

STAR WARS Episode 5: The Empire Strikes Back

Having destroyed the Death Star, the hunted Rebel Alliance goes into hiding. Darth Vader leads an obsessive search for them – especially for Luke Skywalker. When Vader discovers the Rebels on the ice planet, Hoth, the Rebels flee. Circumstances isolate Princess Leia with Chewbacca, C-3P0 and Han Solo and these four struggle to freedom – while Han and the Princess fall in love. Darth Vader chases Han Solo, hoping to lure Luke Skywalker into rescuing him. Vader corners Han and Leia on the cloud city of Bespin where Han's old friend, LANDO CALRISSIAN, is forced to betray him. Meanwhile, Luke Skywalker flies away from the others to keep a rendezvous with a Jedi Master. The spirit of Obi-Wan Kenobi advises Luke to find YODA on the planet Dagobah. There, Yoda teaches Luke that he has a lot to learn about the Force. Luke leaves Yoda to rescue Han and Leia, but is defeated by Darth Vader when Vader reveals that he is, in fact, Luke's father. Luke escapes, but he is devastated by this revelation. Meanwhile, Han Solo is taken by a bounty hunter to JABBA THE HUTT. Luke, Leia, Chewbacca, and a remorseful Lando Calrissian resolve to rescue Han as this film ends

Act 1: Battle of Hoth

The Rebellion hides from Darth Vader and the Empire on an uninhabited ice-planet called Hoth. But Vader's probe droids soon discover them and the Empire launches an attack. Luke Skywalker helps fend off the attack long enough for the Rebels to evacuate. But in the battle, Princess Leia is cut off from her escape shuttle and has to leave with Han Solo on his Millennium Falcon. Luke, meanwhile, decides not to follow the Rebels at all. He receives a vision that tells him to seek a Jedi Master named YODA on the planet Dagobah. When the Rebels are away, Luke pilots his ship toward Dagobah, alone (except for his droid R2-D2). As Han and Leia are separated from Luke, two separate stories are set up within this single film -- one with Luke Skywalker as the Main Character and one with Han Solo as the Main Character. They are given almost equal weight in the film until the third Act when the Han Solo story comes to a quick and tragic end and Luke's story takes over the film.

1- Rejoining Our Heroes

The first Sequence of Episode V opens with text on the screen that explains this is a dark period for the Rebellion. In spite of their victory over the Death Star, the Rebels are being hunted across the galaxy by the Empire and hidden themselves on an ice planet called Hoth. Meanwhile, Darth Vader has become obsessed with finding Luke Skywalker and sends out "Probe Droids" to search for him.On the planet Hoth, Luke Skywalker and Han Solo help secure the icy terrain around the new Rebel Base by searching for signs of life. Probe droids land nearby and as Luke goes to investigate one he is attacked and captured by a monster called a Wampa. Han returns to the base, unaware of Luke's disappearance. There, Han announces that he must leave the Rebels to take pay off a debt to his old gangster boss, Jabba the Hutt. Princess Leia doesn't want Han to leave because of his value as a soldier in the Rebel's cause, but Han's convinced she wants him to stay because she has feelings for him. This argument sets up their relationship for the rest of their story.

2- Han Saves Luke

When darkness falls and Luke hasn't returned the base, Han Solo risks his life by going back out into the cold to find him. It's a nearly impossible task because Luke is actually captured and hidden in the Wampa's cave. Han doesn't return before the outer gates of the base have to be sealed to protect the base from the freezing cold outside. At that point, there's little hope that Han or Luke will return.But Luke manages to free himself, using the Force and his light saber to kill the Wampa. Desperately trying to walk back to the Rebel base, Luke collapses in the snow and has a hallucinatory vision of Obi-Wan Kenobi. This vision tells Luke to seek out the Jedi Master YODA on the planet Dagobah. As Luke's vision fades, Han Solo appears -- perhaps guided by the Force. Han manages to warm Luke up and set up shelter-- though everyone back at the Rebel base has practically given up hope for them.

3- The Empire Finds the Rebel Base

Han and Luke are found the next day and returned to the Rebel Base. Luke is treated for his injuries and recovers fully, now owing Han for saving his life twice. The Imperial probe droid discovers the Rebel Base, however, and sends a signal back to the Empire. This signal is detected by the Rebels and Han Solo goes to investigate where it's coming from. He confronts and destroys the droid, but reports that it's likely that the Empire knows where they are now. Indeed, the probe droid's signal is recognized immediately by Darth Vader whose intuition never seems to fail him. He orders the immediate invasion of Hoth.

4- Evacuation Begins

Knowing that the Empire is coming, the Rebels prepare to leave the planet. Luke will help by delaying the Empire in battle and Leia will organize the launch of the shuttle craft to carry everyone away. Han, meanwhile, concentrates on getting his own space ship ready to go. Darth Vader's fleet announces their arrival by coming out of light speed nearby. This is a blunder that displeases Vader so that he executes his Admiral and orders a ground assault that can go undetected by the Empire's energy shield. The sequence ends with Rebels prepared to face Vader's ground assault and with the successful launch of the first of Leia's shuttle craft.

5- The Rebel Base Falls

The Rebels fight a defensive battle, only hoping to delay the invading Empire long enough to get their shuttle craft away. Luke Skywalker flies into the battle in a snow-speeder, facing off against Imperial Walkers, huge armored machines that stomp along on long legs. Luke's squad of speeders can't penetrate the walkers' armor with their blasters, but they discover they can trip the walkers with tow cables. This dangerous strategy only slows the walkers down and soon they have the shield generator in their sights. The walkers also shoot Luke's ship out of the sky and he crash-lands right in their path. Meanwhile, Han Solo continues to ready his ship, the Millennium Falcon, and urges Princess Leia to go to her own escape shuttle. Before she can go, Princess Leia orders the retreat of her troops and orders everyone to their escape ships. The Rebel Base falls.

6- Escape From Hoth

While heading for her escape shuttle, Princess Leia and Han Solo run into a wall of ice. Han says he'll take her out on his own ship and they race to escape the base before they're captured by the Imperial troops who have arrived. The Millennium Falcon is in bad shape and slow to start, but it gets them away just as Darth Vader is about to capture them. Luke Skywalker returns from the battle field to find his X-Wing waiting for him with R2-D2 on board. They see the Millennium Falcon fly away and they follow it into space as fast as they can, leaving Hoth and the first Act behind them.□

Act 2: From Dagobah to Bespin

Han Solo's ship is malfunctioning and he can't take the Princess into hyperspace. This leaves them within the grasp of the pursuing Imperial forces. Darth Vader chases them relentlessly so he can use them as bait to capture Luke Skywalker. Han eventually runs to the city of Bespin where he has an old friend named LANDO CALRISSIAN. By this time, Han and Leia have begun to fall in love. However, Darth Vader is able to anticipate their movements and captures Han, Leia, Chewbacca and C-3P0 in Lando's city. Across the galaxy, Luke Skywalker meets the Jedi Master, Yoda, and begins training to be a Jedi. He is a troubled student, head strong and stubborn -- but he makes progress. Before this training is complete, however, he senses his friends' trouble and rushes off to try and help them. Yoda warns Luke that this is dangerous and that Darth Vader may tempt Luke to the dark side of the Force.

1- Han Hides In Asteroid

The second Act neatly intercuts the middle acts of two stories, one about Han and Leia, and one about Luke and Yoda. This sequence begins with a small scene to set up the Luke story - Luke announces to R2-D2 that they won't join the other Rebels, but instead will fly to the Dagobah system. The rest of the sequence deals with Han Solo's flight from the Empire. Imperial ships surround Hoth and chase Han as he tries to escape. When the Millennium Falcon fails to jump to light speed, they lose hope of out-running the Imperials. As Han tries to repair the ship's hyperdrive to the asteroid field, thinking the Empire won't dare to follow him, Han flies right into the asteroids. The trick manages to get Han some breathing room and he lands inside a cave on one of the big asteroids. There he should have time to make repairs.

2- Luke Hunts For Yoda -- Lands on Dagobah

The second Sequence returns to Luke's story. Luke arrives at Dagobah in his X-Wing. Unaware what the planet is like, Luke flies in to land -- only to find the thick fog and vegetation too disorienting and he crashes into a swamp. He swims ashore telling R2-D2 to stay with the ship, but R2 is too eager to get out and falls into the water. This isn't a problem really until a monster tries to eat R2. Luckily, the monster doesn't like the taste and spits R2 onto dry land. Luke has retrieved his companion, but has no idea how he's going to get out of this one.

3- Han Hides In Asteroid (Cont.) -- Asteroid Shifts

This Sequence is actually a continuation of the previous Han-story Sequence. Parked inside a giant asteroid, Han and Chewie try to repair their ship. Meanwhile, Darth Vader pursues them relentlessly, regardless of the asteroids. Inside the asteroid, Han and Leia discover the asteroid they're on is unstable. It quakes and throws Leia into Han's arms, furthering their romance and their arguments.

4- Luke Hunts For Yoda (Cont.) -- Meets Yoda

This Sequence is actually a continuation of the previous Luke-story Sequence. Luke and R2-D2 set up a camp and wonder what they're going to do next when a short, mischievous, green man invades their camp. Luke has little patience for the invader, but thinks he's harmless. He tries to get the green creature to leave them alone, but when he mentions that he's searching for a Jedi -- the green man realizes Luke wants to find Yoda. He tells Luke they will go see Yoda together, after they eat some dinner. Everything this guy does annoys Luke immensely.

5- Han Hides In Asteroid (Cont.) -- Han & Leia Kiss

Continuing this multi-part first Sequence of Han's story, Han continues to try to fix his ship. C-3P0 talks to the Falcon's main computer and finds some things that need attention while Princess Leia does work in another compartment. When Han goes to help Leia, they fight one more time. But then Han apologizes and draws Leia into a kiss -- he's clearly correct that Leia has feelings for him. Before things can go any farther, C-3P0 interrupts and Leia sneaks away. Meanwhile, Darth Vader orders the continued pursuit of the Millennium Falcon while he moves his ship out of the asteroid field to receive a message from the Emperor. Darth Vader and the Emperor discuss the importance of finding Luke Skywalker and plan to make him turn to the dark side so that he will become an evil ally.

6- Luke Hunts For Yoda (Cont.) -- Learns Yoda's Identity

Concluding the multi-part first Sequence of Luke's story, Luke shares dinner with the funny little green man. Luke's impatience grows until he throws a fit. The little man suddenly changes his demeanor and says "I can't train this boy." Then Obi-Wan's voice appears in answer and Luke realizes the truth -- this little green man is YODA. Luke and Obi-Wan plead with Yoda to give Luke another chance. Yoda is very reluctant, but eventually gives in.

7- Han Hides In Asteroid (Cont.) -- Han Escapes From the Asteroid

Concluding the multi-part first Sequence of Han's story, Han discovers creatures inside this asteroid cave which threaten to chew his ship apart. In cleaning them off his ship, Han discovers why the asteroid seems so unstable -- they aren't actually in a cave. They're inside of a monster's throat. Han rushes back inside and flies out of the monster just as its jaws are shutting - barely escaping.

8- Luke's Training -- Failure In The Cave

The second Sequence of Luke's story, Luke deals with Luke's training under Yoda. Luke is making progress, but not enough to impress Yoda. They reach a dark cave in the Dagobah jungle that Yoda says Luke must confront. Luke disregards Yoda's advice and enters the cave with all the weapons he can carry -- and faces a vision of himself dressed as Darth Vader. It's a chilling psychological battle for Luke and this doesn't impress Yoda either.

9- Han Tricks the Empire -- Disappears off Scanners

Han's story begins a new Sequence when he finally navigates out of the asteroid field with the Empire close behind. He tries to jump to light speed, but the repairs have failed him again. He is riding when he's outgunned, but he turns to attack the Empire's fleet and suddenly disappears off their scanners. Darth Vader will be very disappointed to hear this...

10- Luke's Training (Cont.) -- Yoda Lifts the X-Wing

The Sequence about Luke's Jedi training continues with Luke making more progress. Yoda begins to appreciate Luke's progress until Luke is disturbed by seeing his X-Wing sink completely beneath the surface of the swamp. Yoda encourages Luke to simply use the Force to lift the ship out, but Luke fails because he thinks it's impossible. Disappointed with Luke, Yoda shows him how it's done and levitates the X-Wing over the swamp to dry land.

11- Han Tricks the Empire (Cont.) -- Han Floats With Chewie

Continuing the previous Sequence of Han's story, the secret to Han's disappearance is revealed -- he flew up and attached his ship to the side of the Empire's Star Destroyer. He knows these ships have a procedure of dumping their trash before jumping to light speed and Han just floats off the side of the Star Destroyer with the rest of the trash.To find a place to hide, Han and Leia search the local charts and discover the nearby port of Bespin where Han's friend LANDO CALRISSIAN is in charge. With a few reservations, Han thinks that's the best place for them to hide. But they have not escaped notice, and as they fly away to Bespin, they are followed by a bounty hunter named BOBA FETT.

12- Luke Feels Called Away -- Sees the Future

The next Sequence of Luke's story finds him much more in control of his powers. But in the middle of an exercise, Luke has a disturbing vision of his friends being tortured on a city in the clouds. Yoda explains this is a vision of the future. Luke wants to go help his friends, but Yoda warns that if Luke does this his actions will threaten the Rebellion. This makes Luke think twice.

13- Han & Leia Reach Bespin

In the next Sequence of Han's story, Han and Leia arrive at the floating cloud city of Bespin where their welcome is very hostile. They are permitted to land, but they're greeted by an angry LANDO CALRISSIAN who seems ready to fight - until he lowers his guard and reveals that he's joking. Leia immediately distrusts Lando, but Lando seems nice and welcoming after playing his joke. He escorts Han and his passengers to some living quarters. However, C-3P0 is distracted by the sounds of an R2-Unit and wanders off to find the other droid. What he discovers is something mysterious and deadly which blasts C-3P0 to pieces. This is all kept secret from Han and his companions.

14- Luke Feels Called Away (Cont.) -- Luke Leaves Yoda

The previous Sequence of Luke's story continues and brings Luke's story to its second Act Climax. Luke is unable to shake the feelings of dread he has for his friends after seeing them in his vision. He has decided to leave and packs his X-Wing with Yoda and the spirit of Obi-Wan urging him to stay. Luke promises to return after he helps his friends, disregarding all Yoda's fears that Luke is walking into disaster. He realizes this is a trap set for him by Darth Vader, but Luke can't abandon his friends.

15- Han & Leia Betrayed by Lando

The next Sequence ends the second act of Han's story has Han and Leia growing closer as they worry that something is wrong here in Bespin. Chewbacca discovers C-3P0's body and brings it to Han and Leia. They don't know what happened to the Millennium Falcon until Lando Calrissian tells them the Empire is here. Awaiting them in Lando's dining room is Darth Vader. He arrived just before Han and forced Lando to help lay a trap. Han and Leia resist, but to no avail -- Vader has them.

Act 3: Luke Faces Darth Vader

Luke Skywalker arrives in Bespin to help the rescue of his friends. He is expected, however, and quickly led to face Darth Vader. The two warriors battle while, all the time, Vader encourages Luke to unleash his anger. Eventually, Vader has Luke at his mercy and asks Luke to join him in ruling the galaxy. When Luke refuses, Vader tells him a devastating secret -- Vader is actually Luke's father. Luke jumps into a chasm rather than be captured by Vader. Meanwhile, Lando Calrissian has helped free Leia and Chewbacca. When Luke is dangling on the bottom of the city, he reaches out to Leia with his thoughts and she is able to come rescue him. Han Solo, however, is in the hands of a bounty hunter and on his way to Jabba the Hutt. Luke and Lando vow to meet at Jabba's palace to free Han before fighting the Empire again.

1- Darth Vader Tortures the Heroes

While Luke's story is moved into the background, Han and Leia's story moves into its third Act and concludes. The first Sequence of their third Act deals with their suffering at the hands of Darth Vader as he tortures them. Han and Leia are mystified about the torture because they aren't even being asked anything. Lando comes in and explains that the whole thing is a trap for Luke Skywalker. Vader's torturing them so that Luke will sense it and come rescue them. Lando thinks he's being helpful by negotiating with Vader for their Han and Leia's best interests, but he's only making things worse.

2- Han's Tragic End

The final sequence of Han's story brings his love story with Leia to an end and leaves Han trapped inside a frozen block of carbonite. First, Darth Vader announces his plan to encase Luke Skywalker in carbonite and Lando tries to tell Vader the process is too dangerous. Vader's response is to test it on Han Solo. As Han is brought to the freezing chamber and pushed out on the platform, he kisses Leia goodbye. She finally tells him she loves him and then Han is frozen alive. Lando confirms Han is alive and Vader orders the chamber reset for Skywalker.Flying in several teams, the Rebel fighters approach the Death Star in space and move in to attack according to their plan. But they are detected by the force

3- Luke is Guided to Darth Vader

The third Act of Luke's story begins with the announcement of his arrival in Bespin. Vader responds by ordering that he be guided to the freezing chamber. Vader also orders Leia and Chewbacca to be taken as his prisoners -- altering his bargain with Lando Calrissian. Luke sneaks around Bespin, ready for a fight. He spots Leia being taken away and she warns him that this is a trap, but Luke can't turn back. He is guided by automatic doors into the freezing chamber where he finds Darth Vader waiting. Luke and Vader begin their climactic light saber duel.

4- Lando Tries to Free Han Solo

The next Sequence deals with Lando Calrissian's change of heart. Having been double-crossed by Vader repeatedly and feeling bad about betraying Han, Lando has his assistants around Bespin secretly free Leia and Chewbacca. He then convinces Leia and Chewbacca that he's now on their side and they rush to stop Boba Fett from leaving Bespin with Han Solo's frozen body. (Boba Fett is taking Han back to Jabba the Hutt for a bounty). Leia and Lando reach Boba Fett's platform too late and are discovered by stormtroopers. Now they have to fight their way out of Bespin against all the Imperial forces there.

5- Luke Impresses Vader

In the freezing chamber, Luke and Vader fight with their light sabers. Vader urges Luke to release his anger and come over to the dark side of the force, but Luke remains quiet and calm. When Vader pushes Luke back into the freezing mechanism and throws the switch, Luke uses his training to escape - impressing Vader. Luke battles back and knocks Vader into a chasm, then follows him. In this lower level, Vader unleashes his power and out-classes Luke. He knocks Luke out a window where Luke has to save himself by catching a ledge, dangling over an incredible drop.

6- Escape From Bespin -- Guided to the Millennium Falcon

Powerless to stop Boba Fett or rescue Luke Skywalker, it's time for Lando and Leia to get out of Bespin. Lando knows how to get to the Millennium Falcon and guides them to the platform with stormtroopers chasing them. They run into R2-D2 who was separated from Luke when he arrived from Dagobah. Caught on the wrong side of a locked door from the Millennium Falcon, Lando gets on the city-wide loud speaker and tells the citizens to evacuate if they want to escape the Empire. Then R2-D2 gets the door open and they board the Falcon and fly away, battling stormtroopers every step of the way.

7- Luke Faces the Ugly Truth

The climactic Sequence of Luke's story occurs on the ledge where Luke was dropped by Darth Vader. Vader reappears and engages Luke once again in their light-saber duel. Luke does well for a time, but Vader finally cuts Luke's hand off so he's defenseless with no light saber. With Luke at his mercy, Darth Vader reveals to Luke the truth about what happened to his father. Darth Vader never killed Luke's father, as Obi-Wan had claimed, because Darth Vader is Luke's father. Luke refuses to believe it, but Vader insists and offers Luke the chance to join him and rule the galaxy together as father and son. Luke says he'll never join Vader and lets himself drop from the ledge into a deadly chasm. Bespin's automatic filters catch Luke and dispose of him out the bottom of the city. This leaves Luke's father from an antennae over a bottomless landscape. He reaches out with his feelings to Princess Leia and she hears him. Leia turns the Millennium Falcon around and picks up Luke, rescuing him.

8- The Final Escape -- the Jump to Lightspeed

The Millennium Falcon is now loaded with all the heroes and ready to escape, but the Empire's still hot on their trail. Lando believes his workers have repaired the Falcon's hyperdrive, but the Empire stopped them and Lando can't make the jump to light speed. TIE fighters close in on them as Lando tries to fix what's wrong. Meanwhile, Darth Vader reaches out to Luke in his thoughts and prepares to capture the Falcon and board her. Luke is devastated and helpless. But R2-D2 learned what was wrong with the Falcon when he was talking to Bespin's main computer. R2 turns the hyperdrive back on and the Falcon jumps to light speed just as the Empire is about to catch them. Darth Vader helplessly watches his quarry disappear.

9-Resolutions

The final Sequence of Episode V sets up Episode VI. Luke's damaged hand is repaired and he promises to help Lando and Chewbacca retrieve Han Solo from Jabba the Hutt. Lando and Chewbacca fly away in the Millennium Falcon as Luke and Leia and the two droids watch. The fate of Han Solo will be decided in the next movie.