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Rae Carson

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Set before the events of Solo: A Star Wars Story! Han and Qi'ra don't have a lot in common other than not having a lot. They're street kids on the industrial planet Corellia, doing whatever it takes to get by, dreaming of something more. They each jump at a chance to prove themselves in the perilous world of Corellia's criminal underbelly, only to discover they are on the same mission for the same unscrupulous boss. When the job goes disastrously wrong, Han and Qi'ra are on the run--from pirates, a droid crime syndicate, the Empire, and their boss--and will have to learn to trust each other if they are going to survive.

Most Wanted Details

Date : Published May 25th 2018 by Disney Lucasfilm Press

ISBN : 9781368016308

Author : Rae Carson

Format : Hardcover 348 pages

Genre : Media Tie In, Star Wars, Science Fiction, Young Adult, Fiction

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From Reader Review Most Wanted for online ebook

Neil Hepworth says

Dear Disney and Lucasfilm,

If you're really going to take a bit of time to reflect and revise on your whole Star Wars strategy, let me suggest you also reevaluate your line of novels. Lately, they're been really boring, and lately you've been giving novels to authors who don't know how to write Star Wars novels. The characters are bland, the plots are so very thin, and the writing is cliched and uninspired. In particular, your crop of recent YA writers are just awful. Please just give some novels to established adult writers. I want so desperately to like the new novels, and for a few years I did--but man, the last year of novels have been really bad.

Neil

Nicis says

Based only on this book (I haven't seen Solo yet) I FREAKING LOVE QI'RA. Give me all the problematic faves. She's so smart, she's ambitious, she has done a lot to survive and she really cares about Han, even if it takes a lot of danger for that to happen. She's what Rey could have been with a little more personality.

Han is amazing too, smart, always the lucky one, the bad with words that makes friends everywhere he goes. There's a lot of mumbo jumbo he doesn't believe, but he's the most loyal and soft character. We can actually see him on space for the first time ever and after all the misery that his life has been, it's a scene quite beautiful.

All in all, this book was a lot of fun and the perfect worldbuilding for the last movie in the Star Wars universe.

Lata says

Interesting backstory for Han and Qi'ra. They're both part of the White Worms gang, and Lady Proxima, the leader, pits the youngest members of the gang, of which our main characters are part, against each other as a way of picking her second in command. Things go wrong for both Qi'ra and Han almost immediately, who, coincidentally, are on the same job but meeting different buyers for a datacube. When a droid consortium wins, violence ensues, and the two end up on the run together, desperately trying to find out why there's such interest in the datacube. A friend of Han's gets dragged in, a Rhodian named Suolo (I have no idea how his name is actually spelled as I listened to this book), a brilliant fellow who has dreams of being an engineer. Qi'ra struggles to trust the other two, having no experience in her life with anyone whom she can rely on. Han, meanwhile, has been quietly cultivating relationships with a disparate bunch of individuals, and this comes in handy as the three try to stay alive. Because this is a prequel to the Solo story, we know Han and Qi'ra make it through this situation, so there was no tension there, but what I did like was seeing the droids slowly working towards their freedom (we know that there's no real progression with this storyline as droids are still slaves years later during Rey's time.) While Han has a droid friend, he doesn't really have any

empathy for the droids' predicament, though he's shown to have a softer, more open character, unlike the guy we first see in Mos Eisley years later. We also get to see Han's ability to improvise under great tension, which was great.

The biggest pleasure for me was getting to know Qi'ra better. While Star Wars has never been particularly good to its women (and yes, it's changing, but too slowly,) from what I've read about the Solo movie, women, as usual, don't fare well (big surprise!) Qi'ra is terrific at planning. In fact, without her ability to think through all sorts of possibilities, the three would not have survived a number of situations. Working together, with Han improvising what Qi'ra's plans didn't cover, the three manage to get themselves into a position of some strength.

The adventure ends probably shortly before the movie picks up, and there's plenty of adventure, danger, some humour, and the beginnings of a friendship by the end of the novel. Enjoyable, light, and actually kind of fun.

Jim C says

Actual rating is 3.5 stars

This book is a prequel to the *Solo* movie. This tells the story of how Han and Qi'ra become friends and how their dream is formed of leaving Corellia.

I thought the movie was decent and it was worth watching but it doesn't rank with the greats of this franchise. So a prequel based on that movie didn't exactly scream "must read". This book exceeded my expectations. The strength of this book is the characters. One can imagine Han evolve into the character we all know with his "fly by the seat of his pants" attitude. I am impressed that the author made me care about Qi'ra considering I did not care for her in the movie. There also was a new character, Tuulo, introduced that stole the show. As for the story, it fits into the canon that Disney is building. I liked the message of this book as we get to see how our characters begin to dream of a better life even though right now their situation is not the happiest.

This was a quick read that does border on the YA genre. I have not been overly impressed with the new crop of *Star Wars* novels (there are a couple of exceptions that have been terrific). This one is better than the majority of the new canon and it was a nice little side adventure in this universe.

Rachael says

"What keeps you flying is having one person in all the galaxy to fly with. Someone you can trust to have your back."

I HAVE SO MANY FEELINGS ABOUT THIS BOOK. Wow, okay. Where to start? Let's start with the characterizations.

This YA novel does an incredible job of helping the reader understand Qi'ra as a person and what motivates her. Solo: A Star Wars Story kept her as an enigma, which was perfect for twists and turns in the story. But I feel like after reading MOST WANTED, I can connect with why she makes the decisions she does in the movie and find her relationship with Han more believable. They go through so much in this short novel and find a real path to friendship. Qi'ra benefits from having him around and she respects his ability to make decisions on the fly and take risks. The information about her secret hideout gave me a lot of feelings and broke my heart.

Han in MOST WANTED is basically perfect characterization. So much of the smug, attitude driven scoundrel with a good heart that we all love. You understand why he clutches onto Qi'ra so much in Solo by seeing their friendship blossom in this novel. He is desperate to reach the stars but doesn't find it to be a real possibility until the end of MOST WANTED. His secret speeder adds so much depth to the chase on Corellia in Solo, and it warmed my heart. I just love him.

Now, onto Han and Qi'ra as a duo. I absolutely LOVED that this book didn't focus on their romance, but instead built upon their friendship. The last page of MOST WANTED shows how it was plausible that their friendship eventually turned into romance down the line, but spent this novel building them from the ground up as friends and partners.

It is SO SAD to me that the quote at the top of this review is how Han feels about Qi'ra at the end of the book. Since we can see into her head, we know that she thinks Han would never betray her, but also that Qi'ra would never give up her life for his. Her priority is becoming comfortably rich and in a position of power. She turns down an offer in this novel, not because of Han, but because she would not have her own autonomy. And wow, that is delicious characterization. I haven't seen a complicated character like Qi'ra in a long time.

Unfortunately for him, Han would do almost anything to make sure that she is safe with him. Because that's how he treats his friends. And she is one of the only people he trusts in the world. It is even more devastating to look at the end of Solo after reading this, since he absolutely believed that he found his partner in exploring the universe. And maybe if she had gotten off Corellia in Solo it would have been different, but I don't think so. The two of them wanted such different lives. They both just wanted to get off that planet and onto something else. They care for each other and find some peace there - but Han and Qi'ra are not meant to be each other's one person in the galaxy to fly around with. And that's okay.

The secondary characters all had unique voices and I really enjoyed getting to know the crime syndicates better. A little Rodian who believes in the Force stole my heart. I'm sure I will be able to find so many easter eggs in Solo now that I didn't before! This book added such richness to the planet in this new canon and I really appreciate that. I feel like I know Corellia so much better now after reading MOST WANTED.

The ending felt a bit rushed, that's the only critique I would really have. It was just a lot to take in and I wish there would have been about 20 more pages showing the aftermath of everything.

Han is going to fly around the galaxy with a princess who will become his loving wife someday, finding the happiness he deserves - and Qi'ra will be in a position of power and influence, gaining riches and climbing the ladder just like she deserves. It'll all work out for them in the end. That makes MOST WANTED a more enjoyable and heartbreaking novel to read, I think. But that's just my experience.

4.75 stars!

DiscoSpacePanther says

Despite being YA, this novel was so much better than *Last Shot: A Han and Lando Novel*. Whilst that book was an incoherent mess, *Most Wanted* tells a tight, well focused story about Han and Qi'ra during their youth in the city of Coronet on Corellia, when they were part of Lady Proxima's white worms.

The story fits in very well with the events early on in *Solo: A Star Wars Story* - the characters and the setting match closely, with the Fagin-like Lady Proxima running her gang of sewer urchins with an iron fist.

Importantly, Han still felt like Han, even whilst lacking the the galaxy-weariness and cynicism that he had in *Star Wars*.

We get lots on insight into the inner workings of Qi'ra's mind, which really adds to the layers of character we see revealed in the movie.

It might not be what everyone wants or expects from a Young Han Solo story (many of the Legends fans are still wedded to A. C. Crispin's Han Solo Trilogy of *The Paradise Snare*, *The Hutt Gambit*, and *Rebel Dawn*), but I would recommend it to YA Star Wars fans, and anyone who wants to expand their Star Wars canon knowledge.

Allison Tebo says

I . . . don't know how I feel.

Jaime K says

2.5 stars

I went into this hoping it'd be good. I was really banking it on being better than what I've read is part of the "Solo" plot.

And most wasn't all that bad.

Qi'ra and Han begin by contesting to be Head of their gang, run by Lady Proxima. It's weird to me from the start, because they're oldest among some Rodians and other humans, yet the White Worms don't like to have a Rodian or human be their Head.

I like how there are other gangs, and the three butt heads. Kaldana is very put-together, but Doid Gotra being all over is scary.

I am on the fence about how I feel about Han not having a surname. I do like that he learns from experience, including with non-Basic languages.

Qi'ra wears a "beautiful new skirt" and a "beautiful red shirt;" geez, I get it, it's all beautiful.

The kids (teens? young adults? their age isn't known until about halfway through) are sheltered. Qi'ra never realized how beautiful her planet was before this. She and Han have never fired a blaster. They're uneducated streetrats.

The flirting between them is just that, typical of a brief crush or infatuation. I'm glad it's not an obvious/"necessary" romance.

The sentence of the droids becomes real old real quick. They're treated like any other being ("Oh, you two know each other?") which makes no sense.

~ There are "dog biscuits" which is odd to me.

~ The droid Tool "is a huge tool," which has two meanings, one of which makes utterly no sense.

~The word "brunet" is spelled oddly for me. Apparently, that is a real spelling. Though looking it up confuses me again, as it's a masculine spelling and the character is a woman.

~ "Screwed" and "screw it" really took me out of the 'verse. Why is 'forget it' not good enough?

I do really like how the poorer people become, the more they turn to religion. People need to have a reason for hope, and Carson shows that well.

More review and reactions under spoiler cut.

(view spoiler)

As a side note, there are some question marks in chapter 10 that were missing.

Ceilidh says

I don't really read Star Wars tie-in novels but I loved Solo so much that I had to splurge for this one. It's way more about Qi'ra than Han, but gives beautiful depth to her arc as the struggling street kid who wants to do good but whose brain leans more heavily towards pragmatism. If you liked Solo as much as I did - and that's a lot - and want a highly readable YA adventure prequel to fill in some gaps, this is for you.

Jessica says

Super fun "prequel" to the Solo movie, showing how Han and Qi'ra first started working together! Would actually stand alone as a sci fi book without the "hook" of Star Wars, which is rare! But Carson is just such a slick writer, of course she managed to pull off both a fun YA book and a fun Star Wars book without either suffering.

Josh says

Set some time prior to the Solo film, Most Wanted features Han and Qi'ra before they became the charismatic characters on the screen as they struggle to eek out an existence in the sewers as members of the Lady Proxima led White Worms on the planet Corellia.

When a position opens up as second to Lady Proxima, both Han and Qi'ra, who at this stage have little in common aside from life beneath the surface, are pitted against one another on separate missions to acquire a piece of Imperial tech which would make Lady Proxima and her gang one of the more formidable factions in the Star Wars universe. Of course, it all goes bad and Han and Qi'ra are left to fend for themselves, dodging both laser blasts and Lady Proxima's wrath.

Most Wanted captures the essence of Han which isn't easy to do off-screen, and expands upon Qi'ra's agenda as glimpsed in the Solo film to emphasize her importance in the Disney cannon, while also strengthening the bond between her and Han as was a focal point in the film.

The plot is straight forward and feels like a well planned story arc in Star Wars Rebels while capturing that New Hope feel. There's no filler content, just action, great characters and that unique Star Wars geekery I love so much.

My rating: 5/5 stars. I strongly recommend watching the Solo film before reading Most Wanted as the place-setting and characters (such as Lady Proxima) are much easier to visualize.

Khurram says

Thank you Rae Carson for getting Han Solo spot on. After reading Last Shot I was a little worried about reading another Han Solo book. I think it makes a big difference when a book is written by a fan.

I enjoyed this book right from the beginning, Rae I think managed to capture all the aspects of Han's personality. He is cocky, but loyal and compassionate. A "scoundrel" but with great leadership qualities. Han is famous for his piloting skills, we see his natural aptitude for it in this book, but others skill Han has but are a bit overlooked on the movies and books is his ability to think quickly (improving), his understanding of languages and he is a pretty handy mechanic as well.

The side characters are done really well too. I think Qi'ra was also introduced very well. I liked the fast paced setting of the book. I also like how Han and Qi'ra's relationship changes and their characters develop

through the book.

An excellent introduction to a very (possible 18 year old) young Han Solo definitely showing the traits of the legendary character he is to grow into.

Seadrift says

This felt more like I was reading a juvenile Star Wars novel, than a novel dedicated to an adult audience. I got to know some about Solo's background, which was enjoyable enough, and the introduction of Solo's - possibly - first love interest showed me a more human side. The book wasn't bad. The writer just wasn't good enough to write a Star Wars novel.

Justine says

I had a hard time getting into the beginning but my desire to know all the things about Qi'ra saw me through. Really liked all the turns the plot took and the way the relationship between them wasn't forced at all. I'm excited to see Solo again with this backstory in mind!

Joe says

Ugh. Oh, wait this is a Star Wars review, let me try that again...

I've got a bad feeling about this. Yeah, that was better. "Most Wanted" is a prequel to the "Solo" film that just came out. It's how Han and the queen of dragons became friends. The story is slight and mostly inoffensive. The most frustrating part was that clearly there is no quality control at Disney or Lucasfilm for these things. Han is introduced to the Force and Jedi many times in this book. The basic concepts of the same are even explained to him. So it makes no DAMN sense that he would be so clueless about them in "A New Hope."

"But Joe, maybe Han was lying!" To what end? For what reason? Small potatoes maybe, but why read these books if not to expand my knowledge of the Star Wars universe. Not undo and undermine things that have already been established. You can change Star Wars facts and events going forwards, not backwards guys. Unless...you're doing a reboot. Was this a reboot? Somebody get J.J. Abrams on the phone!
