

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
And stole the plans to a space station vast,
Whose pow'ful 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,
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.

ACT I
SCENE 1

Aboard the rebel ship.

Enter C-3PO and R2-D2.

C-3PO

Now is the summer of our happiness
Made winter by this sudden, fierce attack!
Our ship is under siege, I know not how.
O hast thou heard? The main reactor fails!
We shall most surely be destroy'd by this.
I'll warrant madness lies herein!

R2-D2

—Beep beep,
Beep, beep, meep, squeak, beep, beep,
beep, whee!

C-3PO

—We're doomed.
The princess shall have no escape this time!
I fear this battle doth portend the end
Of the Rebellion. O! What misery!

*[Exeunt C-3PO
and R2-D2.*

CHORUS

Now watch, amaz'd, as swiftly through the door
The army of the Empire flyeth in.
And as the troopers through the passage pour,
They murder sev'ral dozen rebel men.

[Fighting begins.]

*Enter REBELS. Many die. Enter STORMTROOPERS and DARTH VADER.
Exeunt. Enter R2-D2 with PRINCESS LEIA. C-3PO is across the stage.*

C-3PO Pray, R2-D2, where art thou?

*[Exit Princess
Leia.]*

R2-D2 --Beep, meep.

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—
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,
I'll surely die if e'er thou leavest me!

[Exeunt droids.]

Doescher, Ian (2013-07-09). William Shakespeare's Star Wars (Kindle Location 51-116). Quirk Books. Kindle Edition.

The time so long ago when wars were fought,
 The time when men did battle to the grave,
 The time before the Empire rul'd supreme,
 The time wherein thy father died as well.
 LUKE Knew he my father?
 OWEN [*aside:*] — Though I tell of men
 And wars and battles brave, still all he hears
 Is that word "father." [*To Luke:*]
 Prithee, Luke, forget.
 Thy task is to prepare the droids for work
 Tomorrow. In the morning shall they be
 Upon the south ridge, laboring with those
 Condensers.
 LUKE —Aye, and I believe these droids
 Shall serve us well. In troth, good uncle, now
 I must confess my mind is mov'd to think
 Upon the pact 'twixt thee and me, and our
 Agreement, namely that I shall stay here
 Another season. Crops that grow in these
 Harsh climes will surely grow sans me. And so,
 Mine uncle, if these droids will satisfy
 I wish my application to transmit
 Unto the great Academy this year.
 OWEN Nay Luke, an uncle's heart is breaking! Canst
 Thou mean the next semester hence, before
 The harvest-time?
 LUKE —Just so! Quite plentiful
 Are droids!
 OWEN —But harvest-time I need thee most!
 Wilt thou here in the desert yet desert?
 'Tis only one more season. This year I
 Shall make enough at harvest-time to hire
 More hands to help. Then canst thou go next year
 To the Academy. To pilot is
 A noble trade, my boy, but family
 Is nobler still. I prithee, understand,
 I need thee, Luke.
 LUKE —'Tis one more year entire!
 OWEN 'Tis only one more season!
 LUKE —Aye, so saidst
 Thou when my dear friends Biggs and Tank did leave.
 Now cracks a hopeful heart, when, by the land,
 A man's ambitions firmly grounded are:
 So shall a bird ne'er learn to fly or soar
 When wings are clipp'd by crops and roots and soil.
 BERU Pray whither fly'st thou, Luke?

LUKE —It seems, dear aunt,
I nowhere go nor flee nor sail nor fly.
Instead, I must remain and clean those droids.
[Exit Luke.]

BERU O Owen, he cannot abide for aye
With us. 'Tis true, his friends are mostly gone.
It hath great meaning for our well-lov'd Luke—
This bird would surely fly.

OWEN —So promise I
That I shall set all things aright, Beru.
The bird shall fly indeed, when time is ripe,
And when the nest hath no more need of him.

BERU But Owen, he hath not a farmer's heart—
This apple falls quite near his father's tree.

OWEN 'Tis true! And this, my dear, is what I fear.
[Exeunt Owen and Beru. Reenter Luke, gazing into the setting of Tatooine's two suns.]

LUKE O, I am Fortune's fool. 'Tis true, 'tis true,
And gazing now upon the double sun
Of my home Tatooine, I know full well
That elsewhere lies my destiny, not here.
Although my uncle's will is that I stay,
My heart within me bursts to think on it
For out among the spheres I wish to roam—
Adventure and rebellion stir my blood.
Those oft-repeated words of my mate Biggs
I do believe— that all the world's a star.
Beyond that heav'nly light I shall fly far!
[Exit.]

Doescher, Ian (2013-07-09). William Shakespeare's Star Wars (Kindle Location 829-961). Quirk Books. Kindle Edition.

ACT II
SCENE 4.
The desert planet Tatooine.

*Enter OBI-WAN KENOBI, LUKE SKYWALKER, C-3PO, and R2-D2, surrounded
by Jawa corpses.*

LUKE It seemeth that the Sand People have done
This wretched deed— yon gaffi sticks and tracks
Of bantha, aye. But ne'er in all my years
Have Tusken gone awry so far as this.

OBI-WAN And they have not, though they who this vile deed
Have done, would make us think Sand People did.
But hark! Take note, and look ye thereupon:
Yon tracks are side by side, yet Sand People,
'Tis known, e'er one behind the other ride,
So better may they hide their numbers large.

LUKE These Jawas are the very same who sold
C-3PO— and R2-D2, too—
Unto mine uncle not two days ago.

OBI-WAN And these marks here, these blast points, are too fine
And accurate for Sand People, 'tis true.
For only stormtroopers by Empire train'd
Are so precise and cunning in their work.
[*Aside:*] Survey'ng this scene, I fear what cometh next,
For certain have the troops more evil done.
Good Owen and Beru no doubt are slain,
And though it breaks my heart to think on it,
It may be that their deaths will spark Luke's soul,
And lead him unto good rebellion's cause.
So by their death may others yet find life.

LUKE But why, say why, would these Imperi'l troops
Have aught to do with Jawas? Wait, I see—
The droids! If they have trac'd them here they may
Have soon discover'd whom they sold them to,
Which— O, my soul!— would lead them to my home!

OBI-WAN Pray, patience, Luke! 'Tis far too dangerous!
*[Luke runs to his
landspeeder.]*

CHORUS Now flies Luke off in his landspeeder quick
And finds his home engulf'd in flames of red,
Then spies amid the smoke, so black and thick,
The bodies of his aunt and uncle, dead.
A sadder, wiser man he cometh back,
With noble purpose now his life's imbu'd.

OBI-WAN

By wrongful, vicious, cowardly attack,
The Empire hath Luke's passion quite renew'd.
'Twas nothing thou, Luke, couldst have done had thou
Been there. Thou murder'd would have been as well.
Aye, also would the droids now captur'd be
And would be in the Empire's evil hands.

LUKE

Thou knowest, friend, what I have seen today.
No sorrow like to this have I e'er known.
I wish to come with thee to Alderaan,
For nothing have I here on Tatooine.
Then shall I learn the Force, and shall become
A Jedi like my father. Thus I vow.
So let's prepare and go upon our way,
With haste may we escape the troopers vile.

*[Exeunt Obi-Wan,
C-3PO, and R2-
D2.]*

Adventure have I ask'd for in this life,
And now have I too much of my desire.
My soul within me weeps; my mind, it runs
Unto a thousand thousand varied paths.
My uncle Owen and my aunt Beru,
Have they been cruelly kill'd for what I want?
So shall I never want again if in
The wanting all I love shall be destroy'd.
O fie! Thou knave adventure! Evil trick
Of boyhood's mind that ever should one seek
To have adventure when one hath a home—
A family so kind and full of love,
Good, steady work, and vast, abundant crops—
Why would one give up all this gentle life
For that one beastly word: adventure? Fie!
But soft, my soul, be patient and be wise.
The sands of time ne'er turned backward yet,
And forward marches Fate, not the reverse.
So while I cannot wish for them to live,
I can my life commit unto their peace.
Thus shall I undertake to do them proud
And take whate'er adventure comes my way.
'Tis now my burden, so I'll wear it well,
And to the great Rebellion give my life.
A Jedi shall I be, in all things brave—
And thus shall they be honor'd in their grave.

[Exit Luke.]

Doescher, Ian (2013-07-09). *William Shakespeare's Star Wars* (Kindle Location 1571-1667). Quirk Books. Kindle Edition.

ACT III
SCENE 6
Space, aboard the Millennium Falcon.

Enter OBI-WAN KENOBI, LUKE SKYWALKER, C-3PO, R2-D2, and
CHEWBACCA.

CHORUS The instant Alderaan is smash'd to bits,
 Luke tries his lightsaber— a keen trainee.
 The droids and Wookiee play a game of wits,
 But Obi-Wan doth sense catastrophe.

OBI-WAN [*aside:*] Now breaks my heart as through the Force I sense
 The suffering of many worthy souls.
 I know not what this doth portend, and yet
 I fear the worst.

LUKE
OBI-WAN —Good Sir, how farest thou?
 Forsooth, a great disturbance in the Force
 Have I just felt. 'Twas like a million mouths
 Cried out in fear at once, and then were gone,
 All hush'd and quiet— silent to the last.
 I fear a stroke of evil hath occur'd.
 But thou, good Luke, thy practice recommence.

Enter HAN SOLO

HAN Thou mayest all thy troubles now forget,
 Th'Imperi'l knaves have been outrun at last.
 [*Aside:*] Well here's a solemn gathering indeed,
 Quite lacking in the proper gratitude.
 [*To Obi-Wan and Luke:*] Nay, speak thou not thy thanks too
 heartily,
 Else shall thy praise go swiftly to my head.
 But here's the point, we shall at Alderaan
 Arrive ere long.

[*R2-D2 makes a move against
Chewbacca in the game they play.*]

C-3PO —Pray, R2, caution show.

R2-D2 Beep, whistle, squeak, beep, meep, hoo whistle.

CHEWBACCA —Auugh!

C-3PO A fair move hath he made, thou furry lump.
 No use is there in screaming o'er the loss.
 [*Aside:*] However did I join this company?
 A Wookiee and his smuggler captain— O!

CHEWBACCA Egh.

HAN —Be thou wise, droid, mark well what thou dost.

As it is said: black holes are worth thy fear,
 But fear thou more a Wookiee's deadly wrath.

C-3PO But Sir, no proverb warns the galaxy
 Of how a droid may hotly anger'd be.

HAN Aye, marry, 'tis because no droid hath e'er
 Torn out of joint another being's arms
 Upon a lesser insult e'en than this—
 But Wookiees, golden droid, are not so tame.

C-3PO Thy meaning, Sir, doth prick my circuit board.
 'Tis best to play the fool, and not the sage,
 To say it brief: pray let the Wookiee win.

CHEWBACCA Auugh!
 R2-D2 [*aside:*] —Brute! The fool I'll play with thee, indeed.
 Yet I perceive thou and thy friend have heart.
*[Luke continues to practice with his
 lightsaber against the remote.]*

OBI-WAN Remember, Luke, the Force doth smoothly flow Within the
 feelings of a Jedi Knight.

LUKE But doth the Force control one's ev'ry move?
 OBI-WAN 'Tis somewhat so, but also shall the Force
 Obey thine every command, young Luke.

LUKE [*aside:*] This Force, by troth, I'll never comprehend!
 It doth control and also doth obey?
 And 'tis within and yet it is beyond,
 'Tis both inside and yet outside one's self?
 What paradox! What fickle-natur'd pow'r!
 Aye: frailty, thy name— belike— is Force.
 [*To Obi-Wan:*] Alack! This small remote hath struck again!

HAN Ha, ha! Thy errant systems of belief— Thy weapons
 ancient, all thy mysteries, Thy robes and meditations o'er
 the air, Thy superstitions, e'en thy precious Force— Cannot
 compare to my religion true: A trusty blaster ever by my
 side. With thus I say my prayers and guard my soul.

LUKE Devoted foll'wer must thou be, with such
 A speech. Pray tell me, pilgrim reverent:
 Dost thou most truly disbelieve the Force?

HAN A pilgrim, truly said! For I have gone
 From galaxy to galaxy and more,
 Yet never hath this faithful worshipper
 Found aught to recommend that strange belief—
 A single Force that binds the universe.
 True 'tis, no power mystical controls
 Han Solo's yet unfinish'd destiny.
 And so I preach the one and only faith:
 My simple, merry tricks are all my gods,
 And nonsense is the only testament.

OBI-WAN I worship at the shrine of my own will.
[aside:] A wise philosopher if e'er there was.
 I'll warrant he hath character he hides.
[To Luke:] Now prithee, try again, and lay aside
 Thy conscious self. Take thou this helmet thick,
 Adorn thine eyes with silver shield opaque
 And trust thine instincts only as thy guide.

LUKE But surely 'tis a jest! For with this shield
 I nothing now can see. How can I fight?
 Aye, truly— fight or walk or even stand?
 Without one's sight but little can be done.

OBI-WAN Nay, 'tis in blindness one doth truly see!
 For eyes deceive and sight is known to lie.
 Let feelings be thy sight— their guidance trust!

CHORUS With mind unsure Luke readies for the fight.
 The small remote doth dodge most suddenly,
 But with calm mind Luke blocks its lasers bright—
 With inner eye the Force has let him see.

OBI-WAN Hurrah! Thou canst do it!
 HAN --'Tis luck, no more.
 OBI-WAN Experience hath taught me much, dear man
 And none of it hath shown me aught of luck.
 To find success against a small remote,
 Is well, and taketh skill, I do confess.
 To find success against a living soul,
 However, also taketh excellence

HAN *[Console beeps.*
 It seemeth we draw near to Alderaan
*[Exeunt Han Solo
 and Chewbacca.*

LUKE I did feel something, Obi-Wan, 'tis true.
 It seems I fix'd my soul's eye on th' remote.

OBI-WAN Seems, young one? Nay, thou didst!
 Think thou not seems.
 Thou hast thy first step ta'en toward a world
 Far greater than thou now canst understand.
*[Exeunt Luke, C-
 3PO, and R2-D2.*

And thus begins—if I have seen aright—
 His transformation into Jedi Knight.
[Exit Obi-Wan.

I fear those numbers— seven and then one—
Do something dangerous portend. But why?
Our company is only six, unless
There were another join'd unto us here.
Then were we seven, yet what means the one?
O! Strangely sweeps the thought into my mind:
I have a feeling through the Force that ere
We leave this place, some seven shall we be.
Yet one shall stay behind as sacrifice.
Thus seven and thus one: the numbers tell
The story that herein shall soon be told.
[To Luke and Han:] Methinks ye two cannot assist me now.
This one— e'en I— shall go alone.

HAN —Aye, good!

So shall I hearken unto what thou sayst,
For I already on this voyage have
Done more than that for which I have been paid.
I would go with thee, Sir.

LUKE
OBI-WAN

—Pray, patience, Luke,
For thou must stay and guard the vital droids.
They must be taken safely to our friends,
Or other systems end like Alderaan.
Thy destiny, dear boy, doth truly go
Upon a path far different from mine,
And Fate for thee hath spun another thread
Than what she hath for Obi-Wan's life stitch'd.
The Force, it shall be with thee always, Luke.

[Exit Obi-Wan.]

LUKE [aside:] He hath bestow'd a Jedi's blessing here,
So why then am I utterly unnerv'd?

CHEWBACCA
HAN Auugh!

—Wookiee, thou hast spoken well and true:
Whence hast thou this old bag of bones uncover'd?

LUKE Yon Ben in all good virtues doth excel.

HAN Aye, certain he excelleth when the goal
Is but to lead us into trouble great.

LUKE But thou hast not excell'd at offering
A thought to how we can this station 'scape.

HAN Yet any simple plan excelleth o'er
Remaining here till all descend on us.
It taketh not a wisdom that excels
To know for certain fact that such is true.

R2-D2 [aside:] By heav'n I'll stop their bickering with this
New information. [To Han and Luke:] Whistle, beep, meep,
whee!

LUKE I prithee, what doth all this beeping mean?

C-3PO Sir, I confess I do not know. He hath
Declar'd that he hath found her, then the droid
Repeats "She's here, she's here."

LUKE —But, marry, who?
C-3PO Good Princess Leia.
LUKE —Princess Leia— here?
[*Aside:*] Now doth this strange adventure stir my blood!
What sayst of "princess"?

HAN —Where, thou droid? Say where!
LUKE What princess? On thy life, this thing unveil.
HAN Beep, meep, meep, beep, squeak, whistle, beep, meep,
R2-D2 hoo.

C-3PO E'en now the princess is on Level 5,
Detention block of AA-23.
R2-D2 [*aside:*] O me! This new discovery of mine
Doth shake my core, and shall arouse their souls.
[*To Han and Luke:*] Meep, meep, ahh, beep, squeak, beep,
meep, beep, ahh, nee.

C-3PO I fear, good Sir, it doth give certain news
The princess shall be terminated soon.
LUKE Nay, nay! So quickly met and now, with this,
So quickly lost! Now must we swiftly act!
HAN What dost thou prattle on about? Pray tell!
LUKE [*aside:*] O how can one describe in simple words
The import this myster'ous woman hath
Upon my life? [*To Han:*] The droids, these droids, are hers,
She hath appear'd in message urgent, too!
I see thou canst not understand it well,
Yet what I know is this: we must give her
Whate'er unflagging help and hope we may!
HAN Speak not with such great folly. Obi-Wan
Hath told us to remain.
LUKE —Yet knew he not
That she is here! [*To C-3PO:*] Pray tell me how we may
Straight make our way to the detention block.
HAN I say again what I have said before:
To this location is my purpose fix'd
And whether princess be within or no,
I tell thee plain: I shall not thither go.
LUKE She shall be executed! Thou hast said,
Mere minutes past, that thou wouldst not remain
To see our sudden, sure imprisonment.
Now is thy fondest wish that we should stay?
HAN To march to the detention block's unwise!
To make our way to danger folly 'tis!
To there present ourselves is passing mad!

LUKE
HAN
LUKE

To boldly go where none hath gone is wild!
Hast thou no heart? She sentenc'd is to die!
My sentence is: 'tis better she than I.
[*aside.*] How shall I break a heart that loveth not,
And how convince a man who lives by wits?
He hath not seen the urgency within
Her eyes. He hath not known the trembling in
Her voice. He hath not heard the manner of
Her plea. And yet, without his help I fear
My errand surely fails. What shall I do?
I know that under his exterior
More good and noble aspirations lie.
But by what tricks of speech to bring them forth,
And what persuasions shall his fix'd will move?
My aunt Beru hath told me once a tale:
She said when first the deep, vast Kessel mines
Were dug, it was revealèd that the pearls
Of greatest value must by clever means
Discover'd be. So did the miners band
Together, so to make a useful tool.
This tool would pull the pearls out of the rock
In such a way they seem'd t' emerge by ruse.
This practice had a name: the Hammer Ploy.
Now shall I play a Hammer's Ploy upon
The soul of this good smuggler, coaxing him
By means most indirect to rescue good.
Thus may the pearl of his still ragged soul
Revealèd be and shine as ne'er before.
[*To Han.*] I tell thee true: the lady wealthy is.
Egh, auugh!

CHEWBACCA
HAN
LUKE

—Say, wealthy?

—Wealthy, aye, with pow'r.

If thou wouldst rescue her, thy great reward
Would be—

—Pray, what?

—Well more, I'll warrant, than

Thou mayst imagine!

HAN
LUKE

—Ha, thou josh with me.

For my imagination hath few bounds.
Thou shalt have it!

LUKE
HAN
LUKE
HAN

—So would I!

—Aye, thou wilt!

Enough, I am engag'd. But I do hope
Thou knowest well of what thou speakest here.
Well, well!

LUKE
HAN

—Hast thou a plan?

LUKE
—C-3PO,
I prithee pass those binding cuffs to me.
[*To Chewbacca:*] Good Wookiee, I shall put these on thee
now.
CHEWBACCA
Auugh!
LUKE
—Han, perhaps thou shouldst that honor have. [*Han
Solo cuffs Chewbacca.*]
HAN
Fear not, dear Chewie, now his plan is plain.
C-3PO
My Master Luke, forgive my question frank:
What should we do if we discover'd are?
LUKE
Lock thou the door.
HAN
—And pray they've blasters none.
C-3PO
[*aside to R2-D2:*] 'Tis not a reassuring word.
R2-D2
—Beep, squeak!

[*Exeunt C-3PO and R2-D2 as Han,
Luke, and Chewbacca go to detention
block.*]

CHORUS
So now Chewbacca, Han, and Luke proceed
Unto detention level 5, quite grave.
With bravery, good hope, and all Godspeed,
Their errand is a princess there to save.
The minions of the Death Star pay no mind,
Nor are they by these three at all dismay'd.
They do not fear the Wookiee, for behind
Are Han and Luke as stormtroopers array'd.
Meanwhile in stealth does Obi-Wan pass by
And to the terminal doth make his way,
But while he goes Darth Vader feels him fly—
So ev'ry character his role doth play.

Doescher, Ian (2013-07-09). William Shakespeare's Star Wars (Kindle Location 2640-2874). Quirk Books. Kindle Edition.