
WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE'S
STAR WARS[®]

VERILY, A NEW HOPE

By Ian Doescher

INSPIRED BY THE WORK OF GEORGE LUCAS
AND WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



QUIRK BOOKS
PHILADELPHIA

TO GRAHAM AND LIAM,
MY YOUNG PADAWANS,
AND JENNIFER, "BUT NEVER
DOUBT I LOVE . . ."

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

CHORUS

LUKE SKYWALKER, *a boy of Tatooine*

OWEN LARS, *his uncle*

BERU LARS, *his aunt*

OBI-WAN KENOBI, *a Jedi knight*

PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA, *of Alderaan*

HAN SOLO, *a smuggler*

CHEWBACCA, *a Wookiee and Han's first mate*

DARTH VADER, *a Sith Lord*

GOVERNOR TARKIN, *of the Imperial army*

C-3PO, *a droid*

R2-D2, *his companion*

JABBA THE HUTT, *a boss*

GREEDO, *his bounty hunter*

WEDGE ANTILLES, *a rebel pilot*

BIGGS DARKLIGHTER, *a rebel pilot*

REBEL LEADERS, CHIEF PILOTS, STORMTROOPERS, CAPTAINS, COMMANDERS, ADMIRALS, GUARDS, JAWAS, DROIDS, TUSKEN RAIDERS, BAR PATRONS, IMPERIAL LEADERS, *and* REBEL PILOTS

PROLOGUE.

Outer space.

Enter CHORUS.

CHORUS

It is a period of civil war.

The spaceships of the rebels, striking swift

From base unseen, have gain'd a vict'ry o'er

The cruel Galactic Empire, now adrift.

Amidst the battle, rebel spies prevail'd

5

And stole the plans to a space station vast,

Whose pow'rful beams will later be unveil'd

And crush a planet: 'tis the DEATH STAR blast.

Pursu'd by agents sinister and cold,

Now Princess Leia to her home doth flee,

10

Deliv'ring plans and a new hope they hold:

Of bringing freedom to the galaxy.

In time so long ago begins our play,

In star-crossed galaxy far, far away.

[Exit.



[Exit Princess Leia.

R2-D2	—Beep, meep.	15
C-3PO	At last, where hast thou been? I fear they come In this direction. Pray, what shall we do? My circuitry o'erloads, my mind's o'erthrown! And fear hath put its grip into my wires. We shall be sent unto that place I dread—	20
	The Kessel spice mines whence no droid returns— And there be blasted into who knows what!	
	[R2-D2 begins to exit.	
	Anon, anon, R2! Where dost thou go? O prithee, patience, leave me not alone. [Aside:] Aye, even though I mock and injure thee,	25
	I'll surely die if e'er thou leavest me!	
	[Exeunt droids.	

SCENE 2.

Aboard the rebel ship.

*Enter DARTH VADER, carrying REBEL LEADER 1 by the neck,
and STORMTROOPERS.*

REBEL 1	The Death Star plans we could not find herein, Nor are they on the main computer, Lord. In short, they are not here, and there's an end.	
VADER	Thou speakest well, my stormtrooper, and yet Not well upon my ear the message falls. I turn to thee, thou rebel. Aye, I lift Thy head above my own. Thou canst now choose	5

To keep thy secrets lock'd safe in that head,
 And therefore lose the life thou holdest dear,
 Or else to keep thy head and, thus, thy life. 10
 My patience runneth quickly out much like
 The sands across the dunes of Tatooine.

So tell me, else thou diest quick: where shall
 We find transmissions thou didst intercept?
 What hast thou done, say, with those plans?

[Darth Vader begins to choke Rebel Leader 1.]

REBEL 1

—My Lord, 15

My head and life I value—certain 'tis!
 And yet to thee I must report we have
 Not intercepted one transmission! Ahh!
 This is a cons'lar ship, and nothing more,
 On diplomatic mission. Ugh!

VADER

—Thou knave! 20

With thy last breath hear thou this word: if this
 Is but a cons'lar ship, then where is the
 ambassador? *[Rebel Leader 1 dies.]* Commander,
 prithee, go!

Rend thou this ship apart until the plans
 Are found, and bring me any passengers— 25
 Upon thy life, I want them brought alive!

[Exeunt stormtroopers.]

And so another dies by my own hand,
 This hand, which now encas'd in blackness is.
 O that the fingers of this wretched hand
 Had not the pain of suff'ring ever known. 30
 But now my path is join'd unto the dark,
 And wicked men—whose hands and fingers move



To crush their foes—are now my company.
 So shall my fingers ever undertake
 To do more evil, aye, and this—my hand— 35
 Shall do the Emp'ror's bidding evermore.
 And thus we see how fingers presage death
 And hands become the instruments of Fate.
[Exit Darth Vader.]

*Enter STORMTROOPERS, searching. Enter PRINCESS LEIA,
 holding a blaster.*

TROOPER 1 Aye, there is one. My comrades, set for stun!
*[Princess Leia shoots, Stormtrooper 1 dies.
 Stormtroopers stun Princess Leia.]*

TROOPER 2 She shall be well. Go now, inform the dread 40
 Lord Vader we have caught a prisoner.
[Aside:] And may Mos Eisley drinks flow swift and
 free
 When Vader grants rewards for work well done!
[Exeunt stormtroopers with Princess Leia.]

Enter C-3PO and R2-D2 as the latter enters escape pod.

C-3PO Hold! Thou art not permitted to go in.
 Deactivated thou shalt surely be. 45
 R2-D2 Beep, beep, beep, meep!
 C-3PO —Thou shalt not label me
 A mindless, brute philosopher! Nay, nay,
 Thou overladen glob of grease, thou imp,
 Thou rubbish bucket fit for scrap, thou blue

- And silver pile of bantha dung! Now, come, 50
 And get thee hence away lest someone sees.
- R2-D2 Beep, meep, beep, squeak, beep, beep, beep, meep,
 beep, whee!
- C-3PO What secret mission? And what plans? What dost
 Thou talk about? I'll surely not get in!
[Sound of blast.
- I warrant I'll regret this. So say I! 55
[Exit C-3PO into escape pod.
- R2-D2 This golden droid has been a friend, 'tis true,
 And yet I wish to still his prating tongue!
 An imp, he calleth me? I'll be reveng'd,
 And merry pranks aplenty I shall play
 Upon this pompous droid C-3PO! 60
 Yet not in language shall my pranks be done:
 Around both humans and the droids I must
 Be seen to make such errant beeps and squeaks
 That they shall think me simple. Truly, though,
 Although with sounds oblique I speak to them, 65
 I clearly see how I shall play my part,
 And how a vast rebellion shall succeed
 By wit and wisdom of a simple droid.
[Exit R2-D2 into escape pod.
- CHORUS Now climb the metal pair into the pod,
 Which shooteth from the ship like laser blast. 70
 And to the planet's face, as straight as rod,
 The capsule takes the droids by power vast.

Enter CHIEF PILOT *and* CAPTAIN.

'Twas thee who had this peaceful vessel sack'd.
 Th'Imperi'l Senate shall not stand for this.
 For when they hear thou hast attack'd a ship
 On diplomatic mission— 5

VADER

—Highness, peace!

Be thou not so surpris'd. For well thou knowst
 A mercy mission this was not, this time.
 Thine innocent appearance doth disguise
 A heart with revolution at its core. 10
 Aye, several transmissions were there beam'd
 Unto this ship by rebel spies. I want
 To know what happen'd to the plans they sent!
 And prithee, speak thou well, or speak thy last,
 For fairer necks than thine my hand hath crush'd. 15

LEIA

Thine idle threat is meaningless to me.
 My neck, my tongue, my mouth—these instruments
 Of speech have not the power to relate
 The knowledge that thou seek'st. For certain 'tis
 I nothing know of what thou ask of me. 20
 For I am but a member of the great
 Imperi'l Senate, bound for Alderaan
 On mission diplomatic.

VADER

—Nay, thou liest!

For thou art with the reb'l alliance vile,
 And worse, a traitor! Take this one away! 25

[Exeunt stormtroopers with Princess Leia.]

The blood and wires within me leap with fire
 When all these trait'rous words I must endure.

Enter COMMANDER.

- COMMAND. Lord, holding her is dangerous. If word
 Of this is told, then sympathy may rise
 For the Rebellion in the Senate's mind. 30
 So shall our pow'r o'er all the universe
 Be weaken'd by this wicked, cunning wretch.
 'Tis like the tale my mother told me once
 Of bygone emperor whose reign was lost
 When putrid Ungaughts rose against his throne. 35
 So hath my mother said, and I with her:
 A deathly blow oft comes from tiny fist,
 And greatest tree may fall by smallest axe.
- VADER Commander, peace, and trouble not thy mind
 With tales of old. The princess shall reveal 40
 Her treachery when all's to do is done.
 The rebel spies are aptly traced to her,
 And now is she my only link to find
 The hidden rebel base.
- COMMAND. —I'll wager she
 Will die ere she tells thee.
- VADER —Leave that to me. 45
 Now go, be on thy way, and take this task:
 Send thou a signal of distress, and then
 Inform the Senate all aboard were kill'd.
 So shall our presence here be hid from sight,
 And thus our swift attack shall not be known. 50

Enter CAPTAIN.

- CAPTAIN Lord Vader, sorry am I to report:
 There are no battle plans aboard this ship,

And neither were transmissions made. There was
But one escape pod jettison'd amid
The fighting. But no life forms were aboard. 55
For certain 'twas a harmless accident.

VADER With purpose rank must she have quickly hid
The plans in the escape pod.

CAPTAIN —Woman vile!
Howe'er could she deceive my subtle mind?
The plans in the escape pod! O, most rare! 60

VADER Pray, cease thy speech and mark ye what I say:
Take thou a keen and swift detachment down,
And bring me back the plans. Commander, go!
See to the task thyself, before the chime—
There shall be none to stop our plan this time! 65

[Exeunt.]