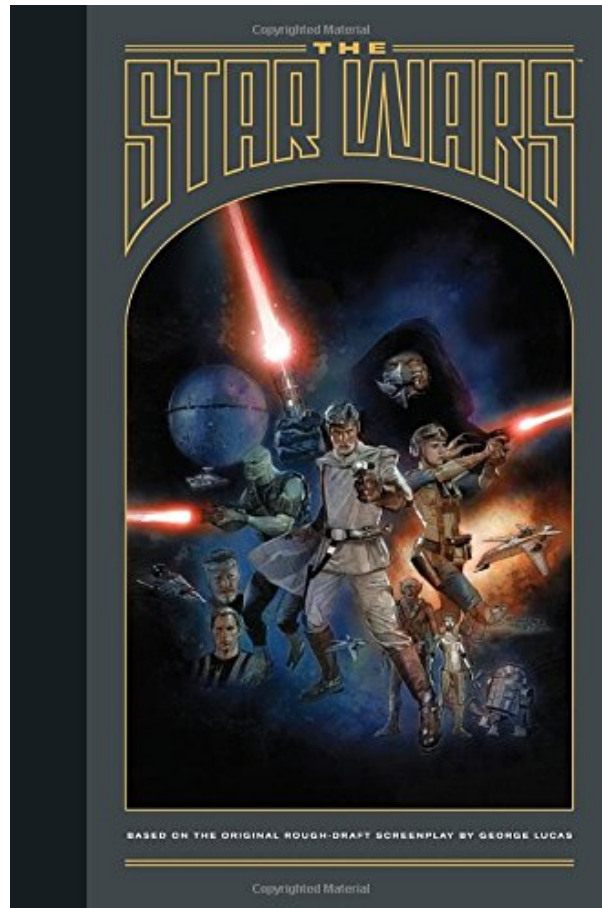
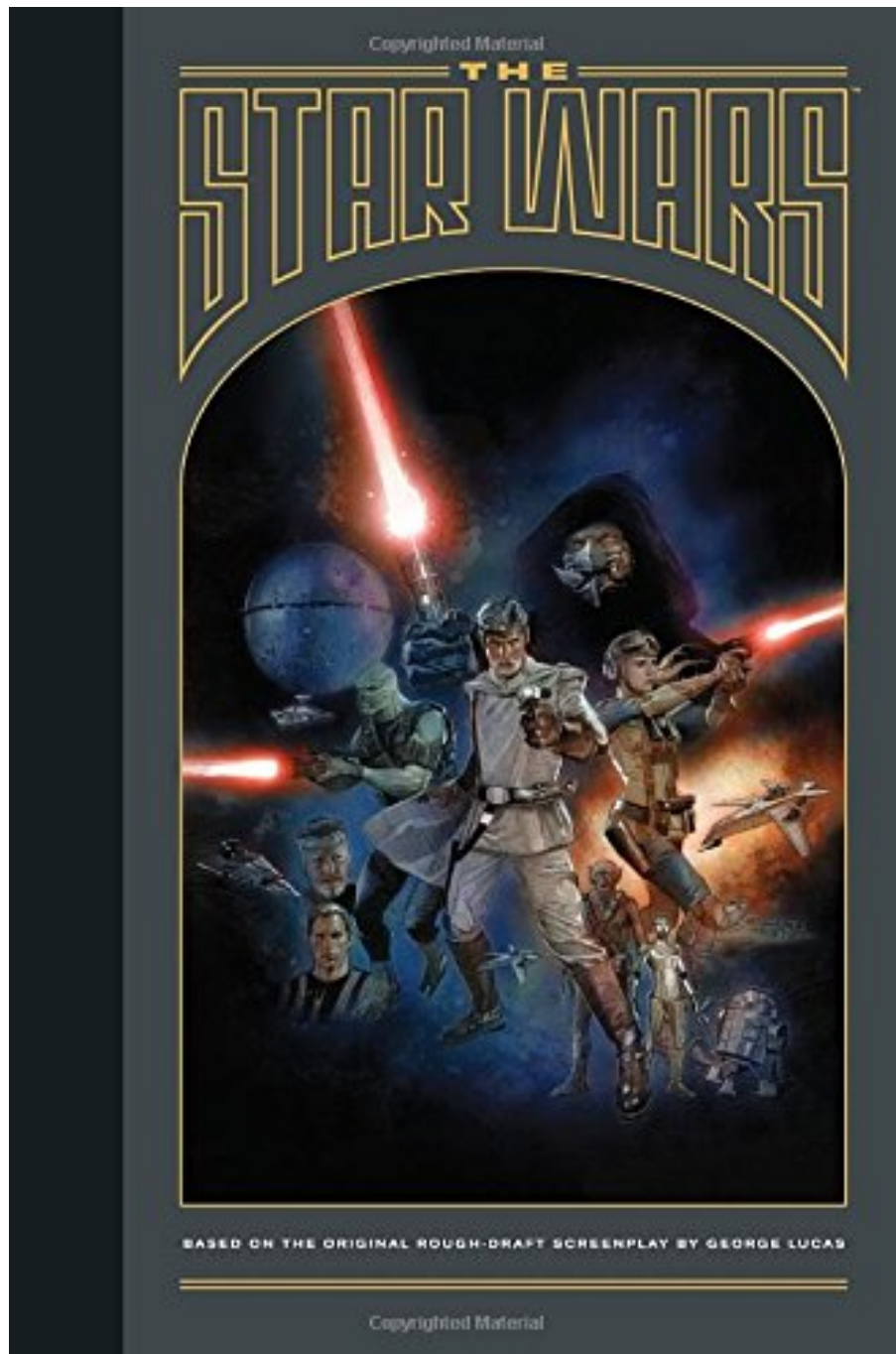


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About the Author

J. W. Rinzler, executive editor at Lucasfilm Ltd., is the author of The New York Times best seller *The Making of Star Wars*, as well as the London Times best seller *The Complete Making of Indiana Jones*. His most recent book is *The Making of Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*. Rinzler lives in Petaluma, California. The author lives in Petaluma, CA..

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THE STAR WARS BY JW RINZLER PDF

Before Star Wars, there was The Star Wars! This is the hardcover collection of the official adaptation of George Lucas's rough-draft screenplay for what would become Star Wars, the film that changed motion pictures and the world. You'll see familiar characters and places--but not all is the same in this long-ago and faraway galaxy. Still, strap yourself in for high adventure and lazersword duels, Jedi Knights, Princess Leia, Han Solo, and a battle to defeat the evil Empire! Collects issues #0 and #1-#8 of The Star Wars.

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About the Author

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Most helpful customer reviews

18 of 22 people found the following review helpful.

The Star Wars

By Graham Swearingen

The Star Wars is 182 pages of excellently crafted story telling from the first 8 issues of this series by JW Rinzler. Based on George Lucas' original treatment for the Star Wars Saga, we follow the last of the Jedi-Bendu Annikin Starkiller and General Luke Skywalker as they seek to destroy the evil Imperial Space Force. Any Star Wars fan will recognize a lot of the character designs and ship designs from early Star Wars concept art by the legendary Ralph Mcquarrie, as well as character, ship, and planet names from the original trilogy that have been appropriated back to their original conception. Rinzler's story telling is clean and fluid and paced well, and Mike Mayhew's art just drives the story home. I loved this, I read it cover to cover in one sitting. This is a fresh take on the Star Wars universe that in my opinion has become a bit stale in the last 10 years.

The Star Wars is excellent ideas propelled by stunning visuals that throw you head first into a world that we're familiar with, yet told from a fresh new perspective. Any fan of the Star Wars Universe, especially fans of Star Wars Expanded Universe or fans of the genesis of Star Wars will love this. This story is steeped in political intrigue and lots of insight into the monarchy in which the Jedi are sworn to protect. Seeing the Millennium Falcon flying through space as it was originally designed is rad. Seeing an older, bearded Jedi-Bendu Master Luke Skywalker adeptly use the force and his Lightsaber against Stormtroopers who also have lighstabers is something I've wanted to see for decades. Han Solo looks like a mix between Chewbacca and

Swamp Thing. This book is violent, lots of troopers getting cut in half, and heroes dying for their cause. Unfortunately in this edition there are no alternate covers or concept art or anything, a bit bare bones but that's ok. "May the force of the others be with you". This comes FULLY APPROVED.

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Great art...mishmash of a story

By Bobandy

As a lifelong Star Wars fan (it was the second movie I ever saw in a theater), I was always curious about the details of the previous drafts of George Lucas's epic saga. As other reviewers have described, the result of seeing the earlier draft put to visual imaging is a mixed bag. On the one hand, it's great to see Annikin and Leia as precursors to Luke and Leia (before it was decided they were siblings), Darth Vader as a basic military general, and all the other differences that we've all heard about over the years. On the other, the story is an absolute mess, with characters that aren't that interesting or don't live long (I'm looking at you, Captain Whitsun), tooth-pullingly bad dialog, and plot lines that go nowhere (why exactly did Kane Starkiller leave Annikin with General Skywalker only to meet up with him a very short while later?). So, I guess the best review is a two-parter:

First the art. It's top notch for a comic book. Realistic and based on live models, it's easy to picture this as a film. Some people don't like this style, but for this particular book, I think it works. It's sometimes hard to pick out what's going on in individual frames, but generally, it's like seeing Ralph McQuarrie's production paintings and sketches brought to life. For the art alone, the book is worth having.

Next, the story. Here's where it goes to Bantha poodoo. It's apparent that George Lucas didn't have a good grasp on human interaction as he conjured up the dialog and behavior of the characters. Examples abound:

- 1) When we first see Kane Starkiller, on the second page of the book, he's lashing his young son with a whip. Nice!
- 2) When Annikin first meets Leia, she gives him some attitude and he punches her out. Like within 30 seconds. Out cold. Damn. Leading to...
- 3) Leia announces she's in love with Annikin in the midst of a brewing battle not long after, where countless lives will be lost. Really, Leia?! Really?! Must've been that blow to the head.
- 4) Prince Valorum, Sith Lord (who's sort of the equivalent of movie Darth Vader), is seen torturing and finally burning to death prisoners of war. He's bad. Like really evil bad. Yet when he first meets Annikin, he suddenly decides to be friendly, help the rebels escape, and even makes with some witty banter. What?!?! Why?! How?! Never mind.
- 5) Wookies are described as bruttle and ruthless yet...they decide Annikin is a god 10 minutes after they meet him and a 2 minutes after a fight in which he's getting thrashed pretty badly. Apparently they're not too bright.
- 6) Speaking of Wookies, Kane Starkiller trains them to fly advanced space fighter ships in about a day, despite a language barrier and them having never used anything more complicated than a war club...sure. Seems reasonable.

Overall, it's easy to see why George's friends and business partners encouraged him to rewrite the screenplay and why studios were reluctant to fund The Star Wars in the early stages. Too many characters and too much going on in too little time makes it a challenge to follow even with the great images. But it's fun to see what ol' George was cooking up and how a LOT of it found its way into the prequel trilogies (senate debate, the emperor's rise, Jedi falling in love with Queen, Wookies battling imperials, and more). If you're a hardcore fan, you can't go wrong with this book. Even if you're not, it's worth a read and some time spent looking at the pretty pictures.

20 of 26 people found the following review helpful.

Crisp & Uninteresting THE STAR WARS Seriously Gave Birth To An Entertainment Legend?!?!

By Edward L Zimmerman

Behind every great story is obvious a story about that which never got told: namely the original tale. From

the script to the screen is one thing, but what about from the writer's head on to the initial page? That's what makes THE STAR WARS – a retelling of George Lucas's rough draft – honestly even worth the time of day. After all, there'd be zero interest in revisiting any number of forgettable films that come out of Hollywood, but this is STAR WARS! This is the film that shaped a generation of filmmakers and filmmaking itself! This is history! Do you really want to know what history looked like before it became – well – history?

(NOTE: The following review will contain minor spoilers necessary solely for the discussion of plot and/or characters. If you're the type of reader who prefers a review entirely spoiler-free, then I'd encourage you to skip down to the last three paragraphs for my final assessment. If, however, you're accepting of a few modest hints at 'things to come,' then read on ...)

From the product packaging: "This is the official adaptation of the original rough-draft screenplay by George Lucas for what would become Star Wars. But this long-ago and faraway galaxy is unlike the one you've seen in the films. Strap yourself in for high adventure and lasersword duels, Jedi Knights and Knights of the Sith, a familiar Princess Leia and a very different Han Solo, and a battle to defeat an evil Empire!"

Let me just say this right off the bat: thank GOD for rewrites! Otherwise, if THE STAR WARS is any indication, it's very unlikely that there would be a Star Wars franchise – the entertainment juggernaut that just keeps on giving to its billions of fans around the world.

Now, that said, don't get me wrong: I'm probably as big a Star Wars fan that you'll find anywhere. I've seen all of the movies. Read many of the books. Followed both the original Marvel series as well as the Dark Horse properties. Watched the TV shows. Argue about its merits online. Even enjoyed a good deal of the Prequel Trilogy, though I won't split hairs on how it divided fandom. But the bottom line is that inspiration needs proper cultivation, and THE STAR WARS – this unblemished look back at what could've been – is full of blemishes.

Obvious inspirations rise to the surface right away. The work has a very Flash Gordon feel to it – there's a big universe out there, but much of it seems to revolve around a single world or two, those being managed by Lucas's version of Ming the Merciless (aka Darth Vader). The Jedi clearly draw similarities to Samurai warriors. And those opening panels have a very Western feel with the heroes being stuck out on the Wild Frontier. The bad guys show up with intent to do some bad things, and that brings our General Skywalker out of retirement, setting the whole tale into galactic motion.

However, it's rare to find so many flat and dimensionless characters in anything other than two-D, but that's what so very much of THE STAR WARS is: one heavy struggling for screen (or panel) time against the others. Vader's basically a charmless thug; Yoga's a fat guy with warts and pointed ears; and these castles and rooms look far too Earthly for me to accept them as anything other than belonging to this world.

Thankfully, it doesn't take long before Artoo-Detoo and See-Threepio to show up and – as they did with the films – give this story some life beyond the ink and page. They still end up second fiddle to a bunch of whiners who spout such heavy-handed gibberish about politics so much that I had to fight to turn the page. (It isn't hard to see the Prequel Trilogy in this creation; everything from the Original Trilogy outside of the obvious was still several rewrites away.) In many ways, what plays out in these pages almost seems like some crackpot's idea of what fanfic could be: take all of the elements of one cinema classic, stick it in a blender, and then pour it out in some new shape to see if it tastes the same. Well, the ugly truth is here: it doesn't.

It's hard to believe that such a heart-warming tale as STAR WARS (A New Hope) came from anything so

grim, forced, and humorless as THE STAR WARS. Still, stranger things have happened.

THE STAR WARS is published by Dark Horse Comics. The script is written by J.W. Rinzler; the art (which is quite inspired) is by Mike Mayhew; the colors are by Rain Beredo; the lettering is by Michael Heisler; and the Cover Art (which is pretty fabulous) is by Nick Runge. For those of you who grew up on an island, STAR WARS is the creation of George Lucas. There's a terrific last chapter that fleshes out some of the peoples, places, and things that way an illustrated companion book should. It comes with the cover price of \$39.99, a bit steep for my tastes.

RECOMMENDED mostly as a curiosity than anything else. Seeing the kinda/sorta how it all began is definitely an interesting exercise for fans of George Lucas's legendary STAR WARS, but so much of THE STAR WARS feels incomplete, rushed, and (dare I say?) forgettable from a storytelling perspective. There are obvious seeds of what was to come in here, but – by the time all is said and done – I found it hard to tell how much of that was due to Lucas's eventual tinkering with his original script or scribe Rinzler trying to throw homage back to the Original Trilogy. All I can say is, "Thank God this isn't the version which made it to the silver screen!"

In the interests of fairness, I'm pleased to disclose that the fine folks at Dark Horse Comics provided me with a digital reading copy of THE STAR WARS by request for the expressed purposes of completing this review; and their contribution to me in no way, shape, or form influenced my opinion of it.

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