

PADME

Written by

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Based on, Star Wars

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. THEED FUNERAL TEMPLE - NIGHT

On the dais, PADME AMIDALA lies in state in the blue funeral gown her handmaids had chosen for her. The warm brown curls of her hair are fanned like a halo on the pillow with flowers adorning it.

In her hands is the japor snippet ANAKIN SKYWALKER had given her so many years ago.

She lies still as if sleeping, no breath left her lungs, not a muscle stirred.

As the dawn light starts to creep across her face, her eyes open and she gasps.

CARD: 3 years later

INT. PADME'S BEDROOM - DAY

Padme sits at her vanity and looks into the mirror. These years on the run have not been kind to her.

Her hair is pulled back into utilitarian braids. Gone are the days of elegant costume and makeup as defense.

Clad in her battle gear and leather boots, she puts on her bounty hunter mask.

EXT. REBEL BASE - DAY

Overhead a star destroyer jumps out of hyperspace and spits out a swarm of tie fighters.

On the ground is a small settlement on the edge of the ocean. The settlement looks like a kicked ant-hive as the people prepare to flee.

Padme emerges from one of the buildings, blaster in hand, and takes charge of the chaos.

PADME
Get to your ships!

Bombs start dropping around her as tie fighters wiz by overhead. A few ships manage to take off but are quickly destroyed.

As Padme runs toward her own ship, a shuttle lands in front of her, blocking her path.

The ramp lowers to reveal DARTH VADER, flanked by a squad of stormtroopers.

DARTH VADER
Kill the others. The leader is
mine.

Padme recoils and turns to run as Vader strides toward her igniting his lightsaber.

DARTH VADER (CONT'D)
You have interfered with the
Emperor's plans for the last time.

Padme runs toward the water in a desperate hope that she could swim away-- she was always a good swimmer.

She fires her blaster behind her hoping to slow him down.

It's too late. He reaches out with the force and starts to pull her toward him.

DARTH VADER (CONT'D)
Your pitiful rebellion is over. No
one can resist the power of the
dark side.

Padme turns to face him, resigned to her fate.

PADME
You're wrong, there will always be
those brave enough to stand against
you. The will of the people can
never be silenced. All Empires fall
eventually.

Vader glides toward her, pulling her to him with the force.

He stabs her through the heart with his light saber.

She falls to the ground and he removes her mask, only to reveal the face of his wife.

INSERT - HOLODISK PROJECTION

Padme as the galaxy knew her, her hair falling around her face in soft curls, fully made up, in her Senatorial robes.

PADME

If you are seeing this message, I am already dead. The Empire has lied to you. It deals only in lies and half-truths. I was not killed by the Jedi, but by the Empire. A martyr in the resistance against Palpatine's ambition, and evil thirst for power. The peace the Empire has promised us is not a true peace. Is it peace when our friends are taken and return broken if at all? Is it peace when entire planets are laid waste in silence? The Empire is vast and powerful, but even in the darkest of times there is always hope. We have a duty to resist our own annihilation. My rebellion may be over, but yours is just beginning.

ACT ONE

EXT. SPACE ABOVE THE PLANET OF **NABOO** - DAWN

A small Alderaanian space craft races towards the blue-green planet of Naboo. The dawn light creeps slowly across the dark planet.

INT. ALDERAANIAN CRUISER - CONTROL ROOM - DAWN

We hear the familiar sound of R2D2 beeping urgently.

C3PO looks up from the controls.

C3PO

I know R2 we must hurry! She
doesn't have much time.

EXT. THEED FUNERAL TEMPLE - NIGHT

The warm light of the temple shines out under the dome.

The city is quiet aside from the sound of the waterfall.

INT. THEED FUNERAL TEMPLE - NIGHT

Padme's handmaids: SABE, RABE, EIRTAE, SACHE, YANE, and DORME sit vigil in a ring around her in matching hooded blue robes of mourning, their faces in shadow, weeping silently.

All bear some resemblance to Padme, though Sache is younger and Eirtae is blonde.

Sabe looks the most like her, having served as her decoy during her time as Naboo's queen.

Rabe softly plays the stringed hallikset, sharing their grief, reluctant to break the silence.

Dorme is the first to move, standing over Padme's body, she softly strokes her cheek.

DORME

We failed her.

Rabe stops playing and looks up.

RABE

She knew the risks.

Eirtae, Sache and Yane stand up and approach the dais, joining Dorme, while Sabe moves off on her own away from the others.

EIRTAE

She was brave.

SACHE

She would have made the sacrifice
for the Republic.

Sache, out of habit goes to touch her scars, left when the Trade Federation tortured her during their occupation of Naboo.

Yane squeezes her wife Sache's hand, their matching rings visible on their entwined fingers.

YANE

As would we all, for her.

Sabe stands at the edge of the temple, facing away from the others, looking out towards the waterfall.

SABE

(quietly)
Not like this.

FLASHBACK - INT. STAR SKIFF - DAY

Padme punches in the coordinates for the planet of Mustafar on the main display.

PADME

I believe there is still good in him, but I fear we are too late. If Anakin is too far gone, if I can't bring him back to the light I need you to do something for me. I need you to kill me.

C3P0

But Mistress Padme--

Padme holds up her hand to stop the droid's protest.

PADME

Anywhere I run, he will find me. In order for my child to be safe Anakin must believe I am dead. And so must the Galaxy.

C3P0
But how can I--?

Padme presses a secret spot on the command chair of her ship to reveal a hidden compartment. A hiss of air escapes as it opens releasing a cloud of fog that disperses to reveal a single syringe.

PADME
There is an herb from my home planet that one my of handmaid's discovered will put you into a death-like sleep if prepared correctly. We learned of it after the Siege of Naboo and kept a dose hidden for when all is lost.

C3P0
But Mistress Padme what about the baby?

Tears fill her eyes but she fights them away.

PADME
(hesitates)
It is... untested. But it should cause no harm.

Padme takes a breath and steels herself.

PADME (CONT'D)
If Obi-Wan is to be believed, Anakin slaughtered innocent children at the temple. Our child will likely be strong in the Force. I won't allow them to suffer the same fate or fall to the dark side. This is our only hope.

FLASHBACK - EXT. **CORUSCANT** LANDING PLATFORM - DAY

The ramp of her ship rises as it starts to lift off.

Jedi master, OBI-WAN KENOBI leaps onto the ramp at the last second, ducking inside as the ramp closes.

FLASHBACK - EXT. SPACE ABOVE CORUSCANT - DAY

The star skiff leaves Coruscant's atmosphere and jumps to light speed.

FLASHBACK - EXT. **MUSTAFAR** LANDING PLATFORM - DAY

On the landing platform suspended above the lava flows of the planet, Padme confronts her husband.

PADME

*Anakin, you're breaking my heart.
You're going down a path I can't
follow.*

ANAKIN

Because of Obi-Wan?

PADME

*Because of what you've done. What
you plan to do.*

Anakin sees Obi-Wan at the top of the ramp of Padme's ship.

PADME (CONT'D)

*Stop! Stop now! Come back. I love
you.*

ANAKIN

*Liar! You're with him! You brought
him here to kill me.*

Obi-Wan purposefully moves down the ramp to confront Anakin.

PADME

No!

Anakin reaches out and chokes Padme with the force.

OBI-WAN

Let her go.

PADME

Anakin...

Padme looks at her husband pleadingly, tears in her eyes.

OBI-WAN

Let. Her. Go.

Anakin releases Padme and she collapses to the ground, unconscious.

From C3PO's POV on the ship we see Anakin and Obi-wan circle each other as they argue.

Obi-wan checks Padme's pulse and confirms she's still alive.

Anakin charges at Obi-wan light saber swinging. Pushing him down the platform away from where Padme lies prone.

We hear the clash of light sabers fade into the distance.

As Anakin and Obi-Wan's duel moves away, C3PO rushes to Padme's side and tries to revive her.

R2D2 joins them, beeping in distress.

C3PO
Mistress Padme? Mistress Padme? Oh
no!

Padme slowly regains consciousness.

PADME
3PO, it's time. You must give me
the drug. Once it takes effect you
will have 48 hours to get me off
Naboo. After the funeral procession
our tradition is to cremate the
dead at dawn. R2, we will need your
help. Tell no one. Not even Obi-
Wan.

3PO carries Padme onto the ship with R2D2 trailing behind them sounding his confusion.

INT. STAR SKIFF - NIGHT

3PO opens the hidden compartment and extracts the syringe. R2 gets between 3PO and Padme demanding an explanation.

C3PO
R2 get out of the way, there's no
time to explain.

R2 moves out of the way grumbling.

3PO goes to administer the drug to Padme.

C3PO (CONT'D)
Mistress Padme, are you sure
there's no other way?

She nods her assent.

C3PO (CONT'D)
Oh, I have a bad feeling about
this.

C3PO inserts the needle into her arm and depresses the plunger.

PADME
No turning back now.

Her hands go to her stomach. Something is wrong.

PADME (CONT'D)
3PO... I think the baby is coming,
you must--

The drug begins to take effect, pulling her back down into unconsciousness.

EXT. THEED - PRESENT DAY

The Alderaanian cruiser drops softly on the landing platform of Theed, the capital city of Naboo.

The ramp opens to reveal C3PO and R2D2 who make haste toward the temple.

INT. THEED FUNERAL TEMPLE - PRESENT DAY

The handmaids wait silently for the dawn, hoping Padme will wake and this nightmare will be no more than another ruse.

But the waiting is getting to them. They can't stand feeling helpless, especially Sabe who paces back and forth, ready to explode.

SABE
It doesn't make any sense! She
wouldn't just die. And an empire?
Headed by Sheev Palpatine? Nothing
about this makes sense!

EIRTAE
There's still a chance she will
wake. We never knew for sure how
long the poison would last.

SABE
Isn't there an antidote? *Something*
we could try?

EIRTAE
I'm sorry, there's nothing we can
do but wait.

Eirtae goes to Sabe's side and puts a hand on her shoulder, which Sabe quickly shakes off.

SABE

Dorme, you were with her. What happened?

DORME

I don't know. She still had her secrets, even from me. It's not like when she was Queen, sometimes she would go off alone, turn off her comms.

SABE

Why would you let her go off alone? How could you let this happen?

YANE

Don't blame Dorme, this isn't her fault.

RABE

You know how Padme was, do you think any of us could stop her if she wanted to do something?

DORME

And why weren't YOU there? You walked away! You ran off to Tatooine to play liberator. She needed you!

SABE

I...I couldn't stay...not with *him* there...

DORME

Anakin?

SABE

You knew?

DORME

It was an ill-kept secret. She was practiced at deception but he was not. And neither hid their feelings well.

SABE

There was a darkness to him, it... frightened me. That's why I left. I think--I think he hurt her.

SACHE
 (reasonably)
 But Anakin Skywalker is dead. It
 went out over the holonet.

SABE
 I can't just stay here and do
 nothing. I have to find out what
 happened to her. And whoever is
 responsible will pay.

Sabe stalks away, tossing her handmaiden robe on the ground
 to reveal a white utilitarian outfit with a brown belt and
 work boots, much like one of Padme's.

EIRTAE
 (calling after her)
 Sabe, don't leave! There's still
 hope...

Sabe turns back one last time.

SABE
 (sadly)
 I left hope behind long ago.

EXT. THEED TEMPLE - DAWN

As the sun begins to cast its light over the waterfall, R2D2
 and C3PO reach the temple.

INT. THEED TEMPLE - DAWN

The handmaids look up as they hear the sound of the droids.

As the droids enter the temple the handmaids move to block
 their view of Padme.

DORME
 How dare you intrude on this sacred
 ground?

Behind them Padme begins to stir.

As the poison that has been holding her in stasis begins to
 wear off and life slowly returns to her body we see quick
 flashes of her life in a blur of images and echoing words.

FLASHBACK - INT. **POLIS MASSA** - MED BAY - NIGHT

Padme lies on the medical table, slipping in and out of consciousness.

PADME'S POV - Blurry figures move around the room.

From outside the room she can hear muffled voices.

MED DROID (O.S)

*We need to operate quickly if we're
to save the babies.*

BAIL ORGANA (O.S)

Babies?

MED DROID (O.S.)

She's carrying twins.

DIP TO BLACK

Padme cries in pain on the table as Obi-wan holds her hand and leans over her concerned.

A screen covers the lower half of her body, from behind it a med droid appears, presenting her baby boy.

PADME

Luke.

DIP TO BLACK

Padme cries out again, as the med droid goes back behind the screen, and appears with a second baby.

OBI-WAN

It's a girl.

PADME

Leia.

INT. THEED TEMPLE - DAWN

Padme's eyes snap open and she gasps.

ACT TWO

INT. THEED TEMPLE - DAWN

C3PO summons every ounce of intimidation he can muster while R2 beeps menacingly.

C3PO

I am under orders from Mistress Padme that no one is to be inside the temple at dawn. You must leave immediately.

PADME

3PO, it's alright. I trust them.

The handmaids gasp at hearing her voice.

Dorme bursts into tears of relief.

Eirtae rushes to Padme and starts checking her vitals and examining her.

Sache and Yane hug each other, sharing their joy.

Rabe calmly walks to Sabe's discarded robe and picks it up.

RABE

Not that I'm not happy to see you, but we've got to get you out of here before the city wakes up.

She throws Padme the robe.

The handmaids fall into place with a practiced ease.

Dorme helps Padme out of her gown and she puts on the robe.

Rabe starts to braid her hair, while Dorme fixes her makeup.

SACHE

We'll need a decoy body.

PADME

Does that matter when I'm about to be cremated?

SACHE

The assembly decided for some reason not to cremate you in keeping with tradition. They're constructing a tomb instead.

RABE

I think we could rig something up,
as long as no one looks too
closely.

EIRTAE

We'll need to extract her med-chip,
it will make the decoy more
convincing and keep her from being
found out.

Padme pulls aside her robe to reveal her abdomen and Eirtae
uses a device to remove the chip.

PADME

Where are the babies?

Everyone stops. The handmaids look stricken.

SACHE

Babies? There's more than one?

DORME

We thought...

YANE

(softly)

Padme, you lost the pregnancy...the
poison...

PADME

No, no. I remember I gave
birth...or was it a dream?

Her voice shakes, losing confidence in her own reality.

C3PO

Pardon me, Mistress, I assure you,
the twins are alive, but they've
been hidden for their safety. Your
plan was successful, the galaxy
believes both you and your baby are
dead. And no one knows there are
two.

PADME

Where were they taken? Why aren't
they here on Naboo with my family?

C3PO

Master Yoda insisted--

RABE

I'm sorry to interrupt but we have to move.

Padme nods reluctantly.

She and the handmaids pull down their hoods and Rabe leads the group out of the temple.

EXT. THEED - DAY

The handmaids, hoods up disguised in their blue robes make their way through Theed's central district as the droids scout the way to the ship.

They pass through clean tree lined stone streets, colonnaded walkways decorated by flowers, to a square designed around a fountain and surrounded by a canal with stone bridges arching above it.

C3PO

Our ship is this way.

They walk quickly heads lowered as the city has started to awake.

Passersby recognize the handmaids and offer their condolences for their loss.

RABE

(quietly to Padme)

We can hide you in the lake country.

PADME

No, that's the first place Anakin would look. I have to find my children and then we'll need to hide, maybe on the Outer Rim. Somewhere the Empire can't reach. Maybe the Jedi would help?

DORME

Milady, the Jedi are all dead, or gone. They're being hunted, and Anakin--

SACHE

We heard on the holonet that Anakin was killed in the Jedi Rebellion.

C3PO

It's true, Obi-Wan...killed him.

PADME
(defeated)
This is all my fault.

She stops, grief stricken.

SACHE
We can't stop here, there are
patrols since the Empire has taken
charge, you can't be discovered.

Sache takes Padme's arm and hurries her along.

PADME
They stop civilians? Why would the
queen allow this?

SACHE
Quarsh Panaka was put in charge by
Emperor Palpatine. Things are
changing on Naboo far too quickly.

At the access point to the landing platform the NABOO SECURITY FORCES stop passengers attempting to leave the planet.

NABOO SECURITY OFFICER
Chain code?

The passengers hand over their chip for inspection. Some are waived through while many are turned away.

The handmaids file into the long line of people trying to leave Naboo.

Rabe leans close to Padme.

RABE
(whispering)
You can only leave the planet with
a chain code and they're hard to
come by.

She places a chip in Padme's hand.

RABE (CONT'D)
I forged this one for you. Dorme
has one as well. The rest of us
can't go.

PADME
What do you mean? We can't just
leave you behind.

EIRTAE

We will stay and defend the Naboo.

SACHE

I had hoped to be elected Governor, but I still have some power as a representative. I have a responsibility to stay.

YANE

And we can't leave the children. Or bring them into danger.

PADME

And Sabe? I thought she would be with you...

EIRTAE

She was, but she took your death very hard. She was so angry.

RABE

She left intent on finding out what happened to you.

SACHE

We'll get a message to her.

PADME

No, we can't tell her now. A message could be intercepted. I'll tell her myself.

Sache nods.

R2D2 and C3PO pass through the security line.

As they get close to the front of the line Padme and Dorme say goodbye to the others.

PADME (CONT'D)

Be brave and stay safe.

SACHE

We will see each other again. I know it.

The four handmaids split off, heading in different directions as Padme and Dorme hand their chain codes to the Naboo officers.

The officers slowly scrutinize them peering under their hoods.

DORME

Is their a problem officers?

NABOO SECURITY OFFICER

Your code checks out, move along.

As Padme and Dorme board the Alderaanian cruiser, Padme looks back at her city, wondering if she'll ever see it again.

The ramp closes and the ship takes off.

INT. ALDERAANIAN CRUISER - PADME'S BEDROOM - DAY

In the diplomatic rooms on the cruiser, Padme stands at the window looking down on her planet below.

DORME

What now, milady?

Padme takes a seat at the mirror and Dorme starts unbraiding her hair and brushing it.

PADME

If Anakin is truly gone...
This deception was all for nothing.
I could find my children and go
back to my life.

DORME

Padme, what happened between you?
Why do all of this? Sabe said...
She saw a darkness in him..

Padme finally lets go and allows herself to fall apart, crying on Dorme's shoulder in a rare show of emotion.

PADME

Anakin, he killed the Jedi, he
killed younglings. I didn't want to
believe Obi-Wan, but I saw the
recording from the temple myself.

DORME

But how could he?

PADME

I knew he was capable of it, on
Tatooine, after his mother died, he
did...horrible things. But I never
thought...

DORME

But surely he would never harm you and the babies? I've never seen a man so devoted to anyone.

PADME

He changed. He saw so much death and pain during the war. When I went after him, he—

Her hand goes to her throat remembering.

DORME

I'm so sorry Padme, I should have been with you.

PADME

It's not your fault, I pushed you away. I pushed all of you away to keep the secret. I wish—

But Padme stops herself, summoning back her years of training and composure, and her face assumes the Amidala persona that's shielded her all this time.

PADME (CONT'D)

It doesn't matter now. All that matters is finding the children.

DORME

We'll need a better disguise. You'd be too easily discovered as a handmaid.

Dorme opens the closet and starts pulling out clothing.

DORME (CONT'D)

(gently)

And after? You could go home.

INT. ALDERAANIAN CRUISER - CONTROL ROOM - DAY

C3PO and R2D2 pull up the holo map of star systems.

Padme and Dorme enter the control room in their new bounty hunter outfits, the exact outfit we saw in the flash forward open.

The loosely fitted clothing allows for range of motion while disguising the lines of their bodies with utility bags hiding the waist. Muted coloring will keep them from standing out.

Carefully disguised armor plating is built into the clothing for protection and a hooded shawl shadows their faces even without the mask in place. Not a single shred of skin shows.

PADME

Now, where are my children?

C3PO gestures to positions on the map. He draws a line from Naboo to Tatooine along the hyperspace lanes.

C3PO

Luke is on Tatooine with his aunt and uncle--

PADME

Tatooine, Anakin's home planet? He'll easily be discovered there!

R2 beeps in agreement with Padme.

C3PO

Well it wasn't *my* decision! Master Obi-Wan is there watching over him.

R2 beeps derisively.

C3PO then draws a line from Tatooine on the Outer Rim all the way to Alderaan, near the core of the galaxy.

C3PO (CONT'D)

Senator Organa took Leia to Alderaan to raise her.

PADME

Leia should be safe enough hidden with Bail. He and Breha always wanted children. We'll have to get to Luke first. He's in danger there.

C3PO and R2D2 set a course for Tatooine and the ship jumps to lightspeed.

Padme turns on the holonet news.

PADME (CONT'D)

Let's see what's happened to the galaxy while I was sleeping. DORME can you access my Senatorial messages without alerting anyone?

DORME

Yes milady, if R2 can patch us in to your comms.

A Hologram of EMPEROR PALPATINE pops up. A growing horror dawns on the faces of Padme and Dorne as they listen to Palpatine's propaganda.

PALPATINE

It is a tragic day in galactic history, but one that brings with it peace and a restored order as I reluctantly take control of the first Galactic Empire. The Jedi have betrayed the Republic, concealing their true aims in fostering this terrible war with the Separatists. They made an attempt on my own life which would have succeeded if not for the brave actions of war hero Anakin Skywalker, who lost his life in protecting mine. Our loyal clone troopers stopped the insurrection at the Jedi temple and have put down uprisings across the galaxy by these Jedi traitors. Tragically they were too late to save the life of our beloved Senator from Naboo, Padme Amidala. These Jedi must be stopped at all costs. Any information leading to the capture of a Jedi will be rewarded. Failure to provide said information will be severely punished. Anyone found to be harboring a Jedi will be executed and their planet will be forfeit.

As Palpatine speaks his image gives way to storm troopers and tanks parading through the streets of capital cities across the galaxy.

MONTAGE - ACROSS THE GALAXY - VARIOUS

(1) The sound of their boots echoes. Storm troopers march through Theed in neat rows of matching uniforms with tanks hovering behind them.

(2) Students protesting at a university are beaten by stormtroopers

(3) A series a parents asking the Senator for help as their force sensitive children have been taken

(4) Footage of Jedi sympathizers walking behind barbed wire in prison camps

(5) Stormtroopers break into people's homes, line entire families up against a wall in the night. From outside the house we hear the sound of gunfire.

BACK TO SCENE

Padme switches off the holonet.

Padme, Dorme, 3PO and R2 sit in stunned silence for a moment.

PADME

I can never go back. I'd be
contradicting the Emperor's story.
He'd have me killed immediately.
But we can't let these lies stand.
We have to fight back.

She puts on her bounty hunter helmet with the voice modulator Dorme put together for her.

PADME (CONT'D)

I'm a rebel now.

ACT THREE

DREAM SEQUENCE - EXT. LAKE HOUSE - NABOO - DAY

Padme sits on the balcony overlooking the water holding Luke.

Her hair is down in soft curls and she's enveloped by a light colored silk gown that hangs from her shoulders.

She looks to camera, smiling and calls--

PADME

Anakin, come meet your son.

Anakin walks into frame, kisses Padme and takes the baby who giggles in his arms. Anakin smiles, enchanted.

Suddenly the skies turn dark, clouds roll in, the light dims and lightening crashes.

Obi-wan strides in, lightsaber ignited.

OBI-WAN

Get away from her.

Anakin's eyes flash the yellow of a Sith. The baby vanishes.

Anakin transforms into Vader and force chokes Padme.

VADER

You're with him.

FLASH

Padme cries while Anakin chokes her

FLASH

Obi-Wan striding towards him with the light saber

FLASH

OBI-WAN

You were the chosen one!

FLASH

VADER

You turned her against me!

FIRE, PAIN

INT. STAR DESTROYER - NIGHT

Anakin floats in a bacta tank, hooked up to tubes keeping him alive, burned beyond recognition.

His eyes open, full of hate.

EXT. SPACE - **ARKANIS SECTOR** - DAY

As Padme's ship drops out of hyperspace in the Arkanis sector, they are immediately surrounded by formerly Republic, now Imperial ships.

INT. ALDERAANIAN CRUISER - DAY

Padme and Dorme rush to the control room of the ship.

Looking out through the windows of the ship, Padme and her party are frozen in shock and dismay.

It's a small blockade compared to their experience in the Clone Wars and the occupation of Naboo, but it's enough to capture them and put a stop to her plans.

PADME

What are they doing this far out?

C3P0

The Tatoo system is where the Triellus Trade Route and the Old Corellian Run meet, it's an ideal location for smugglers.

DORME

The Empire is monitoring all trade routes, officially to stop smugglers, but really they are looking for refugee Jedi.

The comms channel beeps and blinks.

It's time for Padme to put her new persona to the test.

She puts on her helmet to modify her voice.

PADME

Answer it R2.

R2 beeps with concern but does as she says.

IMPERIAL OFFICER (V.O.)

Cruiser, state your business in this system and send your ship code for identification.

R2 transmits the codes that Rabe had given them.

PADME

We are traders from Corelia. We bring Karlini silk and tea to trade on Tatooine before we return to the Core.

IMPERIAL OFFICER

That's strange, no one brings Karlini silk out here.

Dorme and C3PO exchange a look of concern and R2 chirps quietly. But Padme doesn't flinch.

PADME

That's precisely why we're here. An untapped market.

IMPERIAL OFFICER

If you say so ma'am. Regardless we will have to search the ship before you can proceed.

PADME

Yes, of course officer.

The holo clicks off and the team springs into action.

DORME

We didn't have time to bring on cargo for our cover.

PADME

We can't let them search the ship.

R2 takes over the ships flight controls beeping excitedly.

C3PO

Yes, R2 I know you've run blockades with Anakin but this is not remotely the same thing.

R2 beeps in disagreement.

PADME

If R2 says he can do it I trust him.

She looks at R2 and nods.

PADME (CONT'D)

We'll do it together. Dorme, go to weapons control. They won't be expecting us to run.

Padme's ship evades the imperial blockade, finding a hole in their formation and flying past, firing a defensive burst behind them and moving quickly out of sight behind one of the moons.

INT. STAR DESTROYER - DAY

The IMPERIAL OFFICER turns away from the windows, addressing his battalion.

IMPERIAL OFFICER

Let them go, when they try to land our officers on the planet will capture them.

EXT. SPACEPORT - MOS ESPA - DAY

An imperial transport shuttle sits at the edge of a square ringed by beige domed buildings designed to keep off the desert heat.

In contrast to the usual bustle of sketchy spice traders and smugglers, instead of Tatooine farmers going about their day and selling their goods - the market square is filled with CLONE TROOPERS.

The troopers stop everyone who comes into the square, checking their identity and holding them for questioning.

CLONE TROOPER LEADER

By order of Emperor Palpatine you must turn over any contraband immediately.

They tear apart a cargo shipment leaving a trail of broken goods - torn bags of flour, shattered ceramics and meat spoiling in the hot sun.

A group of troopers board a ship nearby, escorting out a lizard-faced Trandoshan in cuffs.

In the shadows of a doorway on the edge of the square two SMUGGLERS whisper to each other.

SMUGGLER

Get a message to Jabba.

The other smuggler pulls up their hood and ducks away.

One trader waiting to be questioned by the troopers looks nervous and takes off running.

The clone troopers shoot him in the back.

CLONE TROOPER LEADER

If we find a Jedi and you did not
turn them over, the entire town is
forfeit.

INT. STAR DESTROYER - DAY

Vader is slowly lifted out of the bacta tank as machines put
on his armor.

As the helmet clicks into place we hear the heavy sound of
his breathing.

IMPERIAL OFFICER

The Emperor wants to see you.

Vader strides through his ship, ignoring his own pain as well
as his subordinates that cower in fear as he passes.

In the communication room of his ship, he kneels in front of
a holocron of the Emperor.

PALPATINE

There is a Jedi who has escaped our
grasp, he's been spotted near
Tatooine. You must go seek him
yourself.

VADER

Could it be Obi-Wan?

PALPATINE

I feel your rage, my young
apprentice. It will serve you well.
After what he did to you and your
wife you should cut his heart out.
If he hadn't manipulated her,
poisoned her mind against you...she
might be here by your side.

VADER

As you command, my master.

EXT. **TATOOINE** DESERT - DAY

Far from Mos Espa, Padme's ship lands in the desert.

It is the same hiding spot they had used when she landed on Tatooine so long ago.

The ramp opens to reveal Padme and Dorme in their bounty hunter disguise aboard a speeder.

From the speeder Padme turns back to R2D2 and C3PO who wait at the top of the ramp.

PADME

Get a message to Rabe. We'll need a new identification code to get off the planet and through the blockade.

R2 beeps affirmatively.

C3PO

Be careful mistress!

Padme and Dorme speed off into the desert.

C3PO (CONT'D)

Oh I don't like this at all.

INT. LARS HOMESTEAD - DAY

BERU WHITESUN LARS (in her twenties but still baby faced despite the harsh environment) her face tanned and her hands cracked from the dry climate, nurses baby Luke with a bottle of blue milk. Under her calm exterior, Beru has a quiet defiance and a core of steel few get to see.

OWEN LARS, slightly older, serious with a hint of sadness, hugs them both and kisses her forehead as he heads out to the farm to deal with the moisture vaporators.

OWEN

I'll be back before dark.

Through a viewfinder we see Owen walk away and drive off in a speeder before the view turns back to Beru alone with Luke.

EXT. TATOOINE DESERT CLIFF - DAY

Perched on a cliff above the homestead Padme and Dorme watch Owen leave through a viewfinder.

PADME

Now's my chance.

DORME

Padme you can't let Beru know
you're alive, what if someone is
watching the farm?

PADME

That's a risk I'll have to take. I
can't leave me son. Keep watch.

Padme slides down of the cliff and creeps toward the
homestead.

EXT. LARS HOMESTEAD - DAY

As Padme approaches, Beru pulls out a blaster from within the
blankets wrapped around Luke.

BERU

Don't come any closer.

Padme puts her hands up.

PADME

I mean you no harm.

Beru presses a signal on her wrist to alert Obi-wan to a
threat.

Padme takes one more step forward and the ground underneath
her collapses, extending out in a ring around the farm.

Beru leans over the edge and aims her blaster at Padme in the
trap.

BERU

I did warn you. This whole area is
rigged with explosives.

Padme puts her hands up again in a pacifying gesture.

PADME

I promise I'm not a threat. Can we
talk in private? I'll explain
everything.

BERU

And why would I do that?

Dorme comes up to the other side of the pit, walking slowly
hands raised.

DORME

Please, you can trust us. We're
friends of Padme.

She slowly removes her helmet and raises her hands again.

Beru, still holding the baby in one arm, motions toward the house with the blaster.

BERU

Alright, but any sudden moves and
I'll shoot you dead.

Dorme jumps over the ditch and helps Padme out of the pit.

BERU (CONT'D)

Follow in my footsteps if you don't
want to get blown up. There are
worse things to step on.

Padme leans to Dorme and whispers to her.

PADME

Go back to the speeder and check in
with 3PO, I'll be fine.

INT. LARS HOMESTEAD - DAY

As they enter the house, sheltered from view Padme removes her helmet. Beru gasps.

BERU

Padme, Obi-wan told us you were
dead.

PADME

And I must stay that way. No one
can know you saw me, not even Obi-
wan.

BERU

I knew someday someone would come
for him, but I didn't expect it to
be you, or so soon.

Beru puts down her weapon and carefully hands Padme her son to hold.

Padme looks at her son, enchanted.

PADME

Why would Obi-wan bring him here?
Where he could so easily be found?

BERU

It's a trap. We figured if anyone started asking questions they'd come here first. No one knows about the girl, so she'd be safe.

EXT. SPACEPORT - MOS ESPA - DAY

Clone troopers continue hassling the people of Tatooine.

People are led away in cuffs, bodies lie on the ground in addition to the trader from earlier.

The streets around the troopers have emptied and parents rush by on the edges, shielding their children from view.

CLONE TROOPER #1

Does this seem right to you?

CLONE TROOPER #2

Good soldiers follow orders.

A messenger approaches the clone troopers, hands in the air.

MESSENGER

I have a message for you from the mighty Jabba. He offers a deal.

The clone trooper leader steps out from behind the troopers.

CLONE TROOPER LEADER

Go on.

The messenger plays a hologram of JABBA THE HUTT (the mob boss of Tatooine who resembles an oversized slug).

CLONE TROOPER LEADER (CONT'D)

I don't speak Hutt.

MESSENGER

If the Empire withdraws from Tatooine and allows trade to continue unhindered, mighty Jabba promises to send the Emperor any Jedi who steps foot on Tatooine.

In the sky above Tatooine, Vader's ship appears, looming over the planet.

INT. STAR DESTROYER - DAY

In the communication room of the Star Destroyer, Vader receives a message from the clone troopers on the ground.

CLONE TROOPER LEADER
No sign of the Jedi sir. We did
receive an offer from Jabba the
Hutt.

VADER
Send it to my ship.

Vader stalks toward the shuttle bay, intent on getting down
to the planet.

IMPERIAL OFFICER
Sir, there was a ship that ran the
blockade. We believe it landed on
Tatooine. It must be the Jedi.

Vader stops, frozen.

VADER
I sense...

Padme's theme begins to play.

VADER (CONT'D)
...But no, that's impossible.

ACT FOUR

INT. LARS HOMESTEAD - DAY

Padme cradles her son in her arms mesmerized by his laugh.

Suddenly, she shivers.

PADME
(softly)
Anakin...

Beru breaks the spell.

BERU
I don't want to cut this reunion short but Obi-wan will be on his way. If you want to keep your secret, you'll have to move quickly.

PADME
Yes, we must go.

She turns to leave with Luke.

BERU
Padme, I can't let you take him.

PADME
What do you mean? He's my son. He belongs with me.

BERU
He's safe here, with a Jedi to protect him. Where would you go? What will you do?

PADME
We'll find a way, somewhere he'll be safe.

BERU
You'll be on the run, what kind of life is that for him? Here he can have a normal life.

PADME
I--

Dorme bursts in and Beru nearly shoots her before Padme coolly steps in the way.

PADME (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

DORME

A star destroyer just appeared over Tatooine. And the droids can't get a signal to Rabe. We're trapped.

There's a beep from a communication device behind them.

A hologram of Vader appears, addressing the planet on an open channel.

VADER

I am Darth Vader, emissary of the Emperor. The Jedi on this planet will surrender to me or the citizens of Tatooine will face the consequences.

Padme gasps, covering her mouth in horror.

PADME

That's him! It's what the Emperor called him on the Temple recording. He's alive.

Mixed emotions of relief and terror flash over her face.

BERU

Who is he?

Padme and Dorme ignore the question.

DORME

If he's here then we have to get you out of here right away.

PADME

I felt...he can sense me. We brought his attention here.

(to Beru)

I shouldn't have come. You're right, Luke won't be safe with me.

(to Dorme)

Anywhere I run he can find me. We'll have to draw him away.

Padme reluctantly hands Luke to Beru.

PADME (CONT'D)

I'll come back for you, I promise.

She kisses his forehead.

BERU

I will keep him safe.

DORME

We still need a new code for the ship, or we won't be able to escape.

BERU

I can help with that. But I'll need something from you in return.

She gestures for them to put their helmets on.

INT. WORKSHOP - LARS HOMESTEAD - DAY

Beru leads them into the workshop, littered with parts and half completed droids.

A handful of people in tattered clothing huddle in the shadows. A mother and her two children, and two young men clearly brothers.

BERU

We've been working to help slaves escape Tatooine. Sabe and Rabe helped me with the technology.

She calls up a star map of the system. And points to a spot away from the usual trade routes.

BERU (CONT'D)

I can help you get off the planet, but you'll need to take them with you to a rendezvous point on Denon.

Padme nods in agreement.

PADME

We can take them with us, but I can't promise they'll be any safer.

Padme kneels down to the children, pulling a bit of food out of her utility bag and pressing it into their hands.

Beru gestures to a point above Tatooine on the map.

BERU

There's a smuggler's jump point here that we use to avoid patrols. Switch the codes once you've jumped into hyperspace.

She hands Padme the chip and they embrace.

PADME
Thank you Beru.

BERU
I promise we will love him like our
own. He'll be safe.

Padme and Dorme make a run for the ship in their speeder,
pulling the refugees behind them, concealed in a cargo hauler
attached to the speeder.

EXT. SPACEPORT - MOS ESPA - DAY

Vader's shuttle lands in the market square and Vader descends
the ramp as the clone troopers line up on either side in a
salute.

Jabba's MESSENGER reappears dragging a hooded figure forward.

MESSENGER
A gift from the mighty Jabba.

The messenger pulls off the hood to reveal-

An unknown JEDI PADAWAN.

The padawan is afraid but defiant.

PADAWAN
The Emperor will never win-

He's cut off as Vader's lightsaber ignites and slices through
him with one clean swing. The body falls with a thump.

VADER
He already has.

Vader turns to the messenger who flinches away from him.

VADER (CONT'D)
Your deal is acceptable.

In the sky above Tatooine, Padme's ship jumps to lightspeed
as Vader stares after it from below.

DREAM SEQUENCE - EXT. NABOO LAKE COUNTRY - WILDFLOWER FIELD -
DAY

In a field of yellow wildflowers by a lake, Padme sits on a
picnic blanket with Luke in her arms, he is older, around 2
or 3.

Next to her Anakin plays a game of tossing Leia in the air and catching her as she laughs delightedly.

The children run off to play together as Padme lays her head on Anakin's shoulder.

PADME

I wish it could always be like this.

ANAKIN

It could be...

His eyes flash Sith yellow.

ANAKIN (CONT'D)

If you hadn't betrayed me.

The vision turns dark, the sky fills with clouds and lightening. Anakin changes into Vader.

He force chokes her and she gasps for air.

The children's laughter turns to screaming.

He releases Padme and she falls.

Vader draws his lightsaber and we see from Padme's POV, obscured by the long grass and flowers Vader swing his lightsaber.

The screaming stops.

The children's bodies each fall with a thump.

There is only silence.

INT. ALDERAANIAN CRUISER - PADME'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

In her bedroom on the Alderaanian cruiser, Padme sits bolt upright in bed.

The door slides open and Dorne enters quietly.

DORNE

Milady, I heard you screaming. Are you alright?

PADME

Only a nightmare.

Though she tries to downplay it she seems shaken.

Dorne comes to her and touches her shoulder softly.

Padme throws herself into Dorme's arms in despair.

PADME (CONT'D)

I— oh Dorme, I can't escape him. My husband is gone and in his place there's only darkness.

Dorme strokes her hair and murmurs comforting sounds.

DORME

We'll find a way, even in the darkness there's always hope.

As Padme calms down they sit in silence for a moment.

PADME

I can't protect the children. I can only endanger them.

DORME

Luke is so isolated, it's true. You can only draw attention to him. But on Alderaan, Leia is surrounded by people, with a whole household to hide you in.

PADME

Yes...

Padme steels herself, putting on her facade again, the persona of Queen and Senator and it gives her strength.

PADME (CONT'D)

But we can't just hide. We'll have to find a way to fight back as well. My faction won't just allow democracy to die. If there's a resistance, Bail will be part of it. Send a message to Bail as yourself. The droids need to return to Alderaan anyway, or we'll arouse suspicion. Tell him with me gone, you and my other handmaids are looking for employment. We can tell him I was the new decoy and explain away any resemblance.

DORME

Right, we'll say that the droids picked us up at the transit hub Beru's coordinates sent us to. Our disguises have fooled Bail before. But what about Vader?

PADME

I will have to find a way to break our connection, otherwise it's only a matter of time before he finds me again.

ACT FIVE

INT. STAR DESTROYER - DAY

Vader kneels in front of a hologram of Emperor Palpatine.

VADER

It is done, my master.

PALPATINE

Good.

VADER

There was no sign of Obi-Wan.

PALPATINE

Your former master has been more difficult than I expected. He must have severed himself from the Force. Otherwise you would sense him.

VADER

The Hutts will cooperate with the Empire and send us any Jedi that try to hide on Tatooine. There will be no need to return to that cursed planet again.

PALPATINE

Very well, but something troubles you.

VADER

I sensed...Padme.

PALPATINE

Padme Amidala is dead. As is your child. Or have you forgotten that you are responsible for her death?

VADER

Never. But...is there no way she could have survived?

PALPATINE

I saw her body myself. But if...somehow, she has survived... she has betrayed you.

VADER

Betrayed me?

PALPATINE

Lied to you, deceived you,
abandoned you. Like your mother who
gave you away, your padawan who
left you, the Jedi who never
trusted you, and your master who
left you to die. Only I have stayed
by your side. If she lives, she
must be destroyed.

VADER

(reluctantly)

Yes...master.

PALPATINE

I feel your hatred. Use it and you
will become most powerful, my
apprentice.

EXT. SPACE STATION ABOVE **DENON** - NIGHT

The space station above Denon, where two major hyperspace lanes and trade routes meet, is like a cross between Grand Central Station and an interstate rest stop.

Massive cargo ship docks unload goods, travelers change from one transport ship to another while ships refuel.

An expansive marketplace constructed with shipping containers offers food and goods for travelers while cheap lodging is advertised on neon billboards.

The Alderaanian cruiser sits at a refueling station.

INT. ALDERAANIAN CRUISER - NIGHT

Aboard the ship, Dorme speaks to a hologram of Senator Organa.

BAIL ORGANA

My droids will meet you at the
space station above Denon. I'm sure
we'll have many jobs suitable for
your talents.

DORME

Thank you Senator Organa.

The hologram clicks off.

Dorme reprograms the ship's log with a few keystrokes then turns to Padme and the droids.

DORME (CONT'D)

It is done.

PADME

Dorme and I will re-board the ship with our new identities.

DORME

Maybe we're being too cautious but better safe than caught.

PADME

But first, we will have to erase any trace of our journey. I'm sorry 3PO, that means you and R2 as well.

C3PO tries to interrupt but Padme holds up her hand to silence him.

PADME (CONT'D)

I know you would never intentionally betray us, but there are ways of making you talk.

R2 beeps urgently at 3PO.

C3PO

Yes, I know R2.

R2 beeps mockingly.

C3PO

What do you mean you're better at bluffing than I am?

R2 beeps sadly.

PADME

Is there a problem 3PO?

C3PO

Mistress Padme, it's worse than that. We must erase my *entire* memory.

PADME

3PO no! We can't do that. It would be like killing you.

C3PO

We have no choice. Senator Organa ordered our memories wiped before we left Alderaan. And I can't allow your secrets to be discovered.

She holds his hand and tears fill her eyes.

PADME

I'm so sorry 3PO, you have been a loyal friend to us. I won't force you to do this. We could find you a new home.

C3PO

Where would I go? This is the only life I know. I'd rather stay with you. Even if I can't remember it. R2- will you do it once they're gone? I will miss you all, so much.

R2 beeps sadly again.

PADME

Goodbye 3PO. And thank you. I will never forget your brave sacrifice.

Dorme squeezes 3POs hand.

As she and Padme move out of sight, R2 plugs into C3PO.

C3PO

Goodbye my friend.

R2 beeps softly.

C3PO (CONT'D)

Yes, we'll see each other again.

C3PO's eyes go dark as he shuts down.

R2 quickly erases his own memory of the past few days, but archives the rest. He might need it all someday.

EXT. SPACE STATION ABOVE DENON - NIGHT

Padme and Dorme exit the Alderaanian cruiser in their bounty hunter disguises, leading the group of refugees - now in clean, well made clothing - to a transport ship bound for Karlinus.

PADME

You'll be able to find work on Karlinus, they'll be expecting you. Tell them Sabe sent you.

Padme and Dorme press a stack of credits into each of their hands.

PADME (CONT'D)

From there you can go wherever you want.

Dorme gives each of the children a toy and a hug.

MOTHER

Thank you, but why are you helping us? What do you get out of it?

PADME

I can't see beings suffering and not help. If you see injustice then you must act.

MOTHER

Such kindness is rare in the galaxy. We won't forget it.

The mother boards the ship each of her hands holding one of the children's. The two brothers follow murmuring their thanks as well.

Padme and Dorme watch the ship take off and head to find their lodging for the night.

DORME

We did a good thing Milady.

PADME

It isn't enough.

The planets around Denon move through their orbits in the sky.

Below them the city planet of Denon turns.

EXT. SPACE STATION ABOVE DENON - DAWN

Padme is shrouded in a grey hood, her outfit matching Dorme's Senatorial handmaid garb - a gray turtleneck sweater dress under a divided leather floor length duster. Her hair done up in braids with a bun on top.

Padme and Dorme return to the ship with their new identities and C3PO greets them.

C3PO

Welcome. I am C3PO, human-cyborg relations, and this is my counterpart R2D2.

The ramp closes and the ship takes off.

EXT. **ALDERAAN** LANDING PLATFORM - DAY

The snow capped peaks of Alderaan's mountains are visible behind the white towers of the city.

The landing platform on top of a high tower leads straight to the palace.

The Alderaan cruiser lands on the platform as Bail and Queen BREHA ORGANA walk out to meet it. Breha became queen at a young age like Padme, and carries herself with the same confident bearing and warmth. Power sits comfortably on her shoulders after ruling for many years.

Bail wears his grey Senatorial tunic and Breha is dressed in the understated blue and white gowns of Alderaan.

BREHA

I hope that these handmaids are everything you say they are.

BAIL ORGANA

Padme's handmaids were legendary. And it would be good to have a connection to Naboo traditions for Leia.

Padme and Dorne disembark with R2 and C3PO.

BREHA

Welcome to Alderaan!

DORME

Thank you majesty, I had visited your beautiful planet before with Senator Amidala, but I wouldn't expect you to remember me. Our job was to blend in.

BAIL ORGANA

Welcome! It's wonderful to see you again and I am so sorry for your loss. Please introduce us to your friend.

DORME

This is Mare. She was set to join Padme's household before--

Dorne's voice breaks and she can't finish the sentence "we lost her."

Padme curtsies to the Organa's, her hood still partially obscuring her face, which has been altered significantly by Dorme's makeup.

She adopts a higher pitched voice with an accent nothing like her own. It wasn't just her handmaids who were excellent at posing as her, Padme had learned to disappear and blend in. Be forgettable.

PADME

I was trained as a governess on Naboo. I lost my own child... a miscarriage. It will be an honor to take care of yours. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity and welcoming me into your home.

Breha embraces her warmly.

BREHA

I understand your loss. Come, let us talk and we'll get you settled in.

Breha and Bail lead their new handmaids into the palace.

INT. LEIA'S NUSERY - NIGHT

All is quiet on Alderaan. The stars sparkle in the night sky.

Leia's nursery is high in a tower above Alderaan with a balcony overlooking the mountains.

Alone at last, Padme holds her daughter in her arms for the first time.

She is able to drop all her masks, and looks down at her daughter with a small sad smile.

PADME

A long time ago in a galaxy far far away, there was a girl who would someday be queen...

As she starts to speak Leia looks up at her eyes wide.

Maybe it was all worth it after all.

She walks out onto the balcony with Leia and stares up at the night sky.

TAG

INT. STAR DESTROYER - DAY

Vader stands silhouetted, looking out the full wall to ceiling window of his Star Destroyer.

Below him the city of Theed is in flames.

He turns from the window to his captive, restrained in a torture device.

It is Eirtae.

VADER

Now, I will ask you one more time.
Where is Padme?

He activates the torture device again and she screams.

THE END