

STAR WARS : CHAPTER 1 : THREADS OF DESTINY

WRITTEN BY:

Michael Banno

&

Jeff Long

&

Matt Davis

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

EXT. SPACE

The backdrop of stars gives us our opening scroll.

CHAPTER I THREADS OF DESTINY

Years after the death of the Emperor and the restoration of the Republic, the galaxy is once again embroiled in war.

The ancient Skenvi Empire, now free from Imperial control, has become violently expansionist. Only the New Republic stands between it and the rest of the galaxy, and the two powers have fought each other to a standstill.

With the war going nowhere, the Skenvi seek to control the planet Coreign, the sole provider of a valuable military resource. In response, the Republic has approached Coreign with an offer of annexation...

PAN DOWN:

1. EXT. SPACE

A space battle between newly restored Jedi Starfighters along with Republic X-Wings, against Skenvi Bandit Fighters is taking place. There are two specific Jedi that are flying around. Jedi Knight SORAN DARR is in a blue Starfighter while his Jedi apprentice, RAVEN DARKHAM is in a red one.

As Raven exchanges fire with an incoming Skenvi Fighter, a second Skenvi Fighter comes up behind. Soran pilots his Starfighter through the battle, on the tail of another Bandit and spots Raven about to become spacedust.

SORAN

You've got one coming up behind you, Raven.

Raven destroys the Skenvi Fighter in front of him, but before he can turn his Starfighter around to deal with the other, it also explodes as Soran flies through the wreckage and passes overtop of Raven's Starfighter.

SORAN

Be mindful of all things around you, not just what's in front of you.

RAVEN

Sorry master.

As Soran flies off to fight his own battles, a Skenvi Fighter drops down in front of Raven and he fires at it, missing. Another one drops down behind him, boxing him in. Raven lifts his ship up, allowing the laser fire from the Fighter behind him to destroy the Fighter in front of him.

Raven does a flip and comes up behind the Skenvi Fighter that was behind him. He fires at it and it explodes. Raven spots another Skenvi Fighter and gives chase.

Soran rolls his ship in a circle, laser shots from two Fighters zipping all around him. Soran opens fire and his shots hit both of the ships. He straightens his Starship and turns away from the explosions, locating another Skenvi Fighter to attack.

All around space, we see that this battle is pretty much the same. Jedi Starfighters and Republic X-Wings duking it out with Skenvi Bandit Fighters. One Skenvi Fighter, we'll call him Expert Skenvi Fighter, flies through the battle and manages to take out two X-Wings and even a Jedi Starfighter. This Skenvi Fighter is marked with two burn marks, one on either side of his ship.

Raven spots the Expert Skenvi Fighter and gives chase.

RAVEN

This one's mine.

He keeps with it as it zooms around, twisting and turning around wreckage and other ships, trying to lose him. The Expert Fighter flips up and lands behind Raven, firing, but Raven dodges to the side, escaping the blasts, and then also pulls up behind, once again coming up behind the Fighter. He fires at it, but it dodges his shots. Two other Skenvi Bandit Fighters arrive and Raven has to break away from his attack to dodge shots.

An X-Wing flies by and fires, destroying one of the Skenvi Fighters that was on Raven. It continues flying on, entering a fight with another Skenvi Fighter.

Raven takes out the second Skenvi Fighter and flies around through the battle until he locates the Expert Skenvi Fighter that he had been chasing earlier and goes after him again.

RAVEN

You aren't getting away that easily.

Elsewhere in the battle, Soran is avoiding laser blasts from two pursuing Skenvi Fighters. He flies in a corkscrew manner to dodge the shots. As he straightens himself up, he maneuvers so he is heading towards the sides of the Skenvi Fighters. He lets loose dozens of laser shots, destroying two of the three Fighters. The third avoids the shots and goes to spin up behind Soran. The wreckage from a nearby exploding ship blasts right into the Skenvi Fighter's path and causes it to explode as it collides with the wreckage.

Raven continues chasing the Expert Skenvi Fighter through the battle, dodging shots and floating wreckage. The Fighter goes to fire at an X-Wing in front of it, but Soran rams the Expert Fighter from below, sending it straight up. Raven locks on and fires, blowing it up.

RAVEN

Thank you, Master Soran. I was having trouble with that one.

SORAN

I know. I could sense your feelings of frustration.

RAVEN

Sorry, master. I tried not to let them control me.

SORAN

Your feelings will always be a part of you. The true test of a Jedi is learning to control them.

The surviving X-Wings and Jedi Starfighters take out the last of the Skenvi Bandit Fighters.

SORAN

Let's go home.

The battle is over. The survivors begin their journey back to Yavin.

2. INT. YAVIN JEDI TEMPLE - HANGER BAY - DAY

The Jedi Starfighters have landed in the Hanger bay. Raven and Soran step out of their Fighters and walk towards each other. We see that Soran is a man in his early 30's and Raven is a young man in his late teens.

A group of Repair Droids scatter around as they prepare to refuel the ships and fix any damages. As Raven approaches Soran, he trips over one of the scattering droids and catches his balance.

RAVEN

Sorry.

The droid beeps and whistles at him angrily and continues on its way. Raven reaches Soran and the two walk towards the Temple Hallway.

SORAN

I know I lectured you a bit back there, but despite your errors you performed very well. You've proven that you can handle yourself in a dogfight.

RAVEN

Thank you, Master.

SORAN

If you continue doing so well, it won't be much longer until you're ready for the Trials.

Raven smiles proudly. They reach the main hallway.

SORAN

It appears as if we have some free time. I suggest you get some rest; you never know what you'll be needed for next.

Raven nods his head and walks off in the direction of his room.

3. INT. YAVIN JEDI TEMPLE - RAVEN'S ROOM

Raven lays down on his bed to take a small nap. His eyes close and suddenly we

FLASH TO:

4. EXT. GRASSY MEADOW - DAY

Raven is standing in a field, looking around. He is confused by this. He notices a huge beautiful peaceful city in the distance with a large Palace at one end.

FLASH TO:

5. INT. YAVIN JEDI TEMPLE - RAVEN'S ROOM

Raven opens his eyes and wakes up. He looks around to see that he is in his room. It must have been a dream. But then he notices what appears to be a young Jedi girl in her early teens, staring at him from the doorway. Her hair is tied into a ponytail and she is dressed in Jedi clothes.

GIRL

Your future lies with me.

The mysterious girl suddenly vanishes into thin air as Jedi Knight SETH RE'X walks in.

SETH

Are you ok? You look a bit dazed.

Raven shakes his head and focuses his eyes on Seth.

RAVEN

I'm fine, Seth.

SETH

Good, because Soran Darr wants you to meet him at the Council Chamber.

RAVEN

Why?

SETH

No idea. He just sent me to inform you.

RAVEN

Thanks.

Seth nods his head and leaves. Raven stands up, yawns and stretches, then leaves as well.

6. INT. YAVIN JEDI TEMPLE - COUNCIL CHAMBER ENTRY HALL

Raven walks up to Soran. Soran turns to spot him.

SORAN

There you are.

RAVEN

Why are we here, Master?

SORAN

I do not know myself, but we will find out soon enough.

They walk into the room as the giant oak doors open. Inside are four Jedi Masters seated in a circle. There is YOLLEN, an alien of Yoda's species that wears thick glasses. Next to Yollen is KEAGLE. Across from them are SALINE and JORAN KORN.

JORAN KORN

The council has called you here to present you with an assignment. Recently, the Republic has approached the planet Coreign with an offer of annexation. We have been received enthusiastically, but the Council deems it prudent to send a Jedi as an ambassador, in order to show our...eagerness for them to join.

(Pause)

Unfortunately, the Skenvi Empire has also approached Coreign with their own offer. They are likely more concerned with the planet's resources, its unique ore, than they are with its people.

Soran appears amused at this.

SORAN

(he cocks an eyebrow) Joran Korn, you and I both know that while the Republic cares a great deal about its citizens, the only reason we chose to approach Coreign now is because of that ore.

JORAN

True. Though I hope you'll be a bit more diplomatic when you meet with the royal family. And remember the stakes here. If the Skenvi gain exclusive rights to Coreign's ore, the Republic will be that much closer to losing this war.

SORAN

Don't remind me. I've been on the front lines. We're barely holding our own as it is. (pause) Have you arranged transportation? I doubt our starfighters will make for a comfortable trip.

JORAN KORN

We have hired a pilot to transport you there safely and quietly.

Soran bows.

SORAN

Then we'll be off.

JORAN KORN

May the Force be with you.

Soran and Raven turn and leave the Council Chambers.

7. INT. YAVIN JEDI TEMPLE - HALLWAY

Raven and Soran walk down the hallway.

RAVEN

Another mission, Master? This is overkill.

SORAN

I must admit, I did feel something in the Force when we returned, hence my suggestion that you get some rest.

RAVEN

I was looking forward to continuing my studies.

SORAN

You will still be able to. A firm grasp of diplomacy can often be a Jedi's greatest asset. Having the strength and skill to win a fight is not nearly as important as being able to avoid one in the first place. And, I might remind you, you will be tested on such things during your Trials. Practice such as this mission should serve you well. Now go and pack your things; we will leave as soon as you're ready.

Raven turns down a separate hall, heading to his room.

8. INT. YAVIN JEDI TEMPLE - HANGAR BAY

THE STARSTREAM, a rusty, near run-down transport ship is resting in the Hanger. A man in his later 30's stands near the ship. He spots the two Jedi and walks towards them. This is KARUS KAHN.

KARUS

You two boys must be the Jedi I'm transporting.

He holds out his hand and shakes the hands of both Jedi.

KARUS

The name's Karus Kahn. I'm your pilot for this mission.

SORAN

I am Soran Darr. This is my apprentice, Raven Darkham.

KARUS

Nice to meet you both. If you'll follow me, we can be on our way.

The two Jedi follow Karus onto his ship, and plunk down on a comfy bench in a small tight Passenger Compartment.

KARUS

You might want to buckle in for takeoff. The inertial compensators on this baby aren't what they used to be.

Karus continues on to the cockpit. He straps himself into his seat and powers up the ship. A few minutes later, the StarStream lifts off and zooms off through the Yavin sky, heading for space.

9. EXT. COREIGN PALACE - ROYAL GARDEN - WATER FOUNTAIN - DAY

A woman sits on a bench near a fountain. It is QUEEN ERIN AD'LAH of Coreign. She sits there staring at the water pooling at the bottom of the fountain, her mind obviously elsewhere. We see a young girl, 14 years old, in a beautiful dress walk up to her. She sits down with her mother. This is the princess of Coreign, ARIANNA AD'LAH. The Queen looks up at her and smiles.

QUEEN ERIN

You look beautiful today, Arianna.

ARIANNA

(slightly smiling, embarrassed) You say that everyday, mother.

QUEEN ERIN

That's because you look beautiful everyday.

The Queen smiles to her daughter and Arianna blushes. The Princess turns to look at her reflection in the water and stares off into space. Queen Erin notices.

QUEEN ERIN

What's wrong, sweetie?

ARIANNA

Sometimes I just wish there was something more to my life. I mean, everything about my future is already decided for me. I'm to be Queen of Coreign. I'm to marry a handsome young man from one of the noble Houses. It isn't that I don't like this life; I do. It's just that, well...

QUEEN ERIN

(a sad smile crosses her face) You want to be something beyond what you were given. (she sighs) I know how you feel. I never wanted to marry your father; I had it set in my mind that I would fall in love with a man, and then marry him, regardless of what my parents wanted.

ARIANNA

Your parents forced you to marry?

QUEEN ERIN

No. They gave me as long as I wanted to make the decision, and your father courted me for nearly a year. In the end, I realized that I hadn't ever given Juster a chance.

ARIANNA

So you married him after that?

QUEEN ERIN

Yes. And I found that he was everything I had hoped for, though it was nothing like what I imagined it would be. (she sighs again) Sometimes, Arianna, we grow to love the roles we are forced into in life. Everything may be given to you, but it is what you do with what you are given that truly matters.

Arianna smiles at her mother, knowing she is right. Suddenly her smile fades.

QUEEN ERIN

Something else bothers you?

ARIANNA

Do you know that feeling you get when someone is watching you?

QUEEN ERIN

Yes. Why?

ARIANNA

It's the Skenvi ambassador. Whenever he's around, it's almost as if I can feel him watching. Even if he's in a different room.

Queen Erin frowns, considering, but then chuckles as if shrugging off her daughter's concerns.

QUEEN ERIN

I'm afraid this won't be the first unsavory character you'll be forced to deal with. As Queen, it will be your responsibility to deal with such people, whether you like them or not.

A Royal Guard approaches, interrupting any further conversation, and stands at attention. His badge reads 'TURVO'.

TURVO

The Ambassador from the Skenvi Empire is here to see you, m'lady.

Queen Erin faces Arianna.

QUEEN ERIN

How about you handle the matter, dear? It will be good for you to practice negotiating with someone you dislike. (she smiles mischeviously) Perhaps it will even irk his Lordship a bit when he finds that I haven't designed to see him myself.

Arianna fidgets, uncomfortable with what her mother just said to her. Queen Erin takes her hand gently and lovingly, calming her.

QUEEN ERIN

Everything will go fine.

Arianna nods and stands, turning to face Turvo.

ARIANNA

I will see him in the Main Hall.

The Guard bows and walks away.

10. INT. COREIGN PALACE - MAIN HALL

Standing around, admiring the artwork on the walls is LORD SIEGE, Ambassador of the Skenvi

Empire. He is in his late 20's and is dressed entirely in black. A door opens and he turns to face Princess Arianna as she walks into the room.

ARIANNA

Hello, Ambassador. I am Princess Arianna. You asked for an audience...

Lord Siege looks around the room, expecting the King or Queen to walk in at any point.

LORD SIEGE

With the King and Queen, child. Are they otherwise occupied, or do my rank and status earn me nothing more than calculated insults?

ARIANNA

They are busy attending to other matters and have sent me in their place.

LORD SIEGE

Other matters indeed. But I believe you're more than capable of speaking in your parents' stead, my lady. I trust that they have come to a decision concerning my proposal?

ARIANNA

My parents will be meeting with Jedi Knights from the New Republic today to discuss Coreign joining the Republic, and if that happens, then we will have to sever our connections with the Skenvi Empire.

LORD SIEGE

Ah, the vaunted freedoms of the New Republic. I see that sovereignty, however, isn't one of them. The Empire, on the other hand, encourages all profitable trade relationships, so long as our systems put Skenvi interests first.

ARIANNA

The Republic has our best interests at heart...While as far as I can tell, the Skenvi are only interested in our minerals.

LORD SIEGE

You malign us, my lady. We fear for the health of your economy. The Republic is small, and simply cannot provide you with the market you require. The Empire can, but if you join the Republic and are forced to embargo us, the consequences for your people will be disastrous.

ARIANNA

(unsure of her words) But there are other places we could sell it to, other...

Momentarily ignoring her, Lord Siege walks over to a small painting on one of the walls.

LORD SIEGE

Fascinating, isn't it?

ARIANNA

I don't understand...

LORD SIEGE

No, perhaps you wouldn't. Allow me to explain. This is a painting of a battle from your revolution, two centuries ago. A rebellion fought by your people and led by *your* ancestors, to free Coreign from a line of brutal dictators.

ARIANNA

I know. I've studied our history.

LORD SIEGE

To study something is not to understand it. Perhaps that is why you fear us so, why you cannot conceive of a martial nation being anything but *evil*. All this time, and you still don't understand who you are. As a people.

While he talks, Lord Siege seems lost in thought, but he strokes his fingers down Arianna's cheek and under her jaw, and gently lifts her face, so that she looks him in the eyes. He smiles coyly, though with a hint of bemused arrogance, and steps back.

LORD SIEGE

But of course, I have faith that your family will make the wiser choice. After all, the King and Queen do have the best interests of the people at heart.

He smiles softly, bows lightly, and then walks out of the room. Arianna just stands there, feeling confused...and yet she knows one thing:

ARIANNA

I've got a bad feeling about this.

11. INT. STARSTREAM - PASSENGER'S COMPARTMENT

Raven stands in the cramped passenger compartment, trying to practice his lightsaber techniques. There is a small round droid floating around, shooting harmless lasers at him, and he is trying his best to deflect the shots with his lightsaber. However, due to the limited space, he often finds himself shaving bits of the wall or other objects with his lightsaber. Soran sits on the bench, watching.

SORAN

Your skills with a saber are progressing quite well.

Raven deflects another blast before the little robot zooms around behind him and fires again. Raven ducks, the blast going over his head and dissipating harmlessly as it touches the wall. Raven whips around and deflects another blast.

**KARUS
(V.O.)**

We are coming up on Coreign. We'll be leaving hyperspace in a few seconds.

The announcement causes Raven to stop. The droid, however, does not and shoots Raven in the back. Raven jumps slightly. Soran stands up and turns the droid off and puts it away in a box.

RAVEN

Master, now that I am done my studies, I wish to discuss something with you. I had a dream earlier. It was clear, vivid, not like my other dreams...I was in the middle of this big...

SORAN

A vision?

RAVEN

Maybe. I don't know.

SORAN

A Jedi should always be mindful of his dreams, Raven, especially when they seem out of the ordinary. Consider what you saw, meditate on it. We will discuss it when we are settled in on Coreign.

12. EXT. COREIGN - DAY

The StarStream enters the planet's atmosphere and zooms across the sky, heading towards a city.

13. INT. STARSTREAM - COCKPIT

As Karus pilots his ship, he sends out a transmission.

KARUS

Coreign Air traffic Control, this is the light freighter StarStream, requesting permission to land. I am carrying the Republic ambassadors.

**AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLER
(V.O.)**

This is Coreign Air Traffic Control. Permission granted, StarStream.

Landing coordinates start filling Karus' database screen and he plots the best flight path to them.

14. EXT. COREIGN - DAY

The StarStream roars overtop of Coreign City, heading for a Docking Bay at the edge of the city.

15. INT. STARSTREAM - PASSENGER COMPARTMENT

Raven looks out the window and gasps.

RAVEN

Master! It's the city from my dream!

Soran walks over and looks out the window at the city below.

SORAN

Interesting.

After a few seconds, he turns and goes back to the bench as Raven continues looking out at the city.

16. EXT. COREIGN - DAY

The StarStream approaches the Docking Bay and goes in for a soft landing. Royal Guards are standing by the door, guns resting on their shoulders.

17. INT. STARSTREAM - HALLWAY

Karus lowers the ramp as Soran and Raven appear.

KARUS

I may go out looking for some spare parts, but I should be here by the time you two get back.

SORAN

That's fine. I doubt we'll be back anytime soon.

Soran and Raven walk down the ramp and meet with the guards. One of the guards, Turvo, steps forward.

TURVO

Ambassadors. (he bows) I am Captain Turvo of the Royal Guard. My men and I will escort you to the palace.

SORAN

Is all this security really necessary? We were under the impression that Coreign was a peaceful planet.

TURVO

And it is. We are simply your honor guard. A tradition, ambassador.

SORAN

Very well. Lead the way.

The Guards surround the two Jedi and the group walks out of the Docking Bay.

18. EXT. COREIGN CITY - DAY

Soran and Raven are led through the city streets. At some point during their walk and following conversation, a trio of small land rover-like robots wheel down the street. They split apart into three directions and each one goes to a different house. Raven watches one as its back opens up and a clawed hand emerges, holding an envelope. The hand continues to rise until it reaches a mailbox and slips the envelope in. The hand retracts and the robot goes on to the next house. Also, a few Hover-Vehicles drive past the group on and off during their walk.

SORAN

I hear the King and Queen are well-loved by the people.

TURVO

They are indeed. I'm afraid you won't be meeting with them right away, however.

SORAN

No?

TURVO

No. They will be available for an audience later today, (Során is somewhat puzzled by the request) but they have requested that you first meet with their daughter, the Princess Arianna.

Során frowns at this, at first taking it as an intended insult. Then, his brow furrows, and we can almost see his mind racing through the implications of the request. He glances briefly at Raven, and after a few seconds, smiles and responds.

SORAN

Of course. A future Queen would no doubt need to practice her skills at diplomacy. How old is she?

TURVO

She is 14, but mature long beyond her years. She will take over for her parents on her 18th birthday.

Során smiles cordially, but there is something almost wolfish about the smile. The camera moves, and we see a train station in the background.

19. INT. TRAIN

They are now on some form of train, in a private compartment reserved only for nobility. It moves so fast, everything outside the windows is a blur.

SORAN

I think I will let you handle the negotiations alone, Raven. Judging from what Captain Turvo said, you could both use the experience. It may also help relax the Princess, dealing with someone around her own age.

Raven is shocked and looks at Során. Során chuckles.

SORAN

Relax, Raven. I don't even need the Force to sense how nervous you are. Remember, she'll be just as inexperienced at this as you.

RAVEN

Yes Master, I will do my best.

SORAN

That is all I ever ask of you.

20. EXT. ROYAL PALACE

The Guards and Jedi are walking up the stairs leading to the Palace. We can see the Hover-Train taking off at tremendous speed, in the distance. The group walks up the stone steps and reaches the humongous Palace doors. The Guards push them open, allowing the Jedi to go on ahead.

TURVO

If you'll follow me, young Jedi, I will take you to the Throne Room.

Raven follows Turvo out of the room.

21. INT. ROYAL PALACE - THRONE ROOM

Raven stands alone in the Throne Room. A door opens and he turns to see Princess Arianna walk in. His eyes go wide as he realizes that it is the same girl from his dream. Although she currently has her hair out loose and she is wearing a dress, he is sure it is the same person. Arianna approaches Raven.

ARIANNA

You must be the Jedi I am meeting with. I am Princess Arianna.

RAVEN

My...My name is Raven. Raven Darkham.

Arianna takes Raven's hand and shakes it.

ARIANNA

You're so nervous.

RAVEN

I must admit, I've never met a princess before.

ARIANNA

I too have a confession. I've never met a Jedi Knight before.

RAVEN

Actually m'lady, you still haven't. I'm not quite a Jedi Knight yet. I'm still only a student.

Arianna chuckles.

ARIANNA

If you are a student, then where is your teacher?

RAVEN

He is around someplace. He trusted me to handle the matter alone.

Raven sighs and then adds on in a much quieter voice,

RAVEN

I need more experience in such matters.

Arianna chuckles again and turns and heads up the stairs to the two Thrones seated at the top. Raven stays in his spot. Arianna sits in one of the Thrones and smiles.

ARIANNA

You may come sit next to me, Raven Darkham.

Raven hesitantly takes a step and then stops, looking around. Arianna continues to smile and giggle.

ARIANNA

Don't worry. My parents will not mind us using their seats.

Raven slowly walks up the steps and sits in the empty throne. The two turn to face each other. Arianna notices that Raven is shaking slightly, with nervousness.

ARIANNA

So what exactly does a Jedi do?

Arianna lays a hand on Raven and feels his nervousness slightly leave.

RAVEN

We're peacekeepers and ambassadors mostly. We represent the New Republic in neutral systems just like its regular diplomats, except for one little advantage of ours.

ARIANNA

What is that?

Raven holds up his lightsaber and grins.

RAVEN

This.

Arianna chuckles and removes her hand from his, content now that Raven seems to be more comfortable.

ARIANNA

Well, I suppose we should get down to business. If the Republic accepts our request to join, we will be more than willing to grant them exclusive rights to our Trebilium.

RAVEN

Trebilium, what is that?

ARIANNA

It's a special ore found only on Coreign. It has the ability to regenerate its structure when it's damaged.

RAVEN

Starship armor, right? Some of the newer frigates and cruisers in the Republic fleet have Trebilium armor plating.

ARIANNA

You're in the fleet as well?

RAVEN

(with mock arrogance) What can I say? We Jedi are...versatile.

ARIANNA

(nearly giggling) Not to mention insufferably self-centered. And here I was trying to discuss important affairs with you.

RAVEN

(he grins, and then tries to mask it with a mockery of a stern look) Very well, then. Why does Coreign wish to join with the Republic?

ARIANNA

(more seriously) We believe strongly in everything the Republic stands for. It is also in our best interest. The Republic has many things to offer to its members. (looks sadly at the floor) I am sure that by now it is no secret that the Skenvi Empire has been pestering us for greater trade concessions with our ore.

She looks back up and locks eyes with Raven.

ARIANNA

There are rumors of an invasion if we do not cooperate. The Republic would be able to defend us, as we do not have the forces nor the resources to defend ourselves. All we have is the planetary police, and they don't amount to much. The majority of our old Coreign Fighters are outdated and far beyond repair.

Arianna giggles and smiles to lighten the mood, but keeps eye contact with Raven.

ARIANNA

Plus, it's good to have the Jedi on your side. I feel safer with a Jedi around.

The two stare deeply into each other's eyes for a minute. Raven swallows and then stands up, breaking eye contact.

RAVEN

I guess that concludes our business. I will relay your answers to the Senate.

Arianna also stands.

ARIANNA

Thank you. And now with business out of the way, would you like to see the Royal Gardens? I am retiring to there now and would love for a Jedi to accompany me.

Raven thinks about it for a moment. He looks at her beautiful smiling face and gives in. He smiles back at her.

RAVEN

Lead the way, m'lady.

Arianna smiles and starts walking out of the room, Raven following.

22. INT. COREIGN PALACE - OBSERVATION ROOM

Above the Throne Room is a room with a two-way mirror looking down into the Throne Room. Soran and King Juster stand there, watching Raven and Arianna as they walk out of the room.

SORAN

They seem to get along well.

King Juster turns and walks out of the room and into the hall, Soran walking beside him.

KING JUSTER

Yes. I must say, I am gratified to find that the Republic deems us important enough to send two Jedi as ambassadors.

SORAN

Every system is important to the Republic.

KING JUSTER

But some more than most, no? After all, what would the Republic do if we were to join the Skenvi instead, and deny you access to our ore?

SORAN

We would do as we always do, your Grace. Persevere. If you wish to join the Skenvi Empire, it is your right. Likewise, if I wish to take a stroll out of that window, it is my right also.

King Juster laughs heartily.

KING JUSTER

A fine assessment of the situation. The Skenvi ambassador lies by default. I'd have to be a fool to trust his honeyed tongue. But he's been getting bolder, more insistent, lately. I hate to think about what might happen when we sign the Republic charter.

Soran nods, understanding.

SORAN

And what does Queen Erin think of the situation?

KING JUSTER

She's always the optimist. We can go see her right now if you wish, and you can ask her yourself.

SORAN

Actually, your Grace, I shall have to decline for the moment. I had not expected you to return so quickly, and I must make a brief report to the Council on my arrival. I promise to join you within the hour.

KING JUSTER

Very well. My wife and I will be in the gardens.

23. EXT. COREIGN PALACE - ROYAL GARDEN - DAY

Arianna and Raven walk down a path, a wall of hedges on either side.

ARIANNA

The Gardens are huge. Mother had them built when she was younger so she could have a private and peaceful place to meditate. When I became old enough to know the way of things, she introduced me to meditation as a way to calm the spirit. I come out here often and meditate for hours at a time. It's so peaceful.

They walk around a corner and enter a wide opened area. There are a few small hedges and plants dotting around the area, but other than that, not a single thing apart from grass and a small shed.

ARIANNA

And this is where I like to practice my fencing.

Raven looks at her, amused.

RAVEN

Fencing? I thought that sport only existed in history books.

ARIANNA

I've been doing it since I was a little girl. My mother taught me and her mother taught her.

Raven chuckles and Arianna playfully pushes him.

ARIANNA

What's so funny?

RAVEN

I can't picture a princess fencing. It's too absurd!

At this point, Raven breaks out laughing. Arianna jokingly gasps.

ARIANNA

Would you like to see? Better yet, would you like to have a friendly duel?

Raven stops laughing but continues to smile.

RAVEN

I accept.

Arianna walks across the lawn towards the shed. She disappears inside, leaving Raven alone outside. A few minutes later, Princess Arianna emerges outside with two swords in her hands, and a fencing suit covering her body. She does not wear a helmet however and Raven sees that she is not bringing him a suit.

The Princess tosses a sword to Raven and he catches it clumsily. He moves his hand around, getting used to the feeling. It is definitely different than a lightsaber. Arianna giggles at Raven's inability to properly use a sword.

ARIANNA

Here...

Arianna stands next to him and shows him how to properly hold it for sturdiness.

RAVEN

It's a bit different than a lightsaber, but it'll do.

Arianna backs up and stands in a fencing ready stance. She sticks the sword out straight, bending her right leg forward, and arches her free arm up in a half moon pose. Raven tries to copy the stance, however his form is more loose.

ARIANNA

Are you ready?

RAVEN

As ready as I'll ever be, Princess.

24. EXT. COREIGN PALACE - DIFFERENT LOCATION OF ROYAL GARDEN - DAY

King Juster and Queen Erin stare out at Raven and Arianna. Lord Siege walks up behind the King and Queen. They only notice him when he speaks.

LORD SIEGE

Ah, young love. Touching, isn't it?

The King and Queen only glance over at him for a moment, but the smiles on their faces quickly become frowns.

LORD SIEGE

Do you know, your Grace, what Jedi philosophy says about attachment?

KING JUSTER

(with biting sarcasm) No, Lord Siege, I don't. Perhaps you could enlighten us?

LORD SIEGE

It says that a Jedi must forsake all attachments, that he may better serve the Force. That is why candidates for their Academy are taken at such a young age, and why (he smiles) they are forbidden to love.

The King and Queen now turn their heads toward him in shock.

LORD SIEGE

And yet the Jedi Master throws his apprentice headlong into your romantic trap, knowing full well what the outcome will be.

They can only stare, not quite comprehending the implications.

LORD SIEGE

Perhaps, your Grace, it would do you well to remember this, as a lesson.

KING JUSTER

(somewhat shaken) A lesson about what?

LORD SIEGE

Why, ulterior motives, of course. The quickest judgment about a man may often prove to be the farthest one from the truth.

KING JUSTER

I think that my judgments about you and the Skenvi Empire are quite sound, Lord Siege. If you think spouting platitudes...

LORD SIEGE

(interrupting) No doubt they are. You see only the surface, but perhaps that is enough for you. Were I you, though, I would look carefully at your new allies.

KING JUSTER

Except that you're not me, which is why Coreign will never join the Skenvi.

LORD SIEGE

No less than I expected. When the end comes, your Grace, you may reconsider your words, though it will be far too late. When Skenvi warships occupy your orbitals, when your cities are awash in flame, and when you find yourself a king over charred bones and cooked meat, perhaps you will look back and wish that you had chosen a position of strength over one of weakness.

KING JUSTER

Are you threatening us?

LORD SIEGE

I am stating Skenvi policy. Coreign is merely an objective in this war, a resource to be fought over. Dig past the web of self-righteous lies, and you will find that the Republic feels much the same way. And what of when you become a burden to your allies, your *friends*? Coreign is weak, and in this galaxy, your Grace...(he pauses for a moment, sobered by a recollection of things past)...weakness invites betrayal.

With that said, he turns around and walks out of the gardens, leaving the King and Queen baffled and more than a little frightened. Soran walks up, passing by Lord Siege. The two make hard eye contact as they pass. When Soran reaches the King and Queen, he spots what they are looking at.

SORAN

I see I'm just in time for the show.

25. EXT. COREIGN PALACE - ROYAL GARDEN - DAY

The two teenagers dive at each other and swords clang together. Raven isn't expecting to feel the force of the swords banging against each other, which results in his sword flying from his hands. Raven dives and comes up in a roll, holding his sword once more. He whips around and blocks a stab by Arianna. Arianna twirls her sword around so it is on top of Raven's and very lightly taps it against his chest. They brake apart and return to the ready stances.

Arianna nods and Raven nods back. They charge each other once more, and this time Raven is prepared for the force of the swords clanging together. As their swords meet, Arianna smiles.

ARIANNA

I see you're learning.

RAVEN

I've always been a fast learner.

They break apart and Arianna charges at Raven, their swords clanging together in a series of attacks and blocks, Raven getting pushed back further and further, one step at a time. Raven ducks and maneuvers to the side, coming up beside Arianna. He swings his sword down at an angle so it would hit off her shoulder pad, but she whips around and blocks at the last second.

Raven twirls his sword around, so it is overtop of hers, much like what she did to him, but she continues the twirling and brings hers back on top of his. He raises his sword up, causing Arianna's sword to go higher when she stabs it forward, just skimming the top of his head. Raven pokes his sword forward, lightly tapping her chest.

They break apart and return to ready stances. This time Raven's stance is much better.

ARIANNA

You really do adapt quickly.

Raven smiles as he raises his arms and bows. He returns to the ready position and nods his head. Arianna nods hers as well. Raven slightly moves his body forward, but does not move his feet. Arianna, thinking that Raven is going to charge, charges first and runs at Raven. Raven steps to the side and swings his sword towards Arianna as she approaches, but she ducks, going under the sword, and then comes up beside Raven.

Their swords meet and they once again parry back and forth, attacking and blocking, as they move around the open field. Arianna quickly spins and blocks an attack. She pushes the blade away and slices at Raven's chest. Raven blocks and spins, sending a shot towards Arianna's left shoulder, which she in turn blocks as well. Arianna breaths heavy, running low on breath.

ARIANNA

You're really good.

Raven stabs forward and again, she blocks.

RAVEN

You're better.

He swings upward, but Arianna bends backwards, causing the tip of Raven's sword to miss her by inches. She swats it away and changes back to the offensive. She slices at his chest but he blocks easily with a swat to the left. She spins and slices toward his right arm but he blocks and swings to her side. She blocks and slices toward his stomach. He blocks once again and slices toward her chest. She spins around and knocks his blade away. She uses her momentum to slice at his thigh but he blocks the attack.

She continues to up the offensive and Raven moves the sword around in a flurry of blocks. Raven takes a few steps back as he blocks. As he lifts his foot up to take another step back, but trips backwards on a small rock and starts to fall down. Arianna lunges in for the finishing point, but Raven turns his body to the side and stretches out his hands, grabbing the end of Arianna's uniform.

The two fall to the soft ground, their bodies tangled up in each other. They turn their heads to look at each other and find their faces inches apart. They stare deeply into each other's eyes. Arianna starts to slightly lean in for what seems to be a kiss.

RAVEN

I win.

With the chemistry broken, Arianna snaps out of her love-struck daze. She feels something softly putting pressure on her stomach and she looks down, seeing that Raven has the end of his sword touching her stomach. Arianna starts to laugh at the situation.

ARIANNA

Well done, Jedi.

Raven starts laughing as well and stands. He reaches a hand down and helps Arianna to her feet as well. They start brushing grass off of themselves. They hear clapping and look over to see the Queen, King, and Soran walk into the field. King Juster is the one clapping.

SORAN

That was quite the show. I was only there for part of it, but I can tell that you're very talented, Princess.

ARIANNA

I practice three times a week and train with my mother. She's even better.

Queen Erin chuckles.

QUEEN ERIN

Not for much longer, if you keep it up.

She turns to Soran.

QUEEN ERIN

Arianna has won many fencing tournaments here on Coreign. We're all very proud of her.

The King claps his hands together to get everyone's attention.

KING JUSTER

I'm sure Soran and his student are exhausted from their trip here and could use a bit of rest. Arianna, would you be so kind as to show them to the Guest Rooms?

ARIANNA

Certainly, Father. If you'll follow me, gentleman.

Arianna walks away, still dressed in her fencing uniform. Soran and Raven follow.

26. INT. COREIGN PALACE - HALLWAY

Princess Arianna leads Soran and Raven down a hallway.

SORAN

Princess, your parents say that you are very perceptive towards others' feelings. Do you often have strong emotions toward certain people only in their presence, or perhaps know that they are nearby before you can see or hear them?

Raven glances at his Master, curiosity on his face.

ARIANNA

All the time. Mother says it's a gift that I have been blessed with.

Soran nods his head and Arianna stops by an open door.

ARIANNA

Here is your room, gentleman. Take as long as you need to rest. My parents will meet with you afterwards, to finalize the negotiations.

SORAN

Your hospitality is much appreciated.

Soran walks into the room. Raven looks at the Princess before going into the room. They smile at each other.

ARIANNA

Rest well.

RAVEN

I will.

Raven turns and walks into the room, closing the door behind him.

SORAN

The Force is strong in her.

RAVEN

I know. I felt it when we were fencing. It doesn't matter, though. She's too old to begin the training.

SORAN

The Council has made exceptions in the past. I will talk to Master Joran Korn when we return.

Raven goes and lies on the second bed as Soran lies on the first.

27. INT. COREIGN PALACE - ARIANNA'S ROOM

Arianna, dressed in yet another dress, sits in her bedroom, staring at herself in her mirror. Her mother stands behind her, brushing her hair. Her mother smiles.

QUEEN ERIN

You've fallen for that boy, haven't you?

Arianna looks down at the floor and smiles as well.

QUEEN ERIN

I am happy for you...but there is something you must know. The Jedi...they do not permit members of their order to be involved...romantically, at all. I am truly sorry, but there isn't any way this could ever work out.

Arianna's smile fades. She is plainly shocked by the news.

QUEEN ERIN

Perhaps it is best if you do not attend the finalizing of the negotiations. Your father and I can handle it on our own.

The Queen pauses to get a knot out of her daughter's hair and then continues.

QUEEN ERIN

Forget about him. It will be easier once you do.

ARIANNA

I know, mother, but I can't help how I feel.

QUEEN ERIN

It will take time, but it's for the best. You know this.

The door opens and a shadow falls over both of them. They turn to see who entered, however we never get to see who. Arianna's eyes widen. Queen Erin takes a small step back. Her voice is filled with fear when she speaks.

QUEEN ERIN

Can we help you with something? You appear to be lost.

28. INT. COREIGN PALACE - THRONE ROOM

King Juster sits on his Throne as Soran and Raven stand at the bottom of the stairs, their hands behind their backs. The room is quiet. King Juster sighs as he looks at his watch and Raven's eyes keep darting to the doors. The doors creak open, causing everyone to look at it. A lone handmaiden walks into the room. As she walks by the thrones on her way back out of the room on the other side, the King stops her by calling out her name.

KING JUSTER

Falaish.

She stops and turns to face him, bowing to her knees.

KING JUSTER

Could you please go and remind my wife of the meeting? She was last headed toward the Princess' quarters.

FALAISH

Certainly, your Grace.

As Falaish stands up to leave, Soran feels a disturbance in the Force.

SORAN

Raven, how about you accompany her. You won't be missing much here.

Raven catches the look Soran gives him and nods.

RAVEN

Certainly, master.

Raven turns and exits the room with Falaish. Soran stares after them for a minute before turning back to face the King. King Juster chuckles.

KING JUSTER

My wife can never keep an appointment unless it's for her hair.

Soran smiles, but we can tell through his expression that his mind is elsewhere and his smile is forced.

29. INT. COREIGN PALACE - HALLWAY

Raven follows Falaish down a hall. They round a corner and see that the door to Arianna's room is wide open. Raven feels that same disturbance in the Force that Soran felt and lays a hand on Falaish's shoulder.

RAVEN

Stay here.

Raven runs down the hall and into the room. The Queen is lying on the floor and Raven takes a few slow steps towards the body and kneels down to feel her pulse.

RAVEN

She's...dead.

A scream causes Raven to whip his head around and see Falaish standing in the doorway.

RAVEN

Go and get my master!

As Falaish rushes away, Raven scans the room and sees no sign of the Princess. He rushes to the open window and looks out. The evening sky makes it difficult to spot anything. Raven reaches into a pouch tied to his belt and brings up two small lenses. He places one in each eye and taps them. The entire world lights up in various shades of green. Raven scans the area and taps the sides of the lenses to zoom in. He spots something moving quickly away from the Palace. He zooms in further and picks out a man dragging a bound and gagged female teenager.

Raven removes the lenses and place them back in his pouch. He places his hand on his lightsaber as he jumps up onto the windowsill and leaps out.

30. INT. COREIGN PALACE - THRONE ROOM

Falaish runs into the room. King Juster leaps to his feet and Soran turns to face her. Both of them run to the maid as she stops on the spot and starts crying. In between sobs, she explains.

FALAISH

The Queen is dead! The Princess is missing!

King Juster stumbles back and falls to the floor, heartbroken. He stares off into space, too upset to even cry. More in a state of devastating shock than anything. Soran turns and rushes out of the room at top speed.

31. EXT. COREIGN CITY - EVENING

Lord Siege is dragging a bound and gagged Arianna through the streets. He is holding onto the rope that is binding her hands like handcuffs. A few onlookers stop to watch the scene, and quickly take off to tell the local law enforcement. Arianna fights as best she can with hands tied and mouth gagged. She twists, turns and squirms as much and as strong as she can, but Lord Siege has a strong grip on her binds and is sure not to let go.

Arianna tries not moving her feet, but she quickly finds that Lord Siege has no problem with dragging her across the ground. Arianna tries to scream, but only a low muffle escapes the gag. Lord Siege roughly shoves the Princess into an open-roofed Hover-Car and hops in behind the wheel. With a flick of his finger, the Hover-Car starts up and he zooms away at top speed.

32. EXT. COREIGN PALACE - EVENING

Soran meets up with Raven outside of the Palace and the two rush down the street together. Soran comes to a halt.

SORAN

Raven, stop!

Raven does so and looks back at his master, impatiently.

RAVEN

Why? We don't have time for this!

Soran points to two Speeder Bikes sitting outside of a bar.

SORAN

I hate stealing, but desperate times call for desperate measures.

Soran jumps on top of one, Raven on the other. Raven is zooming off before Soran even has his started up. He gets his moving within a few seconds and races to catch up with Raven.

33. EXT. COREIGN CITY - HANGAR BAY

This is a different Docking Bay than the one Karus landed in. Lord Siege jumps out of the Hover-Car and shoves Arianna through the entryway into the Docking Bay. She stumbles and falls to her knees. Lord Siege grabs her bounds and drags her across the floor until she stumbles to her feet.

The sound of approaching engines causes Lord Siege to stop and turn around. Two Speeder Bikes come to a sudden halt and the Jedi somersault off, landing a few feet away from Lord Siege and Arianna, just outside of the doors. The second their feet touch the ground, their lightsabers are ignited.

LORD SIEGE

You are too late, Jedi.

He shoves Princess Arianna to the floor behind him. He takes a small device from his belt and shoots it towards her. Thick rope shoots out and wraps around Arianna's legs. Lord Siege throws the gadget to the floor as he reaches onto his belt for something else.

He raises it close to his head and a long red bar of light ignites from the lightsaber. Soran and Raven's eyes go wide, realizing that Lord Siege is a Sith. Lord Siege smiles as he removes one hand from the lightsaber handle and raises the hand. Soran and Raven start to move towards him, but are blocked as Lord Siege uses the Force to close the metal doors, keeping the two Jedi from advancing. He picks Arianna up over his shoulders.

The two blue lightsabers start burning through the doors and move in opposite directions, forming a circle. Lord Siege gets to his ship, the DREAD, and dumps Arianna inside. He turns around as a circle falls out of the middle of the doors and the Jedi rushed inside.

A group of Skenvi Soldiers rush out from The Dread and stand in front of Lord Siege as they turn on their blaster rifles and fire at the intruders. Raven and Soran block each shot with their lightsabers, deflecting the blasts into random areas of the Docking Bay. It isn't long until the blasts are deflected back at the Skenvi Soldiers and they all lay dead on the floor.

Lord Siege slams his hand out and Force-Pushes Raven across the room. Raven lands in a pile of junk spare parts, and Lord Siege uses the Force to raise a second pile and slams the junk down on top of Raven, burying him.

By this point, Soran has reached him and Lord Siege moves his lightsaber in front of him to block a furious blow. The lightsabers crackle with energy as they meet, neither one willing to move theirs first. Lord Siege sneers as he moves his lightsaber back and quickly slams it forward, lower than last time.

Soran backs up, the blow missing. Lord Siege charges and brings his lightsaber down towards Soran's neck. Soran bends his neck to avoid getting sliced off and blocks the attack with his saber. Lord Siege continually attacks Soran in force, making him be the one who backs up step by step and defends.

Soran slams his lightsaber up, causing Lord Siege's to go flying up above his head, leaving his grasp. Soran uses the free time he has to move to the side and jam his saber forward. Lord Siege jumps out of the way, but not quick enough and manages to burn the edge of his arm as Soran's saber skims the surface.

Soran twirls his lightsaber in his hand as Lord Siege uses the Force to bring his own lightsaber back into his hands. He ignites it just in time to block another attack from Soran. Soran slices towards the Sith's arm, but Lord Siege knocks the blade away and slices towards Soran's chest. Soran is able to block the saber in an upward motion and kicks Lord Siege in the chest, causing him to stumble back a bit.

Lord Siege jumps forward as Soran does the same and their faces meet inches from each other, with only room for their two lightsabers to be in between. Lord Siege moves his head back as he twirls to the side and comes up behind Soran. As Soran starts to turn to face him, Lord Siege does the only thing he has the time to do, which is bring the hilt of his lightsaber across the back of Soran's head. The Jedi falls to the floor, unconscious, his lightsaber rolling away from him.

The Dread's engines start up as Lord Siege puts away his lightsaber and rushes up the ramp into his ship. The ramp retracts as the doors close and the ship lifts up off the floor, blowing scorching hot air into the room.

Just as the Dread tilts up, Raven's hand emerges from the top of the junk pile and with a grunt, he pulls himself out. Raven sees the ship slowly lifting up into the sky and quickly reaches into his pouch. He retrieves a small electronic item and whips it across the room. It sticks onto the side of The Dread as the ship reaches the top of the room and zips away into the sky.

RAVEN

Master!

Raven rushes over and bends down next to Soran. He feels around for a pulse and sighs, relieved when he finds one.

34. EXT. SPACE

The Dread zooms through space, leaving Coreign behind.

35. INT. THE DREAD - LORD SIEGE'S QUARTERS

Lord Siege is standing, looking at Arianna. Arianna is tied to a chair. There are electronic bounds centimeters above her wrists and away from her ankles. She tries to stand up, but when her arms touch the electronic bounds, a surge of strong electricity flows through her body and she lets out a scream.

The door slides open and Sha'Tilk, a strong but deadly female Bounty Hunter walks in. Her voice is raspy and snake-like.

SHA'TILK

Please, can we gag her again? Her screaming is enough to give even womprats a headache.

LORD SIEGE

Not yet. I'd like to have a few words with the princess first.

He walks over, and Arianna tries to lunge at him when he gets close. She screams when she is electrocuted, but less strongly than the last time.

LORD SIEGE

I can see that breaking you will take more than just physical pain. The Force can do terrible things to both mind and flesh, twist you in ways you never thought possible, but for now I will simply leave you with the threat of such agony. (pause) Tell me, Princess: If I were to disable the binds and free you, what would you do?

ARIANNA

(with as much passionate hate as she can put into her voice) Kill you.

LORD SIEGE

Such violence...such *hate*. What if I told you that you could do that without ever lifting a finger...kill me while still bound to that chair?

Confused, but still trying to maintain her hateful expression, Arianna only looks at him.

LORD SIEGE

You, Princess, are strong in the Force. *Very* strong. With sufficient training, I would be hard-pressed to match you.

ARIANNA

Is that what you want? To turn me into a (almost spitting) *Sith*?

LORD SIEGE

In time, maybe. But I think you will find your alternatives rather limited in that regard. Not even your precious Jedi friends can save you now.

ARIANNA

Liar. Raven will come for me.

LORD SIEGE

Of course he will. And when he does, we shall truly test the bounds of your resistance.

ARIANNA

What are you talking about?

LORD SIEGE

How do you think it will feel, to watch as I break him?

She can only stare in horror as he continues.

LORD SIEGE

To stand witness as I peel away, one by one, all the layers of his sanity, and leave him a gibbering shell of what he once was...

ARIANNA

No!

LORD SIEGE

And what if I were to turn *him* instead of you? You've already suffered my betrayal, and the consequent death of your mother, but can you suffer his?

He stops for a moment, again haunted by a recollection. When he speaks, his voice is sad, almost wistful.

LORD SIEGE

Can you endure treachery from the one you love the most?

Arianna continues staring for a moment, and then breaks out into sobs and supplications. Lord Siege turns around and walks over to Sha'Tilk.

LORD SIEGE

You may gag her now, Sha'Tilk. And set a course for the Emperta system.

SHA'TILK

The slave station? I thought you wanted to keep her.

LORD SIEGE

Oh, I will. When the time comes, (he gestures with an open palm) I shall have all of my enemies sitting in the palm of my hand.

Abruptly, he closes his hand into a fist, and then exits the room amid muffled sobs and screaming.

36. INT. COREIGN PALACE - THRONE ROOM

Raven and Soran stand in front of King Juster in the Throne Room. The King sits in his throne and speaks in a sad tone.

KING JUSTER

(as if comforting himself) Arianna has always been strong. If anyone can survive this, it is her.

SORAN

We will do what we can to return her safely, but your Grace, please, do not let this interfere with the negotiations. You will no doubt receive demands to reconsider our offer and instead join the Skenvi...do not listen. We *will* get your daughter back.

RAVEN

I swear we will return her and kill the man that did this.

Soran shoots a hard look at his padawan, but does not get the chance to speak as King Juster does so first.

KING JUSTER

The man you are seeking is named Lord Siege. He is an ambassador of the Skenvi Empire. I wish you both the best of luck, and please bring my daughter back safely. She is all I have now.

Tears start rolling down his eyes. Soran looks over at Raven and sees the determined expression on his face and closes his eyes in pain. Raven is about to tread down a dangerous path. Soran opens his eyes.

SORAN

Come on.

Soran turns and walks away, Raven striding beside him.

37. EXT. SPACE

The Starsteam zooms through space.

38. INT. STARSTREAM - COCKPIT

Karus is piloting the ship and Soran and Raven stand behind him. Karus points to a dot on a screen.

KARUS

That's the ship you're tracking.

He enters in a bunch of commands on a console and a huge space station comes on screen.

KARUS

The navicomputer is 90% positive that this is where they are headed, judging by their trajectory and speed.

RAVEN

A space station? In what system?

KARUS

It seems our boy is taking the Princess to Emperta.

Karus looks back at the two Jedi, but notices their confused looks.

KARUS

It's a space station that operates within the black market. More specifically, with slave dealing.

It dawns on Raven what Lord Siege plans on doing.

RAVEN

We have to get there right away!

Soran places a comforting hand on Raven, but Raven just shakes it off and storms away to the Passenger Compartment.

SORAN

Thank you, Karus. Stay on course.

KARUS

Sure thing.

Soran walks out of the cockpit.

39. INT. STARSTREAM - CORRIDOR

Soran stops in the corridor and takes out a small round holonet comlink. He presses some digits and a hazy beam of light shoots an inch into the air. Soran presses another few digits and a hologram of Joran Korn appears in the hazy light.

JORAN KORN

Ah, Soran. How are the negotiations progressing?

SORAN

Disastrously, though we can still salvage them. The Skenvi ambassador has kidnapped the Princess and is now taking her to sell on the slave market. We confronted him on Coreign and discovered that he is schooled in the ways of the Force. A lone Dark Jedi, if we are lucky.

As Soran talks, Joran Korn's bright happy face soon turns to one of worry.

JORAN KORN

You don't believe that.

SORAN

No. He disguised himself too well, fought too masterfully...I fear he is a *Sith*.

JORAN KORN

This is dire news, indeed. I will discuss this with the Council, but you must do all that you can to find out more about this man. Pursue him. rescue the princess, if she is not sold or dead already. And above all else, be careful. You are in more danger here than you know.

Soran nods, but does not end the communication.

JORAN KORN

What else is troubling you?

SORAN

It is Raven. He has become...emotionally attached...to the Princess.

JORAN KORN

Watch him closely. His involvement with her can be dealt with later; for now, you must make sure that this quest of yours does not become an instrument of vengeance for him.

SORAN

I agree.

JORAN KORN

Contact me again when you know more.

SORAN

I will.

Joran Korn disappears and the hazy light sucks back down into the comlink.

40. INT. STARSTREAM - PASSENGER COMPARTMENT

Raven paces back and forth, a determined but worried look on his face. The door slides open and Soran walks in. He watches Raven pace back and forth for a minute before speaking up.

SORAN

You shouldn't worry. Worry is like fear: it clouds and distracts the mind.

Raven continues to pace and doesn't even look at his master.

RAVEN

I've tried burying these feelings, but they are overpowering me.

SORAN

Then I think you should sit this mission out.

Raven stops pacing and turns angrily.

RAVEN

I will *not* simply stand by and watch!

He immediately realizes that he lost his temper with his master and softens.

RAVEN

I am sorry, master. I did not mean to shout.

When Soran speaks, his tone is filled with sadness and concern.

SORAN

Raven, I fear for you. Your feelings for this girl have clouded your judgment. Your only concern should be for how this will help us bring Coreign into the Republic, but you are turning it into a personal quest for revenge. You *fear* for the girl, and so you are *angry* at our inability to immediately rescue her. And you *hate* Lord Siege for doing this to her, *to you*. You hate him with a passion that threatens to consume you.

Raven sighs.

RAVEN

I've heard this all before! Is wanting justice for what he's done going to lead to the Dark Side?

SORAN

You don't want justice! You want vengeance! There is a difference.

Soran stops, knowing that losing his temper would not help things. He speaks again in a softer, but just as stern tone.

SORAN

You are an exceptional student, Raven. You have learned so much since I took you as my padawan, but it seems that you still don't understand any of it.

Raven sighs, frustrated, and turns away from Soran to sit on the leather bench. He crosses his arms, sulking. Soran takes a step towards him to continue his lecture, but is interrupted as Karus' voice fills the compartment over the intercom.

**KARUS
(V.O.)**

We'll be coming out of hyperspace shortly.

SORAN

We'll continue this discussion later.

Raven ignores him and continues to stare off into space, lost in his own thoughts. Soran turns and exits the room, leaving Raven to himself.

41. INT. STARSTREAM - COCKPIT

Soran enters the cockpit just as the StarStream exits lightspeed. The huge space station of Emperta looms in front of the ship. Soran stares out the window at it.

KARUS

Welcome to Emperta, Master Jedi. You won't find a more wretched hive of scum and villainy.

Karus pushes a few buttons and takes a radio into his hands.

KARUS

Emperta Station, this is the light freighter StarStream requesting permission to dock.

After a static-filled five seconds, a voice returns.

VOICE

Docking Port 69.

42. EXT. SPACE

The StarStream slows down as it nears the station and aims for one of the Docking Ports. The one it is headed towards has the number '69' painted above it in white letters.

43. INT. STARSTREAM - CORRIDOR

Soran walks out of the cockpit and down the hall. He reaches the main door, but Raven is already standing there, waiting for the door to open and ramp to lower.

SORAN

I meant what I said earlier, Raven. About you sitting this one out.

Raven turns to his master and opens his mouth to speak, but is cut off as Karus walks over.

KARUS

He's right, Raven. Well, half-right, really.

Soran and Raven look at him, confused. Karus turns to face Soran.

KARUS

You should sit this one out as well. They know what you two look like. If you get identified, they'll run for it again, and we may not get another shot at this. However, they've never seen *me* before.

RAVEN

Fine.

He turns and storms back down the hall towards the Passenger Compartment. Soran places a hand on Karus' shoulder and squeezes.

SORAN

Good luck.

KARUS

I'll return with the Princess. I promise.

Karus presses the button to lower the ramp and walks off the ship.

44. INT. EMPERTA - CORRIDOR

Karus walks down a busy hall, passing by dozens of people and aliens. Some are walking alone, looking for a slave or two to buy. Other loners have smiles on their faces and large pouches of credits in their hands, having just sold a slave. And others still, walk around with their slaves on leashes or bound with rope, dragging them up and down the halls. Karus looks carefully at each slave he passes, checking for the princess.

He continues down the hall, passing a vendor selling a half dozen slaves of varying species, most skimpily clad. Upon walking around a corner, Karus spots a diner. He breaths in, pushes open the doors, and walks into the dimly-lit, smoke-filled room.

Karus stops on the other side of the door, giving his eyes a chance to adjust to the darkness. The room is only lit by small lights lining the walls here and there. Just enough to keep most of the room - and what goes on in it - out of view. He spots a vacant table sitting alone in a corner with a light shining near it. Karus walks over to it and sits down. Shortly after, a short Chadra-Fan waiter scurries over.

WAITER

What is your pleasure, sir?

KARUS

I'll have a plate of Galaxy Fries with a Topsy Drink. And a Slave Sale Advisor, whenever one's available.

The waiter scurries away, leaving Karus alone again. Karus glances around the room while waiting, but could only pick out slight outlines and movements. Soon enough, the waiter returns with Karus' order and a tall lanky man with thick glasses and a trench coat. The man sits down opposite of Karus as the waiter leaves again. Karus starts picking at his food.

SLAVE SALE ADVISOR

What is it that you are looking for?

Karus takes a few more fries and eats them, washing the remnants down with a sip of his drink. While he speaks, he removes a few credit coins and starts toying with them on the table.

KARUS

I am looking for a specific slave. Teenage girl, humanoid, blond hair, Force-sensitive. They would have just recently docked and registered.

Karus slides the credits across the table.

SLAVE SALE ADVISOR

I will see what I can find.

The man takes the credits and leaves. Karus reaches down to grab more fries.

45. INT. EMPERTA - DINER - LATER

We can tell time has passed, as Karus' plate of fries is just about empty and he has a full glass of Topsy drink next to an empty one. He looks up as the Slave Sale Advisor returns with a female at his side.

SLAVE SALE ADVISOR

This is Sha'Tilk. She has what you are looking for.

Karus gives the man a few more credits and he walks away. Karus motions with his hand for Sha'Tilk to sit down and she does so. When her face is at various angles, her eyes slightly glow in the dark.

SHA'TILK

What precisely are you looking for?

KARUS

I'm looking for a Force-sensitive teenage girl. I heard you have one.

SHA'TILK

Why does she have to be Force-sensitive?

KARUS

Let's just say that in my line of work, I tend to get into sticky situations and dealings with some customers would go a lot more smoothly if I had someone who was in touch with the Force.

Sha'Tilk searches Karus' eyes.

SHA'TILK

Very well. I have just the slave for you. Meet me at Port 12 in half an hour. I'll have the girl waiting.

They both stand and shake hands. Sha'Tilk turns, but first reaches down and takes Karus' last few fries before leaving.

46. INT. EMPERTA - CONTROL CENTER

Lord Siege is standing at a command console, looking at images from security cameras. Around him, Skenvi Soldiers stand watch, and a number of station personnel are held at gunpoint, tied-up on the floor. The comm beeps and Siege presses a button to receive the transmission.

SHA'TILK (V.O.)

The Jedi were not with him. He may just be a curious buyer.

LORD SIEGE

Take a team of Soldiers and shadow the smuggler. Report back when you find out what docking bay his ship is in. I can feel the Jedi's presence on this station and I do not think it is mere coincidence that he knows so much about the girl.

47. INT. STARSTREAM - PASSENGER COMPARTMENT

Raven sits cross-legged in the middle of the floor, meditating. Soran stands behind him, viewing his padawan as he meditates. Something in Soran's pouch vibrates and he walks out into the corridor, leaving Raven alone in the room. He reaches inside his pouch and takes out his Comlink. A hologram of Karus pops up.

KARUS

I've located the Princess. I'm meeting with the Skenvi in half an hour for pick up and payment.

SORAN

Be careful. Lord Siege will be nearby. Block all thoughts of us from your mind and focus only on buying a slave for personal reasons. Siege can use the Force; if he discovers your true thoughts and intentions, then it's all over.

KARUS

I'll do my best.

Karus' image disappears. Soran puts the comlink away and turns to walk back into the Passenger Compartment.

48. INT. EMPERTA - CORRIDOR

Karus walks down a hall, approaching Port 12. Sha'Tilk is standing in the doorway holding Arianna by a leash, her hands tied and mouth gagged. She is dressed in a very revealing skimpy outfit.

KARUS

This the girl?

Sha'Tilk nods her head. Karus grabs Arianna roughly and begins checking her face for bruises, turning her head to one side and then the next. He looks at her arms and sees the heavy burn marks on her wrists. Sha'Tilk notices Karus' doubtful eyes and feels the need to explain.

SHA'TILK

Electrical Binds. She's not exactly the smartest. Kept trying to escape.

Karus nods his head, giving the impression that he understands. Arianna, having never seen Karus before and not knowing who he is, tries to pull away, but he has a strong grip on her binds and holds her still.

SHA'TILK

She's a feisty one. Definitely a plus for someone in your line of work.

Arianna stops trying to fight and looks sadly at the floor.

KARUS

How much?

SHA'TILK

Fifty thousand.

KARUS

Hah! I didn't pay half that much for my first *ship*. Fifteen.

SHA'TILK

The girl is a Force user. You can find a heap of scrap like most of the ships docked virtually anywhere. Forty.

KARUS

An untrained Force user. Twenty-five.

SHA'TILK

If she was trained, we'd both be dead. Thirty thousand credits, and that's my final offer.

KARUS

I can deal with that. I'll take her.

Karus reaches inside his jacket and pulls out a black datapad. He types something into it, and then removes a credit chip from a slot in the side. He hands the chip to Sha'Tilk as the bounty hunter hands him Arianna's leather leash.

KARUS

Good doing business with you.

Karus smiles evilly to add to the effect. He turns and starts to walk down the hall, dragging Arianna by the leash. After they disappear from view, Sha'Tilk contacts Lord Siege on her comlink.

SHA'TILK

He's bought the Princess. I'm monitoring their position with the tracking device I planted on her.

LORD SIEGE (V.O.)

Good. Alert me when he reaches his docking bay.

49. INT. EMPERTA - CORRIDOR

Karus walks quickly down a hall, dragging Arianna by the leash and talking on a comlink.

KARUS

...you got that? Just don't screw up the timing. If you do, we're dead.

He turns the comlink off and puts it away. They rush down the hall towards a blast door marked "Docking Port 61."

50. INT. EMPERTA – CONTROL CENTER

Lord Siege picks up the comlink again.

SHA'TILK

They're in Docking Port Sixty-one.

LORD SIEGE

Perfect. (to a Soldier) Captain, lock down all ships in that docking bay, immediately!

He then rushes off, heading for the docking bay.

51. INT. EMPERTA - DOCKING BAY 61

The hangar is empty, except for a pair of electrified docking clamps that are extended, but not holding anything. The blast doors open, and Lord Siege walks in, his lightsaber already ignited. He sees Karus and Arianna, who are standing not too far from the forcefield that keeps the air in the hangar.

LORD SIEGE

I'm afraid that this is the end of the line, smuggler. The Princess, and the Jedi in your...(he quickly scans the hangar, realizing that there is no ship) Well then...a nice ploy, but it won't save either of you. (to the Soldiers grouped behind him) Kill the smuggler and bring me the Princess unharmed.

The Skenvi Soldiers advance toward the two, their guns aimed at Karus. Suddenly, the StarStream flies into view, and its guns begin to fire as it eases into the hangar. Sha'Tilk dives out of the way, while Lord Siege blocks a laser bolt and retreats through the blast doors.

The ship then lowers its boarding ramp and Karus and Arianna run onboard. Lord Siege stands just outside the open blast doors, yelling into his comlink.

LORD SIEGE

(on his comlink) Override the locks on the stations guns! I want that ship disabled! (to Sha'Tilk) Get to the Dread. They aren't free yet.

52. EXT. SPACE

The StarStream zooms through space away from the station, jinking and weaving as laser bolts fired from the station fly past the ship. Emperta grows smaller in the background and the bolts soon stop. The ship settles into a straight course.

51. INT. STARSTREAM - PASSENGER COMPARTMENT

Arianna is sitting on the bench. Raven is kneeling on the floor in front of her, wiping a cottonball with some kind of cream on it, over Arianna's burn marks on her wrists. It stings her and she quickly moves her wrist back towards her, away from Raven. She smiles, embarrassed as she moves her wrist back towards Raven.

RAVEN

Are you ok?

ARIANNA

It stings a little.

RAVEN

You just have to learn to detach yourself from it. When you can ignore the pain, it all seems to go away.

ARIANNA

I can't imagine a Jedi like you acting as childish as me over such a small thing.

RAVEN

Jedi have years of training to ignore pain. (lowers voice) But just between you and me, a simple papercut can drive even the strongest of Jedi insane at times.

Arianna starts laughing and Raven smiles.

ARIANNA

Your parents must be so proud of you.

RAVEN

Actually, they don't know much about me. I was taken from my home when I was three years old, to be trained as a Jedi. I haven't seen my parents since. I plan on going back to my home planet after I become a full Jedi Knight.

Arianna is shocked at this news. Raven has finished cleaning the cuts and is now wrapping a bandage around each wrist.

ARIANNA

I can't imagine being away from my parents for that long.

She trails off as tears come to her eyes, remembering her mother.

ARIANNA

That monster...he murdered my mother. He tortured me.He said he would...(she breaks off in sobs again)

RAVEN

(stroking her hair) It's alright. He's gone; you'll never have to see him again.

Raven finishes wrapping her wrists and hands her one of Karus' pilot uniforms to wear overtop of her slave clothes.

ARIANNA

Never again...

Mid-sentence, she breaks off as the ship rocks and Raven is flung to the floor. Arianna manages to hold onto something and keep her balance.

ARIANNA

He's here!

She quickly pulls on the pilot's uniform and they rush to the cockpit.

54. INT. STARSTREAM - COCKPIT

Raven and Arianna run into the Cockpit, meeting up with Soran and Karus.

RAVEN

What was that?

KARUS

Our friends are back and they're not too happy about us tricking them.

A beeping noise fills the room and Karus pushes a button.

LORD SIEGE (V.O.)

You can't possibly escape, Jedi. Would you throw away the lives of the Princess and your smuggler friend just for a chance to save yourself?

Another shot hits the StarStream, rocking the cockpit. Before anyone can stop him, Raven grabs the radio out of Karus' hands.

RAVEN

You'll never have the Princess, Sith. If you want her, you'll have to get past me this time.

Karus snatches the radio back out of Raven's hands and terminates the transmission.

KARUS

Buckle yourselves in.

SORAN

Can you lose him?

KARUS

Maybe. There's an asteroid field up ahead. We'll have some cover in there.

Outside the window, a field of gigantic rocks looms ahead, approaching ever closer.

KARUS

This may get bumpy.

Soran and Arianna turn and rush back to the Passenger Compartment to buckle into their seats, however Raven stays in the Cockpit.

55. EXT. SPACE

The StarStream gets nicked by a laser shot, causing it to shake slightly. It dodges two other shots and slips into the clustered asteroid field, immediately swerving around, putting a few asteroids between it and the Dread. The Dread follows without hesitation and lifts up to avoid an asteroid, however that puts the ship directly in the path of another nearby rock. It fires, exploding the asteroid, and zooms through the rubble.

The StarStream flies over, around, and under the abundantful asteroids, careful to avoid any laser fire from the pursuing ship as well as the asteroids themselves. An asteroid moves in front of the StarStream, however there is a hole in the middle big enough to slip through. Once on the other side, Karus has to make his ship do a nosedive in order to avoid hitting another asteroid.

The StarStream straightens as soon as it can and continues on, dodging the dangerous rocks whenever it is necessary.

54. INT. THE DREAD - COCKPIT

Lord Siege stands behind a Skenvi pilot.

LORD SIEGE

Faster! We should be gaining on them!

They narrowly miss an asteroid.

LORD SIEGE

Better yet...

Lord Siege shoves the pilot out of the chair as he sits down and takes control.

56. EXT. SPACE - ASTEROID FIELD

The Dread gains speed, passing around an asteroid, The StarStream in full view with nothing between them. Laser fire exits the Dread and soars towards Karus' ship. The StarStream lowers at the last second and the shot flies overhead and destroys an asteroid. The momentum of the explosion sends broken pieces of the rock flying in all directions. One of the smaller pieces bangs into the top of the StarStream, creating a fairly good-sized dent.

57. INT. STARSTREAM - COCKPIT

Karus has great difficulty regaining control of his ship after that last hit. Raven looks at the sensor display and notices just how close the Dread is getting.

RAVEN

Move it.

Raven uses his body to push Karus out of the pilot seat.

KARUS

Hey!

Raven ignores him as he takes control of the ship. The first thing he does is push the throttle all the way forward.

58. EXT. SPACE - ASTEROID FIELD

We see the StarStream significantly speed up.

59. INT. STARSTREAM - COCKPIT

KARUS

Are you crazy? You can't fly at this speed in an asteroid field! You'll kill us all!

Raven concentrates on tapping into the Force. Karus stares out the front window, completely stunned. It seems that Raven is handling the ship far better with the boosters on, than Karus did

with them off. He maneuvers around both asteroids and laser blasts alike, not coming close to getting even a scratch. The boy is a natural pro.

Snapping out of his state of momentary shock, Karus whips around and starts entering in the lightspeed coordinates for Coreign. They are coming up on the end of the asteroid field. Karus breathes a sigh of relief as the StarStream avoids the last of the asteroids and enters empty space once again.

KARUS

Ok, let's go to lightspeed.

RAVEN

Not quite yet.

Raven brings the ship around in a circle, causing it to point back in the direction of the asteroid field once more.

60. EXT. SPACE

The Dread exits the asteroid field as the StarStream zooms towards it, narrowly dodging laser blasts as the two ships approach nearer to each other.

61. INT. THE DREAD - COCKPIT

Lord Siege sees what Raven is attempting to do and chuckles. Moving quickly, he programs something into the ship's computer.

62. INT. STARSTREAM - COCKPIT

Sweat drips down Karus' forehead as he realizes that Raven is playing chicken with the enemy ship. Right before the two ship collide, Raven fires and pulls a hard right.

63. EXT. SPACE

The StarStream fires and pulls a hard right. As the StarStream zooms away, its shot explodes against the Dread, destroying an entire wing and sending the larger ship careening off into a nearby asteroid, exploding.

64. INT. STARSTREAM - COCKPIT

Soran and Arianna walk into the cockpit.

SORAN

I had a feeling that you were piloting, Raven. That was...what's wrong?

RAVEN

Siege...he's dead. It's over, and I never even saw him.

SORAN

Revenge is never as satisfying as we believe it will be, Raven. You think it ends a conflict, settles a score, but in truth, it only internalizes it. Take my advice: forget about it. If you don't, you will go on hating him in the

dark corners of your mind, simply because he denied you your satisfaction.

RAVEN

Yes, master. I will try not to dwell on it.

Meanwhile, Arianna waits off to the side, clearly troubled for her own reasons. Raven reaches down and presses the button to go to lightspeed.

65. INT. SKENVI SHUTTLE

Lord Siege and Sha'Tilk sit in the small shuttle's cockpit. Neither is pleased with the situation, but Siege has a curious expression on his face, as if this setback has only provided him with new opportunities. He muses out loud on that subject.

LORD SIEGE

The boy again. Always the boy. A formidable opponent, (he chuckles grimly) but strength is ever the path to the Dark Side.

SHA'TILK

(warily) My lord...

LORD SIEGE

What? Has the *Red Smile* arrived?

SHA'TILK

No. But the freighter has just gone to lightspeed. (she smiles wickedly) Its hyperdrive is damaged.

LORD SIEGE

(looking at the sensor readout) It is...contact the *Red Smile* and tell them that there's been a change of plans. Have them meet us in the Coreign system.

66. INT. STARSTREAM - COCKPIT

Raven opens his eyes to the room shaking as if exiting lightspeed. He takes a moment to realize that Arianna's head is slumped against his shoulder, asleep. He gently and slowly eases her head up as he slides out from under her. He lays her head on the soft cushion of the seat they were seated in and moves into the pilot seat.

The ship rumbles again, and the bright lines of the stars fade into little dots as the StarStream comes out of hyperspace. Raven looks out the window, but sees only blackness dotted by stars.

Soran and Karus walk into the cockpit.

SORAN

(groggily) Uh, where's Coreign?

RAVEN

(defensively) I don't know. The ship just came out of hyperspace on its own.

Arianna wakes up at the conversation and Karus shoos Raven out of the pilot seat. He studies his charts for a moment and then replies.

KARUS

It appears we exited prematurely. We're still hours away from the planet.

He looks up and presses the button to bring them back into lightspeed, but nothing happens. Karus looks at the button with an angry expression. He presses it over and over, but still nothing happens.

KARUS

Sithspit! That asteroid impact must have damaged the hyperdrive. I guess we're lucky we made it as far as we did.

RAVEN

Is there anything you can do to fix it?

KARUS

Not until we reach Coreign. I don't have the spare parts onboard to fix it, and it looks like it's going to need to be replaced anyway.

SORAN

You did what you could. We'll simply have to wait.

Raven turns and heads back to the Passenger Compartment to wait out the last few hours of the trip.

67. EXT. SPACE

The StarStream zooms through the empty space. After it leaves the camera, pan down to show the planet of Coreign and the StarStream approaching it. Around the planet, the usual space traffic is gone, except for a large Skenvi troopship, made almost invisible by its distance from the camera. The StarStream flies down and enters the planet's atmosphere.

68. INT. STARSTREAM - COCKPIT

As the ship flies through the planet's bright afternoon sky and over top of the city, Karus tries to raise communications with Coreign Air Traffic Control. Soran sits in the seat next to Karus.

KARUS

Coreign Air Traffic Control, this is the light freighter StarStream. We have urgent business with the King and require docking space immediately.

Static fills the speakers. Raven and Arianna walk into the room and Arianna smiles when she sees Coreign City - Her home - below.

KARUS

That's odd. They aren't responding.

Karus turns to Arianna.

KARUS

Is there someplace near the Palace where we can land?

ARIANNA

There's a landing pad right next to the Palace. We haven't used it for years now, though. Not since father donated his personal starship to charity.

69. EXT. COREIGN - DAY

The StarStream glides ovetop of Coreign City and approaches the Palace. It lands on the Royal Landing Pad.

70. INT. STARSTREAM - CORRIDOR

Everyone is standing by the door as Karus lowers the ramp.

KARUS

I'll stay on the ship and wait. I doubt I'd feel too comfortable in a Palace, surrounded by royalty. If you could ask the King about getting me a new hyperdrive though, I'd appreciate it.

Soran chuckles.

SORAN

I'll ask.

Arianna and the Jedi walk down the ramp and across the front lawn of the Palace. They reach a concrete path and turn to walk up it, towards the Palace doors. However, before they reach the doors, they begin to open. Arianna's face lights up, expecting her father. However instead of her father that exits, it is a dozen Skenvi Soldiers, guns aimed on the trio. Raven and Soran ignite their lightsabers out of reflex, but Soran stops Raven from charging.

SORAN

Wait! They don't seem to want us dead.

Raven watches as the Soldiers form a line going across in front of them, and continue to aim their guns at them, but not a shot is fired.

SORAN

They just want to hold us here.

Then Lord Siege walks out from behind the line of Soldiers, with an amused, arrogant smile plastered across his face. Soran stares in shock at the turn of events, while Arianna looks both guilty and ashamed. Raven, however, twists his face into a mask of hatred. For a moment, though, eager anticipation plays across his grimace.

SORAN

You won't win this time, Siege.

Lord Siege chuckles as he too ignites his lightsaber.

LORD SIEGE

Oh, but I already have. In a single blow, I have taken this planet right from the Republic's grasp. When the King signs our treaty of annexation,

The Republic will be powerless to act and the Skenvi Empire shall have the advantage it needs to win this war. And that brings me to a point I've been meaning to make for quite a while. Now that I have the King, I no longer need the Princess.

Raising a blaster pistol, Lord Siege shoots Arianna in the side and she falls to the ground.

RAVEN

NO!

Raven charges forward at Lord Siege.

SORAN

Raven, no!

LORD SIEGE

Foolish boy!

Lord Siege arcs his lightsaber up to block the attack from Raven. The two lightsabers clash, energy crackling together. Raven pulls back and then slams his lightsaber down, aiming for Lord Siege's head, but the Sith's own lightsaber is already there to meet with Raven's. Lord Siege backhands Raven across the face with his free hand. Raven stumbles back but quickly regains his composure just in time to block a slash aimed for his arm.

The Skenvi Soldiers begin firing at Soran, but he deflects the shots with his lightsaber. Karus suddenly appears, firing his blaster at the Soldiers as he hefts Arianna's unconscious body over his shoulder, with Soran providing cover. They retreat back to the ship.

As lasers fly in all directions, Lord Siege and Raven continue their duel with their lightsabers. Raven slams his saber down towards his opponent's shoulder, but Lord Siege, like always, is much quicker and already has his lightsaber there to block. Raven spins and sends a kick to Lord Siege's chest, but Lord Siege drops his lightsaber and grabs the leg with both hands. He throws the leg up, sending Raven tumbling to the ground. Raven rolls back to his feet, re-igniting his lightsaber. He jams it forward, but Lord Siege's own lightsaber flies into his hands and he activates it, jumping to the side and blocking the attack at the last second.

As the two continue to duel, their footwork moves them through the Palace doors and into the Main Hall. During Raven's foray of furious strikes, Lord Siege manages to grab Raven's saber hand, however that leaves him vulnerable for Raven to do the same to him. Both duelists stand still, trying to maneuver the other's lightsaber to their own neck.

71. EXT. COREIGN PALACE - FRONT LAWN

Soran, Karus, and Arianna reach the StarStream. Karus lays Arianna down just inside the ship and takes a moment to examine her blaster wound.

KARUS

(with a sigh of relief) It isn't fatal. The bolt didn't pierce too deeply.

Soran is also visibly relieved, but he continues to ward off incoming blaster bolts.

SORAN

You have to get her out of here. Now!

Karus picks Arianna up again and takes her inside the ship.

Soran Force-Jumps towards the remaining Soldiers. They try to shoot at him in the air, but he moves too quickly. As he lands, Soran slices at the closest Soldier. The Soldier falls while Soran rams his lightsaber behind him, impaling another Soldier. He spins around as he brings his lightsaber back to being in front of him, slicing through yet another Soldier. He raises the saber and slams it down in front of him, cutting into the last Skenvi. Soran turns off his lightsaber and runs to catch up with Raven and Lord Siege. Behind him, the StarStream lifts off the ground and into the sky.

72. INT. STARSTREAM - COCKPIT

As Karus pilots the ship, Arianna stirs in the reclined co-pilot's seat next to him. Her wound is bandaged, with a small bacta tank attached, and tiny tubes running beneath the white gauze. She suddenly wakes up and cries out in pain. After a moment though, she remembers what is happening and unbuckles the straps keeping her secured.

ARIANNA

Land the ship! We have to help them!

KARUS

Sorry Princess, but I've got my orders. Get you to safety.

ARIANNA

Look here, flyboy. Those are my friends down there, too. I'll be fine, but what about them?

KARUS

They are Jedi. They can handle themselves.

ARIANNA

This is *my* planet, and on this planet I am a Princess, so therefore you *have* to do what I command and I command you to land this heap of rusted junk!

He turns to continue arguing, but sees the stern look on Arianna's face.

KARUS

If we're going to go back, may I suggest we sneak in through the back of the Palace?

ARIANNA

Assuming the Royal Guards are still alive, they will eagerly assist us. Land behind the Palace.

KARUS

Yes, M'Lady.

73. EXT. COREIGN - DAY

The StarStream flies in a half-circle and turns around, heading back towards the Palace.

74. INT. COREIGN PALACE - MAIN HALL

Lord Siege and Raven break away from each other. Raven, frustrated, swings his lightsaber down with anger, only to have Lord Siege fuel that anger by backing up to dodge the blow. The energy from the saber starts to burn away an inch of the floor until Raven raises it away. Lord Siege slices down toward Raven's arm. Raven barely dodges in time, but as soon as he does he jabs his lightsaber toward Lord Siege's chest. Lord Siege steps back as he raises his lightsaber to knock Raven's away.

Lord Siege spins in a complete 360 degree angle, his lightsaber forming a brief red circle, and then strongly slams his weapon towards Raven's head. Raven ducks and twirls to the side, avoiding the deathblow. They push through a set of doors and enter into the Throne Room.

At the other end of the Main Hall, Soran rushes in and sees the battle as it moves into the Throne Room. He starts to run to join in, but Sha'Tilk grabs him from behind and knocks the lightsaber out of his hands. They begin fighting hand-to-hand.

75. INT. COREIGN PALACE - THRONE ROOM

After blocking an attack, Lord Siege slices upwards but low, aiming for Raven's thigh. Raven blocks and twirls his blade overtop of Lord Siege's and proceeds to slice upward toward Lord Siege's chin. Lord Siege jumps to the side and slams his fist down on top of Raven's hand, knocking the lightsaber from his grasp. Before Lord Siege can do anything else, Raven slams his knee up, connecting it with Lord Siege's stomach. Pain travels through his body that causes him to double over and spit out a wad of yellow gooey spit onto the floor. While Lord Siege is doubled over, Raven swings his foot out and knocks the lightsaber from his grasp.

76. INT. COREIGN PALACE - CORRIDOR

Karus' head pokes out from around a corner.

KARUS

All clear.

Arianna and Karus walk down the hall. In Arianna's hand is a blaster pistol, and while she is clearly in a great deal of pain from her wound, she is still able to walk and fire the pistol. They turn another corner without first checking and four Skenvi Soldiers turn to look at them. Arianna is the first to open fire with Karus not far behind. All four Soldiers are struck down before they can even raise their guns.

ARIANNA

They must have the Guards locked up. I haven't seen them yet, or their bodies. If we can get to the Security Control Room, we can unlock the cells and free them.

Karus follows after Arianna as she leads him down halls and around corners. Along the way, they kill another few Soldiers and travel down a flight of stairs. Arianna stops and turns to Karus.

ARIANNA

Come on, it's just around the corner.

Karus pokes around the corner and sees a large group of Skenvi Soldiers guarding the Security Room door. He turns around to face Arianna.

KARUS

This may be a problem.

Karus stops for a moment to plan what they'll do next, and then sees a Soldier's body lying dead on the ground back down the hall. A single grenade is attached to his belt. Karus runs over and grabs it.

KARUS

When I throw it, start shooting.

Karus and Arianna jump out from behind the corner. Arianna opens fire just as Karus throws the grenade. By the time the grenade explodes, two Soldiers are already down and many of the rest have dived for cover. Two more get thrown backwards and peppered with shrapnel from the blast. Arianna ducks back around the corner, only to poke out and fire at any Soldier that gets too close. Karus dodges the blasts as he runs towards the Soldiers. He ducks to avoid a blast and jumps to the side to avoid another as he approaches the group of Soldiers. He fires point blank at one, knocking him off his feet with a burning hole in his chest. He punches another in the head and then turns and rams the butt of his gun across another's face. He turns back around and fires at the first Soldier he punched, then turns once again and fires at the one he hit with his gun.

A Soldier fires at Karus but he drops to the floor, allowing the shots to slam into another Soldier. Karus fires from his position on the floor, taking out the Soldier that first fired at him. Another two Soldiers drop dead as Arianna fires at them from her position. Karus rolls onto his back and jumps to his feet. He dodges a shot, which continues to travel through the air until it hits the electronic lock on the Security Room doors, shortening it out.

The doors slide open and all the Security Guards run out and begin tackling the Skenvi troops from behind. Turvo picks up a fallen gun and joins Karus in firing at the remaining Soldiers, lasers soaring all over the room. By the time a few of the Guards are shot and fall down dead, the remaining Guards have weapons they took from fallen Skenvi and return fire. Within a couple minutes, Arianna, Karus, and the Guards have the remaining Soldiers surrounded. They drop their weapons and raise their hands in defeat.

King Juster timidly walks out of the Security Room and lets out a cheer when he sees the outcome of the battle. Arianna whips around at the sound of her father's voice and runs towards him, giving him a hard hug. King Juster is flooded with relief.

KING JUSTER

Arianna! I was worried...you're hurt!

Arianna lets go of her father.

ARIANNA

I'm alright. Karus did a good job of patching me up. But I'm only alive because of the Jedi. If we don't help them, they'll die.

The King points to a few Guards.

KING JUSTER

You three. Seal the prisoners in the holding cells. The rest of you come with me. The Jedi could use our help.

KARUS

This way.

Karus runs, leading the way. King Juster picks up a gun and runs beside his daughter, the guards close behind.

77. INT. COREIGN PALACE - MAIN HALL

Soran is forcibly whipped around and is met with a punch to the face. He elbows Sha'Tilk in the face and uses an uppercut punch to send her stumbling back. The bounty hunter regains her balance and reaches into her belt, pulling out a blaster.

SHA'TILK

Well, that was entertaining. It's a shame I won't get the opportunity to snap your neck with my bare hands, but dead is dead. It ends here, *Jedi*.

78. INT. COREIGN PALACE - THRONE ROOM

Raven and Lord Siege, both having lost their lightsabers, have started hand-to-hand. Raven sends a roundhouse kick towards Lord Siege's chest and sends him falling back to the floor. Raven runs at him and slams his fist down, but Lord Siege rolls out of the way. Raven's hand meets painfully with the hard floor. Back on his feet, Lord Siege punches Raven in side of the face. Raven stumbles back a few steps before Lord Siege manages to slam a fist into his skull. Raven tumbles backwards and falls down against the stairs leading to the Thrones. He raises his head to look at Lord Siege angrily, hate radiating off of him. Blood trickles from the edge of his mouth.

Lord Siege hurriedly scans the room and spots his lightsaber. Reaching out, he pulls it towards his hand. As it skids across the floor, he glances to his right...just in time to see that Raven has already retrieved his own lightsaber. The blue blade arcs up towards his wrist, and at the last moment he tries to pull it back, letting his lightsaber go flying to the other side of the room. Despite this, Raven's blade slices off his hand at the wrist. Lord Siege screams in pain, but when Raven tries to position the blade for the killing blow, Siege lashes out with his foot and knocks it out of his hand, though he burns his leg in the process. Siege then catches Raven's wrist with his boot, crushing bones and pinning it to the floor. His face twisted in rage and blinding pain, he picks Raven up with the Force. Raven can feel the bones in his neck constricting, being crushed by an invisible hand.

LORD SIEGE

And so it ends, *boy*.

79. INT. COREIGN PALACE - MAIN HALL

Sha'Tilk raises the blaster and fires, just as Karus and the Guards burst into the room. Her aim thrown off, the bolt only grazes Soran's shoulder. She, however, is riddled with blaster bolts by the Guards and falls to the ground, her body a smoking ruin. Karus picks up Soran's lightsaber off the floor and hands it back to him.

KARUS

You might need this.

SORAN

Thank-you.

Soran ignites the blue blade as he turns to help his padawan.

80. INT. COREIGN PALACE - THRONE ROOM

Lord Siege turns in shock when Soran bursts through the doors. He turns back to Raven, drops him, and lingers for just a moment.

LORD SIEGE

Or perhaps...so it begins.

Siege calls his lightsaber to his hand and jumps through the window, glass shattering everywhere. Soran rushes to his padawan and checks his pulse. Seeing that he is still alive and breathing, he runs to the window, only to see a small dropship lift off into the sky.

81. INT. COREIGN PALACE - THRONE ROOM - DAYS LATER

The Throne Room is filled with guests of all species, dressed in their finest clothes. Standing in the front line of the crowd is Soran, Raven, and Joran Korn of the Jedi Council. At the front of the room, sitting on the two thrones are King Juster and Princess Arianna, both smiling proudly at the crowd before them. Standing directly in front of them is Chancellor Dorren of the New Republic.

CHANCELLOR DORREN

On behalf of the Senate, and all the citizens we represent, I, Chancellor Dorren of the New Republic, hereby welcome the planet of Coreign to the New Republic!

Grand applause fills the room. Once the applause dies down, the Chancellor continues.

CHANCELLOR DORREN

I hope that you find it is everything you imagined it to be.

King Juster and Arianna rise to their feet and shake hands with Chancellor Dorren, smiling.

KING JUSTER

It is already far grander than I could have wished. Thanks to the Republic, my daughter is safe and the people of Coreign need not fear another era of tyranny.

In the crowd, Joran Korn leans in to whisper to Soran. His voice is quiet, but troubled.

JORAN KORN

The Council has been unsuccessful in uncovering any further information on the Sith you spoke of. If he is placed so highly within the Skenvi political structure, they may be more dangerous than we imagined possible. (he pauses) And there are always two...if this Lord Siege is in fact the apprentice, then his master might very well be the Skenvi Emperor himself.

Raven and Arianna make eye contact. Raven can't help himself from smiling at her, which is returned by a smile from Arianna, a connection flying between the two without words having to be spoken.

CHANCELLOR DORREN

This concludes the ceremony. I wish the people of Coreign a glorious future, but I also remind them that the present is a dark time. As ever, we must stand fast against the rising tide of evil.

The King and Arianna step down and stand beside the Chancellor as the Chancellor also turns to face the audience. The room fills with clapping and applause.

82. EXT. COREIGN PALACE - ROYAL GARDEN - WATER FOUNTAIN - EVENING

The red glow from the setting sun washes across King Juster, Joran Korn, and Soran as they stand by the water fountain that Queen Erin sat at earlier in the film. King Juster plumps down onto the wooden bench, an expression mixed of confusion and grief on his face.

KING JUSTER

I only want what is best for her.

SORAN

As do we, which is why we are making this request.

JORAN KORN

The Jedi Council has discussed the matter. It would be an honor if Princess Arianna returned to Yavin with us to start her training as a Jedi.

The King sits in silence, thinking things over. He looks up as Joran Korn continues.

JORAN KORN

I understand your feelings, and would understand if you turned our request down. We cannot and will not force you to do this, but we do believe that it would be both in her best interests and in those of the Republic.

A tear falls down King Juster's face.

KING JUSTER

My wife always had a feeling that Arianna was meant for greater things than the crown, but I always passed it off as nonsense.

Joran Korn lays a comforting hand on the King's shoulder.

JORAN KORN

You do not have to make a decision just yet.

A smile forms across the King's face as he wipes away his tear.

KING JUSTER

No. There's no need to wait. My mind is made up.

Soran turns sadly to walk away, but is stopped when King Juster grabs his arm. Soran turns back to face him as he goes on.

KING JUSTER

If the Council believes that it is her destiny to become a great Jedi, then who am I to deny it? It's her future and if Arianna is up to the challenge, she has my full approval.

Soran smiles at the unexpected answer. The King continues.

KING JUSTER

However, when it comes time for me to step down, Arianna must return to take my place. There is no one else.

JORAN KORN

Agreed. With a Jedi Princess ruling, Coreign will be in the best of hands.

They shake hands with the King as he stands. The three turn to gaze at a rapid waterfall in the distance, the orange light from the lowering sun reflecting off the water.

83. EXT. COREIGN PALACE - ROYAL GARDEN - EVENING

Princess Arianna and Raven walk together, hand-in-hand.

ARIANNA

What will happen if my father agrees to the Council's request?

RAVEN

You'll be trained as a Jedi at the Temple on Yavin IV.

ARIANNA

With you?

RAVEN

With me. I promise I'll never let anything happen to you again. Ever.

Arianna looks back up at him, losing herself in his eyes. Her free hand slowly moves to the back of Raven's head as she leans in to kiss him.

The second before their lips touch, Raven glances over and notices Soran standing with Joran Korn and King Juster with his back turned to him. Raven turns away and leaves Arianna's grasp. Arianna, heartbroken and crushed by the turn-down, steps up to stand next to Raven once more.

ARIANNA

What's wrong? I thought you wanted this.

Raven is clearly torn in half.

RAVEN

I...I can't. I'm a Jedi, and soon you'll be one also. I want you more than anything in the galaxy, but you're the one thing I can't ever have. (at the point of tears) What if I lose you again? Do you know what I would do to get you back? (he pauses) The galaxy doesn't need another Lord Siege. One is enough.

Arianna shivers at the mention of that name and takes Raven's hand in hers once more. She lays her head on his shoulder as they look out at the city below, the glow from the sun shining overtop of the buildings.

CUT TO:

CREDITS.