

Book I, Part III  
**BLACK SQUADRON**

**Thirty years have passed since the defeat of the Empire, but a new threat has arrived in the form of the oppressive First Order. Standing in opposition to their expansion is the Resistance.**

**Poe Dameron and his team of pilots – Black Squadron – have been tasked with finding Lor San Tekka, an explorer who may know Luke Skywalker’s location. Traveling to the explorer’s last known whereabouts, they find a planet whose inhabitants worship and care for an egg they believe nurtures their unborn savior.**

**But all is not well – a tracking device secretly placed on Poe’s X-wing enables Agent Terex, a vicious First Order intelligence officer, to follow Black Squadron. Terex has trapped Poe and BB-8 in a cavern beneath the surface, while a fleet of TIEs engage the rest of Black Squadron in a deadly aerial battle....**

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WHAT DO YOU WANT, TEREX?

IT'S *AGENT* TEREX, IF YOU PLEASE. TITLES MATTER.

I AM A RANKING OFFICER IN THE FIRST ORDER SECURITY BUREAU. MY JOB, IN SHORT, IS TO KNOW THINGS.

## Below. The Cave Of The Crèche.



YOU, OF COURSE, ARE POE DAMERON, PILOT FOR THE NEW REPUBLIC NAVY, AND MORE RECENTLY FOR LEIA ORGANA'S SILLY RESISTANCE.

BUT THAT'S YOUR *NAME*, NOT A *TITLE*.



YOUR TITLE SHOULD BE *THIEF*. BANDIT. CROOK. *SCOUNDREL*.

YOU STOLE FIRST ORDER PROPERTY--DATA WE BOUGHT AND PAID FOR-- AND I AM HERE TO GET IT BACK. THAT'S WHAT I WANT.



WE ALL WANT THINGS, PAL.

BUT UNTIL YOU TELL YOUR TIES TO CALL OFF THEIR ATTACK ON MY SQUADRON, AND EASE UP WITH THE *FLAMETHROWERS* ON THAT EGG, WE HAVE *NOTHING* TO TALK ABOUT.



YOU SHOULD BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT *YOURSELF*, POE.

AFTER ALL, YOUR COLLEAGUES ARE FLYING *STARFIGHTERS*...

"...I'M SURE  
THEY'RE JUST  
FINE."

EVASIVE  
ACTION!

KEEP YOUR  
S-FOILS CLOSED,  
OR WE'LL NEVER  
OUT-FLY THESE  
THINGS.

WHERE  
DID THEY ALL  
COME FROM,  
SNAP?

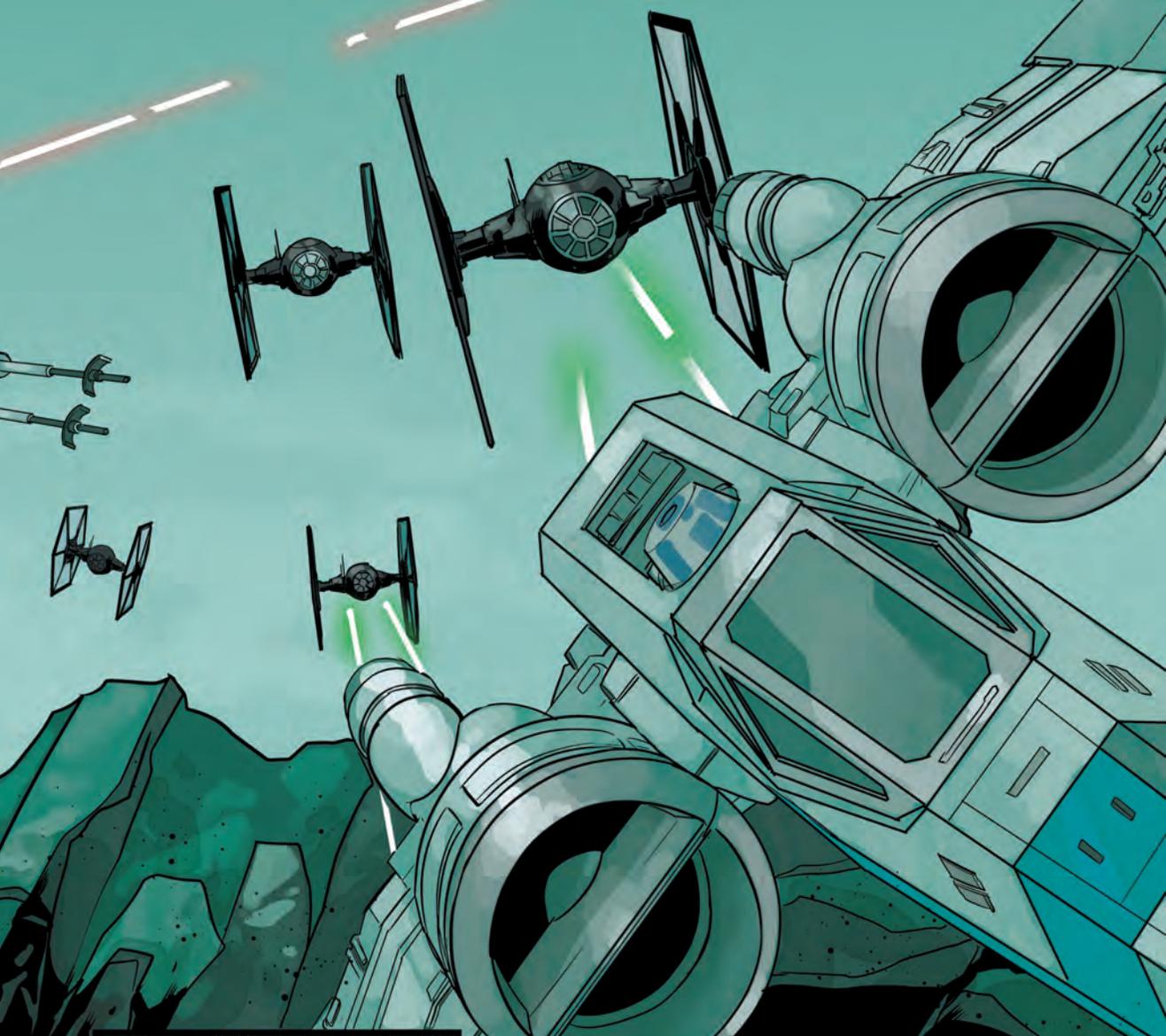
Above.  
Black Squadron.

THE FIRST  
ORDER MUST  
HAVE A SHIP IN ORBIT.  
GUESS THEY DIDN'T LIKE  
US BLOWING UP  
THEIR LANDING  
PLATFORM.

IT DOESN'T  
MATTER WHY  
THEY'RE HERE--WE  
HAVE TO GET OUT OF  
THEIR LINE OF FIRE.  
THEY'VE GOT US  
FIVE TO ONE!

AGREED, JESS--  
WE WON'T WIN THIS  
FIGHT HEAD-TO-HEAD. WE  
NEED TO BUY TIME FOR POE.  
MAYBE HE CAN FIGURE OUT  
SOMETHING DOWN IN  
THE CAVERN.





OKAY. DOWN INTO THE CANYONS. SPLIT UP. TRY TO STAY AHEAD OF THEM. IF YOU CAN TAKE ONE OUT, DO IT. MAYBE WE CAN EVEN THE ODDS A LITTLE.

DO YOU THINK THAT WILL ACTUALLY WORK, SNAP?



I DON'T KNOW. BUT IT'S ALL I'VE GOT.

NOW, YOU ARE CLEARLY A CRIMINAL--I COULD ARREST YOU AND BRING YOU UP ON CHARGES IN EITHER A NEW REPUBLIC COURT OR A FIRST ORDER TRIBUNAL.

BUT THAT WOULD TAKE SO LONG, AND I'M NOT THE MOST PATIENT MAN. IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS, I PREFER MORE DIRECT SOLUTIONS.

I TURN UP THE HEAT, IF YOU W--

KRRACK!

HMM.

HUH. HOW ABOUT THAT. YOU ACTUALLY CAN STOP TALKING.

UH... SIR... SHOULD WE--

THE SAVIOR UNBORN! IT COMES AT LAST!

OUR LONG VIGIL IS ENDED-- WE WILL BE REDEEMED!

THRODDOM!