

STAR WARS: DARK DESTINIES
(Draft Five)

CHARACTERS:

- CORDONA:** Jedi; Female; Human; Padawan Learner to Master ANANIAS; best friend to Jedi Padawan J'KEL; more skilled than J'Kel with a lightsaber; jealous of her readiness for Jedi trials.
- J'KEL:** Jedi; Female; Human (?) Padawan Learner to Master SHESTAL; best friend to Jedi Padawan CORDONA; more skilled than Cordona in Force perception; recently deemed ready to face the Jedi trials for Knighthood.
- DARTH REGENT:** Sith; Male; Alien; Apprentice to DARTH NEMIS; acrobatic, tattooed, crab-like fighter; watches CORDONA.
- ANANIAS:** Jedi; Male; Human; Master to CORDONA.
- SHESTAL:** Jedi; Male; Human (?); Master to J'KEL.
- DARTH NEMIS:** Sith; Male; Human (?); Master of DARTH REGENT; haunts the dreams of CORDONA.
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OPENING CRAWL CUT

SCENE ONE

GRASS FIELD DAY

We see a pile of rocks being stacked, one on top of each other, seemingly by themselves. Pan over to a second pile, being stacked similarly. The second pile wobbles slightly.

Cut to two Jedi Padawans, CORDONA and J'KEL, in handstand positions behind the stacked rocks. They are concentrating on the rocks, while conversing amiably with each other.

J'KEL:

He was so hungry, he just grabbed it, and took a bite out of it...

CORDONA:

Uggh!

The topmost rock in Cordona's pile falls from its place, landing on the ground.

CORDONA:

Poodoo! I'll never be good at this "letting the force flow through me" business. It always seems like stacking rocks to me. I don't understand the point of it.

Cordana notices that J'Kel's pile hasn't faltered.

CORDONA:

You're much better at this than I'll ever be.

J'KEL:

(teasing)

Maybe. But you're still better with a saber.

Cordana grins. Short pause. The padawans begin doing push-ups, while still in a handstand position. The rock stacks remain upright.

CORDONA:

So (grunt) J'Kel, when our masters finish with this (grunt) blasted mission and we get back to Coruscant, wha'd'ya say we (grunt) hit a Cantina, eh?

J'KEL:

(nervously)

Oh, no, I- (grunt) I can't. Sorry, Cordona.

Cordana springs off of her handstand, and sits down next to J'Kel, who is still in a handstand. The rocks remain upright.

CORDONA:

(confused)

What's going on?

J'KEL:

It's... nothing.

J'Kel joins Cordona in sitting. She stares intently at her pillar of rocks.

CORDONA:

(annoyed)

Hey, J'Kel, what's the problem? What aren't you telling me? You tell me everything...

J'KEL:

Master Shestal said that, I'm ready. I'm ready to face the trials for Knighthood.

Cordona's pile of stones crashes down.

CORDONA:

(shock; trying to hide jealousy)

What? You... That's... great.

J'KEL:

Hey, Cor, it'll be soon. I have no doubt that your master will nominate you any time now. Besides, I'm counting on keeping you as my sparring partner for saber practice.

CORDONA:

(smiles)

Thanks, J'Kel.

The friends continue talking, and Cordona begins to restack her rocks. Suddenly, Cordona's expression changes to fear. Follow Cordona's line of sight to the rocks behind J'KEL. We see a shadowy creature, DARTH REGENT, staring straight at Cordona. She shivers. J'Kel notices her fear.

J'KEL:

What? What is it, Cor?

CORDONA:

(pointing)

Did you see that?

J'Kel looks behind her, and we see that the creature has disappeared.

J'KEL:

See what?

CORDONA:

That... creature. He was on top of those rocks, right there.

J'KEL:

You sure? Are you alright?

CORDONA:

(nervously)

I think so... yes.

FADE OUT.

SCENE TWO

SLEEPING QUARTERS NIGHT

CORDONA is asleep; she has a troubled expression on her face, and is sweating slightly.

Cut to her dream.

HILL NIGHT

The lighting is disorienting, randomly becoming bright and dark. She's on a barren hill, with some rock outcroppings on its crest. She is alone. She spins in a circle, the camera spinning with her. Slow motion. Her vision then pushes rapidly to the top of a rock, centering on the same shadowy figure she saw earlier, DARTH REGENT. She sees his face closely; it is tattooed. The eyes gleam eerily. With reptile like motion, he motions for her to come over to him. We hear whispers surrounding Cordona, in the voice of DARTH NEMIS.

NEMIS:

(in overlapping whispers that seem to surround Cordona)

I know what you want... the power you seek... I can give you the power... power you seek... you want... power you seek...

Cordona draws near to the figure during the whispers, and Regent points to the other side of the rock. Cordona peers over the edge, and sees a lightsaber ignite and a figure lunge upward to attack her. We see that the figure is J'KEL.

Cut to Cordona's sleeping quarters.

Cordona wakes with a gasp. She is panting, and sweaty. Her hair is disheveled.

A snap is heard from outside.

Cordona gets up from her bed, and peers out of the window. She sees nothing, and gets back into bed.

SCENE THREE

TRAINING RUINS DAY

MASTER ANANIAS and MASTER SHESTAL are standing together, talking softly to each other. They are observing CORDONA and J'KEL sparring against each other in lightsaber practice. We see that Cordona is frustrated. She becomes increasingly angry and erratic with her attacks, and forces J'Kel into a defensive stance. We see her strike repeatedly with wild, forceful blows, overpowering J'Kel. The Masters are shocked.

SHESTAL:
(yelling)
STOP! Extinguish your blades - NOW!

The padawans walk over to where their masters are.

SHESTAL:
(calmly)
You both know that a Jedi does not allow anger to rule in combat. Search your feelings. Where has this animosity come from, Cordona?

CORDONA:
Nowhere, Master Shestal. I... It's nothing.

J'KEL:
(annoyed)
It wasn't 'nothing' when we were out there sparring!

SHESTAL:
Padawan J'Kel, that is not the kind of behavior expected of one who has been deemed ready to face the trials of Knighthood.

CORDONA:
(angry)
You're all obsessed with those stupid trials! I'm ready. No one cares about that, though.

ANANIAS:

Padawan, jealousy is not the Jedi way.

CORDONA:

Yes, Master.

J'KEL:

(softly)

You're jealous of me? Why didn't you say something, instead of nearly killing me?

CORDONA:

I'm sorry, J'KEL.

SHESTAL:

You are both dismissed from this training session. J'Kel, I need to speak with you.

J'KEL:

Yes, Master.

J'Kel follows Shestal off-screen. She glances sadly over her shoulder at Cordona.

ANANIAS:

He's haunting you, isn't he?

CORDONA:

Master?

ANANIAS:

That Sith, Darth Regent.

CORDONA:

Sith?

ANANIAS:

He's watching you. You catch glimpses of him over your shoulder, but when you turn, you find nothing but air. Be mindful, Padawan. He seeks to turn you... to the Dark Side.

CORDONA:

No Master, I wouldn't. But, why? Why does he choose me?

ANANIAS:

Because you're powerful. Cordona, I'm not blind. I know you're powerful, and your potential is far beyond that

(interrupting)

No, it's okay, Cor. I've been meditating on it, and you were just jealous. Everyone has something that they struggle with.

CORDONA:

Oh, that's right, you know everything about the Jedi. You're going to face the trials.

J'KEL:

That's not what I meant! I'm not -

CORDONA:

(interrupting)

Whatever you say. I'm tired of you always babbling about how much better you are than me.

J'KEL:

I never said anything like that -

CORDONA:

You didn't have to! I know what you're thinking.

J'KEL:

What are you talking about?

CORDONA:

Master told me that I need to destroy my weakness.

J'KEL:

Your weakness?

CORDONA:

Do you know what my weakness is, J'Kel?

J'KEL:

No...

CORDONA:

But I thought you were some Jedi expert. TELL ME WHAT MY WEAKNESS IS!

J'KEL:

I, uh -

CORDONA:

It's you, J'Kel. It's always been you. And I'm going to

destroy my weakness, just as my master told me to.

J'KEL:

Do you really mean that?

Cordona turns to leave. She pauses, with her back to J'Kel.

CORDONA:

Yes.

As she speaks, she ignites her saber and swirls, slicing at J'Kel. J'Kel barely brings her saber up in time to block the attack, and the duel begins. They fight; Cordona fights with rage. Mid-way into the fight, the pair splits apart, and they circle each other. Cordona glares at J'Kel. J'Kel looks back at her, saddened. Cordona then lunges at J'Kel, and forces her to fall on her back. Cordona then rains strike after strike onto J'Kel's weakening defense, as she lies on the ground. Cordona finally knocks the saber out of her hands. She holds the blade up to J'Kel's neck. Just before she is about to kill, we hear a laugh from off-screen. Cordona looks up, and sees DARTH REGENT standing nearby, watching the scene with delight. Cordona backs off of J'Kel. J'Kel rises to her feet and calls her lightsaber into her hand, using the Force. Darth Regent ignites his blade J'Kel sees that it is red.

J'KEL:

Cor, this is bigger than what's going on between you and me. We have to take him together.

Cordona nods, and the two Jedi move in against Darth Regent. An intense duel follows. Clearly, Darth Regent is much more powerful than either Jedi, but together they are able to hold their own. Regent continually isolates them from each other in the fight, to keep them from getting the upper hand. Regent loses his saber, and we see that he has Force-gauntlets on his forearms. He blocks all saber blows with these. Finally, Regent manages to twist J'Kel's saber around so that he is holding her blade against her neck. Cordona is several feet away. She is unsure of what to do. She then hears a whisper inside her head; she recognizes it as the same whisper from the dream.

NEMIS:

(whisper)

The power you seek... strike them both down, and take it for yourself!

Cordona bows her head in thought, and then an evil grin appears on her face. She slowly lifts her head up, and then lunges forward at Regent

and J'Kel, running her saber straight through J'Kel into Regent. She pulls it out, and the two bodies fall down to the ground. Cordona esxtinguishes the blade, and catches her breath. A figure, DARTH NEMIS, in a black cloak and hood walks up behind her.

NEMIS:
You have done well.

Cordona is startled, and turns around to face Darth Nemis.

NEMIS:
You have done well.

CORDONA:
(distraught)
I shouldn't have killed them... It is not the Jedi way to kill.

NEMIS:
Just as it is not the Jedi way to make Knights of their most skillful padawans?

CORDONA:
(turning around)
Who are you?

NEMIS:
I've been watching you for a long time now.

CORDONA:
I thought that *he* was Darth Regent...

NEMIS:
(smirking)
He was. You are powerful, young Jedi. But you have much to learn. You could become more powerful than my late apprentice could ever have been.

CORDONA:
Your... apprentice?

NEMIS nods his head.

CORDONA:
How can I achieve this power?

NEMIS:

The same way you killed Darth Regent. Let your jealousy turn to anger, to hatred. Let it guide you. Join me, and I will teach you how to use your jealousy to wield a power greater than you can imagine.

CORDONA:
(coldly)
I want to learn this power.

NEMIS:
Excellent... my young apprentice.

Cut to the face of the dead J'Kel.

FADE TO BLACK

END.