What if…

…Anakin Skywalker didn’t turn dark

A young slave boy is discovered on Tatooine and years later after receiving lots of training from Obi-Wan, he matures into a powerful light-sided Jedi. During his childhood, he meets Padmé and falls in love. So as he is yet to have his mind tested and his views questioned, he remains light-sided and true to his upbringing. However, upon meeting Palpatine, everything changes…but what if it didn’t…

# The Temptation of Count Dooku

Whilst Obi-Wan and Anakin search for the elusive General Grievous, they find themselves immersed in a space battle. However, they succeed in escaping and come face-to-face with Count Dooku, and Anakin boasts about how he has increased in power and strength since they last saw him. Count Dooku immediately puts this to the test and begins goading Anakin. The Jedi remains determined to display his talents and impress his Master. Yet, Obi-Wan gets overthrown by Dooku, and Anakin realises everything is down to him. The Chancellor and Obi-Wan are depending on him to save them and escape.

Anakin manages to dodge and fight hard, but it isn’t long before he realises the scale of things. The Force is strong in the young Jedi and he channels all his emotions into the duel, which helps him succeed. Soon enough, Dooku is pleading for mercy and is stuck between two lightsabers, held by Anakin hoovering them inches away from his throat. The dual persona of Palpatine tries to coax the Padawan into committing murder. Seconds away from killing Dooku, Anakin ignores the coaxing and spares the Sith Lord’s life. He proceeds in getting himself, the Chancellor and Obi-Wan to a safe part of the ship as soon as possible. This proves challenging, but he eventually succeeds and they all depart to Coruscant.

# Rewarded or Not?

Upon their return, Anakin remains angry with the other members of the Council as he has still not been awarded the rank of Master and given a valued place amongst them. He still does not feel important enough or trusted by them. In this scenario, it is likely that the existing members of the Council chose to grant Anakin the rank he yearns for, which places him on the Council also. This is helped by the fact Palpatine isn’t in Anakin’s presence to put pressure on him and manipulate his inner thoughts and negative emotions. The promotion comes from Anakin’s efforts and how he handled the situation on General Greivous’ ship during the space battle. Due to this, the anger of the newly appointed Master quickly dissolves.

# A ‘Suspicious’ Jedi

War still surrounds everyone and it affects many people in different ways. Some are fearful. Others seem to be engulfed with anger. As the years go by, another Jedi Knight starts to arouse some suspicions. He is tending to be around Chancellor Palpatine for great lengths of time. Whenever he is cross-questioned, he is very defensive and quick to protect any bad words said about his newly acquired ‘friendship’ with the clever and manipulative Chancellor. To add to this unusual behaviour, he is also quick to anger around any of his associates, regardless of their previous rapports. However, upon considering and questioning this strange occurrence and unsettling relationship building up, Anakin comes to the conclusion that the war is to blame, as many Jedi are falling into the corruption trap.

As Anakin is a valued member of the council, he voices his concerns and suspicions. He doesn’t let his worries stop him partaking in the war. He is still married to Padmé and very much in love with her. In this eventuality, she would still be carrying Anakin’s children. Although, the parents-to-be are far more relaxed. As Palpatine isn’t involved and is not using his powers to control Anakin’s dreams, the Jedi isn’t haunted by fears and insecurities.

# Goodbye Grievous…Hello Hidden Identity

Grievous is finally located on Utapau, and Anakin accompanies Obi-Wan to this secluded Outer Rim planet. With ease the two Jedi manage to defeat Grievous and all those who have accompanied him here. Once he is destroyed the duo retreat back to Coruscant. Upon their arrival they make a shocking discovery- the Sith Lord everyone has been searching for has been found. They are astounded to discover that Chancellor Palpatine has finally come forward and declared his true identity. His intentions were far from honourable, as he only disclosed this news to the Jedi Knight he has been followed by closely. Even though his secret leaked out and now the Jedi Council were aware, Palpatine wasn’t fazed, as he thought the Council wouldn’t dare challenge him. It has also been revealed that the loyal and oblivious Knight, has received a promotion of his own- his is now Lord Sidious’ new apprentice.

Naturally, Anakin and Obi-Wan rush to confront the newly revealed Sith Lord and his new apprentice, but once they arrive, a fellow Jedi Council member has had the same idea. Mace Windu is already duelling ferociously with them, yet this is not a battle that can be won easily. However, all hope is not lost, as Lord Sidious feels threatened by the arrival of two extra duellists, so he takes the Jedi Knight and escapes with him. Before they disperse, Mace Windu receives a nasty lightsaber wound and is sent immediately to receive medical attention and the other members of the Jedi Council are made aware. This does however, mean that Lord Sidious and his apprentice have been able to escape freely without being chased and tracked down. Importantly, Mace Windu, Anakin and Obi-Wan have survived.

# “Execute Order 66”

By this point, Yoda is now aware of all the betrayal that has been occurring in the galaxy. He is far from pleased. Also, the news has spread all over the galaxy and all Jedi are aware also. As the news has spread so fast, the Jedi are more prepared for further destruction.

Lord Sidious announces ‘Order 66’ and Clonetroopers begin attacking all over the galaxy, and the war continues to escalate. Although, as news is widespread and there is more awareness, there are less fatalities.

# Dismissed from the Order, you are

Yoda meets with Anakin and he quickly detects fear in the Jedi. Knowing where this fear can lead, Yoda discharges him from the Order. He has seen how loyal and light-sided Anakin has remained, even though he loves Padmé deeply. This love could have caused him to fear for her and their unborn children, and thus could have been the start of a very dark and anger-fuelled path. As he has proved himself and confesses to Yoda about his upcoming fatherhood. So, bearing all this in mind, dismissing him seems the safest thing to do. However, it is only planning to be short-lived until further discussions and decisions can be made between Yoda and others on the Jedi Council.

# Back to the sand

Even though Anakin loathes sand, he spends his time in exile to visit Jakku. This is very similar to Tatooine, where he was born and grew up. Being here helps the Jedi ‘balance’ his oxymoronic feelings of fear and calm and anger and peace. It keeps him on his light-sided path and away from the temptations and conflicts of a dark-sided path.

# Return of a familiar face…or two

Whilst reflecting on this remote sandy planet, Anakin’s peace is soon disrupted. He suddenly senses a dark and negative presence. He discovers the source of this unpleasantness- Jakku is the hiding place of Lord Sidious and his new apprentice. As the apprentice is still learning and training, yet in contrast, Anakin is wiser and stronger. Furthermore, Anakin is no longer a member of the Jedi Order, so he isn’t held by the bounds of them. Therefore, Anakin soon defeats this Jedi Knight easily. As he has witnessed many different light-sided Jedi duel over the years, he has learnt many duelling styles. This goes in his favour, as even though fighting the Chancellor presents Anakin with a challenge, he is able to defend himself effectively. During this duel, Palpatine attempts to sway the Jedi to turn him to follow him and the ways of the dark side. However, this is all in vain, as Anakin refuses and continues duelling his enemy. As Lord Sidious prepares to escape, Anakin notices this and before he follows him, he sends for back up and informs the other members of the Jedi Council that they are to follow him and join the pursuit.

# A reunion…and a farewell

Chancellor Palpatine escapes to Mustafar and once on this fiery planet, he is unexpectedly greeted by others. Yoda and Obi-Wan come to help Anakin along with Mace Windu, who has now recovered from his previous injury. Four Jedi against Lord Sidious presents them with an easy defeat, and he is soon overthrown. Now with Lord Sidious and his apprentice both dead, peace is resumed throughout the entire galaxy.

# Happily ever after

Due to his loyalty to the light-sided Jedi, not succumbing to the dark side and for helping defeat Lord Sidious and his apprentice, Anakin is soon allowed to be a member of the Jedi Council again. Padmé and Anakin welcome their twins, Luke and Leia Skywalker into the world happily and their mother doesn’t die in childbirth. The two loving parents raise their children and train them in the ways of the Jedi as soon as they come of age. And the phrase goes something like, and they lived happily ever after.