



STAR WARS FICTION, NEWS, INTERVIEWS, AND MORE!

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE | ISSUE 204

# STAR WARS

## INSIDER

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW  
PREQUELS PRODUCER

# Rick McCallum

"There's something  
special about *Star Wars*."

## *The High Republic*

ONLY IN *INSIDER*:

🕒 ALL-NEW FICTION  
BY JUSTINA IRELAND

🕒 CAVAN SCOTT  
INTERVIEWED

+  
**WIN!**  
HIGH REPUBLIC  
NOVELS FROM  
DEL REY!

**Plus**  
BONNIE PIESSE  
DEATH STAR TECH  
VIRTUAL FANDOM

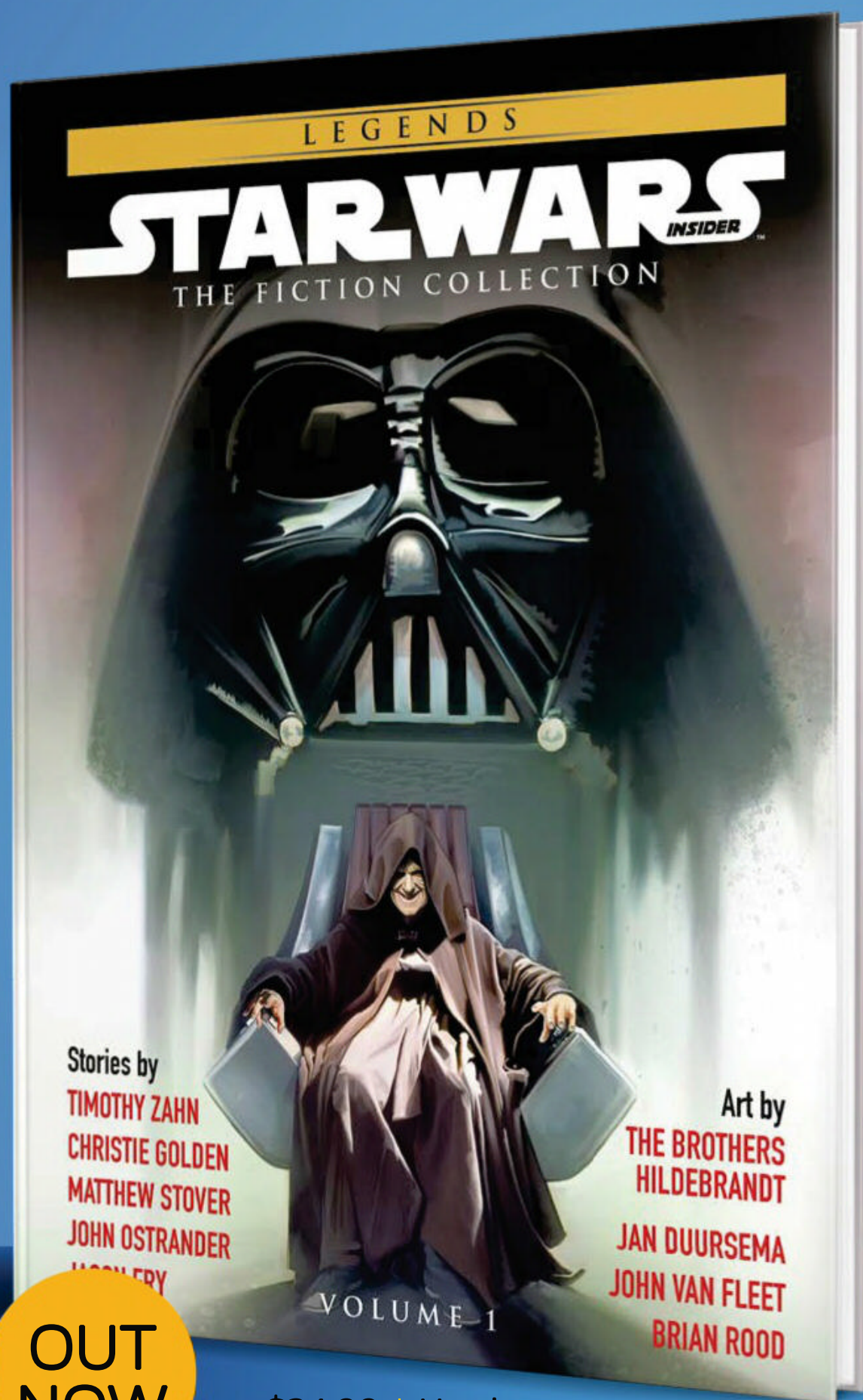


10 GALACTIC LIFE LESSONS WE LEARNED FROM  
**STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER!**



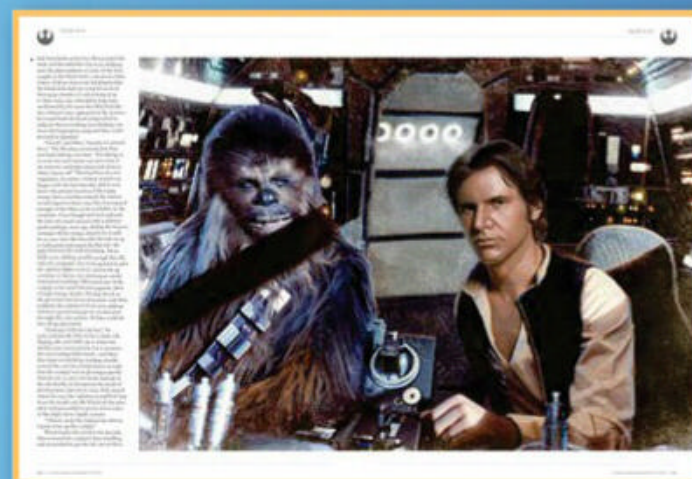
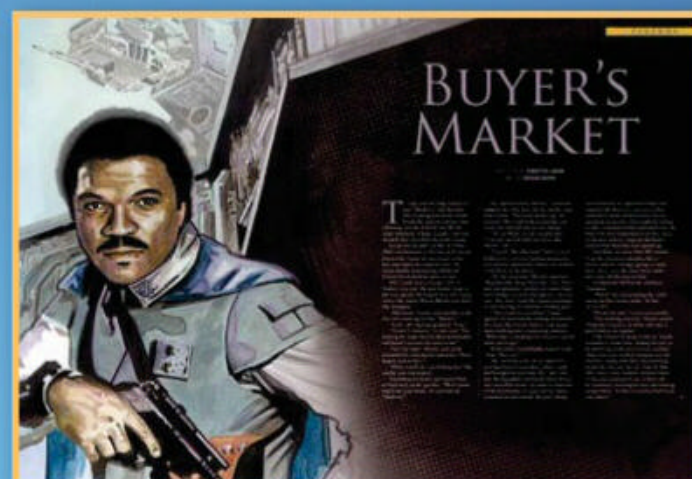


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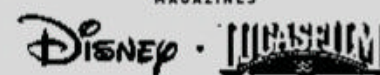
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## WELCOME...



You won't be reading this editorial until a few months after it was written—on May 4th, 2021 to be precise. *Star Wars* Day. It felt appropriate.

Back then, the debut episode of *The Bad Batch* arrived on Disney+, and it punched all my *Star Wars* buttons with its tale of heroic outcasts, the rise of the Empire, and hints at an epic storyline about to unfold. By now you'll know where that story was headed, but the me of the recent past still had it all to look forward to. I'm not sure whether I should be jealous, or if it should be the other way around? As I write this, all I know is next Friday's episode can't come soon enough!

With *The Bad Batch* serving as a sequel to the prequel era, while weaving in prequelish plot points linking it to *Star Wars Rebels* (2014–2018) and *The Mandalorian* (2019–present), the galaxy far, far away is feeling ever more connected. This issue of *Star Wars Insider* is equally era-encompassing, from the first part of our exclusive interview with prequel producer Rick McCallum to our summary of the top ten life lessons we learned from *The Rise of Skywalker* (2019). We also speak to Bonnie Piesse, soon to reprise her role as Beru Lars for the upcoming *Obi-Wan Kenobi* series, about her experiences filming the prequels. With the latest instalment of *The High Republic* fiction from Justina Ireland to enjoy too, maybe we should start calling every day *Star Wars* Day!

May the Force be with you.

**Christopher Cooper**  
 Editor

## MEET THE CONTRIBUTORS...



**Melissa T. Miller**  
[@melissatruth](#)

Scientist and science writer Melissa visits Comic-Con every year to purchase new *Star Wars* paraphernalia for her pet dog.



**Jay Stobie**  
[@StobiesGalaxy](#)

Starship fanatic and blogger Jay writes articles for StarWars.com and is searching for a way to reside full time in the *Star Wars* galaxy.



**Justina Ireland**  
[@justinaireland](#)

*New York Times* bestselling author of *Star Wars* novel *A Test of Courage*, Justina is one of the creators behind *Star Wars: The High Republic*.



**Bryan Young**  
[@swankmotron](#)

Bryan is an author, journalist, and filmmaker. The podcast host also writes for several websites, including StarWars.com, Syfy, and /Film.



**Mark Wright**  
[@mwrightwriter](#)

Mark co-authored *Doctor Who: Who-ology* and has scripted numerous audio dramas starring the irrepressible time-traveller.



**Dan Wallace**  
[@danwall88](#)

Dan has written many *Star Wars* books including several in the *Essential Guide* series and was a co-author of *Ultimate Star Wars*.

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*Star Wars Insider* explores ten life lessons from *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* (2019) that might help us better navigate our own lives.





NEWSSTAND  
EDITION



COMIC STORE  
EXCLUSIVE



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EXCLUSIVE



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# STAR WARS INSIDER LAUNCHPAD

NEWS / BOOKS / COMICS / TOYS / GAMES / FASHION



## In Step With The Stars

Galactic legends find their feet on the Walk of Fame

**A** trio of *Star Wars* luminaries will soon join the ranks of Hollywood's finest when they receive their very own stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Ewan McGregor (currently filming his return as Obi-Wan Kenobi in the eponymous Disney+ series), Ming-Na

Wen (who plays busy bounty hunter Fennec Shand in multiple *Star Wars* shows for Disney+, including the forthcoming *The Book of Boba Fett*), and the late Carrie Fisher will each be honored with one of the famous stars that pave the sidewalks of Hollywood and Vine Boulevards in Los Angeles,

following ratification by the Hollywood Chamber's Board of Directors.

Carrie Fisher's posthumously awarded star follows in the footsteps of those for original trilogy co-stars Mark Hamill, who received his in 2018 (located at 6834 Hollywood Boulevard), and Harrison Ford, which you can find





Star Walks:  
Mark Hamill  
and Harrison  
Ford with their  
stars.



01



02

just along the block from Hamill's at 6801 Hollywood Boulevard. Ford's was unveiled in 2003.

"I congratulate and salute all 38 new #HollywoodWalkOfFame honorees—Welcome to the neighborhood!" Mark Hamill said in a tweet following the announcement, and paid tribute to his friend and co-star, saying "Much love and a very special salute to the incomparable, hilarious, and irreverent force of nature that was my space sis Carrie Fisher. Her star will blaze from here to eternity."

01 Ewan  
McGregor  
(Obi-Wan  
Kenobi).

02 Ming-Na Wen  
(Fennec  
Shand).

03 The  
much-missed  
Carrie Fisher  
(Princess  
Leia Organa).



03





# Say Hello To A Galactic Legend

Premier play with Republic hero Obi-Wan Kenobi

**S**porting his grey-tinged beard and blue lightsaber, Jedi Master and Republic warrior General Obi-Wan Kenobi joined EA's *Galaxy of Heroes* mobile strategy game this June sporting his *Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith* (2005)

look and bringing upgraded abilities, powers, and the Force with him.

In a Galactic Legends event which launched on June 16, players could unlock the character and experience Kenobi's escapades in the final movie of the prequel trilogy, confronting

General Grievous, discovering the horror at the Jedi Temple left in the Sith's wake, and his heartbreaking encounter with Anakin Skywalker on Mustafar. *Star Wars: Galaxy of Heroes* is available on the App Store and Google Play.



## Even More Immortal

*Vader Immortal* lands a PlayStation®VR Special Retail Edition

**I**f you're a fan of ILMxLAB's awesome virtual reality adventure *Vader Immortal*, then its Special Retail Edition is a must have, featuring several extras exclusive to the PlayStationVR release. Along with two collectible postcards and a new behind-the-scenes featurette exploring the creation of droid companion ZO-E3, the big draw is an all-new digital artbook following the making of the award-winning VR tale containing previously unreleased concept art. Available now.





## An Anime Far, Far Away

The *Star Wars* galaxy gets animated in all-new visionary shorts

**F**or a saga that took some of its early inspiration from Japanese cinema and culture, it seems like destiny that *Star Wars* should bring things full circle in the form of nine exquisite new anime interpretations of the galaxy far, far away in *Star Wars: Visions*. Arriving on Disney+ on September 22, *Visions* showcases unique takes on the saga from some of the most respected creators in the anime genre.

Lucasfilm have collaborated with seven renowned Japanese animation

studios to create the series, each bringing their own individual styles to *Star Wars* storytelling, packed with imaginative visuals and personal perspectives. The films include *The Duel* from director Takanobu Mizuno at Kamikaze Douga; *Lop and Ochō* from Geno Studio; *Tatooine Rhapsody*, a Chibi-style animation from Studio Colorido; *The Twins* and *The Elder* from Trigger; *The Village Bride* from Kinema Citrus; *Akakiri* and *T0-B1* from Science Saru; and *The Ninth Jedi* from Production IG.

## Telly Top Ten

StarWars.com shows bag multiple video awards

**T**he online home of *Star Wars* content picked up a raft of awards at the 42nd Annual Telly Awards this year, for shows including *Our Star Wars Stories*, *Star Wars: Jedi Temple Challenge*, and *The Star Wars Show*.

The Telly Awards have been honoring excellence in video and television since 1979, encompassing new digital platforms as technology has evolved, and this year recognized StarWars.com's output across numerous categories, including Diversity and Inclusion, and Remote Production.



## PRODUCTION DIARY

Our regular summary of *Star Wars* movies and television series currently filming:

### IN PRODUCTION



**Starring** Diego Luna  
as Cassian Andor  
Disney+

**Episode Director:** Tony Gilroy  
**Cast Includes:** Genevieve O'Reilly, Stellan Skarsgård, Denise Gough, and Kyle Soller.



**Starring** Ewan McGregor  
as Obi-Wan Kenobi  
Disney+

**Director:** Deborah Chow  
**Cast Includes:** Hayden Christensen, Moses Ingram, Joel Edgerton, Bonnie Piesse, Kumail Nanjiani, Indira Varma, Rupert Friend, O'Shea Jackson Jr., Sung Kang, Simone Kessell and Benny Safdie.

### IN POST-PRODUCTION



**Starring** Temuera Morrison  
as Boba Fett  
Disney+

**Cast Includes:** Ming-Na Wen as Fennec Shand







## Build The Brick Batch

Hit the LEGO hyperspace lanes with Clone Force 99's shuttle

From the *Millennium Falcon* to the *Razor Crest*, iconic means of transportation have played instrumental roles throughout the *Star Wars* saga. For Clone Force 99, The Bad Batch Attack Shuttle has proved to be a reliable ally throughout their travels and serves as a mobile base from which they can operate. Crafted by LEGO, this incredible recreation of

that vessel features adjustable wings to reflect in-flight and landing modes, a LEGO minifigure cockpit, a detailed cabin, and two buildable speeders. The ship wouldn't be complete without its crew, so LEGO minifigures of Bad Batch clones Tech, Echo, Hunter, Wrecker, and Crosshair are included, as is the Gonk Droid Wrecker lifts during his daily workout. Available from [LEGO.com](http://LEGO.com).



## THE LIGHT SIDE

By Jamie Cosley

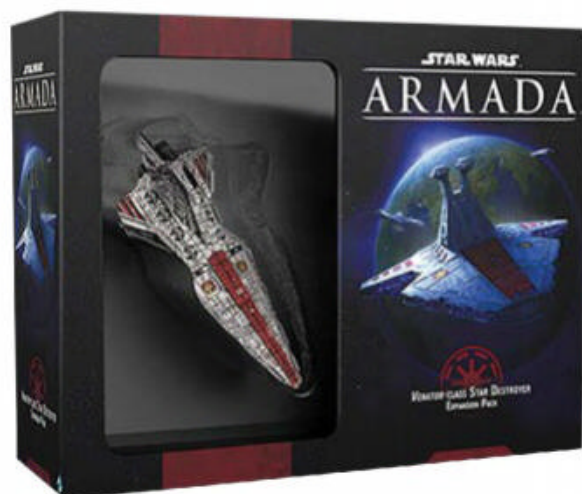




# A Rad Catch

From Kamino to your clone collection

**A** veteran of the Clone Wars, Echo is a former ARC trooper who now stands as a vital member of the elite unit Clone Force 99, as depicted in the hit series *Star Wars: The Bad Batch* (2021). The team may be on the run from the Galactic Empire in the show, but you can catch this Hot Toys Sixth Scale Figure of Echo and add him to your collection. Featuring a highly detailed recreation of Echo's Bad Batch armor, helmet, socket-arm, and cybernetic implants, this figure reflects Hot Toys' long history of producing lifelike collectibles. Retailing for \$285, Echo can be ordered at [Sideshow.com](https://www.sideshow.com).



Pick a fighting force with Fantasy Flight!

# Clone Wars Clashes

Expand your gaming fleets with a trio of classic battleships

**A**s the Republic and Separatist fleets waged war across the galaxy, their fighting forces crewed mighty and impressive vessels that clashed in planetary orbits and engaged one another in deep space. Fantasy Flight Games has released a trio of new expansion packs for *Star Wars: Armada*, the two-player miniatures game of epic

space battles. Republic loyalists can now take control of the iconic *Venator*-class Star Destroyers that appeared above Coruscant in *Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith* (2005), as well as the *Pelta*-class transport/medical ship. And if you side with the Separatists, then you'll want to get your hands on the *Recusant*-class destroyer! Available to order now from [FantasyFlightGames.com](https://www.fantasyflightgames.com).

## The Star Wars DotColumn

Fascinating features and articles from the digital vaults of [StarWars.com](https://www.starwars.com)

Add [StarWars.com/Insider](https://www.starwars.com/insider) to your browser bookmarks to enjoy *Insider's* pick of the best of the official *Star Wars* website.

### Doug Chiang

StarWars.com speaks with the academy award-winning designer and Lucasfilm's vice president and executive creative director to commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.



### Challenging a Super Soldier

Jennifer Corbett, head writer on *The Bad Batch*, talks about finding the animated show's heart.



### DIY Drengrir

Spruce up your house plants with an easy-to-make planter inspired by the monstrous creatures from *Star Wars: The High Republic*!







## Darth Cater-er

May the food be with you

**D**arth Vader's signature black armor may inspire terror throughout the galaxy, but Hallmark's *Star Wars* Darth Vader Light-Up Apron can also signify the arrival of savory culinary delights. With a design based on the controls located on Vader's chest plate, the canvas apron features LED lights that allow you to delight your guests by illuminating the buttons and gauges. The apron is priced at \$39.99 and can be ordered at [Hallmark.com](http://Hallmark.com).



## Ahsoka Accessories

Make a stylish statement with these Snips-inspired essentials

**W**e've all loved the evolution of Ahsoka Tano over the years: from a "snippy" adolescent to a mature Jedi and beyond.

Two new accessories from style outlet Heroes & Villains honor her journey with designs inspired by Ahsoka's singular iconography. Made from

leather-like materials with premium quality straps and hardware accents, the crossbody handbag is as resourceful as Snips herself, converting to a mini backpack in a snap. Pair with the companion wallet to make a fashion statement fit for any Ahsoka fan. Available now at [heroesvillains.com](http://heroesvillains.com).

## On the Hunt

Track down these T-shirts from Heroes & Villains

**K**nown for his heightened senses and astute tracking abilities, Hunter leads Clone Force 99 in the dangerous missions they undertake on *The Bad Batch* TV series. His skills would certainly help in locating the latest trio of T-shirts from Heroes & Villains, whose *The Bad Batch* Hunter Black Tee features the heroic clone's iconic helmet and the Clone Force 99 logo. Available in sizes S to XXXL, everyone from Omega to Wrecker is sure to enjoy this design.

Former member of the Death Watch and current leader of the Nite Owls,

Bo-Katan Kryze made her live action debut in the second season of *The Mandalorian* (2019-present) alongside Koska Reeves and Axe Woves. Heroes & Villain's Bo-Katan and the Nite Owls Indigo Women's Tee captures the spirit of the Nite Owls' entrance, appearing out of nowhere to save Grogu on a Quarren trawler.

Speaking of the Child, Heroes & Villains has also produced The Bounty Natural Women's Tee, featuring Grogu on a wanted poster design. Retailing for \$30, you can order all of these T-shirts at [Sideshow.com](http://Sideshow.com).



Top T-shirts  
are a perfect fit  
for any fan!



# MANDO MERCH

The latest bounty on which to blow your beskar



## Replicating the *Razor Crest*

Rebuild Mando's starship to the shiniest of standards

A pre-Imperial design, the *Razor Crest* served as the Mandalorian's trusted transport as he traversed the galaxy with Grogu—that is, until Moff Gideon imprisoned the Child and destroyed the vintage vessel.

Mando might be unable to enjoy his favorite ride any longer, but the Bandai Hobby Gunpla's *Star Wars: The Mandalorian Razor Crest Silver Coating Version Vehicle Model Kit* **A** allows you to showcase your own miniaturized version of the sturdy craft. The detailed model kit retails for \$29.99 and comes equipped with a dedicated display base.



A

## A Pack Fit for a Sarlacc Pit

Grab your gear for a ride into Tatooine's deserts

To kick off *The Mandalorian's* second season, Marshal Cobb Vanth took Mando and Grogu on a trek to an abandoned sarlacc pit, home to a fearsome krayt dragon, riding on the backs of a train of banthas.

Loungefly's Mandalorian Bantha Ride Mini Backpack **B** recreates that epic journey in the form of a handy bag you can take anywhere, depicting our heroes riding atop the elephant-like creature. The faux leather pack is capped off with adjustable straps and a metal charm, and is priced at \$80.



B



C

## The Magic Hand Swings

Join the dash to check out Grogu's latest moves

Through his appearances in *The Mandalorian's* first two seasons, Grogu has captured the hearts of *Star Wars* fans around the globe. The Mandalorian's Force-sensitive friend often rode next to him on his travels, and Fanwraps has captured that experience in a way that will let you live life like Mando himself. Priced at 24.99, The Child (Grogu) Solar Powered Dashboard Waver **C** features a Grogu in his hover pram that can be affixed to your automobile's dashboard. Charged by the sun, the little green fellow even waves as you seek out your next bounty or simply undertake your daily commute to work.



D

## This is the Wallet

Keep your Imperial credits secure

Capable of deflecting a Jedi's lightsaber, pure beskar is a rare metal native to Mandalore that is utilized by armorers to outfit fearsome Mandalorian warriors and bounty hunters. The Client offered the Mandalorian a hefty sum of beskar bricks to acquire the Child in the first season of the Disney+ show—a bounty which was later used to create Mando's signature armor. Priced at \$75, Royal Selangor's Beskar Ingot Credit Card Wallet **D** replicates the ingots obtained from the Client in every way, even down to the Imperial logo set in the corner. While beskar keeps Mandalorians safe from their foes, this wallet should keep your credit cards secure from prying eyes



# Book Club

Get warm and cozy with the latest *Star Wars* book releases.

## Curl Up Beside the Heating Pod!

*Star Wars: Life Day Treasury—Holiday Stories from a Galaxy Far, Far Away* will get you in the seasonal spirit

Does the *Star Wars* galaxy share our holiday spirit? Writer Cavan Scott thinks so, and he's confident that true *Star Wars* fans are on the same page. "Winter festivals are all about hope in the darkest times, about being surrounded by family and friends," the author recently told StarWars.com. "What is more *Star Wars* than that?"

In this hardcover collection of winter-themed tales, Scott is joined by co-author George Mann (*Star Wars: Myths & Fables*, *Star Wars: Dark Legends*) to offer up multiple takes surrounding the galaxy far, far away's annual Life Day holiday, along with similar festivals celebrated from the Galactic Core to the Outer Rim.

A total of eight stories are featured in *Star Wars: Life Day Treasury—Holiday Stories from a Galaxy Far, Far Away*, all of them illustrated with stunning paintings by Grant Griffin (George Mann's collaborator on his previous books exploring *Star Wars* folklore). The tales span multiple planets and timeframes, but share common themes of hope, family, and love.

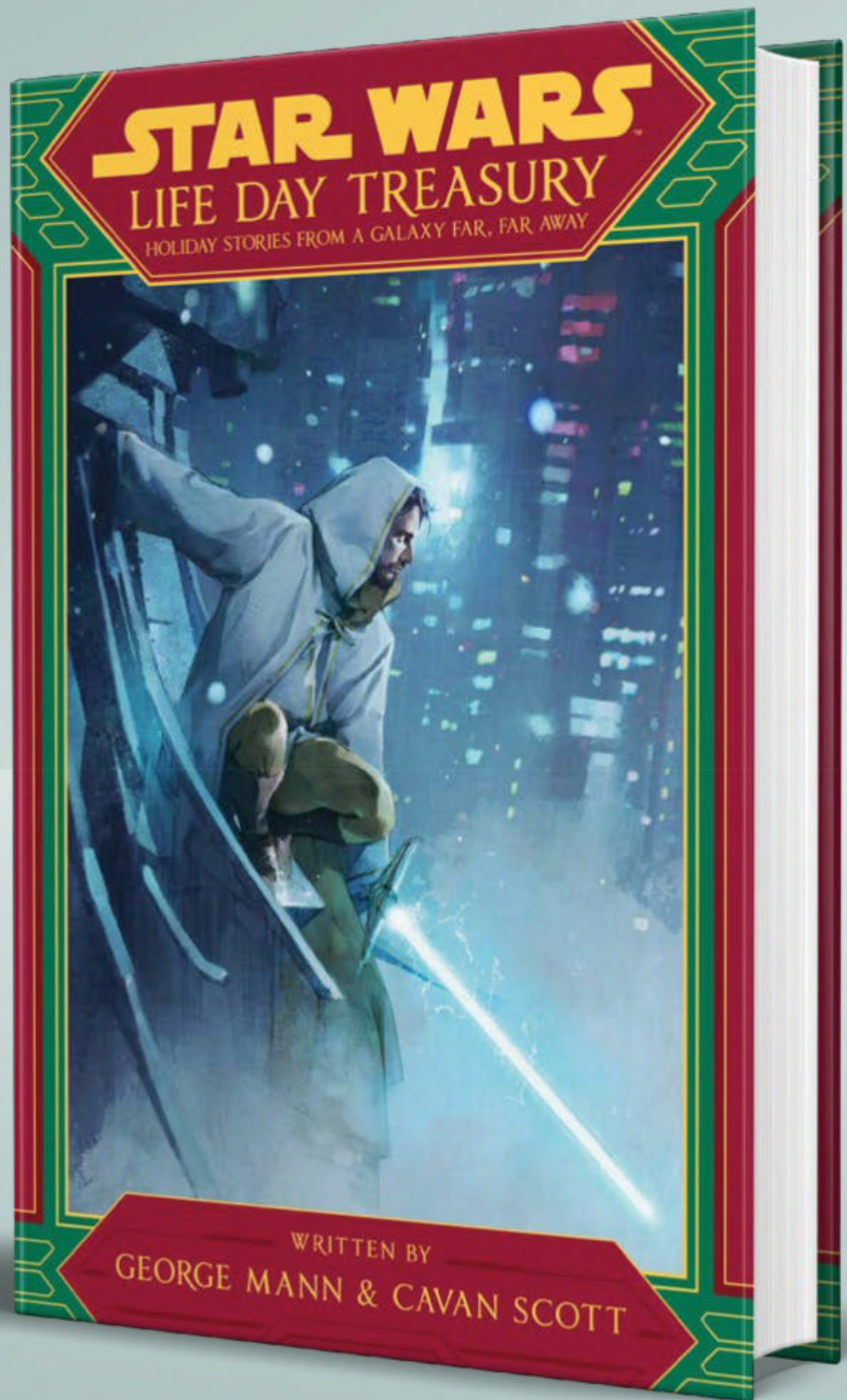
One adventure is set in the High Republic era with Jedi Master Stellan Gios on patrol during Coruscant's winter festivities, while another follows the Ewoks on the snow-covered

Forest Moon of Endor to explore how local traditions took root. Other stories are set on worlds as diverse as Alderaan, Jedha, and Kashyyyk, and feature indulgent feasts, ghostly apparitions, and snow-blanketed excursions that are eminently seasonal.

Mann feels he and Scott are the perfect match for a project like this.

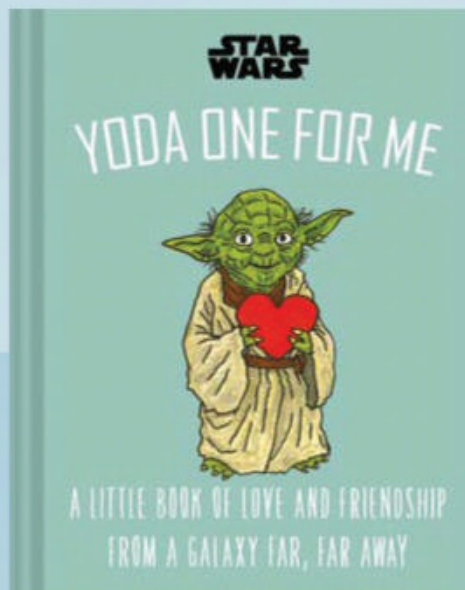
"We both love Christmas tales, from spooky fireside ghost stories to heart-warming winter fables," he says. "It seemed such a good fit with *Star Wars*. These are the perfect stories to curl up with in front of a fire, sipping some hot blue milk."

Published by Disney Lucasfilm Press, *Star Wars: Life Day Treasury* is in bookstores on September 7.





01



01

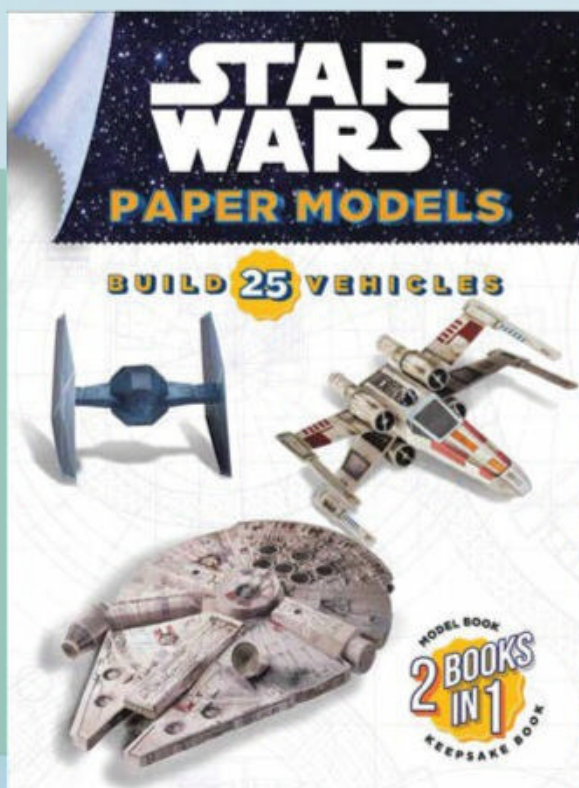
### ***Star Wars: Yoda One for Me***

This sweet and funny 64-page hardcover book is packed with messages of love and friendship, each of them inspired by the *Star Wars* saga!

Comprised of a combination of heartfelt sentiments expressed through a variety of beloved *Star Wars* characters, each accompanied by the cutest of artwork, *Yoda One for Me* is essentially a hug in book form, and provides the perfect means for you to reveal your true feelings to your sweetheart.

In this charming collection, you'll find Boba Fett in the role of Cupid, BB-8 delivering a rose and box of "Obi-Wan for Me" chocolates, and many more romantic vignettes. *Yoda One for Me* is the perfect gift for that special someone in your galaxy, available on September 7 by Chronicle Books.

02



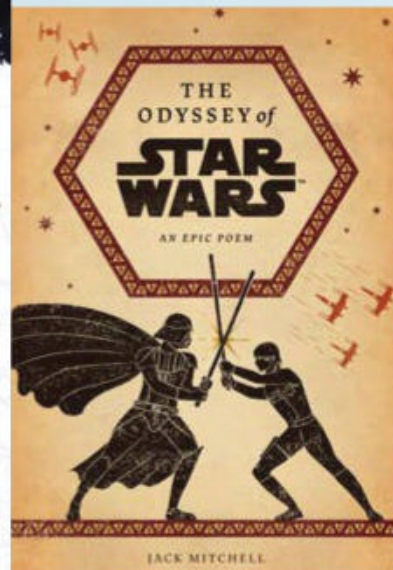
02

### ***Star Wars: Paper Models***

In this combination model kit and keepsake book, *Star Wars* fans can embark on a hands-on journey through all nine episodes of the cinematic Skywalker saga. Containing beautifully illustrated and highly detailed punch-out pieces alongside step-by-step instructions for fitting them together, *Star Wars: Paper Models* from Thunder Bay Press allows fans to construct 25 of the saga's most iconic vehicles, including a TIE fighter, an X-wing, an Imperial Star Destroyer, and Han Solo's *Millennium Falcon*, while the accompanying book and trading cards provide little-known tidbits about each starship.

You can start work on building your collection of replica vessels when *Star Wars: Paper Models* goes on sale on September 7.

03



03

### ***The Odyssey of Star Wars: An Epic Poem***

Like epic tales from millennia past chronicling the endeavors of Odysseus and Beowulf, the *Star Wars* saga has offered up similarly mythic adventures starring Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Jyn Erso, and Obi-Wan Kenobi. *The Odyssey of Star Wars: An Epic Poem* takes the greatest story of 20th and 21st century cinema and presents it through lyrical verse and meter, just as it might have been told some 3,000 years ago—in fact, writer Jack Mitchell (a Stanford-educated poet) was inspired by the works of Homer and Virgil when channeling his unique take on pop culture's most loved mythology. Accompanied by illustrations inspired by the terracotta art of Greek antiquity, *The Odyssey of Star Wars: An Epic Poem*, published by Abrams Books, is available on September 28



# Comics Roundup

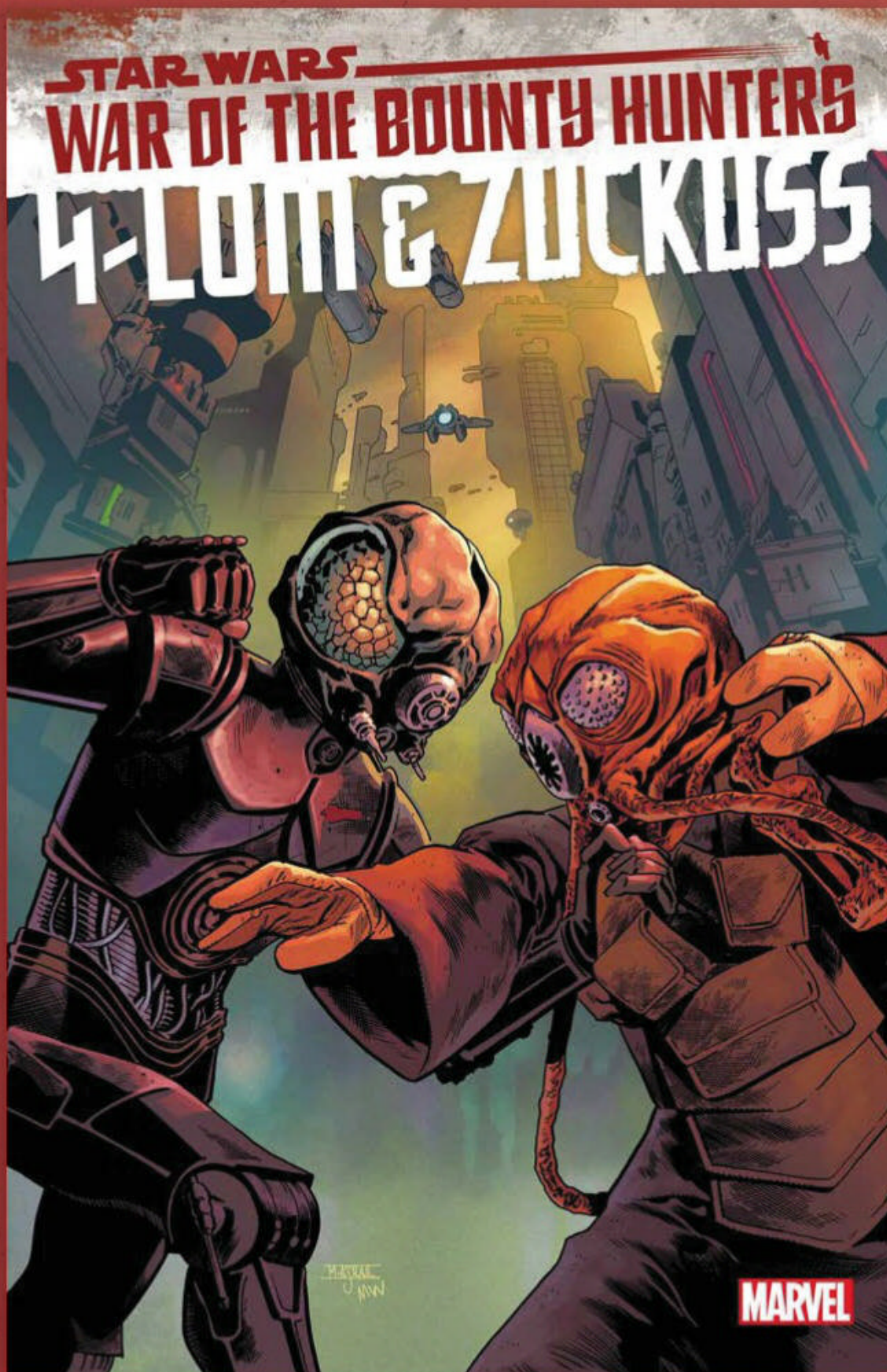
Bounty hunters and bad guys face off in this month's *Star Wars* comics

## A Deadly Duo

A machine and a mystic duke it out in *War of the Bounty Hunters: 4-LOM and Zuckuss #1*

2021's epic *War of the Bounty Hunters* comics crossover reveals to *Star Wars* fans what really happened after Boba Fett blasted off from Cloud City with Han Solo's carbonite slab in his cargo hold. This intense and intricate event spans the titles *Bounty Hunters*, *Darth Vader*, *Doctor Aphra*, *Star Wars*, and the limited series *War of the Bounty Hunters*, but essential one-shots will appear throughout the summer and fall showcasing some of the underworld's most notorious figures. *War of the Bounty Hunters: 4-LOM & Zuckuss #1*, on sale August 4, is a can't-miss saga of brotherhood and backstabbing.

Introduced alongside their fellow bounty hunters on the bridge of a Star Destroyer in *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), ammonia-breathing Gand findsman Zuckuss and renegade protocol droid 4-LOM have always had each other's backs when navigating the shadowy depths of the criminal underworld. Yet a brutal fight with Boba Fett has divided them, and Zuckuss is now lost and alone on the crime-infested streets of Nar Shaddaa. There, he faces an utterly transformed 4-LOM, but why is his former partner suddenly out for blood? The answer might lie in the past, and an early mission together that helped forge the bond that led to their professional bounty-hunting partnership.



This issue is the second of four white-knuckled *War of the Bounty Hunters* one-shots, following on the heels of July's *Jabba the Hutt #1* installment, with adventures starring Boushh and IG-88 following later in

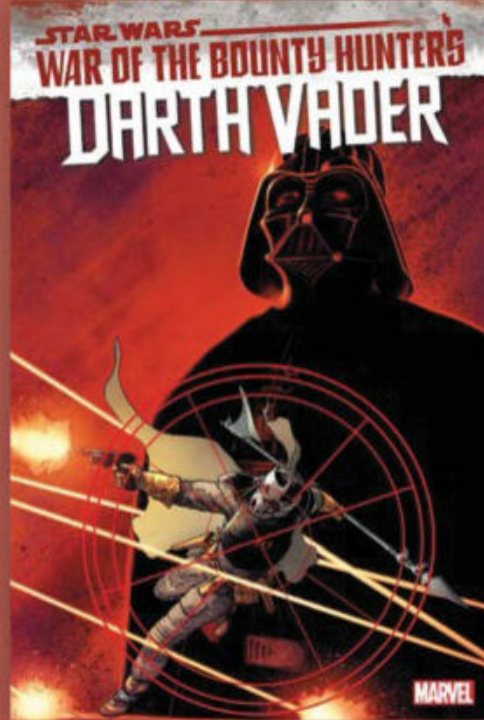
the year. *War of the Bounty Hunters: 4-LOM and Zuckuss #1* is written by Daniel José Older with art by Kei Zama and a cover by Mahmud Asrar. Look out for variant covers by David Nakayama, Kei Zama, and Superlog.



## Darth Vader #15

It wasn't so long ago that the alien bounty hunter Ochi of Bestoon dared to challenge Darth Vader on the lava fields of Mustafar, but now Ochi has signed aboard as the Dark Lord's most loyal agent! But just who is Ochi, and how have the secrets of Exegol influenced his true agenda?

The *War of the Bounty Hunters* rages on in *Darth Vader* #15, "The Assassin's Choice," by writer Greg Pak and artist Raffaele Ienco. Featuring a cover by Aaron Kuder, variant covers for the issue include a "Wanted" poster by David Nakayama, and a Lucasfilm 50th Anniversary variant by Chris Sprouse. Available in stores August 25.



## Doctor Aphra #13

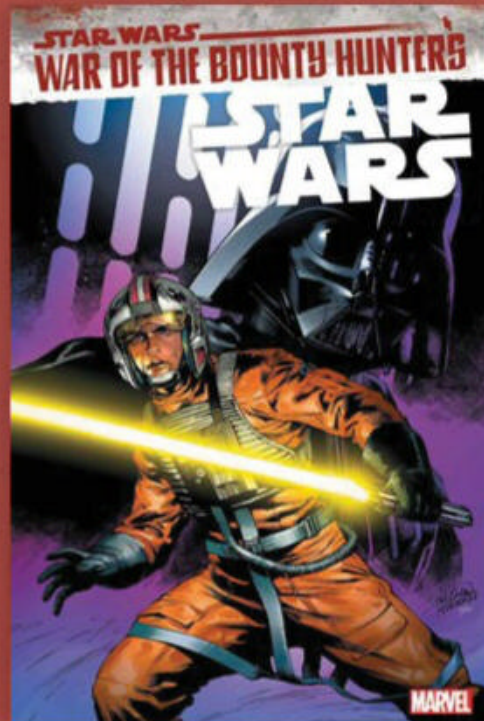
The most notorious archaeologist in the galaxy finds herself face-to-face with the one person she hoped she'd never encounter again in "Guest of Honor," the latest *Doctor Aphra* story from Nebula Award winning author Alyssa Wong and artist Minkyu Jung. And this time, the fast-talking outlaw might need more than words to escape from certain doom! Meanwhile, smuggler Just Luck and criminal agent Ariole Yu confront a familiar presence of their own.

*Doctor Aphra* #13, on sale August 25, sports a cover by Sara Pichelli and cover variants by David Nakayama and Chris Sprouse.



## Star Wars #16

In "Missing in Action," Princess Leia, Lando Calrissian, and Chewbacca square off against Boba Fett for the ultimate prize—the carbon-frozen body of Han Solo! But the rebels aren't the only ones who have come to the remote planet of Jekara hoping to claim this high-stakes bounty! Darth Vader and Jabba the Hutt have their own parts to play, and where in the galaxy is Luke Skywalker? Written by Charles Soule with art by Ramon Rosanas, the issue features a cover by Carlo Pagulayan with variant covers by David Nakayama, Chris Sprouse, and Jan Duursema. *Star Wars* #16 is on sale August 18.



## Incoming

Don't Miss These  
Upcoming Releases



## SEPTEMBER

### *Star Wars: Boushh* #1

#### *War of the Bounty Hunters*

Marvel Comics

Writer: Alyssa Wong

Artist: David Baledón

Cover Artist: Mahmud Asrar

### *Star Wars* #17

Marvel Comics

Writer: Charles Soule

Artist: Ramon Rosanas

Cover Artist:

Carlo Pagulayan

### *Doctor Aphra* #14

Marvel Comics

Writer: Alyssa Wong

Artist: Minkyu Jung

Cover Artist:

Sara Pichelli

### *Darth Vader* #16

Marvel Comics

Writer: Greg Pak

Artists: Raffaele Ienco

Cover Artist: Aaron Kuder

## OCTOBER

### *Star Wars: IG-88* #1

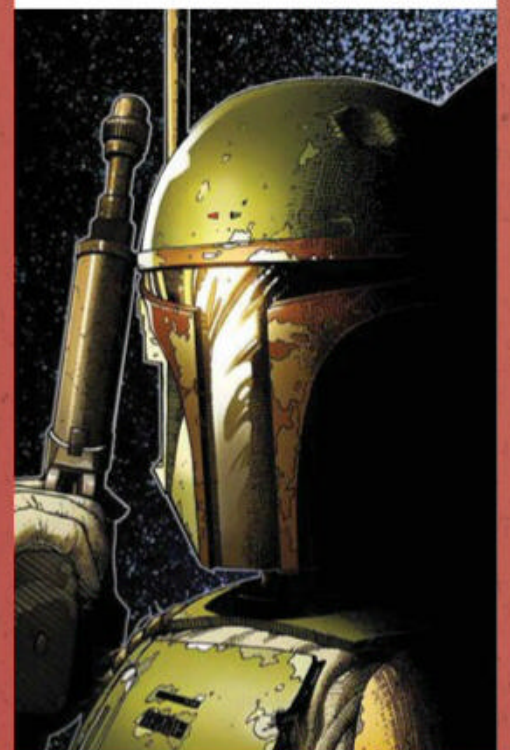
#### *War of the Bounty Hunters*

Marvel Comics

Writer: Rodney Barnes

Artist: Guiu Vilanova

Cover Artist: Mahmud Asrar





# Luminous Lore

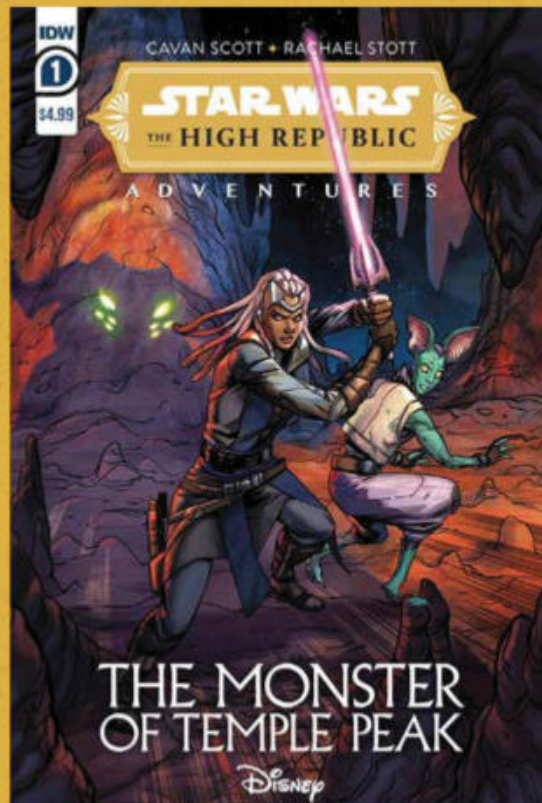
Shining a light on *Star Wars: The High Republic*.

## On The Other Side Of The Space Tracks

High Republic outsiders take center stage!

The High Republic era isn't only about the Jedi Knights, as we'll discover this August in two new releases written by Cavan Scott (interviewed this issue, see page 36).

On sale August 11 comes the first installment of *Star Wars: The High Republic Adventures: The Monster of Temple Peak* from IDW Publishing, a four-issue miniseries penned by Scott with art by Rachael Stott. The story follows former Jedi turned saber-for-hire Ty Yorrick in her first comic-book adventure, in which the brave yet superstitious monster hunter and her droid companions KL-O3 and RO-VR find themselves on the planet Loreth. A fearsome Grelax has been terrorizing a group of local pioneers who want to hire Ty to rid them of its



threat. She takes the mission, but can't shake the feeling that something is amiss with the Force.

In *Star Wars: The High Republic: Tempest Runner*, an original audio download from Del Rey, Scott explores the higher echelons of the Nihil with one of Marchion Ro's most dangerous lieutenants. Tempest Runner Lorna Dee has carved out a place for herself as a leader among the Nihil, but it's a tenuous position and fraught with danger, whether from the Jedi or her fellow Nihil. Available to download starting August 31.

## Incoming Comics



In issue #8 of Marvel Comics' *The High Republic*, on sale August 11, the Drengir saga approaches its thrilling climax in Wild Space. Meanwhile, in issue #7 of IDW's *The High Republic Adventures*, relations turn sour when Jedi Padawans Farzala and Qort are sent on a mission to negotiate with the Hutts in the ongoing fight against the Drengir. In stores August 18.

## Republic Roundup

### *Light of the Jedi*

Writer: Charles Soule

Publisher: Del Rey

Format: Adult novel

Available: Now

### *A Test of Courage*

Writer: Justina Ireland

Publisher: Disney Lucasfilm Press

Format: Middle grade novel

Available: Now

### *The Great Jedi Rescue*

Writer: Cavan Scott

Artist: Petur Antonsson

Publisher: Disney Lucasfilm Press

Format: 8x8 storybook

Available: Now

### *Into the Dark*

Writer: Claudia Gray

Publisher: Disney Lucasfilm Press

Format: Young adult novel

Available: Now

### *The Rising Storm*

Writer: Cavan Scott

Publisher: Del Rey

Format: Adult novel

Available: Now

### *Race to Crashpoint Tower*

Writer: Daniel José Older

Publisher: Disney Lucasfilm Press

Format: Middle grade novel

Available: Now

### *Out of the Shadows*

Writer: Justina Ireland

Publisher: Disney Lucasfilm Press

Format: Young adult novel

Available: Now

### *Tempest Runner*

Writer: Cavan Scott

Publisher: Del Rey

Format: Audio original novel

Available: August 31, 2021

### *The Edge of Balance*

Writers: Justina Ireland

and Shima Shinya

Artist: Mizuki Sakakibara

Publisher: Viz

Format: 13+ Manga

Available: September 7, 2021

### *Showdown at the Fair*

Writer: George Mann

Artist: Petur Antonsson

Publisher: Disney Lucasfilm Press

Format: 8x8 storybook

Available: October 5, 2021



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A black and white portrait of Rick McCallum, a man with dark, slightly messy hair, resting his chin on his hand in a thoughtful pose. He is wearing a dark jacket over a collared shirt. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a car. The image is partially covered by a dark green horizontal bar at the top and a larger dark green vertical bar on the right side, which serves as a background for the text.

**Part One**

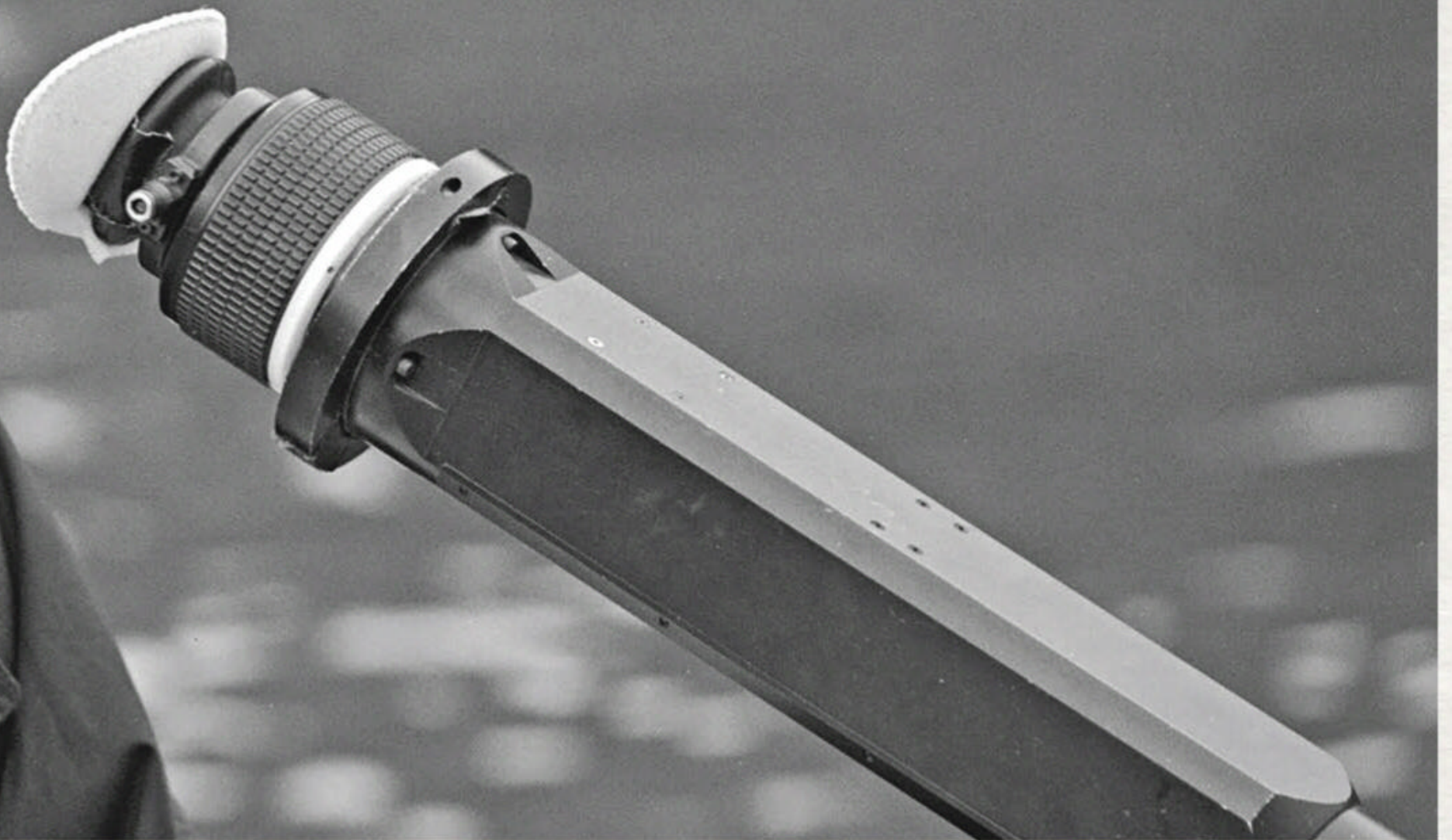
# The Rick McCallum Chronicles

In the first part of an exclusive new interview celebrating Lucasfilm's 50th anniversary, producer Rick McCallum tells *Star Wars Insider* how the logistics of mounting adventures for young Indiana Jones led to the return of the Jedi.

WORDS: BRYAN YOUNG



**“The great thing is that when you don’t know what the hell you’re doing, you’re usually not smart enough to realize how easily you could screw it up.”**



P

roducer Rick McCallum’s first collaboration with George Lucas was the Emmy award-winning television series *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* (1992-1993), after which he worked tirelessly to bring both the *Star Wars* Special Editions and the prequels to the big screen. Producing World War II drama *Red Tails* (2012) was his final task at Lucasfilm before

moving on to form his own production company, United Films. *Star Wars Insider* caught up with McCallum to discover more about the part he played in Lucasfilm’s 50-year history.

*The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* was your first project for Lucasfilm. How did you become involved in that?

I met George Lucas through a very good friend of mine, Robert Watts, who was the production supervisor on *Star Wars: A New*

*Hope* (1977) and worked his way up to producing *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* (1989). He was in England, and I was too. I’d just finished my first big film, *Pennies from Heaven* (1981), which was a complete financial disaster, so England was the only place that would allow me to work. I’d moved to London and was doing a small film called *Dreamchild* (1985), the first film Jim Henson had agreed to do that wasn’t his own; he was doing all the animatronics for us. George heard about it and came



► over to visit us on the set, and we met then. We were reconnected about five years later when Robert was asked to find someone he could trust to help George deliver *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*.

**What was it like stepping from feature film production to a television show like *Young Indy*?**

The great thing is that when you don't know what the hell you're doing, you're usually not smart enough to realize how easily you could screw it up. *Young Indy* was just relentless. In the first year, we shot for 52 weeks, non-stop. In 16 weeks, we shot in 17 countries. Everybody was away from home for a year. And unlike most feature films, where you're doing five days a week, we had to do six days a week because what we were trying to do was set up a template for how the *Star Wars* films were going to be made later on, although I didn't know that at the time. That was George's secret.

The dream was, how could we make something all around the world for the same cost as a typical show in the United States that shot on a soundstage in five days? We did that by basing ourselves out of Prague, working with local crews, keeping the same heads of departments from England, and that group became intensely close. We're still all great friends. I took everybody from *Young Indy* on to *Star Wars*, so we were together for fifteen years. It was a fantastic

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experience. I wouldn't trade it for anything.

**At what point did George Lucas let you know that this was the training ground for *Star Wars*?**

We were shooting *Young Indy* on a beach in Thailand, and he had come to visit us with his family. George just turned to me and said, "Look, how much can we make *Star*

**"Part of the larger scheme in George's head was to take the digital effects technology that we'd developed on *Young Indy* and see if we could put them into film."**

*Wars* for? I want to shoot all three back-to-back, and I don't want to spend over \$100 million."

We took a deep breath and started to work it out and realized pretty quickly that it would be impossible. But we also knew we could probably make them at a budget that was more reasonable than any other fiscal reality that existed in any other place in the world. We could do that because George doesn't like to shoot more than 55 days. That's his limit. Not physical or mental, it's a discipline. And if we were going to make them

04





05

in six or seven countries, we had to be fantastically well organized. We needed to be able to travel and shoot on the same day we arrived. That was the template for *Young Indy*, and *Young Indy* went on for basically four and a half years.

#### How did *Radioland Murders* (1994) fit into that period?

We were due to shoot *Young Indy* in Thailand when we got hit by a violent earthquake in California and all our sets were destroyed. We were only about six miles away from the center of the earthquake, all the roads to us had collapsed, and we were completely blocked off for about a week. We'd booked 400 extras for the first day, but they couldn't get to the set, so luckily we had enough food to make it through. Of course, Paramount didn't want us to continue shooting, but we went ahead and carried on. This meant we had an insurance break before we were able to go to Thailand, and George said, "Well, why don't we do *Radioland Murders*?"

I thought, "Wouldn't it be great to take our English crew to North

01 Left to right: Sean Patrick Flanery (Indiana Jones), Elizabeth Hurley, McCallum, George Lucas, and Vanessa Redgrave.

02 Corey Carrier (foreground) played the younger Indy.

03 George Lucas (left), Joe Johnston (center), and Rick McCallum.

04 McCallum on location for *Young Indy*.

05 The Mos Espa set for *The Phantom Menace* (1999).

Carolina where they could stay in a small little condo on the beach and work at a wacky studio," so we rushed off to Dino De Laurentiis' studio in Wilmington, North Carolina, where I'd done a film with Nicolas Roeg called *Track 29* (1988). We set the film up in four or five weeks and shot it there.

Part of the larger scheme in George's head was to take the digital effects technology that we'd developed on *Young Indy* and see if we could put them into film at the resolution that we felt would be believable. We had 120 digital effects shots in *Radioland Murders*, and some of them were quite complicated. That was another stepping-stone for us in terms of the journey of getting closer to the reality of being able to do the *Star Wars* trilogy that George had in his mind.

#### Did you face any problems with this push into new technology?

Like any major change, there was a lot of resistance. It threatened to change the future for people who had been in the business for 20 or 30 years. We had it again later, when we shot *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones* (2002) completely

## MAYHEM IN MOS ESPA

"The sandstorm was just a production thing," says Rick McCallum of the cyclone that hit the Mos Espa set during location filming for *The Phantom Menace* in Tunisia. "It took us six months to build that place out of nowhere. We'd built the road to it. We'd found an empty hotel nearby that we could stay in. We were in the middle of the desert where it was 110 to 120 degrees every day. It hadn't rained there in 40 years. There was no way we were going to get hit by a torrential storm! But you know what happened after the first day's filming? That's why I love shooting on location instead of a stage. You just never know."

"I wasn't worried, because I knew there was one set that had survived, which was the walkway up to the spaceship," McCallum continues. "Everything else had been blown away, but we were shooting again by that afternoon. We made an emergency call to the Tunisian Army, who were nearby, to see if they could help. They cleared the road for us so we could get the crew out to the location, and bit by bit we started to rebuild. We were building throughout the shoot, but we actually wrapped in Tunisia right on schedule."





► digitally and exhibited it digitally. It was the first complete digital pipeline film, and just trying to create the digital camera to shoot the film caused enormous pain and suffering in the business. We were laughed at. We were told that we never actually shot it on digital, that we shot it on film. We cut *Radioland Murders* on Avid (*Groundbreaking digital non-linear editing software launched in 1987—Ed*), but we had to get an engineer in to actually cut the film with George, because a lot of film editors didn't want to have anything to do with it. They thought it was going to be the end of their careers.

Think about how little money studios had invested in changing the technology up until maybe the year 2000, or even if you look at it in terms of exhibition and how desperate that was. Audiences never saw a film the way in which the filmmakers had intended it to be seen, unless you were watching it at the Academy Theater in Los Angeles. So, there were all these changes that needed to be made.

**What was the reasoning behind doing the Special Editions? Received wisdom says that it was to finance the prequels, or help put the technology in place, or bring *Star Wars* back to people?** It was partly to do with those things, but the driving force

06



behind it initially came from a wonderful guy who ran the marketing division of Fox, named Tom Sherak. He'd been begging George for years. He was a total *Star Wars* freak. His whole family was, and he was really one of the greatest executives that ever lived. He was passionate about it, and he was passionate because he'd received literally hundreds of thousands of letters from parents saying, "Please can you re-release the film? I want my son and daughter to see and experience what I experienced as a young person in the cinema." But George wasn't really interested. And then

06 One of several new shots created for the *A New Hope* Special Edition.

07 A previously cut Jabba the Hutt scene was added to *A New Hope* (1977)

one day, Tom Sherak arrived in a truck with all the letters, and it was just too overwhelming to say no.

I'll never forget, George had shown me his notebook—he used to write in this high school notebook with a No. 2 unleaded pencil—and this one had the original script of *Star Wars*. And to the side were all the notes of the things that he couldn't achieve.

The issues, the things that he didn't like, that they hadn't had the money to do, and things he would love to do if he ever had the chance to go back and revisit the films. And that became kind of the benchmark. These were all the things that he saw in his mind's

07



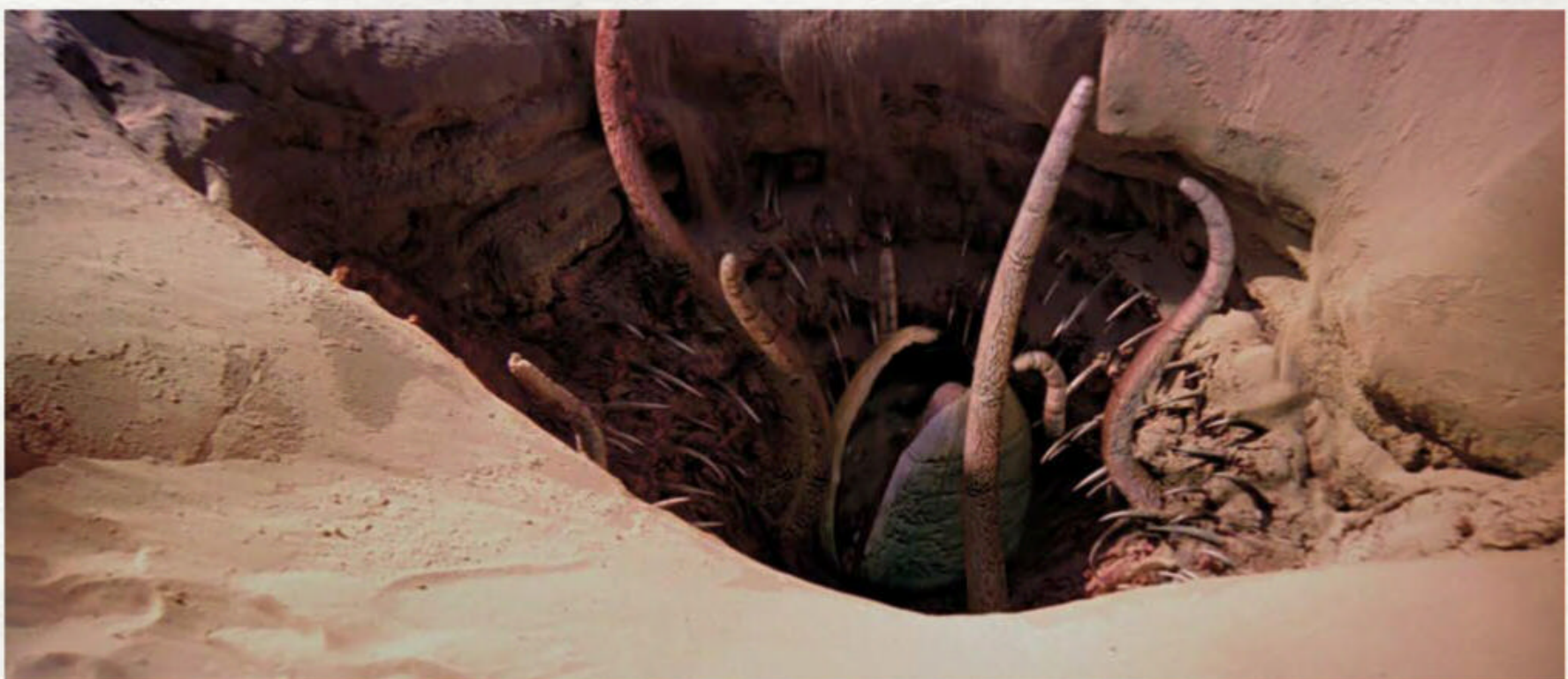


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eye. The film that he wanted it to be, but he hadn't had the money or the resources at the time, or the technology to be able to do it.

And suddenly, Fox gave us that opportunity, and it became another great way for us to explore new technologies and new effects, and to re-master the films. It became this kind of wacky yet glorious experiment to try and get the films back to what George actually saw in his mind's eye, because everything in the Special Editions is what he had written down.

**How do you feel about how the Special Editions and *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* (1999) were received at the time?**

We only released the Special Edition in a couple of thousand theaters, simply because you had to have a decent theater in order for it to be

seen properly, which meant the average person had to drive 60 to 70 miles to go see the film. But they did.

We were just as shocked as the industry was, because nobody ever expected the Special Editions to gross more than \$4 or 5 million each, and it ended up, I think, closer to \$560-600 million dollars. There's something special about *Star Wars*, because people are so emotionally attached to it, in so many different ways.

Back when we previewed *The Phantom Menace* in New York, by law you had to do a blind-bid screening so that every exhibitor had the chance to be able to bid for a film. And it was the worst night. The air conditioning had gone off. It was probably 95 degrees inside the theater. People were really

**"It became this kind of wacky yet glorious experiment to try and get the films back to what George actually saw in his mind's eye."**

excited to see the film, but it was so hot. And you're talking about New York critics. Everybody was sitting in a sauna watching a movie that they didn't understand. It was kind of deflating.

We could tell, as the critics were going out, that the film had probably not gone down very well with them. And then a friend of mine showed me a 55-page review online, written by a 12-year-old who had been there with his

08 New VFX  
09 shots for the  
10 Special Editions added scale and enhanced the action in each episode of the original trilogy.





11 Sound designer Ben Burtt and McCallum cameod as Naboo delegates in *The Phantom Menace* (right).

12 Watto's wings were a major challenge for ILM.

13 ILM legend John Knoll's cameo as a Naboo pilot in *The Phantom Menace*.

11

► father, and it was the most glorious review. And it had over a million views in the space of 48 hours. That's when we realized something had really changed. That's when we knew that the traditional way of selling a film like *Star Wars* had basically gone out the window

**From a visual-effects (VFX) perspective, the prequels did many things that had never been done before. How did you enable Industrial Light & Magic to achieve what they did?**

I put on a brave face. Once you agree to start making a film, the studio locks in the date it's going to be released. And in those days there was no way you could change that. We didn't have a choice. We just had to move forward, and I don't think any of us had any idea of how we were going to achieve 60 to 70 percent of the visual effects. For Watto, it took months just to get those wings to fly. We'd be at ILM three times a week, watching the dailies, and saying, "Oh my

**"There's something special about *Star Wars*, because people are so emotionally attached to it, in so many different ways."**



12



13

god, this is never going to work!" The thing that always saved me and always made me feel confident was that we had guys like Rob Coleman and JoU Knoll. They were so brilliant, and so eager, and so *terrified* all at the same time. But we knew we had to do it. Everybody just jumped on board, and JoU was a major figurehead of that. He kept people's spirits up

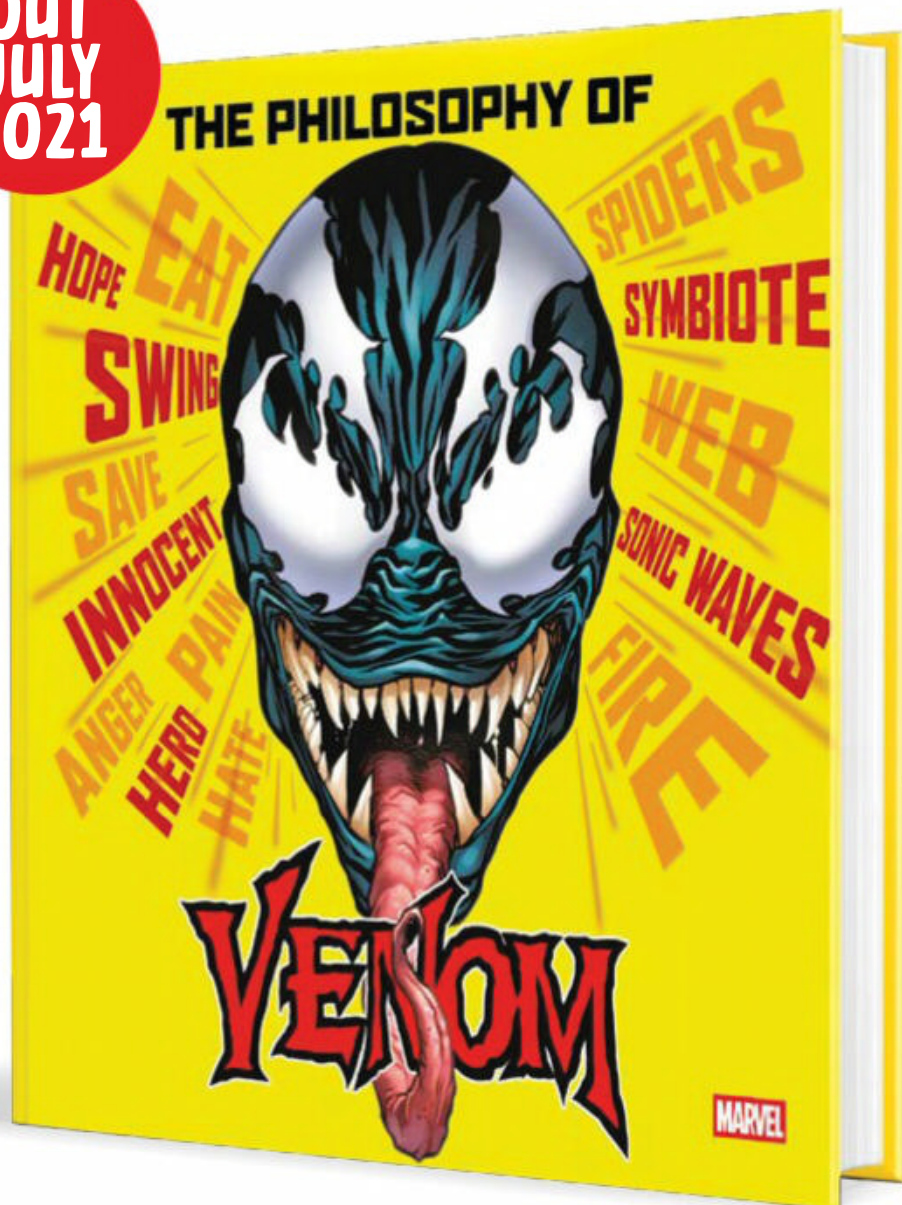
at ILM. He's a very special, unique person. And so did Rob, in terms of the character animation. Once we got Watto's wings, we knew we could probably do anything. 🙌

***NEXT ISSUE: In part two of our exclusive interview, Rick McCallum reveals the key to being a great producer, and the wonder of Carrie Fisher.***



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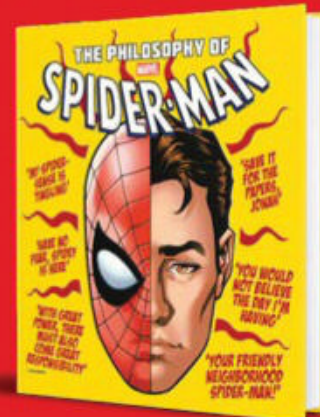
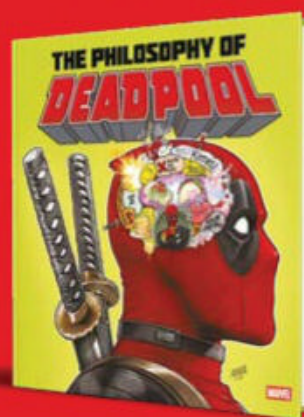
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# Ten From IX

What valuable life lessons can we learn from the final movie in the Skywalker saga? *Star Wars Insider* explores ten moments from *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* that might help us navigate our own lives.

WORDS: JAY STOBIE

S

*Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* (2019) masterfully tackled the very challenging task of conveying a

powerful story that tied the sequel trilogy together *and* wrapped up all the threads hanging from the entire Skywalker saga. As with every *Star Wars* film, the epic struggle between good and evil on a galactic scale was juxtaposed against the personal trials and triumphs of individuals who participated in the conflict. Despite the fleets of starships and massive superweapons that came to loggerheads above the planet Exegol, the war's outcome hinged on the actions taken by a relatively small group of people. These heroic deeds often resulted from important revelations that changed the courses of our favorite characters' lives. With that in mind, let's dive in and examine ten lessons that we loved and learned from that final chapter.



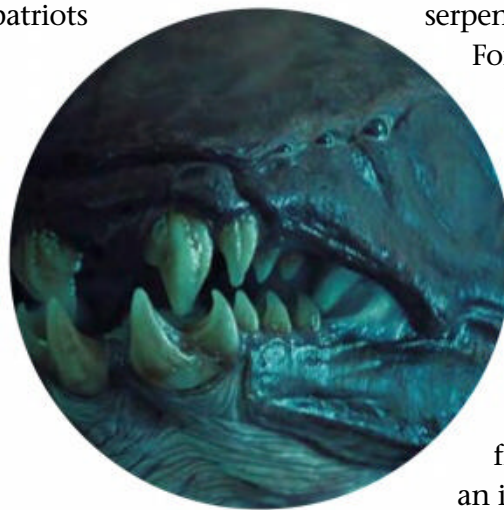
## 10

## Don't Judge a Jedi Text by its Cover

■ We are all flawed in our own unique ways, but making assumptions and casting judgments on others based on superficial observations, uninformed rumors, and harmful gossip stand as

common errors that most of us have made. Trapped beneath the sands of Pasaana, Rey and her compatriots feared they would suffer the same fate as Ochi of Bestoon, and never escape the subterranean maze. To make matters worse, the group stumbled upon a vexis, a massive serpent with menacing teeth that appeared ready to strike at our valiant protagonists.

Fortunately, Rey looked beyond the creature's fearsome exterior and sensed that its



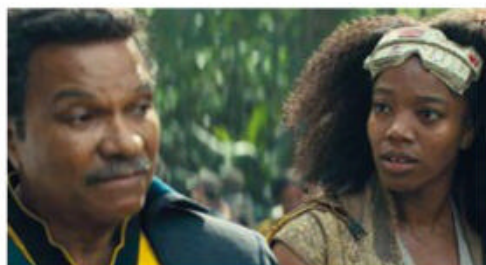
aggression stemmed from a serious wound it had suffered. Braving the serpent's ire, Rey called upon the Force to heal the laceration.

The appreciative vexis moved away without a fight, revealing a much-needed exit from the tunnel system. By searching for understanding and showing compassion, Rey managed to save her friends, bring comfort to an injured reptile, and avoid a confrontation. If only we could all be so wise!

## 09

## Reach Out

■ Unless you're a Jedi, it's virtually impossible to know what thoughts, concerns, and fears are running through someone else's mind at any given time. Vocalizing our emotions can be a troubling experience in and of itself, even when we require a comforting word from a friend. Following the Emperor's defeat, Jannah recognized that Lando Calrissian sat alone at the Resistance celebration and took it upon herself to initiate a conversation. This simple act made Lando feel welcome, and the resulting connection prompted the elder hero to reach out in his own way, by offering to aid Jannah search for her home. A bond that benefited both individuals was formed, and all it took was opening a friendly dialogue.



## 08

## Never Underestimate a Droid

■ C-3PO, R2-D2, BB-8, K-2SO, and L3-37 rank as the most prominent examples of droids whose exploits have influenced the course of events on a galactic scale. From R2 and Luke to L3 and Lando, we have also witnessed the way these droids formed close relationships with their organic counterparts. Debuting in *The Rise of Skywalker*, D-O exhibited a previously unseen

potential for emotional depth from the trauma he'd survived while under the ownership of the dastardly Ochi of Bestoon. D-O's hesitation to accept affection from Rey suggested he'd been mistreated while in Ochi's service.

Nevertheless, Rey's kindness did not go unnoticed, as D-O gradually came to see that the Resistance bore no similarities to his murderous former owner. The courageous droid began to trust once again, even offering up important information on Exegol's location during a briefing on Ajan Kloss. D-O's bravery imparted a fresh perspective on the way droids process emotion and delivered a glimmer of hope for audience members who happened to be working to overcome their own traumas.



## 07

## Turn Practice Into Progress

■ When Poe Dameron returned from the Sinta Glacier Colony with information vital to the Resistance's survival, flames ravaged the *Millennium Falcon* and tempers flared between the pilot and Rey. Poe expressed frustration that Rey, a mechanical genius who was strong in the Force, insisted on completing her training at the rebel base on Ajan Kloss rather than making a difference on the battlefield. Considering Rey's heroic history at Starkiller Base and on Snoke's flagship *Supremacy*, the young Jedi knew she could positively impact the fight, she simply hoped that learning under Leia's tutelage would make her even *more* valuable to the Resistance.

Of course, the news about Emperor Palpatine's resurrection changed everything, and Rey resolved to put her practice into action. The decision changed the course of the war, as Rey's leadership sent the *Falcon* and its occupants on a fateful journey that led to Palpatine's downfall. To be clear, Rey demonstrated both wisdom and responsibility in her quest to finish her training, but operating in the real world is sometimes the only way to master our capabilities and uncover our true potential.



## 06

## With Friends, You Are Never Alone

■ As Rey prepared for a solo trip to Pasaana in the hope of discovering clues about a Sith wayfinder, Finn assured her that she would be making the journey, "Alone with friends." This clever statement said so much about Finn, as he clearly never even considered allowing his friend to embark on the dangerous assignment without support. Poe Dameron, Chewbacca, C-3PO, and BB-8 obviously agreed that, while Rey was perfectly capable of handling herself, the most arduous missions run smoother when one has allies at their side.



Rey's views on loyalty mirrored Finn's, and she did not hesitate to launch a perilous rescue mission once she realized that Chewbacca was alive and imprisoned aboard the Star Destroyer *Steadfast*. Poe and Finn voiced the same values when they released Chewie, much to the Wookiee's surprise. Even as Palpatine gloated that Rey faced him alone on Exegol, Rey's Resistance allies fought valiantly in the sky above, a redeemed Ben Solo was on the way to lend a hand, and generations of Jedi awaited Rey's call.

**The most arduous missions run smoother when one has allies at their side.**

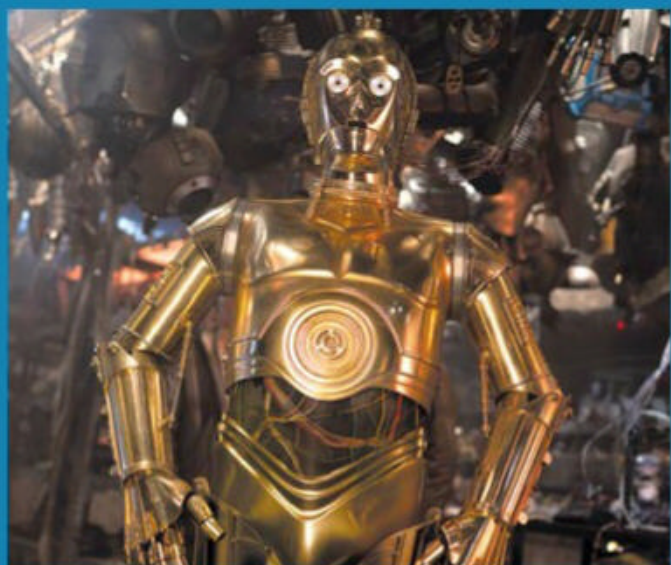


## 05

## Assert Your Feelings

■ Contrary to the Jedi Council's views at the time of the Republic's fall, letting others know how we feel is a key aspect of our development. To be fair to the Jedi, our own society often looks down on people who are open about their emotions. *The Rise of Skywalker* strikes back against this concept on multiple occasions. Before leaving for Pasaana, C-3PO admitted to R2-D2 that the astromech was his best friend. Additionally, the protocol droid spoke a heartfelt goodbye to his comrades as he prepared for Babu Frik to wipe his memory. Even Chewbacca, the mighty warrior who had lived through numerous conflicts, broke down in public due to his unending grief over Leia's passing.

In perhaps the most potent emotional display, Leia used all the strength she had left to call out to her son to guide him back to the light. The general fearlessly opened her heart, experiencing no shame in the love she had for him. On the precipice of change, Ben's grief-stricken conversation with an illusory Han Solo functioned as a catalyst that propelled him to denounce the darkness within him. Taken together, these examples confirm that there is no weakness or folly in sharing one's sentimental side.



## 04

## We Are What We Grow Beyond

■ During a brief stand-off on the planet Kijimi, Zorii Bliss disclosed a startling secret about Poe Dameron's past to Rey and Finn. As it turns out, the respected Resistance leader and ace pilot had been a spice runner in his younger days. The occupation clearly carried an unwelcome stigma, as Poe's friends initially reacted with shock and disbelief. Considering the brutality exhibited on Kessel in *Solo: A Star Wars Story* (2018), it is understandable why the galaxy might be distrustful of any occupation related to the spice trade.

However, Poe astutely pointed out that he was not the only one with an eyebrow-raising background. Finn rebelled against his training as a First Order stormtrooper, while Rey avoided living out the rest of her days as a Jakku scavenger. Unbeknownst to them at the time, Rey would also eventually go against her heritage as a Palpatine to defeat the Emperor. The lesson inherent in these revelations is two-fold: a questionable history does not automatically make someone an evil person, and we all possess the capability to improve ourselves and grow beyond our mistakes.

**A questionable history does not always make someone an evil person.**







# 03

## There Are More of Us

■ In dire times, the abundance of evil in our world can feel as if it outweighs the good by a significant margin. The Resistance surely felt this way during the Battle of Crait, when every call they sent out to request assistance in their struggle against the First Order went unanswered. As his squadron gradually succumbed to the Sith fleet's weapons above Exegol,

Poe Dameron surely felt an eerie parallel between that horrific scene and his previous experience at the rebel outpost on Crait. With the galaxy's future at stake, the Final Order appeared to be unstoppable.

But as Poe's despair reached its lowest point, Lando Calrissian and Chewbacca arrived with an armada of reinforcements drawn from countless worlds. The tide of the battle against the planet-killing Star Destroyers was turned, while the regular citizens crewing each vessel proved that they outnumbered the Emperor's nefarious forces. Evil may inspire a level of fear that renders the righteous hesitant to act, but decent individuals will eventually stand up for their beliefs once they realize they are not alone.

# 02

## No One's Ever Really Gone

■ Losing loved ones is perhaps the most difficult aspect of our mortal existence, and this also holds true for those living in the galaxy far, far away. Already an orphan, Rey endured even more heartbreak when Han Solo, Luke Skywalker, and Leia Organa each passed away in the sequel trilogy. Despite these trials, Rey carried the lessons she received from her adoptive family forward in her struggle against the Emperor. Remembering their words provided Rey with strength during the dramatic confrontation on Exegol, and Rey even proved



able to call upon the spirits of generations of fallen Jedi to help her in that moment. During her visit to Tatooine, Rey quite literally saw Leia and Luke's Force spirits smiling upon her choices.

Ben Solo's redemption provided two more examples of this concept, as Kylo Ren continued to grapple with having murdered his own father. Han may not have been a Force-user, but his memory lived

on in his son's mind and assisted Ben in his desire to toss away the darkness inside him. On a similar note, the cathartic scene revealed the fact that Ben Solo himself still resided within Kylo Ren. Neither Supreme Leader Snoke nor Emperor Palpatine could erase the good that had previously taken root in the son of Solo's heart, allowing the seed of light to blossom within Ben once again.



# 01

## We Choose Our Own Paths

■ With all of the discussion surrounding Chosen Ones and destinies that has occurred in *Star Wars* lore, one might imagine that Leia and Luke would be hesitant about knowingly training a person from Emperor Palpatine's bloodline. Fortunately, the pair understood that Rey's family history did not predetermine her future. Leia's support never wavered, though Luke expressed concerns over his own abilities as a Jedi Master in the wake of his failure with Ben Solo.

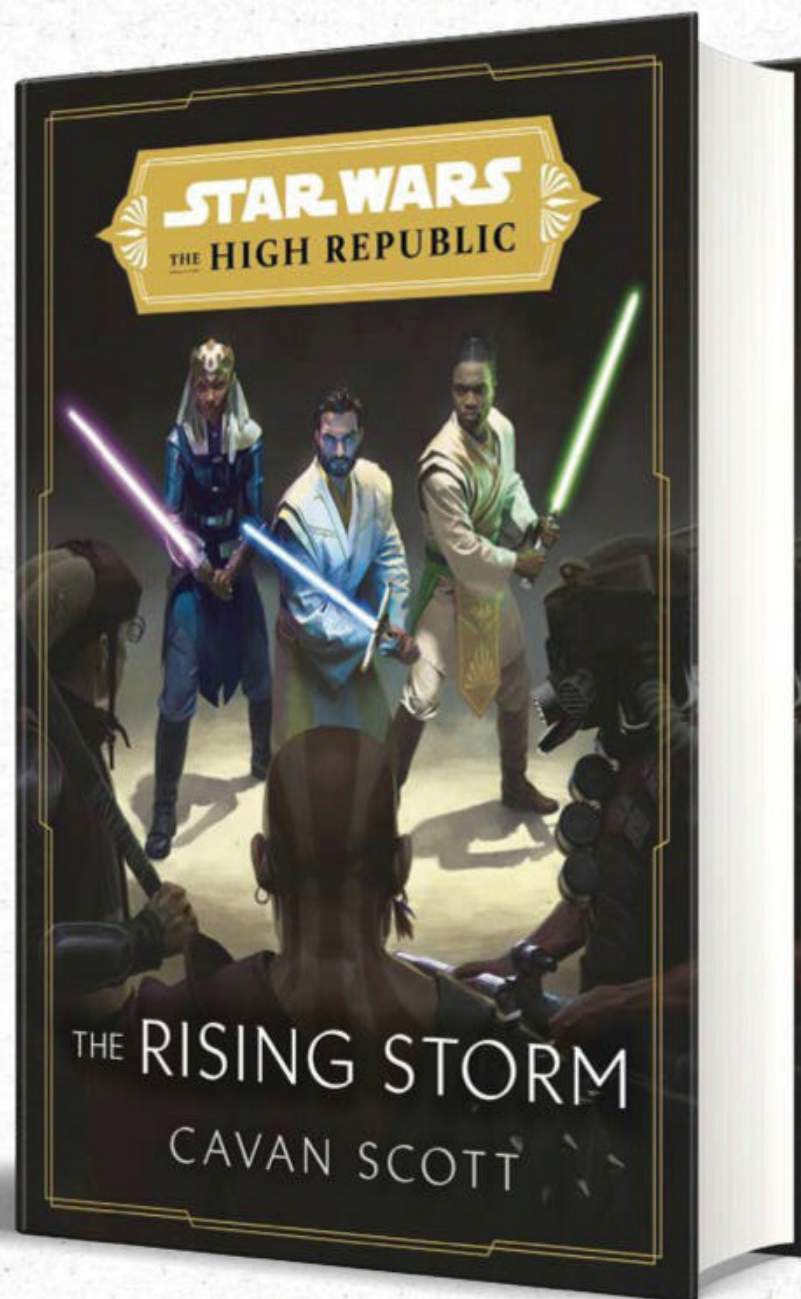
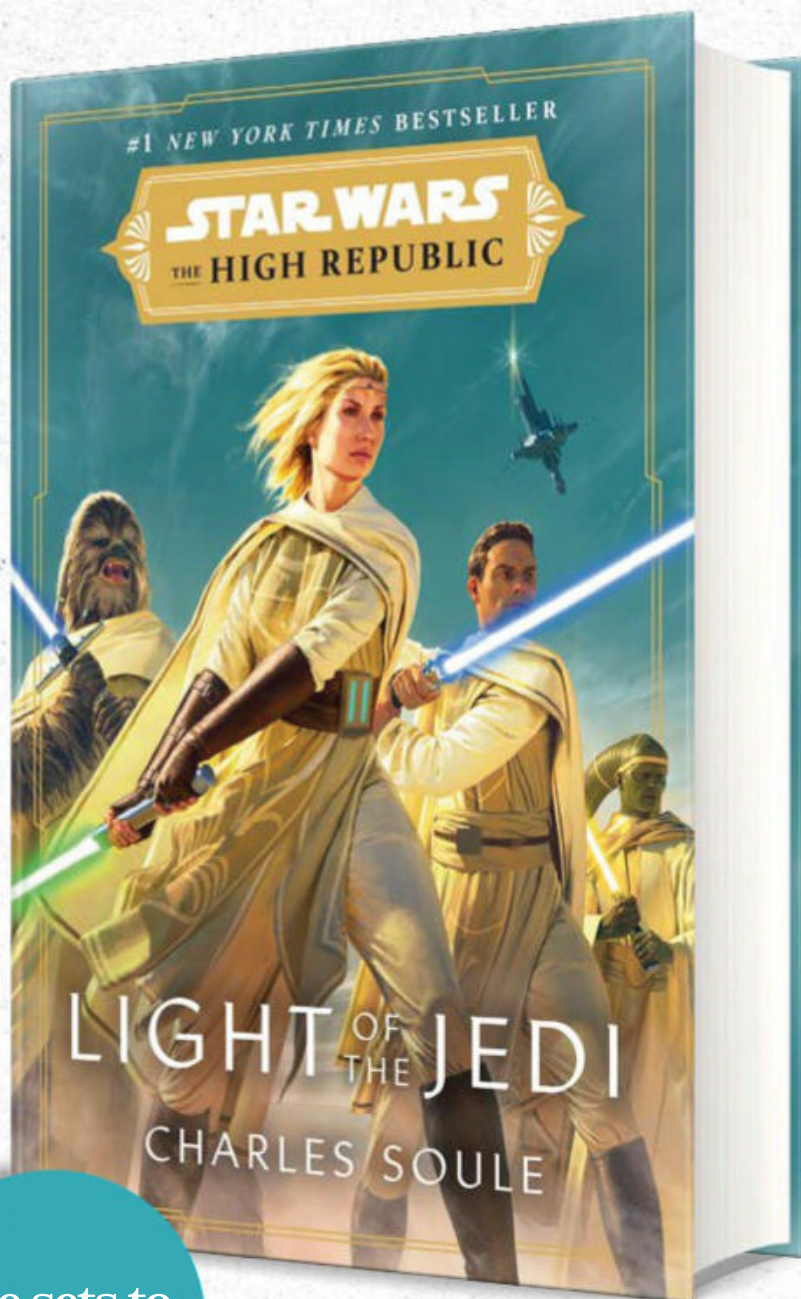
As a result, Rey had the unique opportunity to study under both Skywalker twins, who helped prepare her for the final clash with her grandfather. Even after learning about her heritage, Rey opted to follow the light side, stand against Palpatine's evil, and bring the Emperor's reign to an

end. In a defining moment, Rey further rebuked her connection to Palpatine and chose to inherit the Skywalker name.

The same can be said of the actions taken by Finn and Jannah, who had their childhoods ripped away when the First Order abducted them from their families and indoctrinated them to serve as rank-and-file stormtroopers. When the moment came for them to do the First Order's murderous bidding, both Finn and Jannah elected to denounce the oppressive regime and rebel against its status quo. The duo went on to play leading roles in the Resistance's fight against the Sith. Without the contributions from free-willed individuals such as Rey, Finn, and Jannah, the Resistance could never have overcome the First Order or the Sith. 🕊







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4F.18





# CAVAN SCOTT'S WILD ADVENTURE

Popular *Star Wars* author Cavan Scott tells *Insider* how his childhood ambition took him to the heart of a galaxy far, far away.

WORDS: MARK WRIGHT

A

pril 15, 2019 was the day when *Star Wars* fans heard the phrase 'Project Luminous'

for the first time. Lucasfilm's multi-year publishing initiative was announced at *Star Wars* Celebration Chicago, along with the writers forming the creative team—Charles Soule, Claudia Gray, Justina Ireland, Daniel José Older, and Cavan Scott. Project Luminous became *The High Republic*, and for one British writer, it started with breakfast at San Diego Comic-Con.

"I met up with Lucasfilm Publishing's creative director, Michael Siglain, for breakfast,"

recalls Cavan Scott. "He said, 'We've got this opportunity coming up. We're putting together a team, but I can't tell you who that team is.' Basically, would I be interested in being a part of this group who will create a new era within *Star Wars* publishing. Of course I said yes, immediately!"

For the writer of Marvel's best-selling *Star Wars: The High Republic* comic, it's fitting that the beginning of Scott's journey into a galaxy far, far away came in comic-book form.

"Issue #16 of the U.K. *Star Wars Weekly* comic was my first experience of *Star Wars* in 1978," says the British writer. "I was five and I hadn't seen *Star Wars*, but

01 *Tales from Vader's Castle* #2  
Cover art by Francesco Francavilla.

everyone knew about it. My first experience of *Star Wars* storytelling was picking up that comic, which featured Jaxxon's first appearance." (You can find out more about Scott's admiration for the green rabbit on the next page.)

## Early Influence

For the young Scott, born in Bristol in the southwest of England, *Star Wars* imprinted in special ways. "I picked up *Star Wars Weekly*, and in the U.K. we had the 'Read-Along' tapes and books—you turned the page when R2 bleeped," he laughs. "When I saw *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), I don't think I properly understood it, but it was such a spectacle. By the time of *Return of the Jedi* (1983), I was all in. Jabba's palace blew my mind, it paid off on the promise of the comics and books that this galaxy was huge."

Growing up in the 1970s and 80s, Scott devoured television, films, books, magazines, and

**"WHEN I SAW *STAR WARS: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK* (1980), I DON'T THINK I PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD IT, BUT IT WAS SUCH A SPECTACLE. BY THE TIME OF *RETURN OF THE JEDI* (1983), I WAS ALL IN."**



► comics, developing a life-long affinity for science-fiction, spies, horror, and everything in between. A childhood love of *Star Wars*, alongside other classics such as *Doctor Who* (1963-present), *Star Trek* (1966-present), Batman, and Spider-Man, encouraged Scott's earliest creative flair.

"I was drawing comics," recalls Scott. "I'm not a natural artist, and I used to draw cartoon versions. They were the biggest mashups. It wasn't pure *Star Wars*, it was *Star Wars*, a bit of *Star Trek* and *Battlestar Galactica* (1978-1979). It was a toy box.

"I wanted to write full time," Scott recalls clearly. "It was in the back of my mind that I wanted to do what I'm doing now, but I couldn't imagine how you got to write *Star Wars* or *Doctor Who*. I just thought, 'You don't get to write this stuff. You're a fan, and that's how it works.' So, writing about these things seemed like the obvious choice. Working in magazines I thought was a good way to meet people and learn how things work."

Gaining commissions from British science-fiction magazine *SFX* in the late 1990s, Scott moved on to wider roles in the magazine industry, but always looking towards the fictional universes he loved. An early career break saw a move into Big Finish Production's acclaimed full-cast audio dramas based on *Doctor Who*, but *Star Wars* still felt

02 Charles Paul Wilson III's cover art from IDW's *Beware Vader's Castle*.

03 The U.K. editions of Scott's quartet of *Adventures in Wildspace* chapter books, with cover art by David M. Buisán.



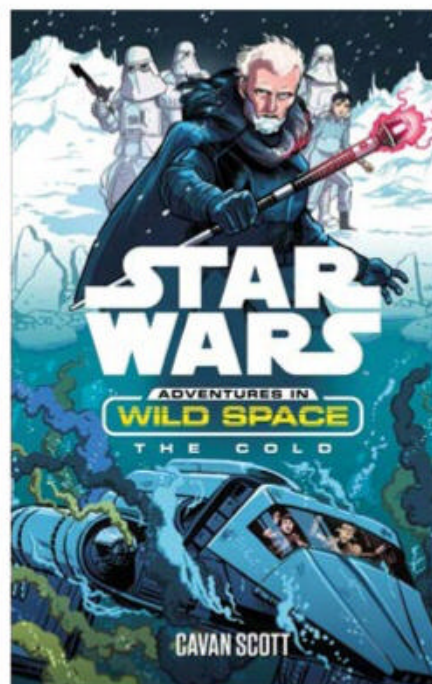
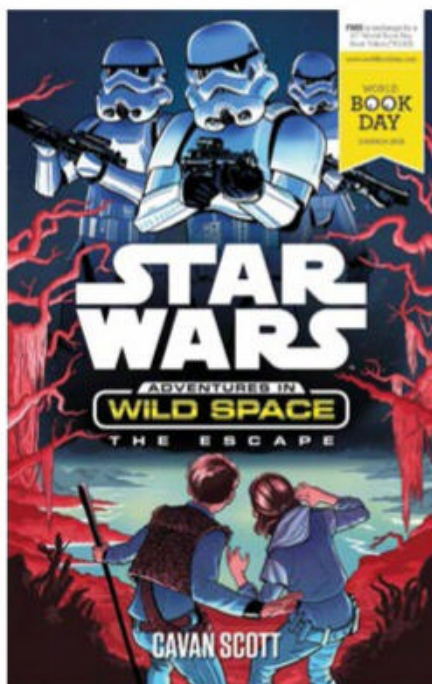
like a galaxy *too* far away. "I was writing *Doctor Who* audios—British; *Blake's 7* (1978-1981)—British. *2000 AD* and *Judge Dredd*, all homegrown. *Star Wars* still felt like it happened 'over there.'"

Making the jump to full-time writing in 2010, Scott cites his work in children's publishing as a key turning point. "*Skylanders* is massively important," he says of the book series based on the 'toys-to-life' videogame launched in 2011. "With any of this, it's working hard, but also being in the right place at the right time. You make your own luck, but you need that moment of luck. I ended up writing 25 *Skylanders* books

and I was taken on by an agent; she had a call from Egmont asking if she had anyone who would be appropriate for *Star Wars*. That was the call that led to *Star Wars: Adventures in Wild Space*."

### Wild Space and Castles

*Star Wars: Adventures in Wild Space*, novels aimed at younger readers, was published in the U.K. by Egmont and by Disney Lucasfilm Press in the United States between 2016 and 2018. The series followed the adventures of orphans Milo and Lina Graf during the rise of the Empire. Alternating books with author Tom Huddleston, Scott wrote four *Adventures in Wild*







## BIG GREEN RABBIT

"For me, Jaxxon was there before Luke Skywalker," laughs Scott, discussing the alien mercenary created by Roy Thomas and Howard Chaykin for issue #8 of Marvel Comics' *Star Wars* in 1978. Jaxxon was one of the 'Eight for Aduba-3,' joining Han Solo's efforts to free a village from the tyranny of bandits. "I remember being upset that he wasn't in *The Empire Strikes Back*. I just assumed that when you've got Han and Chewie, Jaxxon and all those characters would be there. To me, he was just as important as any of the characters I saw on screen. He was there from the beginning for me."

A run of commissions for IDW Comics' *Star Wars Adventures* gave Scott an opportunity to bring Jaxxon back into continuity in 2018, with his story "The Lost Eggs of Livorno" in *Star Wars Adventures Annual* #1. "It's all part of the Jaxxon plan," Scott grins. "Now it's an annual spot in the comics. There were four Jaxxon appearances last year, which I can't quite believe. I think we forget how funny *Star Wars* is. That's what Jaxxon represents to me—the fun of *Star Wars*. *Star Wars* can break your heart, it can thrill you, it can be dark, but at the end of the day, it's adventure."

*Space*, including the U.K. number one bestseller, *The Escape*.

For Scott, his adventure in *Wild Space* was just the beginning. "*Star Wars* Celebration came to London in 2016, where we launched *Wild Space*. I was asked to be on the publishing panel, and that's when I met Michael Siglain. Mike has been a champion of my work within *Star Wars*. We bonded over

our love of classic horror movies, comics, and obviously, *Star Wars*. At Celebration, he said, 'We're hoping you're going to write some more stuff for us.'"

That hope has manifested over the last five years, seeing Scott's *Star Wars* journey continue along myriad paths, taking in *Choose Your Own Destiny* books, including *A Han and Chewie Adventure*;

contributions to both volumes of *From A Certain Point of View*; feature-length audio drama in *Dooku: Jedi Lost*; and the IDW anthology comic books *Star Wars Adventures* and *Vader's Castle*. For *Star Wars Adventures Annual* #1, Scott fulfilled a long-held hope to return *Star Wars* Legends comic character Jaxxon to current *Star Wars* lore, while *Vader's Castle* was an opportunity to indulge his love of horror.

"*Vader's Castle* came from Mike Siglain and I talking about horror at San Diego. We were talking about our love of Christopher Lee and

**"WE WERE TALKING ABOUT OUR LOVE OF CHRISTOPHER LEE AND PETER CUSHING, AND WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO SEE TARKIN AND DOOKU TOGETHER."**



► Peter Cushing, and how it would be great to see Tarkin and Dooku together, and fantastic if it was like a Frankenstein story. We started throwing around this idea of Tarkin creating a clone of Dooku.”

During this period, Project Luminous was taking shape. Following the initial invite to join the ‘Luminous Five’ in 2018, Scott joined his fellow writers for the first of two creative summits at Skywalker Ranch in 2018.

### Skywalker Ranch

“It wasn’t *The High Republic* at that stage. It wasn’t even Project Luminous,” recalls Scott. “Loads of ideas came out of that week. I was sitting in a room with people whose work I knew, along with members of Story Group and Lucasfilm Publishing, and I was at Skywalker Ranch,” laughs Scott, thinking back to reading his first *Star Wars* comic as a kid back in 1978. “That place that was created to be creative.

“We went away from that first week with our pitch, and we were told to develop it into a 20-page document,” Scott remembers, outlining the creative process. “That went back and forth. We were invited back for a second week at the Ranch, where we broke the

story of *The High Republic*—the basic structure, what the phases would be. We had a weekly online meeting, but we didn’t know who was going to be writing what. We got to a point where the story was ready to go. Our assignments became to develop our corner. We’re still working together; one person can’t just do something that has ramifications down the line. Everything has been developed by everyone, but you’re the lead writer on your particular thread.”

*The High Republic* is set roughly 200 years before *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* (1999), with the Jedi at the heart of an unprecedented time of peace in the galaxy. As Jedi Master Avar Kris takes her place as marshal of Starlight Beacon and young Jedi Keeve Trennis begins her next journey, dark forces are gathering. The first wave’s major releases, which each found a place on bestsellers lists around the world, included the novel *Light of the Jedi* by Charles Soule; Claudia Grey’s young adult novel *Into the Dark*; Justina Ireland’s *Out of the Shadows*; *The High Republic Adventures* comic from IDW, written by Daniel José Older; and alongside his best-selling run on Marvel’s *The High Republic*, July

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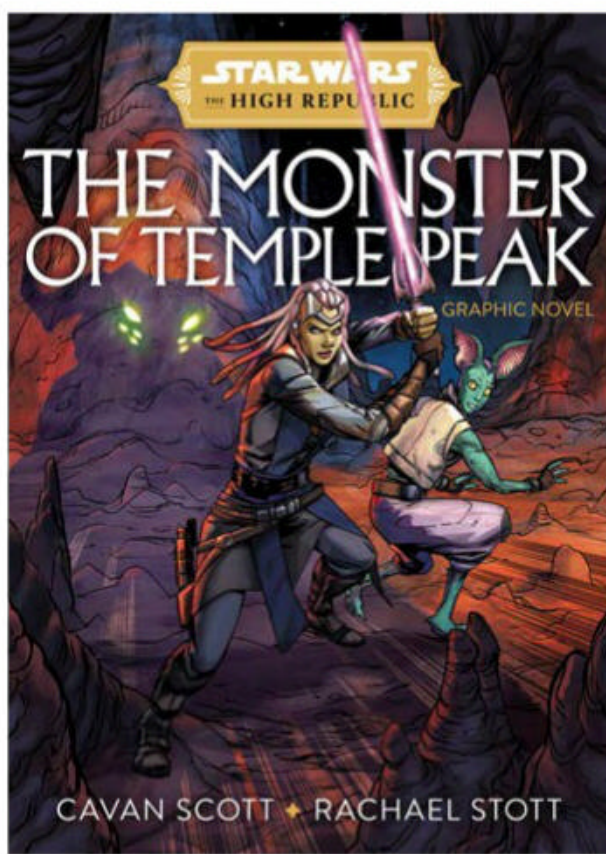
saw the publication of Scott’s novel, *The Rising Storm*.

### Creating Keeve

“It felt full circle,” says Scott of taking on the Marvel comic. “Keeve Trennis was in my very first pitch, she’s been there since the beginning. Avar Kris came from two characters; I created a character who was marshal of Starlight, and Charles created a character who was going to be a protagonist in *Light of the Jedi*. We thought, ‘Let’s make her the same character.’ It seemed a logical thing to do.

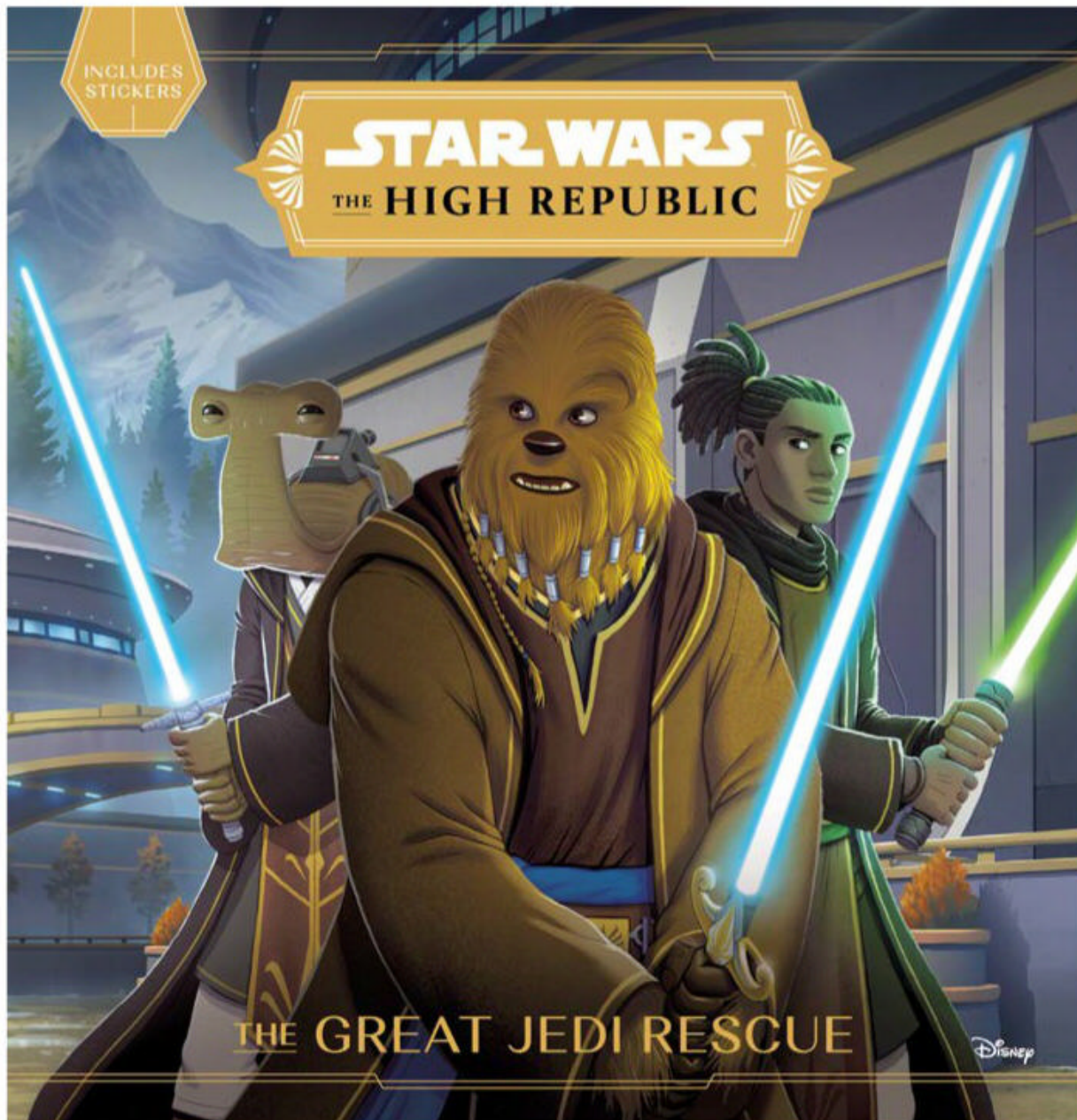
“Ario is a genius,” Scott says of *The High Republic* comic’s penciller, Ario Anindito. “On our first Zoom call, he was sitting there in his trademark bowler hat, wearing a monkey-lizard on his shoulder. Like every comic I’ve ever worked on, I go in with an idea of the story. As soon as you see the

05



06





07

art, you think, 'Hang on a minute. *That* element's more important' It was just me and Ario, then Mark Morales came in to do inks and Annalisa Leoni the colors. The team has grown as that first issue came together."

Issue #1 of Scott's *The High Republic* comic logged more than 200,000 pre-orders, leading to second, third, and fourth printings. "Because we're a team, a success for one thread can only be a success for the others," says Scott, delighted at the mark *The High Republic* has made on

04 Keeve Trennis (right), as visualized by artist Phil Noto.

05 *The Rising Storm* cover art by Joseph Meehan.

06 Scott collaborated with artist Rachael Stott on *The Monster of Temple Peak*.

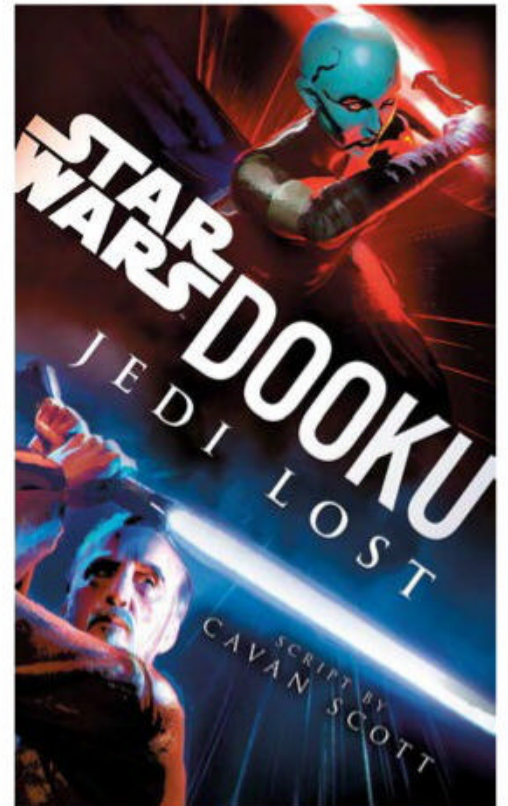
07 *The Great Jedi Rescue*, illustrated by Petur Antonsson.

the *Star Wars* galaxy. "Now the job starts," he adds.

Scott's *The High Republic* novel debut, *The Rising Storm* (released by Del Rey in June to rave reviews), is just one of multiple projects from the author that are set to arrive in the coming months. These include two August releases—an IDW graphic novel entitled *The Monster of Temple Peak*, with artist Rachel Stott, and the full-cast Del Rey audio drama *Tempest Runner*.

"The launch has been successful and wonderful," he says, looking back over a project nearly three years in the making. "More than we could ever have dreamt of. But that's the launch. We've got to take the fact that people have embraced *The High Republic* and continue creating great stories so people keep coming back. We are committed to these stories and, hopefully, we're going to be around for a long time." 🙌

**"WE ARE COMMITTED TO THESE STORIES AND, HOPEFULLY, WE'RE GOING TO BE AROUND FOR A LONG TIME."**



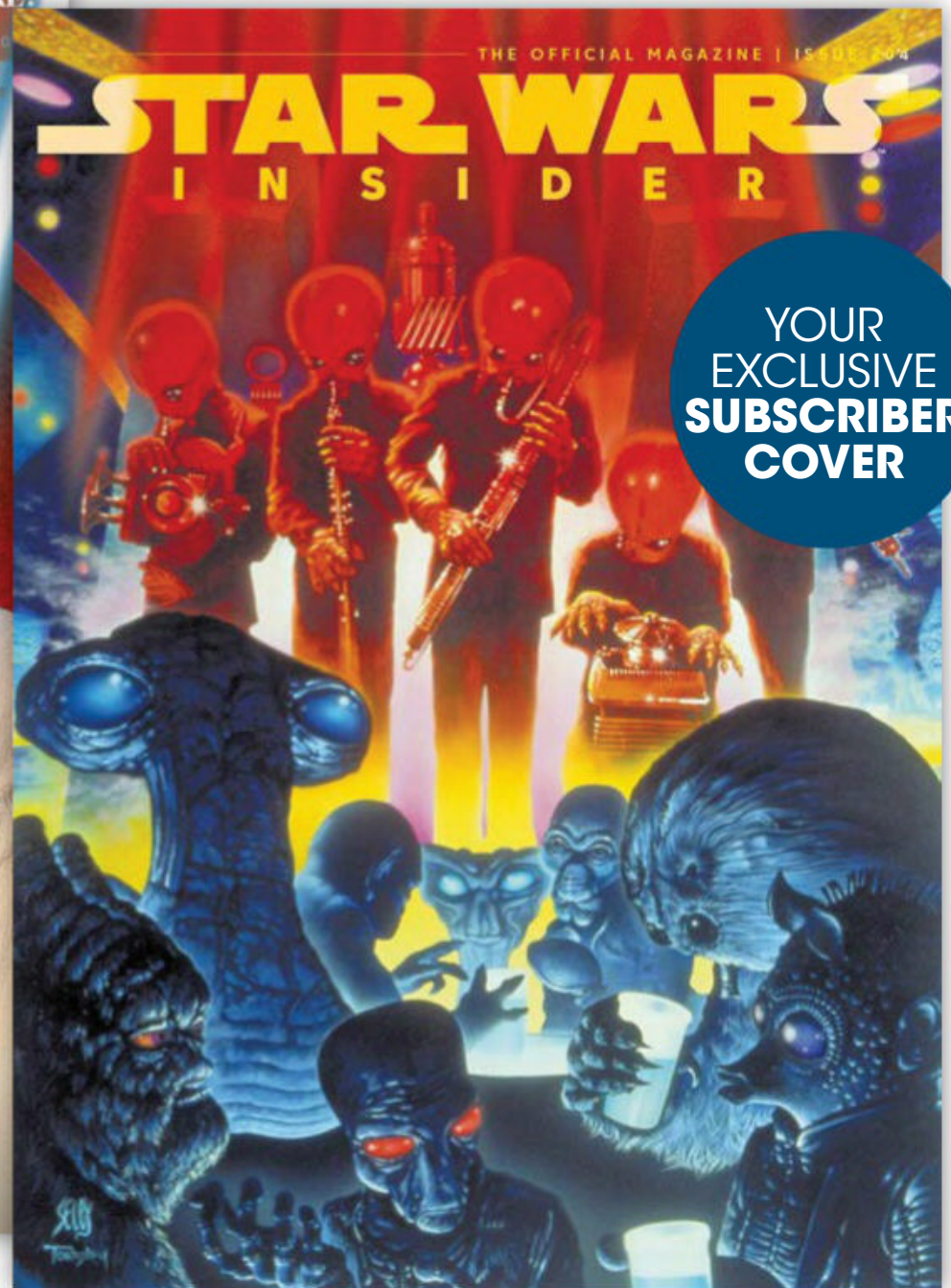
## LOST JEDI

"I'm passionate about audio drama," says Scott, who since 2000 has written and produced numerous audio dramas based around the world's longest-running science-fiction television series, *Doctor Who* for Big Finish Productions. "It's baked into our cultural DNA in Britain, in a way that perhaps it isn't in the States," he says. Scott's extensive experience with the medium dovetailed in 2019 with *Dooku: Jedi Lost*, a full-cast *Star Wars* audio drama. "It was a really good fit, and something new, a bit of an experiment."

In writing *Jedi Lost*, Scott found a new appreciation for the character previously played by Christopher Lee in the *Star Wars* prequels. "I was surprised by the fact that I liked him," he says. "Previously I'd been ambivalent. I visualized and heard Dooku from *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* (2008-2014, 2020)—I had a *Clone Wars* Dooku action figure on my desk for the entire time I was writing. And having Ventress there, who was always part of the plan and who I'd always loved in the comics and *The Clone Wars*. There's a particular episode of *The Clone Wars* where Darth Sidious orders Dooku to get rid of Ventress; there's so much in the performance and in the animation when Dooku doesn't want to do it. I thought, 'There he is!' There's vulnerability in him; *Star Wars* is so good at the vulnerability of the villains, and that's when I knew I could write it."



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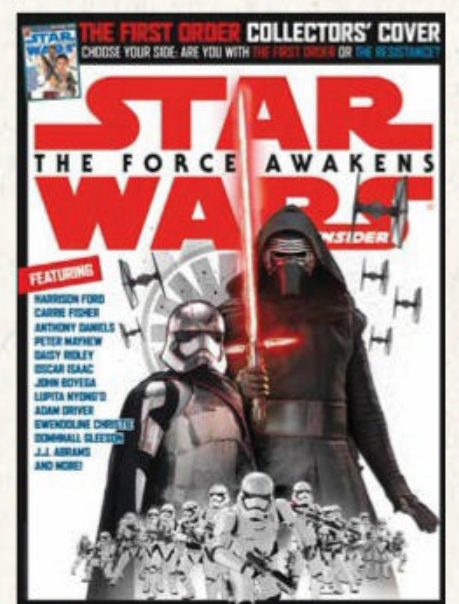
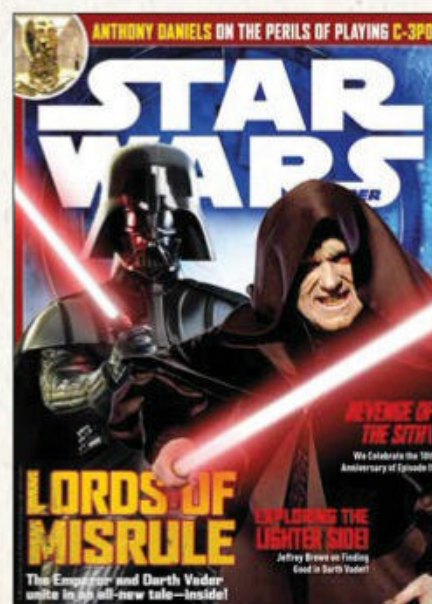
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# DRESS TO IMPRESS

With less than a year to prepare, now is the time to begin working on your ambitious cosplay outfits for *Star Wars* Celebration 2022. But just how ambitious should you get? *Star Wars Insider* has some big ideas to challenge your crafting skills.

WORDS: JAY STOBIE  
ILLUSTRATIONS: COOP

S

*Star Wars* Celebration 2022—taking over the Anaheim Convention Center from May 26-29 next year—will no doubt once again be a hotbed of cosplay action, with fans from

around the globe eager to showcase their creative costumes to their peers. *Star Wars* aficionados put passion, inventiveness, and an intimate knowledge of the galaxy far, far away into their ensembles, with some going to extraordinary lengths to craft something no one has ever seen before. But how far would you go? Are you brave enough to attempt one of these grand *Star Wars Insider* cosplay ideas?



# BOR GULLET & BODHI ROOK

■ Who can forget the instant bond forged by Bor Gullet and Bodhi Rook during their interrogation scene in *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016)? Only attempt this cosplay if you wish to keep any secrets, as Bor Gullet will always know the truth!

## Bodhi Rook

A set of overalls dyed dark green, grey, or black is a good match for Bodhi's Imperial flightsuit, but you'll only be wearing the lower half, as pants (cut a hole around the back to create a new waist where you put your legs in).

Stuff the arms and torso with foam or cloth and attach some rubber gloves as hands. Craft Bodhi's head from a balloon covered in papier mâché, and add safety goggles to complete the look.

## Bor Gullet

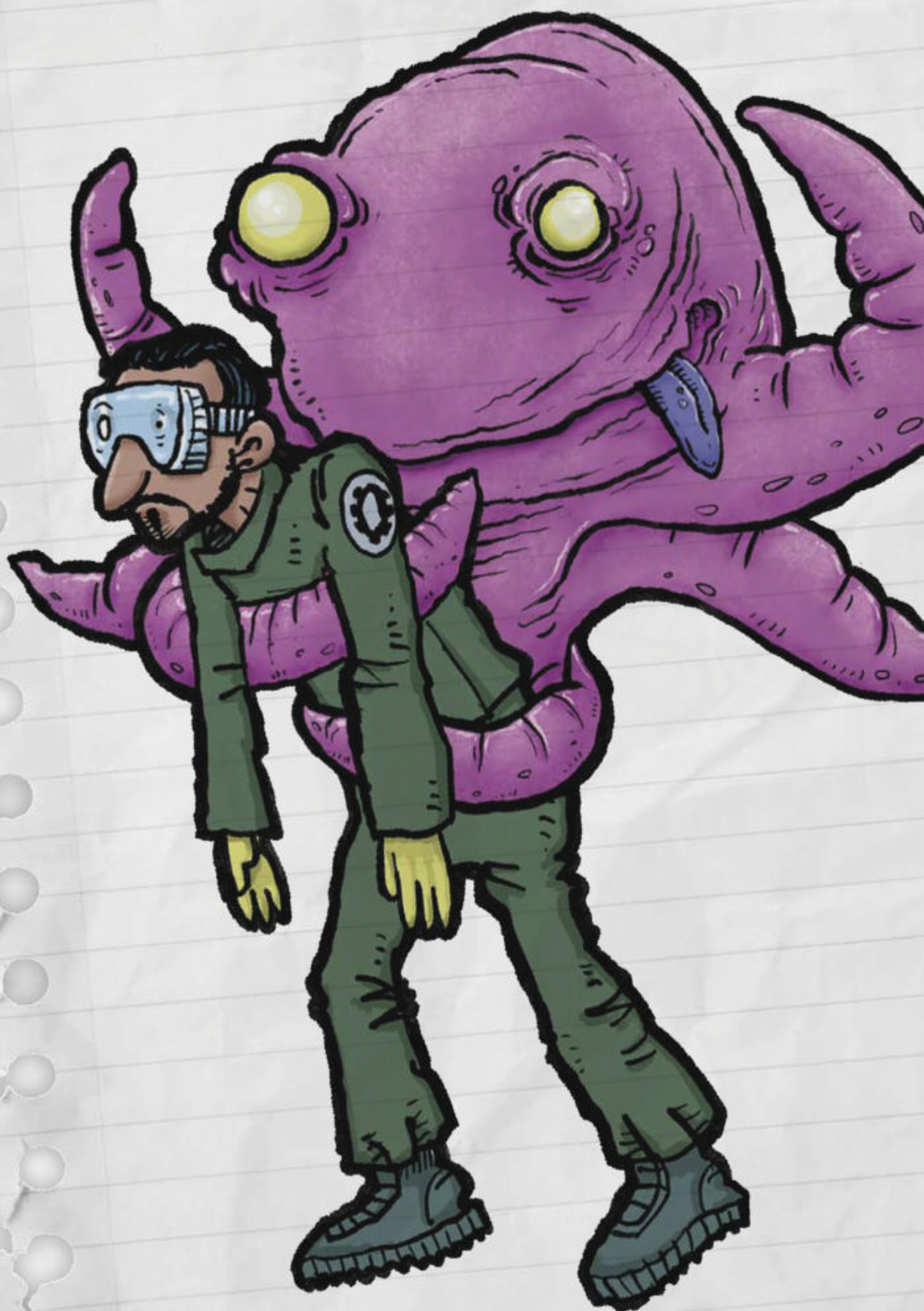
An all-in-one lycra bodysuit—the type that includes a full hood—will be the basis for Bor Gullet. Choose a suitably garish pink color, and get ready to make some additions.

First, paint on unsightly blue and purple veins to emulate Bor Gullet's repulsive flesh. A loop of pink fabric from Bodhi's shoulders that reaches behind your Bor Gullet neck will ensure that the unlucky ex-Imperial's top half hangs limply just a few inches in-front of the mind-reading creature, looking convincingly brain-drained.

Recycle plastic hoses from an old vacuum cleaner to use as tentacles and attach them to your bodysuit, one below each of your arms. Connected them with fishing line, so when you wiggle your arms the tentacles will move too! Be sure to affix one extra tentacle to Bodhi's head to simulate Bor Gullet's attempt to extract every secret thought.

DO  
Smear your Bor Gullet costume with gelatin if you want to add extra sliminess.

DON'T  
Remember, extended contact with Bor Gullet may cause you to lose your mind!



01 A concept render of Bor Gullet from *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016)



# BESPIN BONNET

■ Lando Calrissian was always something of a dreamer, and he literally had his head in the clouds as Baron Administrator of Cloud City, so why not combine a cape with a natty chapeau to create the perfect Bespin costume?

Using an umbrella as a pattern, construct a lightweight dome that matches the contours of Cloud City. This can be affixed to a foam tube that fits around your head (don't forget to cut a hole at the front for your face!) Glue cardboard tubes and cut-out shapes to the top of the dome to represent the cityscape. A sky-blue tracksuit and cape with added cotton wool clouds will provide the airy atmosphere upon which your Cloud City cap can float.

Don't forget to take along a megaphone to broadcast Calrissian's safety announcements to fellow convention goers!



**DO**  
Add to that gravity-defying feeling by riding a hoverboard around the exhibition halls.

**DON'T**  
This outfit is sure to attract attention, but try to keep a low profile in order to avoid any Imperial interference.

# A THRONE FIT FOR A HUTT

■ He's big, he's green, and he's an ambitious pick for a cosplay challenge, but why stop at becoming Jabba the Hutt when you can recreate his throne too—and get your friends to do all the heavy lifting!

Start with a trolley big enough for you to recline on, with a built-in handle for your minions to push along. Cover the cart with a canvas or add false sides to hide the wheels, painted to resemble Jabba's stone throne. Decorate with papier mâché heads along the front and scatter an ample supply of cushions upon which Jabba can comfortably lounge around.

Jabba's tail and body can be formed out of segments of suitably wobbly foam, big enough so you can sit inside and painted to resemble Jabba's flesh. Either use matching bodypaint to decorate your naked torso, arms, and face to look just like the nefarious Hutt (if modesty demands, wear a green bodysuit), or go the whole Hutt and recreate Jabba's head and multiple chins from foam too.

Keep your arms free to entertain fellow fans with a glove puppet of our favorite Kowakian monkey-lizard, Salacious B. Crumb.



**DO**  
Have a fishbowl close to hand, filled with frog-shaped gelatin treats for a shareable snack.

**DON'T**  
Be fooled by royal rebels disguised as bounty hunters, and never underestimate a Jedi!



# INTO THE ASTEROIDS

■ The *Millennium Falcon's* escapade in the asteroid field in *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* (1980) is one of cinema's most iconic chase sequences, but can it be translated into a wearable costume? We think so!

Carve a wearable asteroid by gluing sheets of foam together. You can use a large potato for reference to achieve the basic shape. Remember to cut two holes in the bottom for your legs—you'll need to be mobile to move from one photo-op to the next.

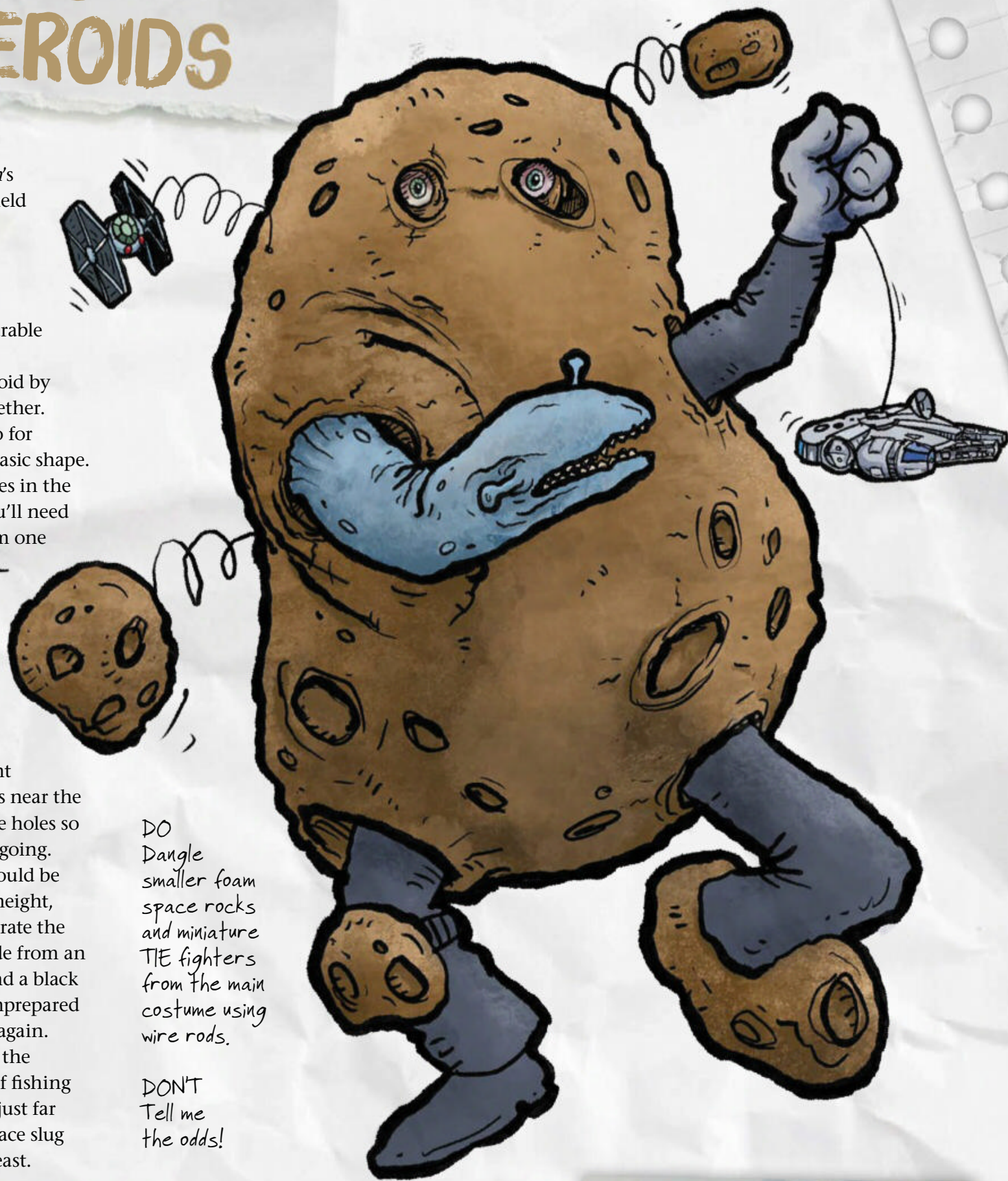
Decorate your costume to provide the correct look and feel of an asteroid. Be sure to craft several craters to add that space rock vibe, then paint it brown. Again, a potato is excellent reference! Two tiny craters near the top will make for ideal eye holes so you can see where you're going.

The largest "crater" should be positioned around chest height, through which you'll operate the space slug—a puppet made from an oven glove. Hidden behind a black curtain, you'll surprise unprepared onlookers time and time again.

Affix a small model of the *Falcon* to a short length of fishing line hanging from a rod, just far enough away from the space slug to frustrate the hungry beast.

DO  
Dangle smaller foam space rocks and miniature TIE fighters from the main costume using wire rods.

DON'T  
Tell me the odds!



02



02 Know Your Asteroids: A) An asteroid from *Empire*, B) An Industrial Light & Magic artisan painting a model asteroid, C) Not an asteroid.





# Bonnie Piesse

## An Aunt for All Ages

Soon to reprise her role as Luke Skywalker's aunt in the forthcoming Lucasfilm and Disney+ series *Obi-Wan Kenobi*, Bonnie Piesse looks back at life on Tatooine during production of the *Star Wars* prequels.

WORDS: PAT JANKIEWICZ

**“I raised Luke Skywalker. Who wouldn't be proud of that?” declares Bonnie Piesse, the actor and singer who played the future Jedi's benevolent guardian Beru Whitesun Lars in *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones* (2002) and *Revenge of the Sith* (2005).**

First introduced in *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977), Aunt Beru was a wise and nurturing figure in the young farm boy's life, but the Beru of the prequel trilogy was far less worldly. “I saw Beru as a shy, fairly

down to Earth, good, kind-hearted person,” says Piesse. Having been born in 1983, she was similarly innocent of the galactic saga that had gripped the world when she was a baby.

“When I got called in for the audition, I had not seen any of the original *Star Wars* films,” she confesses. “I was 16 years old and still in high school when I got a phone call out of the blue, saying that casting director Robin Gurland wanted to meet with me. I went to the audition, and two weeks later they called to tell me that I had the role. I remember I

was in the library, studying for an exam, and my mom ran across the school yard screaming to tell me, so the whole school stopped when I got the news! Nobody could believe it, including me. It was pretty wild, to be able to leave school to go work on a *Star Wars* movie.”

At that point in her career, Piesse had only appeared on Australian TV shows, and was in awe of the scale of the prequel production. “I was shocked!” she says. “I just had to wrap my head around it and focus on the work, because it's all the same work whether you're on a small television series or a giant movie.”



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### Surreal Experience

"It was pretty surreal to be on a set with R2-D2 and C-3PO walking around," says Piesse, "but the most incredible moment for me was seeing myself in a mirror in the green room after going to wardrobe, hair, and makeup for the first time. Suddenly seeing yourself looking like a *Star Wars* character was fairly overwhelming for a 16-year-old girl from Melbourne, Australia."

Piesse chose to closely base her performance on that of her predecessor in the role, Shelagh Fraser, who portrayed Beru in *A New Hope*. "I imitated her accent

01 Bonnie Piesse as Beru Whitesun.

02 Beru and Owen Lars (Joel Edgerton) in *Revenge of the Sith* (2005).

03 Piesse shot her homestead scenes in the same Tunisian location used in *A New Hope* (1977)

and everything. Beru spoke with an American accent in the film, but Fraser was Irish, and her accent had an Irish slant, so I did my best to replicate that.

"I didn't meet George Lucas until my first day on set. He was really fun and welcoming," she says of the filmmaker. "On my first day I had a big dialogue scene with Natalie Portman, but George made it really comfortable for me. He always tried to give the set an easy, breezy atmosphere, and because we were all traveling together and having dinner together in Tunisia, we got to talk about general things, so I got to know him a bit in that way. He was the first billionaire

I ever met," she jokes. "Natalie was lovely, and Ewan McGregor was also a fantastic person."

As for the droids, "I enjoyed working with C-3PO, and I found Anthony Daniels a lot of fun to hang out with. I don't how he could do it, standing in that costume in the hot Tunisian sun. He was hot, but you could have cooked an egg on R2-D2."

### Tatooine Time

Bonnie laughs when reminded that a critic from *Entertainment Weekly* once jokingly asked what had happened to age poor Aunt Beru between the prequels and *A New Hope*. "I know," she giggles, "What happened to have her go from being a teenage girl to a much older woman in the space of about nineteen years? It must have been really harsh living under Tatooine's hot twin suns!"

As far as her previous involvement in the saga is concerned, outside of her confirmed role in the upcoming Disney+ series *Obi-Wan Kenobi*, the actor appreciates how her prequel experience already connected the two trilogies. "My favorite scene is the end of *Revenge of the Sith*, where they give me the baby Luke Skywalker," she reveals. "I love how that scene ties in with the original *Star Wars* film!" 🌟

**"It was pretty surreal to be on a set with R2-D2 and C-3PO walking around."**





# THESE ARE YOUR FIRST STEPS

## HOW TO GET INTO COLLECTING *STAR WARS*

01

As fans from a multitude of genres will tell you, collecting memorabilia devoted to your passion can be a fun and satisfying hobby, and give you the perfect opportunity to mingle with a diverse and engaging community. But with more than four decades of collectibles focused on the galaxy far, far away, dipping your toes into the world of *Star Wars* collecting might seem daunting. Fear is the path to the dark side, however, so *Insider* is here with some tips to help you navigate your first steps into this larger world!

WORDS: JORDAN MAISON

**T**here are a great many reasons to dive into the enjoyable world of collecting, but above and beyond all others is one key thing: Passion. It's a common misconception that *Star Wars* collectibles are a "sure fire investment," but there is no

predicting which collectibles might become hot items. Some never seem to take off, doomed to a bargain bucket fate or to languish on forgotten pegs at local stores, while others reach Grail-like status the instant they arrive in stores—or even earlier!

Scarcity isn't always a factor as distribution issues are often regional, and an item that's

difficult to find in one area might be bountiful in others. Age isn't much of a consideration either, as there are many items released more than a couple of decades ago that today aren't worth their original sale price. That doesn't mean your collection won't increase in monetary value, but such a mindset makes for a poor starting point. Follow your heart.





## Focus Determines Your Reality

As we've seen over the years, there are an insane number of *Star Wars* products on the market. Toys—normally the first collectibles to come to mind—are just the tip of the iceberg. The impulse for many fans is to begin picking up anything and everything. There's nothing wrong with that, and sometimes (like a Force Friday-type event) it's just a bunch of fun to do. Financially, however, it's not feasible in the long term. You're better off narrowing your focus.

The great thing about *Star Wars* infiltrating literally every type of merchandising opportunity is that you're able to cater your collection to other things you care about in life. From home décor and outfitting an entire kitchen to videogames, and, of course, toys, there are countless collecting possibilities out there just waiting to entice you in. If you're a fan of the saga's music, you can work towards tracking down soundtracks on vinyl (or CD, cassettes, or mini-disc—whatever your choice of format may be!). Or, if it suits your fancy, you could even devote time to tracking down every last issue of *Star Wars Insider*!

Often, a collection starts naturally without you even thinking about it. Your favorite character would be an excellent focal point, for example—perhaps based on nothing more than how cool you think a character looks (step forward, Darth Maul). The fun part of placing a character at the heart of your collection is the freedom to pick up a wide variety of merchandise, while maintaining that singular focus. Anything goes wherever your favorite character shows up, adding more of a personal touch to your collection.

If you enjoy videogames, there's a good chance you already have one or two *Star Wars* titles in your collection. Beyond chasing down ones you don't have, old strategy guides, artbooks, and other branded gaming paraphernalia offer another exciting path to follow.

01 Could your collection give Dryden Vos a run for his money?

02 Platforms may come and go, but there will always be *Star Wars* videogames for you to collect.





## The Hunt is On

Once you decide what you want to collect, it's time to go on the hunt! The easiest places to shop are going to be your local stores like Walmart, Target, and Meijer, to name a few. There's no shame in going for the "easy" finds first, as you'll spend enough time and money tracking down harder to get items later, so why not take full advantage of those "quick wins"?

When you're ready to venture beyond department stores and supermarkets, there are a wealth of places to check out, and because *Star Wars* has been such a massive influence on pop culture for several decades, you'll find collectibles in a surprising amount of locales. Comic shops and second-hand bookstores can yield unexpected surprises, while local antique stores are often treasure troves for both rare items and quirky objects you never even knew about. Along those same lines, garage and estate sales have the potential for unique items you may not be able to find elsewhere. Thanks to the modern age of social media, it's often possible to see images from these local sales before you load up and make the trip.

Some of the greatest finds come from hitting up conventions, and we're not just talking about the massive events like San Diego Comic-Con. Local fan conventions are veritable buffets for collectors, often featuring vendor areas lined with booths overflowing with collectibles of all kinds. These are also among the few places you may be able to haggle on prices.

Best of all, conventions give you the opportunity to directly engage with other collectors. Take time to chat with vendors about their items and maybe learn interesting stories that'll make a purchase worthwhile. Speaking with other aficionados helps you learn more about collecting in general, and you can often pick up great tips on places to shop in your community. You might even find local collecting groups with whom you can revel in the joy of collecting.

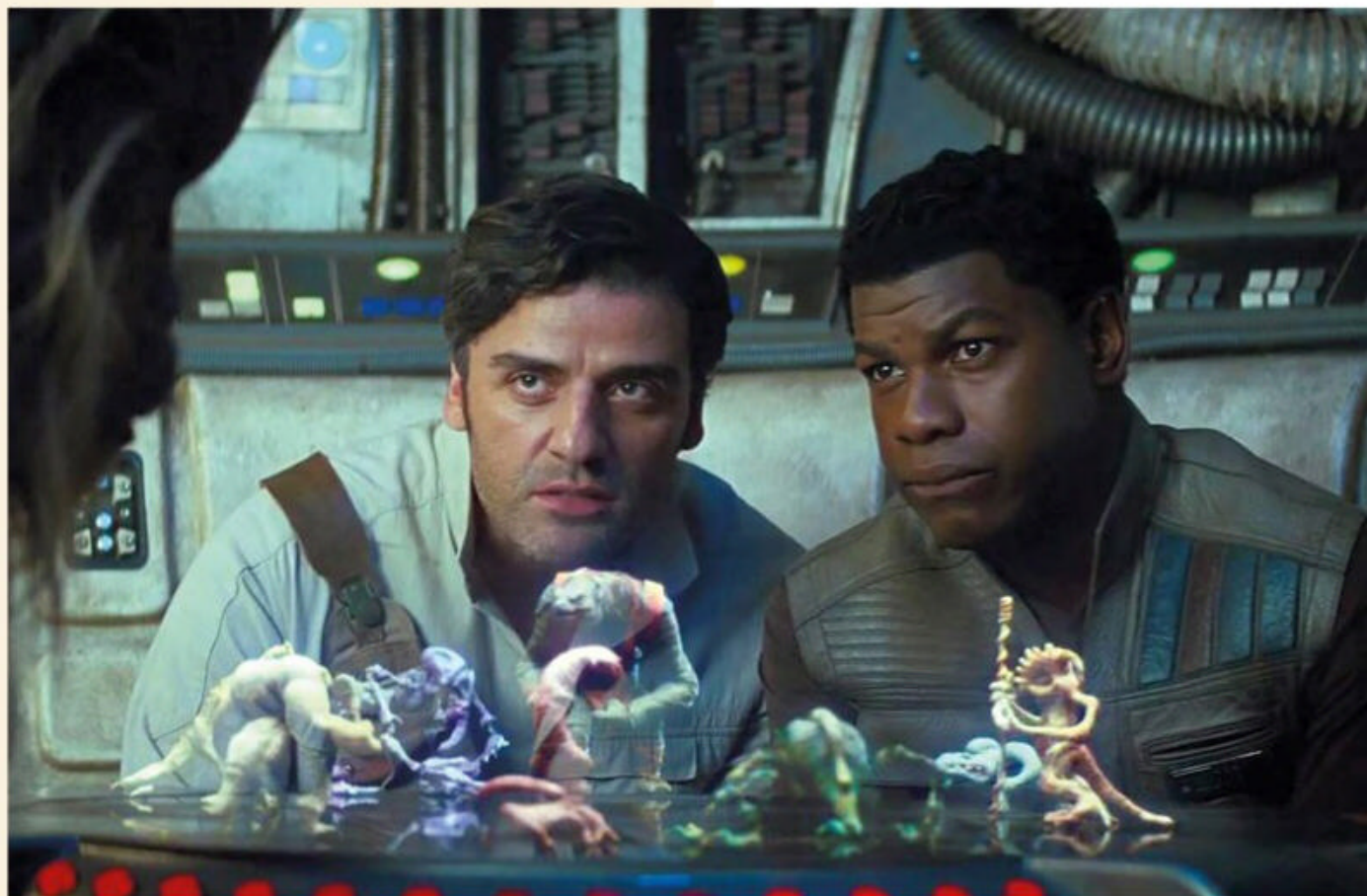


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## Don't Click Add to Cart... Yet

While online shopping has made collecting easier in some ways, there's nothing quite as satisfying as finding items out there in the wild. The stories you accumulate in the process of chasing down those elusive pieces are one of the primary joys in collecting. Spending days, weeks, or even years tracking down a particular item and finding it in a random place, makes for a fun adventure and a great anecdote to share with others. This is an aspect of collecting almost completely absent when you find products through online retailers. More so, shopping in person brings the added benefit of being able to physically interact with items before deciding to buy; something that's especially important for those who wish to keep things in mint condition.

That's not to say you should avoid online altogether. The internet might be the only way to acquire exclusive items from events you can't attend, collectibles from other countries, or a way to fill specific gaps in your collection.



04





- 03 Picking up the latest releases will get your collection rolling quickly.
- 04 If you collect videogames, remember to let the Wookiee win!
- 05 Focusing on your favorite character can lend your collection a personal touch.

05

## The Cargo Hold is Full

It's always good to know what you do, and don't, have. Therefore you'll need some method of keeping tabs on your collectibles, and while there are several computer programs and apps that could do this, sometimes the simplest method is the best.

A basic spreadsheet is all you really need, and an old-fashioned ledger is just as effective as a digital solution. Simply jot down the name of your collectibles and you're good to go! You can even keep track of their location in storage by numbering your tubs and notating it on the spreadsheet. This also helps with budgeting by ensuring you don't waste money on items you already own. Conversely, knowing what you have makes it easier to find gaps

in your specific collection. On the same spreadsheet, you can make a "Want List," so you always know what to be on the lookout for.

There is one inevitable barrier to every collection, however. No collector enjoys putting away the cherished items they've spent time and money tracking down, but unless you've got a museum-sized area set aside, it's a reality you could find yourself facing. Limited space will almost always be an issue, so at some point you may need to consider storage options.

No matter where you choose to put your collection (a garage, shed, or climate-controlled facility), make sure you keep it safe. Plastic tubs are typically the best choice for packing everything up. They keep contents dry and are easy to fill, load, and transport without

crushing what's inside. While it can be a downer, storage isn't the same as saying goodbye. Define a semi-regular period of time to swap your current display with archived items. On top of keeping your collection looking continually fresh, it gives you plenty of room for new acquisitions.

No matter how or what you choose to collect, by far the most crucial aspect is having fun. If you find yourself growing frustrated, it's perfectly fine to take a break or completely switch focuses. Don't let your love of *Star Wars* turn into a chore, and if it starts to feel that way, try out something different to shake things up. Enjoying yourself and having fun with your passion is far more important than merely having the most stuff.





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# PUTTING ON A SHOW

With collectibles in hand it's time for the other fun part: displaying your treasure trove.

## Practical vs. Decoration:

You'll first need to decide if your collectibles will serve a practical purpose or if they'll be purely for decoration. This will also help determine if you want to keep things in the original packaging or not. After all, it'd be hard to utilize all those kitchen appliances without opening them up!

## Integration:

Believe it or not, it's possible to integrate your collectibles into your current decor, making more of a subtle statement while still showing off your passion. Having a handful of Funko Pops around your entertainment center won't look out of place. Conversely, you can go all out with a dedicated space and bespoke display cases.

## Play or Display:

Whether you set up your toy collection in dioramas to recreate your favorite scenes, or keep them fresh in their boxes, try not to overcrowd your displays. It's all too easy to turn shelves into a cluttered mess.



07

## Collect at Your Own Pace

When you first start out collecting it can be easy to feel the need to catch up with the impressive displays that other fans post online, but this is a fast track to frustration.

Be proud of your acquisitions, and even share them with your collecting groups on social media. Every collector started somewhere! And, who knows—perhaps a couple of collectibles you own are another person's "Holy Grail."

If you get to a point where you feel satisfied with your collection, it's okay to step back and be content. It's not a competition, and your passion isn't dictated by the size of your collection. Move at your own pace and have fun!

06 "Mint in Box" or unpacked and played with? You can do both!

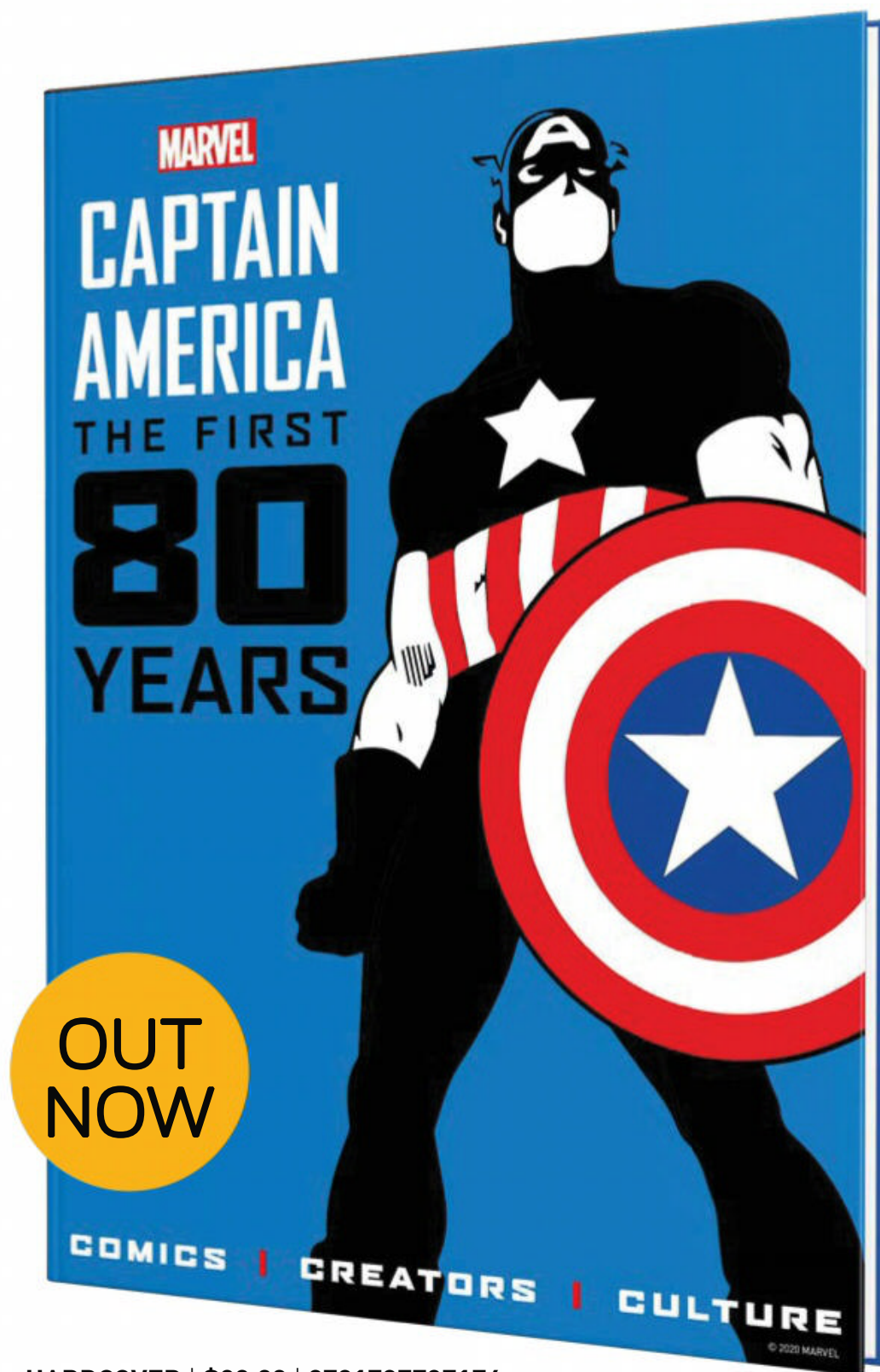
07 However you choose to display your collection from a galaxy far, far, away, keeping it clean will enhance the pleasure it gives you.

## Keeping Up Appearances:

Cleaning is important. Dust accumulation and oils from handling collectibles can add undue wear and tear. Occasional light cleaning helps keep your displays looking great and limits future problems. Avoid displaying items in direct sunlight, as the UV exposure will rapidly age your beloved possessions. ☺



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HOW FANDOM WENT DIGITAL DURING A GLOBAL CRISIS

# VIRTUAL

The sweeping COVID-19 pandemic led to plans for conventions and social gatherings across the globe to be abandoned, but the determined *Star Wars* community wouldn't be denied so easily by a microscopic virus. Fans and official outlets alike quickly adapted, ensuring our fandom became even closer, albeit online.

One such fan was regular *Star Wars Insider* contributor Melissa T. Miller, who reveals her experiences and those of others in bringing fans together against all odds.

WORDS: MELISSA T. MILLER



# FANDOM



ast year I'd been set to enjoy my first *Star Wars* Celebration. I bought tickets, booked a hotel, and was excited for a week at the Anaheim Convention Center, meeting other fans, attending packed panels, and taking pictures with total strangers in their best cosplay. I had even pitched a theme for a fan panel and was nervously waiting to

hear if it would be accepted. Now, it all seems like a far-off and unrealistic dream.

In the grand scheme of things, our collective disappointment when Celebration was canceled was a small price to pay. Those of us who made it through 2020 with our health intact have much to be thankful for. It was also a year of existential dread, similar, perhaps, to that felt by our heroes fighting against the Empire. Any distraction was welcome, and

Lucasfilm delivered. The final season of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* (2008-2014, 2020) gave the satisfying conclusion fans had been waiting for. Season Two of *The Mandalorian* (2019-present) sent people out of their minds with its balance of fan-friendly call-backs and serial storytelling. The announcement of so much more to come had us all eager for the years ahead... but first we had to find ways to cope with the ongoing real-world situation. ▶



## ► A Virtual Reality

As it became clear that virtual content was the only option, the folks behind StarWars.com took a lead, adapting their productions to the “new normal” of working from home. Those involved with the online video series *The Star Wars Show*, *This Week! In Star Wars*, and *Our Star Wars Stories* took delivery of equipment to record and produce the shows safely from their personal living spaces. “It’s a testament to my team. I don’t think we missed a show,” says Mickey Capoferri, senior director of content and programming at Lucasfilm. “Those first few episodes were maybe not as highly produced as usual but we were able to quickly adapt and learn.”

A new series was even added to the roster. *The Star Wars Show Book Club* came about as a way of encouraging fans to connect with each other from the comfort and safety of their homes. While proud of his team’s hard work, Capoferri diligently worked to ensure they didn’t burn out. “We had to make sure we were taking time for ourselves, because when you’re stuck in front of Zoom all day, it’s hard to stay creative and remain

**“IT’S A TESTAMENT TO MY TEAM. I DON’T THINK WE MISSED A SHOW.”**

**MICKEY CAPOFERRI, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF CONTENT AND PROGRAMMING, LUCASFILM**

01



passionate and excited,” he says.

Professional *Star Wars* creatives had been looking forward to Celebration just as much as us (“We had very big plans,” confirms Capoferri), and in its absence enterprising fans stepped in to fill gaps in our suddenly empty calendars. ForceFest: Celebrating the Saga was organized by Sarah and Richard Woloski, hosts of the podcast, “Skywalking Through Neverland.” Event planners in Los Angeles by day, they had been thrilled that Celebration would be returning to Anaheim. “It was going to be a week-long fan fest with our friends, and it was taken away,” says Richard. “2020 said nope.”

When Celebration was officially

01 *Star Wars Celebration in 2019.*

02 *The Anaheim Convention Center, packed with fans.*

03 *Richard and Sarah Woloski hosting trivia at Celebration 2019,*

04 *Wildlife panel guests (left to right): Terryl Whitlatch, Traci Degerman, and Frank Santana, with host Melissa T. Miller.*

canceled on June 15, the Woloskis were ready. They had already been planning for two months, and sprang into action. “Doing something like this is in our wheelhouse, we had everything ready to go,” says Richard. “We’re not shy about asking our listeners, and we got a barrage of volunteers ready to go, boots on the ground.”

“I was a little afraid,” admits Sarah, “but I happened to see this Carrie Fisher quote, ‘Stay afraid but do it anyway. What’s important is the action.’” Throughout the hard work and frustrations of pulling the project together, Sarah returned to this mantra.

## Celebrating at Home

ForceFest live-streamed fifty panels to fans around the world, all of which remain available to view on YouTube—and my proposed Celebration panel, “Wildlife in a Galaxy Far, Far Away,” was one of them.

Akin to several articles I’ve written for *Star Wars Insider*, I spoke to real-life scientists during the panel to discuss the biology of the galaxy’s astonishing creatures. When I had originally envisioned it for Celebration, I’d hoped that concept artist Jake Lunt Davies (famous for designing BB-8 and the porgs, among others), and author

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## AT HOME WITH STARWARS.COM

Kristin Baver describes the transition from Lucasfilm studio to shooting weekly StarWars.com content from home.

"It was quite a pivot!" Baver reveals. "I was still getting comfortable in front of the camera and working with the rest of the crew to get the rhythm of production. They were so patient in helping me get set-up at home and teaching me what I needed to know about lighting and sound recording. We were really cognizant that *This Week! In Star Wars* could be a spot of levity and joy during such an uncertain time in the world

"*The Star Wars Book Club* felt like a really organic way to bring people together to celebrate *Star Wars* safely while we were all apart" she adds. "It was an elegant framing device to invite a nice mix of StarWars.com writers, fans, and celebrities to do the reading on their own and then meet up for a fun discussion. My favorite episode was probably when we had Joonas Suotamo, who plays Chewbacca, read a Chewbacca story with us. I didn't tell the other panelists he was coming!"



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and illustrator Terryl Whitlatch (who worked on the Special Edition of the original *Star Wars* trilogy and *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* (1999)) might join the live panel, but neither had been available to make the trip to Anaheim. However, with the panel now being virtual, both Whitlatch and Lunt Davies were able to participate, and provided amazing information and sketches of the

origins of various *Star Wars* critters.

The scientific experts that I'd recruited for the Celebration panel also agreed to join the virtual version. Herpetologist Frank Santana told us why Grogu probably eats *some* frogs but not others, Angela Zoumplis shared how her research in Antarctica can easily be applied to mynocks, and ecologist Traci Degerman provided insight into the one-ecosystem worlds of the *Star Wars* galaxy.

I also pitched a second panel, a tribute to Grant Imahara, who passed away on July 13, 2020. He worked at Skywalker Ranch and then Industrial Light & Magic during production of the prequel

films, upgrading R2-D2 and even appearing onscreen as C-3PO in *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones* (2002). I submitted the panel idea to celebrate this icon of geek culture and connect with other fans who, like me, were inspired by him. My ForceFest submission form stated simply, "I think this panel should exist. I don't even need to be on it. I welcome other panelists who could speak to what Grant's enthusiasm and kindness meant

**"WE DID IT BECAUSE THERE WAS A HOLE THERE TO BE FILLED FOR THE FANDOM."**

**RICHARD WOLOSKI, FORCEFEST**



► to them, and to *Star Wars*.”

The panel was approved, and I was charged with curating and executing it. I began to feel unworthy of hosting and stressed about who to include. Then the Golden Gate Garrison of the 501st Legion said they’d make a video, and a few creatives agreed to come on and tell their stories. Don Bies, a long-time ILM employee and friend of Grant’s, got word of the panel and agreed to be part of it. With only days to go before the event, Bies convinced Nelson Hall and Adam Savage to join him on the panel too. I played a slideshow of photos they provided and asked a few questions, but it was mostly 90 minutes of behind-the-scenes

stories. It was a heartfelt and moving panel, and more than 48,000 people have viewed it so far. I’ve been humbled by the positive reactions for an event that might never have happened if not for the adaptability of fans and the generosity of the community.

ForceFest was a miraculous event. Everyone donated their time and the event served as a fundraiser, with thousands of dollars donated to Make-A-Wish Los Angeles. “We didn’t do it for the praise, or any kind of financial gain,” says Richard Woloski. “We did it because

05 (Left to right) Adam Savage, Nelson Hall, and Don Bies joined the Grant Imahara tribute.

06 Celebration will return in 2022.

07 The Resilience Squadron podcast promotes inclusivity in fandom, with co-hosts Jack Vasvary and Greg Norman (top right).

08 Victor Aragon with his family at Celebration in 2019.

there was a hole there to be filled for the fandom.”

Hosting and attending panels connected me with so many fans and creatives around the world. I also caught the hosting bug and created the podcast “*Star Warsologies*” with fellow *Insider* contributor James Floyd where we interview experts in every conceivable field where science and *Star Wars* intersect. It was just one of countless new fan podcasts to emerge during this difficult time, as we embraced new ways of expressing our love for the saga in all its forms.

### Down with the Kids

Like many of us, StarWars.com employees faced other challenges, including balancing childcare with work commitments. Even my talk with Mickey Capoferri for this article was interrupted by his youngling, with whom he negotiated for a full five minutes. “Do you want to know the reality of working from home? This is it,” he exclaimed.

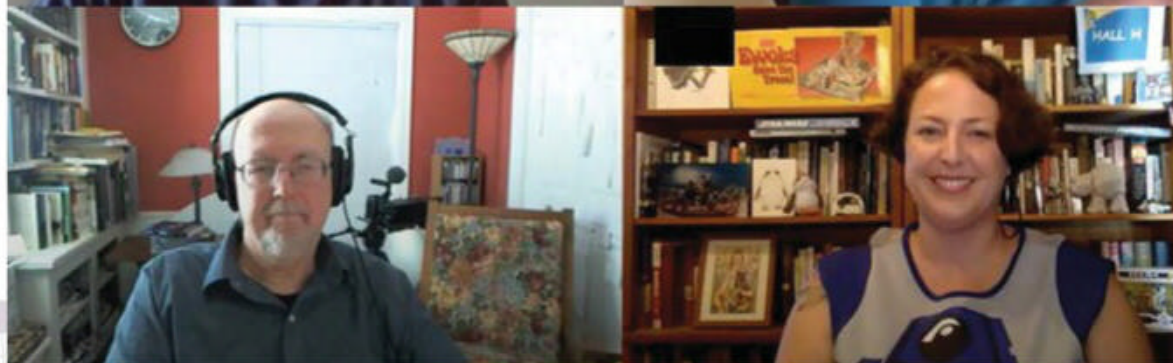
Victor Aragon of the website Fandads.com and host of the ForceFest panel, “Celebrating the Diversity in *Star Wars*,” spent the extra time at home with his family connecting over their shared love of *Star Wars*. “My son decided he wanted to watch all nine movies,” he says. “Due to the pandemic, we were actually able to watch them within a few days of each other. My daughter had never seen *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, so we started watching it from the start.”

**“WITHOUT PERFORMING, WITHOUT GETTING TO SEE MY *STAR WARS* FRIENDS, I FELT LIKE A HUGE PART OF MY LIFE WAS MISSING.”**

**AMANDA BOND**



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Amanda Bond volunteered on the ForceFest panel, “The Folds Awaken! A *Star Wars* Origami Workshop,” helping author Chris Alexander and moderating the chat, along with Connie Shih. As a member of the lightsaber choreography group Saber Guild and the Rebel Legion group Coruscant Base in Las Vegas, Bond usually attends charity events and visits children’s hospitals multiple times a month. “When COVID-19 began shutting down events I was heartbroken,” she says. “Without performing, without getting to see my *Star Wars* friends, I felt like a huge part of my life was missing.” When virtual events were instituted, “It did my heart so much good to be able to play again in the *Star Wars* universe,” says Bond. “I honestly think I needed it more than the kids!”

### *Star Wars* For All

While many of us can’t wait for things to go back to how they were, the upside of our enforced separation could serve as an opportunity to improve the *Star Wars* experience for all fans.

Virtual events have removed barriers for countless people who cannot attend in-person events. “The current global situation that has led to virtual events has been a great inclusion for people with disabilities and chronic illness,” says Jack Vasvary, host of the new podcast “Resilience Squadron,” on the Woloskis’ Skywalking Network. “These virtual events were obviously created for everyone because of the pandemic, but there have been many benefits for the disabled community,” he says.

The podcast discusses disabilities, chronic illness, inclusion, and intersectionality within the *Star Wars* fandom. It came about after the popularity of the ForceFest panel “Navigating Fandom with Different Abilities,” hosted by Richard Woloski. Vasvary and Resilience Squadron co-host Greg Norman both participated. “One of our goals is to educate people, as well as learn,” says

## ONLINE HITS

Screens became our window on the world during lockdown, with *Star Wars* shows delighting fans young and old through Lucasfilm’s digital channels.

*Star Wars: Jedi Temple Challenge* (2020), a gameshow broadcast on the StarWarsKids YouTube channel hosted by Ahmed Best, was a welcome arrival in the summer. The fun series both engaged kids in the fandom while offering them inspiration to get off the couch and emulate the show’s energetic challenges. Filmed before the pandemic, post-production on the show (including editing, graphics, and voiceovers) was all undertaken and completed in homeworking environments.

Over on the official *Star Wars* YouTube channel, *Our Star Wars Stories* adapted to circumstances by adopting a videocall format, continuing to tell intimate stories of the worldwide *Star Wars* fanbase, and Kristin Baver pulled double duty, hosting *The Star Wars Book Club* and the weekly *This Week! In Star Wars*, which provided much-needed distraction from the real world with news and quirky humor from a galaxy far, far away.

Vasvary. “We want to address those issues with the intention of helping events be even better.”

We can’t simply hope that future events will take lessons learned from the pandemic into account, we should all insist upon it. A shared love of *Star Wars* helps so many people feel connected, even in these times apart, and I am confident it will continue to do so. Fandom is stronger when we all get to participate. 🌌



YΔΔ7 ΓΕΜΝΑΙΔΑΝ ΚΑΝΟΜ7Μ7

# A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW

Our resident *Star Wars* expert, Jay Stobie, consults his library of holocrons and ancient Jedi texts to answer your questions about the events, people, and places of the galaxy far, far away...

***“We saw plans for a Death Star in *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones* (2002), and by *The Rise of Skywalker* (2019) the same technology could fit inside a Star Destroyer. How did Death Star tech move so far forward?”***

**Teresa Earl, U.S.A.**

The Death Star, formally referred to as the DS-1 Orbital Battle Station, began its journey to completion at the onset of the Clone Wars, when Poggle the Lesser’s Geonosian hive mapped out plans to create a planet-killing superweapon. Over the course of more than two decades, these technical schematics were analyzed and revised by some of the greatest minds that the Confederacy of Independent Systems, Galactic Republic, and Galactic Empire had to offer.

Even with the significant resources they had at their disposal, Director Orson Krennic’s team proved unable to properly transform the energy that resulted from hypermatter reactions into the devastating superlaser that was required. This setback sent Krennic scouring the galaxy in search of Galen Erso, whose kyber-crystal formula turned out to be the key that could unlock the Death Star’s true potential.

The Empire’s ability to keep the project secret from the galaxy at large added to the Death Star’s deadly mystique. Concealing the program’s progress by wiping out the population of Geonosis, maintaining a hidden laboratory on Eadu, and attributing Jedha City’s annihilation to a mining accident rather than the superweapon’s first successful field test all combined to make it seem as if the Death Star had materialized from nowhere when it arrived at Alderaan.

The destruction of Princess Leia’s homeworld was the culmination of decades of research, and the lessons learned over those years enabled the Empire to build a second Death Star, apparently in less time that it took to construct the first. Under the guidance of Moff Jerjerrod, the larger and more powerful Death Star II took shape near Endor, protected by the shields of an Imperial base on one of its moons. Although its superlaser could target starships and recharge more quickly than its predecessor, the second Death Star suffered the same fate as its predecessor and cost the Emperor his life.

When the First Order rose to prominence, the authoritarian regime had the benefit of another thirty years of advancement to rely

## Architects Of Death

### Poggle the Lesser

The Geonosian leader during the Clone Wars, Poggle the Lesser and his hive developed the first plans for a planet-killing battle station. With the Republic’s clone army advancing on their stronghold, Poggle gave the Death Star schematics to Count Dooku, who brought them to Chancellor Palpatine.



### Orson Krennic

As director of Advanced Weapons Research, Orson Krennic saw the delivery of a functional superweapon as the key to securing both the Empire’s dominance and his own place in the halls of power. Krennic was determined to overcome any obstacle in order to succeed.

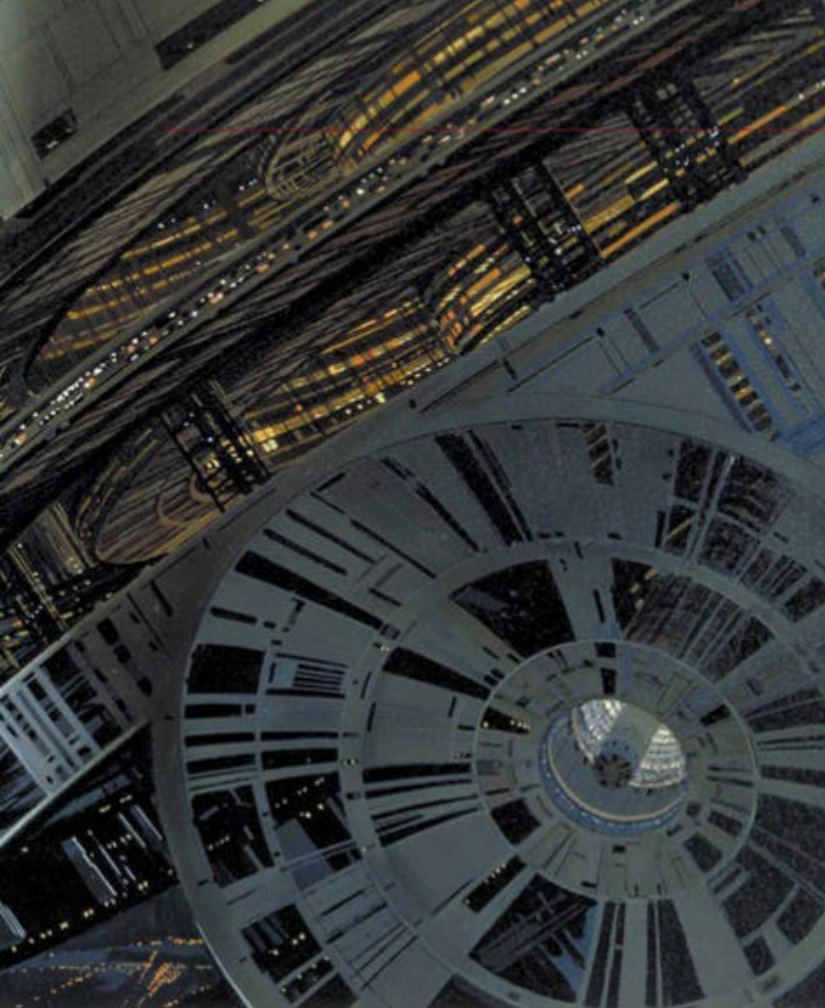


### Galen Erso

A scientist whose kyber-crystal research was co-opted by Director Krennic, Galen Erso took his family into hiding when he uncovered Krennic’s desire to weaponize his work. Eventually captured by the Empire, Erso covertly built a fatal flaw into the Death Star that could be exploited to destroy it.







upon when it built its own technological terrors. With the Resistance concealed within the armored rebel base on Crait, the First Order deployed its superlaser siege cannon, fueled by a composite kyber crystal, to crack through the front door. Also referred to as a battering-ram cannon, the 200-meter-long weapon was built from miniaturized Death Star tech. While not a planet-killer, the cannon packed a most impressive amount of power into its relatively small frame.

Around a year later, the resurrected Emperor emerged at Exegol with his fleet of *Xyston*-class Star Destroyers, all of which carried a reactor-fed axial superlaser. The pinnacle of the Death Star's evolution, every Sith Star Destroyer could use its weapon to destroy a planet. The First Order's *Mandator IV*-class Siege Dreadnought, armed with orbital bombardment cannons, acted as a test project that influenced the *Xyston* design.

During the almost six decades between the Battles of Geonosis and Exegol, the technology advanced significantly, with each leap forward enabling the Death Star's power to be harnessed through smaller, more efficient means. Yet the design lineage shared another commonality: design weaknesses that could be exploited.

## Countdown To Destruction

### 3 BSW4

- The *Ghost* arrived at Geonosis and found several Imperial construction modules around the lifeless planet, confirming a rebel intelligence report that the Imperials had been building something there.

### 2 BSW4

- Saw Gerrera learned that the Empire had committed genocide against the Geonosian population using poison canisters, in order to conceal a secret project.

### 1 BSW4

- Gerrera discovered a large kyber crystal aboard an Imperial freighter. He believed this was connected to the Empire's eradication of the Geonosians.

### 0 BSW4

- Cassian Andor learned that an Imperial defector on Jedha had intel about a planet-killing weapon designed by the Empire.
- Saw Gerrera showed Jyn Erso a recording of her father explaining the Death Star's power, as well its fatal flaw.
- The *Rogue One* team infiltrated the Imperial citadel at Scarif, stole the Death Star plans, and transmitted them to the rebel fleet. Princess Leia Organa entrusted the data to R2-D2.
- R2-D2 was eventually brought to rebel headquarters, where the files were analyzed and a flaw was identified, resulting in a plan to exploit the weakness and destroy the first Death Star.

## Starkiller Base Strikes Out

As with the First Order itself, Starkiller Base traced its origins to former Imperials who fled into the Unknown Regions after the Galactic Civil War.

Although Starkiller Base relied upon old Imperial research and the energy amplification properties of kyber crystals, the project stood apart from the Death Star program in several notable ways. Rather than construct a station from scratch, Starkiller Base's engineers saw destructive potential in the planet Ilum's unique kyber crystalline core. While Death Star tech was self-contained and mobile, Starkiller harnessed massive amounts of energy from a nearby star and directed that energy through hyperspace, permitting the facility to target entire systems many light years away.



### Wilhuff Tarkin

The namesake of the Tarkin Initiative, Grand Moff Tarkin perceived the Death Star's mere presence to be a deterrent against any remaining dissent to the Empire's rule. Once Krennic had proven the battle station's destructive capabilities, Tarkin stood ready to inherit the glory.



### Sheev Palpatine

Rising from senator to Emperor, Sheev Palpatine concealed the fact that he was actually the manipulative Sith Lord Darth Sidious. Palpatine ordered his apprentice, Count Dooku, to have the Geonosians begin work on his ultimate weapon, a project which Palpatine handed over to Krennic and Tarkin once the Galactic Empire was established.



## CONTACT US

Send your in-galaxy queries to [starwarsinsider@titanemail.com](mailto:starwarsinsider@titanemail.com) with the subject header, "A Certain Point of View."



# STAR WARS INSIDER

# WORLDWIDE

CELEBRATING THE SAGA



## MAKING MANDOS AND A MAGISTRATE

Imagining new takes on classic characters

**W**hen Wendell Smith, Sr. began cosplaying a little over a decade ago, he called upon his passion for *Star Wars* to guide him on his path. “Other than Marvel comics, *Star Wars* has been my biggest fandom since the movies hit the scene in the 1970s,”

says Smith. “I was one of those kids who took it all in and it became a part of my being.”

While he has cosplayed as everyone from Sith Lords to Jedi Master Mace Windu, Smith enjoys imagining his own unique takes for many of his ensembles. When the

film *Thor* (2011) was released, the creative fan combined his interest in *Star Wars* and the Marvel Cinematic Universe to build a one-of-a-kind Mandalorian suit of armor based on the god of thunder’s movie look. Smith extended his taste for cosplay mash-ups by devising a costume for a Mandalorian assassin that ironically combined Jango Fett’s armor with a color scheme centered upon Mace Windu’s legendary purple lightsaber.

Smith has also dabbled with more movie-accurate cosplay, such as his Saw Gerrera costume that he wore to *Star Wars Celebration* in 2017 and 2019. More recently, he



## INSIDER NEEDS YOU!

We want to hear from you! Tell us about your *Star Wars* experience. What made you want to become a fan? What have you done in the name of *Star Wars*? Tell us your *Star Wars* story by sending your photos, art, and letters here:

[starwarsinsider@titanemail.com](mailto:starwarsinsider@titanemail.com)

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took on the outfit of the magistrate of Nevarro, Greef Karga. Smith's intricate recreation expertly matches the Magistrate's guest spot in the second season episode "The Siege."

"I'm a fan of Carl Weathers, and Greef has a good combo of cool and grit," elaborates the cosplayer. "So, for me he was a must build. I may go back and do the Season One look for him, as well."

Smith's eye for detail and his imaginative mind reflect invaluable characteristics for a cosplayer, ensuring that this fan's future will surely be filled with many more costume creations.

# ARTISTS' ALLEY

Talented *Star Wars* fans share their amazing drawings inspired by the galaxy far, far away....

## 01 "MOFF GIDEON" AND "JAWAS AND A GONK DROID" BY JOSE SANCHEZ

*The Mandalorian* (2019-present) has captivated the *Star Wars* community since the show was announced, and fan artist Jose Sanchez decided to use his talents to showcase his love for the popular series. Sanchez recreated Moff Gideon's epic TIE fighter flight from the Season One finale, portraying the Imperial Remnant officer operating the cockpit's controls. Sanchez also turned his eye toward the Jawas who were first spotted on Tatooine, depicting the scavengers alongside a Gonk droid.



## 02 "HOPE I HAVE A GOOD FIRST DAY AT MY NEW POSITION!" BY XUNDOR WREX

When Bo-Katan Kryze actor Katee Sackhoff shared photos of her dad visiting *The Mandalorian* set, fan artist Xundor Wrex connected with the way Sackhoff's father had introduced her to science fiction. "In one of the pics, her dad is sitting at the controls of the Imperial ship," recalls Wrex. "I thought he would make a perfect bright-eyed officer that just transferred to Gideon's ship at the worst possible time."



## BOUNTY HUNTERS

Scouring the galaxy for the stars of *Star Wars*...

CRAFTSMANSHIP  
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Meet the stars, show the evidence, win the bounty! Bounty Hunters is sponsored by Kotobukiya. Each issue's winner will receive a fantastic Kotobukiya *Star Wars* statue kit! To see more, visit [www.facebook.com/kotobukiya](http://www.facebook.com/kotobukiya)



## RICHARD BRAKE

Valin Hess:  
Friendlier in the flesh!

Jason Broadhurst has always admired Richard Brake's ability to channel the dark side in his acting roles in *Game of Thrones* (2011-2019), *Kingsman: The Secret Service* (2014), and *Batman Begins* (2005). Imagine the fan's joy when Brake took on another devious character, this time as the ruthless Imperial officer Valin Hess in *The Mandalorian* (2019-present).

"I couldn't wait to meet someone who plays these villainous parts so well," reveals Broadhurst, who discovered the actor has a very welcoming demeanor in real-life. "He couldn't be further from the characters he plays, happily signing any items I had and taking pictures with me," says the fan.

"When he appeared out of the blue in *The Mandalorian*, I was so excited to see him deliver yet another villainous performance, in what was one of the most tense moments in the season," Broadhurst adds.

01



01 Jason poses with Richard Brake, known for portraying Valin Hess in *The Mandalorian*.

WORLDWIDE



## A "CHEWED" HOPE

Restoring a family's joy with flavor-filled food

In an age as uncertain as the time after the Republic's fall, Corinne sought out a way to bring some levity to her quarantine home. As a fan of the galaxy far, far away, Corinne called upon the power of *Star Wars* and combined it with her own culinary skills. "I was desperate to find ways to inject whimsy and joy back into my daughter's daily life," remembers Corinne. "I had seen a trick online that used an angel cookie cutter to shape a Grogu cookie, so using the same concept I made a Yoda quesadilla for her snack one day."

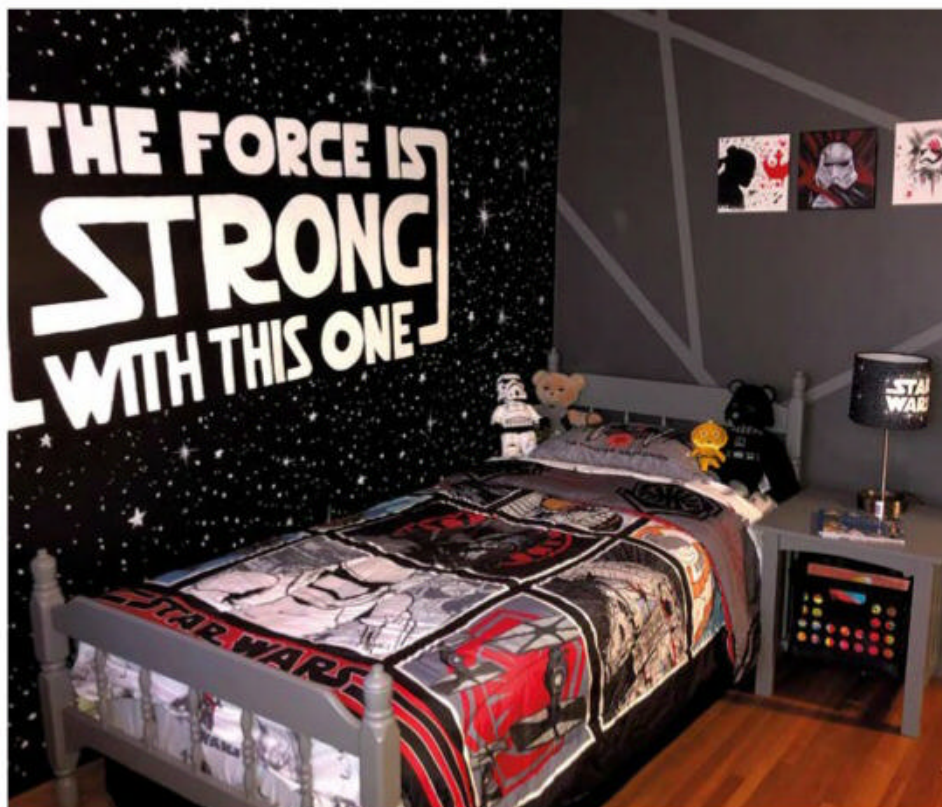
The result? A celebration in food form that rivaled the victories at the Battles of Endor and Exegol. "For a girl who went as 'Darth Elsa' for Halloween, this was an absolute smash hit," says Corinne. "Since then, culinary art has become a daily activity that my family looks

forward to: one day a 'That's no moon-pie' for dessert, another day 'Pad Thai-fighters' for dinner, and of course Nutella toast that is a little 'Chewie.' The delicious food, quirky dish titles, and *Star Wars*-inspired designs have proved to be a perfect mixture to uplift the entire family.

Corinne's clever concoctions display an innovative spirit, as she has utilized food to recreate Darth Vader's confession to Luke Skywalker on Cloud City, Han Solo and Chewbacca alongside the *Millennium Falcon*, BB-8, and a face-off between Rey and Kylo Ren. From Corinne's point of view, this new ritual has restored some sense of normalcy to their routine. "In this unpredictable and hard to understand world my young children live in, *Star Wars* has continued to be a source of absolute fun and happiness for us all to enjoy together," she concludes.







# AWAKENING TO THE FORCE, EVERY DAY!

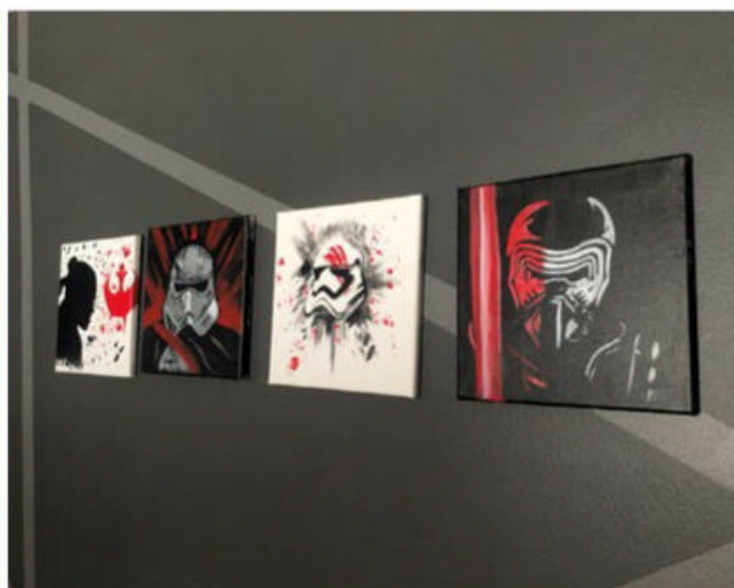
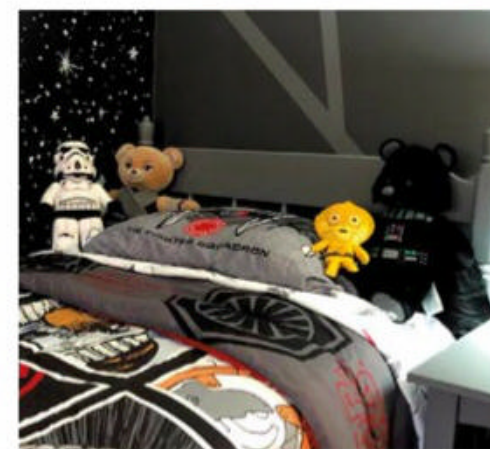
## Crafting the perfect *Star Wars* bedroom

**A** *Star Wars* fan since she saw the Special Edition of *A New Hope* (1997) during her own childhood, Rachael Poole wanted to craft a special surprise for her daughter Harper's birthday. Working over the course of a single weekend, Poole opted to completely revamp Harper's bedroom.

"We were watching *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015) at least two times a day," says the creative fan. And, just as the First Order did with the construction of Starkiller

Base, Harper's mom decided to "go big" for her daughter's birthday present, and redecorate her room *Star Wars*-style. "She loves Kylo Ren, so I went for a dark-side theme to her room. I hand-painted her bed frame, built-in dresser, and end table. I replaced the hardware to give it a more industrial look," outlines Poole. "The mural was done completely freehand. I also painted the canvases on the wall, the Kylo 'H' on the door, and the *Star Wars* lampshade."

"Harper still loves her room and calls it her *Star Wars* room nearly every day," Poole beams, "We hope to keep it like this for a long time!" To make her daughter's birthday even more memorable, Poole made Harper a Kylo Ren-inspired dress along with a *Star Wars*-themed chalkboard. The Force is definitely strong with this family. 🌌





# TK-101

HINTS, TIPS, AND IDEAS FOR CRAFTING  
YOUR OWN *STAR WARS* GALAXY



## HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

This issue, TK-101 sets out to recreate the Lars homestead in miniature, using card, plaster, random greeblies, and an old air vent cover to build a diorama fit for your favorite aunt and uncle.

WORDS: CHRISTOPHER COOPER

**M**any moons ago, TK-101 realized a childhood dream—to visit Luke Skywalker’s house on Tatooine. We’ll happily admit to being more than a little obsessed with the desolate planet, but in all fairness, Tatooine has cropped up more than almost any other world in the *Star Wars* movies. Most recently, it appeared in several episodes of *The Mandalorian* (2019-present), thus proving that it’s more than just a ball of sand, light years away from the main action (despite what two generations of Skywalker might have thought). To fans, it is the bright center of the *Star Wars* galaxy and, as we discovered in the last issue of *Star Wars Insider*, it’s easy to imagine being there when you visit the planet’s Earth-bound filming locations.

The memory of sipping an ice cool cola in the famous courtyard of the Hotel Sidi Driss in Tunisia stayed with TK-101 for many years, and we felt a strong desire to recreate that little piece of Tatooine at home. Digging a suitably sized Berber dwelling in our back yard was out of the question, so we opted to make a scale model instead. Specifically, at 3.75-inch action figure scale—after all, what use is a homestead if there’s no one around to use it?

### TIME TO VENT

TK-101 didn’t take any detailed measurements of the real location, so the dimensions of our “scale” model were eyeballed from photographs and based largely around the size of an old plastic air vent cover that had the look of the intake vanes that dominate one wall of the real Lars

homestead set. The trapezoid shape of each vent opening was achieved with strips of card, cut to shape, and the “Electrostatic repeller” in the center of the wall was made from an old bit of electronics and some other plastic greeblies. True, it isn’t entirely screen-accurate, but our aim was to recreate the right vibe so that action-figure Luke would feel right at home. With this element in place, all we needed was a hole to put it in.

### SCALING THE WALLS

Even at action-figure scale, we quickly realized our homestead was going to take up a lot of room if we built the whole thing. Instead, we chose to recreate about a third of the real space, focusing on the shot from *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977) where we got our first look at the interior. That also meant it might stand a chance of fitting on our bookshelf, too.

Using sheets of foam-core card to construct the basic shape, we built up the depth of the lower section with pieces of polystyrene to incorporate the vent panel, doorways, recesses, and steps, using movie stills and holiday snaps for reference. The desert-carved upper walls were filled out with scrunched up newspaper and then covered with plaster cloth, a product used by modelmakers

## SCRAPORATORS

### Scratch-building a moisture vaporator

Ubiquitous in the *Star Wars* galaxy, adding a vaporator to any diorama instantly places it in the galaxy far, far away—and they are easy to build in miniature, as few vaporator props were exactly the same. Bottle caps are ideal for the lower, chunkier components, and you can use anything from cotton buds to wall plugs to add aerials, fins, and other detailing. Experiment with parts you’ve collected until you have something that looks right, glue them together, and paint!







that is applied after being dipped in water and sets hard, creating a solid rock effect that was perfect for our walls. Once the plaster was dry, household emulsion and acrylic paints were brushed on to give the

homestead its distinctive orange and white color scheme, with weathering adding *Star Wars* “curb appeal.” Some greenery (cut from a plastic house plant) lent a dash of color, and with the addition of

a moisture vaporator and a handful of droids, our troglodyte Tatooine dwelling was ready to be called home. All TK-101 needed now was to crack open a can of cola and let the memories flood back. 🍹





# The *Star Wars* Archive

The behind-the-scenes  
story of a galaxy far,  
far away....

## HORSING AROUND

Described as a “Charge of the Light Brigade” moment by *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* (2019) creature and droid effects creative supervisor Neal Scanlan, the Resistance assault on the hull of a First Order Star Destroyer was a standout sequence in the movie that required a unique studio space to realize its ambitious scale.

The enormous set was built inside Shed 2 at Cardington Studios, a vast former Royal Air Force airship hangar in Bedfordshire, England. This was not the saga’s first use of these historic hangars. The exterior shots of the Yavin 4 rebel base in *Star Wars: A New Hope* (1977) had been filmed outside Shed 1, the hangar adjacent to the current studio facility where *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016) shot its own Yavin scenes years later.





01 Riders and horses rehearsing a shot while the Star Destroyer set undergoes construction (Photo by John Wilson).

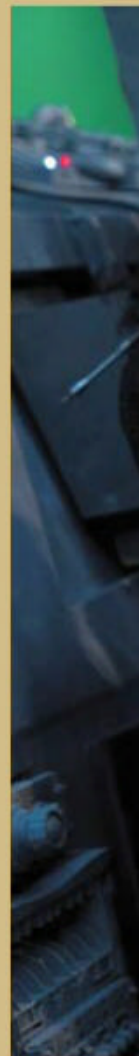
The set was built on several levels, running almost the entire length of the hangar, including a surface angled at six-degrees to suggest the iconic slope of the vessel's hull. A horizontal flat run was incorporated to ensure the safety of the horses playing the orbaks as they raced across the deck.



02



03



- 02 Concept art by Ryan Church depicting a Resistance dropship deploying its payload of soldiers on orbaks.
- 03 Actors Dominic Monaghan (Beaumont), Billie Lourd (Lt. Connix), and Kelly Marie Tran (Rose Tico) on the Star Destroyer set during a break in filming.
- 04 Director J.J.Abrams rehearses a shot with Naomi Ackie (Jannah) and John Boyega (Finn).
- 05 Orbak concept art by Jake Lunt Davies.





05

## Orbak Facts

The juxtaposition of “real” creatures against awe-inspiring technology is a familiar hallmark of the *Star Wars* aesthetic, of which the orbaks seen in *The Rise of Skywalker* are a prime example.

Designed in part as an homage to the banthas of *A New Hope*, the orbaks were a combination of a practical costume worn by a horse and a digitally created head. This allowed concept designer Jake Lunt Davies to be more creative as there were less compromises to be made in order to allow for the comfort of the animal performers. 🐾



04







**STAR WARS**  
THE HIGH REPUBLIC

S T A R L I G H T  
**Hidden Danger**  
P A R T T W O

By Justina Ireland







**Previously:**

Violence had been the last thing anyone expected from the learned scientists who'd gathered on Starlight Beacon for the Galactic Agricultural Alliance's annual conference, yet Velko Jahen and Ghal Tarpfen had already intervened to stop one brutal fight, only to be faced with an even bigger outbreak....



**elko Jahen, administrator of Starlight Beacon, ran down the concourse after Ghal Tarpfen, Starlight's head of**

**security, the Mon Calamari setting a brutal pace.**

"All units, I repeat, all units, please respond to the dining hall. There is a riot in progress." The voice in Velko's comm piece, Jedi Master Estala Maru, remained

"Still feeling it's maybe 'rude' to shoot our guests?" Ghal asked drily. Not moments before they'd had to stop a brawl on the main concourse, and Velko had been horrified by Ghal shooting the combatants. Not with a full-powered blaster bolt but a stun bolt designed for just such things. It had been, in hindsight, a quick way to pry order from chaos.

"No, I think perhaps it's our best option. Unless you have other ideas?"

"Perhaps we can be of some assistance?" said a gentle voice.

Velko turned to find half a dozen Jedi standing behind her. There were few she recognized, but no surprise there. The Jedi were always coming and going, and trying to keep track of all of them on Starlight at any given time was like trying to count stars while in hyperspace.

"Administrator Velko," said the closest one, stepping forward. She recognized the dark-skinned human: Gil Jaretto, a Jedi Master visiting from Dubraib, a watery planet on the frontier.

"Deploying crowd suppression," the droid replied. A spigot extended from its chest, foam spewing out in an arc as it trundled into the dining facility. "Thirty seconds until full suppression."

"Cut off air filtration to the dining hall," Ghal ordered into her communications earpiece. To the group crowding the doorway she said, "We need to take a step back."

Velko caught a glimpse of the foam expanding to fill the place, a floral scent tickling her nose before the doors slid closed. She smiled tightly at the Jedi, who nodded in acknowledgement, an awkward silence hanging over the group until the right time had elapsed.

The doors slid back open, revealing nearly a hundred agricultural scientists of different species completely covered in foam and sleeping soundly.

"Master Gil, thank you so much for your help. Would you and the rest of the Jedi mind patrolling the hallways to make sure there are no other violent outbreaks? Ghal and I can oversee this

## **"DEPLOYING CROWD SUPPRESSION," THE DROID REPLIED. A SPIGOT DEPLOYED FROM ITS CHEST, FOAM SPEWING OUT IN AN ARC.**

calm and unbothered. That was okay, as Velko was upset enough for the both of them.

Velko burst into the dining facility a few seconds after Ghal, only to slide to a stop. When Master Maru had said "riot," Velko hadn't really understood what he'd meant by that. She'd expected to find people smashing displays and ransacking things. But the scene before her was less of a riot and more a brawl: a Devaronian woman punched a Czerilalan man before being tackled from behind by a human. A Mirialan in a hoverchair yelled in rage before speeding toward a hapless Ugnaught who managed to dive out of the way moments before being hit, the hoverchair smashing into the wall instead.

Everywhere in the room people were fighting. And not just any people—these were the scientists who had gathered on Starlight Beacon for the Galactic Agricultural Alliance conference.

"Perhaps it would be best to let us handle this matter?"

"As long as you can restrain the scientists without anyone getting injured," Velko said. Gil bowed his head in respect and the knot of Jedi stepped forward, hands raised toward the group in the dining facility. For a moment the melee beyond continued before everyone froze, expressions slack.

"Oh, thank the stars—" Velko began, before the fighting broke out once again, the Jedi frowning with effort as they tried to calm the combatants beyond.

Ghal made a noise of derision and shrugged. "I think that ship has left the docking bay," she said, gesturing to the full-scale brawl just beyond the threshold. "But no, Jedi, this is something we can handle. Ateseven!"

A security droid, one that had appeared as the Jedi were responding, lumbered forward.

"Deploy non-lethal crowd suppression," Ghal ordered.

with the med team," Velko murmured, ignoring the look of triumph the Mon Cal sent her.

"Absolutely, Administrator Jahen." The Jedi walked away, and Velko sighed.

"We need to get every one of these people examined. This isn't how civilized scientists behave. Something caused this. Something deliberate."

"You don't think an entire contingent of scientists devolved into a slugfest over the proper way to irrigate a crop of khema?" Ghal muttered sarcastically.

"No," Velko replied. "And we need to find out what it was before someone gets themselves killed."

\*\*\*

"I have taken samples from about half of the combatants," stated Doctor Gino'le, the Anacondan in charge of the medcenter, his prosthetic metal arms waving around in agitation. "Every reading is completely normal."



"Nothing unusual?" Ghal asked.  
"That seems odd."

Having suspected some kind of toxin, airborne or imbibed through food or liquid, Ghal had dispatched med teams to run sensor sweeps on the shuttles the scientists had arrived on, the quarters they'd been given, everywhere that members of the Agricultural Alliance had congregated, but nothing had been found, save for the soporific compounds left over from the foam the security droid had dispersed.

"I can only surmise that whatever they were exposed to, if indeed they were, has a very short half-life, breaking down quickly in the circulatory system. Even some of my patients with slower metabolisms have returned normal readings. So, I'm afraid I do not have a good explanation for you."

"Frustrating," Ghal growled.

Doctor Gino'le gave Ghal a smile. "The good news is that the two you stunned are now awake. You can question them, if you would like."

"I'm Administrator Velko Jahen. I work here on Starlight, and I am in charge of overseeing the agricultural conference. Maybe we can figure out what happened to you?"

"That would be ideal, Administrator. I am Doctor Prot Xan, a biologist from Hyko Academy on Hosnian Prime. This is highly unusual."

"I agree," Velko said, giving the Amani a smile in the hope it would diffuse the tension already creeping into their conversation. "Can you tell me what you remember?"

"Yomo and I had secured our lodgings and were on the way to dinner when we decided to take a tour through the gardens, off the main concourse. We were walking, and then Yomo said something... I'm not sure what, to be honest. I just felt annoyed, and then angry, and the next thing I remember I woke up here."

"Which gardens were you in? Was it the exhibition gardens or the meditation garden? Do you remember seeing any

Ithorian, but he is my oldest friend. We went to university together. He was the one who convinced me to turn my molecular biology focus to agricultural. Oh dear, oh dear. This is simply out of character for Yomo! He's a brilliant scientist, but a fighter he is not."

Velko asked the doctor a few more questions, but learned nothing conclusive, his distress overshadowing his answers. Trying not to let her frustration show, she thanked the Amani and made her way to the medcenter lobby, where she found Ghal waiting.

"Well, that was a waste of time," Ghal said with a burbling sound that Velko took as the Mon Calamari equivalent of a sigh.

"Maybe not. Did Doctor Yomo remember anything beyond the flowering vines and a visit to the gardens?"

Ghal shook her head. "No, which is useless. A plant? How could a plant cause all of this?"

## VELKO HAD LIVED MOST OF HER LIFE FIGHTING AN ENDLESS WAR, AND SHE KNEW HOW QUICKLY THE PEACE COULD BREAK.

The Ithorian and the Amani were resting in separate wards of the medcenter, kept apart just in case of further violence, restraining straps securing them to their beds. Velko and Ghal didn't have time to waste, so they split up—Velko talking to the Amani while Ghal spoke with the Ithorian. If the aggression spread across the entire station, there was no telling what might happen. Velko had lived most of her life fighting an endless war, and she knew how quickly the peace could break. She wouldn't let mayhem reign on Starlight.

"What happened to me? Why am I restrained?" the Amani croaked as Velko entered the room, the green-yellow skin of his body glistening with slime, his long arms and overly large hands both secured at his side. The tip of his tail twitched in irritation.

"You were in a fight," Velko said. "Don't you remember?"

"I remember naught," The Amani replied, confused.

Jedi?" Both were impressive, but only two of many, the plants supplementing the atmosphere scrubbers in keeping Starlight's air fresh. The Jedi tended to frequent the quieter meditation garden.

"No Jedi, but I do remember something. Yomo wanted to find the submission from Professor Glenna Kip, a hybrid version of johta, one that was supposed to be hardier and easier to cultivate, especially created for arid climates. I believe we found it, although now I am uncertain. There was a flower, on a series of vines, with a scent that reminded me of home and the hunts." Doctor Xan leaned back, closing his eyes, and breathing evenly. "Ahhh, what a wonderful time that was."

Doctor Xan straightened, the Amani's beady black eyes suddenly alert. "You said I was in a fight? Who was the other combatant?"

"An Ithorian. I believe it was your friend, Yomo?"

"Yomo? Oh dear! Yes, Yomo is an

"I'm not sure, but perhaps there's something on the plant. A stowaway, so to speak. There was a human girl with a strange plant. I think it might be somehow involved."

Ghal shrugged. "Perhaps. Let's go check it out."

Ghal and Velko walked through three different gardens before they found the flowering vines that Doctor Xan had mentioned. They had wrapped themselves around several of the surrounding trees and plants and seemed out of place, even though Velko recognized them.

"Just as I thought. We need to find the girl who brought that plant in yesterday. I saw her in the maintenance stairway."

"Have you been slacking on your fitness regime again?" Ghal asked, and Velko shrugged.

"I've been busy."

Ghal studied the twisting vines pensively. "I'm no expert on surface



plants, but isn't that quite a bit of growth in just a few hours?"

"An unprecedented amount of growth. I would be worried that this was a Drengir, but the fact that we've been standing here for a few minutes and it hasn't tried to eat us puts that idea to rest." Velko cautiously stepped closer to one of the vines. It didn't writhe, not like the Drengir she'd seen, but it did seem active.

"Careful," Ghal called, seemingly from far away.

A woodsy citrus scent tickled Velko's nose. She blinked once, and again. The plant before her shifted and transformed, suddenly taking on a monstrous shape.

"Drengir!" she gasped, reaching for her blaster. But the weapon was gone, nothing at her side at all.

Another blink and Velko was no longer on Starlight Beacon. Instead, she was back on Soika, her platoon advancing on some hill defenses while blaster fire rained down all around her.

"Velko! Stop standing there and take

The man dissolved, and just as quickly as she had fallen into the nightmare, Velko found herself back in the gardens. Ghal stood nearby, gingerly checking her jaw wasn't broken, her usually annoyed expression somehow bemused.

"Impressive, Administrator Jahan. I didn't think you had it in you."

Velko blinked again. A voice, Rodor Keen maybe, said, "She's still a bit confused. Can you hit her once more?"

A mist fell over Velko, cool and calming. And her confusion drained away. "I'm on Starlight?"

"You are." Rodor Keen stepped forward, a kind smile on his face. Behind Rodor stood a strange woman, her green skin laced through with silver lines. There was a vague reptilian look to her, and her head was wrapped with a turban, her lab coat splattered with a host of multihued compounds.

"What happened? One moment I was fighting a Drengir, and then I was back on Soika..." Velko trailed off, her head

frontier. Not to mention the value of knowing more about the Drengir in case there are future challenges."

"We had a riot in the dining hall," Velko said, voice flat.

"Yes, and my apologies for that," Professor Kip said with a slight bow. "Avon?"

The small human girl with the deep brown skin that Velko recognized from seemingly a lifetime ago ran over.

"Avon, do you still have that salt block I gave you?"

"Yes, Professor Kip," the girl said with a smile, producing it from her pocket. Kip buried the salt in the pot, and immediately the flowers began to wither and die. In less than a minute the whole plant had withered, leaving behind nothing but a dead leaves and brown twigs.

"Johto is incredibly difficult to grow beyond the atmosphere of its home planet, and salt has an immediate effect on it. I've given the component list of the neutralizing compound to

## "DRENGIR!" SHE GASPED, REACHING FOR HER BLASTER. BUT THE WEAPON WAS GONE, NOTHING AT HER SIDE AT ALL.

the blasted hill so we can knock out that heavy cannon."

Velko turned to see Adjutant Captain Aila Gris yelling at her just before a blaster bolt found its mark. Aila was thrown back a meter, dead before her body hit the ground.

"No, no, no." Velko panicked, pulling at her hair. How was she back here? Hadn't she done everything she could to get as far away from this place as possible? She had to get out of here, and like so many other bad memories on Thyrus, the only way out was through.

Velko landed a fist in the nearest combatant. But the man didn't go down. Instead, he roared and dove at her. Velko crouched, ready for the attack. She would kill anyone who stood in her way.

The man charged forward, but when she kicked out at him he caught her foot and spun her around, throwing her into a column. Velko stood, angry and confused. Why was there a column on the battlefield?

pounding. "Was that all in my head?"

"A hallucination, I'm afraid. Caused by the johto bloom. Apologies, it wasn't supposed to bloom here, I was still working on that, ah, less desirable property." The strange woman said.

Rodor cleared his throat. "Velko, this is Professor Glenna Kip. She's the scientist who created this hybrid. The aggression we've been experiencing is a side effect of her splicing the johto flower with a less violent strain of the Drengir."

"Are you serious?" Velko demanded, her rage rising once more, this time with an actual target.

"That's what I said," Ghal muttered, shooting the professor a murderous look.

"The Drengir's return reminded me of a similar project I had once undertaken, although last time I will say the outcome was not so... fertile," the professor attempted a smile. "The Republic thinks the hardiness exhibited by the Drengir could be useful in growing crops on some of the less fertile planets on the

your environmental engineers, so there should be no further ill effects from the blossoms."

Velko couldn't agree with the professor. She still felt shaky and out of sorts from reliving the memory of the assault on Qunatos. It would be some time before she would feel anything close to normal.

"If you spliced Drengir plant material with an existing crop, what's to stop others from doing the same?" Ghal demanded. "It's hard enough when they infect the living, now we have to worry about them seeding themselves?"

"Oh no, that won't happen," Professor Kip said with a dismissive wave. "I've tried creating seeds from the Drengir, and it has proven utterly impossible. They cannot be seeded anywhere. Limiting their spread is one of the things the Alliance has gathered to discuss, and our data indicates that they never, ever seed themselves."

Velko wasn't convinced, but she had



a pounding headache and the last place she wanted to be was anywhere near plants, or experts on them.

Ghal clapped a heavy hand on Velko's shoulder. "Come on. You look like you could do with a drink, and I'm not talking tarine tea."

"What about the Galactic Agricultural Alliance?" Rodor called after Ghal and Velko as they walked away. "They've barely gotten settled in!"

"I'll tell Professor Qwasa to find you if she has any questions," Velko replied.

"I really want you to show me that punch again, when you're up to it," Ghal confided.

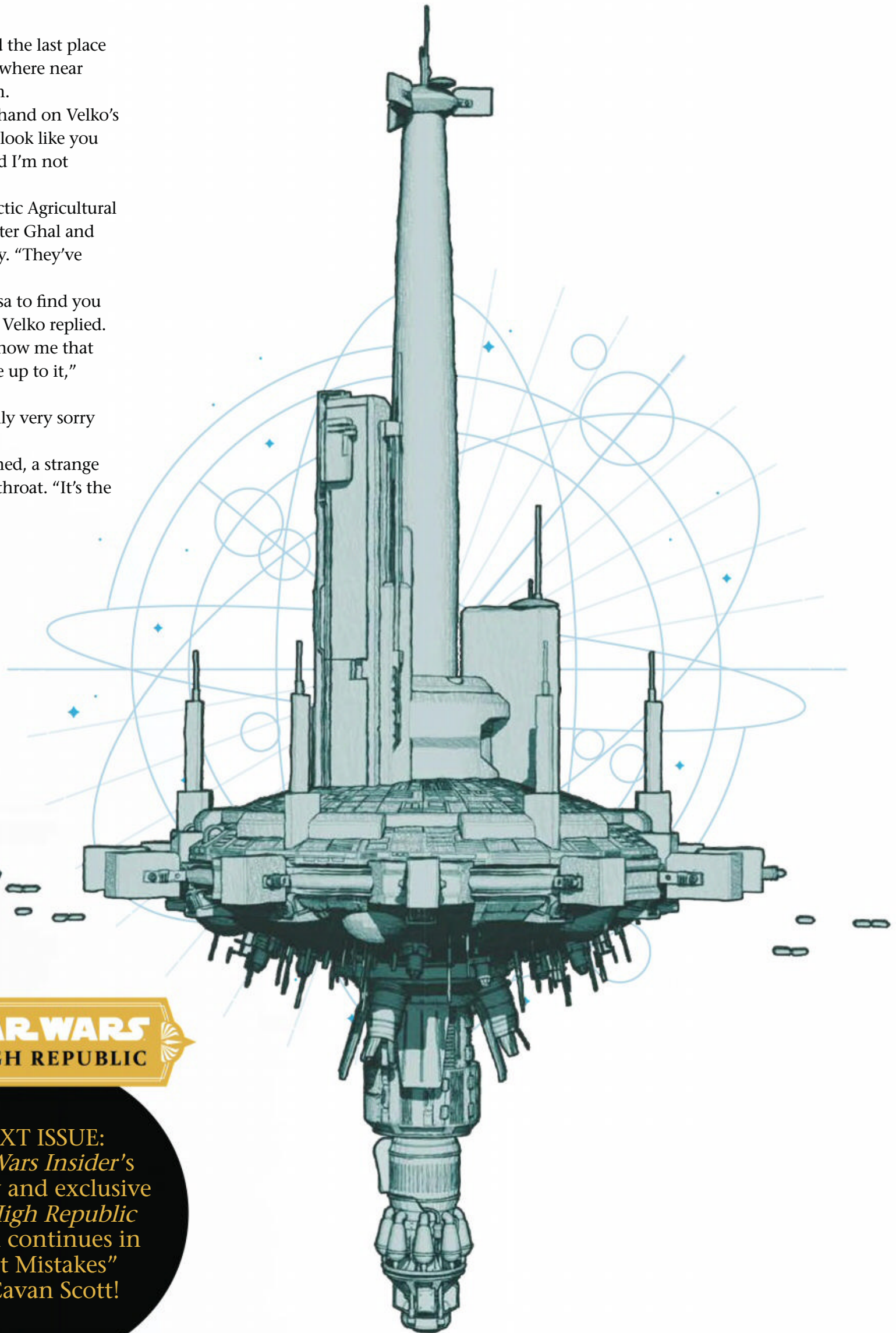
Velko winced "I'm really very sorry about that," she said.

"Don't be," Ghal laughed, a strange chuffing sound from her throat. "It's the first time I've liked you."

THE END



NEXT ISSUE:  
*Star Wars Insider's*  
 all-new and exclusive  
*The High Republic*  
 fiction continues in  
 "Past Mistakes"  
 by Cavan Scott!





# JEDI MASTER'S QUIZ

From  
Tatooine to  
Takodana, the tunes  
of touring musicians have  
entertained cantina patrons  
across the *Star Wars* galaxy.  
Put on your own show by  
drumming up the answers  
to this catchy quiz.  
**Compiled by  
Jay Stobie**

## “DID YOU HEAR THAT?”

Get into the groove to answer these acoustic queries on the house bands of the galaxy.

### FIGURING OUT FIGRIN D'AN

**1: What was the name of  
Figrin D'an's band?**

- A/ The Outer  
Rim Rockers
- B/ The Figrin  
D'an Band
- C/ The Modal  
Nodes
- D/ The Cantina Quartet



**2: Figrin's band was composed  
of musicians from which  
galactic species?**

- A/ Aqualish
- B/ Bith
- C/ Rodian
- D/ Devaronian

**3: How many band members  
were there in total?**

- A/ Four
- B/ Seven
- C/ Ten
- D/ Fifteen

**4: What was band leader Figrin  
D'an's nickname?**

- A/ “Fiery” Figrin
- B/ “Furious” Figrin
- C/ “Friendly” Figrin
- D/ “Frosty” Figrin

**5: Where did Figrin's band play  
most of their gigs?**

- A/ Cantonica
- B/ Nal Hutta
- C/ Corellia
- D/ Tatooine



### MUSIC AND MAYHEM WITH MAX REBO



**6: Who was a lead singer for  
the Max Rebo Band?**

- A/ Max Rebo
- B/ Bib Fortuna
- C/ Joh Yowza
- D/ Malakili



**7: What additional role did  
vocalist Sy Snootles serve  
for the Hutt Cartel?**

- A/ Spy
- B/ Pilot
- C/ Spice runner
- D/ Driver

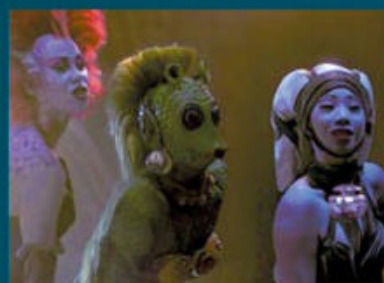


**8: Which historic event  
did the Max Rebo Band  
witness firsthand?**

- A/ Ponda Boba's injury
- B/ Obi-Wan Kenobi hiring  
Han Solo
- C/ The destruction of  
the first Death Star
- D/ Jabba the Hutt's death

**9: Who was not a backup singer  
for the Max Rebo Band?**

- A/ Greeata
- B/ Rystáll Sant
- C/ Salacious B. Crumb
- D/ Lyn Me



**10: Who often accompanied the  
Max Rebo Band's performances?**

- A/ Aerialists
- B/ Composers
- C/ Dancers
- D/ Jedi

### MEETING UP AT MAZ KANATA'S CASTLE

**11: How long had the gathering  
place been run by Maz when Rey  
first arrived?**

- A/ 500 years
- B/ 1,000 years
- C/ 10,000 years
- D/ 20,000 years

**12: Which band entertained Maz  
Kanata's guests with their music?**

- A/ Fode and Beed
- B/ The Crimson Corsairs
- C/ Shag Kava
- D/ The Takodana Band



**13: Which member of the  
audience covertly worked for  
the First Order?**

- A/ Grummgar
- B/ Bazine Netal
- C/ Sidon Ithano
- D/ Quiggold

**14: What did Maz Kanata offer  
visiting musicians as payment  
for their performances?**

- A/ New Republic credits
- B/ Beskar
- C/ Calamari Flan
- D/ Free room and board

**15: Which castle band member  
was nicknamed “Sticks?”**

- A/ Ubert Quaril
- B/ Infrablue Zedbeddy  
Coggins
- C/ Sudswater Dillifay Glon
- D/ Taybin Ralorsa



## “DO THAT AGAIN!”

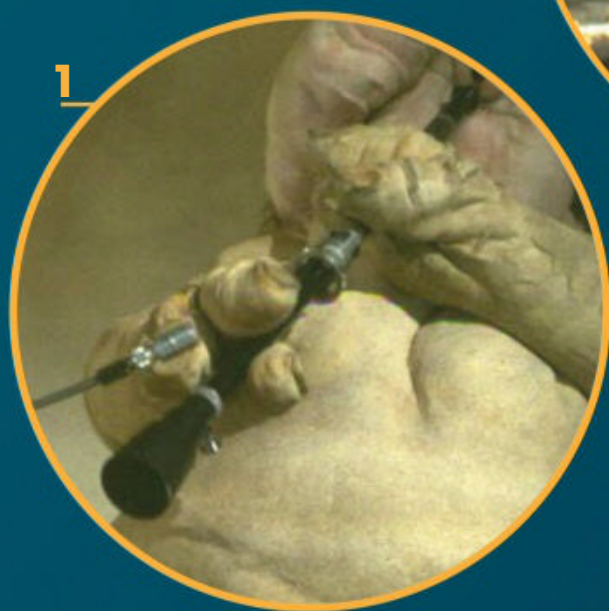
Decipher these anagrams of popular song titles heard in the *Star Wars* saga.



1. ENDU EAS LSCAIEP
2. ABJAB WOLF
3. DJIE SKRCO
4. ADM TUBAO EM
5. PALIT EKN

## “WHATEVER YOU DO, DON’T STARE.”

Identify the musicians who played each of these exotic instruments.



**QUIZ:** 1. C, 2. B, 3. B, 4. A, 5. D, 6. C, 7. A, 8. D, 9. C, 10. C, 11. B, 12. C, 13. B, 14. D, 15. A.  
**“DO THAT AGAIN!”** 1. “Dune Sea Special,” 2. “Jabba Flow,” 3. “Jedi Rocks,” 4. “Mad About Me,” 5. “Lapti Nek.”  
**“WHATEVER YOU DO, DON’T STARE.”** 1. Droopy McCool (Chindinkalu Flute), 2. Max Rebo (Red Ball Organ), 3. Rappertunie (Growdi Harmonique), 4. Figrin D’an (Kloo Horn)

## ARE YOU “IN TUNE” WITH THE MUSIC OF THE *STAR WARS* BANDS?

**0-9:** You might not make the group, but maybe they’ll hire you as a roadie?

**10-19:** You’re beginning to catch that beat. Keep practicing!

**20-24:** You’re a hit! With your talents, you’ll be playing Canto Bight in no time!



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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE | ISSUE 205

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205

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How Japanese  
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infused the *Star  
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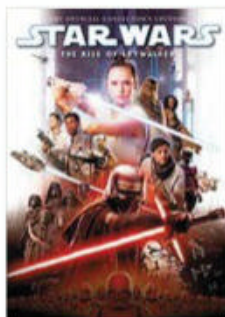
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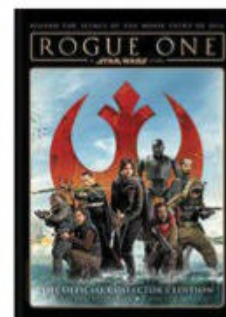
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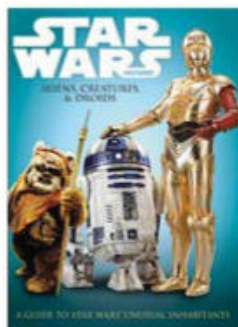
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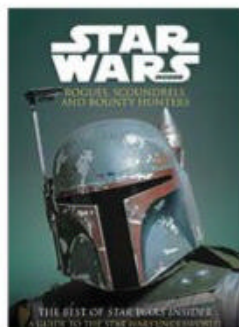
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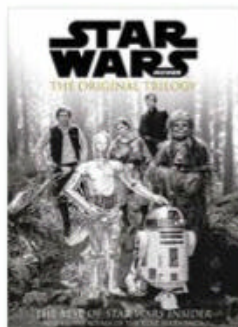
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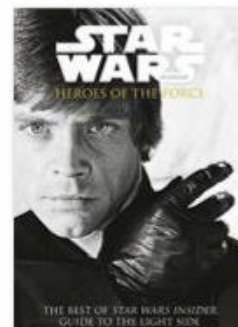
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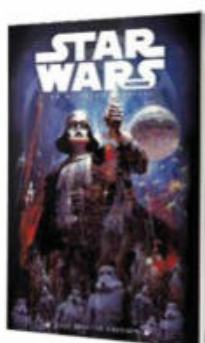
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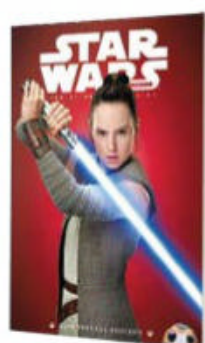
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