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THE AWAKENING

Part IV

The Resistance has barely escaped total destruction at the hands of the evil First Order, their survival ensured by the ultimate sacrifice made by the legendary Luke Skywalker and many other brave heroes.

Now, the remnants of General Leia Organa's band of rebels, including famed pilot Poe Dameron, flee through hyperspace aboard the Millennium Falcon, mourning their losses and seeking refuge.

But Poe has finally received a transmission from his friends in Black Squadron. A message that may not bode well for the future of the Resistance....

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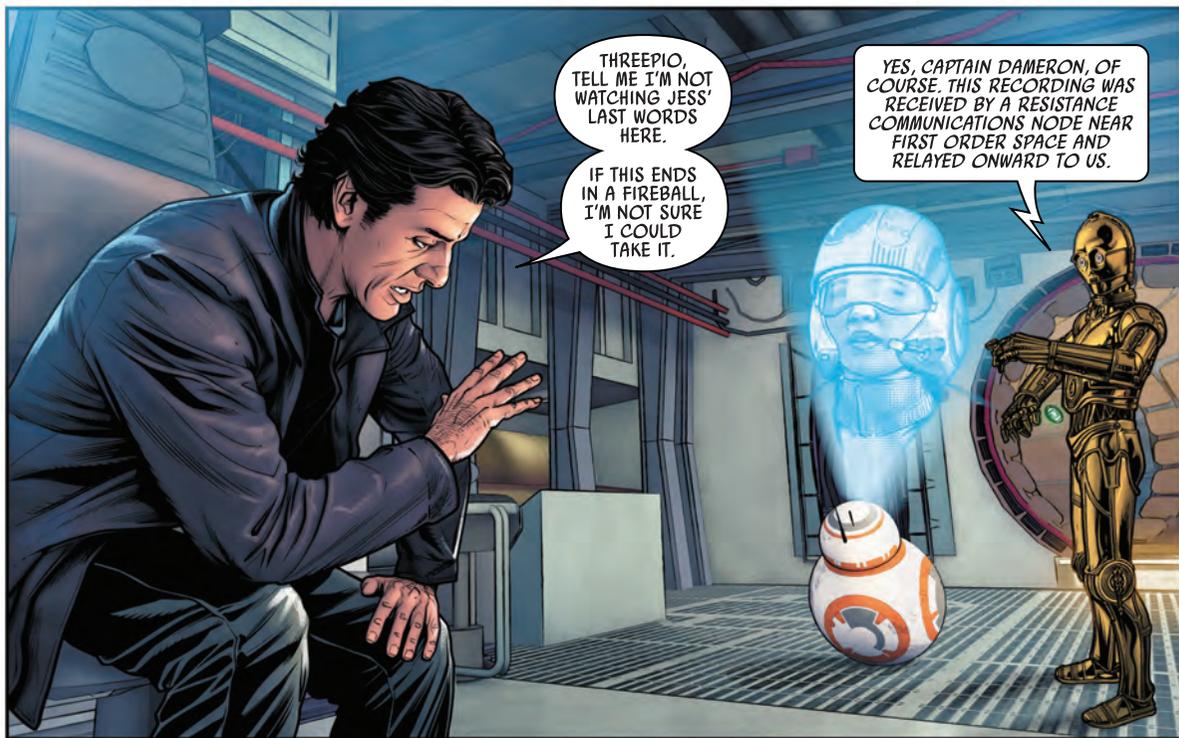


THIS IS JESSIKA PAVA OF THE RESISTANCE BLACK SQUADRON, CURRENT PILOT DESIGNATION BLACK THREE.

I'M FLYING AN INCOM-FREITEK T-70, WITH ASTROMECH SUPPORT FROM UNIT 66-66, A.K.A. SIXER.

SIXER IS LESS THAN THRILLED ABOUT THAT, BUT THERE'S NO WAY I'M FLYING THIS MISSION WITHOUT AN ONBOARD ASTROMECH. IT'S JUST TOO IMPORTANT. WE--

PAUSE PLAYBACK, BEEBEE.



THREEPIO, TELL ME I'M NOT WATCHING JESS' LAST WORDS HERE.

IF THIS ENDS IN A FIREBALL, I'M NOT SURE I COULD TAKE IT.

YES, CAPTAIN DAMERON, OF COURSE. THIS RECORDING WAS RECEIVED BY A RESISTANCE COMMUNICATIONS NODE NEAR FIRST ORDER SPACE AND RELAYED ONWARD TO US.



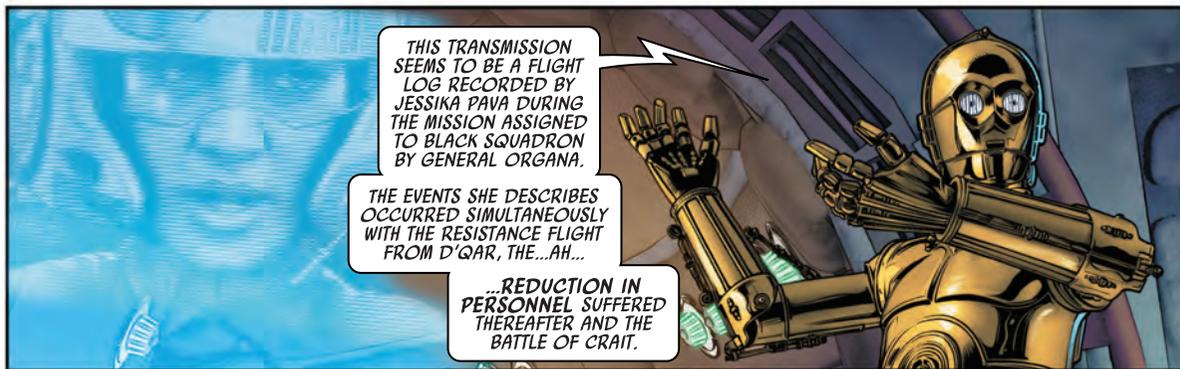
THE MESSAGE IS... INCOMPLETE, AND THE RELAY NODE HAS SINCE CEASED TO OPERATE.

WE BELIEVE THE FIRST ORDER DETECTED OUR COMSAT AND DESTROYED IT.



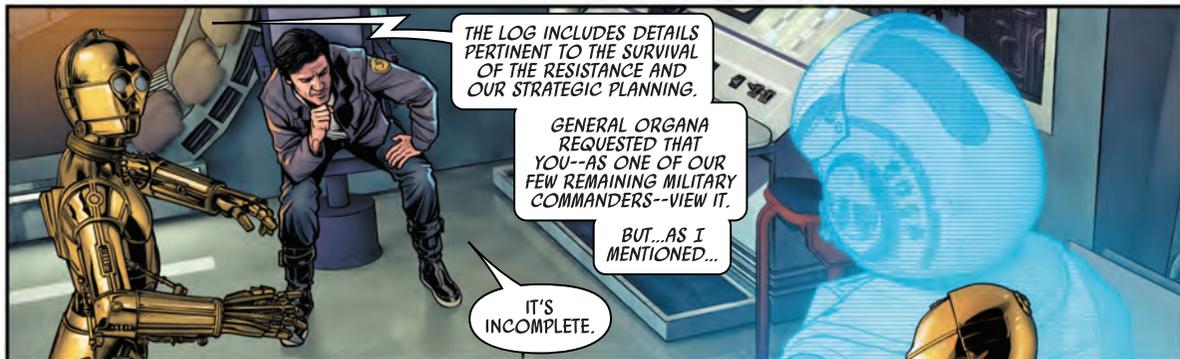
SO WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? COME ON, THREEPIO--ENOUGH WITH THE PROTOCOL.

JUST LAY IT OUT. GOOD NEWS OR BAD-- I NEED TO HEAR IT.



THIS TRANSMISSION SEEMS TO BE A FLIGHT LOG RECORDED BY JESSIKA PAVA DURING THE MISSION ASSIGNED TO BLACK SQUADRON BY GENERAL ORGANA.

THE EVENTS SHE DESCRIBES OCCURRED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE RESISTANCE FLIGHT FROM D'GAR, THE...AH...
...REDUCTION IN PERSONNEL SUFFERED THEREAFTER AND THE BATTLE OF CRAIT.



THE LOG INCLUDES DETAILS PERTINENT TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE RESISTANCE AND OUR STRATEGIC PLANNING.

GENERAL ORGANA REQUESTED THAT YOU--AS ONE OF OUR FEW REMAINING MILITARY COMMANDERS--VIEW IT.

BUT...AS I MENTIONED...

IT'S INCOMPLETE.



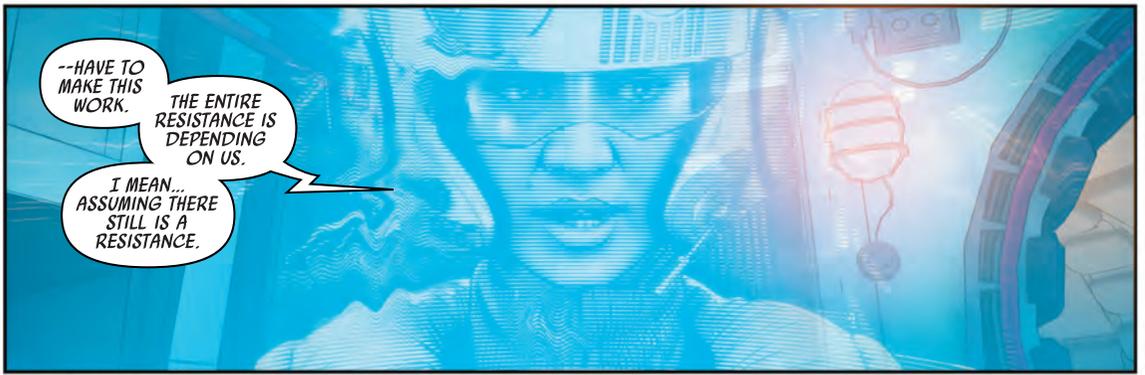
SO I'M GONNA WATCH THIS, AND IT'S GONNA CUT OFF, AND I'LL HAVE NO IDEA WHETHER SOME OF MY CLOSEST FRIENDS IN THE GALAXY ARE ALIVE OR DEAD.

YES, SIR. I'M AFRAID SO.



PLAY IT, PAL.

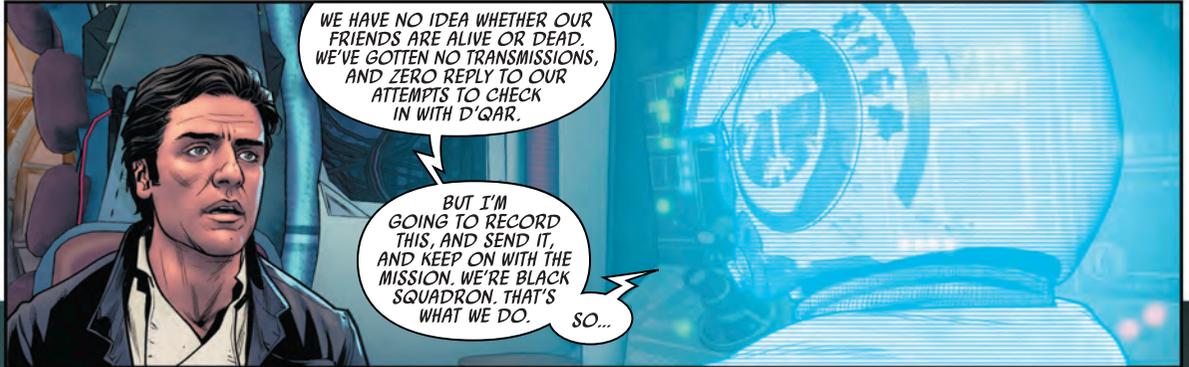
BWEEEEEOOO.



--HAVE TO MAKE THIS WORK.

THE ENTIRE RESISTANCE IS DEPENDING ON US.

I MEAN... ASSUMING THERE STILL IS A RESISTANCE.



WE HAVE NO IDEA WHETHER OUR FRIENDS ARE ALIVE OR DEAD. WE'VE GOTTEN NO TRANSMISSIONS, AND ZERO REPLY TO OUR ATTEMPTS TO CHECK IN WITH D'QAR.

BUT I'M GOING TO RECORD THIS, AND SEND IT, AND KEEP ON WITH THE MISSION. WE'RE BLACK SQUADRON. THAT'S WHAT WE DO.

SO...

"...THE MISSION.

"I WAS PART OF THE STRIKE TEAM THAT TOOK IT DOWN, AND I'LL BE HONEST--WE WERE ALL A LITTLE SHOCKED WE PULLED IT OFF.

"WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO CELEBRATE, THOUGH. THE FIRST ORDER SENT A BATTLE GROUP TO RETALIATE.

"THE RESISTANCE HAD JUST SUCCEEDED IN DESTROYING THE FIRST ORDER'S SUPERWEAPON, STARKILLER BASE.

"TWELVE X-WINGS AGAINST A PLANET... I MEAN...YEAH.

"THE RESISTANCE WAS EVACUATING. WE THOUGHT WE'D BE ASSIGNED TO PROTECT THE FLEET, BUT GENERAL ORGANA GAVE US ANOTHER MISSION.



"SHE SENT US...

"...TO FIND HELP.



"WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GATHER ALLIES, TO BRING NEW SYSTEMS INTO THE RESISTANCE.

"WE THOUGHT IT'D BE EASY, NOW THE FIRST ORDER HAD SHOWN ITS COLORS BY DESTROYING THE HOSNIAN SYSTEM.

"IT WAS NOT.

"IT NEVER IS.



"WE HAD SNAP WEXLEY AT BLACK LEADER...

THIS DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT--FLYING AWAY, SAFE AND SOUND, WHEN THE ENTIRE RESISTANCE IS ABOUT TO RUN FOR THEIR LIVES.



"...HIS WIFE KARÉ KUN AT BLACK TWO.

IT'S ORDERS, SNAP. STRAIGHT FROM LEIA ORGANA. THIS IS IMPORTANT.

I KNOW THAT, BABE. DOESN'T MEAN IT FEELS GOOD.



"ME AT BLACK THREE...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE FLEET, SNAP. THEY'RE GETTING OUT IN PLENTY OF TIME, AND THEY'VE GOT THE RADDUS AND INCREDIBLE COMMANDERS.

ORGANA, HOLDO, ACKBAR, STATURA. WE'LL SEE THEM AT THE RENDEZVOUS SOON ENOUGH. WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?



"...AND THEN SURALINDA JAVOS AT BLACK FOUR.

YOU DID NOT JUST SAY THAT, JESS.

THE BAD-LUCK SPIRITS JUST PERKED UP THEIR EARS.

BLEH. WE'VE GOT GOOD SHIPS AND GOOD PEOPLE. WHAT MORE DO WE NEED?

"I WASN'T SO SURE ABOUT HER."



SHE WAS PRETTY NEW TO THE TEAM. EX-NAVY. EVEN THOUGH WE'D SEEN SOME ACTION TOGETHER, AND POE VOUCHER FOR HER...

...SHE JUST SEEMED A LITTLE FLEXIBLE, YOU KNOW? LIKE THE ONLY TEAM SHE REALLY CARED ABOUT WAS TEAM SURA.

BUT I'LL ADMIT, IT WAS NICE TO HAVE AN A-WING BACK IN THE SQUADRON.

