuses on the sound.

The remote is fast and lets off double and triple blasts at lightning speed. Obi-wan pushes his limits, illuminated only by the lightsaber and the blasts from the remote.

EXT. INDUSTRIAL AREA OF JORDA - NIGHT

Large industrial buildings loom up, dark shapes against the night sky.

Anakin and Padme jog along, hugging a wall.

Anakin pulls up and catches his breath.

Looking down he sees the street is cracked. Plants break through the gaps. The area is derelict.

ANAKIN
Where are we?

PADME AMIDALA
Wait and see.

ANAKIN
Aren't you tired?

PADME AMIDALA
No.

She jogs away.

He follows.

They arrive at a dead end and a concrete wall.

She jumps up, gets her fingers on the top, then pulls herself up. She stands atop the wall triumphantly.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)
Come on.

ANAKIN
It's high.

PADME AMIDALA
(slightly mocking)
Use the force.

ANAKIN
It just happens. I can't do it all
the time.

PADME AMIDALA
(fully mocking)
It just happens.

ANAKIN
(smiling)
Nerf herder.

PADME AMIDALA
I don't know what that means. Here.

She crouches and extends an arm.

He jumps, grabs it and she helps him up.

ANAKIN
You're strong.

PADME AMIDALA
A lady must take calligraphy
classes, and deportment, and speech
classes ... and dance classes, and
gymnastics classes.

Anakin smiles.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)
(mock stern look)
And self-defence classes.

ANAKIN
(holds up hands)
Yes, my queen.

Padme smiles.

PADME AMIDALA
Look behind you.

On the other side of the wall is a colossal launch ramp. It's three miles long and the far end suddenly arcs upwards and ends twenty stories high. Its outline is lit with red safety lights.

ANAKIN
What is it?

PADME AMIDALA
It's a mass driver.

ANAKIN
And what's one of those.

PADME AMIDALA
It's a huge museum exhibit. A
relic. Part of our past. The
electromagnetic properties of our
rock and plasma allowed us to make
it ahead of many other
civilizations. It's obsolete now.

Anakin stares blankly.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)
Come on, let's get up there.

ANAKIN
Get up there?

PADME AMIDALA

Yeah, I was shown this once when I was little, I always dreamed of walking up it, right to the top.

ANAKIN

How long will that take?

PADME AMIDALA

I don't know ... who cares?

She drops down the other side of the wall and starts walking into the open space.

ANAKIN

Fine.

He follows.

EXT. ATOP THE MASS DRIVER - DAWN

Padme and Anakin sit on a wide concrete strip. The sky slowly lightens as dawn approaches.

In front of them, the city lights still sparkle. The whole of Jorda is stretched out before them.

Padme turns the wrist band around on her arm.

PADME AMIDALA

(light)

What's wrong?

ANAKIN

There's no way we can get back in time. I'll be killed.

PADME AMIDALA

Me too.

ANAKIN

You're the queen.

PADME AMIDALA

No one knows I'm there save a handful of nobles. Most of this planet wouldn't know who I was if I walked past them without the costume.

ANAKIN

We have to go ...

Padme's expression turns to genuine annoyance.

ANAKIN (CONT'D)

What?

PADME AMIDALA

Why do you have to keep bringing up that I'm the queen?

ANAKIN

I don't know, because you are one?

PADME AMIDALA

Nerf herder.

ANAKIN

Hey.

PADME AMIDALA

What's the force telling you now?

Anakin doesn't know what to say.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)

I've never kissed anyone.

Silence.

ANAKIN

Me neither. Well, not ... you know ...

Pause.

Padme looks at him.

ANAKIN (CONT'D)

Oh ... You mean?

PADME AMIDALA

Yeah, and you won't make a move. Fine, I'm the queen. Come here and kiss me like a girl.

ANAKIN

Like a girl?

PADME AMIDALA

Like I am a *girl* girl not a queen ... a girl you like. *I'm* the girl.

ANAKIN

Oh, like *you* are the girl ...

She glares.

Anakin goes closer.

He reaches around her waist, hesitating.

They shift their head positions a bit at first, dancing around the task. Then they kiss.

Behind them, the sky over Jorda is becoming pale and the clouds shiny.

PADME AMIDALA

Anakin.

ANAKIN

Yeah ...

PADME AMIDALA

... We're in trouble, aren't we?

EXT. THE LANES OF JORDA - MORNING

The streets stir.

Refugees emerge from tents.

Soldiers with white armbands collect garbage and hand out rations.

A female cadet TANI JASA stops to help an elderly man who struggles with a heavy load.

The rest of her small squad walk on ahead, not noticing she has stopped.

Tani puts the load onto the primitive wheeled trolley and looks along the street.

Her squad are a way down the road now.

Beyond them, a thin column of smoke appears.

She stands and looks at it.

Distant shouts filter in from the same direction.

People on the street stop what they are doing and look at the rising smoke.

Tani slowly walks in that direction.

Ahead of her, the squad have broken into to jog. Tani watches them arrive at an intersection, they disappear around the corner.

The shouts are louder now. More smoke columns appear.

Tani steps out into the main road.

People are wandering around confused, others come running in their direction from somewhere up ahead.

A muffled far off explosion.

Tani starts to jog forwards.

Her squad are way ahead.

A red blaster shot comes out of a side alley and explodes on a building wall. Civilians panic and run.

Tani gets close to a wall, readies her blaster and slows her approach.

She sees her squad get stuck among fleeing people.

She stops and breathes sharply as blaster fire cuts three of them down, taking several civilians out too.

She squints, a flash of white.

Three pairs of stormtroopers, keeping tight to the lanes, emerge slightly and are firing on her squad.

The Naboo soldiers flounder among the refugees, they can't shoot safely. The stormtroopers fire without hesitation. They cut down the Naboo squad completely.

One of the stormtroopers throws a charge across at a building. It detonates and the wall of the building becomes engulfed in flame.

Tani raises her blaster to aim.

The troopers disappear back into the lanes. She doesn't get a shot off.

EXT. A SIDE STREET IN JORDA - MORNING

Tani Jasa strides through a narrow side street.

Fleeing civilians rush by an intersection.

She tries to push through and is almost run into by Anakin and Padme.

TANI JASA
Citizens, go north and don't stop.

PADME AMIDALA
Do you know me?

TANI JASA
What?

The sounds of explosions and shouts echo around.

TANI JASA (CONT'D)
No. I don't sorry. You have to move.

PADME AMIDALA
What's happening?

TANI JASA
I'm not sure. It's coming from the south side, an attack. They're in the lanes. You have to move.

PADME AMIDALA
Who is in the lanes?

TANI JASA
I don't know. White armor.

PADME AMIDALA
Wait. Where's your squad? We should stick together. We need weapons.

TANI JASA
They're gone.

Tani looks upset. Anakin stares into her eyes.

ANAKIN
Take us to them, we should get their weapons.

TANI JASA
(repeating)
I'll take you to them, we should get their weapons.

ANAKIN
Let's go.

TANI JASA

Let's go.

Padme frowns.

PADME AMIDALA

Anakin ...

Anakin gestures for them to get moving.

EXT. THE LANES OF JORDA - MORNING

Tani, Padme and Anakin arrive at the scene of the skirmish. Flames engulf the burning building. Only a few cowering civilians remain.

They run out.

Anakin and Padme take blasters from the fallen troops.

Tani looks at Padme.

TANI JASA

I do know you. You came to the academy to pass out the graduating class last year.

PADME AMIDALA

What's your name?

TANI JASA

Tani.

PADME AMIDALA

There's a rendezvous location, if the city falls, right? Do you know it?

TANI JASA

Yes ... yes. But we'd have to get right across the city first.

ANAKIN

What are you thinking?

PADME AMIDALA

Strategy. I studied it.

ANAKIN

Like from a book?

She flashes him an annoyed look.

ANAKIN (CONT'D)
OK, well what's the plan?

PADME AMIDALA
We should go to them, check their
movements, take the initiative.
Just hoping they don't ambush us is
suicide.

Tani stares down at her dead comrade.

TANI JASA
She's right.
(points to the lanes)
They went this way.

They go into the lane.

INT. A HALL IN THE SUMMER PALACE - MORNING

Nobles mill around the hall nervously.

Kai Amidala strides through the space, weaving between the
people.

Tag Amidala and Cira Amidala are in a solemn conversation
with a commander.

Kai changes tack and heads for Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan.

QUI-GON
What news?

KAI AMIDALA
It's not General Kuto, the tactics
are sophisticated ... and ruthless.
Small squads, well equipped,
they're driving the refugees
through the streets in panic,
starting fires, spreading
confusion. It has to be cover for a
targeted strike.

OBI-WAN
The queen?

QUI-GON
Do they have any markings?

KAI AMIDALA
No ... white body armor, no
markings ... no one's seen it
before.

QUI-GON
Dedicated empire troops ...
already?

Tag Amidala interrupts.

TAG AMIDALA
What about Queen Padme? Well?

QUI-GON
She is with Anakin, they are alive
for now.

TAG AMIDALA
How can you know?

QUI-GON
I sense him. He has great power
within him and it flares with his
emotions.

TAG AMIDALA
That's it? You sense it?

KAI AMIDALA
They'll try for the rendezvous,
they're not stupid.

QUI-GON
What will you do?

KAI AMIDALA
I have my speeder here. Foreign
troops can't navigate the city this
well, they've got to have support.
It'll be a mobile base, a
transport, Naboo markings ... I'm
getting airside.

TAG AMIDALA
One air-speeder alone?

KAI AMIDALA
I work better alone.

QUI-GON
Kai, now is not the time to be
flippant. Without support you'll be
an easy target.

KAI AMIDALA
I know.
(sarcastic)
Stay safe, uncle.

Kai leaves.

Qui-Gon takes Obi-Wan aside.

QUI-GON

Obi-Wan.

OBI-WAN

Master.

QUI-GON

The Jedi Council have strict traditions, and tests, to bestow the rank of Jedi Knight or Master.

OBI-WAN

Yes. When the day comes, I won't let you down.

QUI-GON

Obi-wan. We never stop learning, we never stop training, there is no end, there is only that time when you must act alone. Time has caught up with us. You are ready.

OBI-WAN

Now?

QUI-GON

You will pass the trials. There is nothing more I can teach you. Obi-wan, you are a Jedi Knight. Do not doubt it.

OBI-WAN

(protesting)

Master.

QUI-GON

Our thoughts on this are irrelevant. What can you feel?

OBI-WAN

A tragedy is unfolding. I feel pain.

QUI-GON

I have to contact the council. The empire are a step ahead of us, we must get outside help. Slow the attack and help the people while we evacuate.

OBI-WAN
The people?

He looks at the nobles.

QUI-GON
These nobles represent a chance. A chance to bring other systems together, to negotiate alliances and stem the empire. It is the way of the council, the way of the republic. I believe in it.

Obi-Wan simmers. He bows his head.

QUI-GON (CONT'D)
Be careful out there.

OBI-WAN
I won't fail you.

EXT. THE LANES OF JORDA

Two stormtroopers make their way down a narrow lane.

One covers. He waves the second trooper on - and they move to a new position.

The lane ends at a T.

A roaring noise grows all around.

The troopers look up.

A deafening roar, a fighter passes low overhead, a T-47 Airspeeder.

They watch its path as it quickly disappears from their vision.

One trooper touches his helmet and talks into a comm.

LANE TROOPER
Control this is D5. Can you read our position? Flyover, single airspeeder, low, southbound.

He signals the other trooper onward.

As he does so, he sees three figures at the head of the lane.

Padme and Anakin watch nervously as Tani kneels and sprays the two troopers with blaster fire. Both go down.

They run to the fallen bodies.

TANI JASA
Go for the comms in the helmets, we
can listen in.

She covers the lower lane. Padme covers the top.

Anakin removes the first helmet.

Beneath is a male human face in his twenties. Anakin touches his face, he's dead.

TANI JASA (CONT'D)
The helmet.

Padme glances back. Her face drops also.

TANI JASA (CONT'D)
The helmet.

The helmet is damaged. Anakin tosses it and goes to the other body.

He removes the second helmet. The hair is a little different, but the face is very similar to the other trooper, like twins.

Anakin frowns then pulls out the comm.

They move out.

EXT. ABOVE JORDA - MORNING

The airspeeder flies low over the rooftops.

Kai Amidala pilots.

The single-seater custom air-speeder has an astromech droid in the rear - an R1 prototype.

R-ONE
BEEPS

KAI AMIDALA
My jacket?

R-ONE
BEEPS

KAI AMIDALA

I know it's my lucky jacket, excuse me for not going back for it, I only had to escape an entire base in a stolen airspeeder, with the most famous face on the planet.

R-ONE

BEEPS

KAI AMIDALA

No, we're not traitors. We're heroes.

R-ONE

BEEPS

KAI AMIDALA

That's right. Heroes. Stay sharp.

She passes through one of the many smoke columns rising from the city.

Leading with her eyes, she banks and accelerates to breakneck speed.

The buildings drop away, she gains some height, and now she flies over countryside.

Looking right, out of the cockpit, Kai stares at the ground as she makes a tight looping turn.

R-ONE

BEEP

KAI AMIDALA

You got something? Let me get visual ...

R-ONE

BEEP

KAI AMIDALA

(thinking out loud)

Where are you?

Up ahead, three Naboo hover transports sit openly on a ridge overlooking the city. Ten stormtroopers watch the ridge, and Naboo support staff walk around.

KAI AMIDALA (CONT'D)

Right there? Really? You cocky b-

A warning sound activates in the cockpit.

Kai drops the speeder dangerously low and a laserblast shoots by.

A camouflaged heavy weapon on a mobile stand is positioned on the next ridge. Two Naboo troops operate, they fire again on Kai's airspeeder.

Kai looks up, she's on top of the transports with no time to shoot.

KAI AMIDALA (CONT'D)

Have this ...

She buzzes them.

The troopers hit the ground for cover. Staff clutch their ears.

Kai puts some distance between herself and the mobile command. It quickly becomes a speck in the rear view.

She makes a turn and prepares for another run.

KAI AMIDALA (CONT'D)

Keep the systems stable, I'm going in.

R-ONE

BEEPS

Kai arms the trigger on the stick and breathes out.

Another warning sounds out.

She looks left and right then at her screen.

Two almost identical airspeeders come flying across the landscape in a pair.

Kai looks forward, the mobile command is becoming visible. She shakes her head and pulls out of her run.

KAI AMIDALA

Come on. You're not supposed to be ready.

She gains altitude fast.

Her comm comes to life. JAMES RHO speaks.

JAMES RHO (V.O.)

Pilot, pull out of your mission and land your speeder.

(MORE)

JAMES RHO (V.O.) (CONT'D)
You have ten seconds to comply or
we shoot you down. Land south.

KAI AMIDALA
Lieutenant Rho? Is that you?

JAMES RHO (V.O.)
Captain Amidala?

KAI AMIDALA
Who else would it be. Yes, this is
Captain Amidala. What do you think
you're doing?

JAMES RHO (V.O.)
I'm sorry sir, it's for the best, I
have my orders.

KAI AMIDALA
Why you?

JAMES RHO (V.O.)
Sir, the best pilot was not
available so they sent the second
best.

Kai shakes her head.

KAI AMIDALA
Don't flatter yourself. Corlo is
way better than you.

JAMES RHO (V.O.)
Two seconds.

KAI AMIDALA
Give it up.

JAMES RHO (V.O.)
Sorry. We have to engage.

Kai looks out for a visual. She sees the two speeders. They
break formation and take different directions.

KAI AMIDALA
(focusing)
Come on then.

One of the speeders follows Kai.

She nods to herself and allows it to come in.

It falls into line behind her, she calmly starts a descent,
pulling it with her.

The second pilot ARMITAGE follows her, he's unsettled as they dive steeply.

A warning sound.

Kai leads them into the path of Rho's speeder.

Rho looks up for a visual and sees both of them dropping right into his path.

He takes evasive action.

Armitage breaks chase and evades also.

Kai's face relaxes into pure concentration.

Safe and stabilized once more, Rho looks around. Nothing.

His read out shows a speeder above and behind him. He uses his comm.

JAMES RHO
Drop back a bit, cover position,
I'll take lead.

ARMITAGE (V.O.)
I'm not with you, sir.

Rho panics and banks.

Kai stays on him easily.

KAI AMIDALA
Sorry.

Her finger goes to the trigger.

Rho shakes his head and grits his teeth.

His eyes widen.

Nothing.

He lets out a breath and looks around.

KAI AMIDALA (CONT'D)
Damn it.

Kai can't shoot him. She peels away.

KAI AMIDALA (CONT'D)
Let's see if you planned for this.

At the mobile weapon, a Naboo trooper watches a scanner and motions to the operator. They turn the gun. A speck appears low in the sky.

The mobile base comes into Kai's view.

Rho and Armitage fly in behind her, she comes into their view.

Kai fires from far away.

A blast hits the ridge ahead of the transports. The troopers scramble.

Kai sees the other speeders in her readout. She grimaces and stays on her run.

R-ONE

BEEP

KAI AMIDALA

I know.

R-ONE

BEEP (I'm scared)

KAI AMIDALA

Me too, buddy.

The ground canon fires as do the speeders.

Kai uses every trick to avoid the crossfire while staying on target. A blast rocks her speeder and sears the hull.

She fires again, one of the three transports is hit, she closes in.

A shot from behind hits her left engine, it smokes and burns.

She grips the controls and stays on target.

Kai strafes the mobile command, hitting it again and again. As she does so, a shot from below rips half of a wing off, and another from behind blows the back of the speeder to pieces.

R-One is gone.

The speeder veers and dives.

A light goes on at Kai's controls. She is ejected clear.

Her face ripples with the g-force and she blacks out.

The speeder crashes and explodes.

EXT. THE SUMMER PALACE

The abandoned former summer palace is overgrown on the outside.

Obi-Wan and a squad of ten march across the plaza, in front of a tarnished arch.

The city surrounds the plaza on three sides, the palace gates are at the rear.

Crowds of fleeing people criss-cross the open space.

Ahead of Obi-Wan, a second squad guards the main street leading in to the plaza.

OBI-WAN

This is hopeless. There's no clear view of any entrance.

He closes his eyes for a moment and breathes.

He opens them again. He scans the area calmly.

TROOPER BESAN turns to him.

BESAN

Where should we set up?

OBI-WAN

Wait ...

He holds his hand up.

Obi-Wan spots a flash of white armor.

OBI-WAN (CONT'D)

With me!

He draws his light saber.

Obi-Wan moves quickly. His squad follows.

A shot fires into the plaza with a trail, it arcs up and then falls.

OBI-WAN (CONT'D)

No!

He concentrates and reaches out his hand.

The falling device slows then halts.

It explodes in mid air showering fleeing civilians with sparks. They scream and panic.

More shots ring out, multiple trails.

Obi-Wan's eyes widen. He can't stop them all.

Explosions rock the plaza.

Obi-Wan picks himself up and looks around. Civilian and soldiers lie around dead and wounded.

Stormtroopers appear in the plaza entrance. Six.

Obi-Wan rushes on.

Three troops by him hold their nerve and lay down covering fire. One stormtrooper goes down and the others go for the walls.

Obi-Wan dashes into their midst, light saber blazing.

The first trooper turns his blaster towards Obi-Wan. Obi-Wan slices across his front and downs him.

Another shoots.

Obi-Wan deflects the bolt and advances. The trooper freezes up and Obi-Wan cuts him down. Three left.

A trooper comes at Obi-Wan from behind, Obi-Wan senses him and turns. He grabs the trooper and throws him into the other two, their shots going awry.

He races upon them. They scramble in different directions.

Obi-Wan kicks one in the back, he flies into a wall with a crunch. Another falls in a hail of fire as the three squad members get a clear shot.

Obi-Wan looks beyond him to the bodies in the plaza. He lowers his saber.

OBI-WAN (CONT'D)

(to the squad)

Not a single one of them enters the palace.

BESAN

Yes, sir.

EXT. THE PLAZA ENTRANCE

A pair of stormtroopers stand inside a lane. TROOPER A checks their comm.

TROOPER A
We've lost command.

TROOPER B
Affirmative. No data coming through
from mobile command. It must have
been hit.

DARTH MAUL (V.O.)
(over the comms)
Withdraw.

EXT. THE ABANDONED PALACE

The shooting stops.

Obi-Wan looks across the plaza. No stormtroopers.

He walks out into the open space, followed by his squad. As they emerge, a figure in black brandishing a red lightsaber marches out calmly.

It is Darth Maul.

EXT. THE EDGE OF A JORDA SUBURB - MORNING

Tani, Padme and Anakin move through a suburb.

The tight lanes give way to wider streets with trees and spaces.

Modern buildings mix with the traditional.

It seems quiet.

PADME AMIDALA
Where is everyone?

TANI JASA
Look for vehicles, we're almost
out.

They move on carefully.

EXT. THE EDGE OF A JORDA SUBURB

Three Stormtroopers stalk towards a house.

They catch a glimpse through a gap. Tani, Anakin and Padme are on the other side.

The lead trooper signals one to move ahead.

EXT. THE EDGE OF A JORDA SUBURB

Tani takes the lead.

To the left, through some trees, she sees a speeder bike. She silently points, indicating to Anakin and Padme.

Tani looks again.

Two children crouch at the side of the house.

Padme sees them too. She looks up at the house. The windows are shot out and the door is open. She signals to Anakin to watch out.

Tani motions and the children run over to her, she leads them away from the house. Padme and Anakin cover and move towards the door.

Two stormtroopers appear.

Anakin looks around helplessly. Padme gets her weapon up.

The third trooper appears on their flank.

They are caught out in the open.

The troopers lay down a crossfire.

Tani covers the kids with her body. Anakin watches as they are enveloped by blasts and explosions.

He hits the ground.

Padme returns fire, hitting the single trooper. A burning hole smokes in his chest plate and he crashes limp to the ground.

Padme gasps for breath. She has killed for the first time.

Coming to her senses, she remembers the other two troopers.

She runs for cover but is caught twice. One shot sears her side, the next explodes next to her, sending her to the ground.

Anakin is dazed and prone.

One trooper covers and looks along the lanes.

The other closes on Anakin, weapon up.

As the trooper raises his blaster, Anakin sees the fallen bodies of Tani Jasa and the two children.

Anger fills his body.

The trooper doesn't shoot.

Anakin fixes him in a glare. The trooper shakes and drops his blaster.

Padme recovers and takes aim.

Anakin's anger fades. The trooper recovers and bends down to pick up the weapon.

Padme shoots him several times, blasting him back and then down.

The other trooper runs.

Anakin sits in the same spot. Padme looks across and spots the speeder. She goes to Anakin, grimacing at her wound, running on anger and adrenaline.

PADME AMIDALA

Anakin, get up.

She glances the bodies as she helps him up. She turns her head away quickly and steels herself.

ANAKIN

They're dead.

PADME AMIDALA

I know.

ANAKIN

Padme?

PADME AMIDALA

Anakin. Look at me.

ANAKIN

You're hit.

PADME AMIDALA
That's right. I need you, I need
you now. We have to move.

Anakin nods.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)
It's me and you. Together. Come on.

He gets up.

EXT. VALLEY OUTSIDE OF JORDA - MORNING

The three destroyed transports smolder, their husks spewing
black smoke into the sky.

Kai Amidala regains consciousness.

She releases herself from the ejector seat and crawls through
the tangle of lines, dizzy and weak.

She stands and leans against a tree.

A blue sphere of energy flies by. It hits another tree with a
low *thump*.

Kai finds her footing and breaks into a clumsy run.

Stormtroopers come through the foliage.

They hit her with stun bolts and Kai falls to the ground.

EXT. THE SUMMER PALACE PLAZA

Obi-wan and Darth Maul stare each other down, their light-
sabers crackling.

Maul takes a step back and looks dismayed. He cocks his head.

DARTH MAUL
You are not Qui-gon Jinn, Jedi.

Obi-wan says nothing, his guard up.

DARTH MAUL (CONT'D)
Then you are his disciple.

No reply.

DARTH MAUL (CONT'D)
Give me a name.

OBI-WAN
Surrender now or I shall strike you
down.

Maul smiles.

DARTH MAUL
We do not fight to surrender. Give
me a name and I will honor you with
my best.

OBI-WAN
You first.

DARTH MAUL
I am the Sith Lord Darth Maul.

OBI-WAN
Impossible. There are no more Sith.
The council would know ...

DARTH MAUL
And yet here I stand. A name!

Obi-wan frowns.

OBI-WAN
My name is Obi-wan Kenobi.

Maul gives a slight bow of the head.

Obi-wan launches a series of strikes at Maul. Maul parries
shifting his feet skillfully. They break.

Maul strikes three blows.

Obi-wan blocks and moves. He's beaten back and flustered.
Maul catches him in the body with a side-kick.

Obi-wan falls back but he tilts and cartwheels, using only a
single hand to pivot.

They break.

The scattered Naboo troops look on open-mouthed.

Maul holds his lightsaber haft forward. The second blade
extends from the base.

Obi-wan concentrates.

They come together in a flurry of acrobatic moves.

Maul has the upper hand.

He locks up the lightsabers then pivots into a series of spinning kicks, the final one sends Obi-wan to the ground.

Trooper Besan rallies the squad, the Naboo troops open fire on Maul.

He spins his double blade as he retreats, deflecting many shots. A stray shot sears his thigh.

The shots force Maul back to the plaza entrance. He looks at Obi-wan once more, smiles, then leaves.

INT. THE FOREST BEHIND JORDA

Qui-gon Jinn stands on a rocky hillside. Jorda is visible behind.

He moves to a sheltered spot.

Looking at a small commlink in his hand, his thumb hovers over a button.

QUI-GON

Forgive me.

He activates the link.

A moment passes and then a hologram appears.

It is Mace Windu, Jedi Master.

QUI-GON (CONT'D)

Master Windu.

MACE WINDU

Qui-gon Jinn.

QUI-GON

Master, I don't have much time.

MACE WINDU

Go on.

QUI-GON

I have located Queen Amidala and her court. We were to begin overturning the coup, but the empire have made the first move. We must get outside help or we're lost. The loyal houses must break the blockade and send aid, then we can hold Naboo.

MACE WINDU

Qui-gon ...

QUI-GON

There's something else. I've found him. The chosen one.

MACE WINDU

What?

QUI-GON

I was right, but he wasn't already on Naboo, he *came* to Naboo. You said yourself the prophecy was not clear.

MACE WINDU

You're wrong, Qui-gon Jinn. We've discussed this. When the force allows us to see beyond our narrow perspective of time, we may be seeing one of countless *possibilities*. Master Yoda shares your dedication to the greater mysteries, but even he will not be drawn on the prophecy.

QUI-GON

I'm right. It's a sign from the force. Break the blockade, send help. The noble houses must do their duty, they must, we can hold Naboo. I know it must be, because I *have* found him.

MACE WINDU

Qui-gon, listen to me.

A pause.

MACE WINDU (CONT'D)

... no one is coming.

QUI-GON

What?

MACE WINDU

The houses, they have turned on each other, they have returned to their systems to protect their own, some even fight each other.

QUI-GON

No. The Jedi council?

MACE WINDU

The temple has been betrayed and destroyed. We have fled Coruscant.

QUI-GON

I don't understand. They are... we are sworn to an alliance.

MACE WINDU

A resistance will rise. But the republic is finished.

QUI-GON

Never.

MACE WINDU

You are on your own. Take whatever action you feel is necessary and find us when you can.

QUI-GON

Master Windu.

MACE WINDU

May the force be with you.

The hologram flickers and disappears.

Qui-gon stares at the comm.

It starts to shake, then it flies off his outstretched palm and smashes against the rock wall.

Qui-gon takes a deep breath. He reaches into his robes by his neck and pulls out a pendant.

It is the Jedi symbol, hanging round his neck by a simple leather thong. He holds it and closes his eyes.

His lips move, almost imperceptibly, as he whispers a prayer to focus his resolve.

EXT. THE FOREST BEHIND JORDA - MOMENTS LATER

Tag Amidala and his entourage pace nervously.

Qui-gon Jinn appears from the trees.

TAG AMIDALA

Well?

QUI-GON

Let's move on. It's not safe here.

The group nervously depart.

INT. BRIDGE OF THE VICTUS

Captain Danor stands to attention, addressing a hologram of Emperor Palpatine. Behind him, Naboo is visible, as are the Naboo starships that form the blockade.

EMPEROR

Captain Danor.

CAPTAIN DANOR

The ground team were successful. The rebels are scattered and we captured a key member of the Amidala family. We can move ahead and occupy the capital soon.

EMPEROR

Lord Maul?

CAPTAIN DANOR

He is still on the ground.

EMPEROR

I see. We are selecting a support fleet for you now. When the blockade has run its course, dismantle and destroy all the Naboo ships. Once the occupation is in place, execute Kuto and all his inner circle. Replace them with our people.

CAPTAIN DANOR

I will prepare a list of recommendations immediately, loyal and capable ministers who backed us from the start on Coruscant.

EMPEROR

I'll see you get all of them.

CAPTAIN DANOR

Thank you, your highness.

EMPEROR

Congratulations, Captain.

The hologram fades.

Danor turns. He looks across the bridge and his crew. Danor allows himself a moment of pride.

EXT. THE FOREST RENDEVOUS - NIGHT

A ramshackle camp in the forest.

Nobles, soldiers and citizens move about, downcast and ragged.

Outside of a large tent, a child peeks in.

INT. REFUGE MAIN TENT - NIGHT

The nobles in attendance pace nervously. Some sit on the ground.

All pretence of decorum has gone.

TAG AMIDALA

(furious)

General Kuto wants to assassinate me? I made him. Everything he has now, he owes to my graces. Just another in a long line of blasted ingrates. I have a hundred captains who could take his place. I will punish him myself, with these two hands.

QUI-GON

Duke Amidala, please calm down.

TAG AMIDALA

(shouting now)

Is it the Jedi's place to override a system's sovereign leader now? Has all respect and tradition fallen? Are you any better than Palpatine and his fascism? Out with it, you would have me follow you now, because of your powers. The strong rule the weak. Is that it?

QUI-GON

(bows head)

No.

Padme is there, her wound dressed.

She looks around to the nobles for support as she speaks.

PADME AMIDALA

Uncle. Please. We survived, but many innocent citizens were killed, I saw it myself.

(MORE)

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)

We should keep a clear head and think how best to help them. Perhaps Master Jinn has some wise advice.

TAG AMIDALA

Oh, the child speaks. Well, speak then, tell us all where you were when the alarm sounded. Tell us where you were when your loyal troops lost heart, thinking you captured. Tell us where you were when your Aunt despaired, thinking you dead.

Cira Amidala looks on, silent but angry.

PADME AMIDALA

Uncle ...

TAG AMIDALA

Idiot. Selfish Idiot.

Anakin loses his cool.

ANAKIN

She fought bravely. Leave her alone.

OBI-WAN

Anakin!

Anakin retreats, genuinely hurt that it came from Obi-wan.

Qui-gon stays patient.

Tag Amidala smashes his fists down on a makeshift table. He takes a breath.

TAG AMIDALA

Naboo is on the brink, our people, our culture ...

QUI-GON

Coruscant is my homeworld. It has already fallen. There is war ahead of us. I may never see it again.

Everyone is quiet.

TAG AMIDALA

(controlled)
Go on then, Jedi.

QUI-GON

The plan was to flush us out of the city. If they damage the spaceport or infrastructure, it will set them back years. They need Naboo's plasma.

He takes a breath.

QUI-GON (CONT'D)

The plan worked. The Queen ... and my padawan Anakin were missing, the assault was unpredictable and we had no choice but to evacuate to the rendezvous. Duke Amidala is right.

Tag Amidala glares at Padme, she stares at her feet.

OBI-WAN

There was a Sith lord with them. He must have been there to deal with Master Jinn. He was only testing me. Perhaps it was fortunate the queen was not with us.

QUI-GON

The attack stopped short of the palace because Kai Amidala was able to hit their command post.

A murmur from the gathered nobles and soldiers.

CIRA AMIDALA

What news of Kai?

QUI-GON

She was shot down outside of Jorda, as far as we know she sacrificed herself for the mission.

Gasps go up around the room.

Padme fights to stop tears. Obi-wan struggles to keep a calm front.

TAG AMIDALA

(addressing everyone)

We are still here. As the Jedi said, they cannot risk a full-scale war. The systems loyal to the republic will lift the blockade soon and help us restore control. They will not win.

QUI-GON
Duke Amidala.

The room looks to Qui-gon.

QUI-GON (CONT'D)
I made contact with the Jedi
Council. I spoke to Master Mace
Windu. No help is coming. The
republic is truly over.

The room goes silent.

OBI-WAN
Then we fight here. We find others
to join us - the resistance starts
now.

QUI-GON
(firm)
We stand for order. We protect the
queen, as Jedi we keep the balance.
The answer is not to provoke more
violence. The people will come
around to their true leader ... and
then ...

OBI-WAN
And then what? You said yourself,
it's over. There's no republic out
there, only the empire.

Anakin and Padme look shocked as Obi-wan openly defies Qui-gon.

Obi-wan hesitates under his master's gaze. Doubt lingers in Qui-gon's eyes.

QUI-GON
Obi-wan, what are a handful of
strikes on a single planet compared
to the chance to unite systems?

OBI-WAN
Any victory in battle can become an
inspiration, a legend.

They stare at each other.

TAG AMIDALA
Even if we do mean to evacuate the
queen. It's impossible with the
spaceport blockaded.

Padme steps forward.

PADME AMIDALA
There is a way.

INT. HOLDING AREA IN THE CAPITAL THEED

A room in the military holding area.

General Kuto leans against the wall, pensive. His tall, feathered, ceremonial helmet sits on a small table next to him.

Commander Lok paces. Two Naboo troops, young and fresh faced, stand at guard by a closed door. Lok catches their glances, they can't hide their discomfort.

Kai Amidala groans, strapped to a restraining chair. Medical equipment lies out on a table next to her.

LOK
Are we sure?

DOCTOR HAAVIK lurks behind. He nods.

GENERAL KUTO
I see. Well then, the king was no fool. A cruel man, but educated.

LOK
How is it possible?

GENERAL KUTO
It must have started with the King's father, or earlier, for there to be no one left to know. Perhaps we are all idiots.

He looks at Kai.

GENERAL KUTO (CONT'D)
An interstellar ship, just sitting there in Castle Amidala, a sacred site that the commoners shun. Yes, clever. Hiding in plain sight. He was right, you know. Probably comforted him at his execution, knowing his children might get away. Sounds like something from a story book, doesn't it?

KAI AMIDALA

(groggy)

When I get out of this chair I'm going to put that stupid hat somewhere that can't be found too, you'll have a good idea where it is though. When they finally get it out, I'm sure someone will write about it, not a story, I'm thinking more like ... a medical textbook.

LOK

Captain Amidala.

Kai turns her head and squints.

KAI AMIDALA

Lok, I can't believe you're in with this traitor too.

Kuto comes to life suddenly.

GENERAL KUTO

(angry)

You do not call me a traitor. I am protecting the people, not betraying them. Whoever is out there, whoever wins, will come for Naboo, for our plasma. If we cooperate, people won't die. I'm saving lives. I am a civilized man.

He turns away.

LOK

General, Castle Amidala is remote.

GENERAL KUTO

They have no other choice, they will try for it. They think we don't know.

Kuto looks back at Kai.

GENERAL KUTO (CONT'D)

But we do know, and they'll be there for the taking. Prepare Captain Amidala for her public confession.

LOK

The doctor has advised us. Further treatment could leave her nervous system damaged, perhaps permanently.

GENERAL KUTO

I don't care. I'm going to inform our new friends of the situation and put an end to this.

As he leaves, a groggy Kai manages one more volley.

KAI AMIDALA

Kuto. The republic is freedom ... and the base of that hat is pretty wide.

Her smile recedes as the door closes and the doctor comes into view.

INT. PADME'S TENT AT THE REFUGE - NIGHT

Padme and Anakin sit in a large tent.

They don't look at each other.

Each of them plays the day's events over and over in their minds.

Padme speaks first.

PADME AMIDALA

I never felt like I had a sister.

ANAKIN

What do you mean?

PADME AMIDALA

She left our home for the army when I was still small. She only visited for royal engagements, when she had to. I don't blame her. Anakin, did I get her killed?

ANAKIN

No.

PADME AMIDALA

It feels like it.

ANAKIN

Padme.

PADME AMIDALA
What is it?

ANAKIN
(hesitant)
I ... I don't think she's dead.

PADME AMIDALA
Don't say that, don't joke about
this.

ANAKIN
I'm not.

PADME AMIDALA
You mean the force?

ANAKIN
I think so. I'm not sure, you're
right I shouldn't say. When you
talked about her ... I thought I
felt a connection.

A pause.

PADME AMIDALA
What's wrong?

ANAKIN
I don't know what I'm doing. Master
Jinn thinks I'm special, that I'm
going to save us all, from this
war. He hasn't told me. When he
looks at me, I just know it. The
thing is, I'm not special.

PADME AMIDALA
Anakin.

ANAKIN
Listen, the same way I know what he
believes, I also know he's wrong.
I'm no good. *Obi-wan* can see it, he
knows, he doesn't trust me. I don't
have power like they do.

Padme moves closer.

Anakin looks down.

He gingerly reaches out a hand to her shoulder. They are both
nervous and awkward.

She slides closer, his arm goes around her shoulders.

She leans up and kisses his cheek.

Anakin withdraws.

PADME AMIDALA
What did I do wrong?

ANAKIN
Why do you like me?

PADME AMIDALA
What does that mean?

ANAKIN
Why?

A beat. Padme breathes out. She tries to explain.

PADME AMIDALA
You look at me like I'm a normal
person.

ANAKIN
That's it?

Padme frowns.

ANAKIN (CONT'D)
That's nothing. So I'm nice to you.
That's all you have to do, is it?
You'll take any guy who doesn't
shout or order you about.

PADME AMIDALA
(upset)
What?

ANAKIN
This is just a game for you,
playing at being one of the common
people.

PADME AMIDALA
Why would you say that?

ANAKIN
Because, you can't trust anyone.
They'll leave you.

PADME AMIDALA
Anakin, I won't leave you.

ANAKIN
You can't know that.

PADME AMIDALA
Look at me. I'm serious now, use
the force.

Anakin relaxes.

He looks into her eyes.

A moment.

ANAKIN
I'm sorry.

She leans forward and they start to kiss.

Tag Amidala storms into their tent.

TAG AMIDALA
Get your hands off the queen.

They hurriedly get to their feet.

TAG AMIDALA (CONT'D)
What is the meaning of this? I can
hear you two across the camp, for
shame.

PADME AMIDALA
Uncle, I would ask you to leave.

TAG AMIDALA
Excuse me? You would ask me to
leave? You show me up today, in
front of everyone, your sister gave
her life because you went missing,
and now you're about to give away
the one useful thing a queen has -
in a tent! To some street scum!

A focused Anakin takes a step towards Tag, who becomes
alarmed and quiet.

Tag grimaces. A force is pushing on him, preventing him from
moving.

PADME AMIDALA
Anakin. Please.

He backs away.

A flustered Tag raises his hand.

He swings for Padme, but she steps out beyond his reach,
using her training. Tag Amidala can hardly believe it.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)
I killed someone today.

Anakin moves to her side.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)
Everything has changed. You don't seem to understand what is happening. Where do you think we are going? If we make it off Naboo, we're not going into exile in a foreign court, making grand speeches from the comfort of a diplomatic suite. No system will be safe from the empire. We are going to join the fight.

Tag stares open mouthed.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)
You have tonight to decide. Leave or stay. If you're not here in the morning, I won't send anyone after you. Pick your side, Uncle. But do not cross me.

He leaves.

EXT. BY THE TREES - LATER

Cira Amidala stands by the trees to the side of the refuge. She stares into the dark forest.

Padme walks over.

CIRA AMIDALA
Padme.

PADME AMIDALA
Aunt Cira.

Cira takes a step forward, to embrace Padme, but Padme keeps her distance.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)
We are going to Castle Amidala. You can't make the climb.

A moment of silence.

CIRA AMIDALA
Where's your uncle?

PADME AMIDALA
This is not his decision.

CIRA AMIDALA
Your uncle is a traditional man,
after your father was gone ... he
had the weight of the whole nation
on his shoulders. You can't blame
him, he doesn't know any other way.

PADME AMIDALA
Father was the same.

CIRA AMIDALA
He was an important man.

PADME AMIDALA
I remember less and less. I care
less and less.

CIRA AMIDALA
(stern)
You shouldn't talk about family in
that way.

Padme thinks.

PADME AMIDALA
It's ... I mean ... is that really
all you've got say?

CIRA AMIDALA
Padme?

PADME AMIDALA
This is goodbye, Aunt Cira.

CIRA AMIDALA
...

PADME AMIDALA
You may never see me again.

CIRA AMIDALA
I ...

Padme waits.

CIRA AMIDALA (CONT'D)
Padme will you forgive me?

PADME AMIDALA
No.

Cira is surprised but sedate.

CIRA AMIDALA

What will I do?

PADME AMIDALA

Naboo still needs you. Soon our planet will be under Empire control and life will go on. But the people here are good. You will go to General Kuto and turn yourself in. Help him legitimize his new regime with the name Amidala. Many more of our people here are too weak to make the castle. Take them with you. Then you will work from the inside to help loyal people get off-planet, to join the coming war on the right side. Do you understand?

Cira bows her head.

Padme walks past her, back to the camp.

EXT. CASTLE AMIDALA - MORNING

The sun rises behind Castle Amidala, a pristine replica of an ancient stone castle.

Above the walls of pale granite, its eaves and tower tops are covered in black tiles.

The castle sits on top of a wooded rocky outcrop.

Where the rocks peak through the earth, they are shiny and black like obsidian.

The surrounding lands are heavily forested with no towns or cities in sight.

EXT. THE VALLEY BELOW THE CASTLE - MORNING

Bounty hunter Draco Fett walks through the forest. He stops and looks up, seeing the castle through gaps in the trees.

He crouches and plants a device in the ground, then moves some foliage to cover it.

Now he moves to another spot. He plants another device.

Fett joins a trail.

He walks along the trail carefully, pausing to check his surroundings. There is the sound of rushing water nearby.

Fett walks on and emerges from the trees.

A gaping chasm cuts across the way, a fast flowing river far below. A primitive bridge made of wooden planks and rope spans the gap.

Fett scans the slopes on the other side for a vantage point.

INT. HOLDING AREA IN THE CAPITAL THEED

Kai Amidala sits in the restraining chair.

The doors slide open.

Doctor Haavik and Commander Lok enter, with two guards behind.

DOCTOR HAAVIK

How are you feeling, Captain Amidala?

KAI AMIDALA

Like a bantha took a dump, then another one ate it, and then *that* bantha took a dump, in my head.

LOK

You know what happens now.

DOCTOR HAAVIK

Captain Amidala, you should know that I've taken no pleasure working on you.

KAI AMIDALA

That's not true, you're obviously a pervert.

LOK

We don't need to drag this out.

KAI AMIDALA

Why, is it hard for you?

LOK

...

KAI AMIDALA

Look at you, Lok. All dressed up like a soldier, you almost convinced me.

Lok sighs and looks to the doctor.

The doctor nods.

KAI AMIDALA (CONT'D)

Alright, alright. I take it back. You're both really nice, upstanding, gentlemen. You're only occasionally perverts, and even then, you're really polite about it.

The doctor primes a shot.

KAI AMIDALA (CONT'D)

Crap.

The doors slide open.

Two Naboo troops enter. One is Lieutenant James Rho, the other is pilot JAYCE CORLO, young, a prodigy. Jayce has a bag slung over her shoulder.

LOK

What's this?

JAMES RHO

We've come to relieve the guard.

JAYCE CORLO

Yes ... It's the uhhhh, changing of the guard.

(stiff)

That's right. Changing of the guard. Routine procedure.

Beat.

LOK

You're James Rho. What -

Rho and Corlo pull their blasters.

JAMES RHO

Drop your weapons.

KAI AMIDALA

Rho, is that you?

JAMES RHO
Yes, captain.

KAI AMIDALA
You shot me down, you ...

JAMES RHO
Can we talk about this later
captain?

KAI AMIDALA
... .. nerf worry-er.

JAMES RHO
Worrier? ...
(he works it out)
... oh.

Corlo trains her weapon on the two guards.

GUARD ONE
(enthusiastic)
You're Jayce Corlo and James Rho.
We're with you, we can't let them
hurt Captain Amidala.

The other guard nods.

KAI AMIDALA
Really? Where were you five minutes
ago?

Rho motions to the doctor.

JAMES RHO
Free her then back off, you too
commander.

Haavik hits a switch and the restraints withdraw. Kai tries
to stand, but has weak legs.

Rho nods to Corlo. She goes to Kai and holds a device to her
arm. It gives her a shot. Kai immediately comes round.

KAI AMIDALA
Wow.

JAMES RHO
We have to get out of here.

KAI AMIDALA
Yeah I know.

Rho looks around and thinks.

JAMES RHO
Let's make it look like they
struggled.

Kai nods. She turns and hits Lok in the face with a right
hook. Lok reels and grabs his jaw.

JAMES RHO (CONT'D)
I mean those two.

The two guards look nervous.

JAMES RHO (CONT'D)
And use this.

He hands her a taser.

KAI AMIDALA
Right.

Kai turns without warning and presses the taser to the
doctor's midriff. He shakes for a second then collapses to
the floor with a nasty sounding thump.

Rho frowns.

KAI AMIDALA (CONT'D)
What?

JAYCE CORLO
Captain, I have something for you.

She reaches into the bag and pulls out Kai's lucky flight
jacket. Kai's eyes light up. Corlo tosses it to her.

KAI AMIDALA
Good job, genius. Now if you've got
some pants and a pair of boots we
might just get out of here.

Corlo and Rho look at each other accusingly.

Kai's face lights up. She looks at Lok, who in turn looks
down at his regulation pants and boots.

Kai zaps him.

EXT. THE FOREST NEAR THE CASTLE - MORNING

Padme Amidala's small crew walk along a forest trail. The
trees and brush are dense around them.

Trooper Besan leads a group of four soldiers.

Qui-gon Jinn and Obi-wan Kenobi follow.

Padme and Anakin lag behind them.

Then come Tag Amidala and a handful of nobles, the younger and more able ones. Six more troopers bring up the rear.

The two Jedi don't speak, the tension lingers from their argument. Obi-wan breaks the ice with a humble question. Qui-gon slips easily back to the role of the teacher.

OBI-WAN

Master. How could the Sith have survived all this time, without the Jedi Council knowing. They were defeated a thousand years ago.

QUI-GON

Even without the Sith, the dark side of the force is always around us. The light and the dark, balanced together.

OBI-WAN

Of course. I see.

QUI-GON

The dark side is fuelled by rage and hate. The Sith used to be a powerful force with armies and whole systems under their thrall. But they fought among themselves, that was their downfall. Their supreme leader was struck down by his own apprentice, and they split into factions. It gave the Jedi their first chance to attack the Sith home system of Korriban ... where they discovered the Valley of the Dark Lords.

OBI-WAN

Darth Bane ...

QUI-GON

Yes, Obi-wan. I believe they could only survive using the smallest possible group. One master and one disciple.

OBI-WAN

For a thousand years?

QUI-GON

As unlikely as it seems, it must be.

OBI-WAN

But perhaps there is a greater conspiracy ...

QUI-GON

Obi-wan, the more simple route is most often the correct one. It may sound redundant to go over these old stories, that we all studied ... but the fact is we didn't learn, we didn't see.

OBI-WAN

Darth Maul was powerful, he was only testing me. How can we defeat him?

QUI-GON

As I said. Drawing on the dark side gives you immediate raw power, but anger and hate lead to loss of control and mistakes.

OBI-WAN

The Jedi are masters of self-control, why not fight power with power, anger with righteous anger.

QUI-GON

Obi-wan, do not underestimate the dark side of the force. Once you let it in, it will consume you.

The entourage slows to a halt.

The forest thins, rushing water sounds come from ahead.

Trooper Besan emerges at the edge of the ravine. The bridge stretches out in front of them.

He looks up.

There is Castle Amidala, in all its glory.

A low thrum and pulse sounds out. A red bolt of energy smashes into the ground by the feet of one trooper. He disappears under the blast and the others are sent to the ground. The trooper's limp body falls over the edge.

Far up on the slopes, Draco Fett looks out from behind his heavy rifle's scope. He readjusts and fires.

The entourage scramble and retreat into the treeline.

Shots rain down and two more troopers die. Only Besan gets to cover.

BESAN
Hit the ground.

A pause.

A single bolt enters the forest, exploding beyond the group.

TAG AMIDALA
The next one will hit us, we should
run.

QUI-GON
Wait, we don't know how many there
are.

Another bolt comes through the trees, it overshoots them.

Panic sets in among the nobles.

Tag stands up.

TAG AMIDALA
Damn you all.

He runs into the forest. Only one noble and one trooper follow.

PADME AMIDALA
(to the group)
Stay down.

She looks back.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)
Uncle!

EXT. INTO THE FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

Tag Amidala rushes through the dense forest.

NOBLEMAN BERING and TROOPER TAL follow, pushing large ferns and bushes out of their path.

They come to a halt. Tag is out of breath. He cocks his head. The sound of gunfire stops.

A faint beeping starts up.

Tag leans down and pulls some foliage to the side.

A small motion-activated mine has armed itself.

His face becomes blank. He looks back at the other two.

EXT. THE RAVINE CROSSING - MOMENTS LATER

Out in the forest, the sound of an explosion.

Anakin looks at Padme.

Obi-wan looks back at the group. He looks back at Qui-gon, Qui-gon shakes his head.

The remaining nobles go quiet and still.

QUI-GON

Don't stray from the trail.

ANAKIN

(impatient)

But if we sit here we're dead.

QUI-GON

Obi-wan. With me.

The two Jedi stand up. They run out to the bridge.

EXT. THE BRIDGE

Draco Fett takes aim as the two Jedi break the treeline. He views them through the tight view of the scope.

He takes three shots. Two miss the fast moving targets. Obi-wan jumps and somersaults the third.

Qui-gon enters the unstable bridge.

Fett raises his aim and shoots at the moorings on the far side. Obi-wan uses his light saber to deflect the shots. The last powerful blast knocks him backwards onto the ground.

Qui-gon is half-way across.

Fett shoots out the wooden boards in front of him. Qui-gon jumps and splays his legs, balancing on the rope handrails.

Looking through the scope, Fett aims at Obi-wan, but the Jedi has sprung to his feet and moved.

Fett tracks back to Qui-gon, but he is no longer there. He sets aside the heavy rifle and makes his way down the slope.

He takes out a small device and activates it.

EXT. THE BRIDGE

Obi-wan slowly approaches the bridge, looking across for signs of where Qui-gon went.

A series of clicks and beeps emanate from a nearby bush.

Obi-wan turns his head.

A drone rises up and hovers in the air. It is large and has a single blaster on the underside.

Obi-wan brings up his lightsaber in time to deflect the first blast.

When he takes a step forward, it fires a burst. Obi-wan is forced to hold his position and defend.

Echoing his training, he draws it's fire and uses his acrobatics to block and jump, getting in close.

The drone anticipates and flies up and over him. More shots fire, this time at Obi-wan's back. He needs every aspect of his balance and training to defend.

An impasse.

Anakin appears from the forest, blaster in hand.

Obi-wan's eyes widen.

The drone rotates and fires on Anakin.

Anakin seems rooted to the spot, but he sees the blasts in slow-motion, hearing his breathing echo in his head.

He steps and bends his torso, putting himself just beyond the shots.

Coming to his senses, he sees the drone close on him.

It stops and rotates again, Obi-wan has closed the gap.

Anakin shoots it twice, sparks and smoke fly.

Obi-wan slices off the blaster then impales the body with his lightsaber.

OBI-WAN
Anakin, that was incredible. And reckless.

ANAKIN
Sorry, Obi-wan.

OBI-WAN
No, you did well.

ANAKIN
For a moment, I kind of, knew where the shots were going to be, like I'd seen it before, or something.

Obi-wan listens with interest.

OBI-WAN
We have to protect the others.
There may be more of these around.

EXT. A CLEARING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Draco Fett pushes through the undergrowth.

Qui-gon stands waiting in a clearing.

Fett holds out his left arm and activates a force-shield, shimmering and blue.

He reaches to his back and draws a micro-filament sword. The dark carbon blade is sharpened to mere molecules across.

A wrist cannon sits above his sword hand.

Fett fires it.

Qui-gon pivots and deflects with his light saber. He looks up, Fett is right on him, swinging the sword.

Qui-gon ducks the blade. Wisps of his long hair remain in the air.

He spins and strikes with his light saber but Fett's shield is up to deflect - the clash produces a shower of sparks.

Qui-gon evades another slash from Fett. The sword passes through the undergrowth like paper.

They reset.

Qui-gon advances, slowly and calmly.

Fett fires a shot - it is deflected.

Another shot - another deflection.

Fett lunges with the sword. Qui-gon side steps, slashes down, severing Fett's arm, then cuts up across the front of his body, killing him.

INT. A HANGAR IN THEED

James Rho, Jayce Corlo and Kai Amidala stalk around a large hangar and base.

They stop beside some air speeders.

Engineering and civilian crew walk around.

JAYCE CORLO

What now?

JAMES RHO

We just fly out.

JAYCE CORLO

Won't it be a little suspicious?

JAMES RHO

No.

KAI AMIDALA

He's right, no one's looking for you.

JAYCE CORLO

Yeah, but you on the other hand.

JAMES RHO

The crew are not going to question me about a routine patrol. I don't think we have anything to worry about. There's plenty of speeders ready to go.

KAI AMIDALA

Speeders?

Jayce looks at Rho, they don't understand.

KAI AMIDALA (CONT'D)

(to Rho)

Rho. We're not coming back.

They stare at Kai.

Jayce gives a last look around the hangar.

JAYCE CORLO
I'm with you, captain.

JAMES RHO
Whatever you think is best.

A group of civilians walk close by. The three fake an intense discussion.

The people pass by.

James Rho lowers his voice.

JAMES RHO (CONT'D)
If we are going to get by the
blockade we need speed and
surprise, something small and
light, that responds to a good
combat pilot, something new they
may not have seen before ...

He notices Kai is smiling.

JAYCE CORLO
... ohhhh.

Down the opposite end of the hangar, surrounded by mobile computer testing units and engineering equipment, are six X-Wing star fighters.

JAMES RHO
Wait, I know I said new but these
ones haven't even logged the first
fifty hours of test flight.

Kai looks at Corlo. She is staring at the X-wings.

JAYCE CORLO
... awesome. I'll do it, just to
get a shot at flying one of these.

KAI AMIDALA
That's what I'm talking about.

JAMES RHO
Fine, what are we going to do about
your face?

KAI AMIDALA
(smiles)
Why, what's wrong with my face?

Kai reaches back and picks up a flight helmet from an equipment rack.

She puts it on then pulls down the mirrored visor. Only her mouth and chin are showing.

She gives the thumbs up.

They walk across the hangar, trying to look relaxed.

Three ground staff in overalls walk their way.

Rho gives them a terse nod. They recognise him and nod back.

As they pass by, one looks at Kai, whose helmet is on and visor down.

Kai gives them the double thumbs up.

They instinctively return the thumbs up then frown in confusion. The two groups pass each other and move on.

Half way across, they seem in the clear.

Corlo allows herself a smile, but a pair of guards approach.

AERON ORD is wiry and tense. SY THOM is fresh faced.

AERON ORD
Lieutenant Rho.

JAMES RHO
Sentry.

Thom stares into Kai's mirrored visor.

JAMES RHO (CONT'D)
What seems to be the problem,
recruit?

AERON ORD
Sorry sir, routine checks. Most of
our soldiers are out policing the
city streets. We're stretched thin.

JAMES RHO
I see. We're here to run some tests
on the prototypes. You two can pick
up some of your cover duties, and
don't slack off, especially not at
a time like this.

Ord stands to attention and nods.

Everything seems to be in order.

SY THOM
Hey, I do know you ...

Rho frowns.

Thom is not looking at Kai, but at Corlo.

SY THOM (CONT'D)
You're Jayce Corlo, remember me?

Corlo forces a smile.

JAYCE CORLO
(drawn out)
Yes ...

SY THOM
We went to school together.

JAYCE CORLO
Really? Oh, wow.

She doesn't remember.

SY THOM
Well, it was before you were taken
out, for the academy, you know. I
told everyone I knew about it. My
classmate was going pilot
starships.

JAYCE CORLO
... that's, really nice ...

Ord glares at Thom, who shuts up.

AERON ORD
Lieutenant.

Rho nods. Jayce gives Thom a quick smile. Kai gives them the
double thumbs up.

The two guards walk off across the hangar.

Kai raises her visor. Kai and Rho both look at Corlo.

KAI AMIDALA
What, you've got fans?

Corlo shrugs.

Rho turns to Kai.

JAMES RHO
And stop doing that.

KAI AMIDALA
(giving thumbs up)
This?

They walk on.

JAMES RHO
Those three.

They reach the X-wings.

KAI AMIDALA
These ones are fuelled and ready.
But no droids.

JAMES RHO
Don't get hit.

Corlo eagerly climbs aboard the nearest X-wing.

Kai pulls Rho back for a private moment.

KAI AMIDALA
(serious)
James, listen. Back in Jorda people
died, civilians. If we get out of
here, I have to tell the truth.
There will be a tribunal for you.

Rho thinks.

KAI AMIDALA (CONT'D)
You can walk away now.

JAMES RHO
(turns to the X-wing)
Come on, there's no time.

INT. THE HANGAR CONTROL DECK - MOMENTS LATER

A large window overlooks the hangar from up high. The room is barely staffed.

CONTROLLER ZAN answers a comm on a desk.

ZAN
This is Zan. What is it?

AERON ORD (V.O.)
This is the hangar floor, we have a
problem.

Zan leans over and looks out of the window.

Three of the X-wings are hovering and maneuvering to face the
large exit bay of the hangar.

Staff run about and seem confused.

AERON ORD (V.O.)
It's Lieutenant Rho, do we have a
scheduled test flight for the X-
wings today?

ZAN
(incredulous)
Of course not.

AERON ORD (V.O.)
Then I think he's stealing them.

ZAN
(muttering to self)
Where do we get these people?

The X-wing engines fire up. The staff in the hangar run for
cover.

ZAN (CONT'D)
Don't shoot my new fighters.

AERON ORD (V.O.)
Sir?

ZAN
I'm blocking them in.

INT. THE HANGAR

A warning sound rings out.

"Blast doors closing"

The open end of the hangar is huge. Massive doors slide
inwards from the sides.

They'll be shut in seconds.

INT. X-WING COCKPIT - MOMENTS LATER

Kai Amidala looks up and sees the doors closing.

JAMES RHO (V.O.)
(over the comm)
Captain?

KAI AMIDALA
Let the testing begin.

JAYCE CORLO (V.O.)
Woooooo!

INT. THE HANGAR

In quick succession, the three X-wings tilt 90 degrees to line up with the vertical slot between the almost closed blast doors ... and shoot out of the hangar like a bolt from a blaster.

The two guards and several ground staff are blown across the ground. Piles of crates tumble down.

The blast doors close.

EXT. THE SKIES OVER THEED - MOMENTS LATER

The three X-wings rocket low over the city at breakneck speed.

Surprised citizens and troopers look up from the streets.

EXT. THE MOUNTAINSIDE UNDER CASTLE AMIDALA - DAY

Padme gazes up the rocky mountainside. Castle Amidala sits at the top.

Steep but not sheer, no equipment is necessary but a slip would be fatal.

The nobles and regular troops look to Padme.

She gives Anakin a quick nod, looks left at the two Jedi, then boldly starts the climb, setting the example.

The confident Jedi stay close to the nobles, helping them.

EXT. FURTHER UP THE MOUNTAIN - LATER

An exhausted noble takes a breath.

He looks down. The valley floor is now far below.

He takes another deep breath. His legs wobble slightly. He reaches up and grabs a rock to steady himself but as he takes the next step, the rock comes away from the earth.

He flounders for a moment, looking back at a steep decline dotted with rocks and pockets.

Obi-wan jumps deftly across an indented 'pocket.' He uses one hand to hold on and the other to catch the noble, as they fall away.

Obi-wan's footing slides and for a moment he is left hanging by one arm, the other holding up the noble's bodyweight.

The group stop and watch anxiously.

Obi-wan pulls them both in.

EXT. FURTHER UP THE MOUNTAINSIDE - LATER

Padme and Anakin stop to rest.

A breeze ruffles their hair. Sweat glistens on their faces.

Padme looks out over the lush forested landscape.

ANAKIN

Thinking about your uncle?

PADME AMIDALA

No.

ANAKIN

Oh.

PADME AMIDALA

Look at all that. It's crazy.
What's fourteen years, next to a
thousand years of a civilization,
or ten thousand years of trade in a
galaxy, or a billion years in the
universe.

ANAKIN

What?

PADME AMIDALA
Fourteen. *I'm* fourteen.

ANAKIN
Yeah, I mean the other stuff.

PADME AMIDALA
History.

ANAKIN
Ah, yeah. I went to school back on Tatooine. You know, when I wasn't skipping it.

PADME AMIDALA
(smiles back dorkily)
I had to take special classes everyday since I was old enough to say a whole sentence. Do you know how old the republic is?

ANAKIN
Not really.

PADME AMIDALA
(reciting)
The republic was made possible by the perfecting of the hyperdrive, and stayed in place ever since, over twenty-five thousand years.

ANAKIN
Right, I knew that. I think.

PADME AMIDALA
I thought everyone knew that.

ANAKIN
(shrugs)
Tatooine is not Naboo.

Padme glances up at the imposing castle above.

PADME AMIDALA
One day, Castle Amidala will be gone. For most people in the galaxy, it will never have been here.

ANAKIN
There are pictures. Naboo is an *important* planet. But, yeah, most people are busy with their own lives.

PADME AMIDALA
That's what I mean.

ANAKIN
It's beautiful. I can't imagine
growing up around places like this.

PADME AMIDALA
Me either.

ANAKIN
What?

PADME AMIDALA
It's my first time to see it, too.
See it for real, I mean.

ANAKIN
Isn't it some ancient wonder of
Naboo culture ... or something?

PADME AMIDALA
No.

Anakin looks at her.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)
It's a folly.

He frowns.

PADME AMIDALA (CONT'D)
It was built just a couple of
generations ago by a rich second
cousin in the family, who loved
ancient history. It's made by
droids. No one has ever lived
there.

ANAKIN
Then what does it matter if it all
falls down one day?

PADME AMIDALA
That's what I was trying figure
out. Come on.

She rises and they continue the climb.

EXT. THE GATES OF CASTLE AMIDALA - LATER

The party emerge from the trees to a large, paved open
courtyard.

In front of them are huge white stone walls with tall wooden double doors.

It's eerily quiet.

Qui-gon Jinn walks closely to Obi-wan. The others look up at the castle in awe.

QUI-GON
Obi-wan, can you feel it?

OBI-WAN
Yes, master.

QUI-GON
The force. Moving around something or someone that attracts it, that can bind it.

OBI-WAN
No one knows we are here.

QUI-GON
Perhaps someone does. Be alert, Obi-wan.

Padme approaches the doors. She looks carefully at the stones to the left, concentrating.

Obi-wan and Qui-gon stay front and center, ready. Qui-gon nods to Padme.

She lays her palm on the stone and it momentarily glows. A hidden scanner reads her hand.

Machinery grinds to life and the doors swing slowly inwards.

They gaze inside.

Sitting in the center of a huge inner courtyard is a sleek, J-type 327 Naboo Royal Starship. It is stunning.

BESAN
(turning to another trooper)
Look at that.

They walk under the huge arched entrance.

Qui-gon holds up his hand.

Something moves around the base of the J-type.

Darth Maul strides out to the open courtyard.

DARTH MAUL
Qui-gon Jinn.

QUI-GON
Darth Maul.

He signals Obi-wan to lead the others around the side of the wide, square space. He steps forward.

Maul stands his ground.

DARTH MAUL
This is a great day.

QUI-GON
You will not stop us.

DARTH MAUL
Stop you? They can leave, I don't care. Where will you go? The time of the republic is over.

QUI-GON
Then why are you here?

DARTH MAUL
You are a warrior. A Jedi master is a fighter. We are fighters. You may pretend otherwise but your power lies in your strength. I am here to challenge you. The old way. Two fight, one lives, one dies.

QUI-GON
If I strike you down, what will happen to the Sith? One master, one pupil. The chain will be broken.

Maul hesitates.

QUI-GON (CONT'D)
I see I'm right.

From the side, Anakin stares at Maul, he can feel his raw power.

DARTH MAUL
There will be another. The dark side will always be here, it is strong. To die in combat is glorious.

QUI-GON

Like a true Sith, you'd defy your
own master.

DARTH MAUL

The force is my master. My body is
a vessel.

Qui-gon looks to Obi-wan.

OBI-WAN

(to Anakin)

Anakin, get everyone on the ship
once we're out of the way.

Obi-wan comes to Qui-gon's side. They both power up their
lightsabers.

QUI-GON

We do not honour you, Sith.

DARTH MAUL

Good.

Maul's double bladed red saber comes to life.

They stalk each other in a circle, step by step.

Obi-wan looks around the walls, there are open stone steps
leading up to the battlements.

QUI-GON

(solemn)

Obi-wan.

Beat.

QUI-GON (CONT'D)

May the force be with you.

Maul sprints straight at them without warning.

The first exchange begins.

Maul puts them on the defensive. His eyes are full of rage
and he shouts battle cries. He fights the two enemies at the
same time using both blades and his kicks together. His
acrobatic skill is masterly.

Obi-wan and Qui-gon part, trying to pull him in different
directions.

They strike.

Maul blocks and counters aggressively putting the Jedi on the back foot again. As Qui-gon is forced back, he glances at Obi-wan, who nods.

The ploy works, the battle moves over to the stairs.

ANAKIN

Padme.

PADME AMIDALA

Come on.

BESAN

Move out people.

The entourage go for the ship. An entry ramp lowers from the bottom of the hull automatically.

Obi-wan and Qui-gon retreat up the castle steps.

Obi-wan holds off an advancing Maul but Maul somersaults over him and lands between them.

They trade blows and move up the steps until they all reach the battlements.

The sweeping landscape appears behind them.

EXT. THE SKIES OVER CASTLE AMIDALA - MOMENTS LATER

The three X-wings approach a forested mountain range. Castle Amidala sits halfway up the face of the first mountain.

KAI AMIDALA

There it is.

JAYCE CORLO (V.O.)

(comms)

I see it.

JAMES RHO (V.O.)

(comms)

Copy.

They close-in on the castle and go for a low flyby.

JAYCE CORLO (V.O.)

Do you see that?

JAMES RHO (V.O.)

What?

JAYCE CORLO (V.O.)
On the battlements.

KAI AMIDALA
Who is that?

They fly over.

From above they can make out the three warriors fighting.

JAMES RHO (V.O.)
The Zabrak. He came with the Empire
troops.

KAI AMIDALA
He's a Jedi?

JAYCE CORLO (V.O.)
A Sith.

KAI AMIDALA
You two put down in the outer
courtyard, find Queen Padme.

The two X-wings split off and circle around.

EXT. THE BATTLEMENTS OF CASTLE AMIDALA - MOMENTS LATER

Qui-gon, Obi-wan and Maul face off on the open battlements.

QUI-GON
The games are over, Maul. Now we
finish it.

Darth Maul scowls.

He points his lightsaber down and carves a line across the
stone floor. The plasma blade melts through the flagstones.

He steps back.

Qui-gon rushes in. He leads with a blow, Maul parries and
turns it into immediate attack using the other blade. He
knocks Qui-gon's blade upwards then frees a hand and reaches
out a palm.

An invisible wave of force pushes Qui-gon back. His feet
slide.

Qui-gon concentrates and breaks the push.

Obi-wan looks worried. Maul struts.

Qui-gon crosses the line again.

This time he draws Maul's attack and spins around to his rear, narrowly avoiding the spinning red blades.

Obi-wan closes in and they fight Maul on two sides again.

Above them, Kai's X-wing flies over.

EXT. THE SKIES OVER CASTLE AMIDALA

Kai Amidala looks down from the cockpit.

She sees the three warriors fighting, their light sabers clashing and sparking.

EXT. THE BATTLEMENTS OF CASTLE AMIDALA

Maul grows in strength. His blows become more brutal, and less controlled.

Qui-gon is forced to block twice, high then low. Maul strikes his twisted arm with a kick, sending Qui-gon's light saber through the air.

OBI-WAN

Master!

Obi-wan engages Maul fiercely.

Behind, Qui-gon turns and reaches out to his light saber, it rises into the air then starts to fly towards his outstretched hand.

Beat.

With barely a backwards glance, Maul pushes the rear blade of his weapon out behind him.

Qui-gon's eyes widen.

A red blade protrudes from his chest. He collapses to the ground.

Obi-wan presses, his face twisting to anger.

Maul smiles at this.

They exchange blows. Obi-wan presses but Maul leads.

Then Obi-wan's face relaxes, he becomes calm, he executes intelligent combinations of moves, high to low, side-stepping and striking. Maul is on the defensive and out of control.

Obi-wan knocks Maul's weapon aside and slashes up across his front. Maul goes down to one knee and grimaces. Droplets of blood fall to the stone.

Obi-wan rushes in to finish him.

Maul looks up and roars, his eye flaming red with the power of the dark side. He rallies to block and kick Obi-wan, who goes over the edge.

Obi-wan hangs by his fingertips and looks down as his saber goes into free fall. He is exhausted.

Maul limps over to him, taking labored breaths.

He hesitates and looks up.

EXT. THE SKIES OVER CASTLE AMIDALA

Kai Amidala comes in low.

KAI AMIDALA
Block this.

She fires.

EXT. THE BATTLEMENTS OF CASTLE AMIDALA

The X-wing strafes the walkway.

Bolts smash into the ground.

The final one explodes at Maul's feet, sending him up and over the edge. He free falls and disappears into the trees below.

Obi-wan concentrates. He channels the force.

He pulls himself up. Then he turns his head to see the fallen Jedi Master, Qui-gon Jinn.

EXT. THE INNER COURTYARD

Padme and Anakin come back out into the courtyard. They walk to meet James Rho and Jayce Corlo, who enter through the main doors.

A roar sounds overhead.

Kai's X-wing comes in to land in the outer courtyard.

Their eyes track across.

Obi-wan comes down the steps. He carries the body of Qui-gon Jinn. Qui-gon's pendant dangles from Obi-wan's right hand.

Anakin walks forward alone, his eyes full of tears.

Obi-wan places the body on the ground and goes to Anakin.

ANAKIN

He's dead.

OBI-WAN

Anakin. Look at me. I promise you
... I *promise* you ... you are my
brother. I am *your* brother. From
this day I will protect you, I will
teach you, I will give my life for
you. No matter what's left out
there, or what the council say, you
are a Jedi, you have our gift. I
will show you the way to the force
and keep you from the dark side.
Qui-gon Jinn believed in you and I
will honor him.

Anakin nods tearfully.

Padme looks around.

Her sister, Kai Amidala walks into the courtyard, helmet under her arm.

She approaches Padme but they stop short a couple of steps.

Kai nods. Then she holds out her arm in a soldier's greeting. Padme reaches out and they clasp arms.

Padme allows a small smile.

Kai pulls her in and hugs her.

They look back.

Obi-wan is kneeling by Qui-gon's body, his head bowed in prayer.

EXT. THE FOREST FLOOR BY THE CASTLE - DAY

Darth Maul lies in a crumpled heap.

His chest rises and falls with effort.

His eyes flick open. He looks down at his legs. One of them is unresponsive and at an odd angle.

Maul closes his eyes and takes a deep breath. He tries to summon the force but is too exhausted. He tries to sit up, but the slash on his front racks him with pain.

He rolls over and pushes himself up to his elbows. He steels himself and begins the long crawl.

INT. ABOARD THE NABOO ROYAL SHIP

A deck on the J-327.

Three nobles attend to Padme. They bring ceremonial dresses from a closet and prepare her make-up.

She sits still, deep in thought.

Anakin watches her from across the room.

As the complicated make-up is applied to her face, Anakin watches her go back from Padme to Queen Amidala, who he first saw in the audience chamber.

Obi-wan enters.

OBI-WAN

Queen Amidala. We'll only have a very small window for this. Every second we go over time gives advantage to the blockade.

PADME AMIDALA

I'm almost ready, Master Kenobi.

OBI-WAN

(to Anakin)

Padawan. Attend to your meditation.

Anakin nods and leaves the room.

Padme sees him go in the mirror. He looks back at her and their eyes meet for a second.

INT. THE BROADCAST

A screen flickers to life.

The regal face of the young queen of Naboo, Padme Amidala, appears.

As she talks, the broadcast is seen across the planet. On large public screens, in small homes and on the monitors in the army base.

PADME AMIDALA

People of Naboo. The old republic has fallen and darkness has returned to the galaxy. The times ahead will be hard. The empire is coming. You will struggle to protect your friends and family. To stand out from the crowd will be to risk certain death. You will tell yourself that someone else must take the risk. That it's too dangerous. You will be afraid.

(beat)

I am afraid.

(beat)

I fear for my friends and my home. Naboo is my home. And so, let me be the first one to stand out. The forces of good will regroup and make a stand against this new empire, I go now to join them and let them know the people of Naboo will not shrink from the fight. I will stand aside them on the front lines. We are a proud people, with a long history. I believe that good will prevail. And when you think hope is lost, I ask you ... look to Castle Amidala and remember who we are.

The signal flickers and dies.

EXT. SPACE OVER NABOO

The three X-wings escort the Naboo Royal Starship as it enters space above the planet.

The pilots talk over the comms.

KAI AMIDALA

Obi-wan?

OBI-WAN (V.O.)
Scanners show a large ship closing
in but no ID on it.

KAI AMIDALA
Must be coming in fast, no visual
yet.

JAYCE CORLO
As soon as the royal ship is ready
to make the jump, we'll clone the
coordinates and follow.

JAMES RHO
Just make sure it's safe first.

OBI-WAN (V.O.)
We've got trouble. It's not a Naboo
ship.

JAYCE CORLO
I still don't see it.

KAI AMIDALA
There.

A massive Imperial-class Star Destroyer comes into view.

KAI AMIDALA (CONT'D)
They've been busy.

OBI-WAN (V.O.)
What should we do?

KAI AMIDALA
Stay on track for your jump to
hyperspace. We'll draw its fire.

JAMES RHO
Captain, what can we do against
that?

KAI AMIDALA
We go right at it. Put it on
defence.

Corlo shakes her head to herself.

KAI AMIDALA (CONT'D)
All we have to do is keep its
attention, and don't get hit.

JAYCE CORLO
Yeah, I'll do my best.

KAI AMIDALA
Go directly for the bridge.

As they close in, cannon fire starts.

It comes from the underside of the ship. As they fly over the topside, they see large parts of the vessel are half finished.

INT. THE BRIDGE OF THE STAR DESTROYER VICTUS

Captain Danor and his second LAZLO look out from the bridge.

LAZLO
Sir, the ray shields are operational.

CAPTAIN DANOR
No risks. We are not fully battle tested. Dispatch the new fighters. Clear the way for the main cannons. The Royal Starship's shields cannot hold a full power volley. Begin charging.

LAZLO
Yes sir.

INT. CORRIDOR ON THE VICTUS

Black uniformed TIE pilots jog along a corridor.

They arrive at a bay. We see the TIE fighters.

EXT. SPACE OVER NABOO

The lead X-wing fires at shot at the bridge.

It explodes over the shields, doing no serious damage to the ship itself.

As the explosion blinds the bridge, the X-wings break and roll, flying down the side of the ship.

JAMES RHO
We need to target the shield generators.

JAYCE CORLO
 (sarcasm)
 I'll call customer service and ask
 where they are located.

JAMES RHO
 Point taken.

KAI AMIDALA
 Let's go for the cannons.

They fly under the ship, into flak. Shots fly past them, but they are too fast to target.

Kai fires and takes out a cannon placement.

On Rho's read-out, an alarm sounds.

JAMES RHO
 Four fighters.

KAI AMIDALA
 Don't sweat it. There's no way a
 heavy ARC fighter can live with
 these babies in a dogfight.

They almost run into the TIE fighters coming out from the underside of the vessel.

The TIE pilots spin and break off into two pairs, turning with ease.

KAI AMIDALA (CONT'D)
 (shakes her head)
 Fine, scratch that. Stay sharp.
 Corlo, engage. Rho blast the main
 ship.

They break.

INT. THE ROYAL SHIP

Padme and Obi-wan check a read out. The others strap in for the jump.

OBI-WAN
 How long?

PADME AMIDALA
 We're running signals, trying to be
 sure we don't jump to a hostile
 system. Any advice?

OBI-WAN
Alderaan. We can trust Senator
Organa.

PADME AMIDALA
You're sure?

OBI-WAN
Yes. He would never betray us.

PADME AMIDALA
(looks at the read out)
Oh.

OBI-WAN
What is it?

PADME AMIDALA
They're charging a large weapon.
Once they get a clear shot, a
direct hit would disintegrate us
instantly.

OBI-WAN
Kai will come through.

He looks over his shoulder at Anakin. Anakin looks nervous.

EXT. SPACE OVER NABOO

Kai and Corlo fly directly at the TIE fighters.

They all pull clear of the Star Destroyer. Naboo is beneath
them.

KAI AMIDALA
Fly between them and the ship, make
them fire on it.

JAYCE CORLO
Got it.

Kai enters into a dog-fight with a TIE fighter. She banks
heavily. The TIE pilot tries to line up, but the bridge of
the destroyer is just beyond the X-wing.

Suddenly, Corlo comes blasting through the back of the TIE
and destroys it.

Two more TIE fighters come in behind them.

The four fighters fly low across the surface of the larger
vessel.

They get right down to the surface, where the construction is visible.

The two X-wings break left and right, also splitting the TIE fighters.

Kai plunges over the edge of the vessel and loops under the hull.

She flies 'inverted'.

The TIE fighter follows her.

The cannons lay down heavy flak.

Kai speeds through, but the TIE is destroyed by friendly fire.

She now loops back up and over to the top, completing the circle - and pops up behind the TIE fighter which is on CORLO.

Corlo smiles.

Kai blasts it.

JAYCE CORLO (CONT'D)
Nice work, Captain.

KAI AMIDALA
Look for Rho.

INT. RHO'S COCKPIT

Rho flies alongside the final TIE fighter, refusing to let it maneuver ahead or behind.

PADME AMIDALA (V.O.)
The main ship is charging a large
weapon at the front of the
underside. If you hit it, we're
clear.

JAMES RHO
Copy.

EXT. SPACE OVER NABOO

Rho banks away from the ship and out over Naboo.

The TIE loops wide and comes around to fire.

Rho enters the flak fire under the star destroyer and heads for the main cannon.

Corlo's voice comes over Rho's comm.

JAYCE CORLO (V.O.)
Get close to the hull, they won't
fire cannons into their own ship.

Rho nods to himself.

The X-wing flies so close that it has to fly between obstacles at high speed.

It is insanely difficult.

Rho loses his nerve and pulls out and away.

The TIE follows him and locks on.

Kai flies in and takes it out.

KAI AMIDALA
Corlo, take the lead. Let's see
what the fuss is about.

JAYCE CORLO
I got this.

KAI AMIDALA
(smiles)
Don't let your fans down.

Corlo flies in, through the flak and then close enough that the flak has to stop, for fear of blasting the underside of the ship.

She deftly flies between the obstacles. One single mistake, inches to either side and the X-wing would smash to pieces.

Corlo's face relaxes, she is enjoying this.

She flies so close to one under-hang, and yet her eyes widen, she's exhilarated.

The cannon comes into sight.

She blasts it and the three X-wings fly clear of the destroyer.

The Royal Starship jumps to hyperspace and the X-wings follow suit.

INT. HANGAR ON ALDERAAN

Rho, Kai and Corlo climb down from their X-wings.

Crew attend the fighters. Behind, at the other end of the hangar, sits the shiny Royal Starship.

Corlo approaches Kai Amidala. She wears a cocky grin. Kai nods in approval and they clasp arms.

To the side, Rho leans up against some crates and thinks.

Engineer ORION BA approaches Kai and Corlo.

ORION BA

The new X-wings. My team have been putting together our shipment. How do they fly?

He looks at Corlo.

Corlo looks to Kai.

KAI AMIDALA

(smiling)

Oh, they'll catch on.

EXT. PALACE GARDENS ON ALDERAAN

Senator BAIL ORGANA walks Padme and Obi-wan through the gardens. The mountains of Alderaan loom in the distance.

Anakin wanders behind, looking at the gardens.

BAIL ORGANA

... I am, of course, at your disposal in all matters. Alderaan will do all it can to resist the new Empire.

OBI-WAN

I must join with the Jedi Council and receive instruction. The Sith are behind the empire. Senator, the Sith are sensitive to the force, my presence here may put you danger.

Organa nods.

BAIL ORGANA

Queen Amidala. It would not be difficult to hide you here. You would be protected and anonymous.

PADME AMIDALA
Thank you, Senator Organa.

BAIL ORGANA
(smiling sadly)
Senator ...

PADME AMIDALA
Yes, the senate is gone. For now.
You are kind to help us. But. I
will go with Master Kenobi, to join
the front-line against the empire.

Bail Organa considers her bravery and gives her a deep bow.

OBI-WAN
(to Organa)
Thank you.

They walk on.

INT. A BALCONY IN THE PALACE - NIGHT

Anakin and Padme stand on a balcony.

Above them are the stars.

PADME AMIDALA
Now I'm like you. Far away from
home. But, I'm not alone.

Anakin smiles gently.

He stares out at the night sky.

ANAKIN
I'm going to become a Jedi. Obi-wan
is my teacher now and I will not
let him down. I will become
powerful, and I'll protect the
people. The real war is coming, and
we need leaders, we need heroes. I
can do it, Padme. This all started
because of the Empire, because of
the Sith. They are evil. I will
make them regret what they have
done and the Jedi will rid the
galaxy of them forever. One day
I'll stand before the Sith master,
and believe me, I will not
hesitate.

PADME AMIDALA

... and as a general in this war,
I'll protect you too. We can do
this together.

ANAKIN

Of course, watching you ... how you
handle all of this ... I can't do
it without you.

PADME AMIDALA

And I won't do it without you.

The two teens look into each other's eyes. They kiss.

Padme looks up to the stars.

EXT. BELOW THE BALCONY - NIGHT

Obi-wan looks up at Padme and Anakin from the shadows below.

His expression is taught and pensive.

He turns Qui-gon's pendant, the Jedi symbol, over and over in
his hand.

OBI-WAN

(closing his eyes)

Master, grant me the strength to
protect them.

EXT. SPACE ABOVE THE PLANET KORRIBAN

A scarred planet with yellow and red landmasses.

A star destroyer flies above, its white metallic hull in
sharp contrast to the dark oceans and desert-scapes.

An imperial shuttle disembarks and descends.

EXT. ABOVE THE VALLEY OF THE DARK LORDS - DAY

A red rocky plateau criss-crossed with canyons.

Emperor Palpatine walks to a crumbling facade in the rock
wall. The landed shuttle is behind, its entry ramp flanked by
red-uniformed imperial guards.

He regards the rock carvings, reaching out to touch them.

Tall natural passages lead in many directions, the towering sides providing shade from the desert sun.

Palpatine takes in the atmosphere.

A moment passes.

He stands and stares along an open route that leaves this complex and opens into the exposed desert.

Nothing.

His face betrays disappointment and he turns to walk back to the shuttle.

Palapatine stops suddenly and his eyes widen.

Turning back to the long open ended canyon, a figure is visible wrapped in a loose white muslin desert cloak and hood.

The glare fades and the figure reaches the shade of the narrow tall canyons with their majestic carvings.

Palpatine smiles.

They meet. The mysterious figure removes her desert mask and pulls back her hood. She is DARTH TALON, a Lethan Twi'lek with red tinged skin.

DARTH TALON

Emperor.

EMPEROR

You have returned from the tombs.

DARTH TALON

My lord, you have no reason to doubt me.

EMPEROR

(smiles)

You are the first.

Talon takes this in, she has succeed where countless hopefuls have failed. She nods.

DARTH TALON

My lord.

EMPEROR

The last Sith to emerge was my own teacher, when he sought answers to the greater mysteries.

He pauses to reflect on this.

DARTH TALON

He is there. His aura, his presence, his power. He has shown me many things.

EMPEROR

Good. Lord Maul has fallen. It was as I had seen it. He was merely a weapon, a tool. He fulfilled his mission, yes, but he had no capacity for wider vision.

Darth Talon pushes back her desert cloak, revealing a belt with twin lightsabers at either hip. She takes one knee.

EMPEROR (CONT'D)

I dub thee Darth Talon.

She rises.

DARTH TALON

What do you command, my lord?

EMPEROR

To go forth into the galaxy, to confront any system that dares to resist our empire, and to put them to the sword.

Darth Talon bows her head.

They walk through the red frescos and sandstone. Before them, the imperial shuttle.

At the ramp, Talon takes one last look back at this place. Her mission begins.

STAR WARS MAIN THEME.

CREDITS.