

THE MANDALORIAN
CHAPTER 6.5: THE NECKLACE

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Based on
The Mandalorian
Created by Jon Favreau

ACT ONE

INT. CASINO - SECURITY ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

THE YOUNG MANDALORIAN wears a silver beskar helmet. His other armour is a dark reddish-orange. The paint is chipped away with impacts of bullets or cuts of blades. He taps at the keyboard, scanning through footage.

Leaning against the doorway is YOUNG ALEENA THARAND. Her long red hair is decorated with braids and hair jewellery. She wears long teal robes wrapped around her body suggestively.

Aleena looks at the blaster in her hand with disdain.

ALEENA

Why do I have one of these again?
My knife works fine, you know.

The Mandalorian ignores her, searching through the footage.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

What is the point of a partnership
if all I get from you is silence
and grunts?

THE MANDALORIAN

I don't grunt.

ALEENA

Sure thing, cyar'ika.

Aleena looks out the window towards the top of the door when she hears BOOTS POUNDING AGAINST STONE and DISTANT YELLS. She takes the safety off her blaster and looks at the Mandalorian.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

It's showtime, Mando.

Aleena slams a fist against a keypad and the door to the security room slides open.

INT. RAZOR CREST - COCKPIT - DAY

THE MANDALORIAN jerks his steering controls abruptly from his seat. Behind him sits THE CHILD, gnawing on a unscrewed knob. The knob belongs to one of the controls. The Razor Crest SHAKES VIOLENTLY, and the Child's SOUNDS match the shakes.

The Razor Crest stabilizes after one last JOLT. The Child loses the knob and CRIES OUT. He BABBLES LOUDLY while the Mandalorian handles the ship's controls. The Child tries to get the Mandalorian's attention with one last LOUD SQUEAK.

THE MANDALORIAN

Are you dying?!

The Child makes a SAD NOISE. The Mandalorian GRUNTS in response, flipping a switch. Then he squeezes his controls tightly, beginning RAPID GUNFIRE.

EXT. SKIES ABOVE TAKODANA - DAY

THREE TIE FIGHTERS chase the RAZOR CREST, shooting green beams. The Razor Crest spins wildly to avoid damage. The Razor Crest dips down towards the settlement.

It spins back off, gunfire coming off rapidly, hitting one of the TIE fighters.

INT. RAZOR CREST - COCKPIT - DAY

The Child COOS happily upon seeing the TIE fighter gets hit, watching it tumble towards the settlement.

EXT. MAIN SETTLEMENT - DAY

Gunfire from the Razor Crest hits one of the TIE fighters. Burning shrapnel falls gracelessly, causing damage to a number of people and things. A HUMAN barter with A SPICE RUNNER angrily. A piece of shrapnel from the TIE fighter hits a nearby table.

The debris sticks into the spice runner's leg and he cries out in pain. The human laughs, happily snatching what he was bargaining for and runs off.

SPICE RUNNER

HEY! We weren't done!

The spice runner tries to run after the human. He takes a step and lets out a cry of pain, falling to his knees. His bag falls a distance from him and another HUMAN picks it up nonchalantly, carrying about her business.

INT. DRAKKAR'S TIE FIGHTER - DAY

CAPTAIN MIKAL DRAKKAR presses his thumbs against the buttons controlling his gunfire.

Though in the uniform of an Imperial officer, he looks disheveled. His sleeves are rolled up, showing a metal and glass screen embedded in the skin of his forearm.

One of the TIE fighters crashes on the settlement's edge, burning up from its wing.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR
Death will not keep you from this
mission, trooper!

STORMTROOPER 1 (O.S.)
(staticky comms)
Yes, sir!

INT. RAZOR CREST - COCKPIT - DAY

The Mandalorian exhales and then jerks the steering mechanism to the right. A second TIE fighter is coming at him with incessant gunfire.

The Razor Crest spins in a barrel roll, avoiding gunfire as the Child CHEERS excitedly. He CLAPS his hands as the Mandalorian evens out the ship.

The Mandalorian GRUNTS in disbelief at the Child as he shakes his head.

He pulls up on his steering mechanism, turning the ship back towards the TIE fighter's. Then the Mandalorian fires rapidly. The ship falls in flames.

THE MANDALORIAN
One more, kid.

The Child COOS in agreement.

INT. DRAKKAR'S TIE FIGHTER - DAY

Captain Drakkar GRUNTS angrily watching another of his men fall. He flies after the Razor Crest.

EXT. TRADE MARKET - DAY

The TRADE MARKET is set up with wooden stalls with patchwork-like fabric to act as awnings. Beings mill about, arguing over prices and attempting to barter with stall owners.

JAYDA, the jewellery stall owner, argues with the stall owner next to her in an alien language.

The RAZOR CREST flies overhead, taking out a portion of a wall with its wing. The fragmented wood sprays out across the market.

Jayda and other stall owners watch the damage occur. In the distraction, A TWI'LEK THIEF nicks a few things from the jewellery stall.

INT. RAZOR CREST - COCKPIT - DAY

The Mandalorian makes another sharp turn, dipping to the trees before dropping down alongside a cliff. The TIE fighter follows, continuous gunfire aimed to the Razor Crest which the Mandalorian avoids.

The Mandalorian jerks up on the controls and fires, facing Drakkar's ship.

INT. DRAKKAR'S TIE FIGHTER - DAY

Buttons and controls BEEP and FLASH rapidly as gunfire from the Razor Crest hits. Captain Drakkar is unbothered by the impending crash.

As lights flash, he presses a button that blinks red. He adjusts himself, making sure he's adequately secured.

He braces himself as the TIE fighter connects with the earth, enveloping him with flames.

INT. RAZOR CREST - COCKPIT - DAY

The Mandalorian evens out the Razor Crest, letting out an exhale. He glances over at the Child.

THE MANDALORIAN

You okay?

The Child grins and lets out a happy gurgle.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)

You're a strange one, kid.

EXT. FUELLING STATION - DAY

The Razor Crest lands in a fuelling station outside of a Takodanian settlement. After a moment, the ship opens and the Mandalorian steps out, holding the Child in his arm.

HUMANS and ALIENS look at the Mandalorian with accusatory expressions. The Mandalorian enters the fuelling station.

INT. FUELLING STATION - DAY

The office of the fuelling station is small and manned by a single STATION WORKER.

THE MANDALORIAN
I need my ship re-fuelled
immediately.

STATION WORKER
Everyone needs their ships re-
fuelled immediately, dude. We'll
get to ya when we get to ya.

THE MANDALORIAN
I'll pay extra.

STATION WORKER
Bud, you're not the first guy today
to try that. Like I said, we'll get
to ya when we get to ya.

THE MANDALORIAN
(annoyed)
Time frame?

STATION WORKER
Depends how much ya need. Kind of
ship?

The Mandalorian sighs loudly and points to his ship outside the window. The station worker cranes their neck to get a look.

STATION WORKER (CONT'D)
Tonight, maybe. Could be tomorrow.
Don't know, man.

THE MANDALORIAN
I'll be back first thing.

The Child makes a NOISE that sounds like a complaint and the Mandalorian looks down at him before glancing back up at the worker.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)
Know where we could get some food
around here?

EXT. TAVERN - DAY

A mismatched building, part brick and part wood with an ill-fated, graffitied sign. As the Mandalorian approaches, there are eyes on him. It seems word travels fast. There are whispers, but no one approaches him.

The Mandalorian is on high alert, aware of his potential enemies. He stops in front of the tavern, hesitating at the look of it. His doubt is interrupted by the Child's discontented noise.

THE MANDALORIAN
Stick close, kid.

The Mandalorian pushes open the door.

INT. TAVERN - DAY

At the sight of the Mandalorian and the Child, whispers run through the tavern. TERRIK, gruff and opportunistic bartender, wipes down the bar. His motions stop when he sees the Mandalorian.

OLAN (40s), a neatly dressed human with a trimmed beard, leans over to his FRIENDS.

OLAN
(hushed)
That's the guy!

His GROUP OF FRIENDS glare at the Mandalorian. The Mandalorian watches them carefully. Olan slams down a hand and stands.

OLAN (CONT'D)
Do you have any idea what you've done, Mandalorian?

The Mandalorian doesn't answer, still watching.

OLAN (CONT'D)
You bring the Empire down on the lot of us but you don't have the balls to answer for it?

Olan steps towards the Mandalorian. The Mandalorian tightens his grip on the Child, and sweeps his cloak back. A shiny blaster sits on his hip, now visible for all to see.

THE MANDALORIAN
Just passing through.

OLAN
We'll see about that.

The Mandalorian puts a hand on his blaster. Terrik comes out from behind the bar.

TERRIK
Whoa, whoa, guys, can we just take a second here?

OLAN
You want to take a kriffing second for this asshole?!

The Mandalorian continues to watch, ready to move if necessary. The Child has his face in the Mandalorian's chest plate.

TERRIK
He's not planning to stay long. Are you, Mandalorian?

THE MANDALORIAN
I'll be gone tomorrow.

OLAN
A friend of mine got hurt because of the druk-load of trouble *he* brought here.

TERRIK
Are you really going to fight a man holding a child?

The question sobers the angry patrons. The Mandalorian removes his hand from his blaster.

THE MANDALORIAN
(to Terrik)
Thanks.

Terrik nods tightly, not happy about the Mandalorian's presence either.

TERRIK
What can I get you?

THE MANDALORIAN
Some soup and bread for the little one.

BARTENDER TERRIK
Anything for you?

THE MANDALORIAN

No. Thank you.

The Mandalorian and The Child sit in the corner of the tavern. Olan steps past the Mandalorian, spitting on the floor near him.

The Mandalorian looks up at him, and Olan shrinks away, eyeing the Mandalorian's blaster. The Child munches happily on soup and bread. The Mandalorian watches the room.

The tavern's door opens with a SLAM.

ALEENA THARAND, former bounty hunter, enters. A human who wears dark neutrals though she wears a few silver rings on her right hand. Her hair is tied back as she strides to the bar. No weapons except for a dagger on her belt.

The Mandalorian seems to freeze up when he sees her while the Child remains unaware.

EXT. ALIEN CITY - CASINO - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Aleena wears a brightly coloured dress. Supremely feminine appearance.

The Mandalorian watches her as she adjusts her appearance and then he raises a silver ring. Aleena smiles and holds out her left hand.

The Mandalorian slides it onto her ring finger.

ALEENA

This thing'll turn my finger green,
you know.

The Mandalorian looks at Aleena.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

I'm just saying, riduur.

THE MANDALORIAN

This is unnecessary.

ALEENA

I know you like when the shooting
starts, but *maybe* we could try
things my way for once. Right,
cyar'ika?

THE MANDALORIAN
 (grumbling)
 Shouldn't have taught you Mando'a
 words.

Aleena reaches for the door, but the Mandalorian stops her, holding out a small blaster.

ALEENA
 I don't--

The Mandalorian presses it into her hand and Aleena sighs.

ALEENA (CONT'D)
 I won't use it.

The Mandalorian's hand lingers over top of hers and seconds pass. Aleena clears her throat, tucking the weapon into her skirts.

ALEENA (CONT'D)
 You're grumpy for a man who just
 got married, riduur.

INT. TAVERN - DAY

Aleena surveys the room before finding her target. Aleena grabs a Twi'lek boy by her collar, slamming her against the bar. The Mandalorian leans forward, his arm coming up to rest on the table.

ALEENA
 What did we say about you stealing,
 kid?

TWI'LEK THIEF
 I didn't--

ALEENA
 Shhh...if it's a lie, I don't want
 to hear it.

TERRIK
 Tharand, take it out of my bar.

ALEENA
 Almost done, Terrik.
 (to thief)
 Trust me, kid, you don't want me to
 take this outside.

Aleena pulls the thief back up. Aleena twists the Twi'lek thief's arm behind her back.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

You're gonna tell me where it is in
3...2--

TWI'LEK THIEF

(in pain)
Front pocket!

Aleena reaches around into the Twi'lek's jacket pocket, pulling out a pouch of stolen goods.

ALEENA

We're gonna think first next time,
right?

The Twi'lek thief nods vigorously as Aleena releases her. Aleena surveys the bar as the thief leaves in a rush. Her gaze stops on the Mandalorian and the Child. The Mandalorian meets her gaze steadily.

It's interrupted when The Child WHINES at his empty plate. The Mandalorian looks back at the Child, shaking his head.

THE MANDALORIAN

You don't need more, kid. There's
not a lot of you to begin with.

The Child makes a face and makes a NOISE OF DISAGREEMENT. The Mandalorian looks up again to find Aleena is gone. He looks back at the kid.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)

Come on.

The Child pouts, but lets the Mandalorian pick him up.

EXT. DRAKKAR'S TIE FIGHTER - BOTTOM OF CLIFF - DAY

The damaged remains of a TIE fighter continues to burn. The door opens, having been kicked forcefully, revealing Imperial officer, Captain Drakkar. He gets out without so much as a grimace, blood drying on the side of his face.

The TIE fighter explodes as he makes his escape. The officer removes a piece of shrapnel from his arm emotionlessly.

EXT. TAVERN - DAY

The Mandalorian, holding The Child, catches up to Aleena, as she's not in any hurry.

THE MANDALORIAN

Aleena!

Aleena stops and turns, tense at the sound of her name. She frowns, looking at the Mandalorian. The Mandalorian is close to her, less than an arm's length.

ALEENA

...Mando?

The Mandalorian tilts his head slightly and Aleena smiles. She looks him over, her gaze stopping on the Child.

Before she can ask any questions, a GROUP of LOCALS pass by them, jeering in various ALIEN LANGUAGES. Aleena glares at them.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

This isn't a damn side show!
(to Mandalorian)
I see you still have that problem.

THE MANDALORIAN

What problem?

Aleena shakes her head at him.

ALEENA

The one where you have to make a huge, kriffing mess wherever you go.

THE MANDALORIAN

I handled it.

ALEENA

That's what you said on Losas.
Remind me, who was getting who out of prison 12 hours later?

The Mandalorian GRUNTS in defeat. Aleena smiles brightly. The Child lets out a HAPPY GURGLE. The Mandalorian watches her, then he looks beyond her at some locals who still regard him warily.

Aleena looks over her shoulder, face falling.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

These people are skittish. You won't really have a warm reception here.

THE MANDALORIAN

Sounds right.

ALEENA

Be honest, Mando. Is this a coincidence or did you miss me?

Hurt flashes on Aleena's face. The Mandalorian doesn't know how to answer, so he doesn't.

Oblivious to the tension, the Child looks at Aleena with wide eyes, holding out his arms to her. The Mandalorian tightens his grip, making the Child look back at him with a WHINE.

The Mandalorian loosens his grip and the Child turns back to Aleena, arms outstretched.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

May I...?

The Mandalorian nods, letting Aleena take the Child. The Child COOS HAPPILY, clinging to her shirt.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

Cute kid. What's his name?

THE MANDALORIAN

I, um...

ALEENA

Mando. He doesn't have a name...?

The Child looks up at Aleena, still enamoured. With Aleena's head turned, a leather cord is visible outside the collar of her shirt. The Child makes a grabby hand as he looks at it.

THE MANDALORIAN

Long story.

The Child pulls at her shirt, trying to get to the leather cord. Aleena swiftly takes the Child's hand, distracting him with the silver rings on her fingers. He squeals happily, touching the shiny metal and stones with wide eyes.

ALEENA

Need a place to stay for the night?

THE MANDALORIAN

I--

ALEENA

If you're about to do some loner-type brush-off, just don't.

THE MANDALORIAN

Aleena--

ALEENA

Is it really a good use of time to stand here and argue with me?

The Mandalorian raises his hands slightly in surrender.

THE MANDALORIAN

Not arguing.

ALEENA

By definition, we are having an argument and as you might recall, I can go all day.

The Mandalorian lets out a breath that sounds almost like a laugh. The Child discovers he can twist her rings around her fingers.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

It's a night, Mando. Then you never have to see me again.

The Mandalorian shakes his head slightly. The Child GIGGLES when Aleena taps the tip of his nose.

THE MANDALORIAN

Fine.

The Child GURGLES in agreement, now trying to remove one of Aleena's rings. The Mandalorian watches the Child and nods slightly.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)

He'll try to swallow that if he gets it.

ALEENA

I know it's hard to believe, Mando, but I have met small children before.

EXT. CRASH SITE 2 - DAY

Captain Drakkar approaches another damaged TIE fighter. With one hand, he rips the door free and hauls out STORMTROOPER 1. The white armour is singed with burns, but the stormtrooper is otherwise intact.

Captain Drakkar pulls up his sleeve to reveal a metal plate with a small screen embedded in his skin. He taps on it and a projection of numbers comes up.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR
Recover your fellow trooper.

STORMTROOPER 1
Then what, sir?

Captain Drakkar pulls his sleeve back down. He steps back from the stormtrooper and starts walking away.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR
Wait for me.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. TRADE MARKET - DAY

The damage done by the Razor Crest and the TIE fighters is being taken care of. The stall owners don't have help and no one offers. KEL, a stall owner, notices the Mandalorian walking with Aleena and the Child. He looks angry.

EXT. TRADE MARKET - JEWELLERY STALL - DAY

Aleena stops to return the items stolen by the Twi'lek girl. The Mandalorian holds the fussy Child. The Mandalorian lets him sit on the edge of the stall, a hand supporting the Child protectively.

JAYDA

Oh, you didn't have to--

ALEENA

I did. No thanks necessary.

The Child sees a bracelet with a large red stone which he grabs and stares.

JAYDA

Thank you, anyway, my dear.

The Child tries to lick the red stone. The Mandalorian puts his hand between the jewellery and the Child's mouth.

THE MANDALORIAN

(to the Child)

No.

The Child makes A NOISE, feigning innocence as the Mandalorian removes the bracelet and puts it back in its place.

JAYDA

There must be something I can do for you.

ALEENA

There's not. I'm good.

Jayda looks at the Mandalorian.

JAYDA

Convince your friend to let me thank her.

THE MANDALORIAN
She's not convinced of much.

JAYDA
So, she's always been a problem
then?

The Child discreetly reaches for a pendant.

ALEENA
I return stolen goods and you stand
there teasing me?
(to Mandalorian)
And I offer you hospitality and
this is the thanks I get?

The Child puts the pendant in his mouth.

THE MANDALORIAN
Kid, we've talked about this.

The Child opens his mouth and lets the pendant drop out,
still feigning innocence. The Mandalorian shakes his head,
picking up the Child.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)
(to Jayda)
Sorry.

JAYDA
No worries.
(to Aleena)
Take something, dear. Please.

ALEENA
I already said no, Jayda. Hard
enough to have a business in this
place without letting things go for
free.

Kel marches up to the Mandalorian.

KEL
What the kriff is wrong with you?!
You tryna screw the rest of us by
bringing the Empire here?

ALEENA
Kel, come--

KEL
Should've known you'd be involved
with troublemakers, Tharand. You--

THE MANDALORIAN
The problem's contained.

KEL
Contained? CONTAINED? Does that
look contained to you?

Kel gestures to the mess still left behind from the debris.

KEL (CONT'D)
Do you have any idea what you've
done, Mandalorian? I mean--

Aleena grabs Kel's wrist tightly, keeping steady eye contact.

ALEENA
(forcefully)
Stop talking, Kel.

The Mandalorian watches as Kel's mouth closes. He knows something's going on, but the Mandalorian doesn't know that Aleena is using the Force to psychically influence Kel.

ALEENA (CONT'D)
It's handled and you didn't see any
Mandalorian.

KEL
(blankly)
I didn't see any Mandalorian.

The Mandalorian looks at Aleena and then back at Kel. The argument had drawn the attention of some LOCALS, and Aleena lets go of Kel. She blinks and clears her throat.

ALEENA
We should get gone. Have a nice
evening, Jayda.

The Mandalorian looks at the Child, holding out his hand.

THE MANDALORIAN
No.

With a pout, the Child opens his mouth, two saliva-covered rings falling into the Mandalorian's hand.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

The Mandalorian, Aleena, and the Child trek through the forest. The Child runs ahead when he sees some bioluminescent flowers by a stream. The Mandalorian watches the Child carefully, briefly glancing at Aleena.

THE MANDALORIAN
Forgot you could do that.

ALEENA
Do what?

THE MANDALORIAN
Charm anyone into anything. Worked
on me a few times.

Aleena smiles softly. Something nostalgic.

ALEENA
I used much different charms for
you, Mando.

THE MANDALORIAN
Aleena.

The Mandalorian touches her arm. She stops walking and looks
at him.

ALEENA
What?

THE MANDALORIAN
What happened with Kel?

ALEENA
(dismissively)
Guy thinks I screwed him in a deal.
He's got a vendetta, you know.

THE MANDALORIAN
Not what I meant.

The Mandalorian tilts his head towards her and Aleena
stiffens. A moment passes and then her demeanour shifts.

ALEENA
What happened with you? You were
the Guild's pride and jewel, then I
hear you stole a bounty and made a
mess on Nevarro.

THE MANDALORIAN
Aleena.

ALEENA
(mockingly)
Mando.

Aleena steps back, or she tries, but the Mandalorian takes
her hand.

THE MANDALORIAN

I know you.

ALEENA

You did.

Aleena pulls her hand back.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

It's been three years. I'm not the same.

THE MANDALORIAN

Aleena.

Aleena looks away, arms crossed over her chest. She sees the Child.

ALEENA

Your kid's jumping in the water.

The Mandalorian turns just as the Child jumps into the water with a SPLASH, intent on catching a frog. He grabs one, holding as it splashes for freedom.

THE MANDALORIAN

Do NOT put that in your mouth, kid!

The Child looks at the Mandalorian, freezing in place. The Mandalorian races towards the Child.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)

No!

The Child opens his mouth like he's challenging the Mandalorian. Aleena laughs, but then the expression falls, her hand coming up to pull at the leather cord around her neck.

The Mandalorian scoops up the Child, wrestling the frog from him.

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

Captain Drakkar enters the tavern with deliberate force, making the door hit the wall with a SLAM. The noisy tavern silences at the sight of an Imperial officer.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

I am looking for a Mandalorian and a child. He was here.

There's a long pause.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR (CONT'D)
Whoever comes forward will be
compensated for their aid. If no
one does...

Captain Drakkar doesn't finish the threat as a patron points
towards the back room.

INT. TAVERN - BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Terrick is in the back room, taking stock. He looks at Captain
Drakkar.

TERRIK
Yeah, Mandalorian was here. Ran out
after one of my regulars, though.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR
Who?

TERRIK
Fancies herself some kind of
vigilante. Aleena Tharand.
(pause)
How much compensation we talking
here?

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR
Aleena's home. Where?

BARTENDER TERRIK
Don't know much about that girl.
Works in the trade market some
days. So, physical payment or just
a credit transfer? Either work for
me.

Captain Drakkar nods, pulling something out of his pocket.
Without warning, he locks the bartender into a chokehold, the
bartender's back now to him.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR
Anything else?

BARTENDER TERRIK
No, kriff, I-I swear that's
everything! Please! Let me go,
never mind about the reward! I
swear

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR
You don't want the reward?

BARTENDER TERRIK

No...? Not if it's an inconvenience
or something.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

Your reward is whatever afterlife
you believe in.

INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

The busy tavern is silenced by a strangled scream. Captain Drakkar pushes open the doors of the back room, some blood splatter on his sleeve and hand.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

Fighting against me is futile.

Captain Drakkar picks up a discarded bar rag, wiping it against his hand pointedly.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR (CONT'D)

If you know of the Mandalorian, the
child or his ally, Aleena Tharand.
Speak up.

There's a long silence.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. That wasn't a request.
Information. Now.

PATRON

Kel.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

Excuse me?

PATRON

Kel hates Aleena.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

And where might I find this...Kel?

EXT. ALEENA'S CABIN - FOREST - NIGHT

The Child is settled in The Mandalorian's arms, half-asleep as they stop at Aleena's cabin. The cabin is small and hard to see in the dark. Aleena lights a lantern by the door and then unlocks the door.

INT. ALEENA'S CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aleena steps in first, followed by the Mandalorian and the Child. Aleena's eyes flicker to the Child and then to the Mandalorian.

ALEENA

I'll make a place for him to sleep.

THE MANDALORIAN

Thank you.

Aleena nods her head and leaves the room. The Mandalorian looks down at the Child, who starts to fuss.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)

Shhh...bear with me, kid.

The Mandalorian starts moving around the room. It's bare bones, simple wooden furniture, a vase of flowers, but not much indicative of an actual life.

The Mandalorian looks to where Aleena disappeared to, seeing her move around in the spare room. His gaze lingers on her.

INT. ALEENA'S CABIN - SPARE ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

The Mandalorian puts the Child down in the small makeshift cot, pulling up the covers. The Child snuggles into the bedding. The Mandalorian leaves the spare room, leaving the door a bit open.

Aleena is two steps away in the kitchen. She sits at the table with a bottle of hard liquor and two glasses.

ALEENA

Drink?

THE MANDALORIAN

No. Thank you.

ALEENA

Right. The helmet thing. You're really gonna make a girl drink alone?

THE MANDALORIAN

You don't have to drink.

Aleena finishes her drink. She reaches for the bottle to pour another glass, but the Mandalorian takes it first. He finishes pouring her a drink.

ALEENA

Thanks.

Aleena studies the Mandalorian.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

So you left the Guild and got a kid...how in the hell did that happen?

THE MANDALORIAN

You left first.

ALEENA

(wryly)

Now you're changing the subject.

Aleena raises her glass, but doesn't drink yet.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

The Mandalorian I knew wouldn't have left that life for anything.

Aleena tries to hide her hurt. She finishes her drink, and the Mandalorian pours her another.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

Getting me drunk won't get me to spill my secrets, Mando.

The Mandalorian tilts his head.

EXT. TRADE MARKET - NIGHT

The trade market is shut down for the night and yet one or two individuals still linger. Captain Drakkar notices some of the damage from the TIE fighters. He approaches Kel at his stall.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

You Kel?

KEL

Who's asking?

(looks up)

Kriff, yeah, what can I...what can I do?

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

You seen a Mandalorian some time today?

KEL

I didn't see any Mandalorian.

The response is automatic and Captain Drakkar looks at him strangely.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

What about Aleena Tharand? You see her at all today? Maybe with a kid?

KEL

Pain in the ass, that girl. She in trouble?

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

Yeah. Know much about her?

Kel smiles viciously.

INT. ALEENA'S CABIN - KITCHEN - NIGHT

About two thirds of the bottle has been drunk. Aleena traces the lip of her glass with her finger. She pulls her hair loose of its ponytail, leaning back against her chair.

The Mandalorian rests his arm on the table.

THE MANDALORIAN

What happened with Kel, Aleena?

ALEENA

What happened with the Guild, Mando?

THE MANDALORIAN

Didn't work out.

ALEENA

That's not an answer.

THE MANDALORIAN

You give an answer and I'll give one.

Aleena shakes her head, feeling the leather cord of her necklace. She's looking everywhere but the Mandalorian.

ALEENA

I was born with a little something extra. My mother taught me to use it.

(insistent)

What happened with the Guild?

THE MANDALORIAN

I made a bad call. Made a mess
making the right one.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)

Was it a coincidence you left the
Guild after we picked up that
bounty?

ALEENA

Does it matter?

The Mandalorian doesn't know if he wants the answer.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

Wasn't 'cause of you. Just felt
like time to move on. Bounty
hunting was never supposed to be
permanent.

Aleena touches the rim of the bottle distractedly.

THE MANDALORIAN

Why'd you start?

ALEENA

Arrogance. Anger. Seemed like fun
to play with fire and get paid
while doing it.

They sit in silence, hands resting on the table in close
proximity. The Mandalorian looks at one of her rings. Unlike
the shiny, high-quality of the others, this one is greenish
from oxidization.

THE MANDALORIAN

You kept that thing?

Aleena follows the Mandalorian's gaze and pulls her hand back
quickly, covering her hand. She stands abruptly, reaching for
the glasses and the bottle and heading to the kitchen.

ALEENA

We should call it a night, Mando.
I'm sure you had a long day.

The Mandalorian stands and nods once.

THE MANDALORIAN

Thanks for this.

ALEENA

My pleasure.

INT. CASINO - HALLWAYS - NIGHT

Aleena is surrounded by GUARDS and disarmed. She raises her hands in surrender. A guard rips her bag away from her and pulls out credits, jewels and other forms of currency.

GUARD 1

Your husband has no idea who he
married, does he?

GUNFIRE goes off in the distance. Aleena smirks.

ALEENA

He's not my husband.

INT. ALEENA'S CABIN - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

The Mandalorian closes the door behind him, kneeling to check on the Child. When the Child snuggles deeper into his bedding, the Mandalorian turns to the rest of the room.

He opens the window a crack and surveys the rest of his surroundings. He opens a closet, knocking against the back panels. They sound HOLLOW.

He pushes on a panel and finds a darkened space between walls.

An escape.

INT. ALEENA'S CABIN - GUEST ROOM - MORNING

Aleena knocks on the door gently before opening. She holds a tablet in her hand. The Mandalorian is already up, sitting on the bed, watching the sleeping Child.

ALEENA

(quietly)
Got a problem.

The Mandalorian tilts his head in acknowledgement.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

My home, my idea, okay?

The Mandalorian SCOFFS wryly.

EXT. ALEENA'S CABIN - FOREST - MORNING

Aleena sits on her balcony, twisting the oxidized ring around her finger. In the distance, she sees two individuals approaching her cabin: Kel and Captain Drakkar.

She stands up and crosses the dewey grass to meet them. As she approaches, Kel turns and leaves in a rush. A flicker of recognition as she looks at Captain Drakkar, but then she's stony again.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR
You must be Aleena Tharand.

ALEENA
Who's asking?

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR
You're harbouring fugitives of the Empire.

ALEENA
I have no idea who you're talking about.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR
A Mandalorian and a Child.

ALEENA
Sorry, doesn't ring a bell.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR
You won't mind if I check your home then?

ALEENA
Not at all.

Aleena turns and Drakkar grabs her, stealing a knife from her belt to put against her throat.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The Mandalorian runs through the forest with the Child in his arms. Suddenly, the Child starts FUSSING and trying to escape. The Mandalorian tries to SHUSH him.

The Child raises a hand and the Force moves a fallen branch in the Mandalorian's way.

The Mandalorian falls, still keeping a grip on the Child. The Child squirms away and starts booking it back into the direction from which they came. Fortunately, the Child has short legs and doesn't get fair.

THE MANDALORIAN

Kid, Aleena's been in worse scrapes.

The Child WHINES, shaking his head insistently as the Mandalorian scoops him up again. The Mandalorian starts moving and the Child raises his hand again.

THWACK!

A branch of a nearby tree strikes the Mandalorian's helmet.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)

Kid!

The Child glares at the Mandalorian, small hand still raised. The Mandalorian takes a step and--

THWACK!

This time the Mandalorian catches the branch that swings his way.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)

My responsibility is you. Not her.

The Child BABBLES, as though lecturing the Mandalorian, squirming incessantly.

EXT. ALEENA'S CABIN - FOREST - DAY

The knife presses against Aleena's throat.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

I remember you.

Captain Drakkar presses harder, drawing a bit of blood.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR (CONT'D)

...remember this knife.

ALEENA

Gonna kill me?

He considers it and then releases Aleena, shoving her forward.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

Too easy.

Captain Drakkar takes out his blaster and points it at her.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR (CONT'D)

The Mandalorian.

ALEENA

People like me don't get along with
people like him.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

Is that your final answer?

ALEENA

He'll kill you.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

I look forward to it.

The blaster GOES OFF with an echo.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The Mandalorian is running when the blaster ECHOES loudly. The Child breaks free of the Mandalorian and moves towards the sound.

THE MANDALORIAN

No!

The Child looks back, waving his hand, hitting the Mandalorian in the head with yet another branch.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)

You've got to stop doing that.

A SHUFFLE comes from nearby. The Mandalorian sees two stormtroopers with singed armour and pulls out his blaster as they start shooting. The Child takes his opportunity to flee.

EXT. ALEENA'S CABIN - FOREST - DAY

Aleena dodges the blaster, but it catches her arm, leaving a burn on the side of her shoulder. Captain Drakkar looks strangely pleased.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

A rematch, it is then.

ALEENA

That implies we were even the first time.

BLASTERS RING out and Aleena shoots to her feet, drawing out two curved karambit knives. She charges towards Captain Drakkar who tosses the blaster aside, holding his stolen knife.

Aleena lands a blow, her knife sliding down his chest.

The fabric of his uniform cuts away and synthetic skin slices easily to reveal the metal beneath.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

Admiring your handiwork?

ALEENA

I was a *child*.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR
A child who made a village *burn*.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The Child runs through the grass and bushes, face set in determination. He passes a river and hears the CROAK of a bright blue frog. He stops a moment, mesmerized. He walks towards it, hands outstretched.

Three simultaneous BLASTER SHOTS ring out in the forest and he focuses. Then he looks away from the frog and continues in his quest to Aleena.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The Mandalorian fights the stormtroopers. He ducks behind a tree, peering around to take fire.

One stormtrooper goes down. The Mandalorian tilts his head to the side as the a SHOT takes a chunk of the tree trunk with it. He leaps out from behind the tree, firing SHOT after SHOT.

The stormtrooper's mimics his method, hitting the Mandalorian's beskar chest plate.

The Mandalorian fires one single SHOT.

EXT. ALEENA'S CABIN - FOREST - DAY

Aleena recoils as Captain Drakkar lands a blow to her face, splitting her lip. She twirls her knives, finding her stance once more.

Captain Drakkar pauses, watching her sway unsteadily.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR
You must know this ends in your
death.

ALEENA
There is no death, only the Force.

Captain Drakkar attacks her with renewed vigour. She blocks the blow, nicking his wrist with one of her knives. Some blood pools at the cut.

He's not all mechanical.

Captain Drakkar twists, disarming her of one of her knives and injuring her wrist.

Aleena MOANS in PAIN.

Captain Drakkar disarms her of her other blade, and drives her knife into her gut. He lets her fall to the grass and then he picks up his blaster again.

He raises it.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

The Child and his tin can bodyguard
are worth more than you ever were.

Aleena snarls. The blaster shakes and quivers in his hand; Aleena trying to rip it free with the Force.

Captain Drakkar flies 20 feet away, landing harshly against the broad trunk of an ancient tree. He falls, unconscious. Aleena looks to see the Child stumbling in her direction.

ALEENA

(softly)

You shouldn't have done that,
little one.

The Child looks at the knife in Aleena's gut and raises his and the knife rips out of her gut. Then he raises his hands to the wound, eyes shutting in concentration

ALEENA (CONT'D)

No, no, don't--you're too young for
that--

Aleena looks to see her wound closing.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

You're...

The Child lowers his hand with a tired grin, eyes half closed. He nearly falls, but Aleena grabs him, holding him closely. She rises, collecting her weapons quickly before fleeing her former home.

Aleena nearly slams into the Mandalorian.

THE MANDALORIAN

Wha--

ALEENA

You're getting off this planet,
Mando. Now.

INT. CASINO - DIM MAINTENANCE CLOSET - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The Mandalorian looks at Aleena in disbelief as she holds out the file drive to him.

THE MANDALORIAN
(whispering)
I'm not leaving you here!

ALEENA
There's too many and you have a better chance of getting out alive.

THE MANDALORIAN
No, I--

ALEENA
In three days, meet me on Ilis.

THE MANDALORIAN
Aleena--

ALEENA
Three days. I promise.

EXT. TRADE MARKET - DAY

The Child is passed out in Aleena's arms.

THE MANDALORIAN
(hushed)
How could you let him--

ALEENA
How did you want me to stop him, Mando? Did you want me to knock a *child* out for using his abilities?

THE MANDALORIAN
Of course not, but--

ALEENA
Have you ever stopped him? How determined this kid is...have you ever tried and succeeded in telling him not to do something?

The Mandalorian doesn't answer.

ALEENA (CONT'D)
That's what I thought.
(muttered)
Arrogant, egotistical--

THE MANDALORIAN
 (dryly)
 Nice.

ALEENA
 Not the word I was thinking of.

In the distance, the Mandalorian spots a half-dozen STORMTROOPERS. He grabs Aleena and pulls her into an alleyway.

THE MANDALORIAN
 Reinforcements.

Aleena looks where the Mandalorian nods.

ALEENA
 My life was so peaceful.

THE MANDALORIAN
 Was it...?

ALEENA
 Well, no, but it *was* Empire-free.

THE MANDALORIAN
 Take the kid and go.

ALEENA
 I'm not leaving you!

THE MANDALORIAN
 The kid matters. You matter.
 (beat)
 You know where to go.

Aleena's breath catches as she looks at him. He nods before she can ask anymore questions, pressing his blaster into her hand.

Aleena shakes her head as she cradles the Child closer to her chest and disappears around the corner.

The Mandalorian enters the trade market and is sold out immediately by one of the locals. The stormtroopers run for him, blasters raised.

EXT. TRADE MARKET - ALLEY - DAY

Aleena holds the Child as she breaks into a run. Two stormtroopers, GE-2586 and KB-3019 notice her.

GE-2586

HEY!

Aleena ducks into the alley, placing the Child on the ground, hidden by some crates.

GE-2586 and KB-3019 stalk into the alley. Aleena raises the Mandalorian's blaster and begins firing.

EXT. TRADE MARKET - DAY

The Mandalorian dive-rolls out of the way of multiple blaster beams, taking cover behind a stack of crates. There are SEVEN STORMTROOPERS on him. He raises an arm, pressing a button on his vambrace.

He points his arm in the direction of the stormtroopers, sending a wall of fire towards them. The fire from the flamethrower hits a nearby stall which ERUPTS in flames.

The stormtroopers break focus and the Mandalorian stands, using his grappling hook to yank one of the troopers towards him. The stormtrooper slides across the ground with a YELL.

The guns go off again, and the Mandalorian lifts a crate, throwing it at the six stormtroopers.

The Mandalorian's grappling hook retracts as the seventh stormtrooper is in the dirt next to him.

He kicks the stormtrooper in the head, knocking him out. The Mandalorian takes the stormtrooper's blaster and raises it.

A stormtrooper falls, an ashen hole at the centre of his chest.

EXT. TRADE MARKET - ALLEY - DAY

GE-2586 and KB-3019 avoid Aleena's shots, ducking out of the way with an agility rarely seen in stormtroopers.

A WHIMPER from the stirring Child distracts Aleena, and KB-3019 kicks the Mandalorian's blaster out of Aleena's hand. GE-2586 slams Aleena against a wall.

Aleena loses her breath with a GRUNT of pain.

GE-2586

Where's the green thing?

ALEENA

It's gone.

KB-3019 kicks around at the crates until a WHIMPER reveals the Child. The stormtrooper scoops up the child and raises his arm.

KB-3016

The child has been located,
Captain.

The Mandalorian's blaster lays in the dirt. Aleena's fingers flex at her side.

The blaster shifts.

EXT. TRADE MARKET - DAY

The Mandalorian points the stormtrooper's blaster at another who dives out of the way just in time.

The Mandalorian raises his arm again, sending another wall of flames from the flamethrower in his vambrace.

He quickly follows it with killing two more stormtroopers with his stolen blaster. He turns the blaster against the others--

CLANG!

Two more stormtroopers arrive, firing at the Mandalorian's armour on his forearm. He drops the blaster with a GRUNT, uninjured, but affected by the force of the blasts against him.

CLANG!

A stormtrooper hits the blunt end of their gun against the Mandalorian's helmet, causing him to stumble to his knees. The Mandalorian, dizzy, tries to reach for the fallen blaster.

The stormtrooper kicks it away, it slowing to a stop in front of a YOUNG MECHANIC.

THE MANDALORIAN

HEY!

The Mandalorian gestures for the weapon. The young mechanic looks at him.

The Mandalorian blocks a blow from the stormtrooper, activating his flamethrower again to give himself space.

He gestures again for the young mechanic who shakes her head, backing away fearfully.

CLANG!

Another stormtrooper fires a blaster, hitting the Mandalorian's chestplate. He GRUNTS, falling back, no longer able to keep his balance.

EXT. TRADE MARKET - ALLEY - DAY

Aleena struggles for breath with GE-2586's arm pressed against her throat.

ALEENA

Please--

PEW!

GE-2586 falls to the ground, an ashen hole in the side of his white helmet.

The Mandalorian's blaster hovers inches above the ground and then flies to Aleena's hand.

KB-3016

What the--

Aleena fires at KB-3016 and the Child falls from his arms. She lunges forward, catching the Child with the Force and lowering him gently to the ground.

Aleena picks up the Child and checks the trade market from the alleyway. She spies Kel and her expression darkens.

EXT. TRADE MARKET - ALLEY - DAY

The Mandalorian SHOOTS his grappling hook at another stormtrooper and YANKS.

The stormtrooper holding a blaster to him topples over against the weight of the other stormtrooper.

The Mandalorian releases the grappling hook and finds temporary cover behind some crates. He raises his arm again and activates his WHISTLING BIRDS.

The small darts take off.

ONE

TWO

THREE

EXT. TRADE MARKET - KEL'S STALL - DAY

Aleena's hood is up with the Child cradled into her chest. The blaster hides just below her cloak.

ALEENA

You hate me that much? That you would let them be taken by the Empire?

Aleena's arm digs into Kel's throat as she holds him against a support of his stall. The Child stirs in her arms, letting out a light WHINE.

KEL

Them?

ALEENA

The Mandalorian and his kid.

KEL

I haven't seen a Mandalorian, girl.

Aleena lets go with a sigh.

ALEENA

You're helping now.

KEL

Why, in the entire galaxy, would I do that?

ALEENA

Because you like credits and I have some.

KEL

Some is not enough to make up for the bounty you screwed me out of.

ALEENA

That deal was kriffed from the start. I saved you.

KEL

You screwed us, Tharand. Maybe we wouldn't have ended up on this godforsaken planet, fighting for scraps with the rest of the galaxies rejects!

ALEENA

And that justifies handing over a child to the kriffing Empire?

(MORE)

ALEENA (CONT'D)

You brought that Captain to my door; let him try to capture a *child*.

Kel looks at the Child. Then at Aleena.

KEL

It better be a lot of credits.

EXT. TRADE MARKET - DAY

The Mandalorian surveys the dead and/or unconscious scattered across the ground. Stalls are scorched by his flamethrower, and crates are splintered in the dirt.

The Mandalorian EXHALES in relief.

STORMTROOPER 3

Surrender, Mandalorian!

The Mandalorian turns to see six stormtroopers arrive on scene. At a distance is Captain Drakkar.

EXT./INT. FUELLING STATION - DAY

Aleena enters the station and spots the Razor Crest. The station worker is currently working on it.

ALEENA

Is it refuelled?

STATION WORKER

Listen, my one thing is that I can't have people stealing each other's ships. Like, it's not good for business or, like, trust--

ALEENA

It's my husband's ship.

Aleena holds up the hand with the oxidized, greenish ring. The station worker peers at it.

STATION WORKER

I know this is none of my business, but...I would not be married to the guy that gave me that ring. And that could just be some random--

ALEENA

Would I have our child if I was lying?

The Child stirs, looking at the station worker through half-lidded eyes.

STATION WORKER

Um, sure, okay. It's all yours.

INT. CASINO - HALLWAYS - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Aleena is alone against the guards. The Mandalorian's blaster is far-flung. She holds her arm, blood leaking through her fingers, staining the ring on her ring finger.

GUARD 1

Your partner's abandoned you.
Surrender his location and we may
let you go.

INT. RAZOR CREST - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The Mandalorian falters before slamming a fist against the button that closes the bay doors.

INT. RAZOR CREST - DAY

The Child whines as they step into the Razor Crest.

ALEENA

I know, kid. But have you met your
dad?

The Child looks at her stubbornly. Angrily. He WHINES and gestures towards the outside. Something dark flashes across Aleena's face and she shakes her head.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

I'm not letting anything happen to
you.

Aleena shoves slams a hand on a button, closing the bay doors behind them. The Child outstretches a hand to the button indignantly. Aleena looks at the Child.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

Don't.

The Child WHINES and Aleena glares. The Child's jaw drops in surprise when Aleena uses the Force to lower his hand.

EXT. TRADE MARKET - DAY

The Mandalorian emerges, shooting the stormtroopers with his stolen blaster.

CLANG!

A blast hits a beskar plate on his leg and the Mandalorian stumbles with a GRUNT. He keeps his gun raised, but his shoulders rise and fall in exertion.

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT!

Three stormtroopers fall, armour pierced everywhere from the effects of a MACHINE GUN.

The Mandalorian looks at his saviour to find Kel holding the machine gun with a hardened look. The Mandalorian tilts his head.

KEL

Don't worry, I'm getting paid.

INT. RAZOR CREST - COCKPIT - DAY

Aleena secures the Child in the passenger seat. He FUSSES, still upset that they're leaving. Aleena takes her own seat, putting on a headset and pressing buttons while simultaneously flicking switches.

She presses a button on the headset, then types something in BASIC into the display.

ALEENA

Mando? You read me?

There's a pause as Aleena pulls back on the controls, urging the Razor Crest into the air. The Child fusses in the background.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

Mando?

THE MANDALORIAN (O.S.)

(over comms)

The kid.

The Child freezes at the sound of the Mandalorian's voice. His eyes widen and he stares.

ALEENA

Safe. You?

THE MANDALORIAN (O.S.)
 (over comms)
 Working on it.

The Child BABBLES as he hears the Mandalorian's voice. Aleena lets herself smile faintly. She sobers.

THE MANDALORIAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 (over comms)
 Dank farrik.

EXT. TRADE MARKET - DAY

The stormtroopers are wasted by Kel. However, the final wave comes in the form of Captain Drakkar.

ALEENA (O.S.)
 (over comms)
 I didn't like the sound of that.

THE MANDALORIAN
 The officer--

ALEENA (O.S.)
 (over comms)
 Drakkar.

THE MANDALORIAN
 Go now.

ALEENA (O.S.)
 (over comms)
 He's your kid, Mando! I'm not gonna
 just--

Kel raises his gun as Captain Drakkar rolls up his sleeve. There's a metal plate with buttons in his skin. He presses one and Aleena's voice HISSES and CUTS OUT.

The machine gun, along with any other technology sizzles and deactivates.

Kel nods slowly, looking at the Mandalorian.

KEL
 Well, good luck with that one,
 Mandalorian.

Captain Drakkar advances on the Mandalorian, rolling up his other sleeve.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR
I've never fought a
Mandalorian...let's see how well
you match your mythos.

The Mandalorian picks up a metal pipe, hitting Captain Drakkar across his face. The act dazes him, but he doesn't go down.

A piece of skin on his jaw peels away to reveal more metal.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR (CONT'D)
You must not know the company you
keep, Mandalorian.

The Mandalorian doesn't take the bait, persisting in taking Captain Drakkar down.

Captain Drakkar headbutts the Mandalorian. Metal on metal RINGS and the Mandalorian stumbles.

The Mandalorian takes out a knife as Captain Drakkar lunges for him. The Mandalorian blocks with the knife, which slices through more artificial skin to reveal the metal beneath.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR (CONT'D)
A village burned because of her.
Her own mother...gone because of
her.

The Mandalorian attacks again. Captain Drakkar catches his hand.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR (CONT'D)
I was human once, Mandalorian. What
that girl leaves behind is death
and destruction. If there are
survivors, they become monsters.

Captain Drakkar slams the Mandalorian to the ground, his knee pressing into the beskar chest plate.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR (CONT'D)
I...became a monster.

The Razor Crest is in the skies. Captain Drakkar sees it, livid. He touches an earpiece.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR (CONT'D)
Anyone who's alive, after that
ship!

Moments later, a TIE fighter rises out of the forest, firing towards the Razor Crest. A green beam from the TIE fighter hits part of the Razor Crest's wing.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. RAZOR CREST - COCKPIT - DAY

The Child SQUEAKS at the sudden turbulence. He's definitely more awake now.

ALEENA
(muttering)
Great job, Mando, send the
inexperienced pilot with the
precious child.

Aleena tries to shake the TIE fighter on her tail, but she's a little rusty.

She tries to take the fighter down by shooting one of the Razor Crest's guns.

ALEENA (CONT'D)
This is why I use knives, kid.
You're right up there with your
enemy, zero chance of missing.

Aleena looks back at the child for a second.

ALEENA (CONT'D)
Not that you should ever be using
knives. It's not very peaceful and
you are definitely going down a
particular kind of path of goodness
and being one in the Force--

Aleena breaks out of Takodana's atmosphere into the Mid Rim.

EXT. TRADE MARKET - DAY

In the distraction, the Mandalorian slashes down the left side of Captain Drakkar's body. Fabric and skin tear, revealing blood.

Captain Drakkar looks down at the Mandalorian. He teeters before stabilizing.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR
Warriors of Mandalore aren't
supposed to fight dirty.

The Mandalorian rises to his feet and attacks again. Captain Drakkar stumbles.

The Mandalorian kicks him hard in the chest.

Captain Drakkar goes down and the Mandalorian presses a foot into Captain Drakkar's open, bleeding wound. Captain Drakkar GROANS.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR (CONT'D)

End it, Mandalorian.

THE MANDALORIAN

Call it off.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

You hold no cards, Mandalorian. I will gladly die in service of the Empire.

THE MANDALORIAN

You die a coward, too obsessed with your vendetta to do your job.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

What?

The Mandalorian steps harder against the wound, causing another loud GROAN.

THE MANDALORIAN

Keilara Andelev. You let us go because you wanted her. You failed the Empire.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

No one will believe that.

JAYDA

I do.

KEL

As do I.

Other locals VOICE their SUPPORT.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR

They will never fall for the ill-conceived lies of lawless, disgraceful--

JAYDA

One man might be a liar.

KEL

We're more than one. Do as the Mandalorian says, Captain.

Captain Drakkar raises a finger to his ear.

EXT. TIE FIGHTERS - MID RIM - DAY

The TIE fighters are still.

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR (O.S.)
 (over comms)
 Return to base. Our mission has
 changed.

STORMTROOPER 4
 Why?

CAPTAIN DRAKKAR (O.S.)
 (over comms)
 Do it!

The TIE fighters disappear into lightspeed, going in a
 different direction than the Razor Crest.

EXT. TRADE MARKET - DAY

The Mandalorian kicks Captain Drakkar's face, hard enough to
 knock him out. He looks to the crowd, unable to form words.

KEL
 Get the hell out of here,
 Mandalorian. Don't come back.

The Mandalorian hesitates.

KEL (CONT'D)
 I'm square with Aleena. And she's
 your problem now.

The Mandalorian looks towards the crowd.

THE MANDALORIAN
 The rest of them?

JAYDA
 We don't care much for the Empire
 around here. Won't take much for
 the story to be spread.

Jayda pauses, looking at the unconscious Captain Drakkar.

JAYDA (CONT'D)
 Doesn't look very dead though, hon.

THE MANDALORIAN

He will be. Anyone selling a ship nearby?

KEL

I could be...for a fee.

EXT. ILIS - A CLIFF OVERLOOKING AN OCEAN - NIGHT

Aleena passes back and forth in front of the Razor Crest. She bites her thumb nail.

ALEENA

Stupid, stupid, stupid. One minute with that...I'm a kriffing schoolgirl again.

Ilis is a quiet planet, mostly farmers. Aleena can barely make out lights of the distant farming community. She looks up to the sky.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

Should've stayed. Brave, *stupid* Mandalorian. Drakkar was my problem. Damn it!

Aleena lets out a huff.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

(mocking Mando)
"The kid matters. You matter."
Wouldn't be so effective without the stupid modulator, now would it?

THE MANDALORIAN (O.S.)

(amused)
Stupid?

Aleena whirls around to see the Mandalorian. A small ship is a short distance away. She keeps moving towards him. They stop, inches apart. Then Aleena gives him a shove.

ALEENA

And I don't know how much you remember about my piloting abilities, but I don't enjoy it. I especially don't enjoy being indebted to someone because they saved my life and that was my...

Aleena stops.

Then she flings her arms around him. The Mandalorian stiffens, not knowing what to do with his hands.

ALEENA (CONT'D)
Hug me back, you stoic idiot.

The Mandalorian hesitates as his hands rest gingerly against her back. A silent moment passes.

THE MANDALORIAN
(quietly)
The kid?

ALEENA
Practically comatose. He'll be okay
though

THE MANDALORIAN
Good.

Aleena lets go of the Mandalorian and steps back. Aleena looks away.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)
And you?

Aleena looks down, letting out a painful exhale of breath. The adrenaline is wearing off. She forces a smile.

ALEENA
Get back to me?

She looks back at the small ship with a frown.

ALEENA (CONT'D)
How the kriff did you get Kel's
ship?

EXT. ILIS - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A stolen Light Cruiser lands on the cliffs near the Razor Crest. The Mandalorian exits his ship.

Aleena stumbles out the back of the light cruiser, bruised and poorly patched up. The Mandalorian catches her.

ALEENA
Next time, you pull the white
knight thing, riduur.

THE MANDALORIAN
Still not married.

Aleena looks at the cheap ring on her finger and then at the Mandalorian

ALEENA

You have to know by now that if you ever asked, I wouldn't say no.

INT. RAZOR CREST - DAY

The Mandalorian watches Aleena sleep. The Child lets out a happy COO and the Mandalorian turns to see the Child stirring.

THE MANDALORIAN

(quietly)

Hey, kid.

The Child holds out his arms to the Mandalorian, fingers opening and closing impatiently. He GURGLES and COOS when the Mandalorian finally picks him up.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)

Shhh...

The Child tilts his head as though to ask why. The Mandalorian opens the back of the Razor Crest and steps out. He puts the Child down on the grass. The Child's eyes widen and he grasps handfuls, pulling.

When the grass breaks, the Child lands on his butt with handfuls of green. He holds it up to the Mandalorian triumphantly. The Mandalorian lets out a chuckle.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)

Good job, kid.

The Mandalorian takes in the distant farming village. It's peaceful here.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)

Nice place, huh?

The Child coos in agreement, still fascinated by his fists full of long grass. The ramp of the Razor Crest CREAKS under FOOTSTEPS.

ALEENA

Next time leave me out of your trouble, Mando.

THE MANDALORIAN

You'd find it without me.

Aleena smiles softly, looking down at the Child. He grins in acknowledgement of her.

ALEENA

Drakkar?

THE MANDALORIAN

Chatty.

Aleena's smile disappears completely.

ALEENA

Whatever he said, I...Mando, I didn't--what happened then, back when--

THE MANDALORIAN

You were a child.

Aleena swallows hard, holding her breath.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)

Like him. Right?

The Mandalorian nods towards the Child. Aleena can't speak so she nods her head. She kneels next to the Child, putting a hand on his hand. The Child looks up with a toothy grin.

Aleena sits back and the Child clambers onto her lap. Aleena reaches under her shirt and pulls out her necklace. The Child regards the BROKEN KYBER CRYSTAL in fascination.

ALEENA

They wanted my mother. This is the only piece I have left of her.

The Child's ears twitch when he touches it. His eyes widen in recognition.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

Me and this little guy and...my mother...we're connected. Through this. Through everything.

THE MANDALORIAN

I thought his...abilities were from his species.

ALEENA

Yes and no. He's pretty special.

The conversation halts again.

THE MANDALORIAN
He could use you.

ALEENA
He's got you, Mando.

THE MANDALORIAN
What do I do with him?

ALEENA
Love him.

THE MANDALORIAN
He'd be better off with his own
people.

ALEENA
Those people you speak of...my
mother got kicked out because she
fell in love. Not sure you want the
kid in a place like that.

THE MANDALORIAN
Miria Andelev.

ALEENA
How did you--?

THE MANDALORIAN
You were a good bounty hunter. I'm
better.

ALEENA
So you know--

THE MANDALORIAN
Yeah, Keilara. I know.

ALEENA
My mother called me Lara.

THE MANDALORIAN
At the jewellery stall, with Kel...

ALEENA
A mind trick. Same power that the
kid used to heal me, just a
different application. I don't use
it much.

The Mandalorian sits next to Aleena and the Child. The Child
climbs from Aleena's lap to his. They watch the peaceful
farming community in the distance.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

I've got a little bit of power, but this kid, Mando...he's something else.

THE MANDALORIAN

I know.

ALEENA

Guess you've gotta keep moving, don't you?

THE MANDALORIAN

Yeah.

ALEENA

Did you ever...after I left...

Aleena clears her throat.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

I need to know if...if what I said stayed with you. You didn't answer me then and I...I don't expect an answer, but I...I could've sworn that it was not just me who...felt something.

The Mandalorian pauses. He wraps an arm around the Child who relaxes into him. Aleena holds her breath.

THE MANDALORIAN

The kid and I ought to get going.

Aleena swallows hard and nods, her expression pained. They all stand and the Mandalorian hands Aleena the Child for one last hug.

ALEENA

Be good, kid. And if you really need me...

Aleena touches her forehead to the Child's and he COOS. Aleena smiles and then hands the Child back. She watches the Mandalorian climb the ramp. He stops at the top, putting the Child down.

THE MANDALORIAN

(to the Child)

I'll be up in a minute.

INT. RAZOR CREST - ILIS - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The Mandalorian wraps Aleena's wound. Aleena looks nervous.

ALEENA

It can't be a surprise, Mando. Me feeling something for you.

THE MANDALORIAN

Aleena--

ALEENA

No, I--you're this loner who traipses the galaxy collecting bad guys for a fee. You don't--you don't work with people, you work with me. You teach me words in Mando'a and I guess you don't do that with everyone--

Aleena SEETHES in pain when the Mandalorian secures the bandage in place.

ALEENA (CONT'D)

We're partners and I--I lo--

THE MANDALORIAN

Don't. You don't know me. You are young.

ALEENA

Are you seriously gonna pretend this is one sided?

The Mandalorian doesn't answer.

EXT./INT. KEL'S SHIP - DAY

The back of Kel's ship opens up. The Mandalorian and Aleena step on together to see Captain Mikal Drakkar is tied up and unconscious.

THE MANDALORIAN

A present.

Aleena laughs in disbelief.

ALEENA

Thanks.

THE MANDALORIAN

I can't convince you?

ALEENA

Your job is protecting that kid.
Mine...I've gotta find bad people
to screw over.

THE MANDALORIAN

Lots of those in the galaxy.

Aleena laughs with a nod.

ALEENA

Hence the steady employment of
bounty hunters.

THE MANDALORIAN

If you need anything--

ALEENA

I'll find you. Even if you're a
better bounty hunter.

The Mandalorian turns to leave. He pauses, turning his head
just enough to catch one last glance at Aleena.

THE MANDALORIAN

(quietly)

Glad you kept that ring, Lara.

Aleena raises a hand to her mouth as the Mandalorian exits
the ship. She lets out a half-hearted laugh.

ALEENA

Stupid kriffing schoolgirl.

INT. RAZOR CREST - SPACE

The Mandalorian pilots the Razor Crest stiffly. The Child
makes a sad noise. The Mandalorian turns, grabbing the Child
to sit on his lap. The Child makes another sad noise.

THE MANDALORIAN

I know, kid.

The Mandalorian turns his attention back to space, piloting
carefully around any debris that may lurk.

THE MANDALORIAN (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Gonna miss her too.

END OF EPISODE