

## Star Wars 9 – Take 2

### Assumptions

- The big questions are A) Whether Kylo gets a redemption and B) Whether Rey has to kill him herself. Stay tuned.
- Kylo is trying to conquer the galaxy, but he has no interest in actually governing it. This opens him up to all sorts of grifters and embezzlers.
- Rey wants to be a hero, and puts a lot of pressure on herself to be one. She is very afraid of becoming a monster like Kylo.
- Kylo wants Rey with him. It's unhealthy but not necessarily sexual – he can't articulate what he wants. His self-awareness is pretty limited. His strategy is to force her to kill a lot of people until she turns to the dark side.
- Finn started fleeing the First Order, but now he's a committed fighter. He's extremely committed to his friends, especially Rey. Secondly, he wants to know where he comes from.
- Poe is trying to be the leader Leia wanted him to be, while retaining his dashing fighter pilot vibe.
- Both the Resistance and the First Order are battered. The Resistance is depleted and never had the industrial base the Alliance had. The First Order is overextended and it does not have the manpower to run its massive ships.
- The Republic funded the Resistance as a proxy militia, but never intended to fight the First Order directly. Currently, the Republic is still in chaos and trying to keep systems from seceding and going to war with each other.
- The danger of Kylo isn't that he'll conquer the galaxy, but that he'll burn it down. The galaxy is splitting from a peaceful order to a mess of competing systems. This is all background, though.
- I'm basically punting on the 'ships between Rey/Finn, Finn/Rose and Poe/\*.

### New characters

- Ashenden – leader of the Resistance Commandos. He is an aristocratic type, dashing and daring. In any other movie, he'd be the hero.
- Kear Alroy – a civilian leader for the First Order, a very effective administrator, but also corrupt and greedy. Picture an anti-Leia – she has Leia's drive and sardonic wit, but none of her nobility.
- The Commodore – one of the highest-ranking officers left in the Republic. An old friend of Poe's, but there's not much he can do to help the Resistance.

### Scene 1

We open with a flat plain, just dirt. Off in the distance, we see First Order walkers. One of them is broken down. Frustrated, Kylo says to leave it. The First Order is pretty battered.

A humanoid mole person digs up through the dirt, checks the scene, then digs back down

We cut to scenes of Resistance fighters packing up to leave. It's another retreat. We see Poe Dameron, overseeing the retreat with assistance from Lt. Connix (Billie Lourd). Poe's holding a torch.

The complex is underground, but he walks to a large chamber that opens to the sky. In the chamber is a stack of sticks and roots – the roots are braided together reminiscent of Leia’s famous braids. A shrouded figure lays on the pile. This is the funeral pyre of Princess Leia.

Poe offers a charming eulogy, punctuated by louder booms as the artillery zeroes in. Connix touches his shoulder – it’s time to go. “I think you know what I’m trying to say,” he says, and touches off the torch. I think we all need this moment.

Poe bows to a mole person – obviously the chief. “Thanks for your hospitality. Now get your people to safety.”

Poe boards a shuttle which takes off down a long tunnel. The mole people dig into the dirt to avoid the fire of Poe’s exhaust. The tunnel is impossibly long, nearly halfway across planet. The Resistance ships come out behind the First Order ships blockading the planet, another retreat accomplished.

Back to the funeral pyre: We see Kylo Ren walk up to his mother’s pyre. Rage boiling, he turns the chamber into a fiery whirlwind.

## Scene 2

From the fiery whirlwind, we cut to waving grass. Finn and Rose are sitting on a small shuttle in a breezy plain, and it’s clear they’ve been waiting for a long time. Behind them, a stone spire rises – this is the Jedi temple on Lothal.

Inside the temple, Rey sits in meditation. Her eyes open as if reviving from a dream. She feels ready.

Rey walks out of the temple, the building lowering behind her from her Force powers. Finn: “How did it go?” Rey says nothing.

She spreads her bag out on the ground, and in it are some vague mechanical parts and a crystal. She smiles – she enjoys sharing this personal moment with her friends. This relationship will save her in about two hours.

The pieces rise from the ground and assemble themselves into a light saber. She ignites it – it’s purple.

Rose: “Are you ready?”

Rey: “Do or do not. There is no try.”

## Scene 3

From the plains of Lothal, we cut to a scene of urban combat. Rey takes the fight to the First Order, backed up by her squad of commandos. We get a brief impression of the commandos, led by their Commander Ashenden. Ashenden is a clean-cut aristocratic type, but one of their best special forces operators.

I’d like this scene to evoke the feeling of being guided by the Force. The camera follows Rey as she fights in a trance state, her moves perfectly choreographed. We follow her as she is always in the right place at the right time – blocking laser bolts, saving civilians and her troops.

There's some business where Rey saves her commandos from an overhead drone, turning the drone's fire on the First Order. Rey then turns as a scratch-scratch-scratch sound enters her hearing. Two masked figures stand there – finally, we're in action against the Knights of Ren.

One is very large, has four arms and swings a massive lightsaber – the other is skinnier, and has a weapon more like a lightsaber scythe.

One of them taunts her – she can't win, because they've been trained by Luke Skywalker and Kylo Ren. "You may have more training," Rey says, "but I've been in more fights."

Rey defeats them both in personal combat, although not without an assist from her commandos. This should be one of the fiercer fights we see in this series. Growing up on Jakku made her a scrapper, but she has a long way to go. She's visibly shaken by the violence she's had to commit. She's afraid of being a monster.

Rose has a moment where she accepts a piece of alien fruit from a grateful local. Rey, Finn, Rose and the remaining commandos take off in their shuttle.

#### Scene 4

First Order star destroyers converge on a lone planet and begin firing. The planet is protected by two forts and a number of gunboats. These aren't standard Republic craft. Some planets are going it alone, and Kylo is picking them off one by one.

The defenders load cannons frantically as the star destroyers pour on withering fire. Then, we follow First Order blasts that miss the forts. They arc through the atmosphere and bombard a seaside town. The massive laser blasts cut a path of destruction across the town and boil the sea.

At last, one of the forts falls to the planet and the guns of the other one fall silent.

On his flagship, Armitage Hux delivers terms of surrender. He promises them order and prosperity, although I doubt his speech is convincing. Kylo Ren looms behind him, flanked by some of the Knights of Ren.

After the battle, an aide informs Hux of the urban raid from the previous scene. Kylo brushes it off as an annoyance. On the hologram, they talk to Kear Alroy, who asks sardonically if they managed to spare the planet's industrial capability this time. Hux brushes her off – he is obviously put off by her greed and decadence.

Alroy signs off. Hux tells Kylo he needs a break to recruit and brainwash more troopers. The First Order does not have the capacity of the old Empire, not just yet.

Ren says there will be no break. He tells Hux "I can sense your ambition. The old Sith thought having an ambitious apprentice was a good thing." It's clear Ren does not.

I'd really like to see some of the Knights of Ren bully Hux in this scene. I think we'd all like to see that.

#### Scene 5

Poe talks via hologram with the Commodore. The Commodore says the Republic is still in chaos, and he can't send any ships to help right now. Midway through their conversation, the Commodore gets a report about the system that fell in the last scene.

Poe gazes out the window at his depleted fleet. “The Alliance had entire systems behind it. We just have a handful of ships.”

Ashenden briefs him on a few prospective raids. Small raids are the best they can do at the moment.

## Scene 6

Finn holds a storm trooper helmet in his hands. Screwing up his courage, he puts it on. This is something he swore he’d never do again.

Finn, Chewbacca and Rose stand outside of a force-field fence. Chewbacca holds a device that creates a gap in the fence. Rose and Finn go first, followed by Chewbacca. Chewbacca is too big for the opening, and he yelps as it singes his fur.

Finn steps out into the mass of stormtroopers and we instantly lose track of which one is him. He is part of the anonymous horde now. We see these faceless beings mill about, doing anonymous work – but sometimes a stormtrooper stops to plant a bomb.

He comes to a holding pen for new recruits. He enters the pen and takes off his helmet – he says he’s getting them out before they can be brainwashed. They ask why they should go with him. He doesn’t have a big speech, but he says he doesn’t want them to die on some planet they’ve never heard of for people who don’t care about them.

One recruit elbows his way through the crowd. He has the same complexion as Finn and similar features. He stares at Finn with recognition, then calls him by a name – “Jarren?” Is this a link to Finn’s past?

Then, all of the recruits fall down dead. They had a kill switch in their heads. Finn turns, and there’s Captain Phasma. “This was a bad batch,” she says. “But there are always more where they came from.”

Finn fires on Phasma, which of course bounces off her armor. He manages to shoot her gun, so they both grapple hand to hand. Is picture Phasma’s fighting style as more like grappling than the kung fu we usually see. Finn puts up a good fight, but he’s outclassed.

Rose runs in to help, but gets knocked down easily. Phasma turns to finish Finn – but Rose jams her stunner into an unarmored part of Phasma’s heel.

Finn and Rose run away – right into a crowd of First Order troopers armed with blasters. Thinking quickly, Finn throws up a salute and the troopers respond automatically. At that moment, Chewie blows the explosives and they escape in the confusion.

Our heroes escape in the confusion. Finn remarks he’s sorry the recruits were killed, but at least Phasma won’t use them. He wonders about the one who rescued him.

Back on the planet, Phasma wakes up. She walks to a shuttle and orders everyone off. She takes off alone, removing her helmet. The war is over for her.

## Scene 7

We see a small alien picking fruits in an orchard. She starts to take a bite, when a stormtrooper slaps her hand. She reluctantly puts it in her basket.

Cut to an elder of this species explaining the situation to Rey and Ashenden. “We have not tasted the fruit of our sacred trees for three cycles now. The white-helmets sell all of our crops to star-people.”

Ashenden remarks the sacred fruits are used to make “life elixir” for customers in the Inner Rim. It’s a major source of funding for the First Order. As an aristocrat, Ashenden is familiar with life elixir, but he had no idea this is where it came from.

Rey emerges from the thicket and cuts down the first trooper she sees, Ashenden coming behind her. And behind them is a battalion of GODDAMN WOOKIEES. You know how they feel about slavery.

The overseers are overrun, so they call in an airstrike. The TIE bombers are inbound – one drops a bomb that destroys half the grove. The second one comes in – Rey catches the bomb with the Force and she lofts it back at the bomber.

Ashenden and crew try to contain the fire from the first bomb, when Rey detects another warrior. She turns to find one of the Knights of Rey – a female this time, in ragged clothes. She has a cyborg implant awkwardly covering most of her head – it should look like it was obviously bolted on against her will. The Reluctant Knight says she doesn’t want to serve Kylo, but the borg implant makes her. The implant lights up and her face goes blank. She lights her saber.

Rey fights a defensive battle. Whenever she gets the upper hand, the implant goes dark and the Reluctant Knight pleads with Rey not to kill her. When Rey relents, she gets wounded. In desperation, Rey cuts off the Knight’s hand.

This should end the fight, but the implant lights up again, and the Reluctant Knight lifts the saber with the Force. She holds it where her hand would be, using the Force, and continues the fight that way. Rey is nearly killed, but luckily Ashenden saves her with a stun bolt.

## Scene 8

Rey is wounded, so she gets in the bacta tank when she gets back to their cruiser. As her senses fade, Kylo starts talking to her. He urges her to come join him, and says she has to become a killer. She forces him out of her head, and tells him not to contact her again.

Rey gets out of the bacta tank the next day. As she is drying her hair, she runs into Chewbacca, who talks to her about the raid. She expresses some reservation about the amount of violence she had to do. Chewbacca pulls her in for a huge hug. #WookieeHugs.

## Scene 9

Rey checks out a starfighter and takes it out of the frigate bay. It is an older model, like a Y-Wing or a Clone War-era ARC-170. The Resistance is light on ships.

She flies it out to an uninhabited planet with rings around it. She pulls her ship gently into the rings, slightly dislodging some of the rocks in the ring. She closes her eyes and reaches out her consciousness. This isn’t how the Jedi taught it, but she’s learning to meditate.

Her consciousness races around the ring and down into the planet. We see a primordial fish in a small tide pool of a great sea. The sea is peaceful. The fish has proto-feet that it uses to walk around the bottom of the shallow pool.

Rey reaches out her consciousness and begins to pull the rocks of the ring to her. She builds a cocoon of rocks around the ship, gradually bigger and bigger as it moves through the ring. Part of the ring disappears as its component rocks gather in one spot. Rey is making a small moon.

From the point of view of the fish, we see the ring coalesce into a moon. Gradually, the moon pulls at the ocean in the planet's first tide, and the fish is left high and dry. Rey continues meditating. The fish takes its first steps on land. It sees some shore plants.

This should be beautiful but kind of terrifying. Rey is taking the power of God.

Rey relaxes her grip and the rocks settle back into the ring. The fish is covered in water again, but it ventures out of the water to take a bite out of the plant.

Rey hears Luke's voice in her head now, "Impressive," he says. "Most impressive."

"Thanks, Master," she says. She calls him master, but it's clear she doesn't mean it. These two have an easy rapport by now. Rey zooms away in her antique fighter.

## Scene 10

Returning to the ship, Rey goes to a Republic mess hall with Finn. These two haven't had much time to talk lately, and we've missed their friendship. They're talking about raids, and Finn talks about the trooper recruit who called him Jarren. Neither of them know where they came from – Rey is mostly at peace with that, but it pulls at Finn.

Their conversation is interrupted several times by Resistance personnel stopping to gawk at Rey. Maybe they ask her to bless their Kyber crystals? One woman walks up to her and says, "I fought with your father." Rey gives her a quizzical look but ignores the comment.

## Scene 11

Kylo Ren and Hux are talking to Kear, who appears via hologram. Hux is reporting on troop strength and equipment, while Kear talks in terms of plunder and cash flow. The two are somewhat at odds, with Hux wanting to send more money into the military and her wanting to spend more money on "stabilization," which in this case largely means bribes.

"An empire is a huge machine with many parts, and each part needs its own grease," Alroy explains.

Kylo listens mostly silent, but suddenly loses his temper. "I could have control of the galaxy by now, if you weren't building your palaces!"

On the hologram, you see Kear start to rise as Kylo force-chokes her. Amazingly, she starts laughing.

"You can't kill me, Ren. If you do, who will run your empire for you?" She taunts him that he won't want to do the hard work of running the galaxy.

He lets her go and stalks off. Kear straightens her tunic, takes a sip of wine and continues with the meeting.

## Scene 12

A convoy of Resistance supply ships leave a supply asteroid.

In the middle of the convoy is the Millennium Falcon, finally pushing a cargo pod with her bow mandibles as she was designed to do. Chewbacca is at the controls alongside Finn and Rose. Finn & Rose's conversation dances around their relationship – there is a sort of love triangle between Finn, Rey and Rose – but nothing overt. There's a war on.

Right on cue, three star destroyers jump out of hyperspace. Finn directs the supply ships to circle the wagons and overlap their shields, while Rose sends an urgent call to Poe on his flagship.

Poe's flagship speeds through hyperspace – the report is three destroyers to Poe's one frigate, but Poe doesn't seem concerned about that. He double-checks the coordinates and heading with Rose.

Connix scolds him – “This is a Starhawk-class frigate, boss. You can't juke it like an X-Wing.”

“Like hell I can't,” Poe says. He's growing into the leader Leia wanted him to be, but he's still Poe.

The flagship comes out of hyperdrive pointed right at the lead star destroyer, on a collision course with the aft section.

Aboard the star destroyer, the officers call for engines ahead full, fearing Poe is about to ram them. The star destroyer pulls out of the way and Poe's flagship slips past it, firing its portside cannons into the destroyer's engine at point-blank range. The massive ship is on fire and powerless.

Poe's flagship turns to the second star destroyer, not slowing down. Thrusters on its top side and starboard side fire at full capacity. “Lot of strain on the dorsal line,” Connix warns. “She'll come round,” Poe says.

Poe's flagship slides underneath the second destroyer, turning its starboard cannons directly onto the underbelly of the larger craft. Explosions erupt throughout the ship's structure – scratch another one.

The third destroyer is farther away – too far for any quick maneuvers. “Keep us out of their topside fireline,” Poe orders. “Unlimber the main cannon.”

The two ships dance as they try to get a clear shot. It's an Old West gunfight as each tries to draw a bead on the other. The massive ships slowly maneuver into position.

The destroyer's main cannons are all on the top side, and Poe is slightly below them. The destroyer angles down to get a better shot. Meanwhile, a large hatch opens on the bow of Poe's ship. We see a reactor corridor like the one from the original Death Star, but these are Resistance techs manning it. The reactor corridor has freaking guardrails, because this is not the Empire.

The destroyer's guns begin to tear up the hull of Poe's flagship, raking inexorably toward the bridge. Suddenly, a massive bolt of energy arcs out from the bow of Poe's ship. The whole frigate is built around a Death Star cannon! Poe's blast tears a trench through the other ship, shearing its bridge tower clean off.

Resistance techs move to eject a reactor core from the ship – it pops out the side like a spent shell from a pistol. Ejecting the core is an oddly manual process, like the engine room of a WWII-era ship. Back on the bridge, Poe's bridge crew cheers –

“This is Commodore Poe Dameron of the Resistance. I will accept the unconditional surrender of your ships. Eject your reactor cores, power down all weapons and gather all personnel in the hangar deck,” He turns to Connix – “make sure we get one of those reactors before they know ours is cashed.”

One side of the mouth of the cannon is slagged. One of the doors from the cannon floats off into space. Connix notes that Poe bent the dorsal frame out of true with his hard maneuvering.

He surveys the damage to the third destroyer. “Why should they get all the big guns?”

### Scene 13

Finn and Rose walk the bridge of a captured star destroyer, blasters in hand. Finn has some business where he threatens the bridge crew to move the ship the way he wants. Then they find a pile of dead bridge officers in the corner.

He asks what happened – the bridge crew tells him they were Force-strangled after surrendering. Finn and Rose look troubled. Today is a victory, but they know what they’re up against.

Outside the star destroyer, Rey walks across the deck in a space suit. She’s training – doing moves in zero gravity. She seems almost happy – it’s barren similar to Jakku.

Luke calls her. “The vacuum of space – not much life out here. It’s pretty hard on the Force.”

A few of Rey’s jabs pass through Luke’s astral form. He gives her pointers on her form, but says she’s better trained than he was. He carried Master Yoda on his back for a few days and then took off to fight Darth Vader.

Rey finally asks Luke if Leia is a ghost like him. He says Leia spent her life working to make the galaxy better, not contemplating the outer mysteries, so she does not manifest as an individual consciousness. But he feels her as part of the Force. She fought all of her life, but now she’s at peace.

Touring the prisoners of war, Finn sees storm troopers, including a few he knows. One calls him a traitor, and a few ask for his help. He tells Rose he doubts if they can be trusted, but she reminds him that he threw off his conditioning.

### Scene 14

On the bridge of Poe’s ship, Alroy and Hux are negotiating terms of surrender with the natives of the plane they conquered earlier. Kylo again looms behind them. Off in the corner, a few aides confer in hushed tones. One of them swallows hard and tells Kylo – “There’s a report on your terminal.” No one wants to deliver this news in person.

Kylo stalks to his terminal and reads about the Three Destroyer raid from Scene 12. His hands grip the terminal in barely concealed rage. The terminal shudders with Force anger, but he keeps it in check.

Kylo walks back to Hux and Alroy and says, simply, “Order an immediate orbital bombardment of this planet.”

Alroy protests – they need the planet’s industrial capacity. Hux protests that he promised them security and order if they surrender to the First Order (he actually means this). Kylo yells, “Burn it to a cinder!” Then, as an aside, he tells the natives on the bridge, “You are now the last members of your species.”



Cut to a wide shot in space: Kylo's star destroyers take up their bombardment positions around the planet. Their arrow-shaped forms point at the planet, looking like an evil compass rose. Their cannons power up -

### Scene 15

Poe has another hologram call with the Commodore. The Commodore says the Republic navy is still a mess, and he can't send help. More systems are seceding from the Republic every day, Sullust and Dantooine are on the brink of war, and they have pirates on the mid-Rim.

Poe shames him. Systems are breaking away because the Republic can't defend them. The Republic can't let the destruction of the Hosnian system go un-avenged.

An aide brings a note to the Commodore – he's received word about the destruction of the planet from the last scene. "Poe, what did you do?" the Commodore demands. Poe tries to protest – this is what he's fighting against – but the Commodore cuts him off.

### Scene 16

Back on Poe's flagship, the mood is dire. The Three Destroyer Raid was a great success, but it's been completely overshadowed by the destruction of the planet. This is the feeling of despair that will take us into Act III.

Poe, Rey and Ashenden debate a dangerous mission. They want to go to Istvan, the capital of the First Order and the headquarters of Kear Alroy. If they kidnap her, they can cripple the First Order.

Poe can't believe he's saying it, but it sounds too risky. Rey is in favor of it, as are the commandos. Connix points out it will deal a blow to the First Order's financial situation. Both the Resistance and the First Order are on shaky financial ground.

It's not this blatant, but the subject of the conversation is whether the war can be won by individual heroism or by the vast armies of troops and fleets of ships. Finn tends to think it's armies, whereas Rey feels she has a special role to play. Poe's somewhere in the middle.

Their intelligence indicates Kylo Ren is still with the burning planet, so Poe reluctantly authorizes the mission.

### Scene 17

One of star destroyers Poe wrecked comes out of hyperspace right above Istvan, steaming ahead at full speed. It nearly misses a First Order destroyer and continues out into the system. It is trailing debris.

The First Order captain on the notes there are no life signs aboard and dubs it a clumsy terrorist attack. He assigns another destroyer to track it down.

R2-D2 and C-3PO are flying the wrecked destroyer. They haven't had much to do this time out, but here's their moment. The Millennium Falcon detaches from the cloud of debris and quietly flies down to Istvan.

R2-D2 and C-3PO get the ship stuck around a gas giant. The First Order destroyer in pursuit attempts to pull it out with a tractor beam, but the wrecked ship's engines fire wildly. The wrecked ship locks its own

tractor to the rescuing ship, putting both ships in danger. R2-D2 and C-3PO abandon ship in an escape pod – exiting the series the same way they came in.

### Scene 18

Istvan is something new for Star Wars – it resembles 20<sup>th</sup> century Earth. However, it's still a fascist planet and security is tight. Rey and Ashenden sneak into the presidential palace.

The kidnapping goes awry almost immediately. Kylo Ren shows up himself to yell at Kear, and he blows the whole mission. Kylo kills Kear almost as an afterthought. Kylo and Ren fight.

### Scene 19

A Republic task force shows up unexpectedly. Poe's been pushing the Republic to get more involved, but no one told him they were coming.

Kylo leaves his duel with Rey to attend to the battle in space. He tries to frame this as a snub. "I have a galaxy to conquer." Rey races off to find the Millennium Falcon and get up to the battle.

From the ground, Ashenden reports on the situation to Poe. Poe tries to warn the Commodore that Kylo is on the scene, and if he can stop his shuttle he can stop the war. The Commodore doesn't answer his call.

A First Order armada shows up, and then Poe reluctantly commits his forces, too. No one was expecting a battle today, but here it is.

Connix observes that half the star destroyers' cannons aren't firing. "They built their ships too big," Poe says. "They don't have enough guys to run the guns."

### Scene 20

On Poe's flagship, Finn directs a crew of gunners. But his gun jams – Rose attempts to fix it, and he gets out of the gunner's chair. The wing of a TIE interceptor bursts through the hull, and would have impaled Finn if he'd been sitting there. He and Rose are thrust into each other's arms. Air hisses slowly out of the hole in the ship.

Kylo Ren steps onto the bridge of his flagship. He stretches out his hands – he enters battle meditation. Every pilot and trooper on his side stiffens up and begins operating at peak efficiency. Morale on the Resistance/Republic side falters.

On Poe's bridge, he starts getting reports of casualties – X-Wings and bombers are falling quickly. Suddenly, Poe realizes what's happening – he recognized the feeling of Kylo messing with his head. He orders his flagship to break ranks and fire its main cannon on Kylo's flagship.

The blast does damage to Kylo's ship, but doesn't knock it out of the fight. Meanwhile, Poe's flagship is on fire and sinking fast. He orders full steam toward Kylo's flagship. As his ship is shot to pieces, Poe orders grappling hooks – it's time to board Kylo's ship.

Poe orders the landing craft off the ship. Our reference here is the beaches of Normandy. Finn, Rose and their Resistance fighters swarm over the hull. They knock out turbolasers as TIE Fighters strafe the deck.

Hux sighs. "They're on the hull again."

Poe sees the last of his crew off, then runs to the hangar deck. We see his flagship engulfed in flames, but at the last minute an X-Wing takes off – it's Poe and BB-8! We get a glimpse of the flagship's name as it drifts away – painted on the side is the "Leia Organa."

A few commandos set up a weapon on the deck that generates a small star that burns through the outer hull. Troopers and crewmen fly out of the hole in the deck.

Poe brings his ship to a hover over the deck. Behind him are his commandos, and above him is a swarm of TIE fighters. He's in his element. Those TIEs will have to go through him.

Rey gets ready to jump out of the Millennium Falcon. She sees the Force Ghost of Luke again – he offers words of encouragement. "Will I have to kill him?" she asks. "That'll be his decision," Luke says. "Trust the Force." Rey gives a signal to Chewbacca and drops out of the ship. Landing on the hull, she gives a heads-up to Finn, then dives into the hole caused by the sun bomb.

Inside the star destroyer, blast doors are closing to seal off the hull breach. The massive door is about to close on Rey, but she holds out her hand and holds it open with the Force. It slams shut behind her as she enters. Inside are three more Knights of Ren with exotic force weapons. One has a series of glowing balls that fly around him, connected by Force Lightning.

On the bridge, Kylo registers the fight with a grimace. He's now in that fight, too. Outside the bridge, the battle rages unabated – the two forces are evenly matched but the First Order seems to be winning. Another Republic ship falls, and another explosion erupts on the deck of his ship.

Kylo looks out the bridge window – he sees the Ghost of Luke. Alongside Luke is Leia, and then Han, and then a million faceless people he's killed. Judgment is coming.

Behind him, Hux is giving that sneaky Hux look.

In intense combat, Rey defeats two of the three Knights. She turns to the guy with the balls.

Kylo seems near the breaking point with his battle meditation, but we see Hux doing calculations with a pad and a stylus. Another Republic cruiser falls. Hux nods his head in satisfaction – the battle is nearly won. He walks up and casually shoots Kylo in the back. "Thank you, Ren. Your services are no longer needed."

Both Rey and the Knight register the shock. Rey turns her back on the Knight, grabs her space helmet with the Force, and throws open the blast door, blowing them both into space. The Knight flies off into the void as she Force-jumps across the deck.

Finn and Rose see that Rey is on the move, and they scramble after her with a commando team. Rey Force-leaps to the top of the bridge tower – leaping a tall building with a single bound – and uses her saber to start forcing open the bridge door.

Hux stands over the stricken Kylo – "The New Order will have no room for sorcery. No room for magic. No room for anything but order."

Kylo mutters, "Never underestimate the power of –"

Hux shoots him again – this time the bolt goes through Kylo, but he manages to *pull his guts back in with the Force*. Hux fires two more times with the same effect. Kylo gets to his feet and lifts Hux into the air with the Force. Hux fires but Kylo stops the blaster bolt with the Force (like he did in Star Wars 7).

To Hux' horror, *the blaster bolt slowly edges back toward him*. He is strangling and burning at the same time, burning from within.

The bridge door opens and Rey charges in – she throws the bridge crew across the room with the Force and catches Kylo as he falls.

“I ... I almost did it,” Kylo says. Rey urges him to be quiet and save his strength. “You didn’t help me!” he screams. She tries to soothe him. “I’m in ... so much pain ...” She sighs that it’s all over and he can rest. Her hands are stained with blood.

We pull back, and she is only holding the severed head of Kylo Ren. The rest of his body is destroyed. His lips try to move, but no sounds comes out. From across the room, she Force-pulls one of his old helmets. She closes it around his head reverently, then turns to the bridge.

Outside, with Kylo’s control gone, the battle begins to turn against the First Order. Poe scores two hits in quick succession, then glances at the flagship bridge. He understands what happened.

Finn, Rose and the commandos enter the bridge cautiously as all of the controls lights up. Rey is running the whole ship. It crashes into one star destroyer. All the cannons swivel in unison and even some of the damaged ones move jerkily. Under Rey’s command, Kylo’s flagship opens fire on the other destroyer.

Finn – “What are you doing? They can surrender!”

Rey – “I’m ending this. Luke wanted to end this. As soon as I’m done, I’m going to fly this ship into the sun. I’ve killed ... so many people. Kylo Ren was a monster. It all must end.”

Finn comforts her – they embrace. She is not a monster.

Rose signals the rest of the First Order fleet to surrender. The battle is over. Out in space, Poe and BB-8 celebrate with a jubilant whoop!

## Scene 21

Rey walks into a cantina. On her way in, she bumps into a man in a long trench coat. He turns and gives her a salute – it’s DJ, the master hacker from Last Jedi. He has just sold a data crystal to Finn, who sits at the bar with Rose and Poe.

The three friends talk about what they’re going to do. Poe says he’s going to get good and drunk for three days, then call up the Commodore and get his old job back with the Republic Navy. Kylo burned down a lot of the galaxy, and they’ll need help keeping order.

Finn says he’s going to look for his family, using the data crystal he just bought. It’s heavily implied that Rose is going with him. Rey says that Ashenden identified some First Order holdouts, and Luke wants her to restart the Jedi Order (again).

At the beginning of the cycle, Finn urged Rey to run away from the fight. Now that it’s over for now, he succeeds. There’ll be more adventures, but for now the three friends can celebrate. *Jub-jub*.