

THE MANDALORIAN

"LIFE DEBT"

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EXT. SPACE

A field of stars twinkle. Calm. Serene.

Mando's spaceship bursts into frame, fresh out of hyperspace.

INT. MANDO'S SPACESHIP - COCKPIT

MANDO punches a few buttons on his control panel and eases back on the thrust lever.

He flips a switch. A holographic image of GREEF KARGA flickers to life.

GREEF KARGA

Mando. I've got a potential lead regarding The Child's origin.

THE CHILD, stowed safely in his bassinet behind Mando, perks up with bright-eyed curiosity.

GREEF KARGA (CONT'D)

There's an old warrior named Tarfful who lives deep in the forests of Kashyyyk. He was a general during the Clone Wars. The records from that period are spotty, but my source is solid. He told me that Tarfful served at the command of a Jedi.

(beat)

A Jedi who matches the description of our mutual friend.

Mando looks back at The Child.

GREEF KARGA (CONT'D)

I know, I know. It's a thin lead. But it's the only one we've got.

(beat)

Here are the rough coordinates. Best of luck, Mando.

EXT. SPACE

Mando's spaceship cruises toward KASHYYYK, a planet with lush landmasses surrounded by expansive oceans.

EXT. KASHYYYK - UPPER ATMOSPHERE - DAY

The ship sails through a clear blue sky, then descends into a layer of puffy, marshmallow clouds.

INT./EXT. MANDO'S SPACESHIP

Through the cockpit's glass, the idyllic white clouds darken. The sunlight in the cockpit dims.

And then the turbulence hits.

The ship plummets 20 meters. It rocks violently.

Thick rivulets of condensation stream across the cockpit's glass. Mando tightens his grip on the controls.

The Child's face is a portrait of concern. Mando turns to him.

MANDO

Don't worry. Just a bit of
turbulence. We'll be through it
soon.

Just as Mando turns back to the controls, an enormous, shadowy mass appears through the fog. It's as big as a mountain.

Mando rolls the ship hard left. The Child's bassinet slides across the cockpit and hits the far wall. The Child yelps.

The ship narrowly skirts the massive object.

MANDO

What was that? There aren't
supposed to be mountains here.

He barely gets the question out before another shadowy mass breaks through the fog in front of the ship. This time we see it clearly - it's the top of a colossal WROSHYR TREE.

MANDO

Hang on!

Mando turns hard right. The Child's bassinet slides all the way to the other side of the cockpit.

Mando flips a switch. A 3D map of Kashyyyk blooms over the control panel. BEEP BEEP. The map highlights a small area in red.

MANDO

Looks like we're landing early.

EXT. UPPER CANOPY

The ship slips through a gap in the treetops, hovers, and descends into the canopy.

The ship goes down...

and down...

and down...

and down...

EXT. SWAMP CLEARING

Finally the ship touches down in an open expanse of swamp. The landing gear squishes into the muck.

The ship looks like a toy compared to the gargantuan Wroshyr Trees that surround the clearing.

The ship's bay door groans open. Mando and The Child stand in the entryway. The Child's jaw drops at the sight of the swamp.

MANDO

Stay close to me. Don't touch anything. Don't drink the water. And don't eat anything. Those are the rules. It's important that you follow them. Do you understand?

The Child gives no indication of understanding. Mando sighs and walks down the gangway.

On his first step into the bog, his boot sinks up to his shin.

MANDO

(sotto)
Great.

Mando steps back onto the gangway. He looks for better footing when he sees...

... The Child toddling across the swamp with ease. He's already ten yards away.

MANDO

That's far enough. Stay close to the ship.

The Child frolics and splashes into small puddles like a kid in galoshes. He gapes at his surroundings with pure wonder.

MANDO

(softening)
Just be careful, OK? We don't know what might be out there.

EXT. SWAMP CLEARING - LATER

Mando loads crates, camping gear, and guns onto a hover-cart.

Nearby, The Child chases after a small frog with six eyes on its slimy head. This type of frog is called a GUPPER.

Mando lifts a blocky, handheld device toward his mouth. As he speaks, a small screen displays the waveform of his voice.

MANDO
(into the device)
Does this translator still work?

The TRANSLATOR spits out an incomprehensible series of GROWLS, GRUNTS, and ROARS.

MANDO
I hope that means "yes".

Mando turns and watches as The Child clumsily hunts the gupper. Mando shakes his head and returns to his work.

The Child is about to pounce. But the gupper opens its surprisingly large mouth and jumps away.

The gupper inflates like a wind sock as it passes through the air. When it lands, it's twice its original size. It jumps again, ballooning up even more.

In three hops the gupper is bigger than The Child. In five hops it's bigger than Mando.

Mando secures a crate with a ratchet strap, unaware of the events unfolding behind him.

In the background, The Child tries to run from the giant gupper. Before he makes it three steps...

... the gupper snares him with its long tongue and yanks him into its mouth.

The gupper leaps out of view. It lands nearby with a SPLASH.

Mando wheels around and draws his BLASTER PISTOL.

MANDO
Foundling!

Mando scans the horizon. All he sees is mist and muck. No sign of The Child. He flips a switch on his helmet.

MANDO'S POV

Infrared vision. The whole world is cast in blue. Then, a quick flash of red - a heat signature.

BACK TO SCENE

Mando sprints toward it, splashing through the slop. He clocks the gupper through the mist. He stops.

MANDO
Stay right there.

Mando aims his blaster pistol at the gupper's head.

PEW!

The gupper doesn't flinch. Then, after a beat, its body deflates like a punctured soufflé. In a few seconds, the gupper is reduced to a puddle of rubbery skin.

The Child, unfazed but slimy, crawls out from under it.

Mando trudges over and scoops him up.

MANDO
Doesn't feel so good being on the other side, huh?
(beat)
You broke the rules. You know what that means.

EXT. FOREST - AFTERNOON

Mando pushes the hover-cart through the dark, towering woods.

The Child is stuffed in a knapsack on Mando's back. He squirms and chirps in protest.

MANDO
I know you want out. But you need to learn how to follow the rules.
(beat)
If we don't find your home then you'll be raised as a Mandalorian. And Mandalorians have a strict code. One you can't break.
(then)
Trust me. When I was a foundling, the disciplinary actions were much worse than this.

INT./EXT. MANDO'S CAMP - SUNSET

Mando pitches camp within the cavernous, exposed root system of a Wroshyr Tree. He throws a tarp over the roots to seal the camp's entrance.

The Child, still safely stowed in his knapsack, hangs from an elevated root like a Christmas ornament. He frowns and fusses.

MANDO

I think it's safer if you stay in there tonight. Can't trust you not to run off again.

The Child looks hurt and confused. Mando flips a switch on the lantern. The camp goes dark.

EXT. MANDO'S CAMP - MORNING

Spears of sunlight penetrate the thick canopy. The forest floor steams with evaporating dew.

MANDO (O.S.)

Foundling!

Mando bursts through the tarp, panicked.

MANDO

(calling loudly)

Foundling! Where are you?!

Behind Mando we see the hanging knapsack. It's empty.

Then we hear a vicious, bone-chilling ROAR that arises from somewhere deep in the forest.

Mando keys in on the sound. He rushes toward it, breezing right past the hover-cart. He does not grab the translator.

EXT. DEEP FOREST

A louder ROAR. Mando's getting closer. He sprints. He hurdles roots. He smashes through branches. Finally, he sees...

... The Child at the feet of two tall, brown WOOKIEES.

Mando freezes. He takes cover and scopes out the scene. But it becomes immediately clear that the Wookiees aren't roaring in rage - they're roaring in laughter.

The Wookiees play with The Child like he's a puppy. The Child toddles toward them, but they dance out of the way, laughing.

Mando visibly relaxes. He steps toward the charming scene.

MANDO

There you are. Thought I'd lost you.

The Wookiees whip around. At the sight of Mando, their hackles raise. They growl. One points a CROSSBOW BLASTER at him. The other brandishes a large wooden WAR CLUB.

Mando puts his arms up in surrender.

MANDO
I mean no harm. The little one
belongs to me.

The Wookiee with the war club storms toward Mando. He raises the war club, swings, and--

CUT TO BLACK:

EXT. WOOKIEE CAMP - DAY

The camp sits in a dry, flat clearing that's ringed by Wroshyr Trees. Patches of crab grass poke through the dirt.

A dozen woven, wooden domes dot the camp. They look like wicker igloos, complete with low entryways.

A thick wooden column stands at the center of the camp. At its base is Mando. His head hangs, unconscious. Hefty, fibrous ropes bind him to the column.

He snaps awake. He tries to move, but the ropes hold him tight.

He looks around the strange camp. He clocks the two Wookiees that nabbed him. They stand guard with their big war clubs.

Mando tries to wrest himself free again.

STORMTROOPER (O.S.)
It's no use. If there's one thing
these Wookiees know best, it's how
to use ropes.

The voice came from directly behind Mando. Mando tries to turn, but can't see who spoke.

MANDO
Who said that?

We PAN to reveal a STORMTROOPER with three distinct claw marks on his helmet and chest plate. He's tied to the other side of the column. He and Mando are essentially back to back.

From a profile, they almost look like a mirror image of each other.

STORMTROOPER
It's me, Red. Is that you, Evans?

The Stormtrooper will now be referred to as RED.

RED

You get stranded after the extraction, too? I thought everyone else made it back to base.

MANDO

You don't know me.

RED

Huh. Who are you, then? You with the new unit? Didn't think you were arriving until tomorrow.

(re: nearby Wookiees)

Don't worry, we can talk. They don't understand Galactic Basic. Only speak Shyriiwook as far as I can tell.

MANDO

I'm not a Stormtrooper.

RED

Really? You sound like one.

(beat)

If you're not a Stormtrooper then what are you doing out here?

MANDO

Not really in the mood to talk.

RED

Wow. OK. So sorry to bother you with my friendly conversation. Not like we're both captives who are about to be torn limb from limb or anything.

A beat. Then Red barrels on.

RED

I mean, really. Of all the poles in all the galaxy, I manage to get tied up to the one with a guy who doesn't want to talk. What are the odds? Actually, I'd rather not know.

(beat)

I thought I had it bad before. But now, this. Can you--

MANDO
 (cutting him off)
 If you want to talk so badly, then
 how about I ask you a question and
 you give me the answer?

RED
 And then I get to ask a question?

MANDO
 No.

Red considers the lopsided offer.

RED
 Fine. What's your question?

MANDO
 Are there only Wookiees here at
 this camp? Have you seen anything
 else?

RED
 That's a weird question. Why? You
 lookin' for something?
 (off Mando's silence)
 Right. I don't get to ask
 questions.
 (beat)
 Until you showed up, yes. Only
 Wookiees.

Mando chews on this info.

RED
 So that's it? You're done after
 one question?

MANDO
 I don't make it a habit to hold
 conversations with Stormtroopers.

RED
 We're not encouraged to talk,
 either. It's just that...
 (beat, earnest)
 ... I have a habit of talking when
 I'm nervous. It's kind of what I
 do. Talking. Languages. I'm a
 translator. Never been very good
 at the soldiering part of the job.
 This part. The scary part.

The sincerity disarms Mando. He shakes his head, as if
 disagreeing with what he's about to do.

MANDO

(forced)

So. What's the Empire still doing out here on Kashyyyk?

RED

(perking up)

Same thing as always. Recruiting Wookiees for construction projects.

MANDO

'Recruiting'? That's a nice way to put it. Think most people call it 'slavery' when they don't go willingly.

RED

No no. It's not like that. It's more of a conscripted jobs program. Once we give them a job, they love it. And with a little education they can be pretty impressive engineers. At the end of their service, they can apply those skills here on Kashyyyk to help advance their civilization.

(beat)

You know they used Wookiees for some of the most important parts of the Death Star's construction?

Red recites this info without irony. It sounds like it's been lifted directly from a propaganda pamphlet.

MANDO

You ever seen any Wookiees after they've been released?

RED

Well, no. But I wouldn't expect to. I'm just here to help process them. I don't see them again after that.

MANDO

Process?

RED

Seeing if they have all their teeth and claws. Making sure they don't have fur mites. Seeing how willing and able they are to work. All that stuff.

MANDO

And the ones that don't pass your inspection? What happens to them?

RED

I know what you're getting at.

(beat)

But think of it this way. If a Wookiee isn't able to do some basic labor, then they aren't going to be very useful to their people, either, right? It's practical to weed them out.

(then)

Wookiees are also known to hold very long grudges. And they don't always understand that we're here to help. So they have a tendency to get violent if we just let them go.

A black-furred Wookiee crawls out of a nearby dome. When he stands to his full height, he's the tallest, broadest Wookiee we've ever seen. This is KRULLTATHA.

RED (CONT'D)

(re: Krulltatha)

Like this one. He, uh, didn't understand me when I explained I was here to help him. Nearly cut through my helmet with his claws.

Krulltatha wears intimidating leather armor with spikes on the shoulder pauldrons. Three cracked Stormtrooper helmets hang from his ammo belt. They RATTLE as he approaches.

Following Krulltatha out of the dome is MUFTAR, a lean Wookiee with chestnut fur and a prominent beard. She's a female Wookiee, but you'd be hard-pressed to tell.

They stop a few feet from Mando and Red. They grunt, growl, and roar at one another. It looks like they're arguing.

MANDO

What are they saying?

RED

Let's see. They're trying to decide which Stormtrooper is more likely to crack during torture.

The white one or the shiny one.

(beat)

Shiny one, huh? You must have some nice armor.

MANDO

You can talk to them, right? Tell them I'm not a Stormtrooper.

RED

So that they're guaranteed to torture me instead? No way.

MANDO

Hey, we're in this together. If we play it smart we can escape in one piece.

(beat)

But you'll have to do exactly as I say.

RED

Well, whatever you want me to say, you'd better think of it fast.

Mando sees that Krulltatha and Muftar have stopped growling at each other. They're now staring directly at their prisoners.

Krulltatha marches toward them.

MANDO

Tell them... tell them that we're looking for a great Wookiee warrior named Tarfful. The little one is a gift for him.

RED

The little one?

MANDO

Just say it.

Krulltatha stops next to the pole, leans down, and issues a long, guttural roar. It shuts Mando and Red up.

A silent beat. At this exact moment, the Child totters out of a dome. Krulltatha and Muftar turn at the sound of the tiny footfalls.

The Child takes in the scene. He looks back and forth between Mando, Krulltatha, and Muftar. Then he and Mando lock eyes. Mando gives him an encouraging nod.

RED

What is that?

The Child waddles forward as if he's heading toward Mando. Instead, he stops at Muftar's legs and reaches up to her. Muftar plucks him off the ground and cradles him adoringly.

RED (CONT'D)

Wait a minute. I know what that is. That's the thing from Nevarro that everyone's been talking about. Which means...

(beat, understanding)
... shiny armor. You're the Mandalorian.

Krulltatha returns his attention to the prisoners. He roars to silence Red. Then he barks at the two Wookiee guards.

The guards appear next to Krulltatha. They cut the ropes, freeing Mando and Red from the pole.

But the two of them are far from free. Each is still bound by a set of ropes around their chest and arms. Mando and Red take a look at each other for the first time.

MANDO

Stick to the plan. It's our best shot.

RED

I had friends on Nevarro. You killed them.

The Wookiee guards kick them down to their knees.

MANDO

I was fighting for survival.
(nodding toward The Child)
His survival. There's something special--

Krulltatha backhands Mando. He falls sideways, crashing into the dirt.

Red stares down at Mando. He looks battered and helpless lying on the ground. Then he looks at The Child. He makes a decision.

There are no subtitles during this exchange. Like Mando, we do not know what is being said.

Red strings together a few hesitant grunts and growls in the primitive Shyriiwook language. It sounds unusual coming from a Stormtrooper's walkie-talkie headset. But it gets Krulltatha's attention.

Krulltatha replies with his own set of grunts and growls.

Mando is a completely powerless spectator. He wrestles against his ropes, trying to get back to his knees. It's no use.

Red responds. Krulltatha roars and pounds his chest. Then he lifts a fist as if to strike him.

Red flinches. Voice wavering, he growls out a hurried rebuttal.

After a tense beat, Krulltatha lowers his arm and turns to look at The Child. Red lets out a sigh of relief.

Red, now more confident, speaks another few sentences in Shyriiwook. Then he nods at Mando.

Krulltatha gives Mando a hard look. Then he stalks toward him like a territorial silverback gorilla.

Krulltatha bends down, grabs Mando, and...

... stands him up on his feet.

Krulltatha exchanges a few growls with Muftar. Muftar comes forward, still rocking The Child in her arms.

Krulltatha takes The Child and examines him. Then he grunts a few times, satisfied. He hands The Child back to Muftar.

MANDO

What did you say to them?

RED

What, don't you trust me?

(beat, serious)

I think they're going to cut us free.

HARD CUT TO:

EXT. WOOKIEE CAMP - LATER

Mando and Red are crammed into small wooden cages that hang 30 feet off the ground. Their arms and legs poke through the sides of the cages like they're strapped into adult-size Baby Björns.

RED

For the record, I told them exactly what you wanted me to.

MANDO

Maybe your Wookiee isn't as good as you think.

RED

Their language is called Shyriiwook and I speak it fluently.

(MORE)

RED (CONT'D)
 (beat)
 We're not being tortured, so I'd
 say this is an upgrade.

The two cages gently rock back and forth. Mando looks up at the rope holding his cage.

RED (CONT'D)
 I heard it can do magic.

MANDO
 What?

RED
 The little one. They say that's
 why it's so dangerous.

MANDO
 It's not dangerous.

RED
 But it *can* do magic?
 (off Mando's silence)
 Fine, fine. Guess it probably
 can't do magic. If it could, why
 would it leave you hanging here
 like this?

Mando doesn't respond. It's a good question.

WIPE TO:

EXT. WOOKIEE CAMP - NIGHT

A bonfire illuminates the camp. The Wookiees kneel in a circle around the fire, eyes down - perhaps in prayer.

A large animal roasts on a spit over the flames. CHIKKICH, a hunched, graying Wookiee, shakes a RATTLE toward the meat. As he does, he sings. It's a primal, haunting, captivating sound.

Mando and Red watch, enchanted. The firelight dances across their helmets, casting them in the same orange light.

MANDO
 Why do you do it? Can't you let
 these creatures live in peace?

RED
 The Empire provided them with
 peace.

MANDO

The Empire's destroyed. It's over.
There's nothing left to fight for.
Why not walk away?

RED

And do what?

MANDO

Go back to your home.

Red hangs on this for a beat.

RED

I don't have a home.
(then)
My planet was a mess of endless
war and chaos. There was always a
new faction vying for power. One
week my people would be in charge.
The next we'd be fleeing for our
lives.

Red continues his story as we see...

EXT. MANDALORE - CITY STREETS - DAY [FLASHBACK]

YOUNG MANDO is in his mother's arms. She hurries down
alleyways, pursued by menacing BATTLE DROIDS. It's chaos.

RED (V.O.)

My parents were killed when I was
a boy. My home was burned to the
ground. I had nothing.

Young Mando's father opens a cellar door. He places young Mando
inside. BOOM! An explosion rocks the rafters.

RED (V.O.)

And then the Empire came. They
brought consistency to my life.
Order. They gave me a purpose. A
reason to live.

A MANDALORIAN opens the cellar door. He seems to glow with
divine light. He extends his hand to young Mando.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. WOOKIEE CAMP

The cages sway in the breeze.

RED (CONT'D)

I owe them everything. I would do anything for them.

Chikkich continues to sing. The other Wookiees join in with a long howl, much like wolves baying at the moon. The song ends.

Mando remains silent, still lost in his own memories when--

ZAP!

A Wookiee roars and collapses to his knees. Blue electric lightning wreaths his body. A TASER BOLT sticks out of his back.

ZAP ZAP ZAP!

More taser bolts find their targets. Several more Wookiees collapse in pain.

The remaining Wookiees rush to action. They grab crossbow blasters and return fire.

Stormtroopers emerge from the forest. They close in.

MANDO

Did you lead them here?

RED

No. I'm as surprised as you are.

PEW PEW! Blaster fire tears through a dome.

MANDO

Foundling!

Mando tries to aim his wrist at the rope above his cage. He shoots a blast of flame from his wrist-mounted flamethrower.

RED

Whoa! You had that this whole time?

But the flames are parallel to the rope. They miss it entirely.

RED

There's no way you can hit your rope from that angle.

(beat)

But I bet you could hit mine. Come on, burn my rope and then I'll cut you down.

MANDO

So you can join your friends?

RED

Still don't trust me? Even after I bailed you out earlier? What happened to being in this together?

MANDO

You didn't have an army earlier.
(beat)
Sorry. Can't risk it.

Mando twists his cage, looking for any possible escape.

There, 15 feet away, is the trunk of a Wroshyr Tree. Mando lifts his arm and fires his wrist-mounted grappling hook at it.

CHUNK. The grappling hook lodges in the wood. Mando gives it a tug to make sure it's firmly planted. It is.

Then he activates the RETRACTION MOTOR on his wrist. Since the hook is securely embedded, activating the retraction motor pulls Mando and his cage toward the tree trunk.

The retraction motor GROANS under the weight. It moves slowly in fits and starts.

MANDO

Come on. Just a little further.

FTTZ! Sparks fly off the retraction motor. Mando's just shy of the tree trunk.

Mando stretches his arm through the cage. His fingertips touch the hook. They almost slip. But then he grabs it.

Mando secures his grip on the hook. Then he rips it free. He and his cage swing backward.

Thanks to the angle of the backswing, the rope is now directly above Mando's head. He blasts it with his flamethrower. The rope smokes, but holds tight.

Mando swings past Red.

RED

Really? Burning my rope would be much easier than... this.

Another swing. Another blast. This time the rope catches fire. As the rope continues on its forward swing...

... SNAP! The rope breaks. The cage hurtles to the ground and CRACKS open like a shell.

RED

At least cut me down!

Mando doesn't even register the request. He's already running toward the first wooden dome.

He looks inside the dome. Empty.

MANDO

Foundling! Where are you?

He hurries to the next dome. Empty.

A nearby TROOPER spots Mando. He fires his BLASTER RIFLE. Mando rolls out of the way of the blast.

Mando clocks a Wookiee crossbow on the ground nearby. He grabs it, lifts it, and... isn't strong enough to cock it.

MANDO

Come on.

He stirrups his foot onto the front of the crossbow for leverage. He strains as he tries to cock it. No dice.

The trooper rounds the corner and takes aim. Mando chucks the crossbow blaster at him. It knocks the trooper off balance.

Mando aims his wrist at the trooper, shoots his grappling hook, and...

... the rope spills out of his wrist like a wet noodle. The motor sparks again. It's completely burned out.

Mando and the trooper both look at it, surprised. Then the trooper points his blaster rifle at Mando.

TROOPER

Is that all you've got?

Mando, still aiming his wrist at the trooper, fires a blast of his flamethrower. The trooper recoils.

Mando runs forward and knocks the blaster rifle out of the trooper's hands. They wrestle, then fall to the ground.

They both clock the blaster rifle a few feet away. Mando makes a break for it. The trooper grabs the loose grappling hook rope and yanks Mando back to the ground.

The trooper gets up and pulls a small BLASTER PISTOL from his belt holster. Mando gets to his knees. The trooper fires.

PEW PEW! PING PING!

The blaster pistol shots ricochet harmlessly off of Mando's Beskar Steel armor. The trooper looks at the blaster pistol.

MANDO

You need something with a little more punch than that.

Mando grabs the blaster rifle and fires. PEW! CRUNCH! The trooper is blown backward, dead.

Mando sheers the grappling hook rope with a shot from his blaster rifle. The rope falls free from his wrist.

PEW PEW! Blaster shots hit a wooden dome near Mando. The wood catches. The dome erupts in flame.

Mando rushes toward it. As he approaches, the entire ceiling collapses.

MANDO

Foundling!

A beat. Then the center of the wood pile swells. A moment later it explodes in a shower of splinters. The force of the blast extinguishes the flames.

The child is at the epicenter of the blast. He reaches his arms up to Mando. Mando picks him up.

MANDO

We've gotta get out of here.

The Child cries in protest. He reaches for something. Mando follows The Child's line of sight. In the distance he sees...

... Muftar and Krulltatha fighting for their lives.

Muftar is a sharpshooter - she hits a Stormtrooper from 40 yards with her crossbow blaster.

Krulltatha is a brawler. He uses his war club to smash a couple Stormtroopers entering the camp.

MANDO

There are too many Stormtroopers. We can't help them.

ZAP! Krulltatha is hit with a taser bolt. But he doesn't go down. He fights against the electric shocks.

ZAP! Muftar is hit with a taser bolt. She goes down.

The Child cries and reaches for her.

MANDO
(sighing)
This is the way.

ZAP ZAP! Krulltatha gets hit two more times. Stormtroopers with SHOCK WANDS close in on him. Krulltatha swings his arms wildly. But it's no use - the troopers prod him into submission.

Mando sets The Child down, gets a running start, and uses a quick burst of his jetpack to launch himself into the air.

Like a hawk diving out of the dark night sky, Mando crunches down onto an unsuspecting Stormtrooper. He rips the shock wand out of his hands.

Now armed with a blaster rifle and a shock wand, Mando shoots one Stormtrooper and jolts another full of electricity.

The rest of the Stormtroopers turn and flee. Mando aims his blaster rifle at them, but they disappear into the forest.

A moment later we hear the WHOOSH of SPEEDER BIKES riding away.

Mando relaxes. He turns and looks back up at the cages. But all he sees are two swaying ropes.

Red is gone.

MANDO
(sotto)
Guess the Empire saved him again.

Krulltatha struggles to his knees. Large taser bolts stick out of his back. Mando gingerly approaches.

MANDO
I know you can't understand me,
but I'm not like them. I can help.

Krulltatha growls, but Mando continues forward, arms out.

MANDO
I just need to get these out of
you, OK?

Mando puts one hand on Krulltatha's shoulder and uses the other to rip the bolt out of his back. Krulltatha roars in pain.

Mando pauses, but Krulltatha relaxes. Mando extracts the other bolts.

Krulltatha stands to his full, towering height. He throws his head back and gives a loud roar.

Then Krulltatha kneels. He's now eye-to-eye with Mando. Krulltatha stares long and hard at him. Then he bows his head.

MANDO
(unsure)
You're welcome.

The other Wookiees shamle in for a better look. They join Krulltatha by kneeling and bowing their heads.

MANDO
You can get up now.

The Wookiees stay put. Mando clocks The Child nearby. He walks toward him.

At the sound of Mando leaving, Krulltatha leaps to his feet and follows directly behind him.

Mando stops. Krulltatha stops. Mando starts walking again. Krulltatha follows. Mando stops and sighs.

MANDO
(to Krulltatha)
I know what you're doing. You don't owe me anything. I didn't save your life. There's no life debt between us. You're free.

Mando tries a few helpful gestures to illustrate his point, but he didn't exactly graduate from mime school. It's useless.

MANDO
If you want to help then you can find a place for us to sleep. Sleep, you know--
(miming sleep)
-- like this?

Krulltatha roars to his fellow Wookiees. They leap to action.

The Wookiees take the wooden domes and flip them over. Suddenly the domes look very similar to bird nests. That's because they are nests - Wookiee nests.

The Wookiees wrap ropes around the bases of the nests. They attach the ropes to metal bolts. They load the metal bolts onto their crossbow blasters.

They aim the crossbow blasters into the air and launch the ropes over the lower branches of the trees. Then they crank the nests into the air.

In a matter of moments, all but two nests hang from the trees. One is a special, tiny nest for The Child. The other is intended for Mando.

Muftar picks up The Child, places him in his nest, and then cranks it up into the air. Then she climbs up to her own nest.

That leaves Mando and Krulltatha on the ground. Krulltatha reaches for Mando as if to pick him up. Mando backs away.

MANDO

I've done enough hanging for one day. Think I'll stay right here.

Krulltatha shakes his head. He grabs Mando, picks him up, and sets him down in the nest. Mando tries to climb out, but Krulltatha pushes him back down.

MANDO

Stop.

Krulltatha starts to crank Mando's nest into the air.

MANDO

Stop. I don't need you help.

Krulltatha does not stop. Mando extends his arm and sends a warning blast of his flamethrower past Krulltatha.

Krulltatha growls in protest. But he gets the message. He climbs up into his own nest.

EXT. WOOKIEE CAMP - MIDNIGHT

Mando sleeps in his nest, which rests firmly on the ground.

RUSTLE RUSTLE

The tip of a conical beak pokes through the dirt 20 feet from Mando's nest. Long, slitted nostrils sniff the air. Then the beak quickly retracts.

The beak pokes through the dirt again. It's now much closer to Mando's nest. Another sniff. Then it's gone.

A silent beat.

Then the entire creature bursts through the ground. It's as long and slinky as a Chinese dragon. It has the sleek fur of a wet otter and as many legs as a centipede. At the end of each long, pitched leg is a dexterous talon with three claws.

This is a SUBSKARP.

The subskarp scuttles toward Mando's dome, stopping occasionally to sniff. It brushes against a wood pile. LOGS CLATTER as they roll off the top of the pile.

Mando wakes. He grabs the blaster rifle and peeks over the edge of his nest.

The subskarp dives into the dirt. Its barbed tail disappears just as Mando looks its direction.

Mando surveys the camp. He flips a switch on his helmet.

MANDO'S POV

Infrared vision. No heat signatures. All blue.

BACK TO SCENE

Mando relaxes and turns around when...

... the subskarp erupts out of the dirt behind him.

The subskarp's head slams into the side of the nest. The nest flips. Mando topples over with it. His blaster rifle flies out of his hands.

Mando hits the dirt. The nest flips back to its original dome form, safely covering Mando in the process.

INT. DOME - CONTINUOUS

Mando watches the subskarp circle the dome. It swipes at the dome with its barbed tail. It stabs at it with its sharp beak.

Mando eyes the entryway to the dome. It's the only way in or out. He's about to make a break for it when...

...the subskarp disappears. Everything is deathly quiet.

Mando hesitates. Then he rushes for the exit. Not fast enough.

The subskarp bursts through the dirt under Mando's feet. Mando falls sideways.

The subskarp tries to climb out of its hole, but the dome is too short. Half its body is stuck underground.

Mando rolls over and scrambles toward the exit. The subskarp wriggles forward and grabs Mando with one of its many arms. Mando falls flat on his face.

The subskarp drags Mando closer and pins him down. It rears up, ready to strike with its sharp beak.

In this face-down position, Mando is almost entirely helpless - except for one thing.

Mando fires his jetpack. The subskarp squeals and loosens its grip. Mando blasts forward through the exit.

EXT. WOOKIEE CAMP - CONTINUOUS

Mando skitters across the dirt. He finally comes to a stop.

Behind him, the dome shakes as the subskarp rages inside. Then the shaking abruptly stops.

Mando clambers to his feet. He gets a running start and fires the jetpack. He's a few feet off the ground when...

... the subskarp explodes out of the dirt and knocks Mando out of the sky. Mando rolls as he hits the ground.

The subskarp is nightmarishly fast. It scurries toward Mando, rears up again, and...

... WHAM! A black blur swings past, slamming the subskarp's head with a war club. The subskarp twists and writhes, squealing in pain.

The black blur swings back in. It's Krulltatha. His war club connects for a second brutal hit. The subskarp collapses.

Krulltatha leaps off his rope and hits the subskarp one final time. The subskarp twitches and curls into a ball as it dies.

Mando and Krulltatha share a look.

HARD CUT TO:

Mando sits in his nest as Krulltatha cranks it up into the air.

Mando's nest stops beside The Child's. The Child peeks over the rim of his nest and smiles at Mando.

MANDO

Don't say it. I know how this looks.

EXT. WOOKIEE CAMP - MORNING

The Wookiees sit in a circle. They eat chunks of roasted subskarp.

Nearby, Mando hooks the blaster rifle to his back. He picks up The Child.

MANDO

They're safe for now. We need to
get back to our camp.

They head to the edge of the camp. Krulltatha clocks them. He jumps up and intercepts them. He growls.

MANDO

We're even. I saved your life. You
saved mine. There's no debt
between us.

Krulltatha reluctantly steps aside and lets them pass.

EXT. DEEP FOREST - LATER

Mando tries to negotiate the tricky terrain. It's a mess of tangled roots, thick underbrush, and slimy muck.

Mando flips a switch on his visor and scans the horizon.

MANDO

Still a ways to go. How you
holding up?

The Child smiles up at him. Mando takes a few more cautious steps forward. He loses his footing, but catches himself.

CRUNCH.

Mando whips around. Krulltatha, Muftar, Chikkich, and several other Wookiees appear out of the brush.

MANDO

No. We're not going back with you.
(pointing)
We're going this way. Back to our
supplies.

Krulltatha growls and points with his long arm in the same direction as Mando.

MANDO

Yes. That way.

Krulltatha roars. The Wookiees rush past Mando, easily bounding and swinging over the rough terrain. They cover more ground in five seconds than Mando could in five minutes.

Muftar steps forward and reaches for The Child. Mando hesitates, but hands The Child over.

MANDO

Be careful with him.

Muftar cradles The Child in one arm and swings off. Only Mando and Krulltatha remain.

MANDO

You're not carrying me like that.

Krulltatha kneels and offers up his back. Mando sighs. He climbs up and locks his arms around the Wookiee's neck.

EXT. MANDO'S CAMP - DAY

The Wookiees swing up to the hover-cart. Mando hops off of Krulltatha's back. He grabs the translator.

MANDO

(into the translator)

Thank you.

The translator growls out the message. The Wookiees look at one another, confused.

Mando holds up the translator and tries again.

MANDO

This is a translation device. It lets me speak to you in your language.

(sotto)

I hope.

The Wookiees ease up as they listen to the message, though Chikkich still gives the translator distrustful glances.

Any communication between Mando and the Wookiees will now pass through the translator.

MANDO

What is your name?

Mando uses encouraging gestures to try and get the Wookiees to respond. Krulltatha steps forward.

KRULLTATHA

I am the one they name Krulltatha.
Warmaker of the Ocaccho tribe.

MANDO

I am the one they name Mando. I am--

(gesturing to The Child)

-- we are of the Mandalorian tribe.

Chikkich steps forward.

CHIKKICH

Lies! You are of the Skeleton
tribe!

MANDO

Skeleton tribe? No. I do not know
the Skeleton tribe.

CHIKKICH

They are like you. They wear their
bones to hide their flesh.

Mando pieces it together.

MANDO

We give them the name
Stormtroopers. They are our
enemies.

The Wookiees roar their approval.

KRULLTATHA

The club swings harder with two
hands. We welcome you to our
fight, Mando of the Mandalorian
tribe.

MANDO

I am not here to fight.

The Wookiees grumble.

MANDO (CONT'D)

I am looking for a great warrior
named Tarfful.

MUFTAR

It is as the skeleton warrior
said. The little one is a gift for
Tarfful.

MANDO

Yes. That's right. But I do not
know where Tarfful is. Can you
help me find him?

KRULLTATHA

He was taken by the Skeleton tribe
when they raided our village.

MANDO

Where did they take him?

KRULLTATHA

To the metal fortress. With the others.

MANDO

Is Tarfful healthy?

The Wookiees look to one another, confused.

MANDO (CONT'D)

Is he strong?

The Wookiees roar angrily.

KRULLTATHA

He is Wookiee! We are all strong.

MANDO

I did not mean to offend you. What I want to know is if he looks more like you, Krulltatha. Or if he looks more like--

(pointing at Chikkich)
-- the shaman.

CHIKKICH

I am the one known as Chikkich, the Soothspirit of the Ocaccho tribe.

(beat)

The one known as Tarfful swings the club no more. He is a gray-fur, a respected elder of the tribe.

Mando tenses.

MANDO

We don't have much time. The Skeleton tribe will kill him if he can't work.

(beat)

Do you know where the metal fortress is?

KRULLTATHA

Yes. We were on our way to make war with the Skeleton tribe and crush their bones with our clubs.

MANDO

We must go. Now. We will destroy the Skeleton tribe and free Tarfful.

The Wookiees roar their approval.

EXT. FOREST'S EDGE - SUNSET

POV SNIPER SCOPE

We see the prison camp. The scope zeroes in on a guard tower. A Stormtrooper stands beside a large AUTOMATIC TURRET.

MANDO (V.O.)
There aren't many guards, but the
defenses are strong.

We PAN left along a tall perimeter fence. We stop on another guard tower that has its own Stormtrooper and automatic turret.

MANDO (V.O.)
Automatic turrets in each tower.
Reinforced perimeter.

Beyond the guard tower there are a few metal structures, an empty landing pad, several Stormtroopers, and a holding pen.

MANDO (V.O.)
It looks like they've got the
prisoners in an electric holding
pen.

Wookiees huddle inside the holding pen. The pen is enclosed on all sides by blue, electric shields.

MANDO (V.O.)
But I don't see the generator.
Must have it underground.

BACK TO SCENE

Mando lowers the sniper rifle. He, The Child, and all of the Wookiees are perched on thick tree branches.

MANDO
And if the generator's underground
then there are going to be more
Stormtroopers down there, too. Not
sure how many.

KRULLTATHA
They are weak! We will tear down
their walls and crush them.

MANDO
We won't make it past those
turrets. Except...

Mando raises the sniper rifle and looks through the scope.

MANDO (CONT'D)

They only have towers on this side of the perimeter. The far wall is unguarded. We could approach from that side.

MUFTAR

It will be difficult. That side is a cliff. The ocean is below.

MANDO

Can you climb it?

KRULLTATHA

We are Wookiee! We can climb anything.

MANDO

Good. We'll need at least two of you to climb it.

(beat, lifting a grenade)

And then you're going to need to make a lot of noise.

EXT. PRISON CAMP - CLIFF - NIGHT

Waves crash against the jagged rocks at the base of the cliff.

We sweep up the face of the rock and pass right by two climbing Wookiees. We continue up over the top of the cliff, over the perimeter fence, and finally rest on the...

EXT. PRISON CAMP - HOLDING PEN

Wookiees huddle within the confines of the electric holding pen. The blue shield flickers dangerously.

A brown Wookiee roars and paces along the fence. A GUARD with a red stripe on his white helmet approaches.

GUARD

Quiet down.

The brown Wookiee roars even louder.

GUARD (CONT'D)

You're real scary locked up behind that fence.

(beat, gesturing)

Why don't you come try to get me?

The brown Wookiee throws himself at the guard. He collides with the fence. Shockwaves of electricity light him up. His fur smokes as he crumples into the mud. He moans in pain.

GUARD (CONT'D)
Dumb animals.

A gray-furred Wookiee emerges from the shadows. He hobbles toward the guard, stops right at the fence and, with great effort, stands to his full height. He stares down the guard.

This is TARFFUL.

GUARD (CONT'D)
Careful, old timer, or that fence
will kill you before I get the
chance.

Tarfful summons all his energy and lets loose a rib-rattling roar. As if in answer to his rage...

... BOOM! A fireball lights up the dark camp.

GUARD (CONT'D)
What the hell?

SIRENS BLARE. A line of Stormtroopers rush out of an underground bunker.

The Stormtroopers in the guard towers rotate their automatic turrets to face the cliff-side wall.

In the eastern guard tower, the Stormtrooper has his finger on the trigger of the automatic turret. He scans the dark horizon for any sign of movement.

CLANK! Something strikes the roof of the guard tower. He looks up and sees a METAL BOLT sticking through the roof.

He runs to the railing to get a better look. He sees a taut rope attached to the metal bolt. It extends all the way to the forest in the distance.

And there's something moving fast along the rope. It's Krulltatha. He hangs from his crossbow blaster, which is hooked over the rope like a zip line.

Krulltatha cannonballs into the Stormtrooper with both feet. The Stormtrooper flies backward over the railing.

Krulltatha looks across to the other tower. He watches as Muftar zips in and knocks her own Stormtrooper over the railing.

They nod at one another. Towers secured. More Wookiees zip into the towers and climb down to the ground.

Krulltatha posts up on the automatic turret. Muftar pulls Mando's sniper rifle off her back. Another Wookiee takes up the controls on the automatic turret in her tower.

Across the camp, three more Stormtroopers climb out of the underground bunker to join the fight.

Just as they leave, Mando drops out of the sky behind them. He uses a quick burst of his jet pack to soften his landing.

Mando draws his pistol blaster and slips into the...

INT. PRISON CAMP - BUNKER

Mando leans around a corner. Clear. He continues down the corridor. It's bare-bones: perforated steel walkway, cables strung along the ceiling, utility lighting.

Mando peers into an empty room off the corridor. It's a barracks. Beds, lockers, card tables. Lived in.

INT. MANDALORIAN COMPOUND [FLASHBACK]

A Mandalorian leads young Mando down a dark corridor. They pass a similar barracks.

Young Mando stops and peers in. He sees a group of Mandalorians cleaning and prepping blasters.

One of the Mandalorians clocks him. He nods at young Mando.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. PRISON CAMP

Krulltatha mans an automatic turret. He opens fire on the defensive line of Stormtroopers. They scramble for cover.

Muftar picks off a Stormtrooper with a perfect shot. She gives the sniper rifle an approving look.

INT. PRISON CAMP - BUNKER

Mando checks another room. It's an armory with blasters, grenades, shock wands, taser rifles, and armor.

A Stormtrooper helmet rests on a table, front and center.

INT. MANDALORIAN COMPOUND - DISPLAY ROOM [FLASHBACK]

A bronze Mandalorian helmet gleams atop a stone podium.

A single shaft of sunlight illuminates the podium, which stands in the center of a large, sand-strewn chamber.

The arched walls are lined with Mandalorian helmets. The room has the hallowed magnitude of a mausoleum.

Young Mando creeps toward the podium. He glances back at the entryway. All clear. He continues forward.

He stops at the podium and gawks at the helmet. Then, with one final furtive glance, he reaches forward and lifts it up. He stares into its hollow eyes.

ARMORER (O.S.)

It is our obedience to craft,
tradition, and honor that has
allowed us to persist over the
generations.

Young Mando wheels around, still clutching the helmet. The ARMORER, a female Mandalorian with the austerity of a Viking Goddess, strides toward him.

ARMORER (CONT'D)

What do you observe?

YOUNG MANDO

It's heavy.

The Armorer reaches forward and takes the helmet from him. She replaces it on the podium.

MANDALORIAN

Someday you'll be strong enough to
wear it.

(beat)

But first you must learn
discipline. This is the way.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. PRISON CAMP - BUNKER

Mando walks past the helmet, grabs a couple of grenades, and heads back out into the corridor.

EXT. PRISON CAMP

Muftar nails another Stormtrooper. She howls with delight.

Krulltatha continues to light up the Stormtrooper's defensive position with the automatic turret.

The Wookiees on the ground push forward. There are only a handful of Stormtroopers left. The Wookies are winning.

EXT. FOREST'S EDGE

The Child and Chikkich watch the battle from the safety of their perch.

WHOOSH

A TROOP CARRIER SHIP (aka Carrier), sweeps over them. The Child's ears flap as the carrier's engines gust.

EXT. PRISON CAMP

The carrier settles into a hover over the camp, causing a whirlwind below. The Wookiee's fur whips wildly about them.

The bulky side doors of the carrier lift open. A GUNNER sits at a mounted turret. He aims directly at Muftar's guard tower. He opens fire.

The heavy blasts tear through the tower. Muftar tries to dive over the railing, but it's too late. The tower - and Muftar with it - is leveled into a fiery tangle of steel.

EXT. FOREST'S EDGE

The Child and Chikkich watch the tower collapse. The Child's mouth drops open. Chikkich hangs his head.

The Child steps to the edge of the perch. He raises his hand toward the carrier.

Chikkich lifts his head and watches with curiosity.

EXT. PRISON CAMP

Krulltatha roars. He focuses his automatic turret on the carrier. He fires. He hits the hull of the ship, but the reinforced steel absorbs the blasts.

The door on the opposite side of the carrier opens. Two ropes spill out. Stormtroopers rappel down them.

With Krulltatha's focus on the ship, the Stormtroopers on the ground can finally push forward. They do.

The Stormtroopers, now outnumbering the Wookies, press in from both sides. The Wookiees don't stand a chance.

INT. PRISON CAMP - BUNKER

Mando reaches the generator room. But there's an electric shield across the entryway. Damn.

RED (O.S.)
Looks like you might need a little
help with that.

Red, still in his scarred armor, stands with a blaster rifle pointed at Mando. Mando slowly turns to face him.

RED
Unless you have some other hidden
gadget that will help you through.

MANDO
Lower the shield, Red. You know
what you're doing is wrong. You
still have time to walk away from
all this.

RED
Why would I do that? I'm in line
for a major promotion once I
deliver the famous Mandalorian to
Moff Gideon.
(beat)
You really thought you could
overpower us and free the
Wookiees? All you've done is
broken into your own prison.

EXT. PRISON CAMP - HOLDING PEN

Wookiees cower in the corner of the pen. Young Wookiees hide behind their parents. Tarfful watches the battle, helpless.

EXT. PRISON CAMP

The Wookiees on the ground fight for their lives. The Stormtroopers press in.

A STORMTROOPER CAPTAIN turns to his men.

STORMTROOPER CAPTAIN
We want them alive. Switch to
tasers.

Stormtroopers with taser rifles move to the front of the ranks. They fire. ZAP ZAP ZAP!

Above, the gunner in the carrier zeroes in on Krulltatha's guard tower. He opens fire.

He hits Krulltatha's automatic turret. It sparks and smokes. Krulltatha is thrown to the floor, defenseless.

EXT. FOREST'S EDGE

The Child is in deep concentration. His tiny hand shakes. His brow wrinkles.

EXT. PRISON CAMP

KA-CHUNK. One of the carrier's engines gutters out. The ship careens sideways. The violent, unexpected motion sends the gunner toppling out of the open door.

CRUNCH. The gunner lands right in front of the advancing Stormtroopers. The Stormtrooper Captain looks up and sees...

... the carrier tailspinning. It's going down fast - and it's going down right on top of them.

STORMTROOPER CAPTAIN

Get clear! It's--

Too late. The carrier crashes into the Stormtroopers.

INT. PRISON CAMP - BUNKER

CRASH! The lights flicker and the tunnel shakes as the ship slams into the ground overhead.

Red stumbles. Mando lunges forward, kicks the rifle out of Red's hands, and throws him against the wall.

MANDO

Lower the shield.

RED

So you can help your Wookiee friends kill us?

Mando slams Red against the wall.

MANDO

It doesn't have to go this way. Just lower the shield.

RED

You need the code. And I'm not giving it to you.

Mando drags Red to the electric shield.

MANDO

Either lower the shield or get thrown into it. Your choice.

RED

You know I don't have a choice.

Mando sighs. Then he pushes Red into the shield. Volts of electricity shoot across his body. Red screams in pain.

MEMORY FLASH

Young Mando, arms spread, is suspended from the ceiling with ropes. He screams as he's jolted with electricity.

The Armorer, arms folded, watches dispassionately.

END MEMORY FLASH

EXT. PRISON CAMP

The remaining Stormtroopers battle it out against the remaining Wookiees. It's evenly matched.

INT. PRISON CAMP - BUNKER

Red falls to his knees. His armor smokes. He coughs. He reaches up and rips his helmet off. He gulps in air. His nose bleeds.

We now see that Red is young - maybe 25. He has a shock of bright red hair.

MANDO

Red.

(beat)

What's the code?

Red doesn't answer. Mando grabs him and picks him up.

RED

Please. Not again.

(beat, gasping)

Lower... shield.

Authorization...1-3...7-4.

BEEP! The shield vanishes. Mando releases Red. Red collapses to the floor in a heap.

Mando enters the room and twists a lever on the generator. Red lights blink out as the lever sweeps past them.

EXT. PRISON CAMP

The electric holding pen shield disappears. Tarfful hesitantly reaches his hand forward. No shocks. He roars his approval.

The Wookiees run out of the pen. The bigger Wookiees run toward the action, picking up makeshift weapons as they go.

Tarfful picks up a hefty piece of wood. He gives it a test swing. He looks satisfied. He lets out a mighty roar.

Tarfful walks behind one of the metal outbuildings. There, cowering behind some crates, is a Stormtrooper with a red stripe on his helmet - the guard.

The guard sees Tarfful.

GUARD
Stay back! Don't come any closer!
(beat)
I surrender, OK? I surrender!

Tarfful ignores the pleas. He towers over the guard, raises the club, and smashes the guard's helmet with all his force.

INT. PRISON CAMP - BUNKER

Mando turns to leave. But there, leaning against the doorframe, is Red. He aims a small blaster pistol at Mando. His hand shakes with the effort.

Mando puts his hands up. He takes a step toward Red. They're only a few feet away from each other.

RED
Stop. I won't let it end like
this. I won't die a traitor.

MANDO
You don't have to die at all.

RED
Ha! If I don't kill you then
you'll kill me. Because that's
what Mandalorians are. Killers.

MANDO
Mandalorians aren't killers. We're
survivors.
(beat)
Put the blaster down and you will
be, too.

Red hesitates. He slightly lowers the blaster pistol.

Mando takes another step. He's almost close enough to grab the blaster pistol out of Red's hands.

RED
Not anymore.

Red raises the blaster pistol and pulls the trigger.

PEW! PING! CRUNCH!

A long beat.

Then Red staggers backward. There's a hole in his chest armor, glowing orange at the edges.

The blaster shot ricocheted off Mando's Beskar Steel armor.

Red looks down at the hole in his chest.

RED
(dazed, dreamy)
Huh. Wish I had your armor.

Red collapses. He's dead before he hits the ground.

EXT. PRISON CAMP

The Wookiees gather in the middle of the prison camp. They raise their war clubs and cheer.

Tarfful beats his chest and roars.

WIPE TO:

EXT. OCACCHO VILLAGE - EARLY EVENING

A treetop village. Several huts are suspended like wind-chimes. Others are built into the tree trunks themselves. Walkways and bridges connect the multi-tiered settlement.

INT. TARFFUL'S HUT

Tarfful sits on a cluster of branches that have been shaped into a chair. He holds The Child in his hands. He lifts him up to get a closer look.

Mando observes the interaction.

TARFFUL
Yoda.

MANDO
Yoda? Is that the name of its species?

TARFFUL
I do not know the name of its species. I only know the one we name Yoda. He was a great chief. A Jedi Master. At the time of the Great War I named him friend.
(beat)
Now I name him betrayer.

MANDO

What happened?

TARFFUL

The Jedi sent him to help us make war with the metal soldiers. He promised freedom. He promised support. He promised victory.

(beat)

He told lies. He brought the Skeleton tribe. Then he abandoned us. For generations the Skeleton tribe has enslaved us. Destroyed our way of life. They are responsible for the Scattering Of The Tribes.

Mando looks down at The Child, perhaps viewing him in a new light. The Child innocently smiles at him.

MANDO

The little one is not of the Jedi. He is of the Mandalorian tribe. Like me.

(beat, encouraged by
Tarfful's silence)

His kind live many years. Do you know if Yoda is still alive? Where he is?

TARFFUL

I do not know. He came to us from the planet with no trees. No good comes from a planet like that. We should have known.

EXT. OCACCHO VILLAGE - NIGHT

The entire village is assembled in front of several large funeral pyres.

Tarfful, Krulltatha, Mando, and several other Wookiees hold torches.

Muftar rests peacefully in the first pyre. Tarfful places his torch at the base of the pyre. The pyre alights.

Mando approaches a pyre. Atop the pyre is Red, now wrapped in a simple brown cloak. His scratched helmet rests on his chest.

Mando places his torch at the base of the pyre. It catches.

The flames engulf Red. His helmet gleams in the dancing orange firelight. Then it crumples and melts.

Mando returns to the group. He stands between Krulltatha and The Child. The difference in height is noticeable and comical.

KRULLTATHA

You helped save our people. I name you a warrior of the Ocaccho tribe.

MANDO

I'm honored.
(beat)
We're more than even now. You may end your life debt with me.

Krulltatha laughs.

KRULLTATHA

I have no life debt with you.

MANDO

Then why did you help me?

KRULLTATHA

This forest is big. You are small. You needed my protection.

MANDO

Think I proved I can handle myself in a fight.

KRULLTATHA

That is so. But the club swings harder with two hands.

Mando looks down at The Child.

MANDO

This is the way.

Embers from the fire float up into the darkness of the trees. They almost start to look like...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE

Twinkling stars. Mando's spaceship soars past them.

INT. MANDO'S SPACESHIP

Mando sits in his captain chair. The Child stands on his lap.

Mando reaches for the hyperdrive thrust lever. He pauses.

MANDO

You want to do the honors?

The Child looks up at Mando. Mando picks him up and sets him next to the thrust lever.

The Child reaches forward and puts his tiny hand on it. The Child is too weak to push it forward. He strains.

Mando places his hand next to The Child's. They push together.

EXT. SPACE

Mando's ship jumps into hyperspace, leaving only a field of stars in its wake.

THE END