

## Vader Adrift

I choose to read this short story from the Stars Wars Insider: The Fiction collection as my “book” for July. The story is set between the events of Episode 5 and Episode 6, Darth Vader continues his efforts to find Luke a few weeks after their due on Bespin. A good portion of the beginning of the story sets up how Vader’s Tie Advanced is partially destroyed in space after an attack on an ISD takes place, causing Vader to be marooned in space until a search party finds him. I liked how the story then goes into the mind of Darth Vader, he partially reflects on his position in the Empire and thinks about what he really is doing here.

This line of thought basically fuels his desire to over throw the emperor and rule the galaxy with Luke by his side. Vaders feels that he is no longer the soldier he once was and is more so tasked to oversee the construction of the second death star. I really like how we get to see the inner thoughts of Vader in this respect, and how angry he becomes thinking about just being a pawn, not knowing if he too would just be cast aside. In another Vader comic, there was a scene that touched on this as well.



*Vader's damaged Tie Advanced*

Vader found out about the other “orders” or contingency the emperor had planned. We all know about order 66, but there are far more orders, one of which includes the clone trooper/storm troopers taking out Darth Vader in the event he would turn on the emperor. With the Sith rule of two, Darth Sidious knows very well that it is only a matter of time before his apprentice would take his place as Master. Knowing all this, Darth Vader had to ensure his survival.

Luckily Darth Vader is found by a lone clone, whom he remembers from past events. While Vader is on the shuttle with the clone, they go into discussion about the past as a few questions were asked which initiated the conversation. I really liked how this part of the story was told, it showed the connection between the clone wars and the original trilogy. Once Anakin became Vader, no one knew this secret. Everyone believed that Anakin was killed. The clone trooper, basically flooding Vader’s mind with memories of training clones, and this clone in specific as well, really tugged on the heart strings. Vader could not tell him who he once was, Anakin was dead. Only Vader and the Emperor knew the true demise of Anakin Skywalker. This story was written to basically show the other side of Darth Vader and to show that there is still good in him, even Luke says this in Episode 6, despite Vader telling Luke it is too late for him.



*Vader leaping to the clone shuttle*

The story ends during an ambush on a remote planet the clone and Vader land on while they wait for reinforcements to arrive. The clone attempts to protect Vader and a few key events occur towards the end of the story, which I won’t spoil here. The author goes on to demonstrate Vaders pure power of the dark side in a cliffhanger which lets you, the reader, infer on what happens next.

If you’re interested in reading this story, and more, here is a link to volume 1 of this Legends collection. [https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1787736377/ref=ppx\\_yo\\_dt\\_b\\_asin\\_title\\_o02\\_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1787736377/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o02_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1)

- TheBlackxRanger