

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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CHAPTER 13.5
THE SHADOWS

After seeking counsel with ex-Jedi ASHOKA TANO, DIN DJARIN, THE MANDALORIAN, searches for an ancient temple at TYHON in order to return the foundling, GROGU, back to his people – THE JEDI.

The Jedi temple is elusive. However, Din Djarin learns that the infamous gangster – SILLIS THE HUTT is in possession of a relic that may offer clues to the location of the temple.

Din Djarin travels to the smuggler's moon of NAR SHADDAA in his RAZOR CREST to barter with Sillis for the sacred JEDI HOLOCRON...

FADE IN:

EXT. NAR SHADDAA - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

Under a night sky filled with brilliant stars and the glow of the planet of Nal Hutta, is the grim, grimy and sprawling city skyline of Nar Shadda. Sky cars fly past impossibly large skyscrapers that are adorned with bright neon lights and holographic advertisements.

Various alien species shuffle through the streets. Thick, gaseous smoke. Littered with trash. This place is disgusting.

A small, rodent-like creature, a ROACH-RAT, pokes its curious whiskered snout out of a storm drain. It scurries into the street, between the legs of various city dwellers, narrowly missing being stepped on.

EXT. CLUB UFORA - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The roach-rat scurries down a grimy, wet and dark side street. DANCE MUSIC THUMPS somewhere nearby.

The roach-rat hesitates for just a moment--

WHAM!

The rodent is SKEWERED IN PLACE ONTO THE END OF A PIKE.

A GAMORREAN GUARD -- one of the familiar and grotesque pig-men creatures-- raises his pike, and the skewered roach-rat, to his snot-- and drool-- covered face.

Attempting to take a bite of his catch...

SQUEAL! A SECOND GAMORREAN GUARD attempts to wrestle the dead roach-rat away.

The two pig-men SQUEAL AND SNORT IN ANGER as they fight over the dead roach-rat.

The original Gamorrean swings his giant fist at the second, KNOCKING HIM OFF HIS FEET.

His prize secured, the original Gamorrean guard once again attempts to take a bite of the roach-rat...

CLINK. CLINK. CLINK.

Someone wearing HEAVY METAL ARMOR approaches. The Gamorrean lowers his meal and holds out a hand, attempting to stop the intruder in their tracks.

INT. CLUB UFORA - NIGHT

The club is bathed in pulsing neon lights. POUNDING MUSIC drowns out thought and speech. A large circular dance floor features a bar in the middle and is surrounded on all sides by booths where patrons sit and drink.

Filling the dance floor, the bar and the booths are glamorously dressed HUMANS and various alien species-- TALZ, ACRONA, QUARREN, GRAN, DEVARONIAN, RODIANS.

On floating stages above the dance floor, TWI'LEK dancers entertain the patrons.

Lording above all the guests on an elevated throne-like stage is SILLIS THE HUTT, a member of the same slug-like species as JABBA THE HUTT. Sillis is lean for his species and covered in scars-- notably, he's missing one of his giant eyes, indicating he may have survived one or several assassination attempts in the past.

By Sillis' side is the Trandoshan bounty hunter, BOSSK, who sports two TREMOR SWORDS on his back. His bright yellow lizard eyes keep a keen survey of the crowd.

A BLASTER SHOT goes off by the entrance. Although it's difficult to hear over the music, it catches the attention of Sillis and Bossk.

A crowd of bar patrons blocks Sillis' view of the entrance. However, Sillis watches as two Gamorrean guards rush to the entrance to see about the commotion.

WOOSH! The Gamorreans go FLYING BACK OVER THE CROWD.

WHAM! They land in the middle of the dance floor, SHOCKING THE PATRONS.

The crowd opens up, revealing DIN DJARIN, THE MANDALORIAN. The lights of the dance club bounce off his shining armor.

Bosk HOWLS A REPTILIAN BATTLE CRY. He unsheathes his tremor swords. The curved blades look as if they could cut through flesh and bone like butter as they STEADILY VIBRATE in Bossk's scaly, clawed hands.

Sillis holds up a hand, stopping Bossk in his tracks.

SILLIS
(in Huttese)
Wait.

Sillis signals for more guards-- humans, Gamorrean, Quarren and Gran wielding swords, axes and pikes rush Din.

The crowd circles the combatants on the dance floor, turning the scene into a fighting ring.

The first guard thrusts at Din with a spear. With a single hand, Din catches the spear and tears it out of the hands of his attacker while kicking him across the room.

Din uses the spear to block incoming attacks from the other guards. A block. A parry. A counter. A hit. A stab.

A guard attempts to GRAB DIN from behind.

BAM! Din SLAMS the back of his BESKAR HELMET into the sneak attacker's face.

The sneaky bugger HITS THE FLOOR.

Two FINAL GUARDS RUSH DIN...

WHAM! Din PLUNGES THE SPEAR through not one, but BOTH OF THEM.

SHICK! Din pulls the SPEAR OUT. Both guards fall to the floor.

Sillis addresses Bossk.

SILLIS (CONT'D)
(in Huttese)
Now.

Bossk leaps off the stage, landing in the middle of the ring.

The crowd backs away from Bossk, with everyone's gaze transfixed on his two terrifying, buzzing swords.

Bossk HISSES, bares his fangs, and twirls his blades in a display of his deadly skill.

The Mandalorian doesn't flinch. He clutches his spear and stands firm.

Bossk LUNGES at Din with both blades. Din raises his spear to block the thrusting swords. CRACK! The powerful blades SLICE through the shaft of the spear, BREAKING IT INTO THREE PIECES.

Another swing of the swords graze beskar armor as Din dodges the attack, creating some distance between the two combatants.

Din examines the two ends of his broken spear. Useless. He tosses them away.

Bossk circles Din, once again twirling his swords and HISSING. Saliva drips from his lizard mouth. Din carefully tracks his every step.

The lizard man makes another LUNGE at Din.

WHIP!

Din FIRES A WHIPCORD FROM THE WRIST OF HIS GAUNTLET. It WRAPS around one of Bossk's swords.

ZIP!

Din retracts the whipcord. A sword is delivered directly into his hand. Bossk HOWLS IN ANGER.

A sword each, the two combatants circle each other like samurai, each waiting for the other to make the first move.

Finally, Bossk CHARGES DIN with his blade drawn.

Din confidently side-steps Bossk, and in one fluid motion, SLICES his sword across the Trandoshan's belly.

For a beat, nothing. No reaction from the bested lizard man...

Din maintains his Mandalorian discipline. He keeps his sword at the ready should Bossk attempt to continue the fight.

CLANG! Bossk drops his sword.

Bossk falls to his knees, clutching his wound and STRUGGLING TO CATCH HIS BREATH.

Din walks to his fallen enemy and picks up the sword. Towering over Bossk, he brings both blades to the Trandoshan's neck.

Bossk looks down. He refuses to meet Din's gaze.

Sillis LICKS HIS LIPS with his grotesque, blistered tongue as he watches intently.

DIN DJARIN
Do you yield?

The crowd waits for Bossk to make his decision.

BOSSK
Yes... Yes!

Din lowers his blades. Bossk scrambles to his feet and attempts to run back to Sillis.

Before he makes it even a few steps, two guards grab Bossk by the arms and toss him back at Din's feet.

SILLIS
(in Huttese)
Finish him.

Bossk looks up at Din with sad and fearful lizard eyes.

DIN DJARIN
I'm no executioner.

Sillis considers this for a moment. He signals his guards who drag Bossk away from Din.

BOSSK
Thank you, thank you...

SILLIS
(in Huttese)
A Mandalorian with mercy?

DIN DJARIN
A Mandalorian with honor.

Sillis lets out a HARDY DEEP HUTTESE LAUGH.

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)
I'm here because you have something I need. A Jedi Holocron. I was prepared to barter before your guards attacked.

SILLIS
(in Huttese)
A Jedi Holocron? Even if I was in possession of such a rare and valuable object... what do you have to barter?

DIN DJARIN
My services as a bounty hunter.

Sillis CHUCKLES.

SILLIS
(in Huttese)
I have no use for a bounty hunter with honor.

DIN DJARIN
I'm not leaving without the Holocron.

Dozens of guards suddenly surround Din, all brandishing pikes and axes.

Din rapidly unsheathes his blaster with one hand and arms his whistling birds on the opposite gauntlet.

He trains both his blaster and gauntlet at the crowd of guards.

The odds don't look good for Din.

Sillis gestures for the guards to lower their weapons.

They do.

SILLIS
(in Huttese)
Luckily for you, Mandalorian...
there is something I want.

Din lowers his weapons in turn.

EXT. CLUB UFORA - NIGHT

Din exits the club and walks to a nearby dumpster.

Din KICKS the dumpster, and Grogu's floating ball rises out of it. Trash slips and slides off the silver ball's smooth metal surface as it rises.

The ball opens, revealing GROGU, who, while protected inside the ball, is clearly not immune to the smells of the dumpster.

DIN DJARIN
Sorry. Took longer than expected.

Din opens one of his pouches and reveals the dead roach-rat, procured from the Gamorrean guard earlier.

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)
I brought dinner.

Grogu happily accepts the roach-rat and begins to consume it.

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)
I couldn't get the Holocron. Not yet. But Sillis is willing to barter. I'm supposed to find a smuggler. Someone named *Rendar*. After that...

Grogu SLURPS DOWN the last of the roach-rat. The animal's tail WIGGLES like a spaghetti noodle before disappearing in Grogu's mouth.

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)

Come on. The sooner we find this smuggler, the sooner we can get you back to your people.

Din and Grogu proceed into the dark, crowded streets of Nar Shaddaa.

INT. CLUB UFORA - THE CATACOMBS - NIGHT

The party has resumed. DANCE MUSIC THUMPS through dark, wet stone-walled tunnels underneath the dance floor.

A large blast door opens, temporarily bathing the tunnels in light.

Two of Sillis' guards drag wounded Bossk through the blast door which promptly closes behind them.

The guards haul helpless Bossk towards a black, seemingly bottomless pit.

Bossk struggles to get away, but he's injured and at the mercy of two muscle-bound guards.

BOSSK

No! No! I've been loyal! I have done everything Sillis has asked!

GUARD #1

Sillis has no tolerance for failure, Bossk.

BOSSK

I'll pay you! Anything you want.

GUARD #1

And disobey Sillis? I don't think so.

BOSSK

No! Wait! No!

The guards TOSS Bossk into the pit...

A beat...

SPLASH! Bossk hits water...

BOSSK (O.S.) (CONT'D)
No! Get me out! Get me--

A HUGE SPLASH. SOMETHING IS IN THE PIT with Bossk.

BOSSK (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Get it off! Get it off me!

Bossk SCREAMS FOR HIS LIFE.

The guards stare coldly into the black void of the pit.

FURIOUS SPLASHING as Bossk struggles against the unseen attacker.

Silence.

The guards walk away from the pit.

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--

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 SHOOTs 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 Groggu, 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. 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.

EXT. NAR SHADDAA - NIGHT

The Outrider lifts off the landing platform, ascending above the city's skyscrapers.

The ship breaks through the atmosphere.

The Outrider speeds away from the moon and into space.

On a dime, it LAUNCHES INTO HYPERSPACE.

INT. OUTRIDER - CARGO HOLD

The interior of the ship is as rundown as Dash himself. Perhaps The Outrider was once a glamorous speed machine, but everything is now covered in a layer of engine grease.

Like The Falcon, The Outrider sports a table and seating area in the center of its cargo hold. Atop the table are Leebo's remains.

Din drops Grogu off in the area.

DIN DJARIN
You'll be safe here. Once we get to Sullust, everything should be straight-forward. In and out.

Grogu gives Din a dubious look.

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)
As long as our captain can keep us
out of trouble... Stay here.

Din leaves Grogu and heads towards the cockpit.

Grogu crawls up to the table and examines Leebo's lifeless,
severed head.

I/E. OUTRIDER - COCKPIT / HYPERSPACE

A pilot and co-pilot seat sit amongst a cacophony of lights
and switches. A glass dome around the cockpit gives a view
out into the swirling void of hyperspace.

Dash sits in the pilot's seat. Din makes his way into the
cockpit.

DASH RENDAR
Hey, tell your little gremlin to
keep his claws off Leebo. It's bad
enough he's in pieces, I don't need
him all covered in drool, too.

DIN DJARIN
We need to talk.

DASH RENDAR
No offense, Mando, but I find it
real hard to talk to you. You got
your face all covered. Don't nobody
know what you're thinking or
feeling--

DIN DJARIN
You shot that Rodian in the back.

DASH RENDAR
And?

DIN DJARIN
You gave him your word. You swore
on your honor.

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)
Honor... What is it with you
Mandalorians and honor?

Din stares bullets through Dash.

Dash rolls his eyes.

DASH RENDAR

I know. I lied. I'm a bad boy. But, you'll notice, I'm also alive. And slightly richer thanks to our Kanjiklub friends.

DIN DJARIN

The life of a coward is no life worth living.

DASH RENDAR

Hey. I ain't no coward. The places I've been, the things I've done, you wouldn't believe.

Din leans back. No, he doesn't believe.

Frustrated, Dash rolls up his sleeve, revealing a hideous scar on his upper right shoulder.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

You see that? You know what that is? Wampa scar. You know where I got it? Hoth. Yeah. As in "The Battle of".

DIN DJARIN

(dubious)

You were at Hoth?

Dash rolls down his sleeve.

DASH RENDAR

Oh, I was there. Protected the evacuation ships. Saved a lot of lives that day... I fought a lot of battles for The Rebellion.

DIN DJARIN

First you're the best smuggler in the galaxy. Now you're a war hero? A war hero who shoots his opponents in the back for a few credits?

DASH RENDAR

(scoffs)

Yeah, well, let's just say my hero days are over. Only two people that matter to me now are yours truly and Leebo.

DIN DJARIN

Just so you know, betraying me won't end well.

DASH RENDAR

Settle down, Mando. There's mutual gains to be had here. If I don't pay off Sillis, I'm a dead man.

Din relaxes a bit.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

So I'm doing this for the money. But lemme guess, you got some noble reason why you're running errands for a gangster?

DIN DJARIN

Sillis has something I need. I think it will help me get the kid back to his people.

DASH RENDAR

Ew! You mean there are more of those little monsters somewhere out there? Urgh. Disgusting.

DIN DJARIN

I meant the Jedi.

DASH RENDAR

Pssht. Jedi. Lemme tell you about the Jedi. I rescued one from a swoop gang this one time. They woulda tore him apart if it wasn't for me...

DIN DJARIN

You know a Jedi?

DASH RENDAR

It was a long time ago.

Dash focuses his attention back on flying.

INT. OUTRIDER - CARGO HOLD

Grogu stares into Leebo's lifeless droid face. He closes his eyes and extends his small clawed hands in the air.

Slowly, deliberately, wires begin to reconnect from Leebo's torso to his head. The droid's body begins to FLOAT UPRIGHT.

Leebo's eyes FLICKER TO LIFE before GLOWING SOLID WHITE.

LEEBO

AH!

Dash calls back from the cockpit.

DASH RENDAR (O.S.)
Hey! Quiet down!

The call is enough to STARTLE GROGU and break his concentration.

Life drains from Leebo's eyes. His body CRASHES back down onto the table.

DASH RENDAR (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Don't make me come back there!

Grogu's ears dip down in disappointment.

I/E. OUTRIDER - COCKPIT / HYPERSPACE

Dash resettles himself after yelling at Grogu.

DASH RENDAR
(to Din)
You gotta put a leash on him or something.

Dash focuses back on flying. Din stares daggers into the back of Dash's head.

EXT. THE PLANET OF SULLUST - SPACE

The planet of Sullust appears, barren and uninhabitable. Large lava rivers. Deserts of bright orange sand. Mountain ranges of black rock. Rolling, gaseous storm clouds. All visible from orbit.

Surrounding the planet are the broken remnants of an Imperial fleet. The wreckage of STAR DESTROYERS and TIE FIGHTERS float through the void. Guarding the planet is a fleet of REPUBLIC BATTLE-CRUISERS, escorted by X-WING STARFIGHTERS.

The Outrider emerges from hyperspace, heading for Sullust.

I/E. OUTRIDER - COCKPIT / SPACE

Dash punches a transmission code into the control panel.

DASH RENDAR
Alright, that code should keep them off our back long enough.

DIN DJARIN
You have Republic codes?

DASH RENDAR
Well, technically, it's an old Rebel code. But the Republic has got its hands full here feeding what's left of the Empire their own teeth. As long as we don't kick up any trouble, nobody ought to give us a second thought.

Din stays locked on the Republic fleet. Dash aims The Outrider for the planet's surface.

EXT. THE PLANET OF SULLUST - SPACE

The Outrider flies past the Republic blockade towards the planet's surface.

EXT. SULLUST - IMPERIAL BASE - LANDING PAD - DAY

Punctuating the orange sky of Sullust are large, jagged, obsidian cliffs. Smoke billows from active lava pools and rivers that run between the cliffs. Orange sand blows over the cliffs and through the air.

Nestled amongst the black cliffs is a large landing platform that sports a few destroyed and derelict Imperial shuttles, covered in hills of gathered sand. These are the remnants of a rushed evacuation.

The landing pad is attached to a large industrial Imperial base, built into and around the shiny black rock.

INT. OUTRIDER - CARGO HOLD

Grogu sits amongst Leebo's wreckage. He watches as Din checks his gear. Dash emerges from the cockpit.

DASH RENDAR
Well, this place is exactly where Sillis said it would be. Hopefully, it's as abandoned as it looks. But if the Republic is still here, that means the Imps are, too. Probably dug in tight. Gotta imagine they're going to hold onto a factory world 'til the last trooper drops. So, you know, be careful.

DIN DJARIN
You're not coming?

DASH RENDAR
Hell no. Didn't you just hear me?
This place is probably crawling
with a bunch of battle-hardened
Imps with nothing to lose. Plus,
somebody has got to watch the ship.
Normally that's Leebo, but...

DIN DJARIN
Fine. Watch the kid for me.

DASH RENDAR
Ah, no. Come on.

Grogu lets out a DISTRESSED WHINE. He doesn't want to stay
with Dash anymore than Dash wants to babysit him.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
I thought he goes where you go?

DIN DJARIN
Like you said, it's too dangerous.

DASH RENDAR
Right. Yeah. I did say that...

Din gives a nod to Grogu.

DIN DJARIN
It'll be okay. I'll be back.

The kid nods. He understands.

Din exits the cargo hold, leaving Dash and Grogu alone. Grogu
looks up at Dash with big, round saucer eyes. Dash catches
his gaze.

DASH RENDAR
Ew. No. Do not look at me. Avert
your disgusting gaze from my eyes.

Grogu looks down in disappointment.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
You and I will never be friends. So
just stop trying.

Dash marches back to the cockpit, leaving Grogu alone.

I/E. IMPERIAL BASE - HANGAR BAY / LANDING PAD - DAY

The base is mostly dark and appears to only be running on emergency power.

Enormous blast doors CREEK OPEN. The harsh orange light of Sullust illuminates the hangar bay, revealing more derelict Imperial shuttles and cargo crates.

Din enters the hangar bay through the blast doors, his pistol drawn. Din takes one last look behind him to The Outrider before making his way into the base.

INT. IMPERIAL BASE - CONTROL ROOM - DAY

A large center console wraps around a room with large bay windows that look out towards the horizon-- imposing black cliffs and a bright orange sky full of swirling clouds of sand.

Cautiously, Din makes his way into the room, blaster drawn.

It's all clear. He holsters the blaster and continues to the command console.

Din wipes away a thick layer of orange dust off the center screen, which comes to life.

He punches a few keys.

The screen begins projecting holograms of Imperial ordnance.

Din swipes through a few holograms. Imperial shuttle? No. TIE Bomber? No...

Finally, he stops scrolling. He's found what he's looking for.

A few more key clicks.

CONSOLE VOICE
Searching inventory...

The computer runs its search.

CONSOLE VOICE (CONT'D)
Found. 117 units.

Satisfied, Din leaves the control room in search of his quarry.

The hologram now projects an image of an advanced blaster rifle.

CONSOLE VOICE (CONT'D)
Detected. Unauthorized access.

The hologram shifts to a BRIGHT RED ALERT. A distress signal is being sent.

I/E. OUTRIDER - COCKPIT / SULLUST

Dash kicks his feet up on The Outrider's controls. He removes a small pocket-watch-like device from his vest pocket, close to his heart.

Dash opens the device.

It plays a hologram of a woman playing with a young boy. After a beat, a slightly younger, more handsome Dash enters the hologram. He holds his wife and son close. A happy family.

A warm smile washes across Dash's face as he watches his fondest memory.

LEEBO (O.S.)
AH! No! Don't!

DASH RENDAR
Leebo?!

Dash leaps to his feet and heads for the cargo hold.

INT. OUTRIDER - CARGO HOLD

Leebo's deconstructed body floats in the air. Circuits intertwine back together. The droid is slowly being reassembled.

Grogu's eyes are closed. His small clawed hands in the air. The child uses all of his focus to channel The Force to put the droid back together.

The eyes on Leebo's head flicker on and off. The droid continues to play back his last words before being shot.

LEEBO
AH! No! -- AH!

DASH RENDAR (O.S.)
I'm coming, Leebo!

Dash charges into the cargo hold and is dumbstruck by the spectacle of Leebo's floating reassembly.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

Whoa...

Leebo's eyes flicker on and off.

LEEBO

AH! No! -- AH!

DASH RENDAR

(to Grogu)

Stop it.

Grogu ignores Dash. He stays focused on reassembling Leebo.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

You're hurting him.

LEEBO

No! Don't!

DASH RENDAR

I said stop it!

Dash takes out his blaster and aims it at Grogu.

DASH

Stop!

CRASH!

Grogu's concentration is broken. Pieces of Leebo's body FALL APART AND CRASH DOWN TO THE FLOOR.

Dash breathes a sigh of relief.

DASH RENDAR

Leebo...

Grogu turns to face Dash, which causes Dash to JUMP a little.

He re-trains his blaster on Grogu. The child recoils in turn.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

You going to use any of that monster magic on me?

Grogu innocently blinks.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

Yeah, I'll bet that works on a lot of people. Not me, though...

Slowly, Dash lowers his blaster and places it back in his holster.

Grogu waddles over to Leebo's body on the floor.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
Hey! Hey! Stay away from him.

Grogu closes his eyes. He extends a hand...

Wires connect from Leebo's head to his torso, illuminating his eyes.

LEEBO
AH! No! Don't shoot!

Leebo's eyes shut off. Grogu breaks his focus and turns back to Dash.

Dash clues in.

DASH RENDAR
You're trying to fix him?

Grogu tilts his head. More innocent blinks.

A PROXIMITY ALARM sounds off.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
What now?

Dash considers Grogu and Leebo as the ALARM CONTINUES.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
Just... don't hurt him.

Dash hurries off to check on the alarm.

EXT. SULLUST - IMPERIAL BASE - LANDING PAD - DAY

Din arrives back at The Outrider, pushing an Imperial-branded crate, which is hovering via small propulsion devices on the bottom.

Dash hurries down The Outrider's boarding ramp to meet Din.

DASH RENDAR
Hey, you're just in time. We gotta go--

Dash notices the crate and makes his way over, stopping Din in his tracks.

Dash opens the crate revealing white, advanced Imperial blaster rifles.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

You didn't tell me we were here for blasters. And definitely not these. These are experimental.

Dash removes one of the blaster rifles from the crate.

DIN DJARIN

What's the difference?

DASH RENDAR

The difference is the Empire is going to want these. Bad. Which means The Republic is going to want them worse... If the Imps don't shoot us down... If we get searched by the Republic on the way out of here... I'm not sure I can hide these. Hell, even if they find out after the fact that we got these to Sillis--

DIN DJARIN

This was the deal I made with Sillis. I gave my word.

DASH RENDAR

Your word? And what does that moral compass of yours say about a piece of scum like Sillis outfitting his goons with Imperial spec-ops blasters?

Din doesn't answer. Instead, he resumes pushing the crate towards The Outrider's boarding ramp.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

Hey. No.

Dash stops the crate.

DIN DJARIN

Best smuggler in the galaxy?

DASH RENDAR

I stay that way by not taking stupid risks.

DIN DJARIN

Or by lying.

DASH RENDAR

You know what, Mando? I don't really care what you think. That crate is not coming on board.

Dash points the rifle at Din.

Din draws his blaster and aims it at Dash.

The two grip their weapons tight and stare each other down.

Orange sand WHISPS between the gunslingers' boots. Both remain unflinching.

The unmistakable, but faint, wheezing sound of a TIE FIGHTER FADES IN from the distance...

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

Just leave the guns, Mando.

Din doesn't budge.

Sand gathers on their shoulders. Dash squints to keep it out of his eyes. Din doesn't have that problem.

The TIE FIGHTER'S SCREAMS GROW LOUDER.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

Damnit.

Dash lowers his blaster and makes his way into The Outrider.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

Mandalorian honor. What a joke.

Din holsters his blaster. He pushes the crate the rest of the way up the ramp.

INT. OUTRIDER - CARGO HOLD

Dash marches in as Din secures the crate of weapons.

DASH RENDAR

You probably tripped some alarm in there. Imps have got a "torch and burn" policy for any ordnance they can't recover. Which means we've gotta haul ass. You any good on a turret?

Din nods, "yes."

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

Take the top gun. I'll keep them
off of us.

Dash heads for the cockpit. Din heads off to the turret.

EXT. SULLUST - IMPERIAL BASE - LANDING PAD - DAY

Two TIE INTERCEPTORS SCREAM THROUGH THE SKY.

The two small, nimble fighters DIVE towards The Outrider.

BANG! BANG! BANG! The Outrider is strafed with LASER FIRE as
it lifts into the air and SPEEDS OFF OVER THE CLIFFS.

The interceptors follow in pursuit, taking pot shots at the
cruiser.

I/E. OUTRIDER - COCKPIT / SULLUST - CONTINUOUS

Dash keeps his hands tight on the controls, piloting the ship
over the black, smoldering cliffs of Sullust.

DASH RENDAR

Any time, Mando!

Green LASER BLASTS from the pursuing fighters fly past the
cockpit.

INT. OUTRIDER - TURRET BAY - CONTINUOUS

Din locks himself in a chair attached to the ship's defensive
turret. He grabs the dual triggers of the turret and begins
to RETURN FIRE on the pursuing fighters.

EXT. SULLUST - BLACK CLIFFS - CONTINUOUS

The Outrider SPEEDS OVER THE CLIFFS, scything through
ERUPTING VOLCANOES with the two interceptors in unyielding,
determined pursuit.

With fluid motions, the interceptors dodge incoming fire from
The Outrider's turret.

I/E. OUTRIDER - COCKPIT / SULLUST - CONTINUOUS

BAM! The Outrider takes a direct hit. Dash is knocked around
in the pilot's seat.

DASH RENDAR
(to Din)
Are you even trying?!

Up ahead, Dash spots a giant chasm in the obsidian rock.
Thick, white steam pours from it like a geyser.

Dash sets a course straight for it.

EXT. SULLUST - BLACK CLIFFS - CONTINUOUS

The fighters and the freighter continue to exchange fire over the cliffs.

The Outrider makes a sharp NOSE DIVE down into the chasm-- A STEAM-FILLED CANYON just barely wide enough to accommodate the ship, full of perilous rock faces.

The two interceptors follow the chase.

I/E. OUTRIDER - COCKPIT / CANYON - CONTINUOUS

Dash grips the controls. White knuckles. Eyes wide. Not even daring to blink.

The view ahead is almost solid white. Sharp rock faces emerge from the thick steam at the last second.

The seasoned pilot pushes his flying skills to their limits to avoid the deadly obstacles-- he misses the jagged obsidian rocks by feet, inches.

INT. OUTRIDER - TURRET BAY - CONTINUOUS

Din FIRES THE TURRET into the SOLID WHITE VOID. He hits nothing.

The steam blocks any visual Din might have on the pursuing interceptors. Instead, the Mandalorian relies on the turret's targeting computer to attempt to locate his enemies.

DIN DJARIN
(to Dash)
Any more bright ideas?!

GREEN LASER BLASTS from the TIE fighters illuminate the murky void as they dart towards Din.

EXT. SULLUST - CANYON - CONTINUOUS

Laser blasts from The Outrider's turret narrowly miss the pursuing fighters.

They continue to take shots at the fleeing cruiser through the steam.

I/E. OUTRIDER - COCKPIT / CANYON - CONTINUOUS

Dash sweats bullets and BREATHES HEAVY as the ship SPEEDS THROUGH THE CANYON.

Coming up FAST is an opening too narrow for his ship to fit through.

Dash does have another bright idea.

DASH RENDAR

Hang on!

He yanks The Outrider's controls HARD TO THE LEFT.

EXT. SULLUST - CANYON - CONTINUOUS

The Outrider rotates itself 90-degrees counter-clockwise to fit through the canyon's narrow passage.

It now misses the jagged walls of the canyon by a hair as it speeds through.

INT. OUTRIDER - CARGO HOLD

As the ship spins 90-degrees, Grogu and the various pieces of Leebo go SLIDING across the floor and FLYING through the air, ending up on one side of the cargo hold.

CRASH! Grogu lands in a pile of Leebo parts.

INT. OUTRIDER - TURRET BAY - CONTINUOUS

Din is also sideways. His head is now uncomfortably close the obsidian rock walls.

The turret's targeting computer adjusts itself to compensate for the ship's new angle.

EXT. SULLUST - CANYON - CONTINUOUS

The interceptors pursue The Outrider through the narrow, steam-filled opening.

A delicate wing-fin nicks the edge of a rock wall.

It's a fatal error. The fighter TUMBLES end over end.

The spinning fighter SMASHES into the opposite wall and EXPLODES IN A FIREBALL.

The remaining TIE fighter stays on target, flying straight by its fallen comrade.

I/E. OUTRIDER - COCKPIT / CANYON - CONTINUOUS

Dash keeps his focus, even whilst flying 90 degrees titled.

DASH RENDAR
(to himself)
Okay, Mando, here's your shot...
(calling to Din)
Get ready!

He YANKS once again on The Outriders controls.

I/E. TIE INTERCEPTOR COCKPIT / CANYON - CONTINUOUS

An IMPERIAL PILOT, clad in their jet-black armor, grips the controls of the fighter. Through the steam, they're able to just barely make out The Outrider ahead of them.

Suddenly, The Outrider takes a sharp turn UP THROUGH THE STEAM, causing the pilot to lose sight of their target.

INT. OUTRIDER - TURRET BAY - CONTINUOUS

As The Outrider bursts through the steam, Din can once again see something other than white-- the black cliffs of Sullust bleeding into the bright orange sands of an endless desert... and a CLEAR SHOT right into the steam-filled canyon.

He trains the turret on the spot from which The Outrider just emerged...

I/E. TIE INTERCEPTOR COCKPIT / CANYON - CONTINUOUS

The interceptor pursues The Outrider upward through the steam.

At the precise moment the pilot breaks the visual white void of the steam--

BLAM!

A LASER BLAST from The Outrider's turret rockets straight toward the fighter.

The pilot has no time to react. The interceptor EXPLODES.

I/E. OUTRIDER - COCKPIT / CANYON - CONTINUOUS

Dash celebrates.

DASH RENDAR

Wooo! What did I tell you? The legend. Dash Rendar. At your service. Oh, I still got it.

The happy pilot aims The Outrider for the atmosphere.

EXT. THE PLANET OF SULLUST - SPACE

The Outrider emerges from the planet's atmosphere.

I/E. OUTRIDER - COCKPIT / SPACE

Din enters the cockpit to reunite with Dash at the controls.

DIN DJARIN

Nice flying.

DASH RENDAR

Was that a compliment?

No reply from Din.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

Well, don't thank me yet. I think we just got ourselves out of the frying pan...

EXT. THE PLANET OF SULLUST - SPACE

The Outrider is facing down a blockade of Republic cruisers, all accompanied by X-wing fighters.

I/E. OUTRIDER - COCKPIT / SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Dash hastily jams hyperspace coordinates into The Outrider's controls.

DIN DJARIN
Can we make the jump?

DASH RENDAR
I don't know. Depends if they've locked in on us yet--

Dash is interrupted by an INCOMING TRANSMISSION.

A voice comes through The Outrider's comms.

REPUBLIC OFFICER (O.S.)
Attention Corellian freighter,
designation "Outrider"... Come in.

DASH RENDAR
Damn it.
(to Din)
Look, I know you're a real chatterbox, but just shut up for once and let me do the talking.

REPUBLIC OFFICER (O.S.)
Republic blockade to Outrider.
Respond immediately or you will be fired upon.

Dash holds a switch to reply to the blockade.

DASH RENDAR
This is Outrider, go ahead.

REPUBLIC OFFICER (O.S.)
State your purpose on Sullust,
Outrider.

DASH RENDAR
Uh... is there a problem, blockade?

REPUBLIC OFFICER
Yes. Your passcodes are about six years out of date.

Dash lets go of the switch.

DIN DJARIN
I thought you said they wouldn't notice?

DASH RENDAR
I said as long as we didn't kick up
any trouble. You kicked up trouble--

The RHYTHMIC HUM OF X-WING ENGINES FADE IN.

EXT. THE PLANET OF SULLUST - SPACE - CONTINUOUS

An X-wing fighter appears on either side of The Outrider.

I/E. OUTRIDER - COCKPIT / SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Dash and Din spy the X-wing fighters stalking them.

DASH RENDAR
Alright. Don't panic. I think I can
talk us out of this. As long as they
don't scan us--

REPUBLIC OFFICER (O.S.)
Scans indicate you've got a bit of
firepower on board. You're being
escorted in by our fighters to dock
with the Frigate--

Dash hits the comms switch.

DASH RENDAR
Uh, negative, negative, negative.
We are under strict orders--

WACK!

An X-wing fires a warning shot at The Outrider, shaking the
entire cabin.

Dash is off the switch.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
Sons of bitches!

DIN DJARIN
Do something.

DASH RENDAR
I'm on it!

REPUBLIC OFFICER (O.S.)
Outrider. You will comply or you
will be shot down.

Dash hits the comms switch.

DASH RENDAR
Republic blockade! I am under
strict orders to deliver cargo to
General Crix Madine! Cease fire!

Radio silence.

Din is shocked. Does Dash actually know a high-ranking
official in the Republic military?

Finally...

REPUBLIC OFFICER (O.S.)
We'll have to confirm with General
Madine.

DASH RENDAR
Yeah, fine, blockade. Go ahead. But
you're gonna have to tell him
you're holding up Captain Dash
Rendar and his covert op.

Another beat of silence.

REPUBLIC OFFICER (O.S.)
Dash Rendar is dead.

More shock and confusion from Din.

Dash speaks softly in his reply.

DASH RENDAR
Why do you think we're using Rebel
codes? No one is supposed to know
about this run...

REPUBLIC OFFICER (O.S.)
I-- uh... Is that really The
Outrider?

DASH RENDAR
Look, you've got our tags. We can
run this through Madine if you
really want. But if we're gonna go
that way, do me a favor and tell me
your name so I can file it in my op-
report for Senator Organa.

The smuggler lets go of the comms switch and leans back,
awaiting a reply.

EXT. THE PLANET OF SULLUST - SPACE - CONTINUOUS

The X-wing fighters break off from The Outrider.

I/E. OUTRIDER - COCKPIT / SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Dash holds his breath. Did that just work?

REPUBLIC OFFICER (O.S.)
You're free to go, Outrider.

A sigh of relief.

DASH RENDAR
Finally.

Dash hits the comms switch.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
Affirmative, blockade. And, uh,
probably best we keep this all on
the down-low, yeah?

REPUBLIC OFFICER (O.S.)
Affirmative, Outrider. May The
Force--

Dash kills the comms.

DASH RENDAR
Yeah, yeah. Whatever.

The captain punches in the hyperspace coordinates as fast as he can.

EXT. THE PLANET OF SULLUST - SPACE

The Outrider jumps to hyperspace, leaving the planet of Sullust and The Republic blockade in its wake.

I/E. OUTRIDER - COCKPIT / HYPERSPACE

Din's gaze is fixated on Dash, who remains at the controls of The Outrider.

Dash notices Din's attention.

DASH RENDAR
What?

DIN DJARIN
(affirming)
War hero?

DASH RENDAR
And greatest smuggler ever. Any
more questions?

That's good enough for Din.

EXT. NAR SHADDAA - LANDING PAD - NIGHT

The Outrider descends onto the landing platform from which it left.

On the landing pad, awaiting The Outrider's arrival is Sillis the Hutt and several HENCHMEN, including Gamorreans and Trandoshans.

Sillis watches as Din and Dash descend The Outrider's boarding ramp with the crate of blasters in tow.

The two gunslingers meet Sillis and his henchmen on the landing platform.

DASH RENDAR
Wow, Sillis. Didn't think you'd
slither all the way down here for
little ol' me.

SILLIS
(in Huttese)
Rendar... My favorite smuggler
deserves a personal touch.

Dash eyes down Sillis' greeting party and glances towards Din who stays at his back.

DASH RENDAR
Yeah...

Sillis' henchmen check the crate's manifest.

HENCHMAN #1
They're all here.

Sillis LICKS HIS LIPS.

The henchmen waste no time outfitting themselves with the superior blaster rifles.

DASH RENDAR

You got your rifles. We're square.
Find yourself a new favorite
smuggler.

SILLIS

(in Huttese)

If I must.

The henchmen turn their rifles on Dash.

Dash pulls his blaster-- but as quick as he does, his arm is
WRAPPED IN A WHIPCORD.

DIN RESTRAINS DASH'S BLASTER ARM.

DIN DJARIN

I'm sorry. This was the deal.

DASH RENDAR

Oh, you've got to be kidding me...

SILLIS

(in Huttese)

No one fails me, Rendar.

DASH RENDAR

I didn't fail you! You got your
guns.

SILLIS

(in Huttese)

And the last two times?

DASH RENDAR

I told you, those weren't my fault.

Sillis' henchmen proceed to relieve Dash of his blaster and
restrain him.

Dash looks towards Din and SCOFFS.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

Mandalorian honor. What a joke.

Din hangs his head as the henchmen transport Dash and the
crate of blasters away from the landing pad.

DIN DJARIN

(to Sillis)

Our deal is done.

SILLIS
(in Huttese)
So it is.

DIN DJARIN
I'll take the Holocron. Now.

Sillis CHUCKLES.

SILLIS
(in Huttese)
Mandalorian... There is no
Holocron.

DIN DJARIN
What?

Din pulls his blaster, only to realize he has about two dozen guns-- superior Imperial blaster rifles-- trained on him.

It's a gun fight he can't win.

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)
I held up my part of the deal. You
owe me.

Sillis lets out a DEEP HUTTESE LAUGH. He clears drool from his lips with his tongue.

SILLIS
(in Huttese)
Your honor has made you naive,
Mandalorian. You were a fool to
ever think I would have a Jedi
relic in my possession.

Din considers the odds of fighting his way out. Sillis also isn't taking any chances against a Mandalorian.

SILLIS (CONT'D)
(in Huttese)
You will have your payment. Captain
Rendar's ship is yours to do with
as you wish.

Din keeps his blaster up.

DIN DJARIN
I don't want a ship.

SILLIS
(in Huttese)
Take it or leave it.

A beat.

Din lowers his blaster.

SILLIS (CONT'D)
(in Huttese)
Good.

Sillis turns to slither away.

SILLIS (CONT'D)
(in Huttese)
If you value your little
companion's life, you will never
return to Nar Shaddaa.

Sillis and his henchmen leave the landing pad, keeping their rifles firmly trained on Din until they're out of sight.

I/E. OUTRIDER - COCKPIT / NAR SHADDAA - CONTINUOUS

Grogu sits in the cockpit as Din enters.

DIN DJARIN
I'm sorry.

Din takes a seat in the captain's chair.

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)
There was never a Holocron here.
We'll have to follow another lead.

Grogu's ears dip down in disappointment.

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)
We'll find the Jedi, I promise.
Selling this ship will keep us in
credits for a while...

Grogu lets out a GROAN.

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)
Hey. There was nothing I could do,
you know that, right?

Din fires up The Outrider's engines.

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)
Besides, he was a scoundrel. The
universe is no worse off.

Grogu's silence pierces the air with disapproval.

Din focuses his attention back to The Outrider's controls where he spots a small pocket-watch-like device.

The Mandalorian opens the device.

A hologram of a woman playing with a young boy. After a beat, a slightly younger, more handsome Dash enters the hologram. He holds his wife and son close. A happy family.

Din shuts the device and looks to Grogu.

The kid stares up with his large saucer eyes.

EXT. NAR SHADDAA - LANDING PAD - NIGHT

The Outrider lifts from the landing platform and flies off over the city.

INT. CLUB UFORA - THE CATACOMBS - NIGHT

Two of Sillis' guards drag a struggling Dash down the same hallway leading to the pit into which Bossk was thrown.

DASH RENDAR

Whoa, whoa, whoa! Hold on now, guys. Think about what you're doing here. I'm valuable. I can get past those Republic blockades. And there's lots more where those blasters came from.

GUARD #1

Save it, Rendar.

The guards walk Dash right up to the edge of the pit.

Dash looks down and sees nothing but darkness.

DASH RENDAR

Oh, hell no... I'll pay Sillis whatever he wants. Double the debt.

GUARD #1

The time for negotiations is over.

DASH RENDAR

Come on, there's always a move. Triple the debt.

The guards consider Dash's offer.

GUARD #1

No.

The guards SHOVE DASH INTO THE PIT.

INT. CLUB UFORA - THE PIT - CONTINUOUS

Dash falls thirty feet or more before...

SPLASH! Dash hits the bottom of the dark rock-walled pit, landing in chest-deep black water.

Dash gets to his feet, spitting out water. A quick look around reveals BONES floating in the water.

DASH RENDAR

Great.

Dash takes a quick look around. More bones and partial skeletons of various alien species line the rock walls of the pit.

A RIPPLE in the water catches Dash's attention. Something is down here with him.

Dash freezes in fear.

He snaps out of it. Dash needs a way out. And fast.

Dash spots a large, man-sized grate leading into a sewer from the pit.

An eyeball, attached to a slimy tendril POPS up out the water, like a periscope on a submarine. It watches Dash fumble around in the dark.

Dash can't shake the feeling of being watched...

He turns, but sees nothing...

Dash tries desperately to pry the gate open.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

Come on! Come on! You son of a--

A tendril WRAPS around Dash's waist and-- SPLASH! IT PULLS HIM UNDER WATER.

Through the murky, debris-filled water, Dash gets a look at his attacker-- a DIANOGA, a giant squid-like monster with a large, sharp beak.

Dash struggles to break free from the monster's grasp. He pulls with all his might to pry the tentacle off of him, while DESPERATELY KICKING AT THE BEAST.

It's no use. The tentacle squeezes harder. Dash's lungs fill up with water...

SPLASH! A guard's body FALLS INTO THE PIT between Dash and the monster.

SPLASH! ANOTHER BODY.

SOMEBODY JUMPS DOWN INTO THE PIT.

A shiny armored gauntlet pulls Dash up out of the water.

Dash emerges from under the surface and GASPS FOR AIR, still with the beast's tentacle around his waist.

DIN HOLDS DASH UNDER ONE ARM and FIRES HIS BLASTER at the Dianoga with his free hand.

Finally, the beast releases Dash from its grasp.

DIN DJARIN
Can you stand?

Dash nods "yes."

Din hands Dash a REMOTE CHARGE, keeping his blaster trained on the water.

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)
Get that gate open.

Dash takes the remote charge to the gate and goes about setting it.

DASH RENDAR
I know I'm supposed to be grateful right now, but I am just filled with all kinds of rage about you.

Din notices RIPPLES in the water.

DIN DJARIN
Understandable. Work faster.

DASH RENDAR
How'd you get in here anyway?

DIN DJARIN
The club is connected to a series of catacombs under the city.
(MORE)

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)

I scouted them out before going to Sillis the first time. Decided the front door was better.

DASH RENDAR

Didn't want to get your boots wet?

Dash finishes setting the charge.

DIN DJARIN

Not exactly.

TENTACLES LUNGE FROM THE WATER, attempting to grab our heroes.

BOOM! The charge on the grate GOES OFF. The tentacles RECOIL.

Din and Dash make their way through the opening.

The Dianoga LEAPS OUT OF THE WATER at our heroes, getting caught in the small opening where the grate once stood. Its beak SNAPS as its tentacles reach for Din and Dash.

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)

Get back.

Dash stands behind Din as a FLAMETHROWER shoots from Din's wrist gauntlet. It BURNS THE DIANOGA TO A CRISP.

The corpse of the flaming monster falls back into the water with a SPLASH.

Dash is impressed.

DASH RENDAR

Can I get one of those?

DIN DJARIN

I only have the one.

Din hands Dash Jevnant's blaster, which he took off him at the Kessel Club.

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)

But this is yours.

Dash accepts the blaster.

DASH RENDAR

I mean, thank you. But I've got to be honest, a blaster feels kind of lame now compared to a flamethrower...

Din walks past Dash down the sewer tunnel.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
It's fine.

Dash follows Din through the sewer tunnel.

EXT. NAR SHADDAA - STREETS - NIGHT

A steaming sewer grate POPS OPEN.

Din and Dash, covered head to toe in slime and grime, pull themselves out of the sewer and onto the street.

DASH RENDAR
I hate sewers so much.

DIN DJARIN
Come on, we're not out of--

WHAM! Dash PUNCHES Din right in the helmet.

Din barely feels the hit. Dash recoils and grabs his hand in pain.

DASH RENDAR
OW! Blasted beskar! Damn it!

DIN DJARIN
I understand you're upset--

DASH RENDAR
Upset? All this time you've been questioning whether you can trust me, when in reality, it's you who's the untrustworthy one!

DIN DJARIN
We don't have time for this. We've got to get to The Outrider.

DASH RENDAR
Oh yeah, that's right. My ship. What did you do with it?

DIN DJARIN
It's safe.

Something on the rooftops catches Din's attention. He reaches for his blaster.

DASH RENDAR

Oh, right, safe. I find it hard to believe anything is safe with you-- What?

Dash catches on and also looks towards the rooftops.

DOZENS OF SILLIS' HENCHMEN, outfitted with the stolen Imperial rifles, have Din and Dash surrounded.

HENCHMAN #1

Don't move.

DASH RENDAR

Don't suppose you've got one of those Mandalorian jetpacks on you?

DIN DJARIN

Didn't think I would need it in the sewer... and it's sort of heavy.

DASH RENDAR

Amateur.

Dash and Din go back-to-back, their blasters trained on the surrounding henchmen.

Din arms his whistling birds on the opposite gauntlet from his blaster hand.

DIN DJARIN

You ready?

DASH RENDAR

Yeah... I suppose.

The whistling birds FIRE from Din's gauntlet; the small metal projectiles all find targets in Sillis' henchmen, INSTANTLY DISPATCHING SEVERAL OF THEM.

That's the break the heroes need.

Din and Dash FIRE THEIR BLASTERS WILDLY at their remaining attackers, dispatching TWO MORE SHOOTERS on the rooftops.

The two gunfighters MAKE A BREAK FOR IT through the streets, covering their escape with blaster fire.

The henchmen return fire from their advanced rifles-- a TERRIFYING HOWLING SOUND and EXPLOSIVE laser blasts.

A blast CATCHES DIN ON THE HEELS-- he goes FLYING HEAD-FIRST TO THE GROUND.

Dash takes a look back at his downed comrade, incoming
BLASTER SHOTS EXPLODING ALL AROUND THEM.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

Damn it.

Dash runs back for Din. He helps the heavily armored
Mandalorian to his feet.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

What did I tell you about those
rifles?

Din and Dash resume BLASTER FIRE AS THEY RUN DOWN THE STREET,
picking off the occasional pursuing henchman.

Finally, the two reach the edge of the street.

It's a dead end of seemingly bottomless open space. In the
distance, ships fly in the open sky between the giant
buildings of Nar Shaddaa.

Nowhere left to run.

The Mandalorian and the smuggler prepare to make their final
stand.

Sillis' henchmen approach from all angles, their Imperial
rifles trained on the heroes.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

I hate to say it... But I think I'm
officially out of moves...

DIN DJARIN

There's always a move.

From behind the two gunslingers rises THE OUTRIDER. At the
controls is a REASSEMBLED AND FUNCTIONING LEEBO. Grogu sits
in the seat next to the droid.

Dash stares up in awe.

DASH RENDAR

Leebo!

Leebo calls out over The Outrider's PA system.

LEEBO

Nice to see you, Captain.

The Outrider extends its loading ramp for the two heroes to
jump on.

LEEBO (CONT'D)
If you would be so kind.

The initial shock of seeing the flying ship so close wears off, and the henchmen RESUME FIRING AT OUR HEROES.

The Outrider RETURNS FIRE through its small auto-cannons, covering Din and Dash's escape and eliminating several henchmen in the process.

The two heroes JUMP FOR THE BOARDING RAMP. Din makes the landing, but Dash SLIPS, almost falling into the abyss. Din grabs the smuggler's hand and pulls him up onto the ramp

The two board The Outrider, the ramp closes, and the ship speeds away.

EXT. NAR SHADDAA - HANGER - NIGHT

With the city skyline in the distance, The Outrider is docked in a hangar filled with other small craft, including Din's Razor Crest.

Dash and Leebo meet Din and Grogu to say their final goodbyes.

DASH RENDAR
(to Grogu)
You fixed my friend.

LEEBO
It appears that is correct,
Captain. I am functioning at 100%
capacity, thanks to this creature.

Grogu blinks up at Dash.

DASH RENDAR
I guess you're not so bad... for a
hideously ugly space monster.

Grogu gives a warm smile. Dash turns to Din.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)
As for you, Mando. Thanks, I guess.
I know it probably wasn't easy to
break your honor code like that.

DIN DJARIN
Sillis broke the deal first. I was
honor-bound to save you. Anything
less would have been... cowardly.

DASH RENDAR

Uh-huh. And the life of a coward is no life worth living, right?

DIN DJARIN

Speaking of which...

Din tosses Dash the small pocket-watch-like device containing the hologram of his family.

Dash catches it.

DIN DJARIN (CONT'D)

Maybe it's time you got back to them.

DASH RENDAR

I... uh... I would if I could, Mando...

Dash braces himself.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

After my time in the Rebellion... I took on this crime syndicate, the Black Sun... their leader, Prince Xizor... took my family away from me. It's just been me and Leebo since then.

DIN DJARIN

Where's Xizor now?

DASH RENDAR

Dead.

Din gets it. That's enough said from Dash.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

I'll look into your Jedi problem. The one I knew... maybe he's still out there somewhere...

DIN DJARIN

I'd appreciate that.

DASH RENDAR

Oh, but if anyone asks, anyone at all, I died during this whole misadventure.

DIN DJARIN

Understood.

DASH RENDAR

But don't tell 'em I got eaten by the pit squid. That's just humiliating. Make it something heroic, something noble, you know?

DIN DJARIN

A war hero's death?

DASH RENDAR

You catch on quick, Mando.

Dash heads back to The Outrider.

DASH RENDAR (CONT'D)

Come on, Leebo.

LEEBO

Where to next, Captain?

DASH RENDAR

Anywhere they're not currently shootin' at us. Preferably somewhere sunny...

Dash and Leebo board The Outrider. Din and Grogu head back to the Razor Crest.

The two ships depart the hangar and fly off in separate directions.

EXT. CLUB UFORA - NIGHT

The club is shut down. No music. No dancers. The club's neon spotlights slowly move across an empty dance floor.

A CLOAKED FIGURE walks through the empty club.

Sillis the Hutt sits on his throne and awaits the figure.

CLOAKED FIGURE

Do you have it?

SILLIS

(in Huttese)

The Jedi Holocron.

A henchman appears and presents the cloaked figure with a small, pyramid-shaped object.

The cloaked figure accepts the pyramid object and holds it up to his face for closer inspection.

SILLIS (CONT'D)
(in Huttese)
As you requested... Prince Xizor.

Under the cloak is the scaly, green face of PRINCE XIZOR.

His mouth twists into a devilish smile.

FADE OUT:

END OF CHAPTER