DARK STAR

OF THE EMPIR

She was a Jedi Knight who, like Darth Vader, succumbed to the dark side. Now add Lumiya to your Star Wars roleplaying games BY MICHAEL MIKAELIAN ART BY COLLEEN DORAN

THE IMPERIAL FRIGATE REVENANT, flanked by her escort corvettes Wolf-Pack and Borealis, ruptured the usual desolation of the Cron Drift. The ships hammered at the small asteroids that normally made the Drift treacherous to navigate. On the bridge of the Revenant, a soft beeping sensor queued an Imperial ensign to speak.

"Captain Valek, we're approaching Communications Research Station Epsilon Nine."

"Very well. Hail them on --"

"No," hissed a stern metallic voice. "Continue our approach at half speed and monitor all transmissions." Lumiya moved like a shadow across the command deck. The ensign looked up again.

"Epsilon Nine is emitting an unknown low-level radiation pulse. Their ground comlinks are New Republic frequencies." Valek turned toward Lumiya, eyes wide. "Captain, scanners indicate nine X-wing fighters inbound, bearing two-seven-one."

"How could the Republic have known about this station, much less capture it," said the astonished Valek, looking toward Lumiya, herself unfazed by the situation.

"Imperial Intelligence became aware of this very recently, Captain. Apparently, they have made a push into the Elrood Sector to acquire some of our technology for themselves."

There were several isolated facilities built by the Empire to conduct top-secret research, each tucked away in the remote Cron Drift. Lumiya's current task was to inspect each one and get a first-hand report on their progress. Due to the fractured order among Imperial forces, the Epsilon research project was ignored by many. But not by the New Republic.

"Have the corvettes assault the station's laser batteries," commanded Lumiya, sending a wave of cold authority throughout the bridge. "Helm, turn us broadside to the station, but bring the turbolasers to bear on those fighters. Flight Ops, launch TIE interceptor squadron Alpha. Have TIE bomber squadron Theta support the corvettes."

Outside, the Drift was aglow with the thick, precise mayhem of turbolasers. The X-wings, surprised by the Revenant's heavy weapons, fell quickly to the power of the frigate and the sudden onslaught of TIE interceptors.

New Republic laser turrets fired pointlessly on the broadside of the Revenant, ignoring the two corvettes. The pair surgically carved through the ground weaponry and troop emplacements. Their TIE bomber support dropped proton torpedoes with uncanny accuracy and blew open the landing platform, a pathway to breathable atmosphere.

From the belly of the Wolf-Pack came two assault shuttles. The Borealis flew low and dispatched two juggernauts. Their crushing wheels mowed over several barricades as they plowed toward the central research station; their heavy laser cannons shredded the blast doors of the outer perimeter. Crimson-clad stormtroopers followed, swarming through the portal. Even outnumbered two-to-one, Lumiya's commandos made short work of the station security.

As the firefight raged below, a lone Lambdaclass shuttle streaked from the Revenant toward the planetoid's surface.

3/25

Lumiya scanned the carnage caused by her fleet as she strode through the gaping hole in the compound. The stormtroopers had herded together a group of frightened scientists, the station's only survivors. The smell of ozone permeated the room; small fires marked blaster shots on the walls and floors.

"All Republic forces have been eliminated. We suffered three wounded. All personnel are accounted for," reported a stormtrooper, pointing to the group. The glow of the fires gleamed off Lumiya's armor as she approached the scientists.

"A woman?" proclaimed one of them. In an instant, he was lifted by an unseen Force, and flew across the room, stopped only by Lumiya's hand gripping his throat. The others watched in horror as she crushed his throat.

"I am Lumiya," she stated coldly, dropping the scientist's lifeless body. "You were charged with developing new spy satellites for Imperial Intelligence. I am here to remind you of your loyalties to the Empire, and will overlook consorting with the enemy just this once."

Lumiya whirled back toward the still-smoldering door. With a flashing stroke of her arm, deadly tendrils of energy snaked from Lumiya's lightwhip and wrapped around a New Republic sigil. Sparks flew as the poly-



MOST OF LUMIYA'S LIFE has been spent serving the Empire. Born Shira Elan Colla Brie, she was a native of the beautiful planet Coruscant, and was raised on an estate belonging to Senator Palpatine. Shira was gifted in all the ways a child should be: She was beautiful, intelligent, fast and strong.

As a teenager, Shira was chosen for COMPNOR, a program for adolescent indoctrination. She quickly became the top inductee, and

MAJOR SHIRA ELAN COLLA BRIE (After the Battle of Hoth)

TYPE: IMPERIAL INTEL SOLO AGENT

DEXTERITY 3D - Blaster 5d*2, brawling parry 7D*1, dodge 6D*1, melee combat 6D, melee parry 6D, thrown weapons 5D*1, vehicle blasters 5D. KNOWLEDGE 4D - Alien species 5D, cultures 6D*, intimidation 5D*2, languages 7D*, planetary systems 7D*, streetwise 6D+1, survival 7D*. MECHANICAL 3D - Astrogation 5D, beast riding 5D, repulsorlift operation 6D, space transports 5D, starfighter piloting 5D, starship gunnery 5D. PERCEPTION 3D+2 - Bargain 4D+2, command 4D, con 6D, forgery 5D, hide 5D, persuasion 6D, search 6D, sneak 6D. STRENGTH 3D - Brawling 4D*2, climbing/jumping 4D, lifting 4D, stamina 5D, swimming 4D. TECHNICAL 3D - Computer programming/repair 5D*1, first aid 5D*2, security 7D*

SPECIAL ABILITIES: BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING - Shira

Brie's life-systems have been artificially engineered to allowed her to ignore pain and to increase her stamina and strength. When rolling for natural healing (page 67. STAR WARS Second Edition rulebook). Shira adds +1D to her STRENGTH roll. Shira may attempt to heal in half the normal time, but loses the +1D bonus. She also can control pain as per the Force power (page 12.8. Second Edition rulebook), but increase all difficulties to Easy for wounded or stunned. Moderate for incapacitated and Difficult for mortally wounded; she rolls her STRENGTH. This character is Force-Sensitive FORCE POINTS: 3 DARK SIDE POINTS: 5 CHARACTER POINTS: 9 MOVE: 10

EQUIPMENT — Blaster pistol (4D), comlink, Rebel Alliance pilot uniform demonstrated an unwavering allegiance to the Empire.

As a result, she was admitted into an Imperial program of a similar nature. Shira's success in all areas of training attracted the eye of Darth Vader, who recommended that she be trained as an Imperial Intelligence operative. Her fighting skills and allegiance to the Empire were already exceptional, and her body was biologically altered to match. The Emperor's scientists raised Shira's pain threshold to its highest level, and gave her an accelerated healing rate.

The Empire's defeat at the Battle of Yavin, in which the first Death Star was destroyed, was a harrowing blow. Afterward, a plan was put into action to insure that the Rebel Alliance would never gain the upper hand again. By providing Shira with a carefully fabricated history, Darth Vader steel symbol of hope was bisected by the Dark Jedi's weapon. The scientists hung their heads, knowing that once again they were to serve the Empire.

"My garrison will insure your diligent work—and safety. I will return in eight weeks to witness your dramatic progress. Failure will not be tolerated."

With that, Lumiya and her assault team boarded their shuttles and departed. As the troops escorted Epsilon Nine's staff to their quarters, a small group spoke quietly among themselves. "Do you think they intercepted our signal?" whispered a dark-haired woman.

"Doubtful," replied a Calamarian. "Their scanners should have only picked up low-level radiation. When our emissions reach the satellite web, it will transmit a distress signal... but there's no guarantee anyone will receive it."

arranged for her to infiltrate the Rebellion as a pilot. The city of Chinshassa on Shalyvane was resistant to Imperial rule. The entire city was razed to remind its inhabitants to fear the Empire, and to provide Shira with a credible background.

Shira had little trouble joining the Rebellion after the Battle of Hoth. The Rebels were desperate for pilots, and she proved to be an exceptional one. Months passed, and no one ever suspected her true agenda.

In her final mission for the Rebel Alliance, Shira flew a stolen TIE fighter. The Rebel TIE squadron was specially equipped with transmitters that would enable them to recognize each other. The target, a Star Destroyer fitted with an experimental communications system, rendered the transmitters useless. In the resulting chaos, Shira's TIE was destroyed by another Rebel pilot. The surviving Rebels succeeded in destroying the communications prototype and returned home, believing Shira had been killed. However, because of her altered physiology, she did not die.

Shira was rescued by the Empire and returned to Coruscant. There, the Emperor's scientists used their most advanced cybernetics to save her. Soon after her recovery, Lord Vader began training her in the ways of the Force. Shira boldly embraced the dark path Vader laid before her, and began a new life. From that moment on, Shira Brie ceased to exist. She became Lumiya.

While a desperate battle raged above the forest moon of Endor, Lumiya had begun the final test of all Jedi. Traveling to the far reaches of the galaxy, she uncovered an ancient Sith tome that spoke of a weapon forged of "biting metal and stinging light." That served as the basis for her lightwhip, a more difficult weapon to use than a lightsaber.

After the death of the Emperor, Lumiya tracked down the former Rebels with the help of an alien species called the Nagai, and later their enemy, the Tofs. During the final conflict of that encounter, Lumiya was wounded and left for dead again. Yet, again, she managed to survive—only to return stronger than ever.

Michael Mikaelian is an illustrator and writer in New York.

WRITTEN WITH PATRICK MCLAUGHLIN SPECIAL THANKS TO BILL SMITH OF WEST END GAMES, JO DUFFY AND MATT HONG

LUMIYA (Immediately after the Battle of Endor)

TYPE: DARK JEDI

DEXTERITY 3D - Blaster 6D, brawling parry 8D, dodge 6D+2, lightwhip 10D*, melee combat 6D+2, melee parry 6D+1, thrown weapons 5D+1, vehicle blasters 5D. KNOWLEDGE 4D - Alien species 5D+1, cultures 6D+1*, intimidation 6D+2, languages 7D+1*, planetary systems 7D*, streetwise 7D, survival 7D*. MECHANICAL 3D -Astrogation 5D, beast riding 5D, repulsorlift operation 6D, space transports 5D, starfighter piloting 5D, starship gunnery 5D. PERCEPTION 3D+2 - Bargain 4D+2, command 5D, con 6D, forgery 5D, hide 5D, persuasion 6D+2, search 6D+2, sneak 6D. STRENGTH 3D - Brawling 7D+1, climbing/jumping 4D, lifting 4D, stamina 5D+2, swimming 4D. TECHNICAL 3D - Computer programming/repair 5D+1, first aid 5D+2, security 7D* * Skills that have been artificially enhanced by mnemonic drugs.

SPECIAL ABILITIES: BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING - See above. CYBORGING - After her near-fatal encounter, extensive cybernetic replacement was the only way to save Shira Brie's life. She receives +1D energy and +1D+1 physical to resist damage to all locations except her head. FORCE SKILLS - Control 5D+2, sense 3D+2, alter 2D. CONTROL - Absorb/dissipate energy, accelerate healing, control pain, hibernation trance, reduce injury, remain conscious, resist stun. SENSE - Life detection, life sense, sense Force. CONTROL AND ALTER - Lightwhip combat

This character is Force-Sensitive FORCE POINTS: 7 DARK SIDE POINTS: 12 CHARACTER POINTS: 15 MOVE: 10

EQUIPMENT — Lightwhip (5D damage, range of 5 meters; increases the difficulty of all parry attempts by one level unless using one weapon to counteract the energy nature of the weapon and another to counteract the physical nature of the weapon)

NOTE: Lumiya has directly under her command three Star Destroyers (Behemoth, Fury and Rampage), two Nebulon-B frigates (Revenant and Spectre) and four Corellian corvettes (Wolf-Pack, Borealis, Firestorm and Scorpion IV). Each Star Destroyer carries 72 TIE ships and each frigate carries 24 TIE ships. The corvette Firestorm has been modified to carry 4 TIE ships for ambushes. The corvette Scorpion IV has a

3/21

missile launcher turret in its tail section. Of the four platoons of stormtroopers under Lumiya's command, two squads were selected from the Emperor's Royal Guardsmen, and are distinguished by their red stormtrooper armor.

NOTE: When Lumiya first was given cybernetics, she had blasters incorporated into her hands (5D damage, ranges 3-10/20/50), but they were destroyed. Her replacement cybernetics lack those blasters.

NOTE: (At the end of the Tof Invasion) FORCE SKILLS -Control 6D+1, sense 4D, alter 2D+2. CONTROL - Rage (page 60, Dark Empire Sourcebook). ALTER - Injure/kill, telekinesis