

*William Shakespeare's Star Wars – Verily, A New Hope – by Ian Doescher*

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.*

C3-PO:           Pray, R2-D2, where art thou?

*Exit Princess Leia.*

R2-D2:                     —Beep, meep.

C3-PO:           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]

Scene 2 – Aboard the rebel ship

Enter Darth Vader, carrying Rebel Leader 1 by the neck, and Stormtroopers.

TROOPER 1: The Death Star plans we could not find herein,  
Nor are they on the main computer, Lord.  
In short, they are not here, and there's an end.

Vader: Thou speakest well, my stormtrooper, and yet  
Not well upon my ear the message falls.  
I turn to thee, thou rebel. Ay, I lift  
Thy head above my own. Thou canst now choose  
To keep thy secrets lock'd safe in that head,  
And therefore lose the life thou holdest dear,  
Or else to keep thy head and, thus, thy life.  
My patience runneth quickly out much like  
The sands across the dunes of Tatooine.  
So tell me, else thou diest quick: where shall  
We find transmissions thou didst intercept?  
What hast thou done, say, with those plans?  
[Darth Vader being to choke Rebel Leader 1.]

Rebel 1: —My Lord,  
My head and life I value—certain 'tis!  
And yet to thee I must report we have  
Not intercepted one transmission! Ahh!  
This is a cons'lar ship, and nothing more,  
On diplomatic mission. Ugh!

Vader: —Thou knave!  
With thy last breath hear thou this word: if this  
Is but a cons'lar ship, then where is the  
ambassador? [Rebel Leader 1 dies.] Commander,  
prithree, go!  
Rend thou this ship apart until the plans  
Are found, and bring me any passengers—  
Upon thy life, I want them brought alive!  
[Exeunt stormtroopers]  
And so another dies by my own hand,  
This hand, which now encas'd in blackness is.  
O that the fingers of this wretched hand  
Had not the pain of suff'ring ever known.

But now my path is join'd unto the dark,  
And wicked men—whose hands and fingers move  
To crush their foes—are now my company.  
So shall my fingers ever undertake  
To do more evil, aye, and this—my hand—  
Shall do the Emp'ror's bidding evermore.  
And thus we see how fingers presage death  
And hands become the instruments of Fate.

[Exit Darth Vader]