

**THE MANDOLORIAN**

**SPECULATIVE SCRIPT**

**"HIGH AND LOW"**

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**EXT. YANIBAR TRADING POST - NIGHT**

A cantina in a remote trading post on the Yanibar system.

**INT. CANTINA - NIGHT**

The place is filled with the usual crowd of ne'er-do-wells and fortune-makers. Music plays; people drink, but something pulls everyone's attention. The patrons sneak glances and whisper about something O.C.

In an alcove, MANDO sits with a HUMAN CLIENT. The Client grins like an idiot as he pitches his job. Mando, stoic and spartan, listens.

CLIENT

She's shackled up with this guy she thinks she's in love with. Thought you could help me out.

Mando glares at two patrons who have been staring at him. His faceless helmet forces their gaze elsewhere.

MANDO

So you need me to bring her here?

CLIENT

That's it. And... rough up her boyfriend a little if you can.

Mando catches another bar patron staring at him.

MANDO

How much?

CLIENT

Two thousand.

Mando thinks for a moment, when he hears-- BEEP. The familiar, nearby ping of a... tracking FOB.

In one fluid movement, Mando spins around, draws and BLASTS a BOUNTY HUNTER. It falls dead to the ground, dropping the FOB.

The bar goes quiet. Mando pockets the FOB.

MANDO

Where's the drop off?

CLIENT

...Kuat.

MANDO

Two thousand all you have?

The Client is still a bit awe-struck.

CLIENT

...my sister's boyfriend is a pushover. He won't give you any trouble.

MANDO

Still not enough to go that far into New Republic territory.

Mando grabs his rifle and heads for the door.

CLIENT

Come on, wait a second--

But Mando keeps going, passing the BARKEEP.

BARKEEP

(re: corpse)

Hey, you gonna pay for that?

Mando says nothing and leaves. Patrons laugh at the Client.

In the back of the bar, a MASKED FIGURE has been watching Mando. It speaks into a COMM-PIECE.

MASKED FIGURE

He's on the move.

**EXT. YANIBAR TRADING POST - NIGHT**

Mando exits the cantina and strides to the small landing bay.

**EXT. LANDING BAY - NIGHT**

Mando comes into an open landing bay of ships. He presses his arm piece and the loading ramp of the RAZOR CREST opens up...

...revealing THE CHILD, waiting for him.

MANDO

We're leaving.

The Child's ears droop.

MANDO (CONT'D)

Locals are too familiar.

The Child follows him into the ship as the ramp closes shut.

**INT. COCKPIT - NIGHT**

In his cockpit, Mando pulls up a catalogue of planet systems on his dashboard. The Child sidles up next to him.

Mando "scrolls" through different destinations. The Child reaches out at one that comes up on the screen.

MANDO

Not a bad idea. Bespin's pretty far off anyone's radar.

Mando switches off the catalogue and starts the ignition sequence... But the engines don't start.

Mando tries a different ignition sequence. Still no dice.

He slams a control panel with his fist and the power starts!... followed shortly by a total shutdown.

MANDO (CONT'D)

They told me they fixed this.

The Child makes a sound, points out the cockpit.

Outside the ship, a squad of armed NEW REPUBLIC SOLDIERS stare up into his cockpit, led by CAPTAIN TANI OIEDA (30s). The Masked Figure stands amongst the soldiers.

**EXT. LANDING BAY - NIGHT**

Mando opens the loading ramp and stands at the edge.

MANDO

What did you do to my ship?

Captain Tani takes a step forward. A grizzled soldier, he's not the kind even a Mandalorian would want to mess with.

TANI

I have orders to bring a Mandalorian seen traveling with a child to Coruscant.

MANDO

What makes you think that's me?

Tani points with his eyes behind Mando-- the Child has waddled up next to him.

MANDO (CONT'D)

What's this about?

TANI

We'll tell you when you get there.

MANDO

Or you can tell me now.

TANI

Not as long as I have this.

Tani produces a bulky EMP device.

TANI (CONT'D)

Lets me ground any ship deemed to  
interfere with the New Republic  
Navy business.

MANDO

Cool toy.

Mando draws, aims and shoots his fibre-cord at the EMP device, snatching it out of Tani's hands, all before the soldiers can react. When they level their guns, Mando has already drawn his blaster with Tani in its sights.

Tense standoff.

MASKED FIGURE

This is ridiculous.

The Masked Figure removes her helmet -- revealing BRAWIL MATWIN, a female BOTHAN (30s), the galaxy's greatest spymasters and agents of subterfuge.

Matwin gestures for the soldiers to lower their weapons.

MATWIN

I think we got off on the wrong  
foot. Can we speak with you about a  
job, Mandalorian?

MANDO

I don't work for the New Republic.

MATWIN

You might want to hear what we're  
offering first.

Mando heads back into his ship.

MATWIN (CONT'D)

Giving you your anonymity back.

Mando stops, interested.

**INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT**

Mando and the Child follow Matwin and her escort into a small warehouse where a table and chairs have been set up.

MATWIN

Please, sit.

Mando and Matwin sit while Tani and the soldiers stand watch. The Child sits next to Mando; Matwin is captivated by it.

MATWIN (CONT'D)

I've never seen a youngling quite like it. Is it yours?

MANDO

It's my charge.

MATWIN

I heard what happened on Nevarro with the Imperial Remnants. I'm surprised you've managed to sneak around like this for so long.

MANDO

From a Bothan, I'll take that as a compliment.

MATWIN

I also saw what happened in the cantina. You're going to run out of systems to run to.

MANDO

You mentioned a job?

MATWIN

Yes. My name is Brawil Matwin and I am the chief of staff for Tuff Regan, the senator for Coruscant. His son was kidnapped.

MANDO

And you need him rescued.

MATWIN

The kidnappers *thought* they had his son, but it turns out... they took mine by mistake.

Mando says nothing.

MATWIN (CONT'D)

The Senator has agreed to pay the ransom for me but only if I can return it to him.

MANDO

The Empire used to hire bounty hunters to do their dirty work. Seems odd for a New Republic Senator to embrace that practice.

TANI

Watch your tone, Mandalorian.

MATWIN

We need discretion. The ransom is a considerable sum. Such an amount that, if local authorities found out how much he was able to pay, it would bring unwanted attention to his financial situation.

MANDO

Good to know corruption is alive and well in the Republic.

MATWIN

I need someone to recover the money, no questions asked. For a fair price, obviously. Twenty thousand. Half upfront.

Matwin puts a stack of credits on the table. Mando eyes it.

MANDO

I stick to Outer Rim systems for a reason. Jobs in the Core Regions are a risk for me right now.

MATWIN

That's why I'm offering this.

Matwin places a chain code card on the table.

MATWIN (CONT'D)

New chain codes. For you and your child. My Spynet tells me you have a considerable price on your head. With these, the bounty FOBs that are tracking you would become useless.

Mando considers; he looks at the Child who waves at Matwin. She goes in for the kill.

MATWIN (CONT'D)

As much as I'd like to give you  
time to think, my son doesn't have  
that time. Will you take the job?

The Child yawns and falls asleep against Mando.

MANDO

Deal.

Matwin breathes a sigh of relief.

MATWIN

Good. We'll see you on Coruscant.

**EXT. SPACE**

Mando's ship comes out of hyperspace outside of Coruscant.

**INT. COCKPIT - DAY**

The Child looks wide-eyed at the Planet-City.

A transmission hologram comes in.

MATWIN

You've been sent the coordinates  
for our rendezvous. Please ensure  
discretion.

MANDO

Understood.

The transmission ends. Mando looks at the Child.

MANDO (CONT'D)

What am I going to do with you?

The Child gurgles and smiles.

**EXT. CORUSCANT/ SLUM SHIP BAY - DAY**

The Razor Crest flies past the tall, sophisticated tower  
homes of Coruscant's upper class neighborhoods.

But the wealthy architecture quickly fades into a slum as the  
ship nears the surface. It lands in an enclosed, run-down  
landing bay. Ragged street-folk drift around outside.

The loading ramp lowers and out come Mando with the child in  
its ironclad pram.

Waiting for them are a squad of Republic Soldiers with  
Captain Tani, as well as Matwin and SENATOR TUFF REGAN (60s).

Matwin is disguised in suitable street clothes, but Senator Regan flaunts his expensive threads without shame.

MATWIN

Mandalorian, may I introduce  
Senator Tuff Regan of Coruscant.

SENATOR REGAN

So this is the Mandalorian you were  
speaking about?

MANDO

Quite the place you've picked to  
meet.

TANI

You will address the Senator by his  
proper title.

MANDO

Quite the place to meet, *senator*.

SENATOR REGAN

Now, now. Let's not be rude. I am a  
fan of your creed, Mandalorian.  
Best warriors in the galaxy. Fought  
with many Mandalorian mercenaries  
during the war -- best blasters  
money could buy. Wish we were  
meeting on better terms. Terrible  
business this kidnapping and all  
that. I pray that we recover the  
child in one piece.

MANDO

And the money.

SENATOR REGAN

Of course, of course. But the child  
is paramount. *Obviously*. Lives  
before business!

Regan notices the Child in its pram.

SENATOR REGAN (CONT'D)

Now, what's this little thing.

Regan goes to pick up the Child, but Mando steps in his way.  
Tani and the Republican Guards reach for their weapons.

SENATOR REGAN (CONT'D)

Can I get a look at it?

MANDO

I don't think so.

A standoff between Mando and the Senator, not used to being spoken to this way.

But before anything rash can happen -- something CRASHES behind a stack of crates. Mando and the soldiers draw their weapons and face the sound.

A pair of hands shoot up.

TUFF (O.S.)

Don't shoot!

TUFF REGAN JUNIOR, 10, comes out with his hands up.

SENATOR REGAN

Tuff! What are you doing here?

TUFF

Sorry, Father, but I wanted to see the Mandalorian. I hid in the back of the shuttle.

Tuff sees the Child and runs over to the pram.

TUFF (CONT'D)

Can I play with it, father?

Regan gives Mando a look -- can he? Mando watches the Child -- it looks up at Tuff Jr... and smiles, giggles playfully.

MANDO

Sure.

Tuff tickles its ears. They both laugh.

SENATOR REGAN

To be a youngling again. But, you must not run away like that again, my son.

(to Mando)

Now you can see how easy the kidnapper's job was. Still managed to botch it though. You can trust that your child will be save with us during your mission, if that is acceptable?

Mando looks to Matwin who nods in confidence.

MANDO

Fine.

MATWIN

Senator, we need to brief him on the arrangements.

SENATOR REGAN

Of course. I merely wanted to see who will be recovering my money... and your child. Good luck!

Regan, Tuff Jr, and the Child exit with the Guards. Matwin, Tani and Mando remain.

Matwin puts a comm-piece on a table between her and Mando.

MATWIN

We received this recording from the kidnappers by courier. They said it came to them anonymously so there's no way of tracing it.

She presses a button.

COMM-PIECE

*(droid voice)*

*Though we have the wrong child, Senator, you still must pay or we kill the child. Place twenty million Republican credits into two cases, each no thicker than fifteen Imperial centimeters. You will find coordinates in this comm-piece where a ship will meet you. No guards or droids.*

The recording ends.

TANI

We suspect the kidnapper will be near the pickup point. When we have the child, we need you to go after the kidnappers and find out who they are.

MANDO

Any ideas who I'm looking for?

MATWIN

None. They've only communicated through these voice recordings. We'll have to go through with the exchange, but lucky for us, they won't be expecting you.

Off Mando -- sounds straightforward to him...