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THE
MANDALORIAN

Chapter 13.5
"The Shadows"

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Based on
"The Mandalorian" by Jon Favreau
"Star Wars" by George Lucas

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INT. KESSEL CLUB - NIGHT

A dingy, dirty, dark cantina, lit with neon signs advertising various beverages and games of chance. In the center of the cantina is a circular bar where PROTOCOL DROIDS serve beverages to various alien species.

Tables where PATRONS play pazaak -- a colorful, blackjack-like card game-- surround the bar.

At one of the pazaak tables sits DASH RENDAR, an aged smuggler who was perhaps once dashing, but now sports a plump beer belly and a receding hairline.

Across from Dash sit a Devaronian, another human and a Rodian, JEVNANT PARDAI - all look like they could be killers.

Dash examines his cards. His opponents wait for his next move. Reluctantly, Dash selects another card from a deck sitting in the middle of the table.

It's a bad card. And Dash has an even worse poker face. His opponents LAUGH. Dash grimaces.

JEVNANT PARDAI

(in Rodian)

You're out of moves, Rendar. Why not give up now?

DASH RENDAR

You ought to know by now, Jevnant... I'm never out of moves.

Dash plays a card.

ANGLE ON THE ENTRANCE:

Din strides into the bar, his shining beskar armor catching the attention of some of the bar patrons.

As Din surveys the bar, a DROID, C-343, waddles up to greet him.

C-343

Welcome to the Kessel Club.

Din ignores the droid's greeting and continues to survey the club for his quarry.

C-343 (CONT'D)

Apologies. But all patrons partaking in games of chance must remove any face coverings--

DIN DJARIN
I'm not here to play.

ANGLE ON THE PAZAAK TABLE:

Dash confidently SMACKS A CARD DOWN on the table.

The table LIGHTS UP in response. Dash has won the hand.

DASH RENDAR
BOOM! Sorry, Jevnant. You know, you
may actually beat me one day...

Dash pulls a pile of Republic credits towards him.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
But it sure ain't gonna be today.

Disappointed, the human and Devaronian players leave.

JEVNANT PARDAI
(in Rodian)
Quite a hand, Rendar...

DASH RENDAR
Well, I could lie and tell you it's
luck if that would make you feel
better, but I think we both know--

Jevnant grabs Dash's arm, interrupting his collecting of the credits.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
Hey!

Jevnant pulls a pazaak card out of Dash's sleeve.

JEVNANT PARDAI
(in Rodian)
Not luck.

ANGLE ON THE ENTRANCE:

Din is still being held up by the protocol droid.

C-343
I'm sorry sir, but I couldn't
possibly divulge any information
about our players...

A COMMOTION in the distance. CREDITS SPILL ONTO THE FLOOR.
Din spies Dash at his pazaak table. He's being held at
blaster point by Jevnant.

C-343 (CONT'D)

It is strictly against Kessel Club
policy to reveal any information--

Din walks right by the protocol droid.

ANGLE ON THE PAZAAK TABLE:

Jevnant trains his blaster on Dash.

JEVNANT PARDAI
(in Rodian)
Cheater!

DASH RENDAR
Oh come on, Jevnant, what the hell?
I thought we were friends.

JEVNANT PARDAI
(in Rodian)
A low life like you has no friends,
Rendar.

DASH RENDAR
Really? We're not friends?

JEVNANT PARDAI
(in Rodian)
No.

DASH RENDAR
Have it your way.

Dash attempts to QUICK DRAW his blaster from a hip holster...

The blaster STICKS in its holster.

Dash awkwardly YANKS at the blaster. It won't come free.

JEVNANT PARDAI
(in Rodian)
What are you doing?

DASH RENDAR
Just gimme a second...

More yanks. Nothing. The blaster is stuck.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
Damn junk...

JEVNANT PARDAI
(in Rodian)
Say goodbye, Rendar.

Jevnant prepares to fire. Dash WINCES.

DIN DJARIN

Drop it.

Din stands over the table and holds his blaster to the Rodian's head.

Jevnant thinks for a beat. He places his blaster down.

DASH RENDAR

Looks like I've got more friends
than you thought, Jevnant.

Dash scoops up Jevnant's blaster. He trains it on the Rodian.

DIN DJARIN

Stand up.

The Rodian obliges. Din keeps his blaster firmly against Jevnant's head.

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)

Now take your credits and go.

JEVNANT PARDAI

(in Rodian)

What?

DASH RENDAR

I agree. What the hell?

DIN DJARIN

Do it.

Jevnant scoops up the credits off the floor with haste.

JEVNANT PARDAI

(in Rodian)

This isn't over, Rendar. Kanjiklub
never forgets.

Jevnant hurries out of the club. Din takes a seat at the table. Dash now trains his blaster on his new table-mate.

DASH RENDAR

Gimme one why reason I shouldn't
roast you for that.

DIN DJARIN

You cheated. The credits rightfully
belonged to the Rodian.

Dash thinks about it.

DASH RENDAR
Terrible reason.

Dash SHOTS DIN. The laser shot BOUNCES OFF Din's beskar armor and HITS THE CEILING.

Bar patrons all DUCK FOR COVER.

Even faster than the blaster shot, Din SNATCHES THE BLASTER out of Dash's hands and trains it back on him. Dash puts his hands up.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
No hard feelings.

Din lowers the blaster, and the bar patrons go back to their various activities.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
You a bounty hunter?

DIN DJARIN
Something like that.

Dash SNICKERS.

DASH RENDAR
A bounty hunter with a moral compass. You must be broke.

Dash collects himself. He slicks back what's left of his hair.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
Look, tell Sillis I'll get the money. In fact, better yet, tell him you just gave away his payday.

DIN DJARIN
There's another way for you to pay your debt.

DASH RENDAR
Oh yeah? What's that?

DIN DJARIN
I need you to get me past the Republic blockade at Sullust. Do that, and Sillis has agreed to wipe out your debt.

DASH RENDAR
(laughs)
Is that all?

Din stays composed and waits for Dash to explain his reaction.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
You know the Empire is still on Sullust, right? Even if you do get past the blockade, the planet is a war zone. It's a suicide run--

Din gets up to leave.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
Whoa! Whoa! Where you going? Sit down, we're talking.

Din sits down.

DIN DJARIN
I'm going to do this with or without you.

DASH RENDAR
With or without me? Ain't no way you can do it without me.

DIN DJARIN
There are plenty of other smugglers on this moon.

DASH RENDAR
True, but it's going to take the best smuggler in the galaxy to pull this off. And that's me.

DIN DJARIN
"The best smuggler in the galaxy"?

DASH RENDAR
The one and only. The legend. Dash Rendar. At your service.

DIN DJARIN
If your blaster skills are any indication, I might be better off on my own.

DASH RENDAR
Watch it, Mando. I used to eat bounty hunters like you for breakfast.

Din gently brushes the blaster mark off of his shoulder armor. Dash takes a beat.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
You said the whole debt?

EXT. NAR SHADDAA - LANDING PAD - NIGHT

Din and Grogu are led by Dash out to a landing pad that is nestled in the heart of the city. The bustling city skyline and starry night sky hang above.

DASH RENDAR
You really gotta bring that thing
along?

Dash shoots Grogu a look of disgust.

DIN DJARIN
He goes where I go.

DASH RENDAR
He's ugly.

Grogu lowers his ears in shame.

DIN DJARIN
(to Grogu)
He doesn't mean it.

DASH RENDAR
Yes, I do. He's disgusting. Like if
snot had a face-- there she is!

Perched on the landing pad is a Corellian light freighter-- THE OUTRIDER. The ship is similar in size and design to THE MILLENNIUM FALCON. Imposing turret guns sit on the bottom, top and side of the ship. A boarding ramp is open, leading to the ship's interior.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
The Outrider. Fastest ship in the
galaxy.

Din and Grogu share a look. No way this is the fastest ship in the galaxy.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
Hey, Leebo! Get out here! We've got
a job!

DIN DJARIN
Leebo?

DASH RENDAR
My co-pilot. LE-BO2D9. I call him
"Leebo."

DIN DJARIN
Your co-pilot is a droid?

DASH RENDAR
We're friends.

There's no reply from Leebo. Dash marches towards the boarding ramp.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
Leebo! I swear, if you're screwing
around--

CRASH!

Leebo's smoldering humanoid, mechanical body comes FLYING down the boarding ramp. The droid's lifeless frame SMASHES into pieces.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
Leebo!

Jevnant, accompanied by TWO OTHER RODIANS, comes striding down the ramp, blasters in hand.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
That was stupid, Jevnant.

Jevnant and his henchmen stride towards Dash and Din. Jevnant STOMPS over Leebo's remains.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
Real stupid.

JEVNANT PARDAI
(in Rodian)
Kanjiklub never forgets, Rendar.

Din steps in front of Grogu, shielding him from the fight to come.

JEVNANT PARDAI (CONT'D)
(in Rodian)
There's no need for you to be
involved, Mandalorian.

DASH RENDAR
Yeah I don't need him to fight my
battles neither.
(MORE)

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
 This is between you and me,
 Jevnant. So why don't we settle
 this? Just the two of us.

Jevnant lets out a CACKLING LAUGH.

JEVNANT PARDAI
 (in Rodian)
 A duel? You really do have a death
 wish, don't you?

DASH RENDAR
 Do you accept or not?

Jevnant pauses to consider the offer. He eyes down Din, who
 looks as lethal as ever in his armor.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
 If you agree, I swear on my honor,
 no harm will come to you before our
 duel. And it'll just be between you
 and me.

JEVNANT PARDAI
 (in Rodian)
 You swear it?

Dash nods.

JEVNANT PARDAI (CONT'D)
 (in Rodian)
 I accept. Where do you want to die?

DIN DJARIN
 (to Dash)
 Are you sure this is a good idea?

Dash doesn't acknowledge the Mandalorian's concern.

DASH RENDAR
 How about the Wormstew bridge? One
 hour?

JEVNANT PARDAI
 (in Rodian)
 If you don't show, there will be
 nowhere you can hide from us.

Dash takes a look over at Leebo's smoking remains.

DASH RENDAR
 I'll be there.

That's good enough for Jevnant. The three Rodians walk past Dash and Din, away from The Outrider.

JEVNANT PARDAI
 (in Rodian)
 Enjoy your final hour, Rendar. No
 more "moves" after tonight.

Dash CHORTLES to himself.

DASH RENDAR
 Oh, I'm never out of moves.

BOOM! Dash draws his blaster and SHOOTS JEVNANT IN THE BACK.

THUD! Jevnant hits the ground.

The two Rodian henchmen turn on their heels. Dash SHOOTS EACH OF THEM before they can draw their blasters.

Dash SPITS on the ground.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
 Goodbye, Jevnant.

Dash walks over to Leebo's remains as Din checks on Grogu.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
 Damn it, Leebo...

Din marches towards Dash.

DIN DJARIN
 What was that?

DASH RENDAR
 I call it "good shooting." Hey, do
 me a solid and load poor Leebo up
 in The Outrider.

DIN DJARIN
 Where are you going?

DASH RENDAR
 To see if these Kanjiklub goons
 have any credits on them. Gotta
 recoup my losses, thanks to you.

Din watches as Dash searches the corpses for credits.

CHARACTER BIO

"Jevnant Pardai"

Species: Rodian

Affiliation: Kanjiklub

Design notes: Bulky and covered in scars. This guy is not Greedo (a scrawny amateur who gets shot under the table). He's a barbarian, a warrior who wears his victories literally on his skin. We need to get the impression that Dash should be much more cautious around this guy than he is.

VO notes: Speaks exclusively in Rodian. Raspy and seasoned. Like a nasty western gunslinger who lives on cigarettes and whiskey. He's cold, calm, sharp and certain of himself.

Think The Man in Black (William) in *Westworld* or Sam Elliot in anything.

MoCap notes: Jevnant is a contract killer with ice in his veins. He's accustomed to violence and survived many a gunfight. So he moves deliberately and with confidence in most situations, but can strike with lightning speed when he needs to. Imagine a king cobra – a creature unafraid, unbothered, with a thousand yard stare that burns the message into your brain that at any moment it could strike...

Bio: Jevnant grew up as an orphan in Nar Shaddaa's merciless under-sector. As a youngling, Jevnant caught the attention of an enforcer for the Huttese crime syndicate when he killed a fellow Rodian in a street fight. Under his mentor's cruel tutelage, Jevnant became a professional assassin for hire.

Yearning for greater recognition in the criminal underworld, Jevnant traveled to his home world of Rodia to complete an ancient rite of passage; to hunt and slay a ghet – a vicious, slithering creature which preys on the native Rodians. The act earned Jevnant the attention of Jabba The Hutt, who provided the Rodian with steady contracts during the Galactic Civil War.

After the death of Jabba The Hutt and the fall of the Galactic Empire, Jevnant returned to his home of Nar Shadda to join Kanjiklub as a "Death Hand" – an elite member of the criminal syndicate considered to be "untouchable".

HOLO LOG

"Last Message from Kara"

Location: The Outrider cockpit.

Hologram Visual: Kara, Dash's estranged wife plays with their infant young son, Denon. A younger Dash enters and holds his family close.

FX Notes: The hologram is old. It flickers and stutters and skips, like an old worn out VHS tape that's been played over and over again.

KARA (V.O.)

Consider this blackmail, Dash Rendar. If you don't make it back to us, I'm going to send this holo out to every card den and cantina in the system. The whole galaxy will know that infamous smuggler, bad boy, renegade, once took down an AT-ST single handily Dash Rendar is nothing more than a big-hearted softy loth-cat. "Damaged Goods", that's what they'll call you. And don't you go and do anything stupid like dying on us. Tell Leebo if anything happens to you I'm holding him personally responsible. You owe me at least... a hundred... no, two hundreds more days just like this one so just... be safe. Please. Come back to us, Dash. Soon. And in one piece. We miss you.