

PILGRIM 2

EPISODE #209

"WELCOME TO THE REBELLION"

**DAN GILROY
POST FINAL
3/3/24**

865

INT. SENATE GRAND ATRIUM -- CORUSCANT -- NIGHT

865

SENATOR BAIL ORGANA in motion -- big entrance -- striding forward -- coming quick -- with purpose -- TRACKING HIM -- the scale of the place -- *his* scale --

PASSING

SENATORS -- AIDES -- JOURNALISTS -- people on their way home -- everyone's stopped to concentrate on a commotion across the floor -- VOICES -- SOMEONE YELLING --

ORAN

-- on who's authority? -- I'm a Senator with the full rights and protections of This Chamber! -- You will not! -- Stand back and get your hands off me! -- This is unheard of! Absolutely unacceptable! --

BAIL

-- what's going on? --

TWO SENATE COLLEAGUES turning as he passes --

SENATOR #5

*

SENATOR #6

*

-- Ambassador Oran --

-- he's being arrested! --

BAIL

-- what? --

SENATOR #6

*

SENATOR #5

*

-- Stormtroopers! --

-- in the Senate! --

SENATOR #7

-- it's an outrage! --

BAIL pulls up at an open spot --

WE SEE

SENATE POLICE standing helplessly as FIVE STORMTROOPERS and AN ISB ATTENDANT hustle away SENATOR ORAN --

SENATOR ORAN

-- NO WARRANT! -- NO CHARGES! --

THIS IS THE SENATE CHAMBER! --

I HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE HERE! --

(calling back to the voyeurs)

-- WILL NO ONE HELP ME? -- GHORMAN

IS BEING SLAUGHTERED! -- IT'S MY

PEOPLE TODAY AND YOURS TOMORROW! --

REMEMBER THIS! -- REMEMBER TONIGHT!

(MORE)

SENATOR ORAN (CONT'D)
-- REMEMBER GHORMAN! -- THIS WILL
BE YOU SOON ENOUGH! --
(echoing away as he's
led off and--)

And uncomfortable silence fills the void.

BAIL is staggered. They all are. A palpable, communal shame has paralyzed everything for a moment. People will begin to find their voices and equilibrium as they slowly disperse, but even the most Imperial-centric sympathizers don't have much to say.

BAIL hasn't moved, struggling to find his gameface, as --

MON
Have you heard the numbers?

MON right beside him. Trusted colleague. For the moment, they have a privacy.

MON (CONT'D)
The Ghorman dead? It's beyond
belief.

BAIL
Don't put on the Imperial News.

MON
I've seen it. It's insane.

BAIL
The winner writes the story.

MON
They haven't won yet.
(then)
I need to make a speech tomorrow.

BAIL
They'll never let you take the
floor.

MON
I've seen you work miracles before.
(before he can object)
It has to be done, Bail. I can't
take it anymore. I'm giving a
speech and I'm not holding back.
(steamrolling)
And yes, I know, there's no telling
what The Emperor's capable of at
this point. Anything's possible.
But they've gone too far and we all
(MORE)

MON (CONT'D)

know it. The time has come.

(rushing now)

Surely you feel it too. We need to speak out. We need to stand up, speak the truth, and then we need to leave. Both of us.

(sensing reluctance)

We need an exit plan. We need to make it now while we still have time.

BAIL

We have a plan. That's not the issue.

(stopping because--)

Other SENATORS are passing. He's being careful; her passion is making her reckless --

MON

Then what is it?

BAIL

I'm not going anywhere.

MON

Are you telling me be silent?

BAIL

It's not like that...

(nodding to a passing
colleague--)

MON

We talked about this. What might happen. If this isn't the limit, then what is?

BAIL

It's not that easy.

MON

Compared to what?

(rushing now)

Nothing we'll ever do will be harder than hiding all these years.

BAIL

Stop.

(she's caught short)

It's not that at all. It's me.

I have to stay. We have to buy time. We're not ready. Yavin isn't ready. I have to stay as

(MORE)

BAIL (CONT'D)

long as I can. We need to stall.

(she's pinned)

But you're right, something needs to be said. And Yavin needs your leadership. I just can't go with you.

Omigod.

MON

Bail...

BAIL

I can't leave. Not yet.

MON

You'd be a hostage.

BAIL

Let's hope not.

She wants to continue, she's ashamed for having doubted him -- his bravery -- but here come SENATORS #5 & #6 --

BAIL (CONT'D)

Work on the speech.

(quietly now)

And be very careful, Senator Ton just found a listening device in her office.

(last words)

Tell no one. Be ready to leave the moment you're done.

MON still in shock as...

BAIL (CONT'D)

Do we know the charges?

(he's talking to--)

SENATOR #6

(just arriving)

The rumor is Treason.

SENATOR #5

I want to know who's allowed Troopers in the building.

MON drifting away. BAIL left jawboning these idiots, as we --

CUT TO

901

INT. LUTHEN'S GALLERY BACKROOM -- CORUSCANT -- NIGHT (4AM)

AN ANCIENT CUDGEL. Dirty and tarnished. Waiting to be cleaned for display. HANDS reaching down to pick it up --

It's CASSIAN holding THE CUDGEL. Twisting the clasp. Hidden inside...

A shining, immaculate BESKAR BLADE.

CASSIAN staring at it. The most intimate weapon possible. One purpose only. It's just hours since he fled Ghorman. He's washed his hands and ditched the massacre-soured coat, but there's no quick fix for what's roiling inside him. No masking the weariness in his eyes.

Ghorman fucked him up.

KLEYA

They're calling an early session at the Senate. If she speaks, we need to be ready.

THERE SHE IS

AT THE WORKBENCH -- a "HOLO-PRINTER," bootlegging Senate credentials for him. They're alone.

KLEYA (CONT'D)

So we're keeping you a journalist. It's perfect. Ronni Googe. Mid-Rim Network. You're coming straight from the Ghorman massacre to cover the political fallout.

He puts back THE CUDGEL.

KLEYA (CONT'D)

There's a Senate catering entrance we like. These credentials will work inside, but they scan for weapons at the entrance.

(she carefully places a fresh credential on a cooling tray--)

You'll want to hang onto this one, it's a Surface Pass, it's good all season.

CASSIAN

I won't be needing it.

(she turns)

I'm not coming back. I'm done after this.

KLEYA

Are you?

(pressure drop)

What does that mean? *Done.*

Done with what? With us?

With all of it?

CASSIAN

He'll know what it means.

KLEYA

Really? So it's a private thing.

Something I wouldn't understand.

CASSIAN

I didn't say that.

KLEYA

Can I guess?

(acid mock)

You're tired? It's too much?

It's too hard?

(on him now)

You're a witness to the Ghorman
Massacre, one would think there'd
be no stopping you. The Senator
you'll be saving is about to risk
everything putting a voice to the
atrocities you've just survived.
Tell her you're done.

CASSIAN

When have I not come through?

KLEYA

Are you asking for a medal?

CASSIAN

I need to start making my own
decisions.

KLEYA

How amusing.

(beat)

I thought that's what we were
fighting for.

(done with this)

Get what you need. I'll find you
some clothes.

CASSIAN suddenly alone. Ears ringing.

CUT TO

902 INT. MON'S PRIVATE SENATE OFFICE - CORUSCANT - NIGHT (4:30AM)

MON at her desk with a Data-Pad, working on her speech.

ACROSS THE ROOM

ERSKIN with A BUG "SWEEPER," searching for listening devices. He's been thorough; things undone and over-turned...

MON looks up, because --

He just found something.

Holding it up. Bringing it over. Silence now. Gestures. *What should they do?* ERSKIN isn't sure, placing it on the desk, trying to think, when --

MON crushes it with her Data-Pad! Impulsive, but satisfying.

Fuck the Empire.

HARD CUT TO

903 INT. OPERATIONS ROOM, ISB HQ -- CORUSCANT -- NIGHT (CONT)

TIGHT ON -- A CONSOLE METER -- flatlining -- needle drop -- *blue light turns orange* -- one orange in a grid of blue.

A HAND reaches in -- *tap-tap-tap* -- tapping THE ERRANT GAUGE. Tapping again, as we --

RETURN TO

904 INT. MON'S PRIVATE SENATE OFFICE -- CORUSCANT -- NIGHT (CONT)

SQUASHED "BUG" on the desk. MON & ERSKIN whispering now --

ERSKIN

I have to keep looking. We have to be sure.

MON

I need to practice the speech.

ERSKIN

Not here. Not yet. Get some air. Go to the Plaza.

MON nods. ERSKIN watching her gather the Data-Pad and her credentials. Later we'll realize there was something he wanted to say, but didn't, as we --

CUT TO

905 INT. OPERATIONS ROOM, ISB HQ -- CORUSCANT -- NIGHT (5:15 AM)

ATTENDANT FELZONIS hovering as A CONSOLE TECH checks out
THE ERRANT GAUGE. In the BG, TWO OTHER "PROJECTS" -- A FEW
ATTENDANTS & TECHS gathered at consoles. A normal overnight.

CONSOLE TECH

(verdict)

It's not on our end.

FELZONIS

So it just went dead?

CUT TO

906 INT. SENATE PLAZA ARCADE -- CORUSCANT -- NIGHT (5:21 AM)

906

Huge skeletal structure. MON dwarfed. Pacing and practicing
her speech, but...

Someone coming. She freezes. (*Natural Luthen?*)

MON

How did you know I'd be here?

LUTHEN

Erskin Semaj works for me.

(sorry)

He wanted to tell you himself, but
here we are.

That's just stunning.

MON

All this time?

LUTHEN

He's protected you in ways you'll
never know.

MON

Isn't that wonderfully cryptic.

(rage on tap)

Who else am I trusting that I
shouldn't? *Everyone?* Let me
guess, in the end, there's only
you I can count on. Is that it?

LUTHEN

Tonight that's true.

MON

Is it?

LUTHEN

Bail's Organa's team is corrupted.

MON

What team is that?

LUTHEN

The one that's taking you to Yavin
after your speech.

(pin drop)

I don't know everything, Mon.
But I know what I owe you.

MON

You don't care about me. You're
just terrified what happens if I'm
arrested.

LUTHEN

You need to think clearly.

MON

Be careful what you ask for.

LUTHEN

You can't leave with Bail's people
and you can't tell anyone what I've
just told you.

SIX DISTANT TROOPERS have begun their formal, dawn patrol.

MON

Do you remember Tay Kolma?
The banker? My childhood friend?

LUTHEN

Another false savior.

MON

I often think about Tay Kolma.
How quickly you decided he was a
risk. How quickly it all happened.

LUTHEN

If you go with Bail's plan you'll
be in a cell before sunset.

MON

Makes me quite a risk, doesn't it?
Right now I'm more afraid of you
than anything else.

LUTHEN

I'm sorry for that. We've all
been bent by secrecy, haven't we?
And I'm sorry about Erskin, but
what I'm telling you about Bail
is true and cann--

(she tried to go, he
grabbed her arm--)

MON

-- don't you dare! --

LUTHEN

What I'm telling you cannot be
shared.

(hear me)

I'm sending someone I trust.
Someone I know I can trust.
You will ask if he's alone.
He will say: "I have friends
everywhere." Those words.

(releasing her)

"I have friends everywhere."

MON rushes away. LUTHEN pulls his collar. THE MARCHING
TROOPERS drawing ever closer, as we --

CUT TO

907 INT. OPERATIONS ROOM, ISB HQ -- CORUSCANT -- NIGHT (6:01AM)

At the doorway. SUPERVISOR LAGRET has been summoned.
ATTENDANT FELZONIS was waiting for someone else but...

LAGRET

Supervisor Grandi isn't in yet.
I'm still on call, is it something
that can wait?

FELZONIS

Senator Mothma, we have a field
agent with her...

LAGRET

Yes, I know. Her driver.

FELZONIS

He's been calling in. Apparently
she's not left the Senate tonight.

LAGRET

Is that unusual?

FELZONIS

He seems to think so.

(then)

We were told to pay particular
attention to the Senate for the
next few days, given the situation
in Ghorman...

LAGRET is weary and it's probably nothing, but...

LAGRET

Do we have a console?

CUT TO

908

INT. MON'S PRIVATE SENATE OFFICE - CORUSCANT - DAWN (6:03AM)

MON enters. ERSKIN cleaning up from the search.

ERSKIN

He told you.

MON

We're free to speak?

ERSKIN

I've searched everything.

MON

I'm not sure I've ever felt this
betrayed in my life. And I've had
some experience.

(afraid to ask)

When did you start?

ERSKIN

With them? After the Wedding.
Two years.

MON

That's obscene.

ERSKIN

I've tried to protect you.

MON

And you've failed.

ERSKIN

I'm sorry you feel that way.

MON

You're dismissed. Immediately.

ERSKIN nods. Accepts.

ERSKIN

It's been an honor.

He leaves. MON tumbling through the possibilities that are suddenly swarming, as we --

CUT TO

909 INT. OPERATIONS ROOM, ISB HQ -- CORUSCANT -- DAWN (6:11 AM)

LAGRET & FELZONIS standing at THE CONSOLE watching meters moving on forty of A HUNDRED BLUE PANEL GAUGES...

FELZONIS

These are all Senators who The Select Council have approved for increased surveillance, we monitor their offices. It's always a bit quiet this early, but...

(the ORANGE LIGHT)

That's Senator Mothma.

(overreaction?)

It's gone dead. Plus the driver.

Seemed worth mentioning.

CUT TO

910 EXT. SENATE LOADING DOCK -- CORUSCANT -- DAWN (6:25 AM)

910

CASSIAN (Googe) & KLEYA waiting outside a busy transport area at the ass end of THE CHAMBER BUILDING. All-night activity in the BG, deliveries and garbage.

THE CAMERA FINDS

LUTHEN coming from inside like he works here. Subdued as he joins them. He summons a smile.

LUTHEN

Thank you.

(means it)

I wasn't sure you'd come.

(afraid to ask)

Wilmon?

CASSIAN

He had someone he needed to find.

He wouldn't leave.

LUTHEN taking that in. Crushing news.

KLEYA

Excuse me.

(wake up people)

We have an immediate problem.
Did you talk to Mothma? What're
we doing?

LUTHEN

It didn't go well. I shouldn't
have told her about Erskin.

KLEYA

Is she speaking or not?

LUTHEN

I don't know.

KLEYA jumping on her COMM, moving away as we --

CUT TO

911

EXT. SENATE PLAZA -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (6:27 AM)

911

ERSKIN walking quickly toward THE SENATE CHAMBER BUILDING.
Activity now. People on the move. COMM at his ear --

KLEYA (COMM)

Where are you?

ERSKIN

Walking to the Senate. I'm out.
She threw me out.

KLEYA (COMM)

Is she going through with it?

ERSKIN

Ask Luthen. We didn't have much
of a conversation.

BACK TO

912

EXT. SENATE LOADING DOCK -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

912

LUTHEN & CASSIAN alone. KLEYA off talking to Erskin.

CASSIAN

We get her out, she goes to Yavin.
(LUTHEN nods)
But not you.

LUTHEN

No Yavin for me.

CASSIAN

There's still a few bridges you haven't burned.

LUTHEN

We'll take care of that today.

CASSIAN

You've stayed here long enough.

LUTHEN

I'm not finished yet.

CASSIAN

They're gonna find you, Luthen.

LUTHEN

You act as if we have a choice. Eventually, they'll hang us both, won't they? We set that course the first time we met.

CASSIAN

Speak for yourself.

LUTHEN

You see no truth in that?

CASSIAN

I make my own decisions.

LUTHEN

Is that what you've been doing? Sometimes I wonder.

(honestly)

You appeared when I needed you.

Aldhani. Narkina. Ferrix.

Sienar. Mina-Rau. Ghorman.

(a shred of awe)

And here we are.

CASSIAN wasn't ready for that. But no time to think, as --

KLEYA

She threw him out...

(rushing back)

We don't know if she's speaking, what she'll say, or how they'll react. All we know about Bail Organa's team is that there's something wrong. It's hardly ideal, but...

(obviously)

There's no choice but to try.

LUTHEN

We have nothing.

(re: CASSIAN)

He's never even been inside.

KLEYA

Erskin knows the building.

LUTHEN

You're putting a lot of faith in Erskin.

KLEYA

Mothma knows the building.

LUTHEN

And doesn't trust me. And doesn't know him. Bail's people might be there already...

(forget it)

It's too much.

CASSIAN

And if she's arrested?

Silence now.

KLEYA

(to LUTHEN)

Tell him.

LUTHEN

(to KLEYA)

I can't risk losing both of them.

KLEYA

(to CASSIAN)

It all comes down.

CUT TO

913 INT. SENATE GARAGE -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (6:41 AM)

913

MON'S LIMO parked in its spot.

914 INT. MON'S LIMO, SENATE GARAGE -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

KLORIS asleep. A BUZZING SOUND -- an insistent pulsing wakes him -- AN ISB COMM -- he scrambles to answer --

KLORIS

Hello?

LAGRET (COMM)
Identify yourself.

INTERCUT WITH

915

INT. OPERATIONS ROOM, ISB HQ -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

915

LAGRET at THE CONSOLE. FELZONIS standing-by.

KLORIS
Kloris, sir. Exmar Kloris.

LAGRET
Have you located Senator Mothma?

KLORIS
No, Sir. She's been in there all night.

LAGRET
Or she's gone home without you.

KLORIS
Without letting me know? Not like her. I doubt it.
(eager to help)
She was upset, Sir. The news out of Ghorman.

LAGRET
Let us know if anything changes.

KLORIS
Will do. Yes, sir.

LAGRET hangs up. *What now?*

CUT TO

916

INT. SENATE CHAMBER ENTRANCE -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

916

MULTIPLE CHECKPOINTS. SENATE POLICE manning the kiosks and scanners. Just starting to get busy.

ERSKIN coming through, pulling his VIVID-BLUE HOLO-CRED as he hits THE VIP LANE -- passing without breaking stride --

AS WE FIND

A WOMAN just clearing A REGULAR CHECKPOINT down the line. Meet BESKA, just another Senate worker on the way in and --

SEVERAL PEOPLE BACK

Meet SELKO. If he was just another employee we wouldn't be paying attention, but that's what he's pretending to be, and pretending not to know BESKA as she enters and --

TWO GATES OVER

CHARVAL. Final member of this mystery troika. Stepping up for inspection, as we --

CUT TO

917

INT. SENATE BROADCAST CENTER -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

917

Bowels of the building. A long, bright basement corridor. STUDIOS & SUITES to either side -- SCREENS (Chamber feed) -- GEAR & CABLES -- TRANSLATORS & JOURNALISTS (ALIEN/HUMAN) busy making sure the folks back home know what's going down.

CASSIAN (Ronni Googe) coming through like he belongs...

UP AHEAD

BROADCAST CHECKPOINT. BOSS PONO at his station. Looking up as CASSIAN places his HOLO-CRED before him.

PONO

Ronni Goog?

CASSIAN

Goojah.

PONO

Did someone call it in?

CASSIAN

Mid Rim Network.

PONO

I see that. I just don't have a bay assigned for you.

(eyes around)

You'll have to float this morning.
That's the best I can do today.

CUT TO

918

INT. SENATE CAFE ARCADE -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

918

BESKA & SELKO at a table. CHARVAL joins them.

CHARVAL

You've met?

BESKA

Just now.

SELKO

What're we doing?

CHARVAL

Senator Mothma's making a speech.
When she's done, we'll escort her
to The Plaza where there's a ride
waiting.

BESKA

Weapons?

CHARVAL

We have a box inside, but the plan
is for quick and quiet.

(to SELKO)

Gate Nine. She'll meet us there.
We'll pull the gear and meet you up
there.

CUT TO

919

INT. OPERATIONS ROOM, ISB HQ -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

919

LAGRET on a call. FELZONIS staffing up, THREE HEADPHONED
ATTENDANTS scrolling through surveilled Senate chatter --

LAGRET

(listening)

Well, I'm stuck here now, so...

(realizing FELZONIS
has news--)

Let me know if anything changes.
(hanging up, and--)

FELZONIS

There are rumors that prominent
Senators may try to challenge the
Imperial narrative on Ghorman.

LAGRET

Good luck with that.

(calm now)

I've just been told the morning
agenda is set. The Chair has no
intention of letting any of them
take the floor.

CUT TO

920

INT. SENATE RING CORRIDOR -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

920

CHIMES TO SESSION have started sounding. Halls clearing as SENATORS & AIDES make their move to the Chamber.

BAIL coming with a pace that discourages distraction.

UP AHEAD

MON waiting. As practiced as she's proven at disguising her emotions, it's tough this morning. The summoned smile seems dangerously brittle just now. Tightening as --

BAIL

You don't have to do this.

MON

If you're brave enough to stay
I should be brave enough to go.

BAIL

There's an escort team waiting.
A team of three. You need to leave
the moment you're done. They'll
be at Gate Nine. Just get down
there and do what they tell you.

He needs to go, but --

MON

You trust them?

BAIL

Of course.

MON

Do you know them?

BAIL

Personally? No. I can't.
It's not safe.

(mistaking her concern)

Don't worry about me. Once I get
you started I'll have my head down.

MON hesitates. The *CHIME* is growing louder.

BAIL (CONT'D)

Next year in Yavin.

MON

Take care of yourself, Bail.

BAIL

We do what we can.

(moment)

Tear the shit out of this place.

And there he goes. MON alone. Showtime...

CUT TO

921

INT. SENATE BROADCAST CENTER -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

921

A CORRIDOR SCREEN -- raw feed from the Senate Chamber --
FINAL CHIMES -- SENATORS taking seats -- THE OATHKEEPER will
begin to call the session to order, as --

WE FIND

CASSIAN watching as if he belongs here. OTHER JOURNALISTS
doing their thing -- filing stories, prepping broadcasts --

ERSKIN

You'd think it would be full today.

They call an early session when

they want to keep the numbers down.

(CASSIAN turns)

Have we met?

CASSIAN

It's possible. I have friends
everywhere.

CUT TO

922

INT. SENATE GRAND ATRIUM/ELEVATOR UNIT -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

GLASS TUBE RISING INTO FRAME. SELKO inside. Door opens.
He exits, passing SCREENS/SPEAKERS as he searches out Gate
Nine, and we hear:

SENATOR DEN GANE BROADCAST)

*...Immediately following this
session, we will submit a list of
our fallen, Imperial patriots,
martyrs who gave everything on the
brutal streets of Ghorman! A list
that, even now, grows longer as the
full measure of Ghorman perfidy
comes into focus...*

CUT TO

923 INT. SENATE BASEMENT CORRIDOR -- CORUSCANT -- DAY 923

CASSIAN & ERSKIN coming quickly --

ERSKIN

There's a rope line at the gate.
Take this...

(his VIP BLUE CRED)

It's the only way in and I'm the
last person she wants to see.

CUT TO

924 INT. ANTE ROOM, MON'S SENATE CHAMBER POD -- DAY (CONT) 924

MON waiting. THE ECHOING CHAMBER beyond her PODWAY DOOR --

SENATOR NICO

...WERE WE NOT WARNED? WERE THERE
NOT VOICES RAISING THE ALARM ABOUT
GHORMAN LONG AGO? AS THE THREAT
GREW, DID WE NOT MARK THE ARRIVAL
OF EVERY NEW GHORMAN PROVOCATION?
THE TRAGIC BROTH WE SIP THIS
MORNING HAS BEEN BREWING IN PLAIN
SIGHT! THE ONLY SURPRISE IN
YESTERDAY'S INSURGENCY WAS THE
SAVAGERY OF THE GHORMAN ATTACK!...

CUT TO

925 INT. SUPPLY HALLWAY, SENATE CHAMBER BUILDING -- DAY 925

CHARVAL knows this place. BESKA following. A cul-de-sac.
A door. Quickly checking they're alone and --

INTO

926 INT. SUPPLY SUITE, SENATE CHAMBER BUILDING -- DAY (CONT) 926

TWO ROOMS -- front and back -- CLEANING SHIT stacked --

CHARVAL

-- watch the door --
(heading to the
back, as--)

BESKA posts up, watching him go and --

CUT TO

927 INT. SENATE STAIRWELL (TBD) -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

927

CASSIAN & ERSKIN climbing fast --

SENATOR C (BROADCAST)

*...I thank the Senator from Ilum
for yielding time so I may extend
my condolence to her proud planet.
We too, lost a citizen yesterday
on the Ghorman Plaza. We too, are
grieving and wondering what more we
might've done to stop this
insurrection...*

CUT TO

928 INT. OPERATIONS ROOM, ISB HQ -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

928

FELZONIS

Sir...

(LAGRET turns)

One of Supervisor Jung's agents
is calling from the Senate, she
says it's urgent...

(proffering a radio,
as we--)

HARD CUT TO

929 INT. SUPPLY SUITE, SENATE CHAMBER BUILDING - CORUSCANT - DAY

BESKA with A COMM. *It's her!* Crouched in a corner --

BESKA

...hello?...are you there?...
(looking up, as--)

CHARVAL

What're you doing?

TO

930 INT. OPERATIONS ROOM, ISB HQ -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

930

FELZONIS watching LAGRET flog a suddenly-dead radio --

LAGRET

-- hello? -- hello? --

TO

931 INT. SUPPLY SUITE, SENATE CHAMBER BUILDING - CORUSCANT - DAY

CHARVAL bearing down -- RETRIEVED BLASTERS in hand --

CHARVAL

What was that? Who were you talking to?

BESKA

It was work. My job.

CHARVAL

About what?

BESKA

They were expecting me.

CHARVAL

Show me th--
(shock attack--)

BESKA fist to his throat! -- CHARVAL gasping! -- dropping -- helpless, as she grabs A BLASTER and --

BLAM!

He's dead. That fast. She's freaked -- listening --

CUT TO

932

INT. SENATE CAFE ARCADE -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

932

CASSIAN & ERSKIN making their way past SCREEN/SPEAKERS --

SENATOR C (BROADCAST)

...I'll say this to those of you who are still in doubt, anyone minimizing dissension at this point is only hastening the next emergency we face! And for those of you who fail to see this as an emergency, I say what will you tell your people when it's one of your citizens who've been slaughtered?...

CUT TO

933

INT. GATE NINE, SENATE BUILDING -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

933

A DOZEN VISITORS blocked from Chamber entry by THE SENATE OFFICER and A GUARD. But the vibe is chill, everyone knows the rules, they're just waiting it out, lounging, and mostly ignoring THE BIG SCREEN BLATHER (*LOUNGE #1, LOUNGE #2, SENATE REPORTER #1 and SENATE REPORTER #2 will be here throughout.*)

OATHKEEPER (BROADCAST)
...The Chair recognizes the Senior
Senator from Hodi...

SELKO arriving, checking it out, blending-in, as --

SENATOR ERVEEN (BROADCAST)
...Graciously accepted, thank you.
I would, as Senior Senator, like to
yield a moment of my time to the
Senior Senator from Alderaan who
has a Point Of Order to address...

CUT TO

934 INT. ALDERAAN POD, SENATE CHAMBER -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

BAIL ORGANA standing. A RUMBLE in the room. *What is this?*
A predictable session just got interesting --

BAIL
Thank you, Senator Erveen.
I know there's a strict agenda
this morning but, as per the
latest Imperial Ruling on Senate
protocols, I'd like to invoke
Article 17-252...

CUT TO

935 INT. SUPPLY SUITE, SENATE CHAMBER BUILDING - CORUSCANT - DAY

CHARVAL'S BODY in the corner and --

BESKA
-- yes! --
(back on her COMM)
-- yes, I'm here now! -- *I need*
instructions --

HARD TO

936 INT. OPERATIONS ROOM, ISB HQ -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

936

FELZONIS (COMM)
-- hang on, I'm putting on The
Supervisor in charge --
(flagging LAGRET--)
She's back on, Sir...

CUT TO

937 INT. ANTE ROOM, MON'S SENATE CHAMBER POD - CORUSCANT - DAY

MON waiting at the threshold --

BAIL

...A17-252, was, as you may recall,
proposed directly by the Emperor's
Council, and specifically states
that, "A Senior Senator, in the
case of emergency may yield the
floor freely, without interruption
to another Senior Senator."...

CUT TO

938 INT. GATE NINE, SENATE BUILDING -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

938

CASSIAN & ERSKIN arriving. They know there's a Team Organa
somewhere, but who-and-where? On the flip side, SELKO knows
nothing of Team Luthen. It's not hard to blend now, because
MOST EYES ARE ON THE SCREEN --

BAIL (BROADCAST)

...Senator Karloo spoke so
passionately about the Imperial
martyrs from yesterday's events
in Ghorman...

CUT TO

939 INT. SENATE CAFE ARCADE -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

939

BESKA hustling past SCREENS/SPEAKERS --

BAIL (BROADCAST)

...I listened closely, and he
clearly, and repeatedly,
used the word, "emergency" and...

CUT TO

940 INT. ALDERAAN POD, SENATE CHAMBER -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

BAIL

...as there's been no objection to
this description from the floor...

CUT TO

941 INT. OPERATIONS ROOM, ISB HQ -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

941

LAGRET on an urgent new call --

LAGRET
-- shut it down -- yes! --
(listening)
Imperial Authority.
(beat)
Until further notice.

CUT TO

942 INT. SENATE BROADCAST CENTER -- CORUSCANT -- DAY 942

PONO moving fast -- he's just been given marching orders --
rushing away from THE BROADCAST CHECKPOINT and --

CUT TO

943 INT. ANTE ROOM, MON'S SENATE CHAMBER POD - CORSUCANT - DAY

MON in the wings, deep breath as --

BAIL
...I am invoking Article 17-252
and yielding the floor to the
Senior Senator from Chandrila...

CUT TO

944 INT. GATE NINE, SENATE BUILDING -- CORUSCANT -- DAY 944

MON ON THE SCREEN, taking the floor, and everyone's paying rapt attention now, as --

MON (BROADCAST)
*Fellow Senators, Friends,
 Colleagues, Allies, Adversaries...*

CASSIAN making his move -- late to a meeting --

CASSIAN
-- hello? --
(flashing A VIVID-BLUE
CREDENTIAL--)

THE SENATE OFFICER barely glancing back from the broadcast as he waves CASSIAN through --

MON (BROADCAST)
...I stand before you this morning
with a heavy heart...

ERSKIN watching CASSIAN disappear into THE ELEVATOR --

MON (BROADCAST) (CONT'D)

...I've spent my life in this chamber. I came here as a child and, as I look around me now, I realize I have almost no memories that pre-date my arrival and few bonds of affection that cleave so tightly. Through these many years, I believe I've served my constituents honorably and upheld our Code Of Conduct...

CUT TO

945

INT. RING ELEVATOR, SENATE CHAMBER -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

945

CASSIAN ascending alone, on his way to Level Ten, as --

MON (SPEAKER)

...This Chamber is a cauldron of opinions and we've certainly all had our patience and tempers tested in pursuit of our ideals. Disagree as we might, I'm hopeful that those of you who know me will vouch for my credibility in the days to come...

CUT TO

946

INT. SENATE BROADCAST CENTER -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

946

DOOR BUTTON -- FINGER PRESSING with insistent frustration --

REVEAL

SERIOUS DOOR. PONO expecting it to open, as we --

CUT TO

947

INT. OPERATIONS ROOM, ISB HQ -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

947

LAGRET

What're they doing?

(MON still on A CONSOLE

SCREEN--)

Shut it down!

CUT TO

948

INT. MON'S POD, SENATE CHAMBER -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

948

The Chamber is weirdly quiet -- waiting for red meat --

MON

...I stand this morning with a
difficult message. I believe we
are in crisis. The distance
between what is said and what is
known to be true has become an
abyss...

CUT TO

949

INT. SENATE BROADCAST CENTER -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

949

PONO at THE SERIOUS DOOR freaking out --

PONO

It's locked! *WHY IS IT LOCKED?*

TWO TECHS -- JEEN & MAGLA - human/alien - on the spot.

JEEN

It's supposed to be.

PONO

It hasn't been locked all year!

JEEN

We know. We fixed it.

PONO

WHAT?

JEEN

PONO (CONT'D)

We checked the protocol an-- -- OPEN IT! --

JEEN (CONT'D)

You need the Sequence Key.

PONO

So let's have it!

JEEN

We took it up to the Security
Office yesterday.

PONO looks stricken -- sprinting away, as --

JEEN (CONT'D)

It's in the manual...

JEEN & MAGLA sharing a look -- a smile -- as we --

CUT TO

950 INT. MON'S LIMO, SENATE GARAGE -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

950

KLORIS listening --

MON (RADIO)

*...Of all the things at risk,
the loss of an objective reality is
perhaps the most dangerous.
The death of truth is the ultimate
victory of evil...*

CUT TO

951 INT. SENATE RING CORRIDOR -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

951

CASSIAN coming through checking numbers as he goes --

MON (SPEAKER)

*...when truth leaves us, when we
let it slip away, when it is ripped
from our hands...*

CUT TO

952 INT. GATE NINE, SENATE BUILDING -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

952

EVERYONE watching THE SCREEN except SELKO, who's wondering
where the fuck the rest of his team has gone --

MON (BROADCAST)

*...we become vulnerable to the
appetite of whatever monster
screams the loudest...*

BESKA -- finally -- here she is --

SELKO

Where were you?

BESKA

Where's Charval?

SELKO

He was with you.

ANGLE ON

ERSKIN clocking this and --

CUT TO

953 INT. OPERATIONS ROOM, ISB HQ -- CORUSCANT -- DAY 953

PANIC CRESCENDO -- MON STILL LIVE ON THE CONSOLE MONITOR --

LAGRET

(screaming down the line)

-- I DON'T CARE IF YOU HAVE TO
CUT POWER TO THE WHOLE CHAMBER! --
GET HER OFF THE AIR! --

Bad to worse, as --

FELZONIS

(behind him)

Colonel Yularen on Band Three...

CUT TO

954 INT. SENATE RING CORRIDOR -- CORUSCANT -- DAY 954

CASSIAN has found THE DOOR TO MON'S POD -- TWO BLUE-CRED
AIDES ignoring him as they rush past and --

MON (SPEAKER)

*...I'm afraid that this Chamber's
hold on the truth has been finally
lost on the Ghorman Plaza...*

CUT TO

955 INT. MON'S POD, SENATE CHAMBER -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

THE CROWD was waiting -- VOICES RISING -- CATCALLS and
DENUNCIATIONS forcing her louder as she goes --

MON

*...What took place yesterday --
WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY IN GHORMAN
WAS UNPROVOKED GENOCIDE!...*

CUT TO

956 INT. ALDERAAN POD, SENATE CHAMBER -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

BAIL sitting back -- DENUNCIATIONS LOUDER by the moment --

MON (OS)
...YES! -- GENOCIDE! -- AND THAT
TRUTH HAS BEEN EXILED FROM THIS
CHAMBER!...

CUT TO

957 INT. SENATE RING CORRIDOR -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

957

CASSIAN waiting -- CHAMBER RUMBLING as --

MON (SPEAKER)
...AND THE MONSTER SCREAMING THE
LOUDEST? THE MONSTER WE'VE HELPED
CREATE?...

CUT TO

958 INT. MON'S POD, SENATE CHAMBER -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

THE TORRENT OF CHAMBER VOICES seems to hesitate -- disbelief
-- shock -- will she dare? --

MON
...THE MONSTER THAT WILL COME
FOR ALL OF US SOON ENOUGH IS
EMPEROR PALPATINE!

HARD CUT TO

959 INT. SENATE BROADCAST TECH CLOSET -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

PONO -- sweaty/frazzled -- DOOR open behind him -- pulling
down THE BROADCAST POWER LEVER and --

CUT TO

960 INT. GATE NINE, SENATE BUILDING -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

THE SCREEN goes dead. All the screens and sound and --

CUT TO

961 INT. MON'S POD, SENATE CHAMBER -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

MON silenced. HER POD auto-retracting as THE CHAMBER erupts
into a A VOCAL BABEL OF OUTRAGE AND SUPPORT --

CUT TO

962 EXT. SENATE LOADING DOCK -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

962

It's getting busy down here and harder to stay anonymous.
KLEYA working her COMM -- LUTHEN hanging on every word --

KLEYA

-- they shut her down, they shut
the broadcast --

LUTHEN

Where's Cassian?

CUT TO

963 INT. GATE NINE, SENATE BUILDING -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

ERSKIN at the other end of the line --

ERSKIN

-- he went up -- I don't know --

KLEYA (COMM)

-- we can't wait here much longer --

CUT TO

964 INT. SENATE RING CORRIDOR -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

964

POD DOOR OPENING -- MON coming out fast -- no intention of
stopping -- *get to the elevator!* --

CASSIAN

Senator --
(right beside her--)

MON

-- I'm sorry, I can't speak now --

CASSIAN

-- I was in Ghorman yesterday --
in the Plaza -- I saw everything --

She's reached THE ELEVATOR -- hitting the button --

MON

I've made my statement.

CASSIAN

We need to speak.

MON

(*get me out of here*)
Some other time...

CASSIAN

I have friends everywhere

MON with barely a moment to be startled, as we --

CUT TO

965

INT. OPERATIONS ROOM, ISB HQ -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

965

LAGRET

(to FELZONIS)

-- detained immediately -- she
does not leave the building! --

CUT TO

966

INT. RING ELEVATOR, SENATE CHAMBER -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

966

They're in! -- DOORS CLOSING -- MON fumbling for the button --
she's on tilt -- *the speech -- the anticipation -- the risk --*

CASSIAN

Your cousin Vel is a friend.

MON

Anyone could say that.

They're going down -- she's trapped --

CASSIAN

We're the last survivors of the
raid on Aldhani.

(racing the clock)

I see her on Yavin. I live there.
I know Luthen can be hard, but if
he's right about this there's no
choice but to come with me.

MON blinks. It's too much.

CASSIAN (CONT'D)

You just keep walking, I'll be
right behind you.

MON

Going where?
(but no time for an
answer, because--)

THE DOORS OPEN and --

WELCOME TO!

967

MON & CASSIAN suddenly face-to-face with BESKA --

MON

Who are you?

BESKA

We're here to help you.

ERSKIN

(behind SELKO now)

She doesn't need your help.

BESKA

(glancing back)

Excuse me?

MON

(is it?)

-- Erskin? --

CASSIAN

-- please move aside --

SENATE OFFICER

(stepping in now)

-- Senator? --

ERSKIN

-- let her through! --

As BESKA pulls A BLASTER! --

BESKA

-- STAND DOWN! -- *EVERYONE!* --*Holy shit! -- LOUNGERS recoiling -- SOMEONE SCREAMS! --*

SELKO

-- what're you doing? --

BESKA

-- shut up! --

SELKO (CONT'D)

-- you have a weapon --

BESKA (CONT'D)

-- back off! --

SELKO stunned -- MON facing a blaster -- CASSIAN behind her --

BESKA (CONT'D)

THIS IS AN ISB AUTHORIZED ARREST!

(to SENATE OFFICER)

Call your Supervisor now!

(to THE GROUP)

BACK AWAY! *EVERYONE!*

(to CASSIAN)

That means you!

ERSKIN

SHE'S A REBEL SPY!

BESKA'S heard enough from him, turning sharply as --

MON

-- no! --
(because--)

CASSIAN just pushed her aside! -- BLASTER ready and --

BLAMM!

BESKA point blank! Blown back. *Shocking.*

CASSIAN

ANYONE ELSE?

Stunned silence. SENATE OFFICER steps back. ERSKIN rushing for BESKA'S BLASTER. MON can't believe what's happening.

CASSIAN (CONT'D)

Who are you?
(pointing at--)

SELKO

Nobody. *We just met. I swear.*

CASSIAN

(to ERSKIN)

We don't have time to figure this out.

ERSKIN

I know.

SELKO

What? Wait...

ERSKIN (CONT'D)

Go. I'll get there.

CASSIAN

Give us three minutes.

SELKO

I'm not ISB!

CASSIAN (CONT'D)

Shut up.
(to ERSKIN)
You're sure?

ERSKIN

I've got it. Go!

It's too fast -- too much -- MON too stunned to thank ERSKIN or anything as CASSIAN pulls her away, and we --

CUT TO

968 INT. SENATE CAFE ARCADE -- CORUSCANT -- DAY 968

A SQUAD OF TROOPERS & SOLDIERS running to the action and --
CUT TO

969 INT. SENATE GRAND ATRIUM -- CORUSCANT -- DAY 969

CASSIAN & MON on the move -- he's in the zone -- she's in shock --

CASSIAN
Don't run.

MON
You killed that woman.

CASSIAN
(the stolen cloak)
Put this on.

She'll comply, which is good, because people are starting to emerge from The Chamber.

CASSIAN (CONT'D)
We want to get to the rear loading
dock. There's a ride there.

MON
I'm not sure I can do this.

CASSIAN
Welcome to the rebellion.

What? **MON**

CASSIAN
Get us to the loading dock.

CUT TO

970 INT. SENATE RING CORRIDOR -- CORUSCANT -- DAY 970

SOLDIERS trying to force open THE DOOR TO MON'S POD --

CUT TO

971 INT. SENATE INNER CORRIDOR JUNCTION -- CORUSCANT -- DAY 971

CASSIAN & MON coming fast -- pulling up, because --

JUST AHEAD

TROOPERS! -- A POSSE running past --

MON

Forget the loading dock.

CASSIAN

We have to get outside before they
shut down the building.

MON turns back -- new idea, as we --

CUT TO

972 INT. ALDERAAN POD, SENATE CHAMBER -- CORUSCANT -- DAY 972

BAIL ORGANA sitting in the almost-empty Chamber. Alone with
his thoughts. *What now? What next?*

CUT TO

973 INT. SENATE GRAND ATRIUM -- CORUSCANT -- DAY 973

TROOPERS & SOLDIERS RUNNING FOR GATE NINE -- PEOPLE/CREATURES
watching them pass and --

THERE'S

ERSKIN slipping away unnoticed, as we --

CUT TO

974 INT. MON'S LIMO, SENATE GARAGE -- CORUSCANT -- DAY 974

KLORIS

(on his COMM)

-- I am standing-by, I was just...

(listening now)

Yes, of course.

(brushed off)

Just making sure tha--

(the line's gone

dead--)

KLORIS -- *fuck this* -- pulls THE COMM, and we realize he's
got A BLASTER IN HIS LAP, as we --

CUT TO

975

INT. OPERATIONS ROOM, ISB HQ -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

975

PANIC MODE! -- LAGRET struggling to quarterback the growing crisis -- RADIO CHATTER -- HEADSETS -- LIGHTS FLASHING and --

CONSOLE #1

(someone on hold)

-- he's asking to evacuate the building --

LAGRET

-- NO! -- seal it up! -- lock it down! --

(turning)

-- WHERE'S JUNG'S AGENT? --

CONSOLE TECH

(down the line)

-- we're still trying --

LAGRET turns to bark at FELZONIS but, *oh shit...*

FELZONIS

They're at Gate Nine...

(radio in hand)

They found Jung's agent.

CUT TO

976

INT. SENATE SPIRAL STAIRS -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

976

MON & CASSIAN racing down as AN ALARM BEGINS PULSING IN THE DISTANCE and --

CUT TO

977

EXT. SENATE LOADING DOCK -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

977

ALARM LOUDER HERE -- STORMTROOPERS & SOLDIERS rushing from The Plaza to blockade THE LOADING DOCK as --

WE FIND

LUTHEN & KLEYA walking away -- trying to be cool -- she's fucking with her COMM -- *everything's breaking down!* --

LUTHEN

-- where are they? -- *why isn't it working?* --

KLEYA

-- you have to get back to the
gallery --

LUTHEN

-- they're coming down here! --
you have to warn them --

KLEYA

I'll find them!

(shut the fuck up)

I'm trying. But we've got to be
ready. Go to the gallery.

(he knows she's right)

We have to be ready.

CUT TO

978 INT. SENATE ANGULAR PASSAGEWAY -- CORUSCANT -- DAY 978

MON & CASSIAN running now, away from *THE ALARM* and --

CUT TO

979 INT. SENATE GARAGE -- CORUSCANT -- DAY 979

KLORIS pacing beside *THE LIMO*. *ALARM* in the distance --

ANOTHER DRIVER

(calling over)

WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE?

KLORIS

I WISH I KNEW...

But he's sick of waiting. Starting to walk, as we --

CUT TO

980 INT. SENATE CHAMBER ENTRANCE -- CORUSCANT - DAY 980

ALARM ECHOING through the huge space -- TROOPERS & SOLDIERS
rush to commandeer the kiosks and barriers and --

CUT TO

981 EXT. SENATE PLAZA BRIDGE/PROMENADE -- CORUSCANT -- DAY 981

CASSIAN & MON OUT OF THE BUILDING! -- *ALARM* behind them and --

TURNING ONTO

A LONG ELEVATED PROMENADE -- JUST ENOUGH PEOPLE scattered
around to let them blend a bit and --

CUT TO

982 EXT. SENATE PLAZA STEPS -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

982

KLORIS climbing -- A FEW PEOPLE coming down -- he's scanning
faces as he ascends and --

CUT TO

983 EXT. ELEVATED SENATE PROMENADE -- CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

CASSIAN & MON walking briskly --

MON
(good eyes)
-- *I think that's my driver* --

UP AHEAD

KLORIS topping THE STEPS -- *right where they want to go!* --

BACK TO

MON clenching tight the cloak -- they can't stop walking --
sixty-feet and closing -- nobody else nearby now --

CASSIAN
-- will he help us? --

MON
-- no, he's an ISB plant! --

KLORIS clocks them -- unsure -- *where's his blaster?* --

CASSIAN
-- what's his name? --

MON
-- what? -- Kloris -- *what're you*
doing? --
(because he's pulling off
her hood and--)

CASSIAN
KLORIS!

KLORIS hesitates --

CASSIAN (CONT'D)
(still coming)
We found her!

KLORIS
What?
(mystified)
Who are you?

BLAMM!!!

KLORIS dead before he hits the ground --

MON
(not possible)
...what have you...

CASSIAN
Look at me.
(she could lose it)
Hey.
(she turns)
Take my hand...

She does it. Numb. Undone. Letting him steer her quickly
past the body and --

CASSIAN (CONT'D)
Careful on the stairs.

DOWN NOW

THE PLAZA STEPS -- *THAT DISTANT ALARM still pulsing as they*
rush away, and we --

CUT TO

984 EXT. SENATE GARAGE EXIT RAMP -- CORUSCANT -- DAY

984

MON'S LIMO -- *a blue blur* -- ROCKETING OUT OF THE PARKING
STRUCTURE --

INTO

THE CORUSCANT CANYON -- *banking -- diving and --*

CUT TO

985 INT. MON'S LIMO -- AERIAL CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

985

CASSIAN at the wheel. MON in back -- *pinned* -- she's never
been driven like this in her life and --

CUT TO

986 EXT. AERIAL CORUSCANT -- DAY (CONT)

986

THE LIMO tearing off into THE SKYWAY, as we --

CUT TO

987 EXT. MAIN HANGAR/TARMAC -- YAVIN -- DAY

987

A LINE OF FRESH RECRUITS. Thirty of them. Human/Creature. Young/Old. Male/Female. They just stepped off the ramp. Many trying to stand at attention for the first time

INTAKE SERGEANT (OS)

All right, everything on the table --
-- fall in! -- let's go! --

A FIELD TABLE has been set down. It's covered with WEAPONS. All kinds. Blasters. Knives. Shockstix.

INTAKE SERGEANT (OS) (CONT'D)

-- three lines -- form it up --
keep to the line! -- quit yer
moving about! --

INTAKE OFFICER VEL having a good look at the collection.

INTAKE SERGEANT (OS (CONT'D)

-- last call on ordinance, if
you've got a weapon and it's not on
that table, it means you're either
too stupid to follow orders or
you're threat to base security --

VEL just paused at something. A BLASTER. Picking it up. Brushing away some grime and --

INTAKE SERGEANT (OS) (CONT'D)

-- once your Duty Officer has made
inspection, everything that meets
approval will be returned.

HOLY SHIT! -- IT'S SYRIL'S OLD BLASTER. The faded Pre-Ox logo, the piece Cassian stole, that Skeen asked about, that went through Aldhani and then got stashed in the Niamos Hotel room until Cassian came back after Narkina-5 and --

VEL

(holding it up)
Who belongs to this?

THE RECRUITS are staring. A hand goes up down the line.

MELSHI

I think that's mine.

CUT TO

988

INT. SAFEHOUSE HALLWAY -- CORUSCANT -- NIGHT

988

CASSIAN & MON in the dark. Refugees of a very long day.
We don't know where we are yet. There's A DOOR -- KNOCK-
KNOCK-KNOCKETY-KNOCK and --

THE DOOR OPENS

ERSKIN answers. He's been expecting them. Ushering them
quickly --

INTO

989

INT. SAFEHOUSE MAIN ROOM -- CORUSCANT -- NIGHT

989

It's not fared well in the past year. Trashed and neglected.
God knows who's stayed here. CASSIAN pushes in as THE DOOR
CLOSES behind them and --

WE LINGER WITH

MON & ERSKIN. What can be said? They're not sure.

ERSKIN

Are you all right?

She nods. A brave smile. Enough for now.

IN THE KITCHEN

CASSIAN downing a glass of something --

KLEYA

I can't believe you made it.
You must be exhausted.

That's her version of "thank you."

CASSIAN

Where is he?

KLEYA nods to THE BEDROOM. CASSIAN will head back as --

MON

Kleya...
(KLEYA finds her)
Luthen?

KLEYA

He's safe. He knows you've made
it here.

MON takes that in. They share a moment, before we --

CUT TO

SAFEHOUSE BEDROOM. It's a mess. Bare bulbs. Garbage.
WILMON on some bedding. He's been wounded. Leg bandaged
and bloodied. DREENA at his side.

WILMON

Made it out.
(he's drugged up)
Dreena saved the day.

CASSIAN

(kneeling there)
Almost home.

DREENA

He needs a real doctor.

CASSIAN stands and steps --

BACK INTO

THE SAFEHOUSE MAIN ROOM. KLEYA and ERSKIN waiting --

KLEYA

You need to leave right away.

CASSIAN

She may need a few minutes to catch
her breath.
(meaning--)

MON off by herself at the window.

KLEYA

She's not going with you.

ERSKIN

There's a ship waiting. They want
her to make a speech. They want
her coming in with a Yavin escort.

KLEYA

They want to rewrite the story.

CASSIAN

What does Luthen want?

KLEYA

He wants Wilmon with a doctor.

CASSIAN

Get him ready.

They rush away. MON turns back. They're alone.

MON

You know this place.

CASSIAN

I lived here once.

It's a lot to take in.

MON

I'm not sure how to thank you.

CASSIAN

Make it worth it.

MON nods. *Will do.* As we --

CUT TO

990

EXT. YAVIN TARMAC -- NIGHT

990

A BURST OF EXHAUST STEAM -- LANDING LIGHTS CUTTING THROUGH FOG -- THE RUMBLE OF ENGINES POWERING DOWN -- THE CHUNK OF RAMP HINGES ENGAGING and --

THE U-WING just landed.

A YAVIN MEDIC TEAM -- three people, one stretcher -- standing by as THE BAY DOOR OPENS --

THEY MADE IT

CASSIAN and DREENA jumping down to help THE MED TEAM move WILMON to the stretcher, but they've clearly got it under control and --

CASSIAN

(to DREENA)

You go with them. They'll fix him up. You'll get some sleep.

She nods. *Brave face.* She leaves and there's --

DRAVEN

Is it bad?

CASSIAN

No. It's clean. He's young.

DRAVEN

Who's his nurse?

CASSIAN

She survived the Ghorman massacre.
She'll fit right in.

But there's an issue dangling.

DRAVEN

We're not going to log this in.
Any of this. That's the plan.
Gold Squadron will deliver the
Senator to Yavin.

CASSIAN

Are you asking me?

DRAVEN

She's making a speech, we need it
broadcast as far as possible.
(embarrassed but)
It's the result that matters.

CASSIAN nods. Fuck it. DRAVEN relaxes.

DRAVEN (CONT'D)

We can listen in my office if you'd
like.

CASSIAN

I've heard her speak.
(the U-Wing)
There's a dead KX Unit bagged up
inside.

DRAVEN

A KX Droid?

CASSIAN hoists his shoulder bag, he's walking.

CASSIAN

We think we got all the pieces.

DRAVEN watching him go, as we --

CUT TO

991

INT. CHEZ ANDOR -- YAVIN -- NIGHT

991

CASSIAN into a dark house. Trying for stealth, but --

A LIGHT comes on.

BIX in the doorway. Fresh from bed. They stand like that, just taking each other in across the room, as we --

TIME CUT

A TEA POT ON THE TABLE. BIX pouring. It's still dark, not yet dawn. He's cleaned-up. Sitting there. Watching her.

CASSIAN

What is it?

BIX

Nerian leaf. You need sleep.

CASSIAN

Is that what I need?

He takes the cup. Just them. Just two people with the sounds of the jungle whispering outside.

CASSIAN (CONT'D)

I'm done, Bix.

BIX

Have your tea.

CASSIAN

I'm serious. I'm done. I'm not doing it anymore. I've done what I can. I've done a lot. But I want *this*. Right here. I want to be with you.

(she's waiting)

I'm telling Draven tomorrow. We'll leave before it gets too complicated. We'll find someplace quiet, there's still places to go. We have what we need.

(then)

Why aren't you saying anything?

BIX

I'm listening.

CASSIAN

The only thing special about me is luck and I've overplayed my hand

(MORE)

CASSIAN (CONT'D)

already.

(beat)

I choose you. And I'm not just
talking, Bix, I mean it.

BIX

I know you do.

CASSIAN

Nothing's worth more than this.

BIX watching him drink the tea. Looking away so he won't
see her try not to cry, as we --

CUT TO

992

INT. BEDROOM, CHEZ ANDOR -- YAVIN -- DAY

992

Sun slants through the windows as CASSIAN stirs. He reaches
for Bix and realizes she's not there.

CASSIAN

(calling in)

-- Bix -- Bix? --

How late did he sleep? Checking his chrono, as we --

TIME CUT

FIVE MINUTES LATER. CASSIAN dressed and moving for the
little kitchen to search out some Kaf --

CASSIAN (CONT'D)

(calling as he comes)

I can't believe you let me sleep
this late.

(*is she outside?*)

Bix!

But nothing. And then...

A *chime*.

And again...

CASSIAN reaching for A DATA-PAD ON THE TABLE, as we --

FLASHBACK

BIX IN THE KITCHEN. Still dark out. Last night.

BIX

My love. You're sleeping now.
You look so peaceful.

(she was crying)

I want to be brave, but I can't.
If I was brave I would stay and do
this in person, but I know you and
you'd just talk me around and I've
been thinking about this too long
to let that happen.

(then)

I have to leave.

BACK TO

CASSIAN watching on THE DATA-PAD --

BIX (CONT'D)

I have to go away. I'm not sure
where or for how long, I just know
that I can't stay with you now.

FLASHBACK

BIX (CONT'D)

I believe what you said. It *is* a
choice. It just can't be me.
I can't be the reason you leave
here...

CUT TO

993 EXT. JUNGLE CAMP -- YAVIN -- DAY

993

CASSIAN running for the airfield as --

BIX (V.O.)

...if you ever gave this up for
me, I'd never forgive myself...

FLASHBACK

BIX

...We have to win. We have to
beat them. I believe you have a
purpose in making that happen.
I need to believe that...

CUT TO

994 EXT. JUNGLE PATH -- YAVIN -- DAY

994

CASSIAN still running for the airfield as --

BIX

...I'm choosing for both of us.
I'm choosing the rebellion...

FLASHBACK

BIX (CONT'D)

...When it's done? When this over
and we've won, we can do everything
we want. All the things we know
we've missed.

(then)

I'll find you.

CUT TO

996

EXT. TARMAC/AIRFIELD -- YAVIN -- DAY

996

CASSIAN running onto the busy runway. *Where is she?*
She's got to be here somewhere...

FLAGMAN (OS)

Can I help you? Hey...

CASSIAN turns. FLAGMAN bearing down.

FLAGMAN (CONT'D)

You can't stand there. We're
waiting on a freighter, we gotta
keep this clear.

CASSIAN

The outbound. The transport,
where are they?

FLAGMAN

Everything that's leaving went
this morning.

CASSIAN hears the words. And he'll back away. But none of
this makes sense.

Standing at the apron. *How can she be gone and everything*
keep moving? How is that possible?

CORPORAL

Captain Andor?

It's a kid from engineering.

CORPORAL (CONT'D)

They were looking for you.
They're getting ready to power up
the droid you brought in.

(MORE)

CORPORAL (CONT'D)

(no response)

The KX unit?

CUT TO

997

INT. ENGINEERING BAY -- YAVIN -- DAY

997

THE KX UNIT has been bolted to A SOLID METAL FRAME that has been anchored to the wall. Some cables and wires and...

DROLLA (OS)

It either works or it doesn't.

We can tweak endlessly once it's stable...

THREE REBEL SOLDIERS -- five meters away -- a firing squad. Each of them holding A HIGH-POWERED BLAST RIFLE.

DROLLA (OS) (CONT'D)

...it's really just a question of whether the Cortex-Swap is rejected or not...

CASSIAN standing there listening to FAY DROLLA, Chief Rebel Engineer. The man's excited, oblivious to the darkness of Cassian's current mood.

DROLLA (CONT'D)

...you'll hear a lot of blather about "re-programming" which makes it sound as if the problem's solved behind a console desk, which is nonsense because it's really all about "Impulse Suppression," which is entirely an engineering and wiring problem.

A DOZEN ENGINEERS ring the perimeter. DROLLA getting everything just right as he moves behind A CONTROL BOX.

DROLLA (CONT'D)

We have some protective goggles.

CASSIAN doesn't want goggles.

CASSIAN

I'll take the weapon...

(he's talking to--)

THE CENTER SOLDIER who's confused for a moment --

CASSIAN (CONT'D)

Weapon please.

DROLLA nods approval. CASSIAN takes THE RIFLE. THE SOLDIER stands down.

DROLLA

You might want take a step back.

CASSIAN does not. He's stepping forward. Point blank.

CASSIAN

Turn it on.

DROLLA

I'm not sure that's safe.

CASSIAN

Hit the switch.

THE OTHER TWO SOLDIERS, flanking him now, rush to shoulder their weapons.

DROLLA

Very well...

(nervous now)

If that makes us ready...

(last looks)

Three...two...one...

(pulling the handle
and--)

CHUNK -- THE SOUND OF POWER SURGING -- A WHIR OF SERVOS --

THE KX SHUDDERS --

FINGERS CLASP --

OCULARS BLINKING --

AN ARM SPASMS -- PULLING AT THE BOLTS --

CASSIAN STEPS CLOSER -- eager to shoot -- give me a reason! --

THE KX VIBRATES VIOLENTLY, and then --

Hello.

K2 staring down the barrel of CASSIAN'S RIFLE.

K2

If I've offended you, I apologize.

CASSIAN frozen.

K2 (CONT'D)

If not, I'd appreciate you pointing
that elsewhere.

CASSIAN lowering the blaster, as we --

FADE OUT

THE END