

Book II, Part III  
**SHADOWS AND SECRETS**

**It is a period of insurgence. After the destruction of the Death Star by a Force-strong rebel pilot, the Sith Lord DARTH VADER was deemed responsible by his master, Emperor Palpatine. Enlisting the help of archaeologist DOCTOR APHRA and droids, Beete and Triple-Zero, Vader is able to pursue his own agenda under the Empire's ever watchful eye.**

**Using the expertise of Aphra and a carefully selected crew of bounty hunters, Vader looted a stash of credits from an Imperial cruiser under the guise of an accident. Complete with a droid army, a team of bounty hunters, and an Imperial fortune on hand, Vader is one step closer to finding the rebel pilot.**

**Now in the Anthan system, Vader's new adjutant Imperial Inspector Thanoth gets to the bottom of what happened on the ill-fated Imperial cruiser....**

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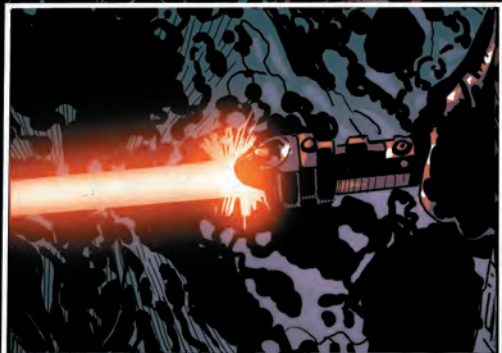
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# Anthan 13.



THE  
REBELLION  
HAS MANY  
FAILINGS.

YOUR  
SLOWNESS  
IS MOST  
AGGRAVATING.



# Anthan Prime Orbital Dockyard.

THANTO TO  
VADER...

WHAT  
IS IT?

I'M SET  
UP ON  
ANTHAN PRIME.  
I NEED YOUR  
ASSISTANCE,  
IMMEDIATELY.

I BELIEVE  
I HAVE A  
LEAD TO THOSE  
RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THE  
ROBBERY...





WHAT MADE YOU SO SURE IT WAS A CRIME AND NOT AN ACCIDENT?

ACCIDENTS HAPPEN. ACCIDENTS CAN BE MADE TO HAPPEN. TAGGE WANTED ME TO HAVE A CLOSER LOOK. HE HAD ALREADY BUDGETED THOSE RESOURCES TOWARDS A SUPER STAR DESTROYER.

YOU KNOW TAGGE AND HIS SUPER STAR DESTROYERS.



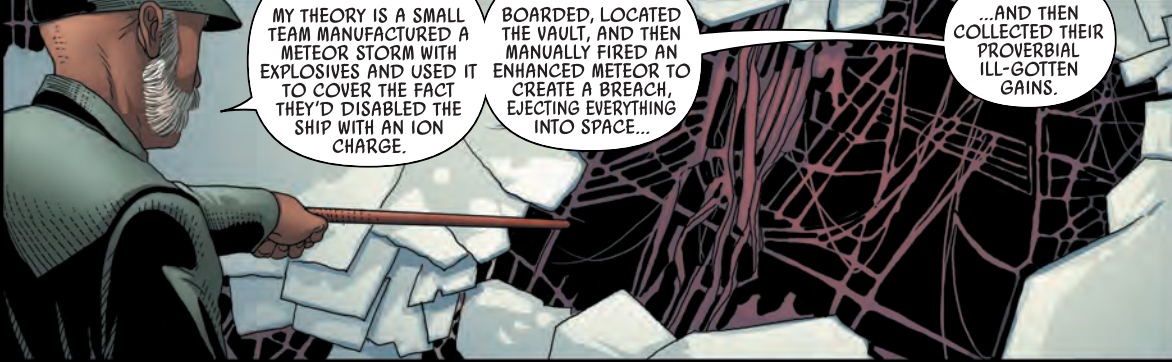
I EXAMINED ITS SYSTEMS. THERE WAS NO SIGN OF INTERFERENCE. IN FACT, SUSPICIOUSLY LITTLE SIGN OF INTERFERENCE.

WITH A METEOR STRIKE, I'D HAVE EXPECTED MUCH MORE BASAL DISRUPTION. I SUSPECT THE LOGS WERE RESET TO FACTORY DEFAULTS BY THE CRIMINALS TO COVER THEIR ACTIONS.



I WAS SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE MAIN PENETRATION, TOO. NOT WHAT I'D HAVE EXPECTED FROM A NORMAL ASTEROID.

IT'D HAVE REQUIRED AN UNUSUALLY HIGH METAL CONTENT...



MY THEORY IS A SMALL TEAM MANUFACTURED A METEOR STORM WITH EXPLOSIVES AND USED IT TO COVER THE FACT THEY'D DISABLED THE SHIP WITH AN ION CHARGE.

BOARDED, LOCATED THE VAULT, AND THEN MANUALLY FIRED AN ENHANCED METEOR TO CREATE A BREACH, EJECTING EVERYTHING INTO SPACE...

...AND THEN COLLECTED THEIR PROVERBIAL ILL-GOTTEN GAINS.



BUT YOU COULD BE MISTAKEN...

I CAN'T BE SURE, BUT IT SEEMS LOGICAL ENOUGH.



I HOPE YOU ARE CORRECT.

MY TIME IS TOO PRECIOUS TO SPEND CHASING PHANTOMS.