

THE MANDALORIAN

"LIFE DEBT"

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based on the series by Jon Favreau

EXT. SPACE

A field of stars twinkle. Calm. Serene.

Mando's spaceship BURSTS into frame, fresh out of hyperspace.

INT. MANDO'S SPACESHIP - COCKPIT - SAME TIME

MANDO slouches in the pilot chair. He eases back on the thrust lever. The ship slows. GROGU, strapped inside the bassinet behind him, eyes the thrust lever with bright-eyed envy.

Mando flips a switch. A holographic image of GREEF KARGA flickers to life above the control panel.

GREEF KARGA

Mando. I've got a potential lead on Grogu's origin.

(beat)

There's a warrior named Tarfful who lives deep in the forests of Kashyyyk. He was a general in the Clone Wars. The records from that period are spotty, but my source is solid. He told me that Tarfful served at the command of a Jedi.

(then)

A Jedi who matches the description of our mutual friend.

Mando looks back at Grogu.

GREEF KARGA (CONT'D)

Here are the rough coordinates. Best of luck, Mando.

EXT. SPACE - MOMENTS LATER

Mando's spaceship cruises toward KASHYYYK, a planet with lush landmasses surrounded by expansive oceans.

EXT. KASHYYYK - UPPER ATMOSPHERE - DAY

The ship sails through a clear blue sky, then descends into a layer of puffy, marshmallow clouds.

INT./EXT. MANDO'S SPACESHIP - MOMENTS LATER

As the ship continues its descent, the idyllic white clouds darken. The sunlight in the cockpit dims. It feels ominous.

And then the TURBULENCE hits.

The ship plummets 20 meters. It rocks violently.

Thick rivulets of condensation stream across the cockpit's glass. Mando tightens his grip on the controls. Grogu's face is a portrait of concern. Mando turns to him.

MANDO

Just turbulence. We'll be through
it soon.

Right as Mando turns back to the controls, an enormous, SHADOWY MASS appears through the fog. It's as tall as a mountain.

Mando rolls the ship hard left. Grogu's bassinet slides across the cockpit and hits the far wall. Grogu yelps.

The ship narrowly skirts the massive object.

MANDO

There aren't supposed to be
mountains here.

As he says it, another SHADOWY MASS appears. This time we see it clearly - it's the top of a colossal WROSHYR TREE.

MANDO

Hang on!

Mando turns hard right. Grogu's bassinet slides all the way back to the other side of the cockpit.

Mando flips a switch. A 3D map of Kashyyyk blooms over the control panel. BEEP! The map highlights a small area in red.

MANDO

Looks like we're landing early.

EXT. UPPER CANOPY - MOMENTS LATER

The ship slips through a gap in the treetops, hovers, and descends into the thick, overgrown canopy.

The ship goes down...

and down...

and down...

EXT. SWAMP CLEARING - MOMENTS LATER

Finally the ship touches down in an open expanse of swamp. The landing gear SQUISHES into the muck. The ship looks like a toy compared to the gargantuan Wroshyr Trees that ring the swamp.

The ship's bay door GROANS open. Mando and Grogu stand in the entryway. Grogu's jaw drops at the sight of the swamp.

MANDO

Stay close to me. Don't touch anything. Don't drink the water. And don't eat anything. Those are the rules. It's important that you follow them. Do you understand?

Grogu gives no indication of understanding. Mando sighs and walks down the gangway. On his first step into the bog, his boot sinks up to his shin. He sighs again.

Mando steps back onto the gangway. He looks for better footing when he sees...

... Grogu toddling across the swamp with ease.

MANDO

That's far enough. Stay close.

Grogu splashes into puddles like a kid in galoshes. He gapes at the swamp with wonder. *This is his type of ecosystem. His home.*

MANDO

(softening)

Just be careful, OK? We don't know what might be out there.

EXT. SWAMP CLEARING - LATER

Mando loads crates, camping gear, and guns onto a hover-cart.

Nearby, Grogu chases after a small frog with six eyes on its slimy head. This is a GUPPER.

Mando lifts a blocky, handheld device toward his mouth. As he speaks, a small screen displays the waveform of his voice.

MANDO

(into the device)

Does this translator work?

The TRANSLATOR spits out an incomprehensible series of GROWLS, GRUNTS, and ROARS.

MANDO

I hope that means "yes".

Grogu is about to pounce on the Gupper. But the Gupper opens its surprisingly large mouth and jumps away.

The Gupper inflates like a wind sock as it passes through the air. When it lands, it's twice its original size. It jumps again, ballooning up even more.

In three hops the Gupper is bigger than Grogu. In five hops it's bigger than Mando.

Mando secures a crate with a ratchet strap, unaware of the events unfolding behind him.

In the background, Grogu tries to run from the giant Gupper. Before he makes it three steps...

... the Gupper SNARES him with its long tongue and YANKS him into its mouth. Grogu is gone! The Gupper leaps out of view. It lands nearby with a SPLASH.

Mando wheels around and draws his BLASTER PISTOL.

MANDO

Grogu!

Mando scans the horizon. All he sees is mist and muck. No sign of Grogu. He flips a switch on his helmet.

MANDO'S POV: Infrared vision. The whole world is cast in blue. Then, a quick flash of red - a heat signature.

BACK TO SCENE

Mando sprints toward the heat signature, SPLASHING through the slop. He clocks the Gupper through the mist. He stops.

MANDO

Stay right there.

Mando aims his blaster pistol at the Gupper's head. PEW!

The Gupper doesn't flinch. Then, after a beat, its body deflates like a pierced soufflé. Grogu, unfazed but slimy, crawls out from under the puddle of rubbery skin.

Mando trudges over and scoops him up.

MANDO

Doesn't feel so good being on the other end of that, huh?

(beat)

You broke the rules. You know what that means.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - AFTERNOON

Grogu is stuffed in a knapsack on Mando's back. He squirms and chirps in protest as Mando pushes the hover-cart through the dark, towering woods.

MANDO

I know you want out. But you need to learn obedience.

(beat)

If we don't find your home then you'll be raised as a Mandalorian. And Mandalorians have a strict code. One you can't break.

(then)

Trust me. When I was a foundling, the disciplinary actions were much worse than this.

INT./EXT. MANDO'S CAMP - SUNSET

Mando pitches camp within the cavernous, exposed root system of a Wroshyr Tree. He seals the makeshift entrance with a tarp.

Grogu, still safely stowed in his knapsack, hangs from an elevated root like a Christmas ornament. He frowns and fusses.

MANDO

Don't be upset. It's safer if you stay in there tonight.

Grogu looks hurt and confused. Mando flips a switch on the lantern. The camp goes dark.

EXT. MANDO'S CAMP - MORNING

Spears of sunlight penetrate the thick canopy. The forest floor steams with evaporating dew.

MANDO (O.S.)

Grogu!

Mando bursts through the tarp, panicked. Behind him we see the hanging knapsack. Empty.

Then we hear a vicious, bone-chilling ROAR that arises from somewhere deep in the forest. Mando rushes toward it.

ANGLE ON: The TRANSLATOR abandoned on the hover-cart.

EXT. DEEP FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

A louder ROAR. Mando's getting closer. He sprints. He hurdles roots. He smashes through branches. Finally, he sees Grogu...

... at the feet of two hulking WOOKIEES. Mando instinctively reaches for his BLASTER PISTOL.

But he hesitates. Something's off. As Mando watches, he realizes that the Wookiees aren't growling in rage - they're laughing. They're playing with Grogu like he's a puppy. Grogu toddles toward them and they dance out of the way.

Mando visibly relaxes. He steps toward the charming scene.

MANDO
Having fun?

The Wookiees whip around. At the sight of Mando, their hackles raise. They growl. This time in rage. One points a CROSSBOW BLASTER at him. The other brandishes a large wooden WAR CLUB.

Mando puts his arms up in surrender.

MANDO
I mean no harm. The little one
belongs to me.

The Wookiee with the war club storms toward Mando. He raises the war club, swings, and--

CUT TO BLACK:

EXT. WOOKIEE CAMP - DAY

The camp sits in a dry, flat clearing surrounded by Wroshyr Trees. Patches of crab grass poke through the dirt. A dozen woven, WOODEN DOMES dot the camp. They look like wicker igloos, complete with low entryways.

A thick COLUMN is at the center of the camp. Mando is bound to its base with hefty, fibrous ropes. His head hangs, unconscious.

He snaps awake. He tries to move, but the ropes hold him tight.

He surveys the camp and clocks the two Wookiees who nabbed him. They brandish their war clubs, standing guard. Mando squirms.

STORMTROOPER (O.S.)
It's no use. If there's one thing
these Wookiees know, it's ropes.

The voice came from directly behind Mando. Mando tries to turn, but can't see who spoke.

MANDO
Who said that?

We PAN to reveal a STORMTROOPER with three distinct claw marks on his helmet and chest plate. He's tied up on the other side of the column with the same set of ropes. Sitting essentially back to back, they look like a mirror image of each other.

STORMTROOPER

It's me, Red. That you, Evans?

The Stormtrooper will now be referred to as RED.

RED

You get stranded after the extraction, too? Thought everyone else made it back to base.

MANDO

I'm not Evans. You don't know me.

RED

Huh. You with the new unit? Didn't think you guys were getting here until tomorrow.

(re: nearby Wookiees)

Don't worry. They don't understand Galactic Basic. This tribe only speaks Shyriiwook.

MANDO

I'm not a Stormtrooper.

RED

Really? You sound like one.

(beat)

If you're not a Stormtrooper then what are you doing out here?

MANDO

I'm not in the mood to talk.

RED

Wow. So sorry to bother you. Do you have something better to do before we get torn limb from limb?

A beat. Then Red barrels on.

RED

I mean, really. Of all the poles in all the galaxy, What're the odds I manage to get tied up to the one with a guy who doesn't want to talk?

(beat)

I thought I had it bad before. But now, this. Can you--

MANDO
 (cutting him off)
 If you want to talk so badly, then
 how about I ask you a question and
 you give me the answer?

RED
 And then I get to ask a question?

MANDO
 No.

Red considers the lopsided offer.

RED
 Fine. What's your question?

MANDO
 Are there only Wookiees at this
 camp? Have you seen anything else?

RED
 Why? You lookin' for something?
 (off Mando's silence)
 Right. I don't get to ask
 questions.
 (beat)
 Until you showed up, yes. Not that
 I can, y'know, see you either.

Mando chews on this info. A silent beat.

RED
 So that's it? You're done after
 one question?

MANDO
 I don't make it a habit to hold
 conversations with Stormtroopers.

RED
 We're not encouraged to talk,
 either. It's just that...
 (beat, earnest)
 ... I have a habit of talking when
 I'm nervous. It's kind of what I
 do. Talking. Languages. I'm a
 translator. Never been very good
 at the soldiering part of the job.
 This part. The scary part.

The sincerity disarms Mando. He shakes his head - he doesn't
 owe Red anything. But he throws him a conversational bone.

MANDO

So. What's the Empire doing out here on Kashyyyk?

RED

(perking up)

Same as always. Recruiting Wookiees for construction projects.

MANDO

Recruiting? I think it's called 'slavery' when they don't go willingly.

Red's earnest response sounds like it's been lifted directly from an Imperial propaganda pamphlet.

RED

It's not like that. It's a conscripted jobs program. Once we give them a job, they love it. With a little education they can be pretty impressive engineers. And at the end of their service, they can apply those skills right here at home to advance their own civilization.

(beat)

You know they used Wookiees for some of the most important parts of the Death Star's construction?

MANDO

You ever seen any Wookiees after they've been released?

RED

Well, no. But I wouldn't expect to. My job is to process them. I don't see them again after that.

MANDO

Process?

RED

Seeing if they have all their teeth and claws. Making sure they don't have fur mites. Determining if they're strong enough to work.

MANDO

And the ones that aren't strong enough? What happens to them?

RED

If they can't work, then they
wouldn't be useful back in the
wild either...

Before Mando can respond, a black-furred Wookiee crawls out of a nearby dome. When he stands to his full height, he's the tallest, broadest Wookiee we've ever seen. This is KRULLTATHA.

Krulltatha wears intimidating leather armor with spikes on the shoulder pauldrons. Three cracked STORMTROOPER HELMETS hang from his ammo belt. They RATTLE as he approaches.

MUFTAR, a lean Wookiee with chestnut fur and a prominent beard, exits the dome behind Krulltatha. She's a female Wookiee, but you'd be hard-pressed to tell.

They stop a few feet from Mando and Red. They grunt, growl, and roar at one another. It looks like they're arguing.

MANDO

What are they saying?

RED

They're, uhh, trying to decide who
to torture first. She thinks the
white one will crack first. He
thinks the shiny one will.

(beat)

Shiny one? You must have some nice
armor.

MANDO

You can talk to them, right? Tell
them I'm not a Stormtrooper.

RED

So that they're guaranteed to
torture me instead? No way.

MANDO

We're in this together. If we're
smart we can escape in one piece.

(beat)

But you'll have to do exactly as I
say.

RED

Well, whatever you want me to say,
you'd better think of it fast.

Mando sees that Krulltatha and Muftar have stopped growling at each other. They're now staring directly at their prisoners.

MANDO

Tell them that we're friends of the great Wookiee warrior named Tarfful. And the little one urgently needs to speak to him.

RED

Little one?

MANDO

Just say it.

Krulltatha marches up to the pole, leans down, and issues a long, guttural ROAR. It shuts Mando and Red up.

A silent beat. And then... Grogu totters out of a dome! Krulltatha and Muftar turn at the sound of the tiny footfalls.

Grogu looks back and forth between Mando and the Wookiees. Then he and Mando lock eyes. Mando gives him an encouraging nod.

RED

What is that?

Grogu waddles forward as if he's heading toward Mando. Instead, he stops at Muftar's legs and reaches up. Muftar plucks him off the ground and cradles him adoringly. Grogu's punishing Mando.

RED (CONT'D)

Wait a minute. I know what that is. Which means...

(beat, understanding)

... shiny armor. You're that Mandalorian.

Krulltatha walks over to one of the Wookiee guards. They hand him his giant WAR CLUB. Krulltatha menacingly hefts it.

RED

I had friends on Nevarro. You killed them.

MANDO

I was fighting for survival. The little one's survival. They were going to kill him. Just like these Wookiees are going to kill us both unless you talk them down.

Krulltatha approaches his prisoners. He sizes them up. *Deciding*. Then he moves toward Mando. He raises his war club.

Mando is helpless. If Grogu won't help, no one will. But right as Krulltatha starts to swing, Red GROWLS and GRUNTS. The massive Wookiee stops his club.

There are no subtitles during this exchange. Like Mando, we do not know what is being said.

Red strings together a few more primal sounds in the Shyriiwook language. It sounds comical coming through a Stormtrooper's fuzzy voice comms. But he has Krulltatha's full attention now.

Krulltatha replies with his own set of grunts and growls.

Red responds. Krulltatha ROARS and pounds his chest. Then he lifts his club as if to strike him. *What did Red say?* Red shies away from the blow and manages to growl out a hurried rebuttal.

After a tense beat, Krulltatha lowers his arm and turns to look at Groggu. Red lets out a sigh of relief. Now feeling confident, Red says something else in Shyriiwook...

... Something that makes Krulltatha turn his fierce attention to Mando. Krulltatha stalks toward him like a territorial silverback gorilla.

Krulltatha spins his war club. One side is a blunt bludgeon. The other side is a SHARPENED CLEAVER made of bone. Krulltatha raises the cleaver. He swings it!

KA-CHUNK! The cleaver chops through the ropes. They're free!

RED

I can't believe that worked.
They're setting us free.

HARD CUT TO:

EXT. WOOKIEE CAMP - AFTERNOON

Mando and Red hang 40 feet off the ground in two cramped wooden CAGES. Their arms and legs poke through the gaps like they're strapped into adult-size Baby Björns.

RED

For the record, I said exactly
what you told me to.

MANDO

Maybe your Wookiee isn't as good
as you think.

RED

We're not being tortured, so I'd
say this is an upgrade.

The cages gently sway. Mando eyes the rope above Red's cage.

RED (CONT'D)

I heard it can do magic. The little one. They say that's why it's so dangerous.

MANDO

It's not dangerous.

RED

But it *can* do magic?

(off Mando's silence)

Nah. It must not be able to. If it could, why would it leave you hanging here like this?

Mando doesn't respond. It's a good question.

WIPE TO:

EXT. WOOKIEE CAMP - TWILIGHT

A bonfire illuminates the camp. The Wookiees kneel in a circle around the fire, eyes down - perhaps in prayer.

A large animal roasts on a spit over the flames. CHIKKICH, a hunched, graying Wookiee, shakes a RATTLE toward the meat. As he does, he SINGS. It's a primal, haunting, captivating sound.

Mando and Red watch, enchanted. The firelight dances across their helmets, bathing them in the same orange light.

MANDO

Why do you do it? Can't you let these creatures live in peace?

RED

The Empire gave them peace.

MANDO

The Empire doesn't provide peace. Only order.

(beat)

The war is over. The Empire's a shell of what it was. Why not walk away?

RED

And do what?

MANDO

Go back to your home.

Red hangs on this for a beat.

RED

I don't have a home.

(then)

The planet I came from was a mess of endless war. Chaos. There was always a new faction vying for power. One week my people would be in charge. The next we'd be fleeing for our lives.

Red continues his story as we see...

EXT. MANDALORE - CITY STREETS - DAY [FLASHBACK]

YOUNG MANDO is in his MOTHER's arms. She hurries down alleyways, pursued by menacing BATTLE DROIDS. It's chaos.

RED (V.O.)

My parents were killed when I was a boy. My home was burned to the ground. I had nothing.

Young Mando's FATHER opens a cellar door. He places young Mando inside. BOOM! An explosion rocks the rafters.

RED (V.O.)

And then the Empire came. They brought consistency to my life. Order. They gave me a purpose. A reason to live.

A MANDALORIAN opens the cellar door. He seems to glow with divine light. He extends his hand to young Mando.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. WOOKIEE CAMP - CONTINUOUS

The cages CREAK as they rock in the breeze.

RED (CONT'D)

I owe the Empire everything.

As Chikkich ends his SONG, the other Wookiees join in with a long HOWL, like wolves baying at the moon.

Mando remains silent, still lost in his own memories when--

ZAP!

A Wookiee ROARS and falls to his knees. Electric blue LIGHTNING wreaths his body. A TASER BOLT sticks out of his back.

ZAP ZAP ZAP! More taser bolts find their Wookiee targets.

The remaining Wookiees rush to action. They grab CROSSBOW BLASTERS, take cover, and return fire.

A squadron of STORMTROOPERS flood in from the forest.

RED

See? I knew they'd come for me.

PEW PEW! Blaster fire tears through a wooden dome.

MANDO

Grogu!

Mando tries to aim his wrist at the rope above his cage. But he can't get a good angle. He shoots a BLAST OF FLAME from his wrist-mounted flamethrower. It's way off the mark.

RED

Whoa! You had that this whole time?

(beat)

Look, you can't hit your rope from that angle. But you could hit mine. Come on, burn my rope and then I'll cut you down.

MANDO

So you can join your friends?

RED

You still don't trust me? Even after I saved us earlier? You're the one who said we were in this together.

MANDO

That was before you had an army.

Mando twists his cage to face the trunk of the Wroshyr Tree he's hanging from. It's 15 feet away. *Not too far*. He lifts his arm and fires his WRIST-MOUNTED GRAPPLING HOOK.

CHUNK! The hook lodges firmly in the wood. Then he activates the RETRACTION MOTOR. It reels the cage in toward the trunk. The motor GROANS under the weight.

MANDO

Come on. Just a little further.

FTTZ! Sparks fly off the retraction motor. The line goes slack. But it did its job. Mando's cage is just shy of the trunk. From this angle he can aim his wrist at the rope above the cage.

He takes aim and FIRES his flamethrower! The flames singe the rope. But it's thick. He hits it with another blast of fire.

RED

Really? Burning my rope would be
much easier than... this.

The rope finally catches... but so does the top of his cage.
The flames creep down around him. It's getting toasty when--

SNAP! The rope splits and Mando's cage hurtles toward the
ground. But the grappling hook is still embedded in the tree.
The slack line WHIRRS back out of its wrist mount. Uh oh.

Mando braces. The line reaches its limit with a lurch. Mando's
arm is nearly ripped out of its socket. But the momentum sends
the flaming cage penduluming off to the side. As it swings back
toward the tree, it SHATTERS upon impact.

Mando's free of the cage. But still hanging. He plants his feet
into the tree trunk and, with two firm tugs, RIPS the grappling
hook out. He falls the remaining 20 feet and lands with a THUD.

He slowly rises. Then he presses a button on his wrist. The
grappling hook retracts in fits and start. But it works.

RED

You OK? That looked like it hurt.
(beat)
OK now cut me down.

Mando doesn't even register the request. He's already off and
running toward the flaming dome in front of him.

RED

(sotto)
That was rude.

Mando looks through the smoking entrance of the dome. Empty.

MANDO

Grogu! Where are you?

A nearby STORMTROOPER whirls at the noise. He tilts his head as
he scrutinizes Mando. He's not a Wookiee... but is he an enemy?

RED

(shouting)
That's the Mandalorian! And the
little green thing is here, too!

Mando shrugs at the Trooper. Then he draws his blaster pistol!
Or he would... if the holster weren't empty. Whoops.

The Trooper raises his BLASTER RIFLE and SHOOTs! Mando leaps
out of the way. As he rolls, he clocks a Wookiee Crossbow on
the ground. He scrambles over to it.

He grabs it, lifts it, and... isn't strong enough to draw it. He stirrups his foot onto the front of the crossbow for added leverage. He strains as he tries to draw it. No dice.

MANDO

Come on.

The Stormtrooper rounds the corner and takes aim. Mando chucks the crossbow at him. It knocks him off balance. Then Mando aims his wrist at the trooper. He SHOOTS his grappling hook, and...

... the wire spills out of his wrist like a wet noodle. The motor SPARKS again. It's completely burned out.

Mando and the trooper both look at it, surprised. Then the trooper aims his blaster rifle at Mando again.

STORMTROOPER #1

Is that all you've got?

Mando, still aiming his wrist at the Trooper, FIRES a blast of his flamethrower. The Trooper recoils. Mando rushes forward and tackles him. The blaster rifle flies out of his hands.

As they wrestle on the ground, they both clock the blaster rifle nearby. Mando dashes for it. The Trooper grabs the loose grappling hook wire and YANKS Mando back to the ground.

The Trooper stands and pulls a BLASTER PISTOL from his holster. Mando gets to his knees. The trooper FIRES.

PEW PING! PEW PING!

The weaker blaster pistol shots ricochet harmlessly off of Mando's Beskar Steel armor.

MANDO

You need something with a little more punch.

Mando grabs the blaster rifle and SHOOTS. PEW! CRUNCH! The trooper is blown backward, dead.

Mando sheers the grappling hook wire with a SHOT from his blaster rifle. The wire falls free from his wrist.

PEW PEW! Blaster shots hit a wooden dome near Mando. The wood catches. The dome erupts in flame. Mando runs toward it.

As he nears it, he can see a small shape inside...

MANDO

Grogu!

As he says it, the burning roof of the dome collapses! What remains is a tattered pile of burning, smoking wood.

A tense beat. Then, impossibly, the center of the wood pile swells. A moment later it EXPLODES in a shower of splinters. The force of the blast extinguishes the flames.

Mando shields his eyes. When he looks back, Grogu stands at the epicenter of the blast. He seems pleased with himself. He reaches out for Mando. Mando runs and scoops him up.

MANDO

We've gotta get out of here.

Grogu cries in protest. He points toward something. Mando looks that direction. In the distance he sees...

... Muftar and Krulltatha fighting for their lives.

Muftar is a sharpshooter - she SHOOTs a Stormtrooper from 30 yards with her crossbow blaster.

Krulltatha is a brawler. He uses his war club to SMASH a couple Stormtroopers entering the camp.

MANDO

We have to save ourselves.

ZAP! Muftar is hit with a taser bolt. She goes down.

ZAP! Krulltatha is hit with a taser bolt. But he doesn't go down. He fights against the electric shocks.

Grogu cries and reaches out to them.

MANDO

(sighing)

This is the way.

ZAP ZAP! Krulltatha gets hit two more times. Stormtroopers with SHOCK WANDS close in on him. Krulltatha swings his arms wildly. But it's no use - the Troopers prod him into submission.

STORMTROOPER #2

Get these two loaded up with the rest of them.

ANGLE ON: A hovering PADDYWAGON vehicle. Several Wookiees are piled inside it.

Mando sets Grogu down, gets a running start, and uses a quick BURST of his jetpack to launch himself into the air.

Like a diving hawk, Mando CRUNCHES down onto an unsuspecting Stormtrooper. He rips the shock wand out of his hands.

Now armed with a blaster rifle and a shock wand, Mando SHOTS one Stormtrooper and JOLTS another full of electricity.

STORMTROOPER #2

Fall back! We got enough of 'em.

The Troopers turn and flee. The Paddywagon zooms off. Several Troopers hop on SPEEDER BIKES and WHOOSH away.

Mando eases down. He turns to survey the damage to the camp.

ANGLE ON: An empty cage at the base of a tree. Red is gone.

Krulltatha struggles to his knees. Large taser bolts stick out of his back. Mando gingerly approaches.

MANDO

I know you can't understand me,
but I can help. I'm going to get
those bolts out, OK?

Krulltatha growls, but Mando continues forward, arms out. Mando puts one hand on Krulltatha's shoulder and uses the other to RIP the bolt out of his back. Krulltatha ROARS in pain. Mando pauses, but Krulltatha relaxes. Mando extracts the rest.

Krulltatha stands to his full, towering height. He throws his head back and gives a mighty ROAR. Then he kneels. He's now eye-to-eye with Mando. Krulltatha stares long and hard at him. Then he bows his head.

MANDO

(unsure)
You're welcome.

The remaining Wookiees shamble in for a better look. They join Krulltatha by kneeling and bowing their heads.

MANDO

No need for that.

The Wookiees stay put. Mando sees Grogu nearby and starts to walk toward him. At the sound of Mando leaving, Krulltatha leaps to his feet and follows directly behind him.

Mando stops. Krulltatha stops. Mando starts walking again. Krulltatha starts walking again. Mando stops and sighs.

MANDO

You don't owe me anything. I
didn't save your life. There's no
life debt between us. You're free.

Mando tries a few gestures to illustrate his point, but he's not exactly gifted in the art of pantomime. It's useless.

MANDO

If you want to help then you can
find a place for us to sleep.
Sleep, you know--
(miming sleep)
-- like this?

Krulltatha roars to his fellow Wookiees. They leap to action.

The Wookiees take the wooden domes and flip them over. Suddenly the domes look very similar to bird nests. That's because they are nests - Wookiee nests.

The Wookiees wrap ropes around the bases of the nests, attach the ropes to metal bolts, load the metal bolts onto their crossbow blasters, and FIRE the ropes over low tree branches.

Then they heave the ropes until the Wookiee nests hang from the branches. They secure the bolts in the earth.

In a matter of moments, all but two nests hang from the trees. One is a tiny nest for Groggu. The other is intended for Mando.

Muftar picks up Groggu, places him in his nest, and then pulls it up into the air. Then she climbs up to her own nest.

That leaves Mando and Krulltatha on the ground. Krulltatha reaches for Mando as if to pick him up. Mando backs away.

MANDO

I've done enough hanging for one
day. Think I'll stay right here.

Krulltatha shakes his head. Treating him like Groggu, Krulltatha grabs Mando, picks him up, and sets him down in the nest. Mando tries to climb out, but Krulltatha pushes him back down.

MANDO

Stop. I don't need your help.

Krulltatha pushes Mando back down. Mando extends his arm and sends a warning BLAST of his flamethrower past Krulltatha. Krulltatha growls in protest. But he gets the message. He climbs up into his own nest.

EXT. WOOKIEE CAMP - MIDNIGHT

Mando sleeps in his nest, which rests firmly on the ground.

RUSTLE RUSTLE

The tip of a conical beak POKES through the dirt 20 feet from Mando's nest. Long, slitted nostrils sniff the air. Then the beak quickly retracts.

The beak pokes through the dirt again. It's now much closer to Mando's nest. Another sniff. Then it's gone.

A silent beat.

Then a creature BURSTS through the ground. It's as long and slinky as a Chinese dragon. It has sleek otter-like fur and as many legs as a centipede. At the end of each long, pitched leg is a dexterous talon with sharp claws. This is a SUBSKARP.

The Subskarp scuttles toward Mando's nest, stopping occasionally to sniff. It brushes against a wood pile. LOGS CLATTER as they roll off the top of the pile.

Mando wakes. He grabs the blaster rifle and peeks over the edge of his nest. The Subskarp dives into the dirt. Its barbed tail disappears just as Mando looks its direction.

Mando surveys the camp. He flips a switch on his helmet.

MANDO'S POV: Infrared vision. No heat signatures. All blue.

BACK TO SCENE

Just as Mando relaxes, the Subskarp ERUPTS out of the dirt. The Subskarp's head SLAMS the side of the nest. The nest FLIPS. Mando topples with it. The blaster rifle sails away.

Mando hits the dirt. The nest flips back to its original dome form, safely covering Mando in the process.

Mando watches as the Subskarp circles the dome. It swipes at the dome with its barbed tail. It stabs at it with its sharp beak. Mando eyes the entryway opening. It's the only way in or out. He's about to make a break for it when...

...the Subskarp disappears. Everything is deathly quiet. Mando hesitates. Then he RUSHES for the exit. *Not fast enough.*

The Subskarp BURSTS through the dirt under Mando's feet. Mando dives to the side. The Subskarp's head STABS through the roof of the dome and gets stuck! It writhes and squirms, panicked.

Its chaotic writhing nearly swipes Mando off his feet as he runs for his blaster rifle. He reaches it and grabs it.

With a final thrash, the Subskarp FLINGS the nest off its head. The nest launches into the air... And Mando's right in its landing path. He runs clear as it SMASHES into the ground.

And in an instant the Subskarp is on him! It pins him to the dirt. It rears up with its sharp beak and STABS. Mando barely moves his head out of the way in time. It rears up again and--

WHAM! A black blur swings past and STRIKES the Subskarp. It SHRIEKS and twists in pain as it absorbs the blow.

The black blur swings back in. It's Krulltatha! He SMASHES its head with his war club. CRUNCH! The Subskarp collapses.

Krulltatha leaps off his rope and HITS the Subskarp one final time. The Subskarp twitches and curls into a ball as it dies.

Mando and Krulltatha share a look.

HARD CUT TO:

Mando sits in his nest as Krulltatha tugs it up into the air. Mando's nest stops beside Grogu's. Grogu peeks over the rim of his nest and waves at him.

MANDO
Not a word.

EXT. WOOKIEE CAMP - MORNING

The Wookiees sit in a circle eating chunks of roasted Subskarp.

Nearby, Mando slings the blaster rifle onto his back, kneels down, and picks up Grogu.

MANDO
They're safe for now. We need to
get back to our camp.

They head to the edge of the camp. Krulltatha clocks them. He jumps up and intercepts them. He growls.

MANDO
We're even. I saved your life. You
saved mine. There's no life debt
between us.

Krulltatha reluctantly steps aside and lets them pass.

EXT. DEEP FOREST - LATER

Mando tries to negotiate the tricky terrain. It's a mess of tangled roots, thick underbrush, and slimy muck.

Mando flips a switch on his visor and scans the horizon.

MANDO
Still a ways to go. How you
holding up?

Grogu smiles up at him. Mando takes a cautious step whe--

CRUNCH.

Mando whips around. Krulltatha, Muftar, Chikkich, and several other Wookiees appear out of the brush.

MANDO

No. We're not going back with you.
(pointing)
We're going this way. Back to our supplies.

Krulltatha growls and points with his long arm in the same direction as Mando.

MANDO

Yes. That way.

Krulltatha ROARS. The Wookiees rush past Mando, easily bounding and swinging over the rough terrain. They cover more ground in five seconds than Mando could in five minutes.

Muftar steps forward and reaches for Grogu. Mando hesitates, but hands Grogu over.

MANDO

Be careful with him.

Muftar cradles Grogu in one arm and swings off. Only Mando and Krulltatha remain.

MANDO

You're not carrying me like that.

Krulltatha kneels and offers up his back. Mando sighs. He climbs up and locks his arms around the Wookiee's neck.

EXT. MANDO'S CAMP - DAY

The Wookiees swing up to the hover-cart. Mando hops off of Krulltatha's back. He grabs the TRANSLATOR.

MANDO

(into the translator)
Thank you.

The translator growls out the message. The Wookiees look at one another, confused.

Mando holds up the translator and tries again.

MANDO

This is a translation device. It lets me speak in your language.
(sotto)
I hope.

The Wookiees ease up as they listen to the message, though Chikkich still gives the translator distrustful glances.

Any communication between Mando and the Wookiees will now pass through the translator.

MANDO

What is your name?

Mando uses encouraging gestures to try and get the Wookiees to respond. Krulltatha steps forward.

KRULLTATHA

I am the one they name Krulltatha.
Warmaker of the Ocaccho tribe.

MANDO

I am the one they name Mando. I--
(gesturing to Grogu)
-- we are of the Mandalorian
tribe.

Chikkich steps forward.

CHIKKICH

Lies! You are of the Skeleton
tribe!

MANDO

Skeleton tribe? No. I do not know
the Skeleton tribe.

CHIKKICH

They are like you. They wear their
bones to hide their flesh.

Mando pieces it together.

MANDO

We give them the name
Stormtroopers. They are our
enemies.

The Wookiees roar their approval.

KRULLTATHA

The club swings harder with two
hands. We welcome you to our
fight, Mando of the Mandalorian
tribe.

MANDO

I'm not here to fight. I'm looking
for a great warrior named Tarfful.

The Wookiees eye each other, dejected.

MUFTAR

He was taken by the Skeleton tribe
when they raided our village.

MANDO

Where did they take him?

KRULLTATHA

To the metal fortress. With the
others. That is where we are
headed. To free our people.

MANDO

Is Tarfful healthy?
(off their confusion)
Is he strong?

The Wookiees roar angrily.

KRULLTATHA

He is Wookiee! We are all strong.

MANDO

I didn't mean to offend you. What
I want to know is if he looks more
like you, Krulltatha. Or if he
looks more like--
(pointing at Chikkich)
-- the shaman.

CHIKKICH

I am the one known as Chikkich,
the Soothspirit of the Ocaccho
tribe.

(beat)

The one known as Tarfful swings
the club no more. He is a gray-
fur, a respected elder.

Mando tenses.

MANDO

We must hurry. If he can't work,
the Skeleton tribe will kill him.

(beat)

I will fight with you.

The Wookiees roar their approval.

EXT. FOREST'S EDGE - SUNSET

SNIPER SCOPE POV: We see the prison camp. The scope zeroes in on a guard tower. A Stormtrooper stands beside a large AUTOMATIC TURRET.

MANDO (V.O.)

There aren't many guards, but the defenses are strong.

We PAN left along a tall perimeter fence. We stop on another guard tower that has its own Stormtrooper and automatic turret.

MANDO (V.O.)

Automatic turrets in each tower.
Reinforced perimeter.

Beyond the guard tower there are a few metal structures, an empty landing pad, several Stormtroopers, and a HOLDING PEN.

MANDO (V.O.)

They've got the prisoners in an electric holding pen.

Wookiees huddle inside the holding pen. The pen is enclosed on all sides by blue, electric shields.

MANDO (V.O.)

But I don't see the generator.
Must be underground.

BACK TO SCENE

Mando lowers the sniper rifle. He, Grogu, and all of the Wookiees are perched on thick tree branches.

MANDO

And if the generator's underground there could be more Stormtroopers down there.

KRULLTATHA

They are weak! We will tear down their walls and crush their bones.

MANDO

We won't make it past those turrets. Except...

Mando raises the sniper rifle and looks through the scope.

MANDO (CONT'D)

They only have towers on this side of the wall.

(MORE)

MANDO (CONT'D)

The far side is unguarded. We could approach from there.

MUFTAR

It will be difficult. That side is a cliff. The ocean is below.

MANDO

Can you climb it?

KRULLTATHA

We are Wookiee! We can climb anything.

MANDO

Good. We'll need at least two of you to climb it.

(beat, lifting a grenade)

And then you're going to need to make a lot of noise.

EXT. PRISON CAMP - CLIFF - NIGHT

Waves crash against the jagged rocks at the base of the cliff.

We sweep up the face of the rock and pass right by two climbing Wookiees. We continue up over the top of the cliff, over the perimeter fence, and finally rest on the...

EXT. PRISON CAMP - HOLDING PEN - CONTINUOUS

Wookiees huddle within the confines of the electric holding pen. The blue shield flickers dangerously. A BROWN WOOKIEE roars and paces along the fence. A GUARD with a red stripe on his white helmet approaches.

GUARD

Quiet down.

The brown Wookiee roars even louder.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Why don't you come try to get me?

The brown Wookiee throws himself at the guard. Shockwaves of electricity light him up as he hits the fence. His fur smokes. He crumples into the mud. He MOANS in pain.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Dumb animals.

A GRAY-FURRED WOOKIEE emerges from the shadows. He hobbles toward the guard, stops right at the fence and, with great effort, stands to his full height. He stares down the guard.

This is TARFFUL.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Careful, old timer. Don't want to
end up like your friend, do ya?

Tarfful summons all his energy and lets loose a rib-rattling
ROAR. As if in answer to his rage...

... BOOM! A fireball lights up the dark camp.

SIRENS BLARE. A line of Stormtroopers rush out of an
underground bunker.

The Stormtroopers in the guard towers rotate their automatic
turrets to face the cliff-side wall.

In the eastern guard tower, the Stormtrooper at the automatic
turret scans the dark horizon for any sign of movement.

CLANK! Something pierces the roof of the guard tower. He looks
up and sees a METAL BOLT sticking through the roof. And
attached to the rope is a taut rope. A zipline.

The Stormtrooper puts the pieces together right as Krulltatha
ZIPS down the line and KICKS him off the tower.

Krulltatha looks across to the other tower. He sees Muftar zip
in and knock her own Stormtrooper over the railing. They nod at
one another. *Towers secured.*

More Wookiees zip into the towers. One mans the automatic
turret as Krullatatha leads the rest down to the ground.

In the western tower, Muftar pulls Mando's sniper rifle off her
back. Another Wookiee posts up on the automatic turret.

The automatic turrets WHIRR to life as the Wookiees light up
the night sky with AUTOMATIC FIRE.

The chaos allows Mando to drop out of the sky unnoticed. He
uses a quick burst of his jet pack to soften his landing. He
draws his blaster pistol and slips into the...

INT. PRISON CAMP - BUNKER - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Mando leans around a corner. Clear. He hurries down the
utilitarian corridor and passes an open door. Something catches
his eye. He stops. Looks inside. It's a barracks: bunkbeds,
lockers, card tables. Lived in. Homey.

Something about it draws a deep memory out of him...

CROSS DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MANDALORIAN COMPOUND - BARRACKS [FLASHBACK]

The barracks dissolves and morphs into a similar space populated by "off duty" MANDALORIANS. Relaxing. Chatting.

Young Mando stares at them from the doorway. One of the Mandalorians sees him and gives him a nod.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. PRISON CAMP - SAME TIME

Muftar picks off a Stormtrooper with a perfect shot. She gives Mando's sniper rifle an approving look.

Krulltatha uses his war club to SMASH every Stormtrooper foolish enough to get in his way.

The Wookiees have the upper hand.

INT. PRISON CAMP - BUNKER - ARMORY - MOMENTS LATER

Mando checks another room. It's an armory with blasters, grenades, shock wands, taser rifles, and armor.

A STORMTROOPER HELMET rests on a table, front and center.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. MANDALORIAN COMPOUND - DISPLAY ROOM [FLASHBACK]

A bronze MANDALORIAN HELMET gleams atop a stone podium at the center of a large, sand-strewn chamber. A shaft of sunlight illuminates the helmet. More helmets line the chamber's arched walls. The space has the hallowed reverence of a mausoleum.

Young Mando creeps toward the podium. He glances back at the entryway. All clear. He continues forward.

He stops at the podium and gawks at the helmet. Then, with one final furtive glance, he reaches forward and lifts it up. He stares into its hollow eyes.

ARMORER (O.S.)

It is our obedience to craft,
tradition, and honor that has
allowed us to persist over the
generations.

Young Mando wheels around, still clutching the helmet. The ARMORER, a female Mandalorian with the austerity of a Viking Goddess, strides toward him.

ARMORER (CONT'D)

What do you observe?

YOUNG MANDO

It's heavy.

The Armorer reaches forward and takes the helmet from him. She replaces it on the podium.

MANDALORIAN

Someday you'll be strong enough to wear it.

(beat)

But first you must learn obedience. This is the way.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. PRISON CAMP - BUNKER - ARMORY - SAME TIME

Mando walks past the Stormtrooper helmet, grabs a couple of grenades, and heads back out into the corridor.

EXT. FOREST'S EDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Grogu and Chikkich watch the battle from their safe perch.

VRRRRRR-WHOOSH!

A TROOP CARRIER SHIP (aka Carrier), sweeps over them. The gusts from the Carrier's engines make Grogu's ears flap.

EXT. PRISON CAMP - MOMENTS LATER

The Carrier settles into a hover over the camp, causing a whirlwind below. The Wookiees' fur whips wildly about them.

The bulky doors of the Carrier lift open. A GUNNER sits at a mounted turret. He aims at Muftar's guard tower. He FIRES!

The heavy blasts TEAR through the tower. Muftar tries to dive over the railing, but it's too late. The tower - and Muftar with it - collapses into a fiery tangle of steel.

EXT. FOREST'S EDGE - SAME TIME

Grogu and Chikkich watch the tower collapse. Grogu's mouth drops open. Chikkich hangs his head.

Grogu steps forward and raises his hand toward the Carrier. Chikkich lifts his head and watches with curiosity.

EXT. PRISON CAMP - SAME TIME

Krulltatha ROARS. The Gunner swings his aim toward him. He dives into cover as GUNFIRE lights up his position.

The Wookiee manning the eastern tower turret sets his sights on the Carrier. He FIRES. A hail of lasers strike its hull, but the reinforced steel absorbs every hit. It's unharmed.

The Gunner takes aim at the eastern tower. He FIRES and levels the structure.

The door on the opposite side of the Carrier opens. Two ropes spill out. Stormtroopers rappel down to join the fight.

The Stormtroopers, now outnumbering the Wookiees, press in from all sides. The Wookiees don't stand a chance.

INT. PRISON CAMP - BUNKER - CORRIDOR - SAME TIME

Mando reaches the generator room. But there's an electric shield across the entryway. Damn.

RED (O.S.)
Looks like you might need a little help with that.

Red, still in his scarred armor, stands with a blaster rifle pointed at Mando. Mando slowly turns to face him.

RED
Unless you have some other hidden gadget that will help you through.

MANDO
Lower the shield, Red. You know what you're doing is wrong. You can still walk away from all this.

RED
Why would I do that? I'm in line for a major promotion once I deliver the famous Mandalorian to Moff Gideon.
(beat)
You really thought you could overpower us and free the Wookiees? All you've done is broken into your own prison.

EXT. PRISON CAMP - HOLDING PEN - SAME TIME

Wookiees cower in the corner of the pen. Young Wookiees hide behind their parents. Tarfful watches the battle, helpless.

EXT. PRISON CAMP - MOMENTS LATER

The Wookiees on the ground fight for their lives. The Stormtroopers press in.

A STORMTROOPER CAPTAIN turns to his men.

STORMTROOPER CAPTAIN
We want them alive. Switch to
tasers.

Stormtroopers with taser rifles move to the front of the ranks.
They fire. ZAP ZAP ZAP!

EXT. FOREST'S EDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Grogu concentrates. His tiny hand shakes. His brow wrinkles.

EXT. PRISON CAMP - SAME TIME

KA-CHUNK. One of the Carrier's engines gutters out. The ship
careens sideways. The violent, unexpected motion sends the
Gunner toppling out of the open door.

CRUNCH. The Gunner lands right in front of the advancing
Stormtroopers. The Stormtrooper Captain looks up and sees...

... the Carrier tailspinning. It's going down fast - and it's
going down right on top of them!

STORMTROOPER CAPTAIN
Get clear! It's--

Too late. The carrier CRASHES into the Stormtroopers.

INT. PRISON CAMP - BUNKER - CORRIDOR - SAME TIME

KABOOM! The lights flicker and the corridor shakes as the ship
slams into the ground overhead.

Red stumbles. Mando lunges forward, kicks the rifle out of
Red's hands, and throws him against the wall.

MANDO
Lower the shield.

RED
So you can help your Wookiee
friends kill us?

Mando slams Red against the wall again.

MANDO
It doesn't have to go this way.
Lower the shield.

RED
You need the code. And I'm not
giving it to you.

Mando drags Red to the electric shield.

MANDO
 Either lower the shield or get
 thrown into it. Your choice.

RED
 You know I don't have a choice.

Mando sighs. Then he pushes Red into the shield. Volts of electricity shoot across his body. Red SCREAMS in pain.

MEMORY FLASH

Young Mando, arms spread, is suspended from the ceiling with ropes. He screams as he's JOLTED with electricity.

The Armorer, arms folded, watches dispassionately.

ARMORER
 (echoing, dreamy)
 You must learn obedience. This is
 the way.

END MEMORY FLASH

EXT. PRISON CAMP - MOMENTS LATER

The remaining Stormtroopers battle it out against the remaining Wookiees. It's evenly matched. Krulltatha leads the way.

INT. PRISON CAMP - BUNKER - MOMENTS LATER

Red falls to his knees. His armor smokes. He coughs. He reaches up and rips his helmet off. He gulps in air. His nose bleeds.

We now see that Red is young - maybe 25. He has a shock of bright red hair. *His namesake.*

MANDO
 Red.
 (beat)
 What's the code?

Red doesn't answer. Mando grabs him and picks him up.

RED
 Please. Not again.
 (beat, gasping)
 Lower... shield.
 Authorization...1-3...7-4.

BEEP! The shield vanishes. Mando releases Red. Red collapses to the floor in a heap.

Mando enters the room and twists a lever on the generator. Green lights blink out as the lever sweeps past them.

EXT. PRISON CAMP - SAME TIME

The electric shield disappears. Tarfful hesitantly reaches his hand forward. No shocks. He ROARS his approval.

The Wookiees run out of the pen. The bigger Wookiees run toward the action, picking up makeshift weapons as they go.

Tarfful picks up a hefty piece of wood. He gives it a test swing. He looks satisfied. He lets out a mighty ROAR.

Tarfful walks behind one of the metal outbuildings. There, cowering behind some crates, is a Stormtrooper with a red stripe on his helmet - the Guard.

The Guard sees Tarfful.

GUARD

Stay back! Don't come any closer!

(beat)

I surrender, OK? I surrender!

Tarfful ignores his pleas. He towers over the guard, raises the club, and SMASHES the guard's helmet with all his force.

INT. PRISON CAMP - BUNKER - MOMENTS LATER

Mando turns to leave. But Red, leaning against the doorframe, blocks his way. He aims a small blaster pistol at Mando. His hand shakes with the effort.

Mando puts his hands up. He takes a step toward Red. They're only a few feet away from each other.

RED

Stop. I won't let it end like this. I won't die a traitor.

MANDO

You don't have to die at all.

RED

Ha! If I don't kill you then you'll kill me. Because that's what Mandalorians are. Killers.

MANDO

Mandalorians aren't killers. We're survivors.

(MORE)

MANDO (CONT'D)

(beat)

Put the blaster down and you will
be, too.

Red hesitates. He slightly lowers the blaster pistol. Mando takes another step forward. He's almost close enough to grab the blaster pistol out of Red's hands.

RED

For the Empire.

Red raises the blaster pistol. He pulls the trigger.

PEW! PING! CRUNCH!

A long beat.

Then Red staggers backward. He looks down at his chest.

ANGLE ON: A hole in Red's armor. Its singed edges glow.

The blaster shot ricocheted off Mando's Beskar Steel armor.

RED

(dazed, faraway)

Huh. Wish I had your armor.

Red collapses. He's dead before he hits the ground.

EXT. PRISON CAMP - MOMENTS LATER

The Wookiees surround the remaining Stormtroopers. The Stormtroopers set their guns down and get on their knees in surrender. The Wookiees raise their war clubs and CHEER.

Tarfful beats his chest and ROARS.

WIPE TO:

EXT. OCACCHO VILLAGE - EARLY EVENING

A treetop village. Several huts are suspended like wind-chimes. Others are built into the tree trunks themselves. Walkways and bridges connect the multi-tiered, treetop settlement.

INT. OCACCHO VILLAGE - TARFFUL'S HUT - SAME TIME

Tarfful sits on a cluster of branches shaped into a chair. He lifts Grogu up to get a closer look with his milky eyes.

Mando observes the interaction from across the hut.

TARFFUL

Yoda.

MANDO

Yoda? Is that the name of his species?

TARFFUL

I do not know the name of its species. I only know the one we name Yoda. He was a great chief. A Jedi Master. At the time of the Great War I named him friend.

(beat)

Now I name him betrayer.

MANDO

What happened?

TARFFUL

The Jedi sent him to help us make war with the metal warriors. He promised freedom. He promised support. He promised victory.

(beat)

His promises were poison. He brought the Skeleton tribe. Then abandoned us. For generations the Skeleton tribe has enslaved us. Destroyed our way of life. They are responsible for the Scattering Of The Tribes.

Mando stares at Grogu, seeing him in a new light. Grogu innocently smiles at him.

MANDO

Grogu is not of the Jedi. He is of the Mandalorian tribe. Like me.

(beat, encouraged by
Tarfful's silence)

His kind live many years. Do you know if Yoda is still alive? Where he might be?

TARFFUL

I do not know. He came to us from the planet with no trees. No good comes from a planet like that. We should have known.

EXT. OCACCHO VILLAGE - NIGHT

The whole village gathers in front of several large funeral pyres. Tarfful, Krulltatha, Mando, and several other Wookiees hold torches.

Muftar rests peacefully in the first pyre. Tarfful places his torch at the base of the pyre. The pyre alights.

Mando approaches a pyre. Atop the pyre is Red, now wrapped in a simple brown cloak. His scratched helmet rests on his chest.

Mando places his torch at the base of the pyre. It catches.

The flames engulf Red. His helmet gleams in the dancing orange firelight. Then it crumples and melts.

Mando returns to the group. He stands between Krulltatha and Grogu. The difference in height is apparent and comical.

KRULLTATHA

You saved our people. I name you a warrior of the Ocaccho tribe.

MANDO

I'm honored.

(bowing)

We're more than even now. You may end your life debt to me.

Krulltatha heartily laughs.

KRULLTATHA

I have no life debt with you.

MANDO

Then why did you help me?

KRULLTATHA

The forest is big. You are small. You needed my protection.

MANDO

I think I proved I can handle myself.

KRULLTATHA

That is so. But the club swings harder with two hands.

Krulltatha puts a hefty paw on Mando's shoulder. Mando looks down at Grogu.

MANDO

This is the way.

Embers from the fire float up into the darkness of the trees. They almost start to look like...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE

... twinkling stars. Mando's spaceship soars past them.

INT. MANDO'S SPACESHIP - SAME TIME

Mando sits in his pilot chair. Grogu stands on his lap. Mando reaches for the hyperdrive thrust lever. He pauses.

MANDO

You want to do the honors?

Grogu looks up at Mando, wide-eyed. Mando picks him up and sets him next to the thrust lever.

Grogu reaches forward and puts his tiny hand on it. Grogu is too weak to push it forward. He strains.

Mando places his hand next to Grogu's. They push together.

EXT. SPACE - SAME TIME

Mando's ship jumps into hyperspace, leaving only a field of stars in its wake. And we...

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE