

DARK SIDE EP4: LOST IN SPACE

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Trooper Jeremy is in an alcove of the Death Star. He has his helmet off and is fiddling with the inside.

A gunner trooper is walking by, dressed head to toe in black and sporting the odd, shiny black split-helmet.

Jeremy, a stormtrooper who is armored but is holding his helmet in his hands. His face is exposed and you can see he is a man in his mid thirties. He calls out to the gunner.

TROOPER JEREMY

Alan! ALAN!

GUNNER ALAN

Jeremy?

TROOPER JEREMY

Yeah, come here... come here.

Gunner Alan hurries over to join Jeremy.'

GUNNER ALAN

You gotta get your helmet back on, man. You can't get caught out of uniform in the hallways.

TROOPER JEREMY

I know. I'm having a respirator problem. It keeps wheezing. You know about this stuff, right.

Trooper Jeremy hands his helmet over to Gunner Alan.

GUNNER ALAN

Sure, I'll take a look, these things are the worst. They're always seizing up on me. Lucky for you, I have a system.

Gunner Alan is reaching into the helmet and twisting something inside.

GUNNER ALAN (CONT'D)

What you want to do is ease off the regulator, get it barely open and then...

Suddenly Alan fiercely whacks the helmet against a wall. It begins hissing loudly and madly venting gas.

TROOPER JEREMY

Oh no! That seems worse.

GUNNER ALAN

This is normal, now twist the inductor back to standard...

Alan is again, fiddling with unseen knobs within the helmet. The gas dissipates and tapers off. Alan hands the helmet back to Jeremy

GUNNER ALAN (CONT'D)

There... try that.

Jeremy puts the helmet back on and takes a few breaths.

TROOPER JEREMY

Yeah, yeah. There we go.

GUNNER ALAN

So, only thing, you lost probably half your reserve oxygen there. Just don't forget to recharge it before you get ejected into deep space, alright?

TROOPER JEREMY

Sure sure, I'll take care of it eventually. Pretty slim chance of the deep space thing.

GUNNER ALAN

Well... you don't plan to fail if you fail to plan.. or something.

TROOPER JEREMY

Hey how's it going in targeting?

GUNNER ALAN

That. Yeah. What can I say about the helmets. I really don't understand what's going on here. The visibility is ... well it's shit... and my respirator whistles half the time! But you know... don't get caught with it off or you'll get some over the top reprimand.

TROOPER JEREMY

So no good then?

GUNNER ALAN

Well I did just get a promotion.

TROOPER JEREMY

Oh! Great! Wait, for Alderaan?

GUNNER ALAN

Yeah. Yeah. (sad) For...Alderaan.

TROOPER JEREMY

I'm sorry I missed it, Alan. I was... (sheepishly) on a mission.

GUNNER ALAN

I don't really get the promotion if I'm honest. I used to do pitch, and now I do yaw. I think I might have just been moved to make way for a new pitch guy. He's actually really good. But still, it's pretty hard to miss... a planet.

TROOPER JEREMY

I would think, ya. Not to take away from your skills there... Alan.

GUNNER ALAN

I am un-offended. Thing is, it might be easier if I was bad at it. (beat) You tell yourself, if not me, someone else would be pushing the button. But that little red plastic-coated light... a little downward pressure and in a few moments, two billion beings are dead. It's really beyond comprehension.

TROOPER JEREMY

Everything I've been told is that Alderaan is an oppressive world entirely populated by politicians. But I doubt that makes it any easier for you.

Some officers walk by and Trooper Jeremy and Gunner Alan stand at attention as they pass.

GUNNER ALAN

It doesn't. And I don't even know if that's true. (beat) I've been in targeting since the station came on line. I actually fired the first test at Hero Twins, and another at a big asteroid where the only casualties were probably a few mynock.

(MORE)

GUNNER ALAN (CONT'D)

Since that time I've had nothing to do so I wrote four holodramas, read loads of books, and even made a laser-carved, hand polish handrail for our station from Endor Redwood that I wasn't allowed to install... and then there's today... one push of a button and I've become the biggest mass murder the galaxy has ever known.

TROOPER JEREMY

You were following orders.

GUNNER ALAN

How is that better? It's worse I think... right? It's worse.

TROOPER JEREMY

Wow. This is a lot. I'm sorry you're going through this. It will get better maybe. I don't know.

GUNNER ALAN

I don't know what to do at my station anymore. I just look at the all the lights and glaze over. There is another 'assignment' coming up and I don't know if I'll be able to do it. I just don't know what I'll do.

TROOPER JEREMY

Hey, you still got that railing?

GUNNER ALAN

Yeah. It's just sitting under my desk. They wanted me to put it in the compactor.

TROOPER JEREMY

Why don't you go install it? What's the worst that can happen?

Alan picks himself up a bit.

GUNNER ALAN

You know what, ya. That's at least something positive. I think I will. Thanks Jeremy.

Gunner Alan begins to head down the hallway.

TROOPER JEREMY
Hey, thanks for the help with the
helmet!

Gunner Alan throws a wave up without looking back.

Six troopers, Adam, Tom, Alex, Wilson, Carl and Bruce are walking past him being led by an officer. The officer spots Jeremy and calls out to him.

OFFICER
You! Trooper!

The officer moves closer to Jeremy.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
Accompany this unit to the
detention block immediately.

TROOPER JEREMY
Hey, congratulations on your
promotion!

OFFICER
What?

The officer has the standard block of 'chicklets' but next to that is a second lone chicklet on it's own lonely backing, pinned to his jacket. He looks down at it.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
OH. Yes. Thank you. Get moving!

Trooper Jeremy jogs after the troops that are now a little ways down the hall. The officer walks the other direction, leaving them to their assignment.

2 INT. DEATHSTAR HALLWAY

2

Jeremy catches up to the group. He addresses the rear-most trooper.

TROOPER JEREMY
Hey! I'm supposed to come with you
guys.

TROOPER BRUCE
Ok.

TROOPER JEREMY
So the detention block? What are we
doing there?

TROOPER BRUCE
Somebody is breaking into it.

TROOPER JEREMY
Uh. Breaking... into... jail?

TROOPER BRUCE
That's what we were told.

TROOPER JEREMY
Ok, so this is a drill then.

TROOPER BRUCE
Nope. A real thing apparently.

TROOPER JEREMY
Huh. Ok.

The six troopers pass through a door that is flanked by a pair who are on guard duty.

TROOPER JIM
Things were going great! I mean,
surprising great!

TROOPER ALISTAIR
Ok, so then what's the problem?

TROOPER JIM
Well, an hour into the date I
realize, she thinks she's out with
Steve.

TROOPER ALISTAIR
Oh. Fark. So what did you do?

TROOPER JIM
What else could I do? For the rest
of the date, I answered to 'Steve'.

3

INT. DEATHSTAR HALLWAY T-JUNCTION

3

The now-seven troopers come to a T-junction, stop and bunch up. The trooper in front, Trooper Adam, is clearly confused as to which way to go.

He makes a move to go right, but then stops, and then goes left instead.

4

INT. DEATHSTAR HALLWAY

4

The troopers come to a doorway in the middle of the hall. Trooper Adam pushes a button in the arch way and after a moment the door slides up.

Seven troopers pile into the elevator. It's quite cramped. Jeremy is in last and is therefore closest to the buttons.

TROOPER JEREMY

Uhm. Which floor? Does anyone know?

TROOPER TOM

Try the blue button!

Jeremy looks at the buttons. There are 4 blue ones.

TROOPER JEREMY

Uh... ok...

He presses a random one.

The door closes and they are underway.

TROOPER ALEX

So, does anyone know why we're going to the detention center?

TROOPER WILSON

Is that Adam?

TROOPER ADAM

I'm Adam.

TROOPER ALEX

Oh hey Adam. I'm Alex.

TROOPER TOM

Yeah. So the detention center. Who knows the way?

TROOPER ALEX

Hi Tim!

TROOPER TOM

It's Tom.

TROOPER ADAM

Don't worry about it. I'll get us there.

5 INT. DEATHSTAR HALLWAY

5

The door opens and the men step out and stand without direction.

TROOPER ADAM
Follow me!

Adam marches off in a direction. The others follow.

OFFICER (V.O.)
(walkie crackle)
Troopers. What is your status?

TROOPER ADAM
(tapping his helmet)
We're on our way, SIR!

OFFICER (V.O.)
(walkie crackle)
On the double soldier!

TROOPER ADAM
You heard him! Pick up the pace!

The troopers break into a light jog.

6 INT. DEATHSTAR HALLWAY T-JUNCTION

6

The troopers run down a hallway and turn left - disappearing around the corner

7 INT. DEATHSTAR HALLWAY T-JUNCTION - MOMENTS LATER

7

The troopers come running back the other direction and go down a different hallway.

8 INT. DEATHSTAR HALLWAY

8

The men are moving at a brisk pace. Adam is still 'leading'. Jeremy catches up.

TROOPER JEREMY
Hey, did I pick the right floor?

TROOPER ADAM
Yes. Of course you did. Keep up!

They come up to another door. Adam stops and slams the button as the others gather behind him.

9

INT. DEATHSTAR BATHROOM

9

The door flies up to reveal a bathroom. A few feet away from the door is a lone trooper on the toilet. His body glove pants are around his ankles but his shoes are on. He is wearing his helmet and two pieces of armor on his right arm. All the rest of his armor is strewn about the floor of the bathroom. His hand shoots up to 'block' their view.

TROOPER ROGER

Oh come on! Occupied!

Adam slams the button and the door closes.

Adam points down the hall and confidently says.

TROOPER ADAM

It's this way.

TROOPER JEREMY

(skeptical)

Is it?

The troopers speedily follow along.

10

INT. DEATHSTAR HALLWAY

10

Jeremy and Tom are trailing but jogging.

TROOPER JEREMY

You know he's totally lost, right?

TROOPER TOM

He seems pretty confident.

TROOPER JEREMY

You see, a leader doesn't need to know where they're going, they just need to convince the followers that they do.

TROOPER TOM

That's deep.

TROOPER JEREMY

Ya. I'm Jeremy.

TROOPER TOM

Tom.

TROOPER JEREMY

Actually don't tell me. It's better to be nameless around here in case they're looking for someone to blame.

11 INT. DEATHSTAR HALLWAY

11

Troopers are running down a hallway. Trooper slows and stops to catch his breath.

TROOPER JEREMY

(to no one)

Oh.... Man...

He looks up to see he's lost the pack.

TROOPER JEREMY (CONT'D)

Hey! Wait up!

As Jeremy takes off after his comrades, we see behind him, a large group of troopers running down a different hallway at a fast pace.

And then we see them being chased by a screaming Han Solo!

12 INT. DEATHSTAR HALLWAY

12

Trooper Adam points at a door that is closer to another trooper.

TROOPER ADAM

Tom! Try that one!

Trooper Tom spins to the door and slams the button.

The steel door zooms up violently.

On the other side of the door is a control room of some sort. There are many troopers in black outfits, and some officers in officer attire.

Tom sees a shapely Trooper in chrome armor from behind. She turns to the sound of the door opening and begins to walk towards Tom.

This chrome-plated trooper, BRENDA, is slight and curvy. Her slow-motion walk throws her hips in all the right directions.

Tom is stunned. A dolly zoom amplifies his stupor.

TROOPER TOM

Oh..... my.....

Violently, Tom is shoved out of the way by Jeremy as he tries to slow his momentum.

TROOPER JEREMY

(out of breath)

Hey. Hey there.

TROOPER BRENDA

(Non-plussed)

Can I help you, Trooper?

TROOPER JEREMY

We're trying to find the detention center. Someone is breaking in.

TROOPER BRENDA

Breaking in?? Ok, so you're on a drill then?

TROOPER JEREMY

That's what I thought. But apparently not. Real thing.

TROOPER BRENDA

It sounds fake.

TROOPER JEREMY

Your armor is absolutely amazing!! How did you get that issue??

TROOPER BRENDA

Oh. Yeah thanks. I know a guy. He plates droids.

TROOPER JEREMY

It is... something.

TROOPER BRENDA

Look, I don't have a clue where the detention center is. This is Special Ops, which I've gotten lost trying to find more than once.

Jeremy takes up a casual stance, leaning against the door jam.

TROOPER JEREMY

Ya, I hear you. (flirty) like, would putting up a few signs cost too much...

Suddenly Jeremy is grabbed by the arm by Trooper Steve.

TROOPER STEVE
Come on, she's useless. We've got
to go.

As he's being pulled away Jeremy protests a bit...

TROOPER JEREMY
That's not very nice...

From the side of door that Tom was shoved, he appears,
sticking his head around the corner and delicately putting up
a hand to wave at Brenda.

TROOPER TOM
(Meekly)
Hi... I'm Tom.

Tom is harshly cut off by the door slamming down, separating
him and his future Mrs. Tom.

13 INT. MEDICAL CENTER

13

Another door opens.

The troopers rush into a large room that is filled with
medical droids and bacta tanks that hold burned bodies in
stasis or awake.

TROOPER ALEX
Oh no... we're in the burn ward.
This place gives me the creeps.

TROOPER CARL
Big time.

TROOPER JEREMY
This is just crazy! Why do we keep
going to Mustafar!?

The troops all slow their roll and move slowly through this
living mausoleum. Medical droids are mulling about, making
adjustments to the machines.

Trooper Tom goes up to one of the tanks and looks closely at
the burned man floating in the tube. He hears a steady
beeping of a heart monitor.

Suddenly the beeping changes to a solid tone. Tom looks over
at the monitor and sees a flat line readout. Then he moves
his head back towards the canister but stops midway when he
sees a nude blue force ghost that has just appeared.

The ghost looks at Tom, then the canister, has a look of horror on his face before it dissipates into the air.

Tom is stunned.

Jeremy walks in behind him.

TROOPER JEREMY (CONT'D)
Hey come on, we gotta keep moving.

TROOPER TOM
I just saw the strangest...

TROOPER JEREMY
(rushing)
Got places to be.

14 INT. DEATHSTAR CHASM

14

This is the area with the tractor beam control. The troopers are in full run when the doors open.

They are running down the hallway when Trooper Adam notices the tractor console.

TROOPER ADAM
No. NO! Wait. This isn't right!
Turn around. TURN AROUND!

The troopers turn around and run back the way they came.

15 INT. CONTROL ROOM

15

This is similar to the room that R2 and 3PO were in. Very small.

The door opens and Carl and Adam look inside.

TROOPER CARL
Dead End.

Carl pushes the button and the door closes.

16 INT. DEATHSTAR SUPER LASER CORE

16

We are looking down the tunnel of the super laser shaft. Next to it, is a control console with two black suited solders with the split-style helmets, Alan and Justin.

There is a beautiful laser-carved railing mounted at the edge of the ledge of a very very long drop off.

The doorway quickly slides open and Seven troopers run in. They nearly careen off the edge but the railing stops them as they yell:

TROOPER ADAM AND TROOPER JIM
(unison)
WHOA! WHOA!

Trooper Bruce is pressed up against the railing. The rest of the troopers back up.

TROOPER ALEX
This isn't the detention center.

TROOPER JEREMY
Hey, Alan!

GUNNER ALAN
Oh. Hey Jeremy.

Adam, Tom, Wilson, Carl, and Alex head back out the door.

TROOPER JEREMY
Wow great job on the railing! That turned out great!

Bruce is still up against the railing.

TROOPER BRUCE
What? You made this?

TROOPER JEREMY
I'll catch up with you later!

Jeremy also heads out the door. Bruce lingers, rubbing his hands across the detailed wood work.

TROOPER BRUCE
The craftsmanship here Alan... really top shelf.

GUNNER ALAN
You think so?

TROOPER BRUCE
(leaning into it)
It's like a beautiful cradle that makes me feel safe...

GUNNER ALAN
That's so nice to hear. I mean I really did...

Without warning the railing snaps and Bruce falls backward and is gone.

Alan buries his helmet into his hands. The door automatically closes.

17

INT. DETENTION CENTER

17

The Troopers run into the detention center control room. There are a few troopers walking away from the area and some other officers and black clad troops cleaning up a bit. There is a tech crew installing some new cameras into the ceiling. There is no chaos happening. They have clearly missed it, if it ever actually happened.

TROOPER JEREMY

HEY! We made it! What's happening?

BLACK TROOPER 1

What? Why are you back here?

TROOPER TOM

What do you mean? We just got here.

BLACK TROOPER 2

You guys weren't just... ok,
nevermind. We don't need any extra
tech guys.

TROOPER TOM

We're security!

TROOPER ALEX

We were told someone was breaking
into the detention center.

BLACK TROOPER 2

Yeah, that's right. But you are way
too late for that. They escaped
into the trash ages ago.

TROOPER JEREMY

Escaped.... Into the... Trash?

BLACK TROOPER 2

Yep. That's right jumped right into
a hole down there and into the
trash.

BLACK TROOPER 1

That's where we lost 'em.

TROOPER CARL

Who are we even talking about? Who were these people?

BLACK TROOPER 1

It was... ah... Two stormtroopers and a giant Ewok, apparently.

TROOPER CARL

Apparently.

TROOPER JEREMY

(resigned)

Ok. Ok, so this was a drill. Obviously this was a drill.

TROOPER TOM

I think we probably failed.

TROOPER JEREMY

We're just numbers to the management. They're not keeping track. Don't worry about it, Tim. They don't even know our names.

TROOPER TOM

It's Tom.

TROOPER JEREMY

You should keep that to yourself and we won't get in trouble.

A trooper, Lance, runs into the room excited.

TROOPER LANCE

Guys! Hey, were you on coms just now? Just outside docking bay 327 Vader is having a lightsaber battle with an old man.

TROOPER JEREMY

An old man?

TROOPER LANCE

Yeah. I dunno. Some old man.

TROOPER JEREMY

What is up with this guy? Did you hear about the time he lightsabered a bunch of kids? He supposedly slaughtered like a whole daycare center or something.

TROOPER TOM

He did? I didn't know about that.

TROOPER JEREMY

And now he's beating up on some poor geriatric? This guy is such a bully, man. Total psycho.

TROOPER LANCE

Come on! I gotta see this!

Lance runs out of the room. A couple of the black troopers follow him.

TROOPER TOM

(to Jeremy)

Are you coming then?

TROOPER JEREMY

I'll walk with you, but you know by the time we find place that old man will just be a pile of dead on the floor.

TROOPER TOM

Yeah. I guess so. Maybe I'll retrace my way back to special ops instead.

TROOPER JEREMY

Why?

TROOPER TOM

No reason. Don't worry about it.

Jeremy drops his head, shakes it back and forth and exits the room.

TROOPER JEREMY

Vader, man. Mark my words. That guy will be the death of all of us.