

SHATTERED EMPIRE

Part IV

The Battle of Endor is now three months in the past. Word of the Rebel Alliance victory and the death of Emperor Palpatine continues to spread slowly throughout the galaxy, its progress impaired by the endless propaganda of the Galactic Empire. Nonetheless, in many quarters, the Empire continues exactly as it did before, and the war continues to rage.

A contingency plan known as OPERATION: CINDER has been activated by the Emperor's death to exact vengeance against the his enemies, as well as to preserve the secrets, treasures, and knowledge of the SITH LORD. Countless worlds throughout the Outer Rim have suffered devastating attacks as Imperial remnants hurry to fulfill their late master's will.

The elation of the rebel victory is now just a fading memory, lost in the wake of nonstop combat operations against the Imperial remnants. For many of the rebels, the dream of laying down their arms and living in peace seems further away than the elation of victory promised....

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JOURNEY TO STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS - SHATTERED EMPIRE No. 4, December 2015. Published Monthly except in October by MARVEL WORLDWIDE, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, LLC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020. BULK MAIL POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. STAR WARS and related text and illustrations are trademarks and/or copyrights, in the United States and other countries, of Lucasfilm Ltd. and/or its affiliates. © & TM Lucasfilm Ltd. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Marvel and its logos are TM Marvel Characters, Inc. \$3.99 per copy in the U.S. (GST #R127032852) in the direct market; Canadian Agreement #40668537. Printed in the USA. Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. \$26.99; Canada \$42.99; Foreign \$42.99. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO JOURNEY TO STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS - SHATTERED EMPIRE, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTIONS P.O. BOX 727 NEW HYDE PARK, NY 11040. TELEPHONE # (888) 511-5480. FAX # (347) 537-2649. subscriptions@marvel.com. ALAN FINE, President, Marvel Entertainment; DAN BUCKLEY, President, TV, Publishing and Brand Management; JOE QUESADA, Chief Creative Officer; TOM BREVOORT, SVP of Publishing; DAVID BOGART, SVP of Operations & Procurement; Publishing; C.B. CEBULSKI, VP of International Development & Brand Management; DAVID GABRIEL, SVP of Print, Sales & Marketing; JIM O'KEEFE, VP of Operations & Logistics; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; SUSAN CRESPI, Editorial Operations Manager; ALEX MORALES, Publishing Operations Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Jonathan Rheingold, VP of Custom Solutions & Ad Sales, at jrheingold@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 888-511-5480. Manufactured between 09/25/2015 and 10/06/2015 by QUAD/GRAPHICS WASECA, WASECA, MN, USA.

Rebel Fleet Command. Mustering Point: Stalwart.

...ONGOING
IMPERIAL OPERATIONS
TARGETING *ANOTHER*
DOZEN WORLDS...

...BURNIN KONN, CADOVANT,
ABEDNEO, AND COMMENOR
AMONGST THEM.

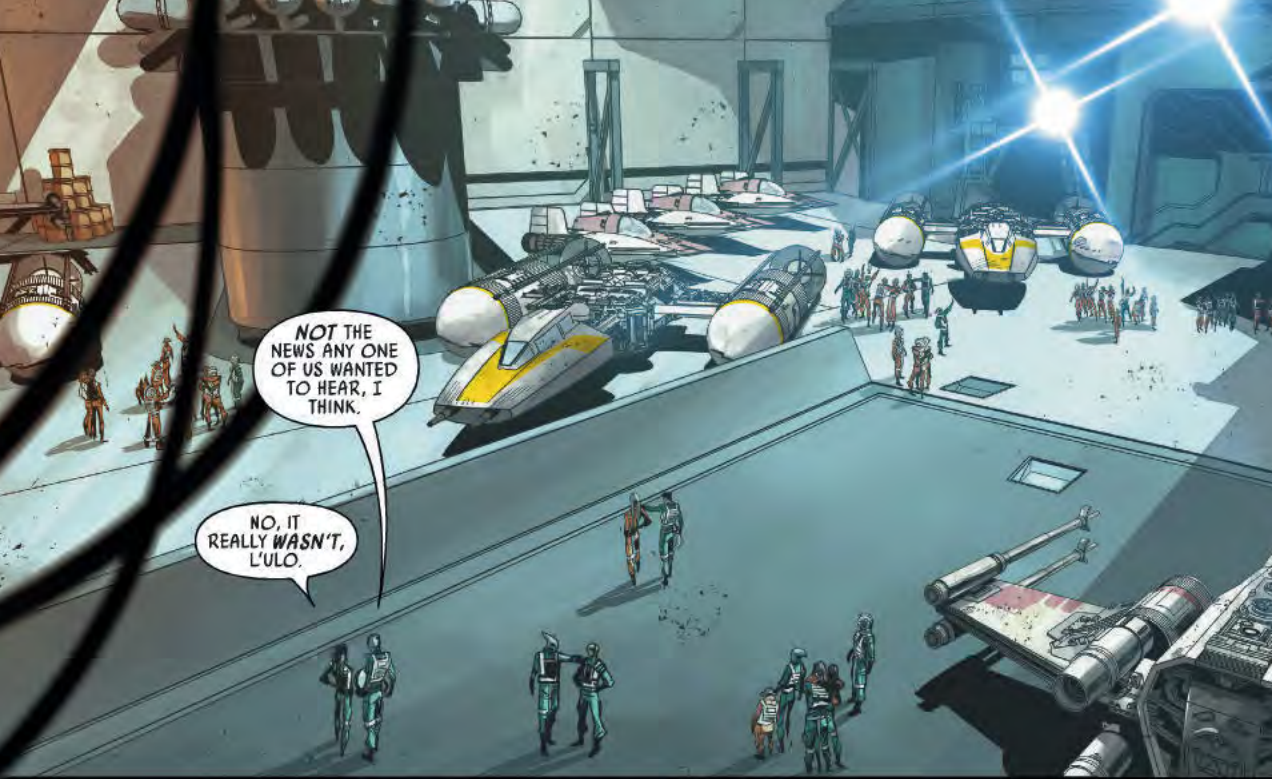
SOME OF
THESE APPEAR TO BE
SOLELY PUNITIVE ON
THE PART OF THE
EMPIRE...

...THOUGH
THE PURPOSE
OF MANY OTHERS
IS FAR LESS
CLEAR.

YOUR
EFFORTS IN
COMBATING OPERATION:
CINDER HAVE BEEN
INSTRUMENTAL IN SAVING
COUNTLESS INNOCENT
LIVES.

THAT SAID, AS
MUCH AS ADMIRAL ACKBAR
AND I WISH WE COULD TELL
YOU THE *END* IS AT HAND...

...WE SEE *NO*
RESPITE FROM
HOSTILITIES AT
THIS TIME...



NOT THE NEWS ANY ONE OF US WANTED TO HEAR, I THINK.

NO, IT REALLY WASN'T, L'ULO.



YOU EVER THINK THAT THIS IS NEVER GOING TO END?

AH, SHARA, YOU CAN'T THINK THAT WAY.

OTHERWISE WE'RE JUST FIGHTING FOR THE SAKE OF THE FIGHT, RIGHT?



I UNDERSTAND YOUR HUSBAND PUT HIS PAPERWORK IN AND THAT IT'S BEEN APPROVED.

I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF SUBMITTING YOURS.



YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT, CAPTAIN.

SHARA, YOU AND KES HAVE DONE MORE THAN YOUR FAIR SHARE.

IT'S MUSTERING OUT, IT'S NOT DESERTION. BESIDES, IT'S ALREADY DONE, SHOULD BE CLEARED WITHIN THE WEEK.



IT'S PAST TIME THAT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY GOT TO LIVE THE LIVES YOU'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR.

TIME FOR YOU TO PICK OUT A WORLD TO SETTLE ON, LIEUTENANT.



YES, SIR.

BEED DEET BOIP



YOU'RE TALKING TO ME?

**DA-DEET
DWEET
BOIT BEE**



WHAT? WAIT, WHERE?

**BEEP
BOIT
BEE**



**BA-DEEP
BA-TWEEP
POIT**

I AM KEEPING UP, IF YOU'D JUST TELL ME WHO--



**BWEEP
BIP
BA-DEEP**

THANKS, ARTOO.

SO, THE PROBLEM WITH THESE LAMBDA-CLASS SHUTTLES, THEY FLY FINE WITH ONE, BUT IT'S MUCH EASIER WITH A COPILOT...



...ESPECIALLY THROUGH HYPERSPACE. THIS IS JUST A QUICK TRIP OUT TO VETINE, IN THE MERRICK SECTOR.

THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO GET.

I'M LUKE SKYWALKER, BY THE WAY.