



## Rebel Stand (Enemy Lines, #2)

*Aaron Allston*

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*Not since Emperor Palpatine have the Jedi battled such monstrous evil. Unless they succeed against staggering odds, the galaxy is doomed.*

Luke Skywalker's daring mission to halt the Yuuzhan Vong's nefarious plot to overthrow the New Republic is struggling on all fronts. And time is slipping away for Han and Leia Organa Solo, trapped on a small planet whose rulers are about to yield to Yuuzhan Vong pressure to give up the Jedi rebels.

On Coruscant, Luke and Mara Jade Skywalker have made a shocking discovery that is preventing the Yuuzhan Vong from exerting complete control. But when the enemy tracks them down, Luke and Mara are thrust into a fierce battle for their lives. Suddenly, the chances of escaping appear nearly impossible. And in space, another battle rages, one that holds ominous consequences for the New Republic—and for the Jedi themselves. . . .

Features a bonus section following the novel that includes a primer on the *Star Wars* expanded universe, and over half a dozen excerpts from some of the most popular *Star Wars* books of the last thirty years!

## Rebel Stand (Enemy Lines, #2) Details

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Author : Aaron Allston

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## From Reader Review Rebel Stand (Enemy Lines, #2) for online ebook

### Ben Briles says

I was so happy to see the New Republic finally get a victory that leaves the Yuuzhan Vong kinda demoralized and confused!!!

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### Mark Oppenlander says

Here's another time when I wish Goodreads allowed half-star ratings. Because three stars is probably too good for this book, but two stars seems a little harsh. Nonetheless, I know this book is not as good as the previous entry, *Rebel Dream* so I'm sticking with two stars.

For those who have been playing along at home, you may recall that Luke, Mara and Tahiri Veila, along with members of Wraith Squadron have gone on a covert mission to the Yuuzhan Vong controlled Coruscant. Meanwhile, Han and Leia are traveling from planet to planet, setting up cells for their new resistance movement. And back on Borleias, Wedge Antilles attempts to hold the planet as long as he can and make the recapture of it as costly as possible.

Of these three major threads, the storyline with Han and Leia offers the most entertainment. The combination of Leia's knowledge of politics and Han's smuggler ethos combine to make them a potent team. The battle for Borleias isn't bad either, as it plays to Allston's strengths as a writer of action sci-fi. The final offensive surprise that Wedge springs on the Yuuzhan Vong is vintage Allston, a clever trick that surprises the reader and makes our heroes seem almost superhuman in their chicanery.

Unfortunately, the strike team plot thread doesn't work as well as the others. Luke's team finds that there is something wandering through the lower levels of Coruscant that frightens even the Yuuzhan Vong. And whatever it is, it has a powerful aura in the Force. When I finally got to the big reveal of what and who that was, I found myself not caring very much. I didn't understand the stakes and the monster (for lack of a better word) felt like a level boss in a video game and nothing more. The creature doesn't feel like an integral part of the larger New Jedi Order plot. We'll see if that actually proves true. At this point, I've already read the next book in the series and I know that this plot piece receives only the briefest of mentions.

This is another episodic installment of the series that is probably only for completists.

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### Bernard says

Masterpiece! As I read this expertly executed adventure in space, on planet and underground, I couldn't help but ponder the author, no longer alive to appreciate my excitement of his novel, the six literary Star Wars journeys he's given me so far, and the many more sitting on my shelf waiting their turn in my queue of the Star Wars expanded, now "Legends," universe. Certainly Allston's legacy will only grow more legendary with each installation I will read in turn, but it is hard to imagine how he's going to beat this one.

As the New Republic turns into rebels again to slow, if not thwart, the methodical dismantling of law, ecology and stability of the galaxy by the extra-galactic invaders, we find most of our main heroes of two generations have converged on a planet hosting the staging ground for the evacuation of the Republic's capital, Coruscant, as well as its impossible stand against the overwhelming enemy forces. Luke, Mara, Leia, Han, Wedge, R2, Threepio, Tycho, some of the Wraiths from Allston's Wraith Squadron run of the X-Wing series, new faces Allston spends precious moments with--some their first and/or last, some only their introduction, making them just as endearing as the tried and true heroes--and members of the next generation, particularly Jedis Jaina, Kyp and Tahiri, but also newcomer Jag Fel, are split apart for most of the book. Some are underground literally and figuratively, on the capital world, or other Republic worlds, planting resistance cells and fleeing native and alien threats, or facing off against echoes from the past (wow--connections to Children of the Jedi & Planet of Twilight, brilliant!). Some are neck deep in the defense, strategy and subterfuge of Borleias--the Rebel Stand of the book's name. Not only does Allston craft a story of unexpected twists and clever turns, fooling both the antagonists and reader alike, but he sprinkles in some elements of the prequel movie era, which was a welcome addition to the literary lore, as the books started being written with prequel material available for use.

I continue to enjoy The New Jedi Order series, and look forward to the rest of the novels in the run. But I also eagerly await future, surely masterful, story installments crafted by Allston for the Star Wars fan to gobble and enjoy!

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### **Andrea says**

I LOOOOOOOVE his writing! Thank you for this book!

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### **Zachary Sell says**

Another excellent legends book(non cannon)! I gave up on the new Jedi order and the legends books as a whole when Disney first announced their non canonical status, but recently in my lack of available Star Wars books to read I've decided to give it another shot. This is the second book I've read since delving back in and I have to say it was a great decision. So far most of the cannon novels have been average for me except Lost Stars and Thrawn, and some of it has been downright bad on occasion. The legends have so many more great characters that have been developed for years and years. I loved seeing wedge lead the charge against the yuhzan vong and watching Jaina and Jag's relationship alter and grow. The character development is just so much better, and maybe this is because there are so few new cannon novels so far. Only time will tell. Another complaint I have with the new cannon books is a lack of good villains. This isn't an issue here as the vong provide a interesting villain with a ton of different intricacies and beliefs from our heroes, and they actually feel threatening instead of all the new novels where our heroes feel safe the entire time because we know they will appear in an upcoming or old movie. This was an overall excellent entry into the new Jedi order series and I am very excited to continue even if it doesn't count toward the actual cannon.

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## Vic1245 says

Well written, easy to read and fun!

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## Adil says

AWESOME BOOK. Just awesome. Definitely one of the best books in the New Jedi Order series so far! This book covers some of the best plots in the NJO series, and is simply extremely well written. I particularly liked Jaina's portrayal, Wedge's battle plans and the battles in general, Czulkang Lah, and the phenomenal ending, both the 'emotional' and majestic parts.

All-in-all, a definite read. Also apart from all of these factors, this book sets up the stage and background for something that is probably very important in books to come.

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## Darryl Dobbs says

I enjoyed the battle scenes and fun tactics employed by Wedge here in the defense of Borleias, as well as the growing friendship between Kyp, Jaina and Jag. And I even enjoyed the Lord Nyax arc. However, I didn't see the point of the latter within the context of this book. Just an interesting side story that they felt they must throw into one of the books, I guess.

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## Adam says

As a whole, the Duology that is *Enemy Lines I & II* acts a pivot point in the narrative of *Star Wars: The New Jedi Order*. Considering the steps that Aaron Allston took in *Enemy Lines I: Rebel Dream* to give the reader the indication that hope was still to be found, *Rebel Stand* does not fail to deliver an intriguing story.

Following the mold of the first book in the Duology, *Rebel Stand* sticks very close to some of the less Force-Sensitive Characters while still allowing the Jedi who are present in the story to shine. From Calrissian to Wedge, it is oddly rewarding for the reader to enjoy the oft overlooked Characters they have come to know from other series.

The story overall is fast paced. Unlike the introspection concerning the *Force* that seemed to play a major part in other books of the overall series, the reader is in constant motion throughout *Rebel Stand*. One moment the reader will find that they are caught in the Dejarik game over Borleias; the next they are thrust to the surface of Coruscant in pursuit of what could possibly be an even bigger threat to the Galaxy than the Yuuzhan Vong. If this were not enough, in the midst of all the action, subterfuge abounds. Though the different elements progress rapidly, the reader never feels as though they are losing their grasp on the overall story.

Now, the story does hit a few speed bumps toward the end. With all of the imaginative build up, the reader is left wishing for something far more nefarious to be found on the surface of Coruscant. This, however, does not last for long. With the flip of a page (or two), the reader is thrust into the midst of a battle which becomes the last stand of Borleias.

An interesting addition to the *Star Wars: New Jedi Order* series, but in no way unwelcome. The approach to the story that Aaron Allston takes is appreciated while not seeming out of place. The development of some of the new characters was strong, while not treating the existing in an *uncharacteristic* manner. The plot points were strong and the story was easy to follow. The perceived climax of the story may be the only place that leaves the reader a little perplexed.

Overall, it is an enjoyable read and acts as a strong midway point of the entire series.

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## Scott Rhee says

“Rebel Stand” is the exciting second book in Aaron Allston’s *Enemy Lines* duology, and it is as action-packed as the first book, “Rebel Dream”.

Without giving too many spoilers away, the good guys win in this one. For the most part.

The Yuuzhan Vong has successfully taken Coruscant and begun their violent terra-forming. Millions of survivors, however, are still stuck on the planet’s surface without any chance of escape, so Master Jedi Luke Skywalker, his wife Mara Jade, young Jedi Knight Tahiri, and a small contingent of soldiers and scientists return to Coruscant in an attempt to gather intel and do what they can to help survivors.

Battling pockets of Yuuzhan Vong troops isn’t the problem. The problem comes in the form of an inexplicable creature that seems to be going on a rampage throughout the ruins of Coruscant, leaving a wake of dead Yuuzhan Vong and survivors. This creature calls itself Lord Nyax and seems to be extremely Force-sensitive. After some investigating, Luke and his team discover that the creature is actually the Dark Jedi Irek Ismaren (see Barbara Hambly’s “Children of the Jedi”), who has been genetically altered via experiments performed upon him by Imperial scientists and his mother, Roganda, a former assassin for the late Emperor Palpatine.

Meanwhile, Han and Leia are galavanting throughout the galaxy in an attempt to garner more support for the slowly-dwindling New Republic forces. Unfortunately, when they arrive on Aphran IV, they discover a government that is pro-appeasement. The Solo’s pitch for resistance gets them thrown in prison, leaving lovable droids C3-P0 and R2-D2 as their only hope for escape.

And, meanwhile, on Borleias, Wedge Antilles leads a daring attack on Yuuzhan Vong forces, the success of which hinges upon the Yuuzhan Vong’s belief that Jaina Solo is the reincarnation of the Yuuzhan Vong trickster goddess Yun-Harla.

Amidst all of this excitement, there is even a storyline involving Yuuzhan Vong commander Tsavong Lah, who discovers a conspiracy amongst his own ship’s scientists to assassinate him. There is also the continuing love story between Jaina Solo and rugged starfighter pilot, Jagged Fell.

Strangely enough, all of these storylines are handled extremely well. Allston is an excellent writer who knows how to balance action with human drama. He is, apparently, not new to the SWEU, as he wrote several books in the “X-Wing” series, a series that I have not read yet.

“Rebel Stand” is the 12th book in the New Jedi Order series.

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## Wade Schacht says

Czulkang Lah is a force to be reckoned with, so why did Allston have to have the Lusankya ram his worldship? Hmmmm.

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## William says

This second book in the Enemy Lines mini-arc was better than the first. It had more action, was more straightforward than its predecessor, and was even funny at times. Without trying to spoil the ending, I really enjoyed the final sequence when the Yuuzhan Vong make their last ditch effort to take Borleias, and Wedge Antilles and his small but determined band of soldiers & pilots fight back. I also started to really get a sense for Warmasters Tzulkang Lah and his son, Tsavong Lah. Both could be considered great leaders for their determination and desire to win, but the whole diabolically evil trait, Tsavong in particular, they display makes them both perfect foils for our heroes.

Now, where I think this whole novel goes wrong is the Lord Nyax story. It is just that, a story; a short story surrounded by the bits and pieces of a good tale from the Yuuzhan Vong Invasion. It begins and ends within the 300+ pages of this book, and seemingly has nothing to do with the Yuuzhan Vong or their attempt to eradicate the "infidels" of this galaxy. I guess Aaron Allston, the author, needed to give Luke Skywalker something to do while the rest of the crew fought the Vong. Even Han & Leia's subplot line fills a bit flat, but it is at least loosely tied to the fight against the extraordinary foe they are facing. Another case of a good Star Wars novel being divided into a two book mini-series that drags on a bit too long.

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## Beth says

3.5 stars

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## Michael Wiggins says

This was a great improvement over Dark Journey. The action was almost nonstop, with Luke, Mara and Tahiri traveling to Coruscant; Han and Leia engaged in surreptitious missions to distant systems; and Jaina continuing her role as the trickster goddess in the conflict surrounding Borleias.

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## Crystal Starr Light says

"I don't want to discourage your curiosity, but I have to remind you, if something goes wrong, this is an exceptionally embarrassing way to die."

When we last checked into our favorite galaxy far, far away under fire from an alien invasion force, Luke and Mara were on Coruscant for a recon mission and Borleias was hunkering down for war. In Rebel Stand,

Luke and Mara find someone on Coruscant who is even more scary than the Yuuzhan Vong and Jaina the Trickster Goddess helps secure a great big victory for the New Republic.

NOTE: Based on audiobook and novel.

First off, I'm going to complain about the audiobook. So if you don't want to hear me gripe, skip this part.

I understand these audiobooks are abridged, but frak it, does that mean completely omitting half the plot in the novel just so that the entire thing can fit on two two-sided cassettes? Just like how most (all!) of the Coruscant plot-line is omitted from the enormous, *Star by Star*, here most of the battle on Borleias, the resolution of Tam the spy, the tricks of Jaina the Trickster Goddess, and Han and Leia's exploits are gone. Nothing. Nada. When I read this as a young teen, the battle of Borleias was one of the only space battles recounted in a novel that sparked creativity and inspired me to make a (crude, disgusting, horrible) drawing. What happens to Tam? What are Han and Leia doing? And what about Jaina, her tricks, and her budding romance with Jag (BTW, I forgot to mention in the last review that Allston can totally write romance)? Or what about all the HUMOR that Allston is known for? Oh, no, sorry, they're not important. Instead, let's focus on Luke and Mara's recon mission to Coruscant, the mystery of Nyax and that damn Viqi Shesh and her stupid (and unfulfilled) quest to escape. GAH!

Okay, thanks for your patience. Now, back to the review--or what I can review.

In case you didn't read that huge paragraph rant, I want to say that this review, like my review for *Star by Star*, is going to be peppered with gaps that the audiobook skipped and my memory forgot from its first reading.

Allston definitely writes his characters well. Luke, Mara, Tahiri, Wedge, Jaina...all are in fine form, great friends whom I love to watch as they battle the fierce Yuuzhan Vong. I can't think of a single character he wrote that was bad.

The story was pretty interesting. I liked the return of Irek Ismaren to Star Wars continuity, even if *Children of the Jedi* (his debut) wasn't my favorite novel. I thought it a bit crazy to have him take up such a huge chunk of the story, but (again) that is a complaint more towards the audiobook. It was nice to see Luke, Mara, and Tahiri banding together to fight him. Of course, I always like to see more about Tahiri. She's a really interesting character.

Space battles were well-done, as was the trickery of Jaina the Trickster Goddess. Of course, Allston wrote several X-Wing books, so that should come as a no-brainer. If there was anything I didn't like, it was the death of a prominent Yuuzhan Vong at the end of the book. Once again, authors create a Yuuzhan Vong villain solely for their book and then kill him or her off by the end. It's aggravating.

It was also great how the New Republic won and lost at the same time. On one hand, they lost Borleias to the Yuuzhan Vong; on the other, they destroyed a worldship using Lusankya. It was obvious by how it was written that Allston had intended for this destruction to be THE big indication that the tide was turning, and he did it well. Of course, I couldn't help but also note that technically, the New Republic has been doing quite a bit of winning since *Vector Prime*. In fact, if you switch the Yuuzhan Vong and the New Republic, this book is a good example of how the earlier books should have been written. The New Republic should have "defeated" Helska, but the more prominent story was about how they lost "X". At least, that's my two cents.



Even with the abridged audiobook chopping this to pieces, I was still able to see the great story Allston wrote. It's a great book, exciting, funny, intense, and for those who have hated how the Yuuzhan Vong are unstoppable, this is the book that assures you otherwise.

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