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Kevin J. Anderson , Rebecca Moesta

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With a new generation of Dark Jedi being trained at the Shadow Academy, Luke Skywalker decides that it is time for the young Jedi Knights of the New Republic to build their lightsabers, a task that brings both a growth in the power of the Force and deadly peril. Original.

Lightsabers Details

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Author : Kevin J. Anderson , Rebecca Moesta

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From Reader Review Lightsabers for online ebook

Cori says

Probably my favorite Star Wars EU novel, and one I've read countless times.

Joey says

According to Luke Skywalker "Ideally, a Jedi took many months to construct a single perfect weapon that he or she would keep and use for a lifetime. Once you build it, the lightsaber will become your constant companion, your tool, and a ready means of defense."

A power source and focusing crystal are necessary to build a lightsaber.

Jaina uses chemistry to grow her own crystals. Jacen uses the Corusca gem he found with Lando. Lowbacca uses a flat focusing lens and spherical enhancement jewel he finds while scavenging. Tenel Ka uses crystals from a volcano that she explored with Lowie.

Luke reminds his students:

"A Jedi should use all available skills and resources."

"A Jedi fights only as a last resort. If you are forced to draw your lightsaber, you have already forfeited much of your advantage. A Jedi trusts the Force and at first seeks other ways to resolve problems: patience, logic, tolerance, attentive listening, negotiation, persuasion, calming techniques."

"But there are times when a Jedi must fight."

"The lightsaber is not just a weapon. It is an extension of yourself."

Jacen tries to distract Tenel Ka with comedy while training. Tenel Ka's lightsaber malfunctions and Jacen cuts her hand off. This is a fact.

Meanwhile, at the Shadow Academy, Brakiss gifts Zekk with a lightsaber similar to Vader's and shares his Jedi knowledge:

"The Force is in all things, from the smallest pebble to the largest star. This is just a glimmer of how Naga Sadow reached out to the stars and delivered a mortal wound some five thousand years ago."

"There comes a time when every Jedi trainee must be tested to the limit."

"The most truly dangerous thing is a Dark Jedi wielding such a weapon."

"Trust in your abilities. Feel the Force."

While a large chunk of this book takes place on Tenel Ka's home turf, my favorite part was the duel between

Zekk and Vilas. There's even an Artoo appearance sprinkled in this installment.

Ultimately, Tenel Ka stubbornly decides to live with just one hand and rebuilds her lightsaber using her jewel incrustated Hapan tiara (she is royalty after all). The Jedi brats put their lightsabers together like something out of Captain Planet or Mighty Morphin Power Rangers.

Jaime K says

This is the best so far.

I like that this starts with Luke practicing a random new routine he came up with and musing on current issues. We get the time frame (a few months after the previous book) and the fact that he has brought a group of fighters to Yavin to help against the Shadow Academy.

It doesn't help that we don't see these fighters.

The reader is also teased more that the leader of the Shadow Academy just might be the not-so-dead Palpatine.

Luke feels rushed to push the training of the older students - well, he says all students, but I really can't see the newbies being accelerated to Jedi Knights just yet. I also wonder about those other cohorts for the first time ever.

But before anything can happen, lightsabers must be built. And, due to their experience levels (not just with the Force but with the Shadow Academy), Jaina, Jacen, Tenel Ka, and Lowie are among the ones chosen to create the weapon.

Tenel Ka's desire and arrogance at wanting to show her physical strength leads to devastating and near-fatal results. She learns a lesson the hard way.

A lesson that carries on through the book. Her three friends learn of her Hapan heritage after she's swept back to her home planet, and Luke manages to get the teens to stay on Hapes for a month.

But before then, we really see the PTSD, self-hatred, self-pity, self-consciousness...all of that and more in each of the kids in different ways. It's done perfectly yet not over-the-top. It's a very sad first half of the book, but the emotions are spot-on.

I love that Tionne understands their pain and works with them on accepting the past and coping with the emotional consequences.

On Hapes, it's hilarious to see how Luke talks to Ta'a Chume. We learn of assassination attempts and unfortunately don't really see TK's parents. It's beautiful to watch TK come alive though as she shows her friends - especially Jacen (<3) - her home.

Wealththeow says

The Jedi trainees are ready to make their lightsabers, but Tenel Ka is impatient with herself. She rushes the delicate process, and her lightsaber gives out during a training duel with Jacen--and his lightsaber promptly

cuts off her arm. Stricken, Tenel Ka returns to her homeworld. She has always defined herself as a warrior, and now she thinks herself useless. But her grandmother's tough love, and her friends' good sense, convince her that she can still be a warrior, and she returns to the Academy to complete her training.

I loved this book. Tenel Ka shines, and the friendships feel real and specific. There's a scene where the twins teach her to braid her hair with only one hand that I remember to this day. And the book doesn't pull back in its portrayal of her grief and feelings of worthlessness. In this book, the characterization IS the plot.

Jess Neuner says

Jacen and Jaina have been waiting since book two to get lightsabers, and now, as the title implies, they finally get them. Luke Skywalker instructs them to build their own, but to take their time over it - a lightsaber is an extension of the Jedi and must be relied upon. You don't want to build an inferior weapon by rushing through it. Of course, that's exactly what their friend Tenel Ka does, believing that the weapon cannot be as important as the warrior who wielded it. Her lightsaber shorts out in the middle of a friendly duel with Jacen, causing him to accidentally cut off her arm.

The fact that she disappears home (to Dathomir, or so they think) only cements Jacen's guilt - he feels terrible, that he ought to have known something was amiss, or somehow prevented it from happening. Eventually, when there's no contact from Tenel Ka for a while, Luke worries that he sent her home only for her grandmother to manipulate her into deciding to no longer be a Jedi, so he takes Jaina, Jacen, and Lowbacca to Hapes, explaining that Tenel Ka wasn't just a Dathomirian warrior - she was the crown princess and heir to the entire Hapes cluster.

This is really more Tenel Ka's book. It was her own arrogance and overconfidence that allowed the accident to happen in the first place, which left her feeling useless. She never blamed Jacen for it and tells him as much when he tries to apologise (Jacen finally gets her to laugh here as well), she only blamed herself. Over the course of the book, she learns that she failed because she hadn't been using all of her skills to their fullest extent. She'd avoided using the Force because she didn't want to rely on it. She avoided her royal duties because she disagreed with her grandmother's politics. But without her arm, she's forced to use every tool at her disposal and realises that this makes her stronger than when she had both arms. And of course, there's a nice assassination attempt during which she can prove that she's just as capable, if not more so, than she was before the accident.

I also liked the bits with Zekk, Jacen and Jaina's scavenger friend from Coruscant. His character arc is sort of mirroring Tenel Ka's; he's got to discover who he is and who he wants to be. He's joined the Shadow Academy and is learning to use the dark side while his friends learn to use the light. I can't imagine he'll last there terribly long - not through lack of skill, but just lack of overall evilness. He was forced to kill a bloke to avoid the same fate himself and felt terrible about it. I'm anticipating a choice coming up for him and hopefully he'll make the right one before Brakiss squashes the good out of him forever.

Jamie says

This book starts off with an early shock. The character building in this is fantastic! Each character really came to life in this one. Tenel Ka and Jacen especially take the spotlights in this one. The emotions these two

have, about each other, themselves and what happened had me very connected to every page of this book. I loved learning more about lightsabers and how they are made. Most interesting. Lowbacca takes a backseat in this one. I like his character but in each book he keeps getting a bit pushed off to the side it seems. And for once, Emteedee is not overly "annoying", compared to past books. I so want to learn more about Hapes now!

Allana Solo says

So, so good!!!! I had been reading on line about Tenel Ka and her friend's adventures together and so I knew that this had one in them that I Was going to love!

SPOILER!!!!

Long story short, Tenel Ka and her friends must race to finish their training so they can be ready to fight that Shadow Academy. Build their lightsabers. Tenel Ka doesn't build hers right so when she a Jacen test their strength with them, her saber gives out and Jacen's comes and chops off her left arm, right above her elbow. Her friends didn't know she was a princess so they go and see her back at her home and have a blast of adventure. I did like the way it brought out the fact that Jacen really cares a lot about Tenel Ka and I know what happens to them when they grow up but sometimes I wish their story could have had a happier ending.

Terri Paxton says

The reason I love this particular one is we get to see our Young Jedi deal with a truly awful accident that permanently affects more than one. I find it amazing and inspiring how they come to grips with it and allow friendship, determination and knowledge of self to overcome all obstacles.

There are people in real life who undoubtedly face similar situations: life turned upside down and permanently changed. No where will you find better inspiration in a kids story on how to let love, friendship and sheer determination help deal with it. There are multiple life lessons in this one book and if I could only have one of them, this is the one I'd want.

Sarah Greene says

I've read the full Young Jedi Knights series, but this is by far my favorite - the cover art (by Dave Dorman) was the first time I ever paid attention to any kind of cover art or Star Wars art. I still fangirl over this series and the artwork, so I had to share this with the Goodreads community. Grab these before Disney wipes them from the shelves. Jacen and Jaina Solo are classic characters, IMHO - far beyond Kylo Ren will ever be.

Colleen says

Kevin J. Anderson does really great work writing dynamic YA -- you can tell he really adores immersing himself in the idea of the Jedi Academy. Lightsabers is by far the most memorable of the series, both because of the tragedy that marks it, because of the inclusion of Hapan culture which enriches it, and the fact that at the time I read it (age 11) I wanted nothing more than to build a lightsaber and be Jacen Solo. (This was also a driving factor in my high rating for I, Jedi.)

Jesse says

I remembered this as my favorite of the Young Jedi Knights books when I read them as a kid, and it did not disappoint.

All the young Jedi trainees are tasked by Luke to build lightsabers of their own. Then they practice and spar with each other. Tenel Ka, the no-nonsense redhead with shared heritage as both a Dathomir witch and a Hapan princess, does not take the greatest care when making her saber, thinking her physical prowess more important than her weapon. Her saber flickers off in a duel between her and Jacen (Han and Leia's son who totally has a crush on Tenel Ka), causing him to accidentally cut off her left arm above the elbow.

She is rushed to Hapes, where her grandmother tries to convince her to stay, learn to be a proper politician/princess instead of a Jedi. At first Tenel Ka is dazed and going along with things. But then she makes the decision to not get a robot arm installed. I remembered this moment as being very interesting, and was wondering how I would like it as an adult. It's done very well, and doesn't claim that people with or without prosthetics are better or worse, more or less "human". What's important is choice. Tenel Ka chooses not to "fix" her disability, but instead learns to not take her skills for granted. After exciting exploits and such, she does go back to the Jedi Academy in the end, and builds a new lightsaber. There is also the thread of her having resisted her Hapan heritage, but in the end she is more able to accept all parts of herself, and her new lightsaber is built using a rancor tooth from Dathomir for its hilt, and gems from a Hapan tiara as the crystal.

Raven was sure Tenel Ka would be ok because she could just get a robot arm. I said nothing, and he was quite surprised when she declined to do so. We talked about her character a lot in this book. The previous YJK books were all fun kids books, but they didn't have very much to say. This one really explores some unexpected themes, and doesn't shy away from darkness and major character changes. We'll see how the last two books pick up from this.

Ola says

OK den här boken är ganska dum.

Tycker att Jedi akademien borde anmäla sig själva för olyckan med ljussabeln.

Ge inte upp nästa bok är bättre.

Darryl Dobbs says

This one started as slowly as the last one with the extensive lightsaber training (and building). But things took a turn for the unexpected when Tenel Ka suffered an unfortunate accident during training and returned to her home planet to recover and contemplate her future. The political intrigue that ensued (on a planet renowned for this) was simplistic, but not any more basic than one would expect in a teen novel.

It was a decent and easy read, especially the second half. And yes, I would recommend this to my eight-year-old. Worthy! I'm enjoying the development of the Tenel Ka character.

Shaun says

Thematically a very interesting novel. Tenel Ka and the dark Jedi Zekk try to figure out their place in the universe. Tenel Ka, as she makes her first lightsaber, tries to justify her place at the academy as both a princess and warrior. It takes the loss of her arm that she is both plus a Jedi above all. Anderson uses a striking metaphor at the end of the novel in the form of Tenel Ka's second lightsaber. To Tenel her lightsaber is the best of all three worlds the warrior, princess and Jedi. Zekk finally finds his place among the dark Jedi as a leader amongst the new recruits. Overall one of my favorites of the series so far.

Dan says

This was my only attempt at reading stories within the Star Wars universe but not necessarily directly tied to the Star Wars movies. Some of the characters are recognizable (I believe this follows children of Luke), but I guess even though I was a huge Star Wars fan I never really bought into stories written by other people within a universe that they didn't create. I remember re-reading this a few times as a kid, and it certainly was entertaining, especially because I knew the weapons and the worlds and the ships, but it didn't sell me on the greater genre of Star Wars books.

Jessica says

I'm totally in love with the Young Jedi Knights books. They're so silly, but they were a big part of my childhood, from about age 10-13. I wanted to be Jaina Solo so badly. XD

Katie says

When I was younger, Tenel Ka was my spirit animal. Heck, who am I kidding, she still is! She's intelligent, strong-willed and a survivor. This book series may not be classic literature, but I loved it!

Meadow Frisbie says

Taken from the book

When Empire died, they were born—a new hope for the New Republic. The young twins of Han Solo and Princess Leia are now fourteen, and enrolled at Luke Skywalker's Jedi Academy on Yavin 4. Together with friends both old and new, the future heroes of an already legendary saga begin their training.

Luke Skywalker has come to a grim conclusion. With the threat of the new generation of Dark Jedi being trained at Shadow Academy, he knows the New Republic will need all the fighters it can muster. At last, it is time for the young Jedi Knights to build their Lightsabers.

But there is more to mastering the ancient weapon than mere swordsmanship. Each student must learn about

the mysterious bond between Jedi and Lightsaber. For Jacen and Jaina, success will mean growing stronger in the Force. But for one of their friends, failure will mean tragedy...

Zombie_Phreak says

This was a great Star Wars book that showed that it's not just the Force or a Lightsaber that goes into making someone a Jedi.

Ari says

I read this whole series several times when I was a kid. These were a lot of fun and easy to read. They really helped me along my way to enjoy reading and becoming obsessed with Star Wars. This book was really one of the best. We get to see what it's like to go through Jedi training and build a lightsaber. We meet a lot of characters that became close friends to the reader. I feel Anderson was able to identify what a young adult would be looking for in characters and hit it bullseye. Kudos for a great series.
