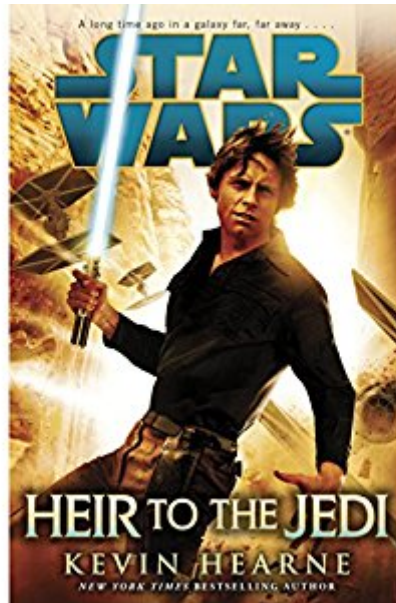


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Heir To The Jedi: Star Wars



Synopsis

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away... A thrilling new adventure set between A New Hope and The Empire Strikes Back and, for the first time ever, written entirely from Luke Skywalker's first-person point of view. Luke Skywalker's game-changing destruction of the Death Star has made him not only a hero of the Rebel Alliance but a valuable asset in the ongoing battle against the Empire. Though he's a long way from mastering the power of the Force, there's no denying his phenomenal skills as a pilot--and in the eyes of Rebel leaders Princess Leia Organa and Admiral Ackbar, there's no one better qualified to carry out a daring rescue mission crucial to the Alliance cause. A brilliant alien cryptographer renowned for her ability to breach even the most advanced communications systems is being detained by imperial agents determined to exploit her exceptional talents for the Empire's purposes. But the prospective spy's sympathies lie with the Rebels, and she's willing to join their effort in exchange for being reunited with her family. It's an opportunity to gain a critical edge against the Empire that's too precious to pass up. It's also a job that demands the element of surprise. So Luke and the ever-resourceful droid R2-D2 swap their trusty X-wing fighter for a sleek space yacht piloted by brash recruit Nakari Kelen, daughter of a biotech mogul, who's got a score of her own to settle with the Empire. Challenged by ruthless imperial bodyguards, death-dealing enemy battleships, merciless bounty hunters, and monstrous brain-eating parasites, Luke plunges head-on into a high-stakes espionage operation that will push his abilities as a Rebel fighter and would-be Jedi to the limit. If ever he needed the wisdom of Obi-Wan Kenobi to shepherd him through danger, it's now. But Luke will have to rely on himself, his friends, and his own burgeoning relationship with the Force to survive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There are three different types of readers most likely to be picking this up. The Star Wars fans who've never read any of Hearne's work. The Hearne fans who've never read any Star Wars novels. And the fans like myself who are both Star Wars novel readers and Hearne fans. Sadly, I don't think any of them are going to get what they came for. My first reaction when I heard we were getting a Star Wars novel written by Kevin Hearne was a gleeful fistpump. It seemed like a perfect combo, my biggest fandom written by an author with the panache to make druids cool and the creative mojo to see a world where multiple pantheons could dwell. Yep, I was digging it. But as I began to turn the pages and dive into HEIR TO THE JEDI I quickly realized that either Hearne was playing it very safe or the editor had heavily reigned in any attempt at doing anything interesting with this story. To put it bluntly, this book was as entertaining as watching paint dry for the first 11 chapters. It was painful to read and as my friends and spouse (who knew I had an ARC) begged for my thoughts I had to keep repeating that I thought it would get better. It did. Kind of. At Chapter 12 the pacing picks up a lot but unfortunately I never really felt like I was reading a Star Wars novel. Both for issues with the lack of action and the world building elements that weren't well utilized. Whether it's something resulting from the canon laws of SW fiction now or maybe Hearne holding back or the editor's choices, one of the most aggravating parts of HTTJ is all of the Earthy stuff. One of my favorite things about reading SW books in my teens was being taken away to worlds where the food was foreign, the tech was a bit ridiculous, and the analogies were often amusingly weird.

My name is Luke Skywalker and I'm going to tell you a story. Like, in first person and what not. It's an easy story to follow: I sort of experience a bunch of completely non-sequitur encounters with wholly unrelated characters in random locations. Sometimes it's an Aliens ripoff; sometimes it's a RomComâ "there's something for everyone! It doesn't really piece together, so you won't have to bother thinking too much. Also, I'll explain it all to you in super casual, Earth teen lingo so that it feels intimate and relevant and such. Hey, remember that time I destroyed the Death Star, or that time when my Uncle Owen and Aunt Beru got burned. Yep, I'm *that* Luke Skywalker. See, every now and then while telling this story, I'll free associate memories like those from my previous exploits in order to remind you that, despite the fact that I in no way seem to think or act like the

Luke Skywalker whose hero's journey and dynamic character development resulted in the courageous destruction of the Empire's ultimate weapon, I AM ACTUALLY *that* Luke Skywalker. Which is kind of weird and stuff. Because, in this story, I seem to have regressed so much emotionally and mentally that it's going to be REALLY HARD for you to believe I'm legit that same guy. In fact, my nearly paralyzing inability to interact with a human woman may be utterly confounding to you. It is to me. It's as if instead of exhibiting signs of some sort of latent teen angst fueled by a potential love interest, I may actually be suffering from brain trauma or mad Bantha disease (see what I did there?) Relationship goals, amirite? Oh, remember that time when I wanted to go into Tosche station to pick up some power converters?

There are some nice character moments in Kevin Hearne's *Heir to the Jedi*, but I can't shake the feeling that it's not the same Luke we saw in the films. Of the three adult Star Wars novels released since the EU relaunch (including *A New Dawn* and *Tarkin*), I think *Heir to the Jedi* is the most interesting. But it also has the weakest plot. As the publisher's summary notes, Luke goes on a mission to retrieve an Imperial cryptologist. It's the same premise as last year's *Honor Among Thieves*. Luke and Nakari basically bounce from one planet to another on a series of small adventures, but that seems more like the backdrop for the story rather than the story itself. I doubt anybody will be surprised at the ending of the book. Certain things have to happen. However, how it happens actually becomes interesting. This is definitely a book more interested in characters than in plot or action. At its core, *Heir to the Jedi* is about Luke's relationship to the Force and to other people. Most of the old EU stories set in between *A New Hope* and *Empire Strikes Back* seemed content to treat Luke as already a fairly skilled Jedi. Hearne realizes that at this point Luke had not had any training in the Force other than Ben Kenobi's instructions on the *Millennium Falcon*. In *Heir to the Jedi*, we get to see Luke struggle with basic Force skills. For example, we see the first time Luke uses telekinesis. It's a worthy payoff not just because it's a significant accomplishment but is also so humble. The ending provides an important payoff of a different sort, both in Luke's relationship with the other characters and his relationship to the Force. It subtly contrast Luke's decisions with those of his father. That said, something about Luke's characterization in this novel feels off.

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