



Star Wars: Princess Leia

*Mark Waid , Terry Dodson (Illustrator) , Rachel Dodson (Inker, Cover Art) , Jordie Bellaire (Colourist) ,
Joe Caramagna (Letterer)*

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When Princess Leia Organa was captured by the Empire, she never betrayed her convictions - even after the complete destruction of her home world, Alderaan. When her rescue came, Leia grabbed a blaster and joined the fight, escaping back to the Rebel Alliance and helping strike the biggest blow against the Empire - the destruction of the Death Star! But in the aftermath of that victory, the question remains...what is a princess without a world? As Leia comes to grips with her loss, a new mission leads her to the underground world of Sullust. The Empire is rounding up fugitive Alderaanians, and that doesn't sit well with their Princess! But what can one woman do against the Galactic Empire? They're about to find out! Join the galaxy's toughest Princess on a quest to save her people and rebuild her life!

COLLECTING: Princess Leia 1-5

Star Wars: Princess Leia Details

Date : Published November 3rd 2015 by Marvel (first published September 15th 2015)

ISBN : 9780785193173

Author : Mark Waid , Terry Dodson (Illustrator) , Rachel Dodson (Inker, Cover Art) , Jordie Bellaire (Colourist) , Joe Caramagna (Letterer)

Format : Paperback 120 pages

Genre : Media Tie In, Star Wars, Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Science Fiction, Superheroes, Marvel, Graphic Novels Comics

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From Reader Review Star Wars: Princess Leia for online ebook

Chad says

I expected more from this book given to the creative team. Waid's writing felt bland and felt like just a stock story. Terry Dodson is a fantastic artist but he's changed his art to give it more on an animation feel. It's not as detailed as his previous work and I didn't really care for it. It just felt sloppy when I can normally get lost in his pages.

Sesana says

This is the least of the first three Marvel Star Wars comics, which doesn't mean that it's bad. It starts with a plausible, reasonable plot to assign to a solo Leia book: Leia wants to gather together the remnants of Alderaan. Ok, that makes a certain kind of sense. And Waid seemed to have a decent handle on the character of Leia as of A New Hope. But the problem is that it never quite goes beyond a decent plot and decent characterization. For one, the plot is way too big to be assigned to a short, five issue miniseries. The work of uniting the survivors of Alderaan to settle a new planet is so obviously not going to be accomplished in five issues that Waid just kind of has Leia hand the task off and go on her way. I guess we're supposed to take it that she's done enough to get the ball rolling, but it just felt abrupt and unsatisfying. Add to that the fact that Waid fails to do anything interesting with Leia as a character. It felt very superficial at times, and it does nothing to advance her character or give new insight into her personality at all. This isn't a bad book, and it has good spots. It just could have been a lot better with a more contained storyline and a bit more insight.

Kim says

What girl doesn't want to be Princess Leia?!! I adored this comic. And if someone could send me all of The princess clothes that would be terrific. Look forward to the next comic. Princess Leia is so badass.

David - proud Gleeman in Branwen's adventuring party says

Review to come

Joe says

This is as good as you can do with a Princess Leia book Mark Weid? Here's what I wanted:

- Character growth
- Girl Power
- Fun adventure

Here's what I got:

- Slight variations on her two hairstyles from *A New Hope*.
- A quest that even she seems confused by.
- An ending that basically hits the reset button on the whole thing.

There's a reason that they only gave this book 5 issues. I will say this: The artwork was beautiful. So, yeah, maybe just look at the pretty pictures and don't read the words, I guess?

Kemper says

Since this is the third *Star Wars* comic collection I've reviewed this month you might be wondering why I've been binge reading these. Most of you probably missed this because there was hardly any marketing done for it, but there was a little indie movie called *The Force Awakens* that got made by some tiny studio. I think it's only playing at art house theaters, but I managed to catch a showing. It got me craving more stories about the *Star Wars* universe and for some reason Marvel released a new line of comics so that was fortunate timing.

I think maybe Marvel has some kind of association with the same fly-by-night studio that made the movie? Anyhow, that's why I've been reading all these. And if you get a chance to catch the movie I highly recommend it, but you better hurry because I hear it's tanking at the box office and probably won't be in theaters long.*

What we've got here is Princess Leia going on her own solo adventure shortly after the events of *A New Hope*, but before the events of the main *Star Wars* comic. Leia is reeling a bit because her old home planet of Alderaan got blown to smithereens by the Empire, and it was kinda sorta her fault. So she takes it on herself to go gather up the remaining Alderaanians (Alderaans? Alderaanicans? Figure it out for yourself, nerd!) and find them a new home to protect them from Imperial vengeance.

I had pretty high hopes for this since it was written by Mark Waid, and I've loved what he did on *Daredevil*, but this fell short of my expectations. The artwork is pretty good, and he adds some nice layers to Leia by exploring the responsibility she feels to her people as the last surviving member of their royal family which is an angle the movies never had time for.

However, it suffers from some of the problems inherent to any tie-in novel or comics like the other spin-off about Darth Vader that depends on introducing new story and characters. I'm just not all that interested in those new elements and people I've never seen in the movies because I know they really don't matter. When Leia appoints a new character, Evaan, as her right hand woman to help her out with this mission I can't get too invested in her because I know she wasn't in *Empire Strikes Back* so she's not that important in the long run or she's dead meat walking.

The main *Star Wars* comic title worked very well because it was all about Luke, Leia, Han, Vader, Chewbacca, etc., etc. When you do an off-shoot story that depends on just one of them than it's almost always disappointing because you can't help but wish the gang would get back together.

So it's a good tie-in title that has some interesting things, but it didn't blow my hair up into cinnamon buns over my ears.

** The first two paragraphs of this review contain irony in which I knowingly wrote false statements in order to get some laughs based on the success of the new Star Wars movie. Sadly, my Goodreads history has taught me that I must make disclaimers like this for people who read everything literally with no sense of humor and then tell me what an idiot I am in the comments. The joke is on you, nerf herder!*

Wendy says

Leia finds herself without a home or a role in the rebellion and the few of her people that remain don't think too highly of her ice queen persona. Why doesn't she grieve, they wonder? As if everyone must grieve in the same way. Leia imposes herself on an Alderaanian pilot named Evaan with whom she wants to be friends, though the woman keeps herself at a carefully caustic subservient distance. They take off to scour the galaxy for pockets of survivors to gather them together before the Emperor wipes them out completely.

The exploration of Leia's feelings and actions following the death of her planet has the potential to be a great read, but that's not really what we get here. In fact, I can't really say that this is a Leia story at all since the character often doesn't resemble Leia at all in her actions. She's brash and bold, and quick to drop pretenses and subterfuge -- which is good since every time she "disguises" herself, everyone immediately recognizes her. Probably because she wears bright white and has got that telltale hair thing going on. She impresses the wayward Alderaanians with her courage and willingness to sacrifice herself, but the storytelling just doesn't dig deep enough to make any of this convincing. This is a complaint I've had with a few graphic novels recently where perhaps too many assumptions have been made about the character and their survival to tell a convincing story. I suspect that some of the problem is the medium. The limited space in a comic doesn't give a lot of time for exposition and character introspection. Alternatively, perhaps if Leia's mission had focused on one or two groups rather than bouncing around to three, it would have allowed for greater detail and depth. I found myself comparing this to Martha Wells' *Razor's Edge* that dealt with a similar adventure but (a) the format allowed for more depth, and (b) the plot stayed put in one place, with one group of Alderaanians.

The art was Terry Dodson standard which is to say that it is good and I like it, but in my maturity, I've grown tired of "same face" syndrome. Occasionally Leia looks like Carrie Fisher, but mostly she just looks like every other character in the book and every other character Dodson has ever drawn.

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Maria Soares says

I don't think this comic did much for me in terms of Princess Leia's story. It felt a bit like filler. The art is absolutely gorgeous though, which doesn't always happen with Star Wars comics.

Lance Shadow says

This one's pretty bad. And I should have seen it coming. The reviews on this site were mixed. In a video where he talked about the new Star Wars Canon, Kristian Harloff said that this was the worst of the comics. And after reading the first issue of Mark Waid's Princess Leia comic that was included in the trade paperback

for Shattered Empire, I was expecting even less. And yet... did it really have to be THIS bad?

THE STORY: Immediately after duping Chewbacca out of that medal during the awards ceremony at the end of A New Hope, Princess Leia is all of a sudden treated like little baby and not allowed to leave the house... GAAAIAWWWD the opening issue is horrible. Right now I wish my goodreads pal Crystal Starr Light could come in and read this comic so she could help me out with this review by providing a snarky plot summary like she did with her Fatal Alliance review.

Ok, ok... the real version. But honestly, it's almost as bad.

So this comic BRILLIANTLY sets up how great its going to be by opening with the medal ceremony at the end of A New Hope and reminding us about how Chewy never got his medal. Leia wants to go about her normal duties with the rebellion, but General Dodonna doesn't let her do anything except mourn the loss of her homeworld of Alderaan because.... she has a bounty on her h....ARE YOU KIDDING ME????

GROAN I'll get to this later.

Anyways, it turns out this blond rebel pilot girl named Evaan is an Alderaanian, and after she reminds Leia of some Alderaan royalty mumbo-jumbo they pair up and go on an adventure, with R2-D2 joining them, to try and round up as many surviving Alderaanians as they can to allow the people and culture to survive.

And... that's it. It's just Leia and Evaan on a road trip in space, picking people up like a pair of soccer moms. Throw in a star destroyer commanded by a throw away imperial officer to serve as a villain, and you're set.

Does this sound half-baked yet? Trust me, we're just getting started! uuggghh, let's just get this over with....

THE BAD: I was dissapointed by this comic series even after going in with low expectations.

The characters are awful. The side characters have little to no personality and are quite forgettable. There are multiple instances where characters flip flop in their decision making quite rapidly just to move the plot along. Evaan is strong, and that's it. The leader of the Sullustan Alderaanians is bigoted and distrustful. That's it. The imperial officer characters are just... imperials. The only purpose of them is to be an obstacle so that there can be a battle at the end.

Now for Leia. This is the first time I have seen a character inaccurately portrayed in the new canon. She often comes off as way to harsh and mean spirited in this book, and it really doesn't work.

The story is pretty weak. It ends up being painfully boring pretty much up until the last issue. Most of it is just talking, talking, and more talking. The addition of the star destroyer and the imperials felt very forced and phoned in. Nien Nunb had no reason to be included in the story whatsoever.

I hate the artwork. When it doesn't look cheap, it's inexcusably cheesy. The action is boring and the character designs are incredibly lazy, with Leia and Evan looking almost exactly alike except for different hair colors. There is the absolute minimal detail in the character's faces, really just to show their gender. The worst part though? A panel with stars floating above a thug's head to show that he got hit. No, just... no. I never expected to see something so stupid in a Star Wars comic. I'm not saying that comic artwork always has to be as great as Salvadore Larocca or Marco Checchetto, but this level of quality is unacceptable.

And finally, the writing. Good god, it's atrocious. When it isn't dull, it's cringe-worthy. The majority of the dialogue is boring. The scene transition is unbearably sloppy. And the way the rebels acted with Leia...

SIGH This is some of the worst writing I have ever seen. It's disgraceful, sexist, and beyond contrived. A BOUNTY ON HER HEAD AND YOU FORCE HER TO STAY AT THE BASE? This... just... NO! Leia is more than capable of taking care of herself. Did you forget that she had those death star plans and even after getting captured refused to reveal the location of the base after her home planet was destroyed? If you were so worried about her getting captured, why did you let her handle the mission with the death star plans? SHE'S A FREAKING REBEL AGENT YOU MORONS, SHE RISKS CAPTURE ALL THE TIME!!!!!!

Oh, and then you just let her come back without any repercussion. Um... Ok. At least Revan gives understandable reasons for Bastila to stay home. THIS... this is offensively bad.

THE GOOD: Well... it was better than Fatal Alliance... I guess that's a plus, right?

One of the only things that stood out as kind of interesting was the subplot between Tace and Tula. It was kind of cool to see Tula manipulate her emotionally unstable sister to allow the empire to find Leia and the missing Alderaanians. It also leads to some of the only decent moments where Leia is actually in character and interesting. But even that subplot is hastily wrapped up in a forgettable way.

At least the last issue is sort of fun, when we had those amassed ships that reminded me of the fleet from Battlestar Galactica and we had that admittedly cool speech from Leia. I will also say the resolution was legitimately satisfying, and not just because I wanted to finish reading this comic faster. But we still have to deal with the lame art work that took me out of it.

THE CONCLUSION: Final rating is 0.5 stars.

This comic is garbage. As you can tell, I'm going to tell you to skip it, because I hated it. I really wish this could have been good, for the Princess Leia comic was a huge wasted opportunity to tell a fun star wars story with a cast dominated by female characters that oozed with girl power. But alas, the force just had to be sexist this time. Lame.

Kaion says

Mark Waid fundamentally doesn't understand Leia as the Slytherin princess-general of my heart. But hey, points for giving Leia a woman friend? And the art?

Let's not talk about the plot.

Sam Quixote says

Princess Leia is the third release from Marvel's new 2015 Star Wars line - and it's also the worst so far!

Like the other two books, this series is set between A New Hope and The Empire Strikes Back. Leia's home planet Alderaan has been blown up by the Death Star so she decides to fly off with Artoo and a female Alderaanian pilot called Evaan, and collect as many surviving Alderaanians from the rest of the galaxy to... uh... and then the books ends after five issues!

I think Mark Waid's forgotten how to write interesting comics. They're always competently written but by god are they tedious to read! My biggest problem with this limited series was how completely boring it was! Leia's quest is vague - just go, somewhere, and find some people - and lacked a villain - the Empire are just hovering in the background as always. There's no drive to the story which isn't that great a premise to start with anyway, and no tension. Waid finds second gear early on and never leaves it for the remainder of the book.

Waid doesn't do much with Leia. She's the same character at the end as she was at the start and the same character that she was from the movies. For all the focus, Leia is as Leia does and the extra space doesn't

expand her character from strong-willed female protagonist to anything more.

If you thought Waid would look deeper into her character to maybe show her grief over losing her homeworld, you'd be wrong - a handful of panels are devoted to some semblance of emotion over her people's genocide before it's brushed aside again.

The book ends so abruptly too - I guess she saved enough Alderaanians? Or maybe that was all there was of them, in two locations? Eh, whatever!

Terry and Rachel Dodson's art was pretty good - very warm, flowing lines in contrast to the sharpness of Salvador Larocca's in Darth Vader and John Cassaday's in Star Wars. I did have a problem with issue #3 where Leia and co. are halted by a group of armed guards who are shown to be at least 10-15 feet away from them but in the next panel Leia is stood right next to a guard and easily swipes his gun - no-one shoots at her either! Sloppy spatial distortion and bad plotting.

Speaking of bad plotting, in issue #5 on the surface of the desert planet Skaradosh, a spaceship rescues Leia and co. out of nowhere. One of the Empire's goons says "No ship could have gotten by us undetected" - so why did it? Because plot convenience!

Oh yeah, and who isn't a fan of the shitty prequels? Leia makes a pit stop at Naboo to remind us Natalie Portman was her mum (though Leia's unaware of this). Any reminder of those movies is bad juju, at least for me, and didn't make me like this book any better. At least we didn't see that loathsome creature - you know the one. Even the sarlacc would spit him out!

Mark Waid's Princess Leia is a character-driven story that doesn't show us anything new about the character or tell a memorable tale. Boring, aimless and eminently skippable, Princess Leia shows us why Star Wars works best as an ensemble space opera.

Scott Rhee says

I think I stopped buying and reading comic books at approximately the same time that I discovered that girls were willing to have sex with me.

Don't get me wrong: I'm not saying comic books were a symbol of my immaturity, that my coming of age required a putting away of childish things, and some of those "childish things" included comic books. That's not it at all.

In actuality, I just didn't have time to read them anymore, and I certainly didn't have the money to buy them. All of my time and money was basically spent in pursuit of young ladies' affections.

Time and money wasted, in retrospect.

Which is why, now that I'm married and have a kid, I've got all the time and money I want to spend on comic books. The problem: I've been out of the loop so long, I haven't a clue where to even start.

I walked into a comic book store several months ago, for shits and giggles, with the intention of spending roughly \$20.

There used to be a time when I could walk out of a store with a decent pile of comic books for \$20.

Holy crap, comic books are expensive nowadays.

I was hard pressed to find a comic book under \$5. That's ridiculous.

As I perused some of the familiar titles, I noticed that these weren't the same characters I knew growing up. Literally. While the costumes of the superheroes I knew hadn't changed, the people in them had. That was weird and disappointing. In my time away from the comic book world, I had missed too much.

Another disappointing thing: comic books have become extremely violent and gory and way too sexualized for young audiences. Granted, I'm well aware that the demographics for comic books have changed, but kids are still buying them.

It may sound curmudgeonly of me, but it's a new reality that I don't like about comic books, especially now that I'm a parent of a child who may one day read comic books. I certainly won't stop my daughter from reading them---in fact, I will, most likely, encourage it---but I am certainly planning on being more vigilant and picky about the stuff she reads.

Sadly, I walked out of that store without buying anything. I'm not sure how long I spent in there---half an hour to an hour, at most---but it was enough time for me to realize that I had officially outgrown comic books. Or they had outgrown me. Whichever the case, I knew that I could never go back.

Until now.

Marvel Comics, who has reinvigorated the superhero genre with their phenomenal series of films based on "The Avengers", has recently released a new line of comic book series set in the "Star Wars" universe, appropriately in time to usher in the much-anticipated J.J. Abrams-directed "Star Wars: The Force Awakens", a movie coming out in mid-December, and, by all accounts, is already setting box office records as pre-order tickets have already sold out.

It's no coincidence, of course, that both Marvel Comics and Lucasfilm are now owned by Disney, which seems to be the last bastion of decent, well-made, original family-friendly entertainment out there.

(Seriously, Disney is worshipped in our household the way some families worship God, Jesus, Buddha, or Allah. At some point every day, "Frozen" or one of the "Toy Story" movies is playing at the request of my two-year-old, and the TV rarely deviates from the Disney Junior channel. When it does, it's to watch ABC's "Once Upon a Time" and "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.", both of which are, of course, created by Disney Studios. The only non-Disney show I watch is "The Walking Dead", and I have a sneaking suspicion that there are some Disney executives right now attempting to capitalize on the popularity of zombies in order to make them more "family-friendly". Hell, if anyone can do it, it's probably Disney...)

My first comic book purchase in almost 20 years is the compilation of the first five issues of "Princess Leia", written by Mark Waid and illustrated by Terry Dodson.

Ostensibly, the purchase was for my daughter, who is obviously much too young to appreciate (or read) it. In actuality, the purchase was for myself, as I am a sucker for anything "Star Wars" but also because I have had a crush on Princess Leia since I first laid eyes on Carrie Fisher's ruby-red lips, doe-like eyes, and pastry-shaped hair buns when I was five years old. She made me tingle in places I didn't have names for yet.

Thankfully, Dodson's artwork does not devolve into the pre-adolescent tendency of some comic book artists for drawing female characters with breasts the size of watermelons and hour-glass waists so thin that an actual hour-glass would implode under its own weight. Don't get me wrong: I'm a guy, so I will concede that there is a time and place for huge boobs---namely, behind closed doors in front of a computer screen when no one else is home---but desecrating a cherished Alderaanian princess and childhood heroine is not it.

The Leia in Waid/Dodson's series is adorable and a badass, which is the way it should be.

The story takes place immediately after the events of the original film, "Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope".

The success of the Rebel Alliance's destruction of the Emperor's Death Star at Yavin is small comfort to the millions of now-homeless Alderaanians scattered throughout the galaxy.

Leia, who would have been next in line to rule Alderaan, is now left without a home planet to rule. She does not have time to mourn her loss, however, as she plans on rounding up the scattered Alderaanians, as the Emperor---simply to add insult to injury---has dispatched orders to kill any remaining survivors of the lost planet.

She recruits the help of an Alderaanian soldier named Evaan to help her in her search. Evaan doesn't like Leia much, at first, believing her to be reckless and cold in her lack of apparent upset at the loss of their home planet, but she gradually begins to have respect for Leia.

Together, Leia, Evaan, and trusty little R2-D2 travel the galaxy to gather up survivors in order to recruit them into the Rebel Alliance as the last remaining Alderaanian force. Unfortunately, an Imperial Star Destroyer is hot on their trail.

There's not really a lot of depth to Waid's story, and the character development is basically limited to Leia and Evaan's growing respect for each other, but it's still entertaining and fun. Dodson's artwork is minimalist but beautiful, and his depiction of Leia is spot-on. Did I mention she is adorable?

There are several more graphic novels in the Marvel Star Wars line, including "Lando", "Darth Vader," and "Kanan" (a new character featured on the Disney XD TV show "Star Wars Rebels", which is damn good for a kid's show), and more to be published in the next couple of months.

I think my love of comic books is slowly being rekindled...

Dimitris says

3.5 stars

What is the best thing to do when you hear that there is a Star Wars spy story with Princess Leia, has well written dialogues, sharp humor and political intrigue and it is written by Mark Waid? Well... to read it of course, duh!

Paul E. Morph says

[ALDERAAN SURVIVES! (hide spoiler)]

Bhanuj says

We are alderaan.

We answer rage with wisdom.

We answer fear with imagination.

We answer war with hope.

Alderaan is gone and what is a princess without a kingdom?

The story is a quest of Princess Leia, to keep Alderaan alive through its survivors. The story started off well and ended well but somewhere in the middle, it stretched out a bit. The artwork is great and the series is action packed but not something that will keep you on the edge of your seat.
