

STAR WARS Episode 6: Return of the Jedi

With Han Solo in the hands of Jabba the Hutt, Luke Skywalker executes a plan to liberate him. Lando Calrissian, Princess Leia, Chewbacca, and the droids C-3P0 & R2-D2 all have parts. It's dangerous and close, but they succeed and Jabba pays the ultimate price. Meanwhile, the Emperor builds another Death Star and schemes to lure Luke Skywalker to the dark side of the Force. He knows that Luke will come to his father, Darth Vader, and he has a trap laid out for both Luke and his Rebel friends. Luke and the Rebels are quick to fall for the Emperor's trap. They launch an offensive to destroy the new Death Star, only to find themselves out-manuevered at every turn. Only the unexpected help of the Ewoks who live on the moon below the Death Star saves the Rebels and allows their mission to succeed. Meanwhile, Luke faces his father and the Emperor. Luke senses good inside of Darth Vader and tries to bring it out. When all hope seems lost, Luke's efforts pay off and Darth Vader rescues Luke and destroys the Emperor -- becoming Anakin Skywalker once again. This battle signals the end of the Empire and the beginning of a new age for these heroes.

Act 1: Han Solo's Rescue

Luke Skywalker, Lando Calrissian, Princess Leia and Chewbacca all meet at JABBA THE HUTT's palace on Tatooine. They attempt to free Han Solo who was delivered here in his frozen carbonite case. Jabba is clever, though, and seems to thwart all their plans when he captures them and sentences them to die in a pit. Luckily, Luke was prepared for this and manages to free them all and destroy Jabba's sail barge. Reunited, the heroes fly away from Tatooine.

1- Darth Vader Visits the New Death Star

The first Sequence of Episode VI establishes the ultimate threat the heroes will face in this movie. It begins with text on screen which explains that, as Luke Skywalker and his friends attempt to rescue Han Solo from Jabba the Hutt, the Empire is building a second Death Star, more powerful than the first. Darth Vader visits this new space station to get the construction back on schedule. He announces that soon the Emperor himself will be coming to see how things are going. The Imperial work force is impressed and scared into doubling their efforts.

2- C-3P0 & R2D2 Meet Jabba the Hutt

The second Sequence introduces Luke's efforts to liberate Han Solo from the vile gangster JABBA THE HUTT on Tatooine. Luke's droids R2-D2 & C-3P0 go to Jabba's palace as Luke's representatives and present Jabba with Luke's offer to negotiate for Han's freedom. Luke gives the droids to Jabba as a gesture of respect. Jabba accepts the gift, but refuses to ever negotiate Han's release. As a frozen block of carbonite, Han has become Jabba's favorite wall decoration.

3- The Evils of Jabba's Palace

Many awful things happen in Jabba's palace. C-3P0 is shocked to be given to Jabba as a gift. He is directed down into Jabba's dungeons where Jabba's minions assign R2 and C-3P0 new jobs -- giving C-3P0 the unenviable job of Jabba's interpreter. Meanwhile Jabba kills his slave-dancer for the fun of it. Then a bounty hunter arrives with Chewbacca as his prisoner. He is promised a huge bounty and Chewbacca is taken away -- things only seem to be getting worse for our heroes. Then the first glimpse of hope appears. One of the minions surrounding Jabba's thrown turns out to be Lando Calrissian in disguise.

4- Failed Rescues by Leia & Luke

The next Sequence reveals further wrinkles in the plan to free Han Solo. The bounty hunter who turned in Chewbacca turns out to actually be Princess Leia in disguise. She sneaks into Jabba's chamber when no one's around and releases Han from his carbonite shell. But Jabba catches the lovers immediately and imprisons them, taking Leia as his new decorative slave-girl. Luke Skywalker himself finally shows up and uses his Jedi mind tricks to gain access to Jabba's palace and meet Jabba face to face. His mind tricks don't work on Jabba, though, and he is quickly trapped in a dungeon with a giant monster. Luke defeats the monster, but is brought before Jabba with Han and Chewbacca and they're all sentenced to be eaten by a grisly creature out in the Tatooine desert.

5- Jabba the Hutt Defeated

The final sequence of the first Act takes place over the gaping mouth of the "All-Powerful Sarlacc," a creature that digests its victims for a thousand years. Jabba has flown his captives there on his sail-barge. But as he commands them to be pushed into the pit, the final stage of Luke's plan springs into action. R2-D2 catapults a light-saber to Luke and he cuts away at their captors. Han, blinded by hibernation sickness, contributes to the escape by freeing Lando from the Sarlacc's grip and killing the bounty hunter Boba Fett. Princess Leia manages to strangle Jabba the Hutt with the very chains he bound her in and their escape is complete. Luke blasts Jabba's barge and it explodes as the heroes dash away to freedom.

Act 2: Rebel Assault on Endor

Before rejoining the Rebels, Luke Skywalker returns to the Jedi Master Yoda. He confirms with Yoda that Darth Vader is truly his father, and he learns that Princess Leia is actually his sister. He also learns that he will not be a Jedi Knight until he faces Darth Vader once and for all. Then Luke goes to the Rebel rendezvous and becomes part of their next assault on the Empire. The Emperor himself is overseeing the completion of a new Death Star. The Rebels can destroy this Death Star and the Emperor in one blow -- if their plan goes well. Han Solo leads the assault on the Death Star's protective shield while Lando will lead the actual space-assault on the Death Star. Luke follows Han, but soon feels he jeopardizes the mission because Darth Vader can sense his presence. Luke surrenders to Darth Vader in the hope of reviving the good he senses inside of Vader. Vader denies this good, however, and turns Luke over to the Emperor. From him, Luke learns the Rebels are walking into a trap. Soon, Han's team is captured with only a bunch of primitive Ewoks around to help rescue them.

1- Luke Finds Yoda Dying

Act two opens with a sequence in which Luke keeps the promise he made in Episode V to return to Yoda and complete his training. Luke splits off from Han and the others as they leave Tatooine and he goes to Dagobah. There he meets Yoda and learns that he requires no more training and that once he faces Darth Vader he will be a Jedi Knight. But Luke wants to know the truth about whether or not Darth Vader is truly his father. Yoda confirms this and Luke is certain he can't kill his own father. Obi-Wan appears to encourage Luke and explain that not only is Darth Vader his father, but Princess Leia is his twin sister. He explains that all this was hidden to protect Luke from the Emperor and that if Luke can't kill Vader, then the Emperor has won already. Yoda dies of old age (after 900 years), leaving Luke knowing that he must face Vader again, but not knowing how he will face it.

2- Luke & the Rebellion Make Their Plans

The next Sequence shows the newly gathered Rebel Armada preparing for a massive attack on the Empire. The Rebels have learned about the new Death Star under construction, and about the Emperor's immanent visit there. If they can destroy the Death Star with the Emperor on board, they will have crippled the entire Empire.Lando Calrissian has been recruited to lead the Armada into battle while Han Solo leads a small team of commandos to take out the protective shield being projected onto the Death Star from the forest moon of Endor. When Han's team has brought that shield down, Lando will lead attack ships into the Death Star to blow it up. Luke Skywalker arrives from Dagobah as these plans are being explained. He joins Han Solo's team. They will fly past the Death Star and land on the planet below in a risky move that all depends on a stolen Imperial password. Before they leave, however, Han says goodbye to his ship, the Millennium Falcon. Since he's lending it to Lando, he's afraid he'll never see it again.

3- Sneaking To Endor

As the next Sequence opens, it's revealed that the Emperor expects the Rebel attack and that everything he's doing is a trap to lure the Rebels to him. Then, as Han's team arrives near the Death Star in their stolen Imperial ship, Darth Vader senses the sudden presence of his son, Luke Skywalker. Han transmits the stolen password, but Darth Vader's suspicions are aroused. He notes Han's approach and allows the Rebels to land on the forest moon below, knowing full well who they are. He wants Luke Skywalker to believe his plan is succeeding. Luke senses his father and fears he's jeopardizing the mission. He knows it's only a matter of time before Vader finds him. On the planets forest covered surface, Han's team faces a small team of stormtroopers. When the troopers see them, they race off on floating bikes to alert their superiors. Luke and Leia chase after them and stop them -- but they're separated. While Luke successfully defeats his quarry and heads back to meet Han, Leia is shot out of the sky and crashes into unconsciousness.

4- Leia Befriends an Ewok

his Sequence introduces the native inhabitants of this forest moon of Endor -- the Ewoks. Princess Leia is alone and unconscious in the woods when a tiny Ewok named WICKET discovers her. Without any common language, Leia and Wicket become friendly and together they defeat a pair of stormtroopers. Clearly, they're on the same side. Wicket offers to take Leia somewhere safe and she follows.

5- Captured by Ewoks

Darth Vader reports to the Emperor that Luke Skywalker is nearby. The Emperor predicts that if Vader waits, Luke will come to him. Then they will combine their influence to turn Luke to the dark side. Meanwhile, back on Endor, Han and Luke search for the missing Princess Leia. They discover some of her dropped equipment, but no other sign of her. Then Chewbacca discovers some raw meat to eat, only to find it's the bait in an Ewok trap which captures Han's entire team. Ewoks surround them. Upon seeing C-3P0, they think they've discovered a god. They decide to throw a feast and eat all C-3P0's friends in his honor. Luke uses his powers to convince the Ewoks that C-3P0 will devastate them if they don't release his friends. When the Ewoks see C-3P0 fly around, levitated by Luke, they quickly believe and obey. Then, during a rousing Ewok celebration, Luke and Han and the rest are accepted by the Ewoks as members of the tribe.

6- Luke Decides to Face Darth Vader

Luke Skywalker steps away from the Ewok celebration and Leia follows him to see what's bothering him. He tells her that he's discovered Darth Vader's his father and that he knows Vader can sense his presence. He must turn himself over to Vader and try to rekindle the good he senses lies dormant inside of Darth Vader. Before he leaves, though, he also tells Leia that he's learned she's his twin sister. Leia's shocked, but immediately knows it's true. Han stumbles on Luke and Leia as their conversation finishes. He misunderstands what he sees and begins to think Luke is his rival for Leia's affections.

7- The Emperor's Trap is Sprung

In the final Sequence of the second Act, the last of the Rebel's attack is launched and found completely ineffective against the waiting Empire. The Rebel's every move has been predicted. First, as the Emperor knew would happen, Luke turns himself over to Vader. As Luke prods Vader to reveal his good side, Vader announces that there is no good left in him and takes Luke to the Emperor. The evil Emperor forces Luke to watch as his Rebel friends are defeated just outside his windows. Han and his team move in to capture the shield-generator, but once they get inside, they're captured by an entire legion of stormtroopers. Han doesn't even get close to bringing the shield down... Therefore, it is still guarding the Death Star when Lando and the Rebel fleet arrive to attack. Only Lando's quick thinking prevents the entire fleet from crashing into the Empire's protective shield. As the second Act ends, the Rebels are at the mercy of the overpowering force of the Empire.

Act 3: The Emperor's Defeat

The Ewoks prove to be surprisingly mighty and quickly free Han Solo's team from their captors. Han immediately goes back to work trying to knock out the shield generator. Until this shield is down, Lando's fleet of space ships are sitting ducks to the Empire. The Emperor forces Luke to watch this unfold and tempts Luke to unleash his anger. Finally it works and Luke begins a light-saber duel with his father. Luke's anger grows when Vader's insight lets him read Luke's thoughts and discover Luke has a sister. When Vader threatens to convert her to the dark side, Luke attacks Vader and defeats him. But then he stops, reins in his anger, and realizes he will never go to the dark side. He is truly a Jedi Knight. The Emperor sees this and decides to execute Luke. He doesn't anticipate what this does to Darth Vader, however. Vader rescues his son and destroys the Emperor. He is mortally wounded in the process and he shares his final moments as Anakin Skywalker, reunited with his son. Meanwhile, Han gets the shield down and Lando destroys the Death Star. Luke escapes and the Rebel heroes celebrate their victory together in the forests of Endor.

1- Ewoks Attack/Death Star Operational

The third Act begins with a Sequence of slim hope for the Rebels. As the Emperor forces Luke to watch the final defeat of the Rebels, Han is assisted by an unforeseen ally. Just as Han Solo is taken by the stormtroopers on Endor, the Ewoks launch a massive attack with their home made weapons. The weapons aren't much more than a distraction at first, but Han and his team are able to use this distraction to free themselves and begin fighting again for control of the shield generator. But up in the sky, the Emperor reveals another trick up his sleeve. He has asked his own fleet to avoid engaging the Rebel fleet because he wants to shoot the Rebel ships using the Death Star. As incomplete as the Death Star may look, it is fully operational. Lando learns this as it destroys one of the Rebel's biggest ships. This seems to mean the end of the Rebels, and it makes it ever more difficult for Luke to control his anger and hatred for the Emperor. But if Luke unleashes these feelings, they will lead him down the path to the Dark Side.

2- Luke Cannot Resist His Anger

The next Sequence has things go slightly better for the Rebels while Luke takes a fateful step toward destruction. On Endor, Han Solo captures the door to the shield-generator bunker and sets R2-D2 to work opening the door. Lando realizes the Death Star won't shoot at his fleet if they engage the Imperial fleet in battle, so they fly over to the waiting Imperials. But as Luke sees all this from the Emperor's throne room, his doubts and fears get the better of him and he attacks the Emperor. When Darth Vader steps up to the Emperor's defense, Luke and Vader begin their final duel.

3- Ewoks Turn the Tide

This Sequence shows how Han Solo's team comes out on top in their battle for the shield generator. The Ewoks cleverly team up with Chewbacca and capture an Imperial walker. Using the walker and a series of other traps, they take out the other Imperial walkers. Meanwhile, Han and Leia get pinned down and lose R2-D2. They're about to lose their advantage on the shield generator bunker when Chewbacca shows up with his Imperial walker. When Han sees Chewbacca, he says he now realizes how they can get inside the bunker without R2-D2.

4- Luke Defeats Vader, but Refuses to Kill

This Sequence chronicles Luke and Vader's climactic battle. They are nearly an even match with their light sabers, but Luke refuses to give in to his anger, saying he won't strike Vader down. But when Vader uses his powers to read Luke's mind he discovers that Leia is his daughter. He threatens to turn Leia instead of turning Luke and this makes Luke furious. Luke attacks Vader with all his fury and defeats him by cutting off one of Vader's hands. The image of wires and gears sticking out of Vader's wrist snaps Luke out of his rage, since he recently had his own hand mechanically replaced. Luke realizes he's won. He turns to the Emperor, refusing to kill Vader, and announces that he is now a Jedi Knight.

5- Redeemed: Anakin Skywalker Destroys the Emperor

This Sequence is full of turning points for all three battles going on in this third Act. First, Han gets inside the shield generator bunker and blows it up. This frees Lando's fleet to invade the Death Star, hunting for its vulnerable core. Meanwhile, the vicious Emperor begins slowly executing Luke Skywalker to punish him for refusing the Dark Side. But as Luke suffers, he calls out for help from his father, Darth Vader. Vader seems unmoved at first, but as the torture goes on Vader can't take it. Darth Vader marches up to the Emperor and lifts him over a chasm and drops him in. The Emperor falls to his death with his energy shooting out in all directions and apparently delivering a death blow to Darth Vader. Vader lies dying as he finishes disposing of the Emperor.

6- Darth Vader & the New Death Star are Destroyed

This Sequence concludes all of the battles. Lando leads an attack on the Death Star's core with some added help from the rest of the fleet. The feisty Rebels left outside of the Death Star prevent any Imperials from going in to stop Lando. As this attack continues, Luke drags Vader to a shuttle craft so they can escape. But Vader's dying too quickly and asks to be allowed to see Luke without his mask on before he dies. Luke pauses to remove Vader's helmet and they share some final words before Darth Vader (now Anakin Skywalker) passes away.

Then Lando delivers the death blow to the Death Star and all the Rebels escape just before it explodes. Leia senses in her feelings, down on Endor, that Luke managed to escape. She explains to Han that this is possible because she is Luke's sister and Han finally understands Luke and Leia's true relationship.

7- The Final Celebration

The final Sequence is the denouement to the entire Saga. Luke Skywalker gives Anakin a hero's funeral while the rest of the Rebels and their Ewok allies celebrate their final victory. Luke returns to his friends and family and sees a vision of his fallen mentors Obi-Wan and Yoda. Then, suddenly, beside them appears the spirit-figure of Anakin Skywalker. Thanks to the faith of his son Luke, Anakin Skywalker has finally fulfilled his role as the "chosen one" and defeated the Emperor to bring balance back to the Force.