



Star Wars Vol. 5: Yoda's Secret War

Jason Aaron , Salvador Larroca (Illustrator)

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Collects Star Wars #26-31.

With one member of the rebel crew captured and imprisoned, we turn once more to the journals of Ben Kenobi and a legendary adventure with Jedi Master...Yoda!

Star Wars Vol. 5: Yoda's Secret War Details

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From Reader Review Star Wars Vol. 5: Yoda's Secret War for online ebook

Alejandro says

Strong in this one the Force is!

I got this in its single comic book issues, but I've chosen this TPB edition to be able of making a better overall review.

This TPB collects "Star Wars" #26-30 plus Annual #2. This comic book title is set after the events of "Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope" and before "Star Wars: Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back".

Creative Team:

Writers: Jason Aaron & Kelly Thompson

Illustrators: Salvador Larroca & Emilio Laiso

GREEN NOT EASY IS BEING

In this TPB, they are included two stories, the main one "Yoda's Secret War", which it happened some time before of *Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace*, but since the current title is set between *Episode IV* and *Episode V*, cleverly is managed to be presented as a reading of Luke Skywalker of the Journals of Ben Kenobi, but also, during the reading of this adventure, Luke doesn't get to know the name of the "powerful Jedi" mentioned in the reading, so he still don't know about Yoda to avoid a continuity trouble.

In the last storyarc, C-3PO was captured by the fearful Scar Squadron, made of Special Forces Stormtroopers, and while Luke wants to save the protocol droid, Han & Leia aren't that eager about it, but R2-D2 doesn't even wait the resolution of that discussion and the astromech droid takes a X-Wing fighter on its own to make a daring rescue mission, Luke finds out about it, but R2 mess with Luke's X-Wing to avoid to be followed, so meanwhile he is waiting assistance from the Rebel Alliance, he decides to read Ben Kenobi's Journal about a personal mission of Yoda...

...the great Jedi Master, member of the Jedi Council, feels a turmoil in the Force, and he goes alone to a planet where strange stones feel to be "alive" and connected to the Force, and there he finds two opposite bands of warrior children...

...there Yoda will uncover a very **big** mystery...

...and Luke should read fast since his own life may depend of it!!!

LEIA & PASH

The second story in the TPB is the second Annual of the title, telling about an adventure where Leia got badly hurt, separated from her friends, her only chance of getting out of a town full of Imperial Stormtrooper patrols and several bounty hunters is...

...a tall and very muscled woman, named Pash Davane, whom isn't enthusiast about the Rebel Alliance since them destroyed the source of work in her town, to interfere with Imperial operations.

Pash doesn't like Imperials or Rebels, but in war, one should choose a side to avoid ended crushed in between.

Sesana says

For me, the worst Star Wars comic that Marvel has put out. The Yoda storyline just goes on and on, and of course it doesn't and can't mean anything. If it had been a two issue arc, it would have been infinitely stronger. Instead, it's the entire flipping book. The annual, on the other hand, is pretty good work. It focuses on a (probably) one off character, and gives some pretty rare perspective into how the Rebellion would affect normal people, plus a really good scene with Leia talking honestly about Alderaan. It's a good issue in a crummy book.

Jordan Anderson says

Even by *Star Wars* standards, *Yoda's Secret War* is bad. I mean laughably bad. I mean like even worse than some of the "Legends" crap bad. I had worries that this series might be starting to veer off course with the previous *Flight of the Harbinger* collection but holy crap, I didn't think it would be as horrible as this latest entry.

How bad is it? Well, you got Yoda, probably one of the franchise's most famous and bad ass characters, relegated to a wimpy cut out of himself, taking lessons from a little boy on some *Lord of the Flies*-esque planet, on how to, get this, fight against a mountain. Yes, a **mountain**. I know *Star Wars* has had some pretty out-there ideas, but never this uninspired, especially under the "canon" umbrella. I have a very bad feeling that Disney has reigned in Aaron and forced him to write this weird fantasy mash up crap because, even though its absolute garbage, it's safe, and doesn't rock the boat too much.

And that's really too bad. This series started out so good, on par with Gillem's *Vader* and some of the old *Dark Horse* stuff, but Disney's meddling and fear of taking risks has clearly begun to show. First it was the god-awful *Han Solo* idea and now this...It's strike 2 and things definitely aren't looking too promising for a pitch right down the middle, if you know what I mean

Lance Shadow says

"A jedi must humble himself if he is to become powerful".

The flagship comic book in the star wars canon continues. This time, Jason Aaron, seeing that the only good part of the previous volume was the journal story about Obi-Wan on Tatooine, decides to use Kenobi's journal to spend the entire next volume on a story about Yoda that takes place before The Phantom Menace. The flagship Star Wars series has seen better days. The first 3 volumes and the crossover Vader Down ranged from solid to awesome. But then "Last Flight of the Harbinger" happened and has taken a place as one of the worst comic story arcs the canon as released so far. And Yoda's Secret War is.....

...eh?

THE STORY: C-3PO is in imperial custody after being captured by Scar Squadron (why???). Ok, this isn't the fault of this volume so I can KIND of forgive it, but still stupid. anyway, moving on. Luke Skywalker wishes to rescue him but Han and Leia decide that he isn't worth the risk. However, during a different mission, R2-D2 breaks ranks, steals an X-Wing, and goes off to rescue his friend. To Jason Aaron's credit, this is probably the best way he could have handled such a misfire of a plot point. However, Luke Skywalker decides that he is not skilled enough to pursue R2, so he seeks guidance from Ben Kenobi's Journal. In the next entry, Obi Wan tells a tale of a great Jedi master who learns humility during a mission to a planet with very strange creatures. The Jedi master, we know of course is Yoda, but the comic does a great job in establishing that Luke doesn't actually know that the person in the story is Yoda.

THE BAD: Most of the good and bad in this comic is consistent with whether it's specifically for the Yoda Story or meant to advance the main storyline.

And most of what doesn't work is the stuff that advances the main storyline. First off, the Yoda story is incredibly shoehorned in. The transition between Luke in the present and the impetus for him to start reading it is almost as lazy as that exposition sequence that opened the 4th volume of the Vader series, "End of Games". Not only that, the ending is so abrupt that this plotline feels unfinished. It felt like Jason Aaron was reaching the limit for the number of pages but he didn't get the chance to just cut other material to make it all fit better.

Not only that, I was constantly reminded in the beginning about how lame the ending of Last Flight of the Harbinger was. To his credit, Jason Aaron does the best he can to address his mistakes but it was still a bit painful.

I also found myself confused a lot with the character of Garro. In concept he isn't a bad character, but in execution I was left confused by many of his character motivations and decisions, especially when we see Garro as an adult.

THE GOOD: There is just enough good in this comic to balance out the bad and solidly give it a barely passing 3 stars.

First, Yoda's character was excellent here. Not only do I love seeing him grounded by being placed in a situation where he stands no chance, I also think being forced to be a student to Garro in order to learn about the Force and solve the mysteries of the planet he is on adds a lot to his character.

I also think the character of Garro worked when it was specifically the child version of Garro. I thought he was an interesting character (even if not always the best done) and really loved the interactions he has with Yoda.

Speaking of Force and mysteries, I also really like the weirdness of this story arc. I definitely will understand if others don't like that aspect, but after how aggressively bland and safe Last Flight was, I welcomed how different and out there this was, and I think Aaron did a fantastic job making this scenario believably take place in the star wars universe.

Luke's character, like expected, is done wonderfully. Aaron understands that this is still a character that is

naive and untested, and still does not know how to wield a lightsaber. His adventures following his reading of the story mostly work well in reinforcing the message.

Finally, as expected, Salvatore Larroca and Edgar Delgado confirm their talents from the Vader series and do a great job with the artwork in Yoda's Secret War. What particularly looks great are the action scenes and the highly emotive facial expressions on the characters

THE ANNUAL: a special section dedicated to the Star Wars Annual II, also included in this TPB.

It follows a buff woman named Pash and her droid who she calls Bruce as she nurses a wounded Princess Leia back to health. It was pretty good. While the story I have seen before and the art was ok, I really enjoyed the characters.

Pash will probably end up being one of the more overlooked characters created in the Star Wars canon. She is surprisingly well rounded and has a pretty uplifting story arc. Even though you won't worry about Leia's survival, I like the philosophical discussions she has with Pash about the nature of the rebellion and why she is fighting.

I also enjoyed seeing Luke with a blaster at the end, as it shows how even after these adventures where we see Luke trying to use a lightsaber he still isn't very confident with one, and it does a good job keeping the character restrained so we believe that this is more than the farmboy from A New Hope but not quite the burgeoning Jedi in Empire Strikes Back.

Han Solo is also handled nicely as we see the steady progress his dynamic with Leia is undergoing. The more I think on it, the more I like this annual. The first annual about Eneb Ray was solid, but this one was even better.

THE CONCLUSION: It's better than "Last Flight of the Harbinger". That's about the best I can say for Yoda's Secret War. I like the weirdness, and Yoda and Luke were well done, but the story itself made some confusing turns and the connection to the main storyline of the flagship series felt forced.

I remember saying how Jason Aaron was lost after reading the previous volume, and here he proves that he continues to have no idea what he's doing by stretching out a journal entry to make a full story arc, even if the story in that journal entry has some really interesting aspects.

At least the annual was good.

It has been confirmed that Kieron Gillen will be taking over the writing responsibility for this series after issue #37, starting with issue #38. I think the choice of Gillen can go either way. On the one hand his Darth Vader series ended up being kind of a mess, but his Dr. Aphra series has started out pretty good. My biggest worry, however, is that he will be writing both the flagship and the Aphra comics, and I worry that time constraints on his part may be a detriment to both comics.

Regardless of who the new writer is, perhaps Jason Aaron has truly lost his way. Quite sad, actually, because this series started great and had so much promise. But perhaps a fresh writer is exactly what the Star Wars flagship comic series needs to get back on track and return to form.

Peace says

I gave it an extra star because the Leia focused annual was good.

I hate Yoda a lot of the time, and I did not want to learn about a planet entirely populated by white teen boys who locked their white fathers in a living mountain so this was not my jam.

(WHERE WERE THE LADIES ON THIS PLANET???)

Kemper says

Good this is not.

The idea of giving us a story about Yoda back in the day sounds OK, but there's two problems with the execution of it here. First, the story seems more like one of those stinker episodes from the third season of the original *Star Trek* than *Star Wars*. Yoda goes to a planet destroyed by war with two primitive tribes still battling, and he uncovers a secret involving weird alien lifeforms. That really seems like something Jim Kirk should be doing, not Yoda.

The second problem is the inherent limit of doing prequel stories that this series keeps bumping its head against. Getting a solo Yoda adventure could be OK if it was a better story. But by using the framing device of Luke just after the events of *A New Hope* reading this in Obi-Wan's journal means things have to get wonky because Luke doesn't meet Yoda until *Empire Strikes Back*. So the text only describes Yoda as a 'Jedi Master' to explain how Luke could read a story about him but still not know his name.

And it's just silly because why would Kenobi, who refers to Yoda as just 'Master Yoda' in the prequel movies, be so cryptic in this journal? It's the things like this or having Luke fight Boba Fett but be blinded so he doesn't recognize him later that highlight the limitations of trying to do a prequel that frequently relies on fan service rather than trying to actually do interesting things we haven't seen before.

Which is why the second story here which is about Princess Leia being injured on a mission, and she has to be hidden by a woman who has suffered because of the war between the Empire and the Rebellion. Some good points get made about how Leia is responsible for a whole bunch of people dying, and she could be seen as a zealot who only cares about the cause, not the consequences.

The main Yoda story would be 1 star, but a solid character piece about Leia and great art work get it up to 2.

Anthony says

Part of me thinks the main Star Wars ongoing is losing a little steam. I think that shows here by the fact that a lot of this arc is told through flashbacks. However, when those flashbacks involve Yoda in a story that is set before *The Phantom Menace*, who are we to complain?

It's good and I also like how Jason Aaron limited the amount Yoda uses his lightsaber in his story. It's a small irk of mine, but I always prefer Yoda when he's the old wise zen type Jedi, and not the Jedi charging in with his saber, and that's more of a last resort for when he's taking on Sith Lords.

The artwork is usual Larocca. It's fine but you can tell some of it has been straight traced from movie stills.

Still enjoying this book but it needs some kind of shake up. Maybe the crossover story with Doctor Aphra will help, or maybe we should jump ahead in time a little?

Arnis says

<https://poseidons99.wordpress.com/201...>

Travis Duke says

A Yoda book? alright! oh wait... marvel once again puts the shackles on how much story can be used... Starts off cool but it's just one big side story. So Yoda flies to some unknown planet to look into a mysterious energy on the planet. The story is just OK it lets Yoda flex his force a bit which is cool to see, and honestly Aaron does a good job at writing the story with the rock people but I keep getting the feeling Marvel says "hey you can the characters but don't write anything that interferes with our movies" The second half of the book is an annual book and it is worse than the yoda story. It intros a character called Pash who rescues Leia. I REALLY hope that was just a tease with Yoda and we get more

Jerry says

Yoda is to the *Star Wars* universe what Kirby is to the *Super Smash Bros.* games: small, yet powerful. For that reason, the infamous backwards-talking green dude has been among my favorite characters in the franchise. To see him in a story that takes place prior to *The Phantom Menace* was a blast.

The last story was also fun, too; wonder if we'll see more of Bash/Dash?

Lata says

First story was Lord of the Flies-boring, though Yoda's always a treat. Everyone else in the story--snore. The second story was more interesting, though awfully predictable. Leia and Pash Davane, a former underwater engineer, have to work together to get an injured Leia off-planet. In the process, Pash rediscovers her lost hope.

Sam Quixote says

It's nice to see a book featuring Yoda as the protagonist as he's been largely absent during Marvel's Star Wars relaunch. Unfortunately his adventure here is pretty damn boring!

In a mashup between Lord of the Flies and Mad Max, Yoda goes to some primitive planet full of warring kids who use rock magic in a seemingly unending war. O...k... but doesn't sound very Star Wars-y to me!

Jason Aaron writes Yoda well, especially when he learns rock magic, humbling himself by becoming a pupil again. We never saw Yoda do that in the movies but Aaron's right, that's exactly the kind of action I believe he would do.

Besides that though, Aaron couldn't make me care at all about this pointless war or these stupid new characters. There's a couple of subplots involving Obi-Wan on Tatooine and Luke's flying about in an X-Wing - like a Russian doll, the book has a story within a story within a story - but they don't really go anywhere and serve mostly as filler.

Salvador Larroca's art is as slick as it was on his Darth Vader run though his Han Solo looked weird, probably because he didn't have photo references for some of the expressions the script called for.

Kelly Thompson and Emilio Laiso produce the Star Wars Annual #2 that closes out this volume and it's the pantiest issue here. Leia's injured on some planet and someone helps her escape back to the Rebels. Overlong and dull, I hope not to see either of these creators on any Star Wars comic again!

Like the last couple books, Jason Aaron's Star Wars run continues to be uninteresting rubbish. Recommend Yoda's Secret War, I do not.

Chad says

The first dud Marvel has put out since taking over the Star Wars comics. We all but forget about the ongoing story after the opening few pages and focus on a story about Yoda taking place before Phantom Menace. He goes to some planet where rocks contain the force and kids are fighting in a Star Wars version of Lord of the Flies. I can't even say it was awful, just sooo boring. The whole thing just feels like filler. Also included is an annual showcasing Leia and Pash's first meeting.

This entire book can be skipped without missing a beat on the ongoing story.

Jesse A says

Pretty good stuff. Focusing away from the resistance for a bit.

Ben Brown says

Ooph.

For my money, this is the weakest story yet—not just from Aaron's "Star Wars" run, but in all of Marvel's Star Wars output since acquiring the license in 2014. I'm usually a big fan of both Aaron's writing and Salvador Larroca's style, so the thought of the two of them pairing up for an arc—let alone an arc focused specifically on freaking YODA—really had me jazzed. Color me surprised and disappointed that neither writer nor artist seemed to operating at their full potential here.

I could go on and on about all of the things that didn't work here, whether it be the plot itself—which proves definitively that there is such thing as a Star Wars story that is TOO out there—Larroca's linework, which seemed oddly unfinished here, or even just the way the arc sits rather uncomfortably alongside the broader Star Wars lore (no spoilers, but if you've read, you know of what I speak). In fairness, there were moments here and there that worked, particularly early on, when it felt like Aaron had a better grasp of the type of tale

he wanted to spin. But the longer this arc dragged on, the more eager I was for it to wrap up. And now, mercifully, it has.
