

Star Wars:
Cauldron Born Trilogy
Part 2 of 3

by
Greg Gregory
DoubleGGUK@gmail.com
07523134776

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2.3

This story and all its story elements, including all original characters, are copywrite of G Gregory. All non-original characters remain the copywrite of their respective IP holders. This story is intended to showcase G Gregory's storytelling abilities with established characters.

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

A vast sea of stars serves as the backdrop for the main title. War drums echo through the heavens as a rollup slowly crawls into infinity.

It was a dark time. Lord Vader's return has reunited many of the warbands of Imperial and First Order remnants into a force that once again threatened the galaxy.

Having only just escaped Darth Vader's trap for them, Ezra Bridger's Bendu Knights have suffered many casualties. But their willingness to face this emerging threat is undimmed.

This band of brave adventurers have ventured to Mustafar and found information they could use to defeat Darth Vader. Now they have to find a way to put this information to use before Vader catches up to them.

EXT. GALAXY - ORBIT OF TRAPPIST

A Star Destroyer moves through space, releasing Imperial probe robots from its underside.

INT. STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE

Darth Vader(*it's Darth Vader!!*) stands at the viewport, gazing out at Trappist. Admiral Terse(*High ranking Imperial officer. He probably has a moustache*) stands near him. Only the few First Order officers scattered throughout the bridge shows that this is the modern era. First Order Officer 1(*Young officer of the First Order*) approaches him.

FIRST ORDER OFFICER 1

A message for you, Lord Vader. From the.. from the Emperor, sir.

Darth Vader turns and marches to the rear room of the bridge and orders everyone out.

DARTH VADER

Leave me.

The hologram viewer lights up and a twelve foot hologram of the Hooded Emperor (*Palpatine restored, concealed behind a hood*) appears. Darth Vader kneels.

DARTH VADER

What is your bidding, my master?

HOODED EMPERER

I am concerned at your latest failure, Lord Vader. Your trap failed to catch the troublesome Jedi. I worry you may be unable to settle back into your old duties.

DARTH VADER

I have sent out probes, my master. Soon we will know where they have fled...

HOODED EMPEROR

I do not have time to waste with your pedestrian methods. Perhaps you are in need of some aid? I can send you some... support?

DARTH VADER

I need no support, my master. I will find and destroy these Jedi, using all the means at my disposal.

EXT. GALAXY - ORBIT OF MUSTAFAR

The Grey Haven moves against the dull red glowing orb of Mustafar.

INT. GREY HAVEN - BRIDGE

The modified light cruiser bridge is still damaged from its recent travails. Hondo Ohnaka (*Weequay Male. Elderly pirate*) relaxes in the captain's chair. The red orb of Mustafar hangs in the viewport. Hondo sighs contentedly and settles back. His communicator chirrups.

LANDO CALRISSIAN (O.S.)

Hondo? Hondo?! You there? We could do with some help down here. Both the medical droids are on the fritz and we're trying to get all the injured seen too. Hondo!

HONDO OHNAKA

Lando, Lando. I would help you but... I am no good with droids and my bedside manner is incredibly poor.

INT. GREY HAVEN - HANGER BAY

The hanger bay is still full of sand and many of the landers are still in disarray. The few ugnought crew present rush around fixing stuff and shovelling sand. Lando Calrissian (*Human, Male. Elderly smuggler*) is working on fixing a lander.

LANDO CALRISSIAN

In that case why don't you come help out in the hanger bay. We still need to get more of these landers operational. A good captain helps where they're needed. That's why I'm down here covered in sweat and grease.

HONDO OHNAKA (O.S.)

No, no, no. Who would keep a sharp eye out for danger if I was to abandon my post? A captain's first duty is to his crew. You would know this if you were the captain.

LANDO CALRISSIAN

(sigh) Just check in with Ezra and the ground team. See if they've found everything they need. We need to be ready to leave.

INT. MUSTAFAR FORTRESS - TRAINING ROOM

Ezra Bridger (*Human Male, 40ish. Black haired Jedi/green. An experienced soldier by this point, after long years with the rebels*) and Sabine Wren (*Human Female, 40ish. Mandalorian with colourful armour*) play with Mula (*Human Child. Female. 8. Cleaner and less bedraggled now*) in the middle of a large training room. Alcoves with cryochambers sit in alcoves dotting the edges. Cilmi Indo'el (*Human Female, young Jedi/Purple, name means knowledge/eyes like wells*) sits near one with the Awakened Force Cyborg, Palabee (*Large robotic creature, slightly reminiscent of General Grievous. This one is older and patched, like it's been awake for a while. Temple Guard Lightsabre pike*), studying the projection of Vader training. The cyborg casually works on repairing itself while it projects the image.

Mula's Mama and Papa (*Human scavengers, 20-30ish*) enter from deeper inside the fortress, leading a hoversled of supplies they've scavenged. Mula runs over to them and Ezra and Sabine follow.

MULA

Mama! Papa! Did you find what we need?

MULA'S PAPA

More than enough, Mula. We should be able to fix up the hyperdrive. We'll load it onto our ship and get to work.

MULA'S MAMA

Thank you for watching her. I hope it wasn't too much trouble. Did you find everything that you need? To fight this Vader?

EZRA BRIDGER

We've downloaded the holovids of Vader training from the training cyborg, Palabee. She seems keen to help us, maybe she could even come with us. But we should try and fit her with a voice box or something first, so she can talk and we can find out if that's what she wants.

CILMI INDO'EL

(coming over) That might be a good idea. I think she's fully repaired herself and she seems to want us to follow her.

Mula's Mama and Papa take the hoversled towards the entrance and their ships. The Awakened Force Cyborg Palabee beeps and

indicates they should follow her, leading the rest of them towards a blank wall, then she sits and stares at it.

EZRA BRIDGER

Guess we really should give you a voice box. (to *Cilmi*) Are you sure she wanted us to follow?

Mula stares at the motionless Force Cyborg, then at the wall. She frowns in puzzlement at the wall, reaching out a hand towards it.

MULA

There's something about this wall. It feels cold, somehow.

Ezra steps forward and reaches out towards the wall, closing his eyes and extending his senses. Suddenly he senses something.

EZRA BRIDGER

There's something behind here. I think this is a door. I *think* I can get it open.

Ezra grits his teeth and channels dark side energy and the door hisses open. The hisses sound very much like Vader's mechanical breathing.

The group glance at each other, then cautiously enter.

INT. MUSTAFAR FORTRESS - VADER'S SANCTUM

The room has a large central feature; a massive meditation chamber, cracked and broken, laying on its side. A large, dusty bacta tank sits at the rear of the chamber, and other equipment lines the sides.

The Awakened Force Cyborg Palabee stops by the entrance as the others venture in. As they come round the remains of the meditation chamber, they see a suit of Vader's Armour, mounted on an armour stand. The mask is visible at the top and all the pieces seem ready to be fitted, at a moment's notice, by the array of mechanical arms that surround it. *Cilmi* moves excitedly over to it.

CILMI INDO'EL

Wow! This must have been one of Vader's spare suits. This is even better than the holorecordings.

Ezra moves cautiously towards the suit, gazing at the mask. He senses Vader.

MULA

I don't like it. It's scary.

EZRA BRIDGER

I am getting a REALLY bad feeling. We should be careful. Are you sure those arms are inactive?

CILMI INDO'EL

It looks inactive. Dusty certainly. Let's get some scans. This is what we came for! One of Vader's old suits!

SABINE WREN

This IS what we came for, Ezra. It's even better than the holovids.

Ezra looks uncertain but is interrupted by his communicator beeping.

HONDO OHNAKA (O.S.)

Ezra, my boy. Lando is starting to get concerned about you all. Have you finished down there?

EZRA BRIDGER

We've just found something; we'll try and get some scans. How's it looking up there?

HONDO OHNAKA (O.S.)

All quiet up here.

CILMI INDO'EL

Hey Ezra. You should ask Lando if they've fixed any of the other landers. If we could bring this suit with us, we could learn so much more to help defeat Vader.

EZRA BRIDGER

No way! We are not bringing THAT with us. Just get what scans you can, that should be enough.

CILMI INDO'EL

Sabine said it. This is what we came for, Ezra. Not just scans. I think we can even get it out if we-

EZRA BRIDGER

Cilmi! Wait!

Cilmi reaches out to try to dislodge the suit and Ezra leaps forward to stop her. Both their hands touch the suit at the same time.

INT. STAR DESTROYER - VADER'S CHAMBER - MEDITATION CUBICLE

The dark cubicle is illuminated by a single shaft of light which falls on an opening meditation chamber, revealing Darth Vader. The chamber looks similar to the ruined one located on Mustafar, except working. Darth Vader's helmet descends on his horribly scarred head. Fitting into place with a hiss.

DARTH VADER

I have you now.

Darth Vader turns and activates a viewscreen, showing Admiral Terse.

DARTH VADER

Admiral Terse. Lay in a course for the Mustafar system immediately.

ADMIRAL TERSE

Yes, Lord Vader.

INT. MUSTAFAR FORTRESS - VADER'S SANCTUM

Ezra and Cilmi both stand frozen and shocked, each with a hand on Vader's suit. They both look around. Hondo's voice breaks the moments silence.

HONDO OHNAKA (O.S.)

Hello? Hello? The communicator just went all fuzzy. Can you hear me? You want me to send down a lander?

EZRA BRIDGER

One moment Hondo, we'll call you back. (to Cilmi) Did you feel that?

CILMI INDO'EL

It's Vader's old suit, of course we're going to sense Vader when we touch it.

EZRA BRIDGER

That was more than just sensing Vader. It was almost like I could see him, and he could see us...

CILMI INDO'EL

You're imagining that. Vader's far from here. It was just his suit you were sensing.

SABINE WREN

We can't pass this up, Ezra. If we're quick... Let's get Lando down here so we can take this.

EZRA BRIDGER

(uncertainly) Ok, let's try it. But we must be quick.

INT. GREY HAVEN - HANGER BAY

Lando is working on one of the damaged landers, while the few other crew work at clearing up the sand.

SABINE WREN (O.S.)

Lando. How's the repairs going?

LANDO CALRISSIAN

I've got one of the landers barely working, few more hours I could have it at 100%.

SABINE WREN (O.S.)

We need to hurry. No time to wait. Bring it down now. We've got some cargo to load.

LANDO CALRISSIAN

Ok... hope it doesn't break down half way.

Lando goes to get a ship ready.

EXT. GALAXY - ORBIT OF MUSTAFAR

The Grey Haven hangs in space before the red orb of Mustafar. A single small lander craft exits its nose mounted hanger bay and heads down to Mustafar.

As it heads down from orbit several Stardestroyers appear behind them.

INT. ORBIT OF MUSTAFAR - GREY HAVEN'S LANDING CRAFT

Lando is sitting at the controls of the lander. The power flickers and he bangs on the console to get the lights to steady. His screen beeps urgently and he leans over to check. He clicks his communicator.

LANDO CALRISSIAN

Er, Hondo. How's the keeping watch going?

HONDO OHNAKA (O.S.)

I am keeping an avid eye for any approaching danger and... er... oh! Oh dear. I think we may be in trouble.

LANDO CALRISSIAN

Trouble indeed. I think we're all in trouble. You need to get out of here. I'll head down and pick up Ezra and the others. You come back for us when I've got them, pick us all up. Don't let us down.

HONDO OHNAKA (O.S.)

Of course. Remember, a captain's first duty is to his crew.

EXT. GALAXY - ORBIT OF MUSTAFAR

The Grey Haven jumps to hyperspace and Lando's lander heads to the planet. The Stardestroyers close in.

INT. STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE

Darth Vader stands at the viewport as the Grey Haven jumps to hyperspace.

DARTH VADER

Prepare my ship. What I want is on the surface.
Remain in orbit and ensure no one escapes me.

Vader strides back along the central raised platform of the bridge.

INT. MUSTAFAR FORTRESS - VADER'S SANCTUM

Cilmi and Sabine are examining Vader's suit while Ezra stands nearby, tapping his foot impatiently. His communicator beeps.

LANDO CALRISSIAN (O.S.)

Ezra! We've run out of time. Vader's here and I'm coming down.

EZRA BRIDGER

(alarmed)Guys, we were wrong, we didn't have time. He's here. We need to go.

They all nod, abandon their attempts to dislodge the suit and leave.

INT. MUSTAFAR - GREY HAVEN'S LANDING CRAFT

Lando is sitting at the controls, the view of Vader's Fortress still distant in the viewscreen. The lights flicker again as the whole craft loses power and begins to fall from the sky.

LANDO CALRISSIAN

Uh oh. Uh oh. Bad time to lose power. Don't land in the lava. Look for the high ground.

The landing craft plunges out of the sky as Lando struggles with the controls. He manages to crash-land gently on a patch of solid ground, surrounded by lava. The lander ploughs forward, stopping only just before it falls off the edge. Lando breaths a sigh of relief once it comes to rest. He glances out the window and sees Vader's fighter flying overhead, heading quickly towards his old fortress. He raises his communicator.

LANDO CALRISSIAN

Errr, guys? I hope you're already in your ships and leaving. I'm delayed and Vader's already here.

INT. MUSTAFAR FORTRESS - CORRIDOR

Ezra, Sabine, Cilmi, Mula and the Awakened Force Cyborg Palabee are hurrying towards the landing bay. They rush past the mushroom stalk that was broken by Sabine and Mula's flight previously and come to the entrance of the landing bay. Ezra raises his communicator.

EZRA BRIDGER

How close did you say Vader was?

INT. MUSTAFAR FORTRESS - LANDING BAY

Darth Vader arrives, standing on the back of his fighter, his cape flapping in the wind.

EZRA BRIDGER

Uh oh. That's too close..

Darth Vader reaches out with the force and casually crushes both their ships, both the Grey Havens Lander and Mula's parents scrappy ship. Vader tosses them aside.

MULA

MAMA! PAPA! NOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!

SABINE WREN

We gotta go back, quickly.

Mula reaches out towards the crushed ship as Sabine grabs holds of her. She cries as Sabine carries her with the group back down the corridor.

INT. MUSTAFAR FORTRESS - TRAINING ROOM

The group hurries across the training floor towards one of the back entrances. Mula is growing angrier, her face scowling as she is carried by Sabine. Suddenly she squirms free and darts off, Sabine gives chase, calling after her.

SABINE WREN

Mula! We can't help your parents now. We have to go. We'll come back later. I promise.

Mula stops by one of the stasis chambers and turns to face Sabine. Her face is set and hard.

MULA

Papa showed me what they did to get these monsters to activate. Get through that door and be ready to seal it shut when I get there.

Sabine looks at her a moment before nodding and coming to join Mula.

SABINE WREN

We'll do it together. Hold tight to me, like before.

Mula taps some of the controls and all the surviving stasis chambers around the room open up, revealing the sleeping Force Cyborgs within. (*Large robotic creatures, slightly reminiscent of General Grievous. 2LS G+B*) The chamber next to Mula and Sabine opens as well and a Force Cyborg sits up and turns to face the pair. It reaches out to grasp at them, forcing them to scabble around behind the chamber. Mula squeezes through some of the surrounding metal struts, and Sabine follows, damaging her jetpack slightly with the tight squeeze. They get clear, embrace and activate Sabine's jetpack. The jetpack splutters and fails to start. Sabine smacks it over her shoulder.

SABINE WREN

Come on!!

The jetpack splutters to life, blasting them airborne. Sabine steers the pair towards the open door that the others left through, getting them through the door only just in time.

INT. MUSTAFAR FORTRESS - CORRIDOR

Mula and Sabine jet through the door and it slams shut behind them. Cilmi slices through the controls, sealing them.

CILMI INDO'EL

That should hold them for long enough. Then they're Vader's problem. Well done you two. Maybe a little warning first next time, though?

Ezra turns to the Awakened Force Cyborg, Palabee.

EZRA BRIDGER

Sorry, Palabee. You probably didn't want the others like you hurt.

The Awakened Force Cyborg Palabee beeps sadly then gestures for them to hurry and move on.

EZRA BRIDGER

Yeah, you're right. They probably won't hold him for long. We need to try and find somewhere a bit safer.

CILMI INDO'EL

You understand her?

EZRA BRIDGER

I guess so. I must be getting more aligned with the light side. Makes me more understanding of others.

Cilmi looks thoughtful as the group moves off down the corridor.

INT. MUSTAFAR FORTRESS - TRAINING ROOM

Darth Vader marches into the room, barely pausing when he sees the group of Force Cyborgs. They turn to face him and roar in fear and rage.

DARTH VADER

One of my old training rooms. How the memories return...

Vader seems lost in thought for a moment, observing his surroundings. But he is interrupted by one of the Force Cyborgs overcoming its fear and leaping at Vader. Vader casually grabs it with the force and holds it suspended in the air in front of him.

DARTH VADER

I used to destroy you for FUN. You are mere insects to me. And I will PULL. YOUR. LEGS OFF.

Vader punctuates his words by pulling off the mechanical legs of the Force Cyborg, then he throws the remains at the others still crowding around the sealed door and ignites his lightsabre.

INT. MUSTAFAR FORTRESS - CAVE ENTRANCE

The group are running away, taking many twists and turns along the expansive corridors to escape. Eventually they reach an area where the corridor changes into a passage that looks more

natural, like a cave. With stone pillars either side of the entrance. They pause to catch their breath.

SABINE WREN

Do we know where we're going?

EZRA BRIDGER

I don't know. I don't think we're ready to fight Vader, but we may have to. We could be trapped.

CILMI INDO'EL

Maybe not. This cave looks different. I'm sensing something in there.

EZRA BRIDGER

Sensing what?

CILMI INDO'EL

Some really strong energies. It's like it's calling to me. It might be a way out.

EZRA BRIDGER

Better than staying here. Let's stick together.

They move off down the new passage, passing the flanking columns that demark the entrance.

INT. MUSTAFAR FORTRESS - SITH CAVE

The passage narrows before it gives way to a massive cave, with an exit to the outside covered with a curtain of flowing lava, concealing the entrance from the outside. The cave's interior features various Sith markings on its walls, with the glow from the lava waterfall making them seem to move in sinister, mysterious ways. There is a round rock table formed at the cave's centre with several rectangular, inclined stones placed around the table at the centre of the cave. The group enters. The whole group is wide eyed at this discovery. Mula seems especially entranced by the central table.

EZRA BRIDGER

Wow, this place is huge. I wonder if Vader built this, back when he lived here before.

SABINE WREN

This place feels *old*. Really, really old..

Palabee beeps affirmation. She hangs back near the entrance, afraid to come in too far. Mula walks straight forward as if in a daze, her gaze transfixed on the central table.

MULA

Wow! Look at that!

CILMI INDO'EL

This place is strong in the darkside. This table is at the centre of it. If we meditate here, we can

strengthen our connection to the darkside and increase our power.

EZRA BRIDGER

Vader is a master of the darkside. How would that help us?

CILMI INDO'EL

I've been studying the scans we took of Vader's suit. It looks like it's really vulnerable to Force Lightning. Darkside meditation here could be enough for us to summon powerful force lightning against him.

SABINE WREN

Darkside meditation?

EZRA BRIDGER

It's when you dwell on all the things that increase your passions... like rage, fear, pain... hate. It strengthens your connection to the dark side, aligns you towards the darkness.

SABINE WREN

I don't like it. (AFC Palabee beeps unhappily)
Palabee doesn't like it either.

CILMI INDO'EL

Vader will find us soon. We're trapped here. There's no escape. We must have the power to defeat him. This is what we need to do.

EZRA BRIDGER

I wish Master Skywalker was here. He'd know what to do. (sigh) Our whole purpose for coming here was to defeat Vader. This is probably the best shot we have. We need to do this. Sabine, Palabee, you hold Vader off for as long as you can. We'll join you when we're ready. Mula, you should probably hide. Cilmi, let's get ready.

Everyone nods and moves off. Sabine towards AFC Palabee at the entrance, Ezra and Cilmi towards the stone table. Mula seems to have barely heard them.

INT. MUSTAFAR FORTRESS - CAVE ENTRANCE

Vader marches through the corridors, pausing occasionally at turns to sense the way. His mechanical breathing resonates. He comes to an area where the passageway begins to look more natural, like a cave. With stone pillars either side of the entrance.

DARTH VADER

The ancient Sith Shrine. I remember this place..

Vader seems almost lost in thought for a moment, before he comes to himself and heads deeper in.

INT. MUSTAFAR FORTRESS - SITH CAVE

Ezra and Cilmi sit cross-legged on the table facing each other. Their faces are set and seem to become grimmer and grimmer with each passing moment. The table hums with power. Mula sits nearby, staring at them, mimicking their posture.

Sabine turns from staring at them and faces the passageway. She stands in the mouth of the passage next to AFC Palabee. Suddenly, they start to hear the sound of Vader's breathing echoing down the passage. Sabine puts her helmet on and hefts her blasters.

SABINE WREN

He's here. Get ready.

INT. MUSTAFAR - GREY HAVEN'S LANDING CRAFT

Lando is lying on his back under one of the consoles, working on repairing the ship. Suddenly another console starts beeping and he gets up to check it, glancing out the window as well. He spies an imperial ship, flying search patterns outside Vader's fortress.

LANDO CALRISSIAN

Whoever that is I hope they're not looking for me!

Lando gets back to work fixing the craft, more urgently than before.

INT. MUSTAFAR FORTRESS - SITH CAVE

Vader has arrived. Sabine lowers her blasters and fires at Vaders feet, trying to avoid his deflection ability. Vader marches forward, deflecting the low shots until close enough for Sabine to use her flamethrower.

Vader charges through the flames, his body and arms catching and burning brightly. Vader ignores his burning limbs and launches vicious, enraged overhead blows at Sabine. Sabine uses he energy shield to block the first few but they are so powerful she is forced to her knees and her shield is knocked aside.

AFC Palabee leaps in to save her. Blocking the blow that was aiming for Sabine's head. Sabine scrambles backwards desperately grabbing for her blaster and firing panicked potshots at him. Vader casually blocks the blaster bolts and quickly overwhelms AFC Palabee, disarming her, seizing her

with the force and throwing her against a wall with a stone splitting impact.

Sabine backs away faster towards the centre, firing more shots at Vader. One of her shots is deflected and hits her on the helmet, knocking her to the ground, near the table. She lands in a daze next to Mula, who doesn't break her gaze from the table or react at all. On the table Ezra and Cilmi are almost snarling with rage. They both open their eyes at the same time and stare at each other, unnoticed in the background Mula does the same. They speak in unison. Unnoticed, in the background, Mula mouths the words as well.

EZRA BRIDGER and CILMI INDO'EL

I am ready.

They both roll off the table into aggressive battle postures. Racing to attack Vader they scream with rage. Vader fends them off and they move to encircle him. Cilmi snarls and launches force lightning at Vader, which he blocks with his lightsabre. Before Ezra can summon his own lightning, Vader Force grips him by the throat and throws him aside.

Cilmi grits her teeth and attacks again. This time Ezra joins her but Vader has time to pull AFC Palabee's lightsabre to him to block both their attacks. Darth Vader stands between the two Jedi, holding off their lightning with his red and Palabee's gold lightsabre.

DARTH VADER

You do not have the power to defeat me.

Mula, who had been watching from her hiding place near the table, stares at Darth Vader, the man who killed her parents, standing between the lightning. She screws up her face and screams as she launches her own lightning at Vader, striking and throwing him to the ground. Mula briefly seems surprised by her own power, before her eyes roll back and she collapses next to a recovering Sabine.

Ezra and Cilmi don't hesitate and move in, zapping Vader as they advance. Electricity arches over Vader's suit as he tries to crawl away. Vader's suit breath is laboured. Ezra and Cilmi advance and stand over him. Vader turns over and stares up at them.

DARTH VADER

I remember now. I have been here before..

EZRA BRIDGER

(out of breath) Been where?

DARTH VADER

Dying. How could I have forgotten? I turned away from the emperor, and destroyed him. But I was

trapped by him again. Where is my son? He was here before. He helped me take my mask off.

EZRA BRIDGER

Let me help you.

CILMI INDO'EL

Ezra!

EZRA BRIDGER

It's ok. We can help him.

CILMI INDO'EL

Should we help him?

EZRA BRIDGER

I don't know if we should, but I'm going to.

Ezra removes Vader's mask, revealing that Vader's face is much less scarred than before. The burns seem to slowly heal before their eyes. Light-Side Vader takes a deep breath.

LIGHT-SIDE VADER/ANAKIN SKYWALKER

I feel my son should be here. Where is Luke?

Before Ezra can reply the imperial ship that was searching outside smashes through the curtain of lava and enters the cave. It now has Dark-Side Luke Skywalker (*Now Sith Lord Darth Natus, meaning Destined Son. Fearsome face paint*) standing on top of it. Luke jumps off his ship and lands nearby.

EZRA BRIDGER

Master Skywalker?

DARK-SIDE LUKE SKYWALKER/DARTH NATUS

Not quite. I am Darth Natus.

Darth Natus draws and ignites six red lightsabres and uses the force to levitate them. They begin to spin around him before striking out towards Ezra and Cilmi, forcing them to jump away. They try to use lightning but Luke's lightsabres move to easily block them. Luke ignores them and advances on Light-Side Vader.

DARK-SIDE LUKE SKYWALKER/DARTH NATUS

I find you here conspiring with the Emperor's enemies? He was right to send me to replace you. You are weak, *Anakin Skywalker*. (speaks name with contempt)

Anakin Skywalker (*Vader without his mask. Face looking healed*) stands up, facing his son.

LIGHT-SIDE VADER/ANAKIN SKYWALKER

I am Anakin Skywalker. I have put away my anger, my hatred and my pain. You showed me the way before. Let me show you now.

Vader ignites his lightsabre and holds it in front of him in salute. The blade changes from Red to Blue. The colours twisting and changing from the hilt. Luke seems shocked and backs away.

DARK-SIDE LUKE SKYWALKER/DARTH NATUS

(shaking head)No... That's impossible! You are weak...

LIGHT-SIDE VADER/ANAKIN SKYWALKER

No, I am your father.

DARK-SIDE LUKE SKYWALKER/DARTH NATUS

Noooooooooooooooooooo!

Luke attacks Vader, assaulting him with his lightsabres. Vader is forced back, using his blue lightsabre to deflect attacks.

DARK-SIDE LUKE SKYWALKER/DARTH NATUS

I will not be drawn into your weakness, father. The dark side is so strong here, it swells through me!

Darth Natus notices the table in the middle of the room.

LIGHT-SIDE VADER/ANAKIN SKYWALKER

The power here will deceive you. It will not give you what you desire.

DARK-SIDE LUKE SKYWALKER/DARTH NATUS

I desire to be the chosen of the Emperor. I will destroy you and take your place at his side. This power will serve me well.

Darth Natus walks to the stone table and stands in the middle of it, feet spread wide. He begins to extract power from it. His remaining lightsabres return to him and spin around the table in a perimeter, defending him.

Light-side Vader, Ezra, Cilmi meet up. They are all worn from their battles with Luke's lightsabres.

EZRA BRIDGER

Well, this was unexpected.

LIGHT-SIDE VADER/ANAKIN SKYWALKER

Indeed. Luke... Darth Natus... will draw the power from the Sith shrine till he will be almost unstoppable. You must run, you cannot defeat him here.

CILMI INDO'EL

We must try. He'll be worse than Vader... than you.

LIGHT-SIDE VADER/ANAKIN SKYWALKER

No, you must flee. I will stay. I can get through to him. There is still good in him, I feel it.

EZRA BRIDGER

How are we going to get away? Before Luke's finished with the ritual?

Suddenly, another ship comes crashing through the lava curtain.

LANDO CALRISSIAN (O.S.)

YEEE-haw. Cavalry is here. Figured something was going on. What exactly IS going on?

EZRA BRIDGER

(into communicator)Lando! Good to see you. Perfect timing. Just land, we need to get out of here.

LIGHT-SIDE VADER/ANAKIN SKYWALKER

No, I must stay. He is my son. I must save him, or at least try.

Ezra and Cilmi gather up Sabine and Mula and carry them to the ship. They board and as they fly away Darth Natus' fully Sith eyes snap open. He turns to face Vader.

DARK-SIDE LUKE SKYWALKER/DARTH NATUS

You were foolish to stay to face my power.

LIGHT-SIDE VADER/ANAKIN SKYWALKER

The power is an illusion. You cannot destroy me.

Darth Natus advances on Vader, zapping him with lightning as his flying lightsabres chop at him. Vader offers no resistance. Stumbling and falling back as the lightsabres knock him to the ground, severing some of his mechanical limbs. Luke stands over Vader, all his lightsabres poised to strike. He grits his teeth in rage and indecision.

INT. MUSTAFAR - GREY HAVEN'S LANDING CRAFT

The inside of the landing craft is packed with Ezra, Cilmi, Sabine, Mula and Lando all inside. The craft smashes through the lava curtain and flies out of the cave entrance. As the ship gains altitude one of the consoles starts to beep.

LANDO CALRISSIAN

Err, it's nice that we're away from that cave but this craft isn't built for long range, and we have some TIE fighters incoming.

CILMI INDO'EL

What happened to our cruiser?

LANDO CALRISSIAN

Hondo has it. He said he'd be back.

CILMI INDO'EL

Hondo left us?

EZRA BRIDGER

Hondo won't let us down. He'll be there. I know it.

The landing craft gets clear of the atmosphere and gets a good view of the blockade facing them. A wall of Tie fighters is

heading towards them, with Stardestroyers visible in the background.

CILMI INDO'EL

We're might as well have stayed down there. We'll need to be more than lucky to escape from this..

EZRA BRIDGER

There is no such thing as luck, only the force.
Suddenly the Grey Haven exits hyperspace and appears nearby.

HONDO OHNAKA (O.S.)

Told you I'd be back. I would never let my crew down.

LANDO CALRISSIAN

Hondo! Can you hold her steady so we can dock?

HONDO OHNAKA (O.S.)

I'll do you one better, let me show you an old pirate trick. YOU keep YOUR ship steady.

The Grey Haven zooms closer. Its nose mounted hanger bay looming larger and larger in the viewscreen. Lando braces on the controls as the Grey Haven scoops up the lander into its front hanger bay. The lander comes to rest inside the still sandy hanger before the Grey Haven jumps away.

INT. STAR DESTROYER - BRIDGE

Admiral Terse and several other officers are gathered on the bridge talking nervously to each other. They cut off as Darth Natus/Dark-side Luke Skywalker enters. Admiral Terse sets forward and bows respectfully.

ADMIRAL TERSE

Lord Natus, the Emperor has informed us you are to be taking command, replacing Lord Vader. If I may ask-

DARK-SIDE LUKE SKYWALKER/DARTH NATUS

You may not. No-one is to speak the name of my father, Vader, on this ship again. He was weak, and a failure to the Emperor.

ADMIRAL TERSE

But my lord-

Admiral Terse is cut off as Darth Natus/Dark-side Luke Skywalker force grips him by the throat. Behind him his six red lightsabres ignite and fan out, threatening all sides.

DARK-SIDE LUKE SKYWALKER/DARTH NATUS

Whatever leeway you thought you has under my father will not be tolerated now. My father was weak, WEAK! I do not share his weakness. I will suffer no

discord in my command. Our orders are to return to the Dark Cauldron for reinforcements. The Emperor needs more forces to truly conquer the galaxy. We will gather what he needs.

The assembled officers murmur their cowed assent, before Admiral Terse is released and drops to his knees, gasping for breath.

INT. MUSTAFAR FORTRESS - VADER'S SANCTUM - AFTER CREDITS SCENE

The battered form of Palabee crawls across the floor, dragging the battered form of Anakin Skywalker/Light-side Vader behind her. They are heading towards Vader's replacement suit. Which is still mostly intact. They reach it and Vader opens his eyes and raises his hand up towards the suit, as if in supplication, to the mask of Vader.