

FTL - USE THE DOORS

By

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EXT. SPACE

The KESTREL, a small federation space ship, warps into a new sector.

INT. SPACESHIP COCKPIT - CONT.

The CAPTAIN leans back in his chair with a mug of coffee. He gazes out his window with a smug, satisfied sigh.

The ship groans and shakes. The captain's content expression drops, but only slightly. A voice comes over the intercom-

VOICE

Captain.

CAPTAIN

Yeah! Who is this?

VOICE

It's Jerry.

CAPTAIN

Eh... no. Boring. You're Luke Skywalker.

Beat.

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)

...No, I'm Jerry.

CAPTAIN

According to your contract, I can rename you whenever I want, without your consent. So...

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)

What? Where was that?

CAPTAIN

Fine print, Skywalker. Tell me what's happening.

Skywalker lets out an exasperated sigh.

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)

Another ship is approaching, possibly hostile. It's not responding to any communications, and also it shot us...

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN

The galactic standard greeting, of course... still, better play it safe. Take Garrus and Riker and get to your stations. Stay alert, no time for distractions.

The captain takes a quick sip from his coffee.

CAPTAIN

We have- mm.

He takes a much longer drink.

CAPTAIN

Ah, that is good.

The ship is hit by something and shakes violently.

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)

Fire in the engine room! Bring the extinguishers!

CAPTAIN

NO!

Beat.

CAPTAIN (CONT.)

Open the doors.

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)

What?

CAPTAIN (CONT.)

The airlock doors in the back, and the doors to the engine room. Let the oxygen out, and the fire will die. Works on people, too.

Over the intercom, we hear doors OPEN and a WHOOSH as the oxygen escapes.

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)

Wow, that did work.

CAPTAIN

Yep, looks like my crippling debt to the Spaceship Academy is paying for itself already.

The captain's expression goes from smug grin to silent sobbing in only a couple of seconds.

(CONTINUED)

An alarm goes off.

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)
OK, new problem! They've boarded
the ship. We need to change
tactics.

CAPTAIN
Use the doors, Luke.

The captain smiles at himself.

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)
I'm gonna use my gun!

CAPTAIN
No really, get to the medbay, open
the other doors, and hook
yourselves to an I.V. You'll need
the blood.

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)
What? *What??* Why? What about you?

CAPTAIN
Oh don't worry-

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)
Don't say doors-

CAPTAIN (CONT.)
I have very strong doors.

There's some KNOCKING and GARBLED ALIEN LANGUAGE from
outside the cockpit door.

CAPTAIN
Go away!

The sounds of a LASER GUN BATTLE and the SCREAMS OF THE CREW
erupt over the intercom. They continue for several long
seconds as the captain sits and listens nonchalantly.

The sounds stop.

The captain leans toward the intercom.

CAPTAIN
Are they dead?

Beat.

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)

Yes.

CAPTAIN

Are you dead?

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)

No...

CAPTAIN

Success.

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)

It could easily have been the other way around!

CAPTAIN

Death, young Skywalker, is nothing compared to the power of the doors.

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)

Sir, you're being really weird about the doors.

CAPTAIN

Outside those doors is space, Luke. So in a way, he who controls the doors controls space itself.

The captain takes a sip.

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)

What are you drinking?

CAPTAIN

Coffee.

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)

There's no coffee on this ship-

CAPTAIN

There are no aliens on this ship either, but thank me later, because their ship is still out there. Don't worry... I have a plan.

Luke sighs.

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)

Let me guess - we teleport onto their ship and *open all the doors*.

The captain's face lights up.

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN

My god, that is brilliant. I was going to shoot a rocket at them. Skywalker, you're promoted.

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)

No, no I'm not. I'm heading to weapons control and using the rocket. You are no longer in charge.

Doors open. Luke starts gasping for breath.

LUKE SKYWALKER (V.O.)

Captain! The doors are still open...! *Captain!*

Luke continues gasping for breath. The captain slowly takes another drink.

END.