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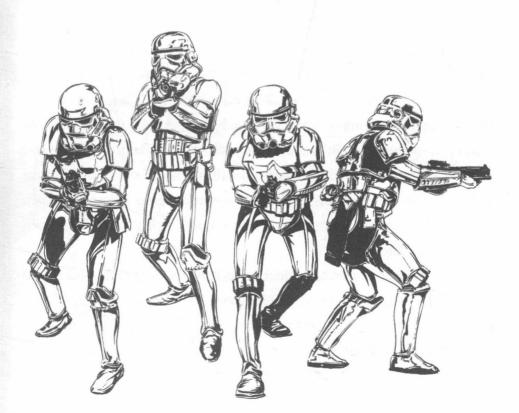
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STAR VARS EPISODE VI RETURN OF THE 1EDI







A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away....

After the destruction of the Death Star, the Sith Lord Darth Vader became obsessed with finding Rebel pilot Luke Skywalker. Vader almost caught him on the ice planet Hoth, but Luke — hoping to learn more about the Jedi arts — fled to Dagobah, where he trained with the aged Jedi Master Yoda.

With the aid of the bounty hunter Boba Fett, Darth Vader captured Luke Skywalker's friends and used them as bait to lure Luke into a trap on Cloud City. Despite Yoda's admonishments, Luke went to save them, only to be brutally wounded in a lightsaber duel with Vader. The Sith Lord further stunned his adversary with the declaration that he was really Luke's father. Vader's claim was all the more shocking because Luke's trusted mentor Ben Kenobi — the Jedi Master formerly known as Obi-Wan Kenobi — had once told Luke that his father had been murdered by Vader.

Luke managed to escape Vader's clutches³, but not before his friend Han Solo — a slightly reformed smuggler — had been frozen in a block of carbonite and turned over to Boba Fett. After several run-ins with competing bounty hunters, Boba Fett delivered Han's frozen form to the vile⁴ gangster Jabba the Hutt on the sand planet Tatooine.



很久很久以前,在一个遥远的银河系……

死星被毁之后,西斯尊主达斯·维达开始执迷于寻找义军飞行员卢克·天行者。在冰雪行星霍斯,维达差点就抓到卢克了,但功亏一篑。卢克逃到了达戈巴,拜年迈的尤达为师,希望能在这位绝地大师的训练下深入学习绝地技艺。

在赏金猎人波巴·费特的协助下,达斯·维达俘获了卢克·天行者的朋友并以他们为诱饵,企图将卢克引诱到他在云城布下的陷阱里。尽管尤达苦心劝诫,卢克还是决定前去营救朋友,结果不幸遭遇维达,在与他的光剑对决中身负重伤。西斯尊主告诉卢克,自己就是他的亲生父亲。维达的这番话令卢克无比震惊,因为绝地大师本·克诺比曾告诉他,他的父亲死在了维达的剑下——而卢克一向信任这位当初人称欧比-旺·克诺比的导师。

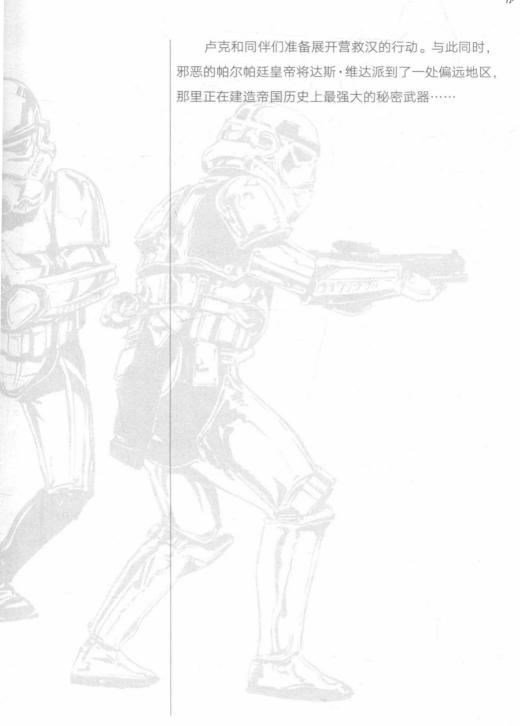
卢克设法逃出了维达的魔爪,但他的朋友——渐渐 走上正道的走私犯汉·索罗,却仍然被冷冻在碳凝合金 中,并落入了波巴·费特之手。波巴·费特经过与同行 对手的数次较量,终于将冷冻着的汉带到了沙漠行星塔 图因,转交给卑鄙的匪徒赫特人贾巴。

- ① bait n. 诱饵
- ② admonishment n. 劝诫
- ③ clutch n. 控制
- ④ vile adj. 邪恶的



While Luke and his allies prepared to rescue Han, the evil Emperor Palpatine sent Darth Vader to a remote sector of space, where the Empire's most powerful secret weapon was now under construction....









The second Death Star was far from finished.

Suspended in a synchronous^① orbit of the gas giant Endor's forest-covered moon, the space station was — at its present stage — an immense exposed superstructure, only partially covered by armored^② plating. Enormous skeletal girders^③ curled away from the completed areas, wrapping protectively around the internal reactor core that ran between the station's poles. Even in its unfinished state, it was obvious that the station would be sphere-shaped.

And like its predecessor, the station had a superlaser focus lens positioned in its upper hemisphere and a trench[®] that ringed the equator. However, it had none of the former Death Star's design flaws. The redesigned superlaser would require mere minutes — not hours — to be recharged, and could be focused more finely, allowing it to fire at moving targets, such as capital ships. With a projected diameter of 160 kilometers and a substantial increase in firepower, the new Death Star would be not only larger than the original but also much more lethal.

An Imperial Star Destroyer arrived near the building site, then a Lambda-class shuttle and two TIE fighters dropped out of the Star Destroyer's main hangar^⑤. As the shuttle and its escorts traveled toward the Death Star, its captain spoke into a comlink: "Command station, this is STThree-twenty-one. Code Clearance Blue. We're starting our



第二颗死星离建成还遥遥无期。

它悬浮在气态巨行星"恩多"的卫星同步轨道中,那是一颗丛林密布的卫星。太空站的外层结构目前暴露着,只由装甲板覆盖了部分表面。骨骼般的巨型梁架从已经竣工的区域向外延伸盘绕,包裹着内部结构,保护着两极之间的反应堆核心。太空站虽然尚未建成,但其球状外形已初具规模。

同上一代死星一样,这座太空站的上半球也安装了超级激光炮聚焦透镜,赤道周围也环绕着一条堑道。但不同的是,前一颗死星的设计缺陷均已得到修正。经过重新设计的超级激光炮只需几分钟便可充能完毕,无须再等上好几个小时。激光炮的聚焦如今也更加精准,足以击中主力舰之类的活动目标。新死星的设计直径达160千米,火力大幅度增强,与上一颗相比,不仅体积更加庞大,杀伤力也更加巨大。

一艘帝国歼星舰飞抵建筑工地附近,接着一架兰姆达级穿梭机和两架 TIE 战斗机从歼星舰的主机库飞里了出来。穿梭机在 TIE 的护航下飞向死星,船长对着通信器说:"指挥站,这里是 ST321。通行密码为蓝色。我们即将着陆。请求关闭安全护盾。"

- ① synchronous adi. 同步的
- ② armored adi. 装甲的
- ③ girder n. 大梁
- ④ trench n. 壕沟
- ⑤ hangar n. 飞机库



approach. Deactivate the security shield."

From the Death Star, a controller answered, "The security deflector^① shield will be deactivated when we have confirmation of your code transmission. Stand by... you are clear to proceed."

"We're starting our approach."

On the shuttle, Darth Vader peered through a window at the monstrous assemblage². He thought, Even if it succeeds where the previous Death Star failed, it is an infant's trinket³ compared to the power of the Force.

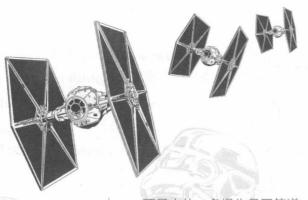
As Vader's shuttle neared the space station's equatorial trench, its hinged port and starboard wings raised in preparation for landing. The TIE fighters peeled off, and the shuttle proceeded to enter a wide hangar, where it touched down on a gleaming black deck.

In the Death Star control room, the shield operators sat rigidly behind their consoles. A control officer turned from a viewport, faced one of the shield operators, and said, "Inform the commander that Lord Vader's shuttle has arrived."

"Yes, sir," the shield operator quicky replied.

The Death Star's commanding officer was Moff Jerjerrod, a tall, confident technocrat⁴ who had risen through the ranks of Logistics and Supply. Jerjerrod hurried to the hangar and walked quickly past the Imperial officers and white-armored stormtroopers who stood at attention before the landed shuttle. Despite his confidence, Jerjerrod swallowed nervously as the shuttle's landing ramp lowered. There wasn't a single Imperial soldier who hadn't heard about Darth Vader's predilection⁵ for strangling⁶ those who'd failed to carry out his orders. Jerjerrod had no intention of having his name added to Vader's list of kills.

Darth Vader strode down the ramp. From his head-concealing



死星上的一名操作员回答道:"安全偏导护盾将在密码得到确认后关闭。请原地待命·····你们已获准着陆。"

"我们正在着陆。"

达斯·维达在穿梭机上凝视着窗外这个怪物般的组合体。他心想,就算它能成功弥补前一颗死星的不足,与原力的力量相比,它依然只是婴儿手里的小玩意儿。

维达的穿梭机逐渐接近太空站的赤道堑道,装有铰链的左右机翼适时升起,为着陆做好了准备。TIE 战斗机离开编队后,穿梭机飞进了一座宽敞的机库,降落在闪闪发亮的黑色甲板上。

死星的控制室中,护盾操作员们笔直地坐在控制台后。一名管理员将视线从观察窗移开,转身对一名护盾操作员说:"通知指挥官,维达大人的穿梭机已经抵达。"

"遵命,长官,"护盾操作员立刻回答道。

死星的指挥官是星区总督杰杰罗德。此人身材高大,是个自信的技术统治论者, 升职以前曾供职于后勤和供应部门。杰杰罗德匆匆赶到机库, 快步走过一批帝国军官和身着白色盔甲的冲锋队员, 这些人早已在穿梭机降落点前方立正站好。穿梭机的坡道缓缓放下, 杰杰罗德尽管自信满满, 还是忍不住紧张地咽了口唾沫。达斯·维达会掐死没能执行命令的手下,这一嗜好在帝国军中人尽皆知。杰杰罗德可不想自己的名字被添到维达的死亡名单上。

达斯·维达昂首阔步走下坡道,头戴遮住面孔的头

- ① deflector n. 导向装置
- ② assemblage n. 集合物
- ③ trinket n. 不值钱的小玩意儿
- ④ technocrat n. 技术专家
- ⑤ predilection n. 偏好
- ⑥ strangle v. 掐死



helmet to his shin-armored boots, he was a nightmarish figure, clad entirely in black. An outer robe fell from his shoulders to the floor behind him, and he swept onto the hangar deck like a malevolent shadow.

"Lord Vader," Jerjerrod said, "this is an unexpected pleasure. We're honored by your presence."

"You may dispense with the pleasantries², Commander," Vader said, not breaking his stride as he moved past the gathered troops. "I'm here to put you back on schedule."

Walking fast to keep abreast with the dark lord, Jerjerrod said, "I assure you, Lord Vader, my men are working as fast as they can."

"Perhaps I can find new ways to motivate them."

Jerjerrod stopped walking and promised, "I tell you, this station will be operational as planned."

Vader stopped, too. Turning to face Jerjerrod, he said, "The Emperor does not share your optimistic appraisal of the situation."

"But he asks the impossible," Jerjerrod replied. "I need more men."

"Then perhaps you can tell him when he arrives."

Jerjerrod was aghast³. "The Emperor's coming here?"

"That is correct, Commander," Vader stated. "And he is most displeased with your apparent lack of progress."

Jerjerrod had been standing straight, but tried to stand even straighter as he said, "We shall double our efforts."

"I hope so, Commander, for your sake. The Emperor is not as forgiving as I am."

Vader turned and walked out of the hangar, leaving Jerjerrod behind. Back on Tatooine, C-3PO had troubles of his own.

"Of course I'm worried," the protocol[®] droid[®] replied to a question his astromech companion R2-D2 had asked. "And you should be, too. Lando

盔,脚踏护住胫骨的长靴,全身被黑衣包裹,肩上的披 风一直垂到地面,散发着噩梦般的气息。他来到机库甲 板上,仿佛投下了一团邪恶的阴影。

"维达大人,"杰杰罗德说,"见到您真是意外之喜。 我们深感荣幸。"

"客套话就免了,指挥官,"维达大步经过集结的士兵,边走边说。"我是来监督你们的进度的。"

杰杰罗德说:"我向你保证,维达大人,我的手下正在竭力赶工。"他快步疾走,生怕跟不上黑暗尊主。

"也许我能找到新方法来激励他们。"

杰杰罗德突然停下脚步,承诺道:"我保证这个太 空站将如期投入使用。"

维达也停了下来。他转身面向杰杰罗德说:"恐怕 皇帝并不认同你对工期的乐观估计。"

"但陛下的要求不可能完成,"杰杰罗德回答道。"我 需要更多的人手。"

"那么也许你可以在陛下驾临时亲自向他解释。"

杰杰罗德惊慌失色。"皇帝要驾临此地?"

"完全正确,指挥官,"维达说道。"你们现在明显 落后于进度,陛下对此深感不满。"

杰杰罗德原本就站得笔直,此刻又尽量挺了挺身 子。"我们会加倍努力。"

"希望如此,指挥官,这是为了你好。皇帝可不像 我这么宽容大度。"

维达转身走出了机库,不再理会杰杰罗德。

在塔图因上, C-3PO 也遇到了麻烦。

"我当然担心,"礼仪机器人回答他的同伴宇航技工机器人 R2-D2,说道:你也该担心才对。兰多·卡瑞

- ① malevolent adj. 恶毒的
- ② pleasantry n. 客套话
- ③ aghast adj. 吃惊的
- ④ protocol n. 礼仪
- ⑤ droid n. 机器人



Calrissian and poor Chewbacca never returned from this awful place."

The awful place was their destination: Jabba the Hutt's palace, a large fortress^① near the southwestern border of the Western Dune Sea. But as the droids trudged once again across the desert world's desolate terrain, R2-D2 was more optimistic about the fate of their friends. For one thing, Lando could take care of himself pretty well. Also, the droid knew that Chewbacca hadn't even arrived yet at Jabba's palace, although he didn't bother mentioning this detail to C-3PO. Sometimes, the less C-3PO knew, the better. The astromech droid rotated his domed head to whistle a timid response to his gold-plated companion.

"Don't be so sure," C-3PO said. "If I told you half the things I've heard about this Jabba the Hutt, you'd probably short-circuit."

Indeed, Jabba Desilijic Tiure was legendary for his vicious temper, endless greed, gruesome[®] appetite, and fondness for violent entertainment. He had been the reigning crime lord in the Outer Rim Territories for hundreds of years, and his illegal enterprises included smuggling, glitterstim spice dealing, slave trading, assassination[®], and piracy.

Jabba's palace had been built around the ancient monastery[®] of B'omarr monks, a mysterious religious order that believed in isolating themselves from all physical sensation to enhance the power of their minds; to achieve this, enlightened monks had their brains transplanted into nutrient-filled jars. Rumor had it that B'omarr monks still existed in the palace's lower levels. C-3PO wasn't in any hurry to find out if the rumors were true.

The palace was a cluster of domed cylindrical^⑤ towers. The largest structure was an enormous citadel^⑥ with a massive rust-encrusted iron door at its base. Hesitantly approaching the door, C-3PO asked, "Artoo, are you sure this is the right place?"



C-3PO 口中的鬼地方正是他们此行的目的地:赫特人贾巴的宫殿。这座宫殿如同巨大的堡垒,坐落在西沙丘海的西南角。当这两个机器人又一次踏上这颗沙漠星球,艰难地横越荒凉地带,R2-D2 对朋友们的命运的看法可比 C-3PO 乐观得多。首先,兰多能把自己照顾得很好。而且 R2-D2 也很清楚,丘巴卡还没到贾巴的宫殿,不过他并不想对 C-3PO 提及这个细节。有些时候,C-3PO 知道得越少越好。宇航技工机器人转了转他的圆顶脑袋,向自己的金色同伴发出了一串羞怯的哨声。

"别这么肯定," C-3PO 说。"我听说过不少关于这个赫特人贾巴的传言,哪怕只告诉你一星半点儿,也很可能把你吓得短路。"

的确, 贾巴·德西利吉克·蒂尤尔性情暴虐, 贪得无厌, 胃口骇人, 对暴力娱乐情有独钟, 简直堪称传奇。他已经在外环星域的黑道称霸了数百年, 触手遍及走私、"灵光激现"香料交易、奴隶贩卖、暗杀和海盗等非法行业。

贾巴的宫殿在布奥马僧侣的古修道院基础上建成。 这个神秘的宗教团体摒弃肉体的一切感觉机能,坚信能 以此增强心灵的力量。为了实现这一目标,得道的僧侣 会将大脑移植到装满营养液的罐子里。有谣言称,布奥 马僧侣依然生活在这座宫殿的底层。但 C-3PO 对谣言 的真伪丝毫没有兴趣。

宫殿由一组圆柱式的穹顶塔楼构成,其中最大的建筑是一座大城堡,城堡底部有一扇锈迹斑斑的大铁门。 C-3PO 犹犹豫豫地走近大门,问道:"R2,你确定我们来对地方了?"

- ① fortress n. 堡垒
- ② gruesome adj. 非常恐怖的
- ③ assassination n. 刺杀
- ④ monastery n. 修道院
- ⑤ cylindrical adj. 圆柱形的
- ⑥ citadel n. 城堡



R2-D2 answered with an affirmative beep.

C-3PO looked for some kind of signaling device — a chime^①, bell, or comlink panel — but saw none. Glancing at R2-D2, he said, "I'd better knock, I suppose." C-3PO tapped lightly on the door, then stepped back and observed, "There doesn't seem to be anyone here. Let's go back and tell Master Luke."

A small circular hatch slid open on the door and a long mechanical arm rapidly extended through the hatch. At the end of the arm, there was a large electronic eyeball with a built-in vocoder². The eyeball — set within a bronze optical shutter — belonged to a surveillance³ droid, which glared at C-3PO and snapped, "Tee chuta hhat yudd!"

"Goodness gracious me!" C-3PO said. Facing the electronic eyeball, he gestured to R2-D2 and said, "Artoo Detoowha..."

The surveillance droid's arm pivoted[®] to turn its gaze on the R2 unit. R2-D2 beeped, and the eyeball jutted forward unexpectedly for a closer look. R2-D2 beeped and jumped back.

"... boSeethreepiowha," C-3PO continued, indicating himself, "ey toota odd mishka Jabba du Hutt."

Hearing his master's name, the surveillance droid made an inhuman chuckling sound. Then the mechanical arm and eyeball zipped back into the door, and the hatch slammed shut.

"I don't think they're going to let us in, Artoo," C-3PO said, turning to walk away. "We'd better go."

R2-D2 could tell C-3PO was eager to get away from the palace, but the astromech didn't budge from the closed door. Suddenly, there was a horrific metallic^⑤ grinding noise and the door began to rise. The door was still opening as R2-D2 scooted^⑥ under it and into the citadel's dark, cavernous entry.

"Artoo, wait," C-3PO called. "Oh, dear!" Reluctantly, he followed the