

Episode III

REVENGE OF THE SITH

War! The Republic is crumbling under attacks by the ruthless Sith Lord, Count Dooku. There are heroes on both sides. Evil is everywhere.

In a stunning move, the fiendish droid leader, General Grievous, has swept into the Republic capital and kidnapped Chancellor Palpatine, leader of the Galactic Senate.

As the Separatist Droid Army attempts to flee the besieged capital with their valuable hostage, *several star systems away two Jedi Knights engage in a long-awaited duel....*

EXT OUTER SPACE

As the crawl disappears into the infinity of space, the camera slowly pans to the side through the dark, starry expanse. No planets or ships fill the emptiness - only a quiet, searching John Williams score complements the scene, until...

CUT TO:

INT JEDI ARENA - DAY

GLOWING BLUE LIGHTSABER BLADES clash and sustain contact as the score quickly rises. Pulling back, we see Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker engaged in an intense duel. Perspiration beads rest on both their foreheads, and both countenances exhibit the utmost seriousness and concentration.

They are in an immense, sterile, multi-level, completely enclosed white room with platforms of varying sizes at varying heights throughout the space.

Obi-Wan and Anakin continue the frenzied, intense battle. They traverse the ground floor, and as Anakin puts more and more pressure on Obi-Wan, Obi-Wan is forced to leap upward between platforms. Anakin is in hot pursuit as Obi-Wan desperately and barely parries Anakin's swings in between and atop platforms.

Finally, near the top of the room on the uppermost platform, Obi-Wan slips slightly. With great force, Anakin hammers Obi-Wan's defensively positioned saber to the side with his own, and with an impossibly quick second swing brings his saber to bear into Obi-Wan's helpless neck.

Just before it hits Obi-Wan's skin surely beheading him, the lightsaber deflects harmlessly with a spark on an invisible forcefield.

ROBOTIC VOICE (INTERCOM)  
POINT - SKYWALKER.

Anakin smiles as he grabs Obi-Wan with his free hand, safely pulling him away from the precipice. Obi-Wan shakes his head, both impressed and physically shaken. They shut off their lightsabers.

OBI-WAN

Anakin...I think my life flashed before my eyes for a moment with that one. You are aware this particular trial is largely regarded as a formality.

Anakin gestures toward their surroundings.

ANAKIN

Perhaps...but this place...its history...it is truly inspiring. In my readings, I have learned of legendary duels that took place here in the Jedi Master rites of passage.

Obi-Wan nods. They leap back to the lowest level of the room - Anakin with an adept show of acrobatics between platforms and Obi-Wan in a more straightforward maneuver.

ANAKIN

And, of course, Master, I'm always looking to impress you.

Obi-Wan grins and shakes his head incredulously.

OBI-WAN

Anakin, I haven't even scored a point on you. It's seventeen to zero. I think we can officially call this particular trial completed.

They walk toward the exit, an automatic door that subtly blends into the room's wall.

OBI-WAN

And, Anakin, you might very well now be the most skilled Jedi in the galaxy with a lightsaber, but you must always remember that in combat any variable can make the difference. It's impossible to account for everything. In any given battle, any Jedi - even the most powerful - could fall to the most novice.

Anakin stops before they reach the door.

ANAKIN

So you're saying that Ben Dimtro could best me with a lightsaber?

Obi-Wan stops and turns back toward him.

OBI-WAN

Anakin, there's no need to impugn the skills of a fellow Jedi. Ben Dimtro is an honorable member of our order.

ANAKIN

(scoffing)

Ben Dimtro has never graduated one of his Padawans to Master, and he has spent the entire war in the library.

OBI-WAN

(scowling)

Anakin, how many times have we discussed dispensing with this sort of individualistic haughtiness?

ANAKIN

Care to put your theory to the test?

OBI-WAN

No, Anakin.

ANAKIN

For fun. There's no word of Separatist aggression. What's our hurry? I'll wager you the Council debriefing report duties on our next mission that I can reach fifty before you score a single point.

OBI-WAN

No, Anakin.

ANAKIN

Think of it as a teaching exercise. Prove to your student that you're right.

Anakin ignites his lightsaber and takes a swing at Obi-Wan. Obi-Wan instinctively ignites his lightsaber and barely blocks the strike in time. Anakin grins and continues his attack. Stone-faced, Obi-Wan allows the duel to continue in a primarily defensive posture, until...

Anakin's lightsaber arcs downward with preternatural speed, slamming into one of Obi-Wan's legs. The invisible forcefield generated around the room's denizens protects Obi-Wan and causes Anakin's blade to bounce away harmlessly with a spark once again, but the power of the swing still knocks Obi-Wan to the ground.

ROBOTIC VOICE (INTERCOM)  
POINT - SKYWALKER.

Obi-Wan looks up at Anakin and frowns. Then he breaks into a smile, his pride getting the best of him as he stands back up. Anakin returns the smile, their brotherly, friendly competitive bond apparent.

OBI-WAN  
You know, Anakin, I was able to  
vanquish a Sith Lord once upon a  
time...

Obi-Wan goes on the attack now. Anakin retreats slightly, step after step. He's grinning and obviously not exerting himself too strenuously. Several more parries end in another standoff, lightsaber blades pressed almost unmoving against each other with a crackling hum.

OBI-WAN  
And you're right, this is fun...

Anakin shoves Obi-Wan backward, catching him in the stomach with the tip of his lightsaber with a quick swing as Obi-Wan falls backward.

ROBOTIC VOICE (INTERCOM)  
POINT - SKYWALKER.

OBI-WAN  
I will score a point before  
fifty, Anakin. Of that, I assure  
you.

Anakin smiles, welcoming the challenge.

START MONTAGE:

INT JEDI ARENA - DAY

In exchange after exchange, lightsabers clash and dodging flips are executed, sometimes making use of the platforms and the room's vertical orientation. Both Obi-Wan and Anakin are enjoying the contest now, but Anakin competes with an obvious cocky, taunting swagger, at times using only one hand and toying with Obi-Wan's best effort. Obi-Wan accounts himself well at some points and even presses Anakin on occasion, but over and over the result is that same voice...

ROBOTIC VOICE (INTERCOM)  
POINT - SKYWALKER.

END MONTAGE

INT JEDI ARENA - DAY

Obi-Wan breathes heavily. Anakin also shows signs of fatigue. Both hold lightsabers at the ready once again.

OBI-WAN  
(speaking to the room)  
Score?

ROBOTIC VOICE (INTERCOM)  
SKYWALKER, FORTY-EIGHT. KENOBI,  
ZERO.

Obi-Wan nods. Anakin smirks. Anakin goes on the offensive, once again pressing Obi-Wan's skills to the utmost and forcing him to retreat.

Obi-Wan leaps upward through the room from platform to platform. Anakin follows the same path. Obi-Wan stops short of the ceiling, and with his free hand channels the Force toward the platform he was on previously, just as Anakin was about to land on it. The platform crumbles to rubble as Anakin lands on it.

Anakin is too quick for this to completely undo his attack. He stumbles but uses his legs to propel himself off the last solid piece of the platform. However, Obi-Wan then turns his Force telekinesis on Anakin's lightsaber. Anakin's grip has just loosened enough for Obi-Wan to rip it from his grasp. The lightsaber flies upward into Obi-Wan's free hand.

Anakin bounces to another platform and lands on his knees. Obi-Wan is on top of him before he can move, and he brings both lightsabers down on him. They stop short of contacting the force field, as Anakin raises his own hands, directing the Force to telekinetically hold Obi-Wan's swings at bay.

Obi-Wan grimaces as he tries to overcome Anakin's command of the Force. Anakin speaks as he exerts himself further.

ANAKIN  
Not entirely fair desecrating  
this place, was it, Master?

OBI-WAN  
I told you that you need to  
account for any variable in  
combat, Padawan.

The two Jedi persist and visibly strain with the unseen battle for several more seconds - Anakin's hands raised in aggressive defense and Obi-Wan's struggling to bring the two lightsaber blades down on him. It's uncertain which one will prevail, until...

DROID'S VOICE (INTERCOM)

Jedi Kenobi and Skywalker, I apologize for interrupting. There is an urgent message from Coruscant. The Chancellor has been kidnapped. Your presence is required there immediately.

Obi-Wan and Anakin exchange a look of amused frustration as they continue to struggle. Duty calls, and this will have to wait. They both relent simultaneously. Anakin's hands fall, and Obi-Wan's sheathes both lightsabers. They jump to the lowest level, and Obi-Wan tosses Anakin his lightsaber as they dash toward the door.

Anakin catches the lightsaber.

ANAKIN

You would have lost that point too, Master.

OBI-WAN

Perhaps, my friend. Another time...

EXT HANGAR - DAY

Anakin and Obi-Wan run to their Jedi starfighters and take off from the bay.

EXT SPACE ABOVE JEDI ARENA PLANET

Anakin's and Obi-Wan's ships dock with their hyperspace attachments and zoom away into the expanse of space toward Coruscant.

*This brings us to the battle above Coruscant that opens the movie as written.*

*In order to fully flesh out my changes to the end duel, a few other matters need to be described. The first is the attitude of the general public toward the Jedi order. In my imagining, Palpatine has slyly turned the public sentiment completely against the Jedi order while still making use of their help in leading the Clone army against the Separatists. (The film's depicting the attack on Palpatine as being sufficient to bring the Senate to universal agreement seemed far too rushed.)*

Political wrangling has left the Jedi perceived as powerful beings to be feared and mistrusted; they would seem to be aiming to wrest control of the galaxy from the Galactic Senate. Truthfully, there are some Jedi - even a few within the Council - who believe that their passionless way would be for the best in leading the galaxy, even if they would not act upon this belief. This only exacerbates the tension.

In one scene that takes place early in the film outside the Jedi Council - the exterior of which has been stained with graffiti - Mace Windu and his padawan are dispatched to quell a large crowd of angry protestors.

One loudmouthed protestor in particular dares to almost pick a fight with Mace Windu as he hurls insult after insult at the Jedi, and - as only Samuel L. Jackson could play the scene - Mace serenely calms his hotheaded padawan and takes the abuse, all the while projecting a menace that defuses the situation.

Still, it's evident that the Jedi can only resist some sort of violent incident for so long. In private, Mace and Yoda discuss the fact that morally the Jedi must abandon their post and status on Coruscant before ever resorting to violence against a public that is more or less innocent and a mere victim of political manipulation. It is a cruel irony that the people they attempt to protect now despise them.

Later, Palpatine tantalizes Anakin with the story of Darth Plagueis. In between telling Anakin the story and Anakin's realizing that Palpatine is a Sith, Palpatine gives Anakin a text that belonged to Plagueis that includes some description of how to tap into the force to cheat death. Anakin is suspicious of how Palpatine could come to possess this item, but Palpatine claims that this text was an artifact found on Plagueis' home world during the Clone Wars. Palpatine suggests that Anakin - as a Jedi - might be able to understand it, for he surely cannot. Anakin wants to believe this is true, so he studies the book. Then he confronts Palpatine similar to how it occurred in the film.

After killing Mace Windu, Sidious and Vader confer on the power described in Plagueis' text. Neither has a full understanding of what Plagueis knew, but Anakin seems to want to try to make use of the power on his own based on what he has read. Palpatine assures him that together they will master it and prevent Padme's death.

I realize this change in the story falls outside the realm of extended universe canon, but within the context of the six films alone, it is entirely possible.

Still later, after Yoda returns to Coruscant and views the

carnage at the Jedi Temple with Obi-Wan, he attempts to go to the seat of the Galactic council to confront the Emperor.

However, the public has been mobilized and is out in rioting force to arrest (or kill) any Jedi they see. In fact, Obi-Wan and Yoda hurriedly leave the temple after their investigation, as the people have begun to storm the place and seek to set it aflame.

Mobs walk the streets. Yoda is perhaps the most famous Jedi of them all, so when he is spotted there is nothing he can say or do. He cannot kill these people, and he cannot reach the Emperor. The conflicting emotions are etched on his countenance as he realizes what he must do. Feeling disgrace for the entire Jedi order, he escapes the mob and flees the planet with Bail Organa.

(Aside: I feel this is a necessary and important change for two reasons.

First, although I enjoy the spectacle of Yoda's battling the Emperor, I think the intercutting between the two duels diminishes the dramatic power of Obi-Wan versus Anakin, which should be the central thrust of the film.

Second, Yoda's fleeing as presented in the movie is not convincing to me in the least. That fall in the Senate chamber did not seem to be enough to precipitate his giving up. If we are simply to assume that Yoda realizes he cannot defeat the Emperor, then this point should have been more clearly illustrated. Regardless, as I said above, I think the concept of turning the general public against the Jedi is a more convincing and impressive display of the Emperor's wiles. The Jedi should not fear going against the Emperor; the concept of a Master as powerful as Yoda simply resigning himself to exile for twenty years without ever attempting to stop the Empire after what we have seen in the prequels is a case not strongly made. What the Jedi should fear is killing average citizens who do not realize their folly. This is far more consistent with the story as told.)

Finally, we reach the duel on Mustafar. My primary issue with the duel as presented in the film is that the environment overwhelms the action. I wanted a much more concentrated focus on lightsaber vs. lightsaber as opposed to all that leaping around on traveling platforms and climbing up structures as they fall into the lava. The fight should be an epic Jedi vs. Jedi affair with choreography to rival that final exchange between Obi-Wan and Darth Maul just before Obi-Wan falls into the pit, a moment that remains the best in all six films in that category.



## INT MUSTAFAR INDUSTRIAL FACILITY - NIGHT

Anakin - in the wake of having committed the Separatist slaughter - sits in a meditative Jedi pose with Darth Plagueis' book open on his lap. Corpses litter the room. He reads intently. He reads a particular passage, looks up, and his eyes begin to glow yellow-green as he tests the limits of his new Sith powers.

## EXT SPACE ABOVE MUSTAFAR

Padme's ship emerges from hyperspace and flies toward the planetoid.

## EXT MUSTAFAR SHIP PLATFORM - NIGHT

Padme's ship lands. The ramp on Padme's ship lowers, and she walks out onto the platform, situated just below the edge of an immense caldera - one of many on the planet. The crater recedes into the mountain and holds an immense pool of bubbling lava.

Padme walks toward the path that leads down the mountain toward the main industrial facility, but before she starts downward, Anakin steps out of a darkened, rocky alcove in the side of the mountain. She sees him and runs to him, stopping short of throwing her arms around him.

ANAKIN

Padme, what's wrong? Why are you here?

PADME

Anakin, I was worried about you, and Obi-Wan told me...

ANAKIN

Padme, none of that matters now.

Anakin smiles - the last glint of his good nature that we'll ever see from him. He's almost giddy. He pulls Darth Plagueis' tome from his robe.

ANAKIN

I have it. It's here. I can save you.

PADME

You have what?

He steps closer to her and puts his hand on her bulging stomach. She lets him touch her but her body language shows that she is wary of him.

ANAKIN

I can save you! And the baby! I have the power.

He moves toward her to kiss her. She pulls away. Anakin's smile disappears.

PADME

Anakin...Obi-Wan said...

Now Anakin is frowning.

ANAKIN

What did *Obi-Wan* say?

PADME

He said that the slaughter in the temple...that it was your doing. He said that you have turned to the Dark Side.

Anakin shakes his head.

PADME

Younglings, Anakin...he says you killed Younglings.

ANAKIN

Obi-Wan is trying to divide us, Padme. The entire Jedi order is corrupt. They turned against the Republic. I am the only one who remained loyal to the people.

PADME

(disbelieving, tears welling)  
So you did it? You killed children?

His hesitation betrays him. She knows that he is lost.

ANAKIN

Padme, we're going to be o.k. That's all that is important. I can save you. I have become the most powerful Jedi in the history of the universe. We can rule the galaxy and impose peace once and for all. These new powers...

Padme is trying to stifle her tears.

PADME  
(screaming)  
Anakin, you're insane! I loved  
you! How could you do this?

ANAKIN  
Padme, calm down. Everything  
I've ever done I've done for us.

Padme shakes her head and draws her blaster, pointing it at him. Anakin momentarily smirks at the idea that she could shoot him.

ANAKIN  
Padme, the prophecy was going to  
come true. I can't let you die  
like my mother did. Don't you  
understand?

Her hand holding the blaster shakes.

PADME  
Saving me doesn't justify murder.

ANAKIN  
Padme, this is silly. You can't  
shoot me. You still love me.

PADME  
How can I love you, Anakin?  
You're not the same. You're a  
monster.

Anakin now sees stowaway Obi-Wan walking across the platform toward them.

OBI-WAN  
(shouting)  
Padme, put the gun down.

Padme is startled by the voice and pulls the trigger. Anakin reacts instinctively, his visage overcome with anger: as his left hand deflects the laser blast, Sith lightning streaks from his right hand. The electric current slams into Padme's body and continues to course through her body as she hits the ground.

ANAKIN  
(enraged)  
Look what you made me do!

OBI-WAN  
I did nothing, Anakin.

Obi-Wan walks over to Padme's unconscious body. He leans over to check her pulse.

ANAKIN

Keep your hands off of her.

He ignites his lightsaber.

OBI-WAN

Anakin, she's still alive.  
There's no need to fight. We can  
save her and...Anakin, we can  
still save you.

ANAKIN

No, you fool. I can save her  
whenever I like. I have more  
power now than you can possibly  
imagine.

His lightsaber glowing at his side, Anakin stalks toward Obi-Wan, slowly but deliberately.

ANAKIN

And saving me? I think your  
primary concern right now should  
be saving yourself.

Obi-Wan rises to his feet and ignites his lightsaber.

OBI-WAN

Anakin, this is ridiculous.

Anakin continues toward him.

ANAKIN

Time to settle that bet, Obi-Wan.  
Regretfully, you won't be around  
to pay up. Of course, there's no  
Jedi Council anymore to receive  
that report, is there?

OBI-WAN

Anakin, this is ridiculous.

Anakin is on him before anything else can be said. He's swinging his blade with two-handed fury. Blocking the blows, Obi-Wan is barely defending himself. Anakin knocks him to the platform floor. Obi-Wan blocks more deathblows from his back and rolls back to his feet. Anakin persists, backing Obi-Wan to the edge of the platform. Their blades clash and hold, pressed against each other. Obi-Wan is perilously close to falling off the edge down the mountain.

ANAKIN

This is the end for you, Master.

Anakin continues to push Obi-Wan back. Obi-Wan's feet creep over the edge. Obi-Wan is obviously terrified of his apprentice's immense power, but he is resilient.

OBI-WAN

It's not over yet, Anakin.

Obi-Wan steps backward off the platform, catching the bottom of it with his free hand. He reaches back up with his lightsaber taking a swing at Anakin's feet. Anakin leaps backward, barely dodging the blow and falling to his hands and knees. With the strength of just the one hand, Obi-Wan deftly executes a flip back onto the platform.

Now Obi-Wan is on the attack, bearing down on Anakin, who deflects the lightsaber blows from his knees with only a single hand on his lightsaber. He pushes himself up with his free hand and has the strength to shove Obi-Wan backward with a singlehanded lightsaber push.

The two Jedi circle each other, looking for an opening.

ANAKIN

I don't think I'll call you  
Master anymore. I think I'll  
call you Ben.

OBI-WAN

What?

ANAKIN

After Ben Dimtro.  
(mockingly)  
Look at your errant Padawan.  
You're a failure just like Ben.

OBI-WAN

Anakin, my failure as your  
teacher is nothing compared to  
your failure as my friend.

ANAKIN

Well, *friend*, after I kill you,  
we'll say you only owe me your  
life eight times over instead of  
nine.

They continue to circle each other. The hum of the lightsabers and the rumble of the nearby volcano are the only sounds.

ANAKIN

I struck Ben Dimtro down in the  
Temple. He didn't even have time  
to draw his lightsaber. So much  
for your variables.

Anakin attacks, and Obi-Wan staves him off with a skillful display of swordplay. Obi-Wan turns the tide and responds with a flurry of swings. He takes a swipe at Anakin's head that Anakin dodges without a millimeter to spare. Anakin is shaken by the sudden display of skill that his teacher has shown.

ANAKIN

Not bad, Ben. That wouldn't be the Dark Side you're channeling, would it? Anger for your fallen Jedi brethren?

OBI-WAN

It's not anger, Anakin. It's justice.

Obi-Wan attacks again. He's using both hands, attacking Anakin with everything he has. Now Anakin seems to be toying with him, deflecting Obi-Wan's attacks with one hand.

ANAKIN

This is fun, Ben.

Anakin leaps from the platform onto the side of the mountain, scaling the side of the mountain. He looks back at Obi-Wan and sheathes his lightsaber.

ANAKIN

Come catch me, Ben. Dispense your *justice*.

Obi-Wan glances at Padme again.

ANAKIN

Don't worry about her, Ben. I said I'll save her. Let's finish our duel.

Obi-Wan hesitates. Anakin flings several bolts of Sith lightning. They just miss Obi-Wan. One of them tauntingly hits the platform next to Padme. Obi-Wan has no choice: he sheathes his lightsaber, leaps onto the side of the mountain, and lands near Anakin.

Immediately Anakin's lightsaber is ablaze and raining blows down upon Obi-Wan. Obi-Wan ignites his lightsaber just in time to defend himself. Anakin is surging with rage, pressing his attack. Half the swings Obi-Wan has no time to block and must dodge. Anakin's lightsaber slices through the mountain's rocky side with each dodge.

Obi-Wan retreats up the side of the mountain. The lightsabers continue to clash as they reach the peak of the mountain. They pause again.

They are at the edge of the caldera, their silhouettes framed against the pool of lava below them. Fireballs of rock and prominences of flame erupt upward.

Obi-Wan attacks, and Anakin is smugly using one hand once again. Obi-Wan takes advantage momentarily, pushing Anakin down the mountain ridges inside the caldera.

Obi-Wan uses his force telekinesis to disintegrate the rock beneath Anakin's feet, and just as he did in the Jedi arena, he rips the lightsaber from Anakin's hand as Anakin stumbles. Obi-Wan catches the lightsaber in midair and brings both blades toward the fallen Anakin.

Anakin does not need a lightsaber or his Force telekinesis this time. Sith lightning explodes from his palms, surging through both lightsaber blades, knocking them out of Obi-Wan's hands. The lightning then slams into Obi-Wan's chest, throwing him against the inside of the caldera. Obi-Wan rolls down the slope and lands on a ridge. Anakin laughs.

ANAKIN

So predictable, Ben. I knew  
you'd try that again.

Anakin walks toward Obi-Wan. The heat of the lightning is still sending steam from Obi-Wan's body. Obi-Wan wearily rolls over and looks up at Anakin.

ANAKIN

Goodbye, Ben.

Anakin lifts his hands to shoot more lightning into Obi-Wan, just as a flaming piece of rock flies into the sky from the lava. Obi-Wan lifts a hand, directing the fireball through the air toward Anakin. Anakin turns and destroys it with his Sith lightning. The rock explodes, showering Anakin with fiery shrapnel. Anakin screams in pain; his robes are aflame. Anakin turns to finish Obi-Wan only to find a lit lightsaber flying through the air, guided by Obi-Wan's other hand. The blade slides into Anakin's stomach, and Anakin falls over in pain.

Obi-Wan rises to his feet. He uses telekinesis to bring the other lightsaber into his hand and walks over to Anakin. He stands over him. Anakin looks up at him with blood filling his mouth. The lightsaber is still protruding from his stomach. The image is pathetic.

OBI-WAN

Anakin, it's finished.

They look at each other in silence. The volcano rumbles. Obi-Wan's eyes well with tears.

OBI-WAN

Anakin, perhaps it's not too late. I can still feel the good in you. We can still fix this.

ANAKIN

I've done horrible things...

OBI-WAN

I know, Anakin, but I should have been a better teacher.

Anakin's eyes well with tears. He tries to grip the lightsaber in his stomach, but the burns all over his body make motion difficult. Suddenly, his eyes fill with hatred. His hand flies upward in Obi-Wan's direction. Sith lightning springs forth. Obi-Wan blocks it with the lightsaber in his hand. With his other hand he uses Force telekinesis to rip the lightsaber through Anakin's body. It slices down through Anakin's stomach and amputates his legs. Anakin screams in pain once again and rolls down the caldera. He's on the edge of the lava.

Obi-Wan is filled with rage and sadness.

OBI-WAN

Anakin, how could you? You were the Chosen One! I loved you like a brother!

Anakin looks up at Obi-Wan. His eyes are still glowing with defiance. The lava creeps up and sets Anakin ablaze. Obi-Wan recovers the lightsaber and walks away up the mountain, as Anakin screams in anguish.

Once Obi-Wan leaves, Anakin - a burning, dismembered wreck - closes his eyes and focuses his power. His eyes open again, with that same green-yellow glow we saw when he was studying from Darth Plagueis' book.

*After the duel, Palpatine recovers Vader, only to find that Vader was forced to use Plagueis' power to save himself. Vader reveals that the power required too much of him. He can never use it again and survive. Sidious lies to Vader about his killing Padme as before, but in this case it is true in a sense.*

*Padme gives birth as in the film, but she survives the labor. It is revealed that the Sith lightning has set off a cellular flaw that will kill her within five years. The physical strain of the labor activated it. The twins should still be separated to keep them hidden. A fake funeral is held to keep Padme's survival secret.*

*In the final series of shots, we see Padme on Alderaan with baby Leia under the protection of Bail Organa and his wife.*



*She looks down at her daughter. Her expression can only be described as beautiful but sad, as she was described by Leia in Episode VI.*