

THE TRIAL
A STAR WARS FAN FILM

Written by

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Based on 'STAR WARS' By George Lucas

Address
Phone Number

EXT. FORESTS OF NABOO - DUSK

A golden sunset bathes the forest of Naboo. Life is thriving, The Force is more than doing it's job. A gentle breeze ruffles the sea of leaves. All is calm... until the silence is broken by the clash of lightsabers.

EXT. FOREST GLADE - CONTINUOUS

Beams of sunlight blink through the canopy.

CRACK!

Padawan MAPLI ANDA, 19, smashes into the trunk of a tree. He's big, muscular, and the whole tree shakes upon impact.

He casually rubs a footprint from his gut, pushes his braid behind his ear, and summons his lightsaber off the ground. He ignites the blade, bathing the whole glade in blue.

He takes his guard, but holding the saber in front makes it difficult to see ahead. Drop the blade low? Not ideal. So he holds the blade high above his head, the tip pointing backwards. *Aggressive, but a good compromise.*

ANDA

Come out, Linz! You know I always find you!

There is no answer but the rustle of leaves. So he closes his eyes and concentrates-

SNAP! Behind him! He turns ready to defend -no-one there. A distraction.

ANDA (CONT'D)

Clever. What a 'Sneaky Sith' you are.

LINZ (O.S.)

Don't call me that!

Golden light appears behind Anda. He turns towards Padawan LINZ DAWN, 21 - A Padawan unlike any other; tattoos, torn robes, braid almost hidden, and most curious of all, a gold lightsaber with a black core.

They circle each other, both waiting for their next move, both momentarily distracted by the sheen their sabers cast on their sweaty, tensed muscles.

ANDA

You broke a tree.

LINZ
You keep leaving yourself open.

A playful taunt, and he's annoyed that its true. Time to prove her wrong.

Their blades clash. Muscles strain. Sweat drips. There's 'electricity' when their skin touches. Their bodies writhe over one another. It's not a fight, it's a dance, and they love it more than they should.

They're well-matched, they know each others moves. His footwork counters her unorthodox attacks. But he's getting frustrated that he's only defending.

Sensing his frustration, she breaks off and steps back.

ANDA
(Breathing heavily)
Had enough?

LINZ
(Not breathing heavily)
Yes. Your defensive technique is a marvel, Master Jedi.

ANDA
I could have ended this by now, if I'd wanted to.

LINZ
Course you could.

Now he's annoyed. Now he forces the issue, swiping with more venom. Each stroke lands hard, almost knocking the blade out of her hand...

He take a huge swipe, misses, and over-balances. The swipe cuts a branch from the tree. She giggles nervously, thinking she's weathered the storm. She needlessly twirls her lightsaber.

Anda seizes the opening, he Force-throws the fallen branch at her, she cuts it out of the air, but before she knows it Anda has swiped the saber out of her hand. The glittering hilt flies off into the undergrowth.

He triumphantly points the saber to her face.

ANDA
Do you yield?

LINZ
Is your leg OK?

ANDA

What?

He falls for it! He looks down. She Force-pushes the saber up into the air and then sweeps his leg. She summons her lightsaber, catches his, then kneels on his chest with both blades held above his face.

It hits him all at once just how stupid it was to lose this way. The look on his face makes Linz giggle - *silly boy*.

She leans over, her face close to his. His lips part expectantly...

LINZ

(Whispers)

Do you yield?

The sore loser Force-pushes her off him, she flies backwards and hits the ground hard. He picks himself up, snatches back his lightsaber and storms off.

LINZ (CONT'D)

Anda! What the hell?

ANDA (O.S.)

We said no Force-pushes!

LINZ

What? Seriously? Anda?

She rolls her eyes, picks herself up, before following him into the shadow of the trees.

EXT. FOREST, CAMP - CONTINUOUS

Anda puts on the rest of his robes, and sullenly starts packing away his gear. He deploys a grappling hook by mistake, and it flies off into the trees.

ANDA

Poodoo.

Linz appears out of the shadows, watching as he untethers the cable.

ANDA (CONT'D)

Don't start-

LINZ

Why pack it? You know you're a Jedi, right?

ANDA

No! Not until we pass The Trials.
Which we won't because you keep
cheating!

LINZ

(Does a Yoda impression)
"Hmm... A Jedi must have the
deepest commitment, the most
serious mind."

ANDA

And you have neither!

LINZ

Anda, you know-

He's being a jerk, and she wants to tell him so. But she sees he's ready to fight back. Her frustration dissipates, she knows it's not going to help anything so...

LINZ (CONT'D)

OK. I'm sorry *I* broke the rules.

ANDA

Apology accepted.

He turns back to his gear. She silently screams, before walking over to pick up some rations.

ANDA (CONT'D)

You almost shaved my face this
time!

LINZ

What's a little lightsaber burn
between friends?

The word 'friends' seems to upset him, for some reason. He looks over; she looks good in the light of the sunset. Her hair flickers in the breeze, the strange metal of her lightsaber hilt glinting in her hand.

She's not comfortable with the way he's looking at her. She makes herself a smaller target by sitting on the ground to pack her gear. He senses her discomfort...

ANDA

Er... when my Master talked about
'The Trials' I never thought we'd
have to find it first. I thought
we'd just be taken to an assault-
course or something.

She smiles up at him, a kind of *'Thank goodness your pretty'* kind of smile.

ANDA (CONT'D)

What?

LINZ

The 'Great Trial', a test of heart and mind. To show we are ready to be Jedi? No I didn't think it was an assault course! We're not joining the Senate Guard! But...

ANDA

What?

LINZ

It doesn't matter.

ANDA

No, what is it?

LINZ

Well, I didn't think... and please don't take this the wrong way... but I didn't think my 'Great Trial' would include... you.

ANDA

Oh.

LINZ

I don't mean... You're my oldest friend, well, my only friend, and all the Masters say you're the most promising Padawan they've seen in a century, so I know I'm lucky to have you here, I just mean-

ANDA

It's OK, Linz. I've never heard of two Padawans taking The Trials together. But... I think it makes sense.

LINZ

Explain...

ANDA

We're 'unorthodox', well, you are, and I get you out of trouble. Like your search for the mythical catacombs under The Temple-

LINZ

They're there, and that was one time!

ANDA

You get stuck somewhere you have been forbidden to go, and I always know your in trouble. My Gift tells me where to find you. It's the will of The Force that we find each other.

There's a nice sentiment in there somewhere. She'd never tell him, but his 'Gift' turns her stomach. She lets her disgust show while he's turned the other way.

Anda stands up, puts on his pack, and tries to sense where to go next. But he can feel nothing, he's troubled, he should feel something. Not that he would ever admit such a thing.

ANDA (CONT'D)

So no ancient Jedi assault-course. So what do you think we are looking for?

She stands up and concentrates. She drinks in the ancient forest; the breath of wind, the flutter of a bird's wings, the tree's creaking together like their communicating... The Force, flowing between it all. It's a comfort to feel it so close.

ANDA (CONT'D)

What do you sense?

LINZ

There's an assault course over the ridge.

ANDA

Really?

LINZ

No. I sense only this beautiful old forest. And running water close by. We can fill our canteens and then, you know, 'go with the flow'.

ANDA

Right, so what does that, erm...oh, 'flow', like water flow?

He laughs at getting the joke, a deep, hearty laugh that echoes around the Forest. It catches them both by (pleasant) surprise.

ANDA (CONT'D)
This way?

He points the wrong way, she corrects him. He nods and starts walking off, leaving before she finishes packing.

LINZ
(Mutters)
I sense the path, but he leads the way...

EXT. RIVERSIDE - SUNSET

The light is disappearing as Linz puts her lightsaber on the ground and fills her canteen. Anda examines some berry's at a nearby bush.

Linz is enjoying the flow of the water on her hand, until two floating berries start tapping at her face. At first she thinks they're insects and tries to wave them away, until she realises...

ANDA
What do you think, poisonous or not?

LINZ
There's an easier way to do that!

ANDA
Well?

LINZ
You're fine. Leave the yellow ones.

ANDA
Wizard! Where now?

LINZ
Follow the river, maybe? Head to higher ground, see what we can see?

ANDA
Right... I bet it's trees!

She splashes water at him. He responds by throwing a berry at her. It's a nice moment, but neither of them knows what it means. He moves first, pointing up the hill. She nods. He walks off, but he can't help turn back for a second look at her.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - NIGHT

The sun sets, Anda's saber blazes into light, nearby tree's seem to jump out of nowhere when touched by the blue glow.

ANDA

Are you going to light your saber?

LINZ

Nope.

ANDA

I've never asked, but why do you never clip it to your belt like everyone else?

LINZ

I'm not like everyone else.

He looks back, waiting for her to explain.

LINZ (CONT'D)

When you have all the other Padawans call you 'Sneaky Sith', and saying they're going to 'deal' with me... it helps for them to think I'm 'on guard'.

ANDA

Oh...well, I don't think you have to be 'on guard' here.

LINZ

Also it's heavy, it pulls my trousers down.

Anda misses the joke. His eyes dart all around, peering out into the trees, he's the one 'on guard'. He tries to use his lightsaber to light every shadow.

LINZ (CONT'D)

(Raising her voice)

Any Sith Lords lurking about?

ANDA

If there are, you just gave away our position!

LINZ

Good! JEDI DON'T HIDE! Right, Master Anda?

ANDA

No. But I don't want to give him time to prepare either!

LINZ

'Him'? Women can be Sith too, you know? Like Darth Traya, and Darth Zannah; she was Darth Bane's apprentice, and we know how important apprentices were to him! And-

ANDA

Why do you know so many Sith Lords?

LINZ

I read, Slimo!

ANDA

Do you think its a good idea to be so interested in Sith Lords? When the others call you-

LINZ

Whatever the other Padawans say, I'm not a Sith! My lightsaber is not red!

ANDA

I know. I didn't mean... But it's not exactly a normal colour though, is it?

LINZ

What are you trying to say, Anda?

He quails under her fierce gaze. He's not sure where this argument came from. Neither does she. Both calm down out of guilt.

ANDA

I didn't mean-

LINZ

No I know-

ANDA

You know I've always-

LINZ

I do. And it's always... I'm sorry. I know I should rise above it, but when 'Sneaky Sith' follows you around The Temple...

He nods, a little ashamed of himself. He lets her take the lead this time. It gives him a moment to collect himself because... *what the hell was that about?*

She walks ahead, keeping to the edge of the blue light, so that he can't see her wipe a tear from her eye.

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

A cave that tunnels downwards into darkness. Anda directs the his saber into the tunnel, but the darkness wins after a few meters.

LINZ
Looks Trial-y, right?

ANDA
Yeah. You go first.

He half-meant it as a joke. So close to his lightsaber her reaction is hard to read. The light washes away the features of her face, leaving only a mouth and black eyes.

Anda steps back, moving the saber up to see her better. But she's already gone inside the cave.

Torn between being alone in the dark of the trees, and with his friend in the dark of the caves, he follows her in.

INT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

The cave is just high enough for him to walk upright. But he has to keep his saber still to stop it sparking on the rocks. He tries to light the way ahead. No sign of Linz...

ANDA
Linz? (PAUSE) You're not stuck in another hole are you?

LINZ (O.S.)
Not yet.

The minerals and water droplets catch the light of his saber, they sparkle like crystals.

LINZ (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(Yoda Impression)
What troubles you, young Padawan?

ANDA
Don't do that!

LINZ (O.S.)
 (Yoda impression)
 Betray you, your thoughts do.

ANDA
 It reminds me of Ilum. That wasn't much fun either. The way The Force moves through that place, and reaches into you mind. And we didn't have lightsabers yet... Normally I only go in places like this because you've gotten stuck, but in Ilum...

LINZ (O.S.)
 Ask your question, Master Anda.

ANDA
 Why didn't you go with us to Ilum?

LINZ (O.S.)
 You know why.

ANDA
 Your saber has a dark core. Ilum crystals hall have light ones. That means you got your crystal somewhere else.

His voice echoes all around the cave. For a moment it is the only sound. Linz doesn't respond.

But then her golden/black blade flares in the darkness right in front of him. He almost falls backwards in fright. It make her sad to see this reaction, but it is not new to her.

Should I tell him?

LINZ
 That's is why they started calling me 'Sneaky Sith', right? The dark core?

Anda searches for an answer. He wants to say 'no', but he can't bring himself to admit it. Fear is not the Jedi way.

LINZ (CONT'D)
 Dark is bad, right? The Temple Guards use Gold, so Gold is good, yeah? When it's got a light core. Does black taint gold? Does that make it more powerful? Cuts through everything just the same as yours.
 (MORE)

LINZ (CONT'D)

This 'weapon' cuts through
everything!

ANDA

What are you trying to say?

LINZ

I built my saber, alone, after I found this crystal in The Temple. And I thought I was finally becoming a Jedi, I was what I'm supposed to be, like everyone else I know. Then one look at the core, and then... well, "this weapon is your life".

ANDA

Your Crystal came from the Temple? Is that why you keep searching underneath-

LINZ

No. It was in my Masters quarters. Somehow my family convinced her to take it when she took me.

The light of their sabers clash in the tunnel. Anda is overwhelmed with this information. Linz waits patiently while he attempts to get his head around this.

ANDA

She kept a Kyber Crystal... from your family? Is that allowed?

LINZ

'Attachment is forbidden'. So, no, probably not.

(Responding to Anda's
questioning look)

It's been in my family for thousands of years. When has a crystal ever had such a deep affinity with a bloodline? I'm sure my Master was curious at what power it held.

ANDA

(He can't take this!)

Wait! Thousands of years? Were your family Jedi?

LINZ

If they were, then they definitely broke The Code!

(MORE)

LINZ (CONT'D)

No, my ancestors used to mine the crystals, and they kept one, and passed it down. The runes on my saber tell the story of my family. At least I think they do, I haven't dared have them translated, just in case-

ANDA

THEY THROW YOU OUT OF THE ORDER?

His voice echoes menacingly all around the caves. They surround her, taunting her, accusing her. She retracts her blade, leaving only the searching, accusing blue light.

ANDA (CONT'D)

DANK FERRIK! You don't know what they say? So who did?

LINZ

My... my Grandfather... I took a ship from The Temple Hangar and-

ANDA

YOU TOOK A SHIP FROM HANGAR OF THE JEDI TEMPLE?!?! Of course you did! And you went to find your Grandfather?

LINZ

Yes.

ANDA

(A new horrible thought occurs.)

Wait! I had no idea. I didn't know you'd left The Temple. I always know! And your Master wasn't punished, so no one knows. How did you do this without anyone knowing?

LINZ

What's that supposed to mean?

ANDA

Answer the question!

LINZ

The Force guided me! OK? It showed me a place where I was loved, something I've never felt at The Temple! I don't know, I can't explain more than that.

Anda rubs his head. He's torn in so many different directions. He loves her, he's stung by her saying she's never felt loved. Multiple violations of The Code he's lived his whole life by. And all without him knowing.

He see's a glint in the darkness. He catches a glimpse of those apostate engravings. It's all too much!

ANDA

I... I need to get out of this cave. I need air, space, I need-

LINZ

OK. We're nearly through anyway. No Trial in here but you, old friend.

A joke said through tear-filled eyes, that neither of them find funny. She leads Anda towards the Cave exit.

EXT. CAVE MOUTH - NIGHT

Anda emerges out of the cave, taking a long breath of air like he's been stuck underwater.

Linz is transfixed at the sight of a huge lake, reflecting a massive moon.

LINZ

Woah.

Anda looks up. He too is transfixed by this awesome display of creation.

LINZ (CONT'D)

The Force gets it right sometimes, huh?

A shadow flashes behind Anda's eyes, his awe at the glory of The Force tempered by his friend questioning it. He overcomes it, but not quick enough that Linz doesn't notice.

LINZ (CONT'D)

You hungry?

The question wasn't a threat, a test, or a trick. Yet somehow he feels unsure how to answer it. But he nods, tentatively.

EXT. LAKE SIDE - NIGHT

Both Padawans sit at opposite ends of a fallen tree. Linz wolfs down her rations, her Lightsaber perched on the log next to her.

Anda eats slowly. He looks down at her lightsaber like its an enemy that may strike at any moment. He realises too late that she's watching him, concerned.

LINZ

Anda, tell me what you're thinking.

ANDA

You mean you want to know if I'm going to tell The Council?

LINZ

No... Well, yes. But I realise... I didn't mean to put all that on you at once. And I... I'm just sorry. And I should have waited until light, not cornered you in a cave-

ANDA

What?

LINZ

I know you're not at your best in the dark-

He bristles at this suggestion, regardless of whether it's true.

LINZ (CONT'D)

It's not a weakness! You never think twice about looking for me when I get-

ANDA

Lost? Or stuck in a hole for the millionth time?

LINZ

(Through clenched teeth)

Fine. Yes. When I get myself into trouble, I know you would walk into the abyss for me.

Anda plays with his food, successfully mollified again. Linz breathes a sigh of relief; pacifying him is more exhausting to Linz than the sparring session.

ANDA

I wouldn't have to if you just followed the rules!

LINZ

You know I don't have that talent.

ANDA

Why though? Why is it so hard for you?

LINZ

I... I can't help it. You tell me something is true, and I ask 'why'? 'This weapon is your life'. Why? Why do we need a weapon if we're peacekeepers? 'Fear is the path to the dark side', Why? Are we damned because we're afraid? 'The Force is your all' Is it? Why am I so lucky? I know I shouldn't have these questions. But... do these questions mean I'm unworthy?

He's torn, and he doesn't know how to repair it. His friend, someone he loves, suddenly challenging every value he holds close. Doubt suddenly gnaws at him, but it shouldn't! He doesn't know how to untangle any of this. He needs someone to tell him how. And no one will until he reaches The Temple.

And she knows that...

ANDA

Why are you telling me this now?

LINZ

Because this beautiful planet is where our Trial will begin. And I can't become a Jedi with this conflict in my heart. I don't know how else to be at peace with myself than to tell the one person in the galaxy that cares about me.

ANDA

But, your Grandfather?

LINZ

I felt him slip away, last year.

And they wouldn't let me go and mourn him!

ANDA

Your parents?

LINZ

They passed after I was taken. My Dad went first, and my Mum couldn't manage without him too, so...

Now Anda is worse; sympathy for his friend who's lost what she's never known, and anger because she should never have known it was hers to lose.

LINZ (CONT'D)

Anda?

ANDA

I... I can't... I feel like I failed.

LINZ

Failed? How?

ANDA

I always thought I was a good influence. I thought somehow I was helping you curb those rebellious instincts. That's why The Council let me stay by your side. They said you needed me.

LINZ

(She can't help herself)

Oh! Wow. That's... that's very benevolent of you.

ANDA

No!

In a flash Anda has tipped his food over, drawn his saber, and with a petulant swipe cut through the tree trunk. He points his growling saber at her.

ANDA (CONT'D)

You! You don't get to... I've always stood by you! Risked my place...Do you think I didn't want to break the rules? You think I wouldn't love to take a ship and go? Do you think I didn't want to tell the only person in the Galaxy I...

He stops himself. Bows his head and looks away from her.

LINZ

What, Anda?

He retracts the blade. Clipping it back to his side.

ANDA
That's the point, Linz. I can't.
I'm a Jedi. A Jedi follows The
Code. Or else...

The unthinkable happens...

LINZ
And what if The Code is wrong?

ANDA
Wrong?

LINZ
And does a moments weakness deserve
banishment?

ANDA
...Yes!

She's afraid. This is going worse than she feared. He's leaning on what he knows, he's not allowing it to be questioned. And the doubt is making him angry. She never wanted him to be in this much turmoil. She fears he's made his choice.

LINZ
Well... You're my best reason to
stay. And now I've asked too much.
I'll leave. You can call LX-1 and
take the ship home. I'll hike back
to Theed and...

She picks up her pack, her lightsaber, and stands. She's needs him to say it, but she is prepared to go.

ANDA
You can't take that.

It takes her a moment to understand. When she does, she's beyond offended. She holds out the lightsaber hilt in front of her, it sparkles in the moonlight. Anda steps back like its something indecent.

LINZ
This? The only thing the Jedi let
me call my own? You want to take it
away too?

She watches as a change comes over her old friend. There is guilt for a moment, but then the emotion leaves his eyes. He's pushing away the turmoil, the conflict...

ANDA

I shall do what I must.

He stands still for a moment, barely moving as the wind stirs the trees around them. Then in a flash he's drawn his saber and attacks.

He's ragged, attacking with anger more than technique. It gives her an opening to Force-push him, blasting him in the face, and sends him flying into a nearby tree.

He yelps in pain as she runs off into the trees. Anda struggles to pick himself up. His nose is bleeding, tears make it hard to see. His robes have ripped on the tree trunk.

He has a twig lodged deep into his calf.

He tries to calmly pull the branch out of his leg. But the pain causes him to yell out. And it enrages him!

EXT. LAKE SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Linz darts between the branches. She stops when she hears his scream of pain... *And the anger.* Her instinct is to go and help. But she can't, she has to run.

Something calls to me. A cliff. A Ravine. That's where I'm supposed to go.

EXT. LAKE SIDE - CONTINUOUS

Anda limps after her. And then...

I see her. I see her purpose.

His 'Gift' returns. With his blade held high he moves out of the tree line. He see's the cliff, a high hill cracked in two.

EXT. THE RAVINE - NIGHT

Puffing and panting, Linz runs out of the tree line and almost runs over the edge. The Ravine seems to appear as if out of nowhere.

There's a faint roar of water below, like the murmuring of a monster hidden in the shadowy depths. It's too dark to see the bottom. Maybe there is no bottom.

Blue light flashes behind her. Instinctively Linz lights her saber and begins desperately deflecting Anda's heavy attacks. If she loses her saber her it will be lost to the ravine...

LINZ

Why are you doing this, Anda?

ANDA

Because I-

The distraction works. She kicks his bleeding leg. He yelps out in pain and falls to his knee. She retracts her blade and disappears into the trees.

His leg is bleeding more now. He jump back as Linz bolts at him. She runs past and launches herself over the ravine.

She makes it to the other side, just. She scrambles up to safe ground.

Anda leers at her from the other side. He's going to follow, but... He looks down into the ravine. The monster whispers to him. The swirling darkness eats away the light of his saber.

LINZ

Anda! Please... don't!

ANDA

You think I'm not capable? You think I'm afraid?

LINZ

I think you're injured.

ANDA

'Fear is a path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger, anger leads to-

LINZ

Yes Anda! I remember Yoda's favourite poem! Just... just don't try it!

He stands up slowly, never taking his eyes off the darkness. He struggles to put weight on his leg. But he seems divorced from the pain.

ANDA

You mock the greatest living Jedi. And you mock me!

Anda hobbles back, giving himself a run up.

I am a Jedi. The Force is my ally. I am powerful enough.

LINZ
ANDA NO!

Anda launches himself out over the ravine. He's not going to make it across.

Linz attempts to grab him with The Force. But the idiot Force-pushes her, sending her flying backwards and smashing her head against a tree. It also halts his momentum.

He panics! He fumbles around at his belt and scrambles out the grappling hook. He fires towards the trees.

Linz is stirring, she's woozy. She rubs the back of her head and feels blood. She's curious at the sudden appearance of a grappling hook skittering next to her.

The hook is going over. Linz grabs it. She pulls hard, but it pulls back harder. She reaches out with The Force, grabbing onto the trees that groan and crack under the pressure.

The cord tightens. Anda slams hard into the cliff face, injured leg first. He yells in pain.

LINZ (CONT'D)
CLIMB YOU SLIMO!

Anda needs a second, but then he starts climbing, peeking glances at the abyss swirling below. He climbs quicker as it seems to rise to grab him.

He reaches safe ground, and then crumples into the grass. Linz releases the trees. She crawls over to him.

LINZ (CONT'D)
(Between heavy breaths)
What...were...you...thinking? Why
did you do that?

She hits out at him, slapping him on the shoulder.

He turns to her. His face hidden in darkness...oh no!

He lashes out with his saber. Both begin fighting from their backs. Each tries to stop the other getting back to their feet. She gets to her feet first, he follows soon after. She tries to aim another kick at his bad leg. He avoids it, turns it into a nasty swipe that almost takes her head off.

His leg holds, he's regaining his composure, he has the upper hand. So she dodges another vicious swipe and takes off into the trees.

This time she keeps the saber lit.

Anda watches her bolt into the brush. He watches the golden light bounce around in the shadows.

ANDA
(Shaking his head)
I always find you.

He follows her into the forest.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Colours start to fleck the horizon. But it's still dark under the trees. The golden glow of Linz's saber is too far ahead. Anda winces as he picks up the pace.

He doesn't see her sat gremlin-like in the trees above; his saber illuminating her for a moment. A SNAP behind him. He turns quickly, the blue light passes back over and she is no longer there.

He looks warily around the shadows. The golden light is nearer now, and still.

ANDA
(Muttering)
What are you doing?

He retracts his saber, this time he's going to spring the trap.

As he limps forward he becomes more aware of the shadows, it swirls and shifts out the corner of his eye. Has the darkness from the ravine followed him?

He limps forward a little faster, holding onto his saber hilt tightly.

EXT. FOREST, CLEARING - MOMENTS LATER

The golden light is right ahead. It could almost be the sunrise peeking through the trees. But that light isn't holding back the shadows surrounding him. The temptation to light his saber is too great.

The light starts to move this way and that, like she's lost and looking for a way forward. This his chance. He charges towards the light!

He's barely drawn his blade when the golden light disappears. Within seconds it flares again over to his left.

He charges again, powering through a thorny brush that tears at his leg. But once again the golden light disappears before he can engage.

Then it flares up behind him. Goes out. Right. Gone. Left. Disappears. Ahead. Darkness. It's moving impossibly fast. The shadows creep towards him. He hobbles to the centre of the clearing, and takes his guard.

The gold light disappears, leaving only him bathed in blue. He closes his eyes and concentrates. He tries to push away the fear.

ANDA

I know now how you hid your crimes
from me. The Sith can block a
Jedi's vision. They were right all
along, weren't they? How else could
we not see how far you'd fallen?

He moves his saber around, trying to light as much as the clearing as possible. But the blinding light of his blade makes everything seem darker. The darkness is creeping towards him.

ANDA (CONT'D)

And now you're putting false
visions in my head. None of it will
work!

Then Linz's voice seems to reverberate all around the glade.

LINZ

(Yoda impression)
Fear is a path to the dark side.

ANDA

No!

LINZ

(Yoda impression)
Fear leads to anger.

ANDA

Stop it!

LINZ

(Yoda impression)
Anger leads to hate.

ANDA

I said stop it!

LINZ
(Yoda impression)
Hate, leads to suffering.

ANDA
I'M NOT SCARED OF YOU!

He tries desperately to calm himself, slowing his breathing. A shaft of golden sunlight peeks meekly through the boughs. It does what he could not do alone; it's calming, comforting.

The light takes her advantage.

Gold light flares right behind him!

He turns with a vicious slash. Gold and blue blades flash furiously for a moment. Until he realises he's only fighting a lightsaber. He staggers back, watching the saber float serenely. Then the golden blade retracts, and the hilt drops to the ground.

He looks around, waiting for her next move. But he can't sense her (He should be able to sense her!).

A beam of sunlight falls on her saber hilt. The runes glint and cast shapes around the clearing.

So curious... a thing that shouldn't exist. What power might it hold? With an ancient a crystal at its heart. What power might it unleash?

He kneels down and carefully wraps his fingers around it. He holds it close, rubs his thumb along the metal, looks at the alien runes sparkle like the water droplets inside the cave. It's oddly beautiful.

Darkness... his saber goes out. Then her saber blazes! Then both sabers are ablaze. He drops them like they're possessed.

Linz re-emerges out of the shadows, drop-kicking him hard in the chest and launching him across the clearing. He picks himself up quickly, ready to fight, but she's gone again.

He's left alone in the dark, with no saber to guide him.

Both sabers blaze again, crossed together, one each side of his neck.

LINZ
Do you yield?

These words push the fear away. The darkness is no match for his pride.

ANDA

Never!

He's so exhausting. She wants to punch him in his stupid mouth!

LINZ

You had both sabers, and I still beat you!

He lashes out, tries to Force-push her away. But Linz blocks it and brings each blade closer to his neck.

A gold and blue blade at his neck, but it's only her saber he flinches from.

This weapon is my life.

She has tears in her eyes. It shouldn't have come to this.

LINZ (CONT'D)

Do you yield?

Once again his resolve returns in the face of losing his honour.

ANDA

No!

Linz lets out a sob. She knows the job isn't done. There is only one way forward. So she stands up, moves away across the clearing. He tenses, ready for her next gambit. But she does the last thing he expects... she throws him back his lightsaber.

He catches it, wondering why? Her mistake. He lights the saber, and ready's himself.

LINZ

Mind the leg.

On cue, he stumbles on his bleeding leg. Betrayed by his weakness he roars into another rage and charges at her.

He swipes hard again, but she's ready, pushing him back before he can bring down the strikes. She jabs, forcing him backwards, making him put weight on his injured leg.

But it's not weakening him, it's more like a spring is being coiled. When it releases, he slashes with such ferocity that Linz is knocked across the floor. He's quickly on top of her, she defends from underneath, barely parrying every vicious stroke.

The sabers gouge chunks out of the ground and nearby trees. He overstretches and she Force-Pushes him into another tree.

He's enraged at slamming into yet another tree. He picks himself up, lunges again. She dodges and pushes him into a different tree.

He yelps in pain. His robes are torn, he's bleeding from new wounds. But he keeps getting back up more and getting more pissed off!

His breaths are ragged and heavy. She lets him prepare for the next flurry. She is calm. She traces her thumb along one of the runes on her saber. She smiles. She takes her guard.

He runs at her and swipes violently again. But this time she's in control. No matter how hard he hacks and slashes she maintains a firm grip on her saber. She cannot stop the force of the stroke, but she diverts it, moving smoothly into the next form, forcing him to halt his ferocious momentum.

More beams of light peek through the canopy. Anda's attacks have less venom now. Linz is calm, composed, and seeing each bludgeoning stroke long before they happen.

He slashes and staggers forward a few steps before falling to the ground. She allows him to pick himself up, and prepares for his last attack.

But he's wary, it's taken until he's weakened to start thinking. So she twirls her lightsaber, making him think she's getting cocky again. He Force-throws a branch at her and hurls himself forward. She side-steps the branch, grabs his saber arm, turns him into a shaft of morning sunlight.

He's blinded, she knocks the saber out of his hand, and then one last, extra-hard Force-push into a tree.

It's over.

He crumples at the base of the tree. She approaches. She 'summons' his saber and lights it. With both lightsabers blaring, the morning sun at her back, she's an Angel of the Force.

He squints, seeing her shadow raise her saber high for the killing stroke. She strikes at him.

He raises his hands to shield himself...

But the blow doesn't land. He dares to peek.

The golden/black blade hovering inches above his hand. She jabs it with the tip of her saber. He yelps, cradling the bright red burn on his palm.

It takes him a few moments to realise that she is leaning over him, blades retracted, and holding out her hand. He doesn't understand. She shakes her hand, urging him to take it. So he does, she helps him back to his feet.

He steps away, sweating, catching his breath, struggling to stay on his feet. He has to lean against the tree.

He looks at his burned hand. And all his mistakes hit him all at once...

ANDA

I... I think I might have failed
The Trials.

She smiles, kindly.

ANDA (CONT'D)

(Holding back tears)

Linz... I'm not the Jedi I'm
supposed to be.

She walks closer, puts a hand on his shoulder.

LINZ

Yes you are.

He slides down the tree, cradling his hand, wiping his tears. She sits down next to him.

ANDA

Are you a Jedi?

LINZ

If you can forgive me for my
"crimes"?

She looks at his teary eyes, and he nods. He wipes his tears away like they are indecent. She wipes his tears for him, forcing him to look her in the eye, telling him its OK.

ANDA

I always thought we were more
powerful together.

She takes a moment to consider that. Mouthing the word 'powerful' with distaste.

She holds up his saber hilt, and lights the blue blade. It's doesn't glow as bright against the morning sun.

LINZ

I never liked how much the Jedi talk about power. This is powerful, right? But when you bring the light too close-

ANDA

It burns...

LINZ

I was going to say 'blinds'. But your way works too. It's not fair that I have to be the one to burn you... sweet boy.

She rests her head against his. Anda knows she's right. But, with everything that comes next, with everything he has to face in himself, he doesn't think he manage without her.

ANDA

We could leave... together?

She turns to him, looking deep into his teary eyes, unsure if he truly means what he's saying. Whether he means it or not, she knows her answer.

LINZ

I'm not giving up my saber. And neither are you, right?

ANDA

(Tentatively shaking his head)

Attachment is still forbidden. Maybe The Code got something right?

LINZ

Hmm... from a certain point of view, young Padawan.

He looks her in the eyes. She laughs. The sound of her laugh breaks a spell. He can't help but smile. Despite everything he's put her through, she's comforting him.

That's why she's a Jedi.

He picks himself up, she tries to help but he waves her away. He brushes down his robes, tidying himself as much as he can. He looks down at all the blood, seeing what he's done to himself. She hands him back his saber. She wonders if he'll be OK. He clips the saber to his belt. He'll survive.

LINZ (CONT'D)
 We can stay here a little longer,
 if you like?

ANDA
 If I don't go now, I might never
 leave.

Linz nods. She gives her friend a hug. He lets go first.
 She understands, and speaks into her wrist-com.

LINZ
 LX-I, we're ready.

A ship roars into view from out of the clouds. It circles
 overhead, landing in a clearing a short way in front.

The two Jedi walk into the trees towards the ship,
 disappearing from view.

ANDA (O.S.)
 That was a neat trick, with the
 floating lightsaber.

LINZ (O.S.)
 (Yoda Impression)
 "Luminous beams are we, Padawan".

ANDA (O.S.)
 'Beings'.

LINZ (O.S.)
 What?

ANDA (O.S.)
 He says 'Beings'. 'Luminous
 Beings'...like, life-forms, not
 'Beams'.

LINZ (O.S.)
 Oh... right. Well that's even more
 pretentious!

Anda laughs.

The ship takes off and bolts up into the skies.

THE END.