

## **INT. REBEL BLOCKADE RUNNER - HALLWAY**

*Princess Leia is led down a low-ceilinged hallway by a squad of armored stormtroopers. Her hands are bound and she is brutally shoved when she is unable to keep up with the briskly marching troops. They stop in a smoky hallway as Darth Vader emerges from the shadows. The sinister Dark Lord stares hard at the frail young senator, but she doesn't move.*

### **LEIA**

Lord Vader, I should have known. Only you could be so bold. The Imperial Senate will not sit still for this, when they hear you've attacked a diplomatic...

### **VADER**

Don't act so surprised Your Highness. You weren't on any mercy mission this time. You passed directly through a restricted system. Several transmissions were beamed to this ship by Rebel spies. I want to know what happened to the plans they sent you.

### **LEIA**

I don't know what you're talking about. I'm a member of the Imperial Senate on a diplomatic mission to Alderaan...

### **VADER**

You're a part of the Rebel Alliance... and a traitor. Take her away!

*Leia is marched away down the hallway and into the smoldering hole blasted in the side of the ship. An Imperial Commander turns to Vader.*

### **COMMANDER**

Holding her is dangerous. If word of this gets out, it could generate sympathy for the Rebellion in the senate.

### **VADER**

I have traced the Rebel spies to her. Now she is my only link to find their secret base!

### **COMMANDER**

She'll die before she tells you anything.

### **VADER**

Leave that to me. Send a distress signal and then inform the senate that all aboard were killed!

*Another Imperial Officer approaches Vader and the Commander. They stop and snap to attention.*

### **SECOND OFFICER**

Lord Vader, the battle station plans are not aboard this ship! And no transmissions were made. An escape pod was jettisoned during the fighting, but no life forms were aboard.

*Vader turns to the Commander.*

### **VADER**

She must have hidden the plans in the escape pod. Send a detachment down to retrieve them. See to it personally, Commander. There'll be no one to stop us this time.

### **COMMANDER**

Yes, sir.