

## PREFACE

Anakin Skywalker's volatile emotional state leaves him susceptible to the machinations of the newly appointed Emperor Palpatine. He manipulates Skywalker's mental fragility to coerce him into embracing the Dark Side. Under the guidance of Palpatine, Anakin either personally performs or supervises the assassinations of most of the Jedi Masters. The ranks of the Jedi Order are decimated by a coordinated assault by the Clone Army.

Anakin, now christened Darth Vader by the Emperor, endeavors to recover his wife Padme Amidala, and nurture a presumptive Imperial Royal family with the children she carries. Vader believes the Emperor allows this indulgence out of appreciation and loyalty. In truth, Palpatine knows that Vader's children will either be an asset to be harnessed, or a potential danger to be eliminated. With the children in close proximity the determination can be made quickly and appropriate action taken. Before his departure, Vader receives a gift from the Emperor, a signifier of his place as a disciple of the Dark Side...

Obi-Wan is also aware of the importance of Vader's offspring. He assumes as his final duty as a Jedi the task of ensuring the safe exodus of Senator Amidala from the threat posed by the Emperor. Obi-Wan shepherds Padme to a remote planet, with Vader in pursuit, in an effort to precipitate her final escape.

EXT. VOLCANO PLANET - SPACE

The Volcano Planet, a fiery orb in stark contrast to the peaceful, star-littered expanse of deep space that surrounds it.

A nimble spacecraft occupied by OBI-WAN KENOBI and PADME AMIDALA arcs inward toward the inhospitable world.

I/E. SPACECRAFT - SPACE

Obi-Wan guides the ship through the upper atmosphere. Padme sits beside him, her tender hand caresses her womb. The regal air that Padme exudes is undiminished by the pained expression on her face.

PADME

Obi-Wan, what is this place?

OBI-WAN

This is our momentary safe haven.

The spacecraft dips further into the atmosphere, through a dense layer ash-black clouds.

Padme admires the ominous sight of the planet's surface. The term 'safe haven' hardly seems to apply. Turbulent rivers of hot lava cut violent swathes through jagged, ebony rock formations. Volcanoes and geysers vomit orange hot magma high into the blood red sky. There seems hardly an inch of habitable ground anywhere in sight.

Gradually the tumult around them subsides. The raging lava becomes still, almost peaceful. Mountains and spires of igneous rock rise into beautiful natural formations. The smoky black clouds dissipate to allow a clear view of the candy colored sky.

An ancient man-made structure rests at the center of this unexpected environment, carved out from the side of a titanic mountain. Classical in design, with smooth walls of dark stone, arched entrances, and a domed ceiling supported by ornate, rounded columns. A bridge extends from the main entrance of the sanctuary, over the gently rolling lake of lava, to the mainland

PADME

Obi-Wan it's beautiful. I've never seen anything like it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OBI-WAN

This is a sanctuary; created by an ancient order of the Jedi ages ago. It's meant to be a physical representation of the Jedi existence, a place of serenity in a world of turmoil. A Jedi who understands this ideal, understands the purpose of his existence.

EXT. JEDI SANCTUARY - DAY

Obi-Wan and Padme traverse the main bridge to the sanctuary.

PADME

How long can we stay here? If this is a place known to the Jedi then surely Anakin knows of its existence.

OBI-WAN

That is a correct assessment. We cannot stay for long. I'm certain he will arrive in short order. I've made arrangements with Senator Organa to come for you. He will take responsibility for you and your children. Until that time when you are safely away, our only hope is that any Jedi that escaped Palpatine's betrayal will have retreated here and together we can distract Anakin and mask your escape.

PADME

How can I do this Obi-Wan. How can I abandon the man I love? The father of my children.

OBI-WAN

If you don't, then many will have died for nothing.

The words way heavily on Padme's conscious. Three figures emerge from the Sanctuary to greet Obi-Wan and Padme. AHSOKA TANO bows her head in a show of respect to Master Kenobi. The weathered lines of her face and the battle hardened glare in her eyes betray her otherwise youthful appearance. Two other young JEDI flank her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AHSOKA

Master Kenobi. We're relieved to see that you survived.  
(to Padme)  
Senator.

Padme reciprocates.

OBI-WAN

Are the three of you all that are here?

Ahsoka nods.

OBI-WAN (CONT'D)

We must prepare ourselves. Our singular purpose is to protect Senator Amidala from the betrayer Skywalker.

The harsh designation stings Padme.

OBI-WAN (CONT'D)

If it be our last duty, it will be done.

EXT. VOLCANO PLANET - SPACE

A streak of light appears from the infinity of deep space. ANAKIN SKYWALKER's starfighter drops out of lightspeed. Anakin guides the sleek craft toward the Volcano Planet. R2-D2 beeps nervously in his slot.

EXT. JEDI SANCTUARY - DAY

A still peaceful scene. The calm before the storm.

OBI-WAN (V.O.)

When Senator Organa arrives you must hasten your escape.

The two young Jedi hold vigil at the midway point of the main bridge. They sit in quiet meditation.

OBI-WAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I'm unsure how long we'll be able to keep Anakin at bay.

PADME (V.O.)

But he'll know. He'll be able to sense everything. Even if I leave.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PADME (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
He'll know who I'm with, where  
I'll be.

INT. JEDI SANCTUARY - FOYER - DAY

A small place enclosed by high, dark stone walls. The walls feature ornate, detailed engravings of images and text; representations of Jedi history. Ahsoka occupies this space alone. She, too, focuses her attentions inward.

OBI-WAN (V.O.)  
Anakin's emotions have indeed made  
him powerful, but they have  
consumed him. His powers are great  
but he cannot control them.

INT. JEDI SANCTUARY - HIDDEN CHAMBER - DAY

A dark chamber in the recesses of the Sanctuary. Dust dances in the shaft of light that pours in through the entrance. Padme sits on a tablet of stone, the protective hand of a worried mother draped over her protruding stomach. Obi-Wan crouches beside her.

OBI-WAN  
If I can provoke him, provoke his  
emotions, he'll be able to sense  
your presence, but he will not be  
able focus. You will be safely  
away and I will remain here to try  
and stop him.

EXT. JEDI SANCTUARY - DAY

The relatively calm lake of molten rock begins to bubble and churn ever so slightly.

ON THE BRIDGE

The two young Jedi awake from meditations. A cloud of black smoke swirls at the mouth of the bridge, dissipates to reveal the shrouded, phantasmic figure of Anakin Skywalker. He marches onto the bridge, an unmistakable urgency in his gate.

The two Jedi rise to their feet; ignite their lightsabers simultaneously. They show no fear, no anger, no emotion. Only purpose exists.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PADME (V.O.)  
But if his emotions make him  
stronger...

Suddenly the expressions of the Jedi change. Desperation. Pain. They clutch at their throats, helpless as their windpipes collapse.

PADME (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
How can you possibly defeat him?

Anakin passes between the Jedi as they drop their weapons and crumble to the ground. Anakin never breaks stride.

INT. JEDI SANCTUARY - HIDDEN CHAMBER - DAY

Padme finds little reassurance from the certainty in Obi-Wan's eyes.

OBI-WAN  
That is a matter for my concern.

INT. JEDI SANCTUARY - FOYER - DAY

Ahsoka senses Anakin's approach. She steels herself, activates her green lightsaber. The sight of his former pupil almost amuses Anakin. He hesitates.

INT. JEDI SANCTUARY - HIDDEN CHAMBER - DAY

Obi-Wan rises to his feet, steps through the entrance.

OBI-WAN  
Your concern must be for your  
children.

Obi-Wan telekinetically moves a heavy stone over the entrance. Padme waits, alone in the dark.

INT. JEDI SANCTUARY - FOYER - DAY

Neither Anakin or Ahsoka make a move. Ahsoka assumes a defensive posture with her saber, the glow of her blade illuminates the fierce defiance in her eyes.

AHSOKA  
I don't want to fight you, master.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANAKIN

A lamentable and unforeseen turn  
of events, padewan.

Anakin strides toward her. Ahsoka braces herself for the encounter.

AHSOKA

Master, please don't do this.

Anakin bears down on her. Ahsoka lunges with her lightsaber. A crackle, a hiss, a sudden flash of CRIMSON. In one fluid motion, Anakin parries her strike and cuts her in half with his RED LIGHTSABER. The two halves of Ahsoka collapse to the floor. She manages one, final utterance.

AHSOKA (CONT'D)

Skyguy...

ANAKIN

I always hated that.

INT. JEDI SANCTUARY - GRAND CHAMBER - DAY

Anakin enters the Grand Chamber of the sanctuary. A cavernous room, lined by rows of columns that rise several meters to the vaulted ceiling. The motif of ornate engravings continues to this chamber where it reaches an aesthetic apex. A statue of an archetypal Jedi figure lords over the chamber from the far end of the room, at the summit of a series of steps.

Obi-Wan stands ready at the center of the room.

ANAKIN

I haven't the patience to endure  
your incessant wisdoms today.

OBI-WAN

You needn't worry. Your inability  
to listen is a truth I know all  
too well. All that remains between  
us is one final piece of business.  
Your last test. Defeat me, and  
you'll finally become the master  
you've long envisioned yourself to  
be.

ANAKIN

Your feeble attempt to task me is  
horribly transparent.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANAKIN (CONT'D)

I sense her presence. You will not keep her from me. I love her.

OBI-WAN

She shares your love, which only makes your betrayal of everything she holds dear all the more painful for her.

Anakin swells with anger.

ANAKIN

Enough! Let this be it then!

Anakin sheds his shroud, ignites his lightsaber. Obi-Wan also draws and activates his weapon.

Anakin charges, hurls himself at Obi-Wan. The combatants engage.

Anakin somersaults over Obi-Wan, aims his lightsaber at Kenobi's head. Obi-Wan parries the strike. Anakin lands, swings. Obi-Wan blocks, finally the two men meet in battle. Both fighters display superhuman skill. Lightsabers crackle and hum with the dazzling display of swordsmanship as Anakin and Obi-Wan furiously cross blades, neither able to gain an advantage.

Obi-Wan lunges, Anakin blocks. Anakin strikes, Obi-Wan evades. Obi-Wan pivots on his heels, flexes his free hand. A concussive jolt of unseen Force energy slams into Anakin's chest. Anakin flies back across the room, crashes into a stone column. The impact cracks the pillar. Anakin gathers himself. He swings his arm, a wave of Force energy streaks across the room, rips a swathe into the stone floor on a beeline to Obi-Wan. Obi-Wan flips out of harm's way, barely regains his bearings before Anakin pounces again. Another fierce exchange of saber strikes and blocks. Anakin's attacks are powerful but reckless. Obi-Wan moves with a master's patience, graceful and certain.

The entire sanctuary quakes from the release of Anakin's violent, mystical energies. The angrier he gets, the more the environment around him trembles.

EXT. JEDI SANCTUARY - DAY

The river of lava ripples and splashes about. The bass of a low rumble reverberates throughout the rocky landscape.



INT. JEDI SANCTUARY - GRAND CHAMBER - DAY

Obi-Wan slips a hand strike through Anakin's guard, then a series of powerful kicks stagger Anakin. Anakin focuses his energies on the ground beneath Obi-Wan's feet. The floor shatters and shoots upward, a pillar of stone and dust reaches to the ceiling, seemingly consumes Obi-Wan.

Obi-Wan streaks down out of the impact cloud, lightsaber high above his head. He dives towards Anakin with all the mental and physical energies he can summon. An arc of blue light slashes downward, stopped by an impenetrable defensive block by Anakin. The momentum of Obi-Wan's attack courses through Anakin's body, buckles the floor beneath his feet and forms a miniature crater. Anakin shoves Obi-Wan away. Obi-Wan leaps backward, glides through the air with bird-like grace, lands several meters away. Obi-Wan is bruised and battered. A trickle of blood creeps out of the corner of Anakin's mouth. Both men take a moment to gather strength, then continue.

INT. JEDI SANCTUARY - HIDDEN CHAMBER - DAY

Padme paces anxiously within the small, dark room. She reacts to the muffled sounds of battle that seep through the walls. She finally leans against a wall and slides gingerly to the ground, tries to control her swirling emotions and labored breathing.

Something shudders nearby. Padme freezes. A stone panel on the opposite wall slides forward. Padme stands. The panel slides forward again, then falls out of the wall. SENATOR ORGANA crawls through the opening. A GUARD waits on the other side of the wall, in a cave that appears to extend deeper into the mountain.

SEN. ORGANA

Senator Amidala!

PADME

Senator Organa!

They embrace.

SEN. ORGANA

We have to get you away from here. There's a series of caves that extend through the mountain. Obi-Wan mapped a way through for us. We can escape to my transport on the other side.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SEN. ORGANA (CONT'D)  
(re: Padme's stomach)  
The way is not easy.

Padme glides past him and climbs through the opening.

PADME  
Well then, I hope you're as  
capable as your stature suggests.

Padme's willfulness impresses Organa.

INT. JEDI SANCTUARY - GRAND CHAMBER - DAY

The battle rages, skillful swordplay, powerful kicks and hand strikes. Obi-Wan's experience and composure against Anakin's youthful vitality and vicious intensity.

Anakin lands a spinning back kick that hammers Obi-Wan in the chest and sends him flying back across the chamber. Anakin raises an outstretched arm towards his opponent. An invisible tether catches Obi-Wan in mid air. Anakin swings his arm downward, Obi-Wan slams down hard, the floor crumbles beneath him. The impact dizzies Obi-Wan. Anakin opens his arms wide, strains to channel his telekinetic powers. Huge cracks race around the bases of two large pillars that flank Obi-Wan. Anakin rips the columns free, a herculean effort. The vaulted ceilings fracture. Anakin claps his hands together. Obi-Wan regains his senses just in time to somersault backwards as the columns smash together with such force that they completely shatter.

Obi-Wan reacts instantly. A forceful wave of his arm sends the jagged fragments of the columns hurtling at Anakin. Anakin jumps back, twirls his lightsaber like a fan to deflect the barrage of dagger-like rocks. His speed and skill are remarkable, but not enough. A sharp fragment slips through his defense and slashes at his leg. He reacts to the pain. He barely has time to register the distinct hum of Obi-Wan's lightsaber in time to deflect the sudden attack. Blue and red clash.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Senator Organa leads Padme and his Guard through the treacherous cave. He consults a handheld device for directions. The climb would be difficult under normal conditions, exceedingly so for the very pregnant Padme. Tremors rock the entire mountain; the tunnels seem increasingly unstable. Padme scratches and claws for every inch of ground, her determination pushes her forward.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SEN. ORGANA

Senator Amidala, we only have a little ways further. I know it's difficult but we have to hurry. These caverns may not hold up.

PADME

I'm okay. I can make it.

On cue, the ground beneath Padme gives way, She slides back several yards. Pain shoots through her body. Anguish floods her face. Organa races back to her.

SEN. ORGANA

Amidala! Are you alright?

PADME

Oh no.

INT. JEDI SANCTUARY - GRAND CHAMBER - DAY

Obi-Wan and Anakin both feel it. Eyes lock at the moment of simultaneous realization.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Padme winces from pain. Her breaths short, panicked. Organa kneels at her side, unsure of how to help her. His Guard lingers nearby.

PADME

It's happening! The babies, they're coming! I'm going into labor, now!

Organa freezes.

INT. JEDI SANCTUARY - GRAND CHAMBER - DAY

Obi-Wan and Anakin parry lightsabers, then leap backwards away from each other. The dark fire burns in Anakin's Sith-tainted eyes.

ANAKIN

You can't keep her from me. Not her; not my children. I feel her. I know what's happening. She needs me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OBI-WAN

If you sense her; you must feel her emotions. So you know that she would die before she would let you deliver her children to Palpatine.

ANAKIN

No... No!

Anakin lets out a primal scream. The Emotional outburst unleashes a shockwave that rips a huge hole in the side of the sanctuary.

EXT. JEDI SANCTUARY - DAY

Rock explodes away from the sanctuary. The once peaceful scene is now a maelstrom of volcanic activity. The lava lake ripples with giant waves of hot liquid. Tremors shatter fragile rock formations. Magma gushes from geysers all around, burst forth from within the mountain. Plumes of smoke and ash begin to blot out the sky.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Padme lies on the uncomfortable ground, her knees elevated and spread. She endures unbearable pain. Senator Organa kneels beside her.

SEN. ORGANA

Padme, we can't do this here. The caves could come down on top of us at any moment. We have to get you safely to the infirmary aboard the transport.

PADME

Senator, I can't. I won't make it there. You have to promise me-- you have to promise me that you'll get my children to safety! No matter what--

(agony)

No matter what happens you have to protect them!

SEN. ORGANA

Your children will be safe. They will always be safe.

Organa positions himself at Padme's feet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SEN. ORGANA (CONT'D)

Tell me what's happening.

PADME

It's almost time. I can feel the first baby coming.

Organa beckons to his Guard.

SEN. ORGANA

I'll need your blaster for the umbilical cord.

The Guard draws his blaster and hands it to Organa.

SEN. ORGANA (CONT'D)

(to Padme)

Unfortunately we have nothing to give you for the pain.

PADME

I've often found your senatorial speeches to be efficient sedatives. Perhaps a recitation.

Organ smirks at Padme's attempt to raise spirits.

PADME (CONT'D)

It's time!

INT. JEDI SANCTUARY - GRAND CHAMBER - DAY

Anakin hurls his lightsaber. The weapon twirls through the air directly at Obi-Wan. Obi-Wan executes a superhuman leap, dodges the spinning blade. Anakin guides the lightsaber, a wave of his hand and it arcs up and after Kenobi. Obi-Wan kicks off of a nearby column, narrowly avoids the lightsaber as it splits the column in half. Obi-Wan somersaults across the room as the column folds on itself and collapses. Anakin sprints after Obi-Wan, flips into the air, catches his lightsaber, and lands swinging.

ANAKIN

Tell me where she is!

OBI-WAN

She will soon be far beyond your reach.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANAKIN

You will soon be dead; an unavoidable consequence of your arrogance.

OBI-WAN

If this is my end, so be it.

The clash continues.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Padme suffers the excruciating pain of childbirth. Her face gleams with sweat. The veins of her temples throb. She grits her teeth nearly to the shattering point. Her groans and screams drown out the tremors and quakes that roar through the mountain.

SEN. ORGANA

You're almost there! You have to keep pushing.

Padme, exhausted, struggles to find the energy. She gasps for air.

PADME

I can't. It's too hard. I can't do it. The pain is unbearable.

SEN. ORGANA

You have to do it. You're almost there!

PADME

I can't--

A violent quake rattles the cave, hunks of rock break away from the cave ceiling. A slab of rock crushes the Guard's skull. A miniature cave in nearly buries his already lifeless body. Padme and Organa react.

SEN. ORGANA

Padme, you have to finish before we run out of time.

Padme summons her remaining strength, wills herself to work. She pushes; hard!

INT. JEDI SANCTUARY - GRAND CHAMBER - DAY

The battle takes a turn for the worse. Anakin's intense emotions augment his strength. He overpowers Obi-Wan.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Anakin advances, beats Obi-Wan back, drives him up the steps toward the statue of the Jedi Warrior. Obi-Wan tries to fend off Anakin's attacks. Anakin clearly claims the advantage. He flips back/kicks Obi-Wan in the chin. The strike lifts Obi-Wan into the air and he lands at the top of the steps. Anakin presses; Obi-Wan defends. Anakin swings high, Obi-Wan ducks under the blade. Anakin rears back, swipes at Obi-Wan's legs. Obi-Wan leaps over Anakin, staggers Anakin with a back kick to the kidney. Obi-Wan's eyes dart past Anakin at the immense statue. He fights with renewed vigor. Swords cross one final time. The two men strain to win this power struggle, they push against each other with every ounce of remaining strength. Anakin pushes harder, Obi-Wan endeavors to hold his defense, focuses his telekinetic energy past Anakin at the legs of the statue until subtle cracks appear. The statue teeters perilously, topples forward. Anakin, distracted by the test of wills, fails to notice the falling idol. At the last moment, Obi-Wan leaps back. Anakin turns; he registers the danger with a split second to react. He instinctively swings his arm in a wild chopping motion. A wave of concussive Force energy breaks the statue up into several large chunks, most of which land on Anakin. The largest piece knocks Anakin to the ground and crushes his flesh and blood arm. Dazed from the collapse and exhausted from the brawl, Anakin cannot muster enough mental energy to lift the boulder from his arm.

Obi-Wan hovers over his adversary. His chest heaves, eyes intense, emotion swells, lightsaber raised.

Defiant to the end, Anakin's eyes dare Obi-Wan to deliver the death blow.

A moment of indecision. Obi-Wan lowers and deactivates, his lightsaber. He hurries away out of the chamber, leaves Anakin trapped under debris.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Padme pushes with everything she has left.

SEN. ORGANA

Almost there. I can see the baby.

A long moment. Padme exerts. A baby cries. Organa lifts the infant. Padme's anguish washes away, replaced by joy and exhaustion. Senator Organa shoots the umbilical cord with the blaster, rips off a piece of his tunic to wrap the baby, then hands the baby to Padme.

SEN. ORGANA (CONT'D)

Its a girl.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PADME

Her name is Leia.  
(reacts to pain)  
Oh! The other one.

Padme hands baby Leia back to Senator Organa, braces herself for the next delivery. Obi-Wan arrives in the cave.

OBI-WAN

How is she?

SEN. ORGANA

She delivered the first baby. The twin is coming now, but we have to get them all out of here before this cave completely collapses.

Obi-Wan admires the infant in Organa's arms.

OBI-WAN

Senator, take this baby to the infirmary on your transport. Be ready to take off. We'll come as soon as she's able.

Organa nods and hurries away. Obi-Wan kneels in front of Padme.

OBI-WAN (CONT'D)

We have to go as soon as possible.

PADME

Anakin?

Obi-Wan finds no adequate words. Padme reads everything in his eyes. A flash of pain reminds her of the situation at hand.

OBI-WAN

We have to deliver this baby. Are you ready?

Padme nods. She braces herself... and... Push!

Suddenly another quake. Huge. A section of the cavern ahead of them collapses.

Senator Organa narrowly escapes death from the cave in, with baby Leia held against his chest. The cave closes the tunnel off completely. Obi-Wan and Padme cannot follow. Helpless, Organa continues through the tunnel.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

On the opposite side of the cave in, Obi-Wan and Padme react to the increasingly desperate situation.

PADME

Obi Wan what are we going to do?

OBI-WAN

Worry about the baby now. When the time comes we'll go back the way we came.

PADME

But Anakin is that way!

OBI-WAN

I need you to concentrate on the task at hand. I need you to deliver your baby. Now push!

Padme pushes. Obi-Wan waits to receive the baby. Several moments of effort, another baby cries. Obi-Wan lifts up the baby, who immediately stops crying. He severs the umbilical cord with his lightsaber, hands the baby to Padme. She examines the baby with tired eyes. She leans back against the rock wall, ready to pass out.

OBI-WAN (CONT'D)

It's dangerous to move you in your condition, but I have no choice.

She nods meekly.

INT. JEDI SANCTUARY - GRAND CHAMBER - DAY

Anakin remains pinned under the heavy stone. He focuses his powers. The stone shudders. Unfathomable pain shoots through his arm. He screams in agony. The stone settles down.

Obi-Wan emerges from an adjacent chamber. He carries an almost unconscious Padme. The baby lies nestled between her body and Obi-Wan's torso. Obi-Wan pauses for a beat. Anakin reacts to the sight of Padme and the baby.

ANAKIN

Padme.

Obi-Wan rushes past.

ANAKIN (CONT'D)

No. No! Come back! Padme! Padme...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Anakin notices an object a few feet away. His lightsaber; just out of reach. He extends his free arm. Holes in the tattered glove reveal the metallic tendons of his artificial hand. He concentrates. The hilt quivers, slides into his fingers. He ignites the blade. An arc of red light severs his dead arm below the shoulder, instantly cauterizes the wound.

EXT. SENATOR ORGANA'S TRANSPORT - DAY

The ship rests on a flat outcropping of rock. Senator Organa emerges from the maw of a cave, hurries up the boarding ramp.

INT. SENATOR ORGANA'S TRANSPORT - INFIRMARY - DAY

Organa places baby Leia on a cot. The PILOT appears behind him.

PILOT

Orders sir?

SEN. ORGANA

Lift off as soon as possible, then circle around the mountain. We have to see if we can help the others.

PILOT

Yes, sir.

The pilot dashes back to the cockpit. Senator Organa's sympathetic eyes linger on the infant now in his charge.

EXT. JEDI SANCTUARY - DAY

Obi-Wan passes through the gaping hole that was once the main entrance. He still carries Padme and the baby. He totters on fatigued legs but moves with purpose. Ash has all but entirely blackened out the sky. Lava flows out of fissures all along the mountainside into the tumultuous lake below.

Obi-Wan traverses the bridge. Padme opens her eyes, peers back over Obi-Wan's shoulder. Fear consumes her.

PADME

Anakin!

Anakin emerges from the ruins of the sanctuary, limps to the mouth of the bridge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The sight of Padme incites a renewed fury. The anger builds, enough to inspire one final superhuman feat. He extends his arm and focuses. The remaining stretch of bridge between Obi-Wan and the mainland disintegrates and falls away. He almost steps off into fiery oblivion, manages to halt his momentum in time.

ANAKIN

I told you. I told you that you  
could never keep them from me. All  
I want is to be with my wife; and  
my family.

Padme and Obi-Wan lock eyes.

PADME

It's okay.

Obi-Wan hesitates, then concedes. He cautiously sets Padme down. Her legs immediately buckle. She clutches onto the baby bundle in her arm, Obi-Wan holds her to keep her from falling. She finds her balance, limps around Obi-Wan and approaches Anakin. He stumbles forward as well. Obi-Wan refuses to turn and face them. He keeps his back to the pitiful sight of the reunited lovers. They finally meet. Anakin reaches out to Padme. She shivers at the sight of his artificial hand, and at the severed arm.

He pulls her close. Tears stream down her pallid cheeks.

ANAKIN

How could you think of leaving me.  
Everything I've done is for you.  
For our family.

Padme breaks inside.

ANAKIN (CONT'D)

Let me see our baby.

He pulls back, tugs away the cloth that wraps the baby. Sudden horror. He sees a lifeless hunk of black rock. A beat of stunned silence. Obi-Wan turns around to reveal the baby tucked within his Jedi tunic.

ANAKIN (CONT'D)

Why--?

A shriek hails an unexpected burst of blaster fire. Anakin's eyes bulge, his body jerks. He falls against Padme. They both drop to their knees. Padme drops Senator Organa's blaster; smoke wafts from the barrel. She holds Anakin close and speaks into his ear.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PADME

His name is Luke. The Emperor will never have him. Neither will you.

Anakin reacts...

Eruption! The top of the mountain explodes. Rock, lava and ash rocket into the sky. Obi-Wan instinctively shields baby Luke.

I/E. SENATOR ORGANA'S TRANSPORT - DAY

A hailstorm of debris batters the ship. The pilot grapples with the control stick to keep them righted and flying. Smoke reduces visibility to zero. Hull impacts threaten to annihilate the ship.

PILOT

Senator, I can't set down here. The area is too unstable and we could be pulverized if we don't leave now.

Organa hates himself for making the only sensible decision.

SEN. ORGANA

(to himself)  
May the Force be with you all.  
(to Pilot)  
Take us up!

The ship sails skyward, away from the eruption.

EXT. JEDI SANCTUARY - DAY

The scene is complete chaos. Devastation. A torrent of boulders and debris demolishes the remnants of the Sanctuary. Soot billows throughout the scene. The entire environment disintegrates. In the center of it all Padme holds Anakin, neither of them with the strength of mind or body to save themselves. An ironic image of seeming tranquility.

Obi-Wan kneels down, steadies himself. He channels the Force through his hand, severs the patch of bridge beneath him, and levitates to safety on the stone. Anakin watches Obi-Wan and baby Luke float away until they disappear into a cloud of smoke.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PADME

Anakin, I need you to know, that  
no matter what you did, I never  
stopped loving you.

A boulder slams through the bridge beside them. The structure crumbles. Anakin quickly latches onto a portion of railing. Without his other arm he cannot reach for Padme. She plummets for an eternity, her expression blank, eyes closed. She falls so far to the lake below that the splash is imperceptible.

Anakin hangs suspended. Too weak to pull himself up; too weak to let go.

EXT. ANAKIN'S STARFIGHTER - DAY

R2-D2 stands atop the starfighter's wing, adjusts mechanisms on an exposed panel. The quakes make precision work difficult and he beeps his frustration. The droid chirps excitedly when he sees...

Obi-Wan rounds the bend, hurries to the fighter on the unstable ground. R2 drops into his slot.

I/E. VOLCANO PLANET - SPACE

The starfighter blasts through the upper atmosphere and out into space.

Obi-Wan finally exhales. He cradles baby Luke in one arm. He notices something beside the seat, a discarded object. Anakin's old lightsaber. He glances from it, to the baby. A prescient moment.

EXT. JEDI SANCTUARY - DAY

Anakin still hangs. A torrent of hot lava from the eruption drizzles down on him, sears away the flesh of his body. Nothing to be done, no one to know, nowhere to go. Anakin surrenders. He lets go. He hangs in the air for a moment, then several seconds. He never falls.

Thick black smoke above him swirls and parts to reveal a Republic shuttle. The boarding ramp opens and Anakin floats inside. The shuttle climbs.

I/E. SHUTTLE - SPACE

The shuttle soars away from the planet. A star destroyer hovers in high orbit.

Anakin lies on a gurney, on life support. He is alert and conscious. The Emperor looms over him.