



Tales from the Mos Eisley Cantina

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Sixteen stories from the most infamous cantina in the universe...by some of today's leading writers of science fiction.

In a far corner of the universe, on the small desert planet of Tatooine, there is a dark, nic-i-tain-filled cantina where you can down your favorite intoxicant while listening to the best jizz riffs in the universe. But beware your fellow denizens of this pangalactic watering hole, for they are cutthroats and cutpurses, assassins and troopers, humans and aliens, gangsters and thieves....

Featuring original stories by:

Kevin J. Anderson * Doug Beason * M. Shayne Bell * David Bischoff * A.C. Crispin * Kenneth C. Flint * Barbara Hambly * Rebecca Moesta * Daniel Keys Moran * Jerry Oltion * Judith & Garfield Reeves-Stevens * Jennifer Roberson * Kathy Tyers * Tom Veitch & Martha Veitch * Dave Wolverton * Timothy Zahn

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From Reader Review Tales from the Mos Eisley Cantina for online ebook

Ron says

Yawn. Not bad, not good. Amazing how many stormtroopers were supposedly dying in the vicinity of the Mos Eisley cantina that day.

Naessens says

Tales from the Mos Eisley Cantina is a collection of 16 short stories written by different authors which have in common that at some point their plots take place on Tatooine and almost all of them have their main characters being in the Mos Eisley Cantina during the events depicted in Star Wars : A New Hope.

I liked how several stories were intertwined, how they referenced scenes or characters from previous stories. Readers do not learn important new facts about the events from the Star Wars movie, but they are rather given some backgrounds on several aliens who were in the Cantina at that time. However, the quality or the interest of the plots varies from one short story to another.

***** THIS SECTION MAY CONTAIN SPOILERS *****

(view spoiler)

***** END OF SPOILER SECTION *****

To sum up, I really like a few of the short stories, at least four of them are dull/uninteresting and skippable, and the rest (almost 50%) was OK.

One more thing that readers learn in these short stories is that one must be cunning or lucky to survive in Mos Eisley. Needless to say that Han Solo was very fortunate to leave Tatooine alive, Greedo having been one of the less dangerous threats.

Note that the book was published in 1995 before the prelogy, so it became not compatible with other materials released later and considered "canon" even before Disney bought Lucas's franchise rights and labelled under the tag "legends" all existing materials that used to be the "Expanded Universe".

TK421 says

So you may be asking yourself why a 30 year old man would read Star Wars books when he could be reading something else of substantial value. I mean, the poor guy doesn't realize that his life is getting farther and farther away from being 1/3 over and into the first stages of middle-life (I gave myself to 81). And, you know, I would be right beside you and berating myself too if these books weren't so fun. Ya see, about five years ago I got down from my pedestal of high-brow literary thinking and went slumming.

And, let me tell you, that will be a night not soon forgotten. Since then, my tastes have been eclectic and varied. These Star Wars books along with King or Koontz or name your thriller author, clean my palate. They entertain me enough that when I go back to a Tolstoy or Dickens or someone of contemporary status today, I'm looking at you DeLillo and you, too, Pynchon, that I can appreciate these more.

If you've never been on the other side of the tracks, today is as good a day as any to venture forth. Oh, and the book...interesting approach to telling what the other characters saw and experienced that day as Solo and Skywalker and Obi-won walked into thier lives. Closer to a 2.5 star, but I rounded up. I mean, this stuff used to entertain me for hours when I was younger. (HONEST MOMENT: It still entertains me today.)

RECOMMENDED

Thomas Runyon says

Been a while since I felt a book deserved a five star this much. Riveting, comedic, epic, romantic and fascinating. A must read for fans of the Star Wars 'verse!

Peregrine 12 says

When I read this book, I was well out of my sci-fi phase. Nonetheless, despite all the Star Wars and Star

Trek novels I read in all the endless series, this one stands out in my memory as being ONE FUN READ.

What a great idea - focus in on all those weird, nameless monsters in that super-cool Star Wars scene at the cantina! Multiple authors did a great job of offering multiple storylines, none like the others. If you like the Star Wars type genre, check this one out.

Richard Houchin says

I read a lot of Star Wars novels in Jr. High. This one, like all of the "Tales" collections, was actually pretty good. It's hard to go wrong with short story collections -- curious ideas and interesting character studies in a compact form!

J.M. Brister says

This book is pretty much for the big Star Wars fan. The tales are all interconnected, and it certainly will make you want to rewatch parts of A New Hope to pick out all of these aliens from the cantina.

Kayla says

I read this book while I was on vacation in Sun River, OR. Even though I was on vacation I probably read this book at an average of 3 hours a day because it was really good. My favorite story in this book is the one about Greedo because since Greedo is killed by Han Solo in the original Star Wars movie, he is not in many of the Star Wars books, so I didn't know much about him besides the fact that he's a Rodian bounty hunter.

Thomas says

I don't read a lot of short stories, and I don't read many collected anthologies, but I do read a lot of Star Wars, and since I've come this far into the project thus far, I powered on through this book. Like most anthologies, it's a mixed bag, with some stories being more impactful than others, but this one elevates itself a bit by being more than just a collection of stories.

Most of the stories in Tales are interconnected. Some are connected more than others (there's a pair smack in the middle of the book that couldn't exist without each other), and on the one hand, it's a little annoying, since I want my stories to stand well independently. Still, it's impressive to look at the stories as more than individual stories and view the effort that went into making all of them relate to each other.

Because this is a collection of stories featuring the characters in the Mos Eisley Cantina, it means we get to see that familiar scene over, and over, and over again, since that's the one moment that brings all these stories together. It's interesting to see the different perspectives on the scene (and I'm talking about the whole thing, from when Obi-Wan and Luke enter, to when Han leaves), but it does try one's patience.

We get some big-name characters here -- Greedo, Dr. Evazan, and Ponda Baba the largest of them -- but for

the most part we learn about the tertiary characters who flash by only momentarily. The authors take the opportunity to add their own flair and detail to the Expanded Universe, not content just to tell us about what happened in the cantina. Instead, we get authors who create worlds and cultures and characters that last longer than just a momentary glance in a cool scene. They also delve into giving Tatooine further context, with a few of the stories talking about life on the planet and what it means.

My favorites of the bunch were the moisture farmer's tale by M. Shayne Bell, Greedo's tale by Tom and Martha Veitch, and "Nightlily" by Barbara Hambly. I also liked the story that concluded the anthology, which told about the Wolfman and the Lamproid, and was written by Judith and Garfield Reeves-Stevens. The rest were passable, with only one or two that didn't do a thing for me. For an anthology, that's a pretty good ratio. I like the conceit of the anthology best, and I'm hoping that the other books in the Tales series will follow this example.

Becky says

WHEW! It feels good to finally be finished with this one; it's been on my "Currently Reading" shelf for just about 6 months. After my 4 month hiatus from this book, I'm finally finished!

I did enjoy the book, despite the fact that the length of time that I spent NOT reading it vastly dwarfs the amount of time I was reading. The stories in this book are all interesting, and varied, and center around the (apparently) most popular watering-hole in the universe.

These aren't the best written stories I've ever read, but for what they are, they serve their purpose. This book gives the reader a chance to look into the lives of all those background characters that they see in the Mos Eisley, but who never get any speaking roles in the films. Which, come to think of it, could be due to the fact that the film-makers weren't sure where their mouths actually were. But when you hire aliens to make a movie, you are both grateful that they showed up, and grateful that they showed up without any sort of probe... that you can remember.

Anyway, this was an enjoyable read with some interesting stories. Recommended to fans of the Star Wars franchise. :)

Octavi says

Me lo he pasado teta. Historias de los personajes de la Cantina... Nada más que añadir.

Mark says

In the Mos Eisley Cantina scene in A New Hope, there are little lingering looks of all kinds of weird-looking aliens. This is a collection of short stories that covers pretty much everyone in that cantina.

This was cool at the time that I read it because I had all of these aliens' cards for the Star Wars CCG. My favorite was Figrin D'an. The fact that I can write the previous two sentences is indicative of something. I probably don't want to know what that something is.

TheBookHunter says

"Heard you were having a little trouble in here"

Tales from the Mos Eisley Cantina, is an anthology novel featuring multiple short stories written by various authors. And as the title suggests, this Star Wars Tales book tells the tales of the creatures and denizens within the Cantina in Mos Eisley Spaceport on Tatooine around and during the time of A New Hope.

This is a great little book that you can pick up, read one or two stories, put down, and then pick back up later with no issue, and that's really nice.

It's a shame these stories are now considered non-canon because they are fun and don't contradict much considering it's all about background characters and it offers a little insight on who or what is in the background of the movie.

My favorite short story has to be "When The Desert Wind Turns: The Stormtrooper's Tale". The stormtrooper featured is apparently the one we see in the special edition scenes of A New Hope picking up a piece of the escape pod R2 and C-3P0 crashed in and exclaiming, "Look sir, droids!" to his commander.

Besides that, there are at least 15 other stories written by various authors such as ones about Greedo and even the cantina band as well.

Pick this up if you're looking for a quick, fun read!

Daniel Kukwa says

As with any short story collection, there are always a few entries that leave me scratching my head ("The Pipe Smoker's Tale" just left me baffled). However, this very first official "Star Wars" short story collection makes for a surprising & fascinating read. Virtually all of the stories connect in interesting ways to the moment when Kenobi slices off an arm in the cantina, and the moment when Solo shoots Greedo, never once feeling forced or unnatural. Many of them are extremely poignant (especially "The Moisture Farmer's Tale"), and the story of Greedo is actually heartbreakingly inevitable. One of those lovely books that delivered a much different reading experience to what I was expecting.

Damian Dubois says

I'm going to attempt to write a few lines on each story as I read them so bear with me on this one. I remember when I first received this as a gift back in '95 for Christmas and being so, so excited to finally read all the back stories of the denizens shown in what to me was the best set of scenes in the Star Wars movies - the Mos Eisley Cantina. Not every story is how I would have played them out with all the action figures I once owned as a kid but they did enough to fire up my imagination and satisfied my Star Wars cravings at that time in my life. On to the tales...

We Don't Do Weddings: The Band's Tale

In all honesty not much happens in this one. We learn the name of the band and the species of that bunch of baldies you no doubt remember from the Cantina scene in the original Star Wars (Figrin D'an and the Modal Nodes, Species: Bith). Band plays music, fight breaks out at a wedding, bride rips groom into pieces and the band gets new gig at the infamous Mos Eisley Cantina. For a group of Biths so paranoid about breaking their exclusive contact with the local crime boss (Jabba the Hutt) they choose a rather conspicuous new place to play... 2/5 Biths.

A Hunter's Fate: Greedo's Tale

Ah, the infamous "Who shot first? scene plays out in all its glory here in *A Hunter's Fate* and thankfully, being penned pre-1997 and before all the George Lucas ret-con controversy hit the fan, has Han Solo shooting first as was originally intended!

Cut to:

EXT. AFTERLIFE DAY

GREEDO stands alone in the afterlife looking despondent.

GREEDO

If only I could have another chance to shoot first!

A figure steps out of the shadows.

GEORGE LUCAS

I think something like that can be arranged...

So, as the title implies, here we have the story of Greedo, starting from when he was a young naive little Rodian growing up on an adopted jungle world to how he came to be, shall we say, a rather unsuccessful Bounty Hunter. Greedo is nothing like the character I imagined him to be when I was calling the shots. In my little make believe world, Greedo was only second in line to the great Boba Fett and never hesitated in dispatching Han away at the first opportunity. I mean, c'mon man, the dude is green! That's damn cool, right? But in this Greedo is deplorable, a loser, a "stinking green goon" as one of the other Bounty Hunters puts it. I couldn't drum up one iota of sympathy for his plight and actually loved the scenes where Han shows him up for the fool he is. Ah, Greedo, you shan't be missed... 2/5 Rodians.

Hammertong: The Tale of the 'Tonniqa' Sisters

Definitely the best of the three tales thus far - I wonder if that's because it's written by Timothy Zahn, the man who kicked off the whole Star Wars 'Expanded Universe' with the fantastic 'Thrawn Trilogy'. I can't believe that was first published over twenty years ago now. Even though the more recent films contradict some of the events in *Heir to the Empire* I still want to go back and read them at some stage as those books helped me get back into reading after I neglected my favourite past time during my late teenage years.

Hammertong begins with our two protagonists, members of an all female sect known as the 'Mistryl Shadow

Guard', being hired to provide security detail for the transportation of a secret and important piece of Imperial equipment - the mysteriously named, Hammertong. And as you can no doubt guess, any time guards have a great reputation and come highly recommended, the best laid plans of mice and men go to rack and ruin...

To say much more about the story will probably ruin it but I will leave this hint that anyone with a good EU background may pick up on. Imprinted on the item in question is a rather important name. Lemelisk...

2 stars for each Tonnika sister, so 4/5.

Play It Again, Figrin D'an: The Tale of Muftak and Kabe

Inside cover, this is how the story is sold to us...

Muftak, a spy who plots the biggest heist of his life - the plunder of a hundred worlds - but risks a one-way trip to the Great Pit of Carkoon...

Let's just say that lead in is being a tad too melodramatic. Muftak is indeed a spy and from what we are lead to believe a rather good one. You need trade secrets? You go see Muftak. But as good as he is hyped up to be he doesn't even know the name of the species he belongs to! Some random Stormtrooper fills him in on that particular piece of information. And for those interested, Muftak is a Talz. Just think of Hugo the Abominable Snowman, best known for his line "I'll hug him and squeeze him and call him George" when he tries to keep Bugs Bunny as a pet...

Getting back on track, Muftak and his adopted Chadra-Fan companion, Kabe (a diminutive little thief and piss-pot to boot) hatch up a plan to rob the most notorious of criminals (yep, you guessed it, Jabba of course!) of his most prized possessions (the plunder of a hundred worlds mentioned above – so, not an outright lie, but sensationalised nonetheless!). And it's while on this daring heist that they discover something even more valuable than said plunder...

Rating? I'll give this 2 and a half Talz out of 5. Seeing as a Chadra-Fan is half the height of a Talz this fits rather nicely.

The Sand Tender: The Hammerhead's Tale

As the title of this book tells us all of these stories are linked due to each character's association with the Mos Eisley Cantina. In this particular tale we get another link to the preceding story through the character of Alima, a xenophobic Lieutenant in the Imperial Navy and a man who has a personal history with Momaw Nadon, an exiled Ithorian High Priest banished from his home world for revealing technological secrets to the Empire.

The Ithorians are a peace loving and intelligent species, one that has a firm connection to Mother Nature, especially plant life and all are avowed to honour their sacred code, the Law of Life. When Momaw Nadon discovers that the officer that got him banished from his home world of Ithor is also on Tatooine he finds himself facing a hard choice – to take revenge or to uphold his vow, that every life is sacred...

Here's another character I pegged as a gun-toting thug back when I was a wee little'un. Obviously anything that didn't resemble a human must have been a baddie in my eyes and thus won every battle that I acted out. It's funny that my set of Rebel Alliance figures always perished in spectacular fashion...

Overall, *The Sand Tender* is a very likeable little tale due to containing a very sympathetic character in Momaw Nadon and one that delves into the history and culture of the Ithorian species. Star Wars factoid: Apparently the term 'Hammerhead' is highly offensive to them...

3.5 Ithorians out of 5 for this one.
