



## The Empire Strikes Back

*Donald F. Glut , George Lucas (Story) , Lawrence Kasdan (Screenplay) , Leigh Brackett (Screenplay)*

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„Episode V - Das Imperium schlägt zurück“: der Roman zum zweiten Film der größten Saga aller Zeiten

Im zweiten Teil der Star-Wars-Saga kämpfen Luke Skywalker, Prinzessin Leia, Han Solo und ihre Gefährten gegen die Schergen des tyrannischen Imperators und den unheimlichen Darth Vader.

## The Empire Strikes Back Details

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# From Reader Review The Empire Strikes Back for online ebook

## John Yelverton says

This book added so much to the movie that several scenes were made to be understandable once I read the novelization.

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## Jerry says

Pretty good for what it was, though I still think modern-day sci-fi writers should write new novelizations of the original trilogy, considering how much more we know about the *Star Wars* universe since books like these were published.

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## ??Trea says

As with the novelization of *Star Wars: From the Adventures of Luke Skywalker*, this story didn't give us any new details that we haven't seen in the movie. What we do get is more detail into Han's mind and a bit more detail into Luke's training with Yoda. The writing was fairly evocative, really got me into the story, and set up some images that I hadn't noticed from watching the movie. It was a quick and enjoyable read, that I wound up sharing with my young *Star Wars* loving son.

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## Branwen Sedai \*of the White Ajah\* says

*"This one I have watched a long time. All his life has he looked away...to the horizon, to the sky, to the future. Never his mind on where he was, on what he was doing. Adventure, excitement. A Jedi craves not these things!"*

*"For my ally is the Force. And a powerful ally it is. Life creates it and makes it grow. It's energy surrounds us and binds us. Luminous beings we are, not this crude matter."*

So many amazing things happen in this story that we all know and love! Luke meets the mysterious and wise Yoda and begins his Jedi training. Han and Leia realize their feelings for one another. Luke is forced to face the truth about his father...and so on and so forth. This book is a great opportunity to fully immerse yourself in the world of Skywalker and the others and learn even more about the characters and places that mean so much to so many people.

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## Shoma Patnaik says

Although *Star Wars* (fine, 'A New Hope') is my favourite movie in the series, I understand that *The Empire Strikes Back* is, critically speaking, the best of the trilogy. So, I was curious to see how it would turn out in

print.

Donald F. Glut's writing is somewhat less melodramatic than Alan Dean Foster's. It's not perfect, but then again, excessively erudite writing is neither expected nor necessary in a book with lightsabers and a floating city. I heartily disagree, though, with Glut's assertion that Vader quakes in fear of the Emperor. It is unlikely that Darth Vader is "afraid" of anything. The very thought! Plus, the depiction of the Battle of Hoth is dry and stretches on longer than needed. On the other hand, I was pleasantly surprised to find that Glut manages to keep the Luke-Vader duel gripping - *"Again Luke attacked. Once again their energy blades clashed. And then they stood, staring at one another for an endless moment through their crossed lightsabers."* Say what you will, but those lines captured the drama of the fight for me.

It's also a relief to read of the Force, of the Jedi as a spiritual concept again rather than some sort of fungal infection (I'm looking at you, midi-chlorians). *"Luminous beings are we, not this crude matter."* Quotable as ever, Master Yoda. I was hoping the novel would resolve some of the discrepancies in Luke's training (he seems to train for about the same amount of time that Han and company take to be swallowed by a space slug, escape, land in Bespin and get frozen in carbonite which, all said and done, isn't a very long time). It is implied that Luke is longer on Dagobah than apparent but the times still don't add up.

Still, his training is an interesting take on the Hero's Journey and reminds me why Luke Skywalker is my favourite character in the series - he grows from a farmboy to a Jedi knight and along the way he feels hopelessness and anger and insecurity and he learns to overcome them. In the first novel, I could perfectly understand Luke's desire to be something *more* and the insecurity and despair he feels at being unfulfilled. But this is Star Wars, this is a world where "Wormie" can become "Commander Skywalker" - that's what's so great about it (I couldn't help feeling strangely proud every time I read those two words - "Commander Skywalker" - God, I'm such a sap for Luke). In ESB, he moves forward to a more spiritual growth. The boy who once fainted at the sight of a Tusken Raider takes on the most feared man/ mass murdering cyborg in the galaxy and he doesn't do it because it's in his genes or because it has been foretold, he does it because it's the only way to grow.

Of course, the best thing about Star Wars is that it has all these spiritual elements, this space opera take on the monomyth but it still doesn't ignore the vicarious thrill of a good adventure. I can over-analyze Luke's Jedi training but I can also appreciate Star Destroyers colliding. And I might be a sap for Luke, but that doesn't mean that Han is anything but one of the most memorable characters ever. Han's awesomeness reaches epic proportions in ESB but you also have Leia and Lando (gotta love the cape!) and Chewie who can rip off droid arms as well as he can reconstruct them.

On a side note, I realised that I started reading the first book on the release date of the first movie. See? If that doesn't prove that The Force wants me to read these books, I honestly don't know what does. On to RotJ!

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## **Jonathan Maas says**

Really good. My latest literary reading project is to read the 'Star Wars' novelizations, and this one is great. Star Wars, Episode IV: A New Hope by George Lucas and Alan Dean Foster kicked it off, and that book threw in a bit more character analysis and vocabulary description. This one stuck a little more to the on-screen parts of the movie, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. Just a lot of fun, and Donald Glut has definitely done this series justice.

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## Alejandro says

### Star Wars at its best!!!

*I have bought the Omnibus edition with the three original “Star Wars” movie novelizations but I’ve chosen this edition to make a better focused review of each single book.*

### ONCE PERFECT, THERE IS LITTLE TO ADD

It wasn’t a surprise that there are few relevant additions to this novelization, since you have to admit that *Empire Strikes Back* is *Star Wars* at its best and even good ol’ Georgie couldn’t add much to the Special Edition of the film, just a couple of CGI brief scenes, to justify the existence of a special edition of that superb film.

However, certainly there are some changes here and there in the novelization, since it’s normal that during actually making the film, there are last minute modifications or special effects troubles and the assigned writer isn’t informed on time to make the adjustment on the prose novelization as well.

Sooo...

...once again, if you passed the last 40 years or so, frozen in carbonite, and you hadn’t watched the film, please be warned that you may find some spoilers ahead...

...the novelization started already on Hoth with Luke and Han, instead on space with the Imperial Starfleet. And there are **A LOT** of more wampas in the novelization than the just one in the film, actually Echo Base is attacked by wampas!

...a big difference is that Hobbie (one Rogue Squadron fighter pilot) crashes his snowspeeder against General Veers’ AT-AT, killing all there.

...believe it or not, Yoda is blue!!! I guess that if X-Wings’ blue stripes on *A New Hope* couldn’t work with the blue screens, the same colorful trouble risen again with the muppet of the old Jedi Master, so at the film they had to changed it to green. And by the way, on Dagobah, it’s mentioned that Vader’s lightsaber is blue, instead of iconic red! I guess that blue is favorite color of George Lucas and it must be a bummer (for him) having to change the blue stuff in his films due fx limitations of the time.

...Han and Leia could kiss alright at the *Millenium Falcon*! Oh, yeah! **BUT** there isn’t “I know” at Cloud City, aaaaah bummer (but I knew that it wouldn’t be since that iconic quote was Harrison Ford’s brilliant improvisation while filming the scene).

...The Ugnaughts are wiser in the novelization and they didn’t argue with Chewie. I always wondered if those ugly dwarfish aliens had some kind of deathwish, looking for a fight with a wookiee!

...Luke’s rescue by the *Millenium Falcon* is a lot more daring and risky!

Plus, some other minor stuff, here and there, pretty much this is it, and as you can see, there were like changes due to troubles or scenes ended cut at the editing room, than actually any real valuable addition to the prose novelization.

Still, if you are reading the *Star Wars* novelizations, certainly you can't miss this one, once you're on that!

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## Di'ana says

Gera knyga, kai paimi j? ? rankas ir suvalgai to net nepajausdamas. Nors rašytojas kitas, ta?iau malonumas ne k? menkesnis. Visa intriga tik auga. Nauji Luko, L?jos, Solo bei robot? nuotyčiai. Pasipriešinimas nesnaudžia, kaip ir Veideris. Jis suranda j? baz? ir atakuoja. Lukas bei kiti stengiasi laim?ti laiko, kol avantūras bus evakuotas. Tuo tarpu L?ja ir Solo kiek aiškinasi savo santykius visos kebegn?s epicentre, kaip ir vos veikian?iu "Sakalu" m?gina pasprukti nuo Veiderio. Pusulapiuose tiesiog atgija matyti kadrai, atrodo, jog užrašytas žodis papildė film? ir atvirkš?iai. Nepaprastai skanu, jog norisi dar

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## Crystal Starr Light says

"Adventure, excitement...A Jedi craves not these things"

Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, and Princess Leia are on Hoth with the main Rebel base. But Vader's singular goal is to find Luke Skywalker. When the Imperials find the Rebel base on Hoth, the Rebels must flee the Empire. But the Falcon is damaged...and Luke has been called to train under the mysterious Jedi Master, Yoda.

NOTE: Based on novel and audiobook.

I Liked:

I really liked Glut's writing style. It's nice and clean, easy on the ears. Also, Glut does a great job describing the scenes we see in the movie and generally translating the movie script into book form. I wasn't confused at what he was talking about (of course, partly that is because I knew the movie...).

The characters are nicely done. Luke feels like the young, eager, beginning Jedi; Han is a perfect rogue; Leia is a really strong character (I really appreciate this, as women in science fiction get bad rap for being a sex object and not much else).

Glut also gives an idea of how much time transpires in *The Empire Strikes Back*. Luke's training takes quite some time and endures much more training than is seen in the movie.

I Didn't Like:

I complained about *A New Hope* for being a dressed up version of the movie. Well, this novel is even worse. Other than changing Yoda's color from green to blue, having Hobbie crash into General Veers' AT-AT, and giving a more specific timeline for Luke's training and Han and Leia's travails in the Falcon, there is no difference from the movie, no deleted scenes, nothing notable or outstanding. There is little new insight into the characters, little more than you could already glean from watching the movie. This may not seem a bad

thing, but most people go into a novelization trying to learn more about the characters and behind the scenes. If the book is basically a written version of the movie, why not just watch the movie? Why not watch Harrison Ford charming Carrie Fisher's Leia, or see the Yoda puppet cackle, or watch Billy Dee Williams as the charismatic gambler/Judas?

Dialogue/Sexual Situations/Violence:

Han tells another Rebel "I'll see you in h\*\*\*".

Han and Leia exchange an intimate kiss.

Darth Vader Force chokes Admiral Ozzel. A Rebel pilot crashes into an AT-AT.

Overall:

This isn't a bad book, but I have a hard time recommending it. It pretty much is the movie in book form; most people would get more enjoyment from watching the movie than reading about it. I think all Star Wars fans should read once, but other than that, it is skippable.

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### **Jamie Manley says**

Wow this didn't take very long. It was a lot easier to read this one than "a new hope" because this one didn't feel like a long description of the scenes. I feel like the first one disregarded the characters completely and I didn't realize it until I finished "the empire strikes back." This one was much better!

Also, notable differences between novelization and film: yoda is blue. Han and leia's "I love you. I know." scene is different and terrible. Thank goodness for Harrison Ford's improv of that line.

Still a fantastic movie.

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### **Ell Eastwood says**

Yeah, let's be real I would not be giving this five stars if it wasn't Star Wars. The writing isn't very good. All tell, no show. Doesn't really bring much more depth to any of the characters. But hey, it's Star Wars, so I love it. Let's discuss some of the quotes!

"She began to laugh harder now. "I'd just as soon kiss a Wookiee."

"I can arrange that." He moved closer to her, and she looked radiant even in the cold light of the ice chamber. "Believe me, you could use a good kiss. You've been so busy giving orders, you've forgotten how to be a woman. If you'd have let go for a moment, I could have helped you. But it's too late now, sweetheart. Your big opportunity is flying out of here."

[...]

"You're as cold as this planet!"

"And you think you're the one to apply some heat?"

"Sure, if I were interested. But I don't think it'd be much fun."

Like oh my fucking gods, if this isn't the best example of less is more I've ever seen then I don't know what is. Why was those last lines necessary? Ruined one of the best exchanges in cinematic history with some casual sexism and whatnot. I'm sorry, but this is so not Han!? He shouts "you could use a good kiss" and then

runs away because he's piiiissed that Leia doesn't wanna kiss him, not because she's not woman enough wtf???? Idk, at no point do I ever get the feeling that Han considers himself gods gift to women (that's so fanon) and that Leia should be lucky to have him. At the most he makes jokes about being good-looking, but I doubt he ever gets over that "a princess and a guy like me"-thing. Fuck off with this.

(Yeah, the Leia/Han scenes kept bothering me in this book. Get used to hearing about it.)

[Leia falls into Hans arm while aboard the Millenium Falcon.]

"Why, Princess," he said, pleasantly surprised, "this is so sudden."

At that, she began to pull back. "Let go," she insisted, trying to move out of his arms. "I'm getting angry."

"Han saw the old familiar expression of arrogance beginning to return to her face. "You don't look angry," he lied.

"How do I look?"

"Beautiful," he answered truthfully, with an emotion that surprised him.

Leia felt suddenly, unexpectedly shy. Her cheeks flushed pink and, when she realized she was blushing, she averted her eyes. But she still did not really try to get free.

Han somehow couldn't let the tender moment last. "And excited," he had to add.

Leia became infuriated. once again the angry princess and haughty senator, she quickly moved away from him and drew herself up to her most regal bearing. "Sorry, Captain," she said, her cheeks now reddened in anger, "being held by you isn't enough to get me excited."

"Well, I hope you don't expect more," he grunted, angrier at himself than at her stinging words."

Once, again, UGH. Here's some good meta on the scene as it appears in the movie, and having read that this part irks me even more. ESPECIALLY since Han says "I hope you didn't expect more" in the book rather than the excellent "sorry, sweetheart, I don't got time for anything else". Also why would he ruin everything with the "and excited"-line here? Like it's fucking obvious he wants to hold Leia and kiss her and then it's all romantic and then he ruins it for no reason??? Nah, I'm not buying it.

Long white hair was parted down the middle and hung down on either side of the blue-skinned head.

YODA IS FUCKING BLUE.

[Leia and Han have their "dialogue before their first kiss, v similar to the movie except Han doesn't use Leia hurting herself as an excuse to take her hand, he just does it]

"Before she could finish, Han Solo drew her to him and felt her body tremble as he pressed his lips to hers."

I'm nitpicking, but I don't like that he draws her to him. I like it in the movie better where they kiss each



other, rather than having "this time she didn't resist" pointed out to me. And they're not interrupted by 3PO which means they have to end it by themselves and it gets weird. I don't like it.

Out of the darkness a light appeared - the blue flame of a just-ignited laser sword. In its illumination Luke saw the looming figure of Darth Vader raise his lighted weapon to attack, and then lunge.

Darth Vader has a blue light saber!!! I think this is the first time in the novels the color is described on any light saber, and it does make it sound like they are all blue. Was that originally planned?

"I love you," she said softly. "I couldn't tell you before, but it's true."  
He smiled his familiar cocky smile. "Just remember that, because I'll be back."

I've heard that this is how the line originally appeared in the script, but I've also heard - I think - that he was meant to say "I love you too". I know the story of why it was changed, and I can't believe that exchange would've even close to as famous if it had stayed this way. It's cute, in a way, but not as epic as "I know".

"No," Vader replied calmly. "I am your father."

Then again some things are exactly as in the movie and those are kinda the best parts. So far.

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## **Solli says**

It was a good read, but it didn't left me completely satisfied.  
I enjoyed the first quartet of it a great deal, but it was all kind of a fall from there. Especially I felt like Luke's character wasn't nearly as well written as by Foster in A New Hope.  
I still enjoyed it, but it wasn't special.

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## **Bettie? says**

*Description: Luke, Han, and Princess Leia's story didn't end with the destruction of the Death Star—it continues in The Empire Strikes Back. Though they had won a significant battle, the war between the Rebel Alliance and the Empire had really just begun.*

*Now, several months later, the Rebels had established an outpost on the frozen wasteland of Hoth. But even*

*on that icy, backwater planet, they could not escape the evil Darth Vader's notice for long. Soon, Luke, Han, Princess Leia, and their faithful companions were forced to flee, scattering in all directions—the Dark Lord's minions in fevered pursuit!*

Mark Hamill's tribute to Carrie Fisher: She 'shattered' the mold

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## **Corey says**

The second chapter in the Star Wars saga, The Empire Strikes Back takes place approximately 3 years after the destruction of the Death Star, the Rebel Alliance has moved their hidden base to the deserted Ice planet Hoth to evade the evil Empire. Since then the Empire has grown more powerful and stronger, and Darth Vader is obsessed with finding Luke Skywalker, the hero that destroyed the Death Star. Luke receives a message from the spirit of Obi-Wan Kenobi, who orders Luke to go to the Dagobah system to find the wise Jedi Master Yoda, who was Obi-Wan's former mentor.

The Empire locates the Rebel's on Hoth and launches a large-scale attack against the base using AT-AT(All Terrain Armored Transport) Walkers, which I thought were the coolest things ever as a child. The Rebels led by Luke piloting the Snowspeeders are able to hold the Empire off long enough for most of the Rebels to escape. Han Solo escapes in the Millennium Falcon along with Princess Leia, (who he's starting to grow closer too) Chewbacca, and C-3PO, while Luke escapes along with R2-D2 in his X-Wing. Han Solo is on his way to pay off gangster Jabba the Hutt his payment while being chased by the Imperial Fleet, but due to some damage to the Falcon's Hyperdrive, they can't go very far, so they have no other choice but to land at the closest system, Bespin, Cloud City, to meet with Han's old friend Lando Calrissian, who previously owned the Falcon, but lost it to Han.

Luke travels to Dagobah which turns out to be a deserted swamp land to meet Yoda. Yoda teaches Luke the ways of the Force. During his training, Luke sees a premonition of Han and Leia in danger, and much to Yoda and Obi-Wan's saying it is Darth Vader's way of getting to Luke, he leaves to help them.

Eventually during their stay in Cloud City, Han and Leia find out that they were lured into a trap by Lando Calrissian, and come face-to-face with Darth Vader, and Boba Fett, the Bounty Hunter that Vader assigned to track down the Falcon and followed it all the way to Bespin, unknown by Han and Leia.

Luke arrives at Bespin and faces Vader in a deadly Lightsaber duel and finds out a terrible truth about the evil sorcerer.

A lot of people considered The Empire Strikes Back the best entry in the Saga, which I agree, other than A New Hope, which started it all. I wish I could have gone back in time to see them on the big screen!

Another fun read based on the movie, and had some good additional scenes which were not included in the movie.

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## **?Tamara says**

True to the film.

After their triumphant battle with the empire, the rebels have established an outpost on the freezing planet of Hoth. But of course they cannot escape Lord Vader for long. When he finds the base he pursues with full force and the rebels are forced to flee to the four corners of the galaxy. The epic pursuit leads Han and Leia to the planet of Coruscant where they team up with an old friend of Han's named Lando Calrissian. Good and bad happen in this epic tale. But I'm sure you already knew that ?

Another great book. Written almost in the form of a screenplay this book is true to the film in nearly every aspect. Even the lines that they say are spot-on. I do believe however that the book came first. With that in mind I would be comparing the movie to the book instead of the book to the movie however it is difficult for me to do so with a movie that I know by heart and have grown up with since I was a child.

This book was very well written very easy to follow and sums up the film very nicely with just enough detail that you can still see the scenes that George Lucas has painted for us.

As the second installment of the Holy Trilogy this is definitely an omnist for Star Wars fans.

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