

THE ENDOR THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT.

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EXT. FOREST MOON OF ENDOR - DAY

Outside of the shield generator bunker is BIKER TROOPER JEREMY. He is carrying a tool box and some sort of futuristic electronic equipment. He is walking away from his speeder bike and toward the bunker. Halfway to the bunker he slows to a stop. He sighs and dips his head. Suddenly he throws his tools and gear onto the ground and turns around. He walks back to his bike, mounts it, powers it up and takes off into the forest.

EXT. FOREST MOON OF ENDOR - MOMENTS LATER

TROOPER JEREMY passes another TROOPER (ERIC) who is parked. ERIC sees JEREMY and takes chase.

He catches up to JEREMY and parallels his course.

TROOPER ERIC

Hey.

TROOPER JEREMY

Hey.

ERIC is staring at JEREMY, as much as one can stare while screaming through a forest at 100mph.

TROOPER ERIC

You're that guy, right?

TROOPER JEREMY

What? What guy?

TROOPER ERIC

You were on the original death star!

TROOPER JEREMY

(beat) Yeah, ok. I guess I'm that guy.

The two careen through the forest at breakneck speed.

TROOPER ERIC

I'm sorry, I'm sure you must get asked a lot, but I don't know the story and I really... I can't wrap my head around it. How did you... you know, survive?

TROOPER JEREMY
 Alright. You want to know? Fine,
 but this is a story that will
 challenge your very belief system.
 It will rip away the fabric of your
 reality! Are you ready for a story
 like that?

TROOPER ERIC
 I am exactly ready for a story like
 that! Hit me!

ERIC and JEREMY blast through the forest.

TROOPER JEREMY
 So I was with my buddy, TROOPER
 STEVE. Me and him did a lot of
 dangerous missions together.

TROOPER ERIC
 He and I.

TROOPER JEREMY
 What?

TROOPER ERIC
 Nevermind. Continue.

They skim across a little shallow lake.

TROOPER JEREMY
 Now STEVE, he's one of the few
 remaining clones, you know.

TROOPER ERIC
 Wow, old school.

TROOPER JEREMY
 Ya, well hard core.

TROOPER ERIC
 Ya.

INT. DEATH STAR ELEVATOR

TROOPER JEREMY and TROOPER STEVE are in the elevator. TROOPER
 JEREMY presses a button on the panel and the elevator
 ascends.

TROOPER JEREMY (O.S.)
 So we had just completed a super
 important assignment, and we're in
 the elevator together.
 (MORE)

TROOPER JEREMY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
We're on our way up to the
observation deck to see Yavin get
blown up.

CUT TO:

EXT. ENDOR FOREST - DAY

TROOPER ERIC turns to JEREMY.

TROOPER ERIC
Oh! Oh blast! So this is when...

TROOPER JEREMY
Ya. And we're going up and then
there is this big shake and more
shaking and sounds of explosions.
And I'm thinking did we miss the
light show AGAIN?

CUT TO:

INT. DEATH STAR ELEVATOR

The elevator cab is shaking, both TROOPERS are being tossed
around.

TROOPER JEREMY (O.S.)
And then STEVE yells out that he...

TROOPER JEREMY AND TROOPER STEVE
...thinks (maybe we're getting hit
by Yavin's debris), that (we were
too close when we pulled the
trigger!)

The Elevator cab is shaking even more violently now.

TROOPER ERIC (O.S.)
Wow

TROOPER JEREMY (O.S.)
No sooner does he say that then the
lift repulsors just go offline.

The light inside the lift becomes red and suddenly slows to a
stop and the TROOPERS become light on their feet, almost
weightless as it changes direction and begins to descend.

TROOPER JEREMY (CONT'D)
We hear another big explosion above us and in a split second we went from standing in an elevator to being pinned to ceiling, screaming in the opposite direction like a bowcaster shot.

Both TROOPERS are thrown to the ceiling, sticking to it awkwardly as their gravity has flipped.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST MOON OF ENDOR - DAY

TROOPER ERIC dodges a bush but is mesmerized.

TROOPER ERIC
WHAT?

TROOPER JEREMY
Ya. Now as it turns out, I had been, earlier that week, on an elite space mission when some buckethead screwed up the shuttle atmos re-entry so my body was like, "This again?". But poor STEVE, he was not prepared...

CUT TO:

INT. DEATH STAR ELEVATOR

The two TROOPERS are helplessly pinned to the ceiling.

TROOPER JEREMY (O.S.)
... and blew his chunky breakfast into his helmet.

TROOPER STEVE convulses and bits of particulate escape from under his helmet.

TROOPER ERIC (O.S.)
Oh no.

TROOPER JEREMY (O.S.)
It sounded like he just filled the thing.

TROOPER STEVE convulses again and more bits escape.

TROOPER ERIC (O.S.)

Eww

TROOPER JEREMY (O.S.)

So he yanks off his helmet, to keep
from drowning in his own spew.

TROOPER STEVE coughs, pulls off his helmet and his face is
coated.

TROOPER JEREMY (CONT'D)

I have a flash of 'oh-oh' and in
that moment the elevator box we're
in gets ejected into deep space.

CUT TO:

EXT. DEEP SPACE - NIGHT

The elevator zooms away from the death star surface.

TROOPER ERIC (O.S.)

I... oh...

CUT TO:

INT. DEATH STAR ELEVATOR

STEVE's helmet bounces across the walls as he tries to grab
it before it leaves through the tear in the ceiling.

TROOPER JEREMY (O.S.)

In the first few seconds STEVE was
scrambling to catch his helmet but
there was now a hole ripped in the
ceiling and his helmet left our
vessel. I don't have to tell you
what followed for STEVE.

CUT TO:

EXT. DEEP SPACE

The elevator zooms away becoming a speck.

TROOPER ERIC (O.S.)

Ya, maybe don't.

CUT TO:

INT. DEATH STAR ELEVATOR

TROOPER JEREMY is now floating, arms treading while the lifeless STEVE drifts around him. There is a lot of goo hanging in midair.

TROOPER JEREMY (O.S.)
Anyway, I find myself gone from pulling probably 15-20g's to being weightless, floating in this elevator box with the corpse of STEVE and all his barf blobs. And I'm wondering how long my oxygen is going to last.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST MOON OF ENDOR

TROOPER JEREMY is leaning against his parked speeder. TROOPER ERIC is getting something out of the pouch in the back of his.

TROOPER ERIC
Jeremy, this is incredible. How are you still alive?

ERIC joins JEREMY leaning against his bike and passes him one of two silver pouches. The label says "Tatooine Suns" and has an image of silhouetted Luke Skywalker looking out at two suns. While they talk they insert straws into the back of the pouches, and the other end of the straw gets jammed into a hole in their mouthpieces.

TROOPER JEREMY
So at this point I am pretty confused about what happened. I didn't know the death star had blown up. Just that poor STEVE and I were in a terrible accident. Now who should I run into, out there in space, in the vastness of deep space?

TROOPER ERIC
I could not possibly guess.

TROOPER JEREMY
VADER!

TROOPER ERIC

How...

TROOPER JEREMY

Ya. I practically gave his ship an enema.

CUT TO:

EXT. DEEP SPACE

Darth Vader's tie is slowly moving through space.

TROOPER JEREMY (O.S.)

There he was, cruising away from the death star, who knows where he was headed, but I struck the back of his ship, he saw me, and to my surprise, he opened his hatch and let me in.

The elevator car catches up to Vader's ship and bumps it, tumbles and Vader and JEREMY see each other through their respective windows.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST MOON OF ENDOR

The TROOPERS are done with their drinks and begin remounting their bikes.

TROOPER ERIC

Why would you think he wouldn't let you in.

TROOPER JEREMY

At the time I wasn't thinking about that, but later on, once I got the whole picture, I realized I was the only witness. He probably should have let me die to keep his secret, you know?

JEREMY speeds off. ERIC, a little behind, joins chase.

TROOPER ERIC

What? What are you talking about, what secret?

TROOPER JEREMY

Haven't you been listening? Vader was flying away from the Death star, AWAY, moments after it blew up. You think that is a coincidence somehow?

The TROOPERS speed past an AT-ST. It's top-heavy head turns to watch them pass.

TROOPER ERIC

Are you saying... come on, What? The rebels did it.

TROOPER JEREMY

Ha, no. First of all the rebels 'claimed responsibility'. That's a convenient difference when there are no witnesses to backup the truth.

TROOPER ERIC

What truth?

JEREMY comes to a stop. ERIC shoots past him. JEREMY pauses his story while ERIC backs up and comes along side.

TROOPER JEREMY

Think about their story, the one that's been floating around. These 'rebels', apparently a couple of their people managed to break into an empire stronghold and steal some blueprint of the death star, which miraculously shows some vulnerability, a magic exhaust port that leads directly to the main power core. So first off, this blueprint idea is absurd and according to the story this happened right when the base was leveled by a rebel attack?

TROOPER ERIC

Ya, their scrappy band of soldiers...

TROOPER JEREMY

Give me a break, there are no soldiers, and there was no attack, there was a fusion generator malfunction and the placed nuked itself. Happens all the time.

(MORE)

TROOPER JEREMY (CONT'D)

And so these people apparently escaped this meltdown with their magic plans in hand and get it to some teenage princess who passes it to a droid. That droid escapes an occupied rebel ship in a pod, to show it to some moisture farmer who shows the plan to a ancient desert hobo. The Farmer and the old man hop a ride to the death star to save the princess, they escape with her and then the farmer comes back with an angry mob in little ships to give the empire the what for.

TROOPER ERIC

Well... ya...

JEREMY motions to ERIC to move forward and the two begin again to speed through the forest.

TROOPER JEREMY

And so this moisture farmer shoots a laser at a station the size of a small moon, and blows it up?

TROOPER ERIC

Yeah. Duke Starkiller, I think.

TROOPER JEREMY

A guy named STAR KILLER blows up the death star?? This is what people are accepting as the sequence of events? How did a single word of this insane tale resonate with anyone?

TROOPER ERIC

People like an underdog story...

JEREMY fires erratically into the forest from his speeder.

TROOPER ERIC (CONT'D)

What are you shooting at?

TROOPER JEREMY

Ewoks, probably. I am NOT getting taken out by one of those things.

TROOPER ERIC

Yeah, man those little bears really hate us.

TROOPER JEREMY
Why do you think that is?

TROOPER ERIC
I heard those rebels, they told a village of Ewoks about how the Empire is evil and sucks and so they all decided to get in on the fight against us.

TROOPER JEREMY
What do you think is more likely, that a mostly powerless band of creatures decided to lay their fuzzy little lives on the line because of a some story spouted from strangers they probably just captured, OR... that because all of our units are masked and faceless they appear as demons to an aboriginal species who has never encountered anything like us before.

TROOPER ERIC
We do have an ... intimidating posture.

TROOPER JEREMY
We scare the shit out of these things!

The TROOPERS come up behind a pair of AT-ATs that are lumbering through a clearing. They weave between the giants' legs.

TROOPER JEREMY (CONT'D)
The machinery, the armor. We may as well have horns on our helmets and breathe fire.

TROOPER ERIC
Hm. Ok so you think the rebels...

The death star 2 hangs in the sky above them, clearly visible in the haze of the daylight.

TROOPER JEREMY
The rebels, you sound like an idiot. There are no rebels. Who would rebel against a corporation that employs more beings than any other in the galaxy?
(MORE)

TROOPER JEREMY (CONT'D)

How many are working up there on that thing alone? This whole project, and it's happened twice!

TROOPER ERIC

Well people might not like that it's called a 'death' star.

TROOPER JEREMY

The troopers, the ship yards, the pilot program... sooo many jobs. And death star was a nickname that came from who knows where.

TROOPER ERIC

Really? What did the empire name it?

TROOPER JEREMY

Station TK-1138. Supposedly posthumously named after some TROOPER from the Battle of Gerrard Vee.

TROOPER ERIC

Five?

TROOPER JEREMY

I guess, ya, whatever Vee is. I thought it was ten.

TROOPER ERIC

That's X.

TROOPER JEREMY

Doesn't matter, it's all revisionist history anyway. That new one up there is TK-1139.

The bikes whoosh past, leaving us to look at the 1/2 built space station in a low orbit.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST MOON OF ENDOR

The TROOPERS are climbing up a mountainous incline, kicking up dust.

TROOPER ERIC

You know I think I prefer 'death star'.

(MORE)

TROOPER ERIC (CONT'D)

You don't want to mess with something called a 'death star', right?

TROOPER JEREMY

No, you don't. And you especially don't fly at a death star with a little ship and throw a rock at it in the name of... what do these "rebels" want... better pay?

TROOPER ERIC

I don't know. I'm pretty confused. So if this rebel army doesn't exist, how have they become the Empire's sworn enemy?

The bikes come to a stop at a very picturesque bluff that overlooks the forest. An imperial shuttle can be seen landing on the platform perched at tree top level. Further out is a giant radar dish looking up to the massive death star in the sky.

TROOPER JEREMY

Maybe there are one or two "rebels", just some ex-empire employees who had a bad run in with Vader or something and are looking for a comeuppance. But certainly no army and definitely no moisture farmer named Duke Starkiller!

TROOPER ERIC

So where is this whole mythology coming from?

TROOPER JEREMY

See, NOW you're asking the right questions!

TROOPER ERIC

Thank you.

TROOPER JEREMY

I'm surprised you haven't figured it out yet.

TROOPER ERIC

Tell me

TROOPER JEREMY

Just a little black-suited man cruising away from the scene of the crime.

TROOPER ERIC

Vader?

TROOPER JEREMY

The puppet master himself.

TROOPER ERIC

But... why? He is practically the big boss?

TROOPER JEREMY

'Practically' is the exact reason. He's still a lapdog for many higher-ups. Vader is ambitious and nobody's second banana. He's got the force, he's got power, but he is stuck in this 'henchman' role.

TROOPER ERIC

If I'm following you, and I'm not sure that I am, you're essentially suggesting that Vader intentionally blew up the death... station TK-1138, to gain power... how? Over who?

TROOPER JEREMY

Tarkin.

TROOPER ERIC

TARKIN? He killed almost 1 and a half million people in order to assassinate ONE GUY? That's insane!

TROOPER JEREMY

Now wouldn't it be best to construct a narrative that pins this insane power move on a scrappy band of neer-do-wells. These so called rebels?

TROOPER ERIC

Couldn't he have force choked him from the next room when he was taking a shower or something?

TROOPER JEREMY

There was only one person force choking on that station. People would have figured it out.

TROOPER ERIC

Still... some... other way. Push him down some stairs, or off one the hundreds of railing-free platforms...

TROOPER JEREMY

I don't know what to tell you. With the exception of a fluke accident that ejected me and the ill-fated STEVE, Vader was the only one who left there alive. And when he arrived at the nearest Star Destroyer he was regaled! No one questioned him or thought for a second that anyone other than Duke Starkiller and the "incompetence of Grand Moff Tarkin" were responsible for the loss of Station TK-1138.

TROOPER ERIC

My mind is reeling.

TROOPER JEREMY

It should. Welcome to the woke my friend

TROOPER ERIC

I feel sick. I had friends on that station.

TROOPER JEREMY

We all did. I lost every one of them. STEVE, Tim, Alex, Bruce, Adam, Jim, Wilson, Travis, Bradley, Carl, Alistair.... Brenda. I could go on.

ERIC looks up at the station looming above.

TROOPER ERIC

I'm due to head up there. I've got an assignment to install a couple of railings.

TROOPER JEREMY

Since I realized what was going on I haven't been able to take any of my work seriously. Every assignment that has 'rebels' associated with it, I just tune out.

(MORE)

TROOPER JEREMY (CONT'D)

Today I'm supposed to be installing some security to the shield bunker in order to 'keep the rebel threat out'. It's bantha muck. I decided to take a 'me' day instead. So now I'm enjoying this view, avoiding the pointless work, avoiding the little bears and if I were YOU, I'd avoid that space station altogether. Mark my words, it'll be lucky if Vader doesn't take it out within the day.

TROOPER ERIC

What? Really? What?

TROOPER JEREMY

You know who's up there right now, in person?

TROOPER ERIC

No.

TROOPER JEREMY

Palpatine. Don't you think that's someone Vader would like out of his way?

TROOPER ERIC

Oh no.

TROOPER JEREMY

If I were you I'd go fight a little bear, get a minor injury. Find a reason to stay off that station.

TROOPER ERIC

I uhm... Yeah.

TROOPER JEREMY

Rebels. What a deranged idea to cover mass murder.

CUT TO:

EXT. DEEP SPACE - NIGHT

Death Star 2 blows up.

CREDITS