



# Betrayal

*Aaron Allston*

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## **Betrayal** Aaron Allston

This is the era of Luke Skywalker's legacy: the Jedi Master has unified the order into a cohesive group of powerful Jedi Knights. However, as this era begins, planetary interests threaten to disrupt this time of relative peace and Luke is plagued by visions of an approaching darkness.

Melding the galaxy into one cohesive political whole after the savage war with the Yuuzhan Vong is not the easiest task, and already some worlds are chafing under the demands of the new government. Civil war may be brewing, and the Skywalker-Solo clan find that they might not all be on the same side. Meanwhile, evil is rising again--out of the best intentions--and it looks like the legacy of the Skywalkers may come full circle...

## **Betrayal Details**

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# From Reader Review Betrayal for online ebook

## Gus says

This book is very good. The main characters are all from the original movies which is very cool. The setting takes place in the galaxy after the Yuuzhan Vong war. The galaxy is starting to rebuild the Galactic Alliance and each other's home planets. Corellia has been very independent as a planetary system and is starting to show signs of wanting to leave the Galactic Alliance and invade other systems with a secret fleet. They are also rebuilding the galaxy's most dangerous weapon, Centerpoint Station. The Galactic leader, Cal Omas, has called on the help of Jacen Solo and his cousin/apprentice Ben Skywalker. Together they must infiltrate Centerpoint Station and destroy it before Corellia uses it to leave the Galactic Alliance. While this is happening, Leia and Han are caught in the middle of a political game between the Galactic Alliance and the Prime Minister of Corellia, Thrackan Sal-Solo, Han's cousin. When there is a meeting at a neutral site to discuss Corellia's position in the Galactic Alliance, an assassination causes mass chaos. Jacen and Ben go to discover and meet Shira Brie, also known as Lumiya. Lumiya is a sith and is also an enemy of Luke, Ben's father. Lumiya plants a seed of dark thought into Jacen that is slowly leading him to be her apprentice and the next Sith Lord.

This book is very clear when it comes to showing Jacen's character change throughout the story. At the beginning Jacen is very brave and selfless towards his use of the force. He also shows a huge understanding of the way the force works. After his meeting with Lumiya he sees the force as a tool for his rising to power. His views become very misshapen and this troubles Luke.

This book is a very good successor to the Star Wars franchise. Any Star Wars fan would love this book because it picks off right where the main characters left off. This book is geared towards both genders at the age of middle school or higher. If you aren't familiar with the Star Wars series then I don't recommend this book for you.

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## Cale says

Even though it's over 400 pages, this really feels like just an Act I: reintroduce the characters, and set the pieces on the board. Two major conflicts are stirred up (the Corellian system against the Galactic Alliance, and Jacen Solo's personal philosophy), and when the book ends, we've only had the warning shots in both situations. It definitely is the start of something bigger, so judging it on its own merits almost seems unfair. That being said, there's some great dialog and character interactions here - Allston's pilots and rogues get a lot of fun dialog everywhere, and this is no different. There's a fair bit of rumination on the force and light side vs dark side, and though I don't agree with where it takes the thought, it's an interesting study of the differing philosophies. And a new character, who turns out to be a very old character, is a surprising person to see reappear. Again, lots of pieces being set up on the board, but no resolutions even remotely on the horizon.

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## Tim says

I realize that I am reading this book (the first in a series of 9) rather late in the game. I have only recently re-

discovered my love for the Star Wars franchise, after all. However, I found the book to be interesting. My only problem, however, is that since I've joined the game so late, I am unfamiliar with many of the main characters. For example, the book does talk about main villains Thracken Sal-Solo and Lumiya as if I should know exactly who they are. Yes, there are some clues as to their place in the stories, but not nearly enough for me to understand the weight of their presence. Aside from that... it was not a bad story... my only complaint is that its hard for me to imagine the main characters running around and doing all of this stuff in their 50s and 60s... just a little weird.

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## **TheBookHunter says**

### **Betrayal!**

I am happy to begin this series and the first book was very exciting.

#### Summary:

Legacy of the Force: Betrayal is the story of Jacen Solo, the son of Han Solo and Princess Leia, and the beginning of his journey towards the Dark Side of the Force.

Years following the devastating Yuuzahn-Vong War, the galaxy once again is in a state of turmoil. The Galactic Alliance is dealing with a planetary uprising that could come to full-scale conflict and everyone, including the Skywalker and Solo families are caught in the middle.

Jacen, a hero and Jedi Knight, along with his apprentice and cousin Ben Skywalker, the son of Luke and Mara Jade-Skywalker are dispatched on a mission that ultimately leads them to encounter a Dark Side-adept who manages to seduce entice Jacen with what he desires: A way to bring peace and order to a rapidly destabilizing galaxy.

But at the potential cost of betraying his friends and family in pursuit of this goal and tarnishing his reputation.

#### Thoughts:

This book was pretty fun with some good political upheaval and intrigue elements, and by the end, Jacen Solo honestly solidified himself as one of my favorite characters. A character that knows the risks of what could happen if he crosses the threshold that his own Grandfather, Anakin Skywalker crossed. Ive already liked his character before from the Young Jedi Knights series and of course the New Jedi Order books, so over the span of many novels we've seen his character evolve, but here he shines as almost an anti-hero, and I can't wait to read through the rest of the series to see him fulfill his destiny.

Underappreciated character in this book who's also my second favorite is Ben Skywalker. He's a smart mouth kid, has much to learn, but he's quick on his wits, can't wait to read more of him! He and Jacen make a great team.

A little frustration I had was this book were Han Solo and Princess Leia going a little out of character, Han especially, being a grumpy old man, who honestly has his head lodged in his a\$\$ most of the book, but you can sort of move past it toward the end.

Final Thoughts:

If you're like me and are okay with or without reading the lengthy New Jedi Order series, go ahead and pick this up! It's a fun introduction to an epic series with great characters, I'm currently on Book #2 Bloodlines.

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### **Michelle Benson says**

4.5 stars!

And so marks the summer I will almost exclusively read Star Wars EU books.

And what an awesome start. It took a while to get going, but get going it did. While I could stand to see less of the old movie folks and more of the next generation I get I'm probably in the minority wanting that. Also totally called who was going to go dark side and I'm so ready for it. Jacen and Ben are my favs for sure. I wish Jaina would have been in it more!

Will the fact that this series is written by three different authors ruin it for me? Stay tuned to find out

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### **Stephanie "Jedigal" says**

This is a good example of the expanded universe, and a good example of author Allston's contributions, but nothing to write home about.

Best thing about this book: a fast-moving plot that never stagnates. Nice balance, as Allston usually does, of balancing emphasis between action sequences and characterization. But unfortunately in this one, both those areas are somewhat lacking. There is no sparkle here.

Another positive note: Jacen Solo once again displays his tendency to think for himself. In this first-in-a-series title, you might wonder whether this time it's going to lead him into the kind of consequences he hasn't had to regret so far. Completists (not a word, I know) will find it reminiscent of Traitor, but not close to the same class.

It's definitely a thumbs up, but if you've got a lot of other SW reading to catch up on, no need to rush to this one. You could even consider waiting for the paperback. And sorry, but I can't resist this opportunity for plugging Allston's Wraith Squadron series from the X-Wing series. They are great!!

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### **Havva says**

I stopped reading new Star Wars books after the first few New Jedi Order, but when I saw this one for sale used I thought I'd try it, since it was a new series and I've always liked Aaron Allston. Solo Command and Starfighters of Adumar standing out among all others for their laugh-out-loud humour.

This book was slightly better than the last few Star Wars I've tried, including a number of amusing references to previous events, both in-universe and out (Tycho asked, "Is Han-" "He's fine," Leia said. "Han

shot first.") to the point where I was very surprised to finish the book without running onto one "I've got a bad feeling about this."

I enjoyed meeting the children of some classic characters, and the return of the characters themselves, older but not necessarily more mature. I especially enjoyed the return of Admiral Gilad Pellaeon on the side of many of his former enemies, and discovering his (Hebrew) first name, having missed it if it appeared in earlier books.

That aside I did not especially enjoy this book and have no intention of reading any others in the Legacy series, as it is clearly suffering from the same misapprehension NJO did.

If I want to read about bad things happening to good people, good people being forced to do bad things, people doing bad things even though they know better, screwed-up situations with no good solution, older people being too stuck in their ways to see what's in front of them, younger people convinced they know everything and causing untold suffering as a result, and children being put in inhuman situations I can read the news, history, political analysis, or great novelists like Dostoevsky and feel that I've gained something for my trouble.

The point of the Star Wars I grew up with is a fun adventure with little plot, bad special effects, the good guys winning in the end, and Harrison Ford running around being all swashbuckly. And that was exactly what I was hoping for when I picked up a new Star Wars book to relax with at the end of a long week.

There are literally innumerable works of great literature dealing with the serious matters of good and evil, predestination, personal responsibility and conflicted loyalties. The world does not need light entertainment masquerading as another extremely mediocre try at it.

Timothy Zahn, among others, seems to feel similarly.

"Star Wars, to me, is an old-fashioned tale of Good v. Evil, with the heroes stepping up to an overwhelming challenge, working through it with sweat and courage and sacrifice, and ultimately winning the day. "

"But I personally don't want my fiction to necessarily be "realistic" – I want my fiction to be entertaining. "

"If I want realism and the deaths of people I care about, I can turn on the news."

(From an interview with TheForce.Net)

The grand high masters of lucasville have clearly forgotten what Star Wars started as, and are losing much of their fan base in the process.

And now, having gotten that off my chest, I'm going to get back to my life and probably not think about Star Wars for the next ten years or so.

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## **Matt Kent says**

**Pleasantly surprised upon reading reviews of this book I was skeptical of what to expect I was enthralled from start to finish.**

A good book to start this series I wasn't sure what to expect at first. Once I began reading I was hooked. I

gave this book a solid four stars it had good pace kept the reader entertained. It never lacking dull moments and made for a good read. I would recommend to anyone wanting to get their feet wet in the star wars universe this is a good starting point.

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## Quentin says

I've been on a Star Wars bent lately and decided to read the "Legacy of the Force" series despite its less than stellar reputation. In all honesty this book was pretty good until the very end. The premise of the book is a decent enough one:

A civil war has broken out between the Galactic Alliance and Correlia (Han and Wedge's Native World) over the latter's independence with neither side being completely in the right. However a monkey wrench is thrown into the works when a shadowy Sith kills political figures on both sides and attacks the Skywalker/Solo Clan.

The problem comes at the very end when the Jedi Knight Jacen Solo is tempted by the Sith to the Dark Side because his ability to see the future says that this is the best course of action to prevent death on a massive scale. The idea of the protagonist doing a bad thing to prevent a worse outcome isn't an uncommon occurrence but the way its done here is completely wrong.

Because the thing that ends up making Jacen go rogue is having one conversation with the Sith woman immediately after he's met her which causes him to kill a friend to keep her silent about his change of allegiance. This doesn't work for so many reasons:

- \*There's no build up. It isn't established (clearly enough anyway) that Jacen has unshakable confidence in his clairvoyance to kill a friend.

- \*He doesn't agonize even a little bit over his decision to murder someone, AT ALL.

- \*The argument which turns him isn't very convincing. It boils down to, "Hey maybe your entire belief system is skewed. All those Sith you know about were just bad apples. Wanna join the Dark side now"?

Comparing this turn to others in the franchise makes it come off even worse. Episode III establishes Palpatine has pretty much been working on turning Anakin to the dark side ever since he met him as a child. Befriending him, acting as a kind of paternal figure and confident, isolating and alienating him from his friends and loved ones, filling his mind with half truths, and leveraging the belief that Anakin's wife will die without Palpatine's help. Say what you will about the prequels but Anakin becoming Vader was completely believable.

Also compare the divisive comic series Dark Empire. Luke comes face to face with the resurrected Emperor whom asks Luke to become his apprentice. Luke takes him up on the offer not because he wants to but because he has no chance of defeating the Emperor as is and gaining power from the Dark side is a calculated risk (that utterly fails by the way).

To make this plot point work you would have to do one of two things. Either firmly established that Jacen saw no other way to prevent the death of billions of people other than becoming a Sith and doing awful things or make Jacen a sociopath.

I guess if one good thing came out of this series, it was inspiring the character of Kylo Ren whose character arc and internal struggle is done so much better than Jacen's.

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## Hailey says

After I first read this book, my immediate reaction was, "I've read fan fiction better than this!" It took Traviss' and Denning's next installments to get me comfortable with the idea of the change in Jacen. Looking back, it makes sense after his capture by the Vong and 5 year journey studying different Force techniques. It took a while, but the book finally grew on me with the witty exchanges and character interactions. I particularly liked this little exchange:

[b]Han straightened, irritably, on the couch. "And Zekk. Who, may I ask, invited Zekk? He's not family."

Luke and Mara managed to say "Not yet" simultaneously.

Han glared at them.[/b]

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## Petter Avén says

Spoiler alert! Read at your own hazard. I will take no responsibility for making you feel saddened by my review, nor possibly bored out of your mind. I do however take all due credit for being a sarcastic smartass even when I in fact like a piece of literature. Which in this case I do.

"Deep are the wounds that civil strife inflicts." The words of the Roman poet Marcus Annaeus Lucanus return to haunt me in Betrayal, just as they did in the Dark Nest trilogy. Once again characters that have been around for ever, and that I have come to care about, are pitted against each other. And once again, over a conflict that in some critical sense fails to engage me. This time it is the Corellians who for some reason have concluded that the light burdens that follow membership in the Galactic Alliance are too heavy to bear and decide to secede. Never mind that they endured two decades of Imperial iron rule before they rebelled. Han Solo's fear that the GA would somehow stifle the Corellian spirit is, in my humble opinion, a load of crap. If those people are so adventurous, why don't they build Zonama Sekot class hyperdrives and move their world over to the Unknown Regions? I bet that would spell some Chinese style interesting times for them. Do I sound overly critical of Corellia's motivations and integrity? Yeah, well, maybe. Perhaps I've just had too big a dose of SW over the years and feel that my favourite far, far away and long time ago Galaxy has earned a rest by the time Betrayal begins. However, spoilers have revealed to me that a long and brutal civil war or two are in store for the Skywalkers and Solos. I grow increasingly convinced that a few centuries of peace following the peace accord between the New Republic and the Imperial Remnant would have been for the best. Oh well, back to Betrayal! As I have already stated, the Corellian cause fails to move me. If it had, I would have liked this novel even more than I do. For in spite of my harsh criticism, I still find Betrayal to be a good read. It is just that my lack of sympathies for one of the parties in the conflict, just as the case is with Dark Nest, makes it more difficult for me to understand why some characters support it. So who are they? And are there any new characters making their SW debut?

Han Solo. Our beloved roguish smuggler has felt the tugs of a wilder lifestyle many a time since the days of the Rebellion, but he has always decided to stick by his friends and family when they need him. In Betrayal, Han betrays the Galactic Alliance, and more importantly, me, by aiding Corellia with intelligence and his expertise. Even though he should know from experience that his own children and extended family will most



likely be in the van of the GA armed forces. And he does it twice, apparently not rattled enough after the first time. I almost found myself wishing that Jaina would become seriously injured as a consequence, just to hammer home to Han the enormity of his choice. Yeah, I know, he does it because he really thinks it may prevent an escalation of the war, but I still think it stinks. Han Solo feels like Han Solo, but he makes the wrong calls.

Leia Organa Solo. This time the Jedi princess and former head-of-state has really done it. With the casual and warm affection of a supporting wife who in a different universe would help her husband realize his long planned project of repairing the old family sailing boat, Leia helps Han escalate a small conflict to the brink of another galactic civil war. So Corellia can be free from the "oppressive" Galactic Alliance. To protect the planet's adventurous spirit. So it can produce more maverick heroes. Just in case there's another galactic civil war. See my problem with that reasoning? Yes, of course Leia is disillusioned with politics after everything that's happened in her life. Which is why she should have been retired as a character before she does something so stupid that her long time fans, to whom I belong, begin to think she's gone nuts. Leia Organa Solo feels like Leia Organa Solo, but she makes the wrong calls.

Wedge Antilles. Finally, a character whose choices I can partly understand! My affections for Wedge have lasted through the years and the novels, even though his infallibility is annoying at times. In *Betrayal*, where two grayish parties are pitted against each other, he opts to sit it all out until the military bureaucrats of the Galactic Alliance decide he is a hazard and have him locked up. Bad idea. Wedge is soon back on Corellia and in a new uniform. After all, he did live on Corellia until his late teens (I think). The facts that Thrakan Sal-Solo is in charge and that his own daughter flies with the Galactic Alliance in the war zone are not enough to put him off. I am not quite sure what to make of that. The decision is as heart-wrenching for Wedge as it is for Han and Leia, but he does it anyway. Still, Wedge Antilles feels like Wedge Antilles and I guess he makes the right call considering what he is put through by the Galactic Alliance.

The overwhelming majority of characters who have fought and sacrificed for so long to establish and defend first the New Republic and its present political entity the GA choose to remain loyal. Most notable are of course the Skywalkers. Luke and Mara are in my opinion well depicted and require no description on my part. However *Betrayal* features some newcomers. The one I liked the best is...

Syal Antilles. Welcome to the family, flygirl! I know you'll fit right in, shaking leg and all. No, I mean it, with the old generation of pilots retiring it is time for some new ones to grab the flight sticks and steer their snubfighters to fame and glory. Aaron Allston knows well how to do this; it is what I like best about his books. Syal's exclamation; "Daddy, you're retired. Get out of the skies." had me laughing out loud and with true feeling. An extra half star for that one father-daughter encounter alone.

Whew! Half-way through now, I think. Let's get on with the second major development and the characters put through it.

Jacen goes Dark. And then so do I. That's it in short, really. But, if you care (to) bear with me, I will try to outline things a bit more studiously. Jacen Solo and Ben Skywalker track down the owner of a mysterious piece of fabric on which is left messages that very obviously to every reader are descriptions and premonitions of Jacen's life and character. Most of them are decidedly Sith, which would start warning bells in every Jedi head but Jacen's. Instead of realizing the danger and that he is in fact being goaded toward a future desired by someone else, Jacen chooses to embrace this path. With him is his apprentice, Ben Skywalker, who has grown into a bright and resourceful boy of 13. He proves himself through his actions rather than what I am told by other characters. Along the way Jacen and Ben meet Nelani Dinn, a young Jedi Knight assigned to duties on the planet of Lorrd where their search has brought them. They encounter crazy

and/or manipulated people in hostage situations designed to force Jacen into choosing the safety of the many lives over the few or single. The company eventually meet with a mysterious, dark Force user and have a chat. Together with her, they visit a Sith mansion, which turns out to be inside a hollowed out rock in space, not far from Bimmieel. Well what do you know? And then, surprise surprise, it all goes horribly wrong. And the fact that I, and probably most other readers, knew in my gut that it would was not enough of a comfort.

Jacen Solo. So Jacen eventually reaches the inescapable end of a long slide into an ever growing abyss between himself and most of the galaxy and its residents. For some time and novels he has put himself above others, even manipulating those closest to him in order to prevent visions of the future from coming true. Does this sound familiar from somewhere? If only at a young age he had seen *Revenge of the Sith* together with me. We could have had a good laugh at how stupid Anakin Skywalker really was and how old Palps goaded and tricked him into becoming evil and kill the one he was prepared to slaughter half the galaxy in order to protect. But... nah, probably wouldn't have worked anyway. Jacen may be ten times smarter than A. Skywalker ever was, but also ten times emotionally colder by the time of *Betrayal*. That combination causes him to consciously and with a clear mind disregard from common morality. No mindless rage with Jacen, no no. He sees a future through the Force, decides that it is the only one possible unless he "surgically" kills certain people and then sets about doing just that. After all, he has it all so logically laid out: Many lives trump one. You can't make an omelette without breaking a few eggs. Oh, that second one was Stalin, I think. Sorry. I think you get the picture, though. To Jacen the end justifies the means, and has for some time. Now, at long last, he is prepared to personally spill the blood of the innocent to sustain this principle. Also, he gets away with it all by using a forced memory wipe on little Ben. Hide the bodies, no one will ever know... buhu. Jacen Solo feels like Jacen Solo as he could turn out, but not as he necessarily had to turn out. In *"Betrayal"* he is certainly a whole different person than the serene but humane and empathic young man who emerged from the Yuuzhan Vong war.

Ben Skywalker. This kid really does more than fine for his age, and I do not mean the action scenes. After all, anything can be accomplished in a fictional universe. No, I am talking about Aaron Allston's depiction of Ben's psyche. I can feel I get into the mind of a teenager who is mature for his age, awkward though it may be at times. It certainly beats trying to connect to an adult who behaves like a 13 year old. These are my hopes for young Ben: That he makes it through the hells that a score of authors and evil characters have in store for him without losing his humane ideals. We know from experience that bad things happen to many Jedi that have to be in the line of fire for too long.

Nelani Dinn. Oh dear. I can almost hear the scissors at work. Cutting through the cardboard. She is... Jedi. Idealistic. Beautiful. In love with Jacen. When she was described I almost immediately envisioned her in the Trekkie red shirt. Modest yet form fitting, of course. And I gave her a generous 50% chance of surviving the end of the novel. She did not. And I was not sorry. I mean seriously, she was designed to die by Jacen's hand as a symbol for his rite of passage to Sith-hood and that was it. No reader with a decent sense of drama could avoid seeing it coming.

Okay, time to wrap this review up. Just to be clear, I know I have left out important elements and characters, but I don't think there is much room for more. Unifying Force versus Light and Dark sides will have to wait. Anyway. I like the language used; it depicts characters, environments and action sequences in ways that are engaging and easy to follow. That I do not always like what the characters do is beside the point in that regard. And to be completely honest, I cannot say for sure how I would like them to behave in the situations Aaron Allston conjures. As a long time Game Master of RPG:s I have developed a sense for when the time is right to kill your darlings; these being characters or plots or whatever. However, I find it difficult to stomach my darlings almost killing each other for reasons that are not good enough. No matter how well written *Betrayal* and subsequent novels depicting the next galactic holocaust may be, I feel most strongly that many

of the characters that I have followed from A New Hope and on are now pointlessly being used up. Their ultimate slide into desperation and trauma after too many costly "adventures" have begun to influence how I view them in the original SW movies and early novels. I feel sorry for them. They have such high hopes to make their galaxy a better place and now I know those hopes will all be dashed. Over and over, and at times by some of the original heroes themselves and their kin. Three strong stars to *Betrayal* by Aaron Allston instead of the five I wish I could give.

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## Shara says

### *My Review: 6 - Worth Reading, with Reservations*

Reservation #1: if you haven't been keeping up with the post-*Return of the Jedi* Expanded Universe novels, this is, by far, one of the *worst* places you can jump aboard. While there is some merit in believing that every story set in a franchise should be friendly to newbies, the thing with the *Star Wars* Expanded Universe is that it's grown so large, with so many important characters that have nothing to do with the movies, that if you pick up this book just wanting to get the further adventures of Han, Luke, and Leia, you are going to be sorely disappointed.

If you are caught up, like I was, you may still be disappointed. This book is... strange. I was accidentally, then on purpose, spoiled for the MAJOR EVENTS that happen in this *Legacy of the Force* series, so I read this book with a kind of dread, but also with a kind of expectation: I wanted to see just how on *Earth* the writers were going to pull this off. *Betrayal* reveals to the readers the FIRST MAJOR EVENT. Which, if you've been reading the books in publication order, shouldn't come as any surprise: it was pretty clear where a particular character was heading after the Dark Nest Trilogy, but still: it's tough, especially when you've been reading this series as long as I have.

Aaron Allston, for his part, does the best he can: there are great moments in this book: fantastic characterizations of fan-favorites like Wedge Antilles, and introductions to promising new characters like his daughter. Allston's trademark humor, while not in full-force, does permeate the book and provide some much needed levity. And the action of the story starts up quick and doesn't let up until halfway through the book, wherein Allston allows the readers and the characters to stop and catch their breath before plunging headfirst into the rest of the action. There's a *lot* to digest in this book, and I'm torn between thinking that this was the right approach, that we needed to get through this stuff and quickly as possible, and thinking that perhaps the EU powers-that-be could've taken a little more time with it and given the readers a chance to really swallow the Civil War that's brewing. Because it is a tough book to swallow: both the events that are rattling characters' lives and the changes those events wrought in them. If there's anything to walk away from in this book, it's that theme of change, of transformation. It's a fascinating theme, but it's also a very, very painful one.

There's some good stuff in this novel. There's some stuff that I'm not wholly convinced about, so the rest of the series will have to do its best to convince me. However, I don't recommend reading this if you aren't already through the *New Jedi Order* and the Dark Nest Trilogy, and even that's the bare minimum for you fully appreciate the events of this book. If you've already read this, though, I'd love to hear your thoughts (just don't spoil me, because even though I know the MAJOR EVENTS, I'd like the little things to be a surprise).

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## **Matt Mazenauer says**

It has all the bravado a Star Wars novel should: dramatic relationships drastically affected by the hardships of galactic war, cinematic battles so vivid you can see the glow of the lightsaber cuts, and true respect for the characters that populate this universe, from their witty banter to their amazing skills. Amid the author's novel personal sci-fi ideas that decorate the various new cultures and technologies we meet are some truly realistic family struggles as our cast is split by a newly sparked war. On a major side tangent (so much to the side it is almost distracting) comes fascinating original philosophical ideas behind the Force. All together, this is a strong introduction to a new saga of Star Wars that anyone who has seen the movies can follow and enjoy.

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## **andrew looker says**

### Personal Response

I think that this was a very good book there were a lot of unexpected twists and turns in the book which is good for action books. The author put a lot of very very tense moments where the character has to make a tough decision that may change his or her life. I also liked this because the author included cliffhangers that really stumped the reader for a good amount of time

### Plot

What happens first is that Corellia plans to reactivate Centerpoint Station which is a station that can move planets and stars. Then Jedi Jacen Skywalker and Ben Solo go through training to stop them from reactivating it. When they both get to Centerpoint Station Jacen is fighting off troops while Ben sneaks into the control room and disables and blows up most knowledge on how to restart it. While they are doing this a Galactic Alliance fleet appears to support ground teams as they try to destroy the prime ministers building killing the prime minister in doing so but they can not get to the building so they set their sights on killing the prime minister when she is in a speeder. They take out the escorts and get to the prime minister but it isn't the prime minister it is a droid that explodes. Then the ground team has to get back to the fleet and they do but the fleet decides to take over one of the five planets of the system. Then the Corellian military decides to take it back and ends up blowing up the Galactic Alliance outpost and taking back the planet.

### Recommendation

I would recommend this book to 9th or 8th grade boys who love books full of action and tense moments. I would not recommend this to any girls because they usually do not like action and tense moments.

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## **Alex says**

### Plot:

Betrayal takes place forty years after A New Hope and shortly after the Yuuzhan Vong War. The galaxy is on the brink of a total civil war due to the fact that Corellia and other worlds don't want to follow the Galactic Alliance's rules. There is tension building between Corellia and the GA (Galactic Alliance). This causes the Alliance to prematurely attack the Corellian military, which I don't entirely agree with. I can see why the Galactic Alliance attacked, but I think that the attack would only make the Corellians more upset

with the government. The attack is mostly successful, but it did not do it without its downsides. As a result the two sides went to a conference to discuss the matter. While they were there, there was an attack that resulted in deaths on both sides. Both sides blame the other side, so it deepened the rift. Jedi went to investigate the attack and found something that is even worse than you could imagine. In the end Corellia fought back against the GA and emerged victorious. I believe that depending on who you ask, the result was different because to some people it took on a deep personal role.

#### Characterization:

The main influential characters in Betrayal are as follows: Han Solo (Corellian, married to Leia Organa Solo), Leia Organa Solo (Jedi, Han's wife, Luke Skywalker's sister), Jacen Solo (Jedi, son of Han and Leia), Jaina Solo (Jedi, daughter of Han and Leia), Luke Skywalker (Jedi Grand Master, married to Mara Jade Skywalker, Leia's brother), Mara Jade Skywalker (Jedi Master, Luke's wife), Ben Skywalker (Jedi, son of Luke and Mara, Jacen's Padawan), Wedge Antilles (Corellian, retired war hero for the GA, current military advisor for Corellia). The Corellians, Han and Wedge, have great citizenship toward their world, so they are siding with Corellia in the not quite war. Leia is siding with Han because she was committed to him before she became a Jedi. Luke, Mara, Jaina, Jacen, and Ben are sided with the Galactic Alliance because they are Jedi and so are sworn to protect the Galactic Alliance.

#### Audience:

This book would attract the attention of science-fiction fans, boys and girls alike because there are aliens, futuristic ideas, and time/space travel. People who enjoy Star Wars would love this book because it continues their favorite story with their favorite characters. However if you don't like violence you should not read this book as it is based around war. This book is a difficult read, so only read it if you are at a high school reading level. I would also recommend that you have a great deal of background knowledge about the events in the Star Wars universe leading up to this point. There is a lot of reference about those events.

#### Personal Response:

I gave this book a 5 out of 5 stars because I enjoy the Star Wars universe and all it has to offer. I enjoy the different scenarios each of the characters get into and how it seems they all come together in the end. You can learn a lot about character and yourself reading these books. There is also action mixed in with personal conflict, so it gives you all four levels of conflict: man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. society, and man vs. self. Overall I find this very informative and exciting.

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