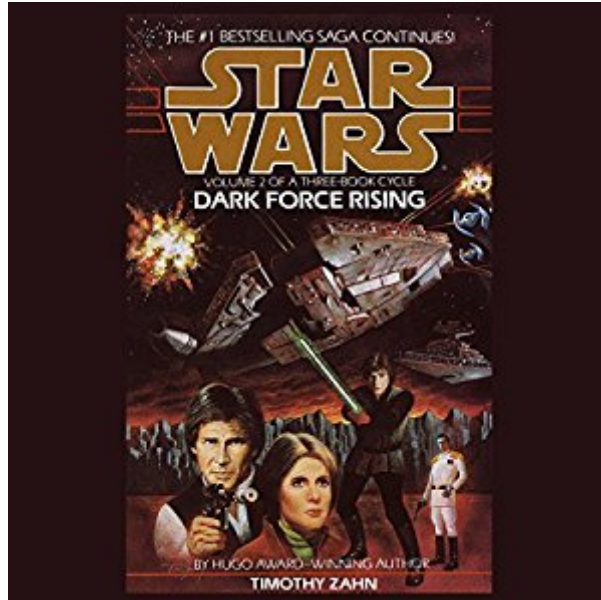


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Star Wars: Dark Force Rising: The Thrawn Trilogy, Book 2



Synopsis

The dying Empire's most cunning and ruthless warlord - Grand Admiral Thrawn - has taken command of the remnants of the Imperial fleet and launched a massive campaign aimed at the New Republic's destruction. With the aid of unimaginable weapons long hidden away by the Emperor on a backwater planet, Thrawn plans to turn the tide of battle, overwhelm the New Republic, and impose his iron rule throughout the galaxy. Meanwhile, Han and Lando Calrissian race against time to find proof of treason inside the highest Republican Council - only to discover instead a ghostly fleet of warships that could bring doom to their friends and victory to their enemies. Yet most dangerous of all is a new Dark Jedi, risen from the ashes of a shrouded past, consumed by bitterness...and scheming to corrupt Luke Skywalker to the Dark Side.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dark Force Rising is the second book in Tim Zahn's Thrawn Trilogy. Our heroes, on the run from assassins after Leia's unborn twins, as well as Luke and Leia themselves, run through the book at a frantic pace. Leia decides that the best place to hide is amongst the enemy, so along with Chewbacca she embarks on a quest to the world of Honogar, the homeworld of the Empire's best assassins. Luke after spending time with the insane Dark Jedi C'Boath is off on a mission to rescue smuggler chief Talon Karrde from Grand Admiral Thrawn's personal Star Destroyer with the help of Mara Jade, who wants to kill him once the rescue is complete. Han Solo finds himself swept off to a secret meeting with a soldier who may or may not help the fragile New Republic against the victorious Empire and Thrawn. Added to this is a frantic race to discover the location of the Katana

Fleet or Dark Force. A mysterious fleet of warships designed after the Clone Wars that could tip the victory in the laps of those who find it first. Add in political intrigue, an Alliance commander accused of treason and clones and you have one heck of a good novel.

While I must admit that I was not a great fan of the first book in the Thrawn Trilogy "Heir to the Empire", the second book really got my attention. I will venture to say that most people reading the Star Wars books are reading to see the characters they loved from the movies develop. In the second book, Han Solo, Luke, Lando Calrissian, and Leia Organa Solo take center stage as they chase an once defunct fleet of abandon ships while a conspiracy against the New Republic unravels. It makes for a fast paced read that is hard to Star Wars fans to dislike. There were a number of aspects of this book that I really enjoyed. Star Wars certainly has some political wrinkles in the plot. "Dark Force Rising" sees the New Republic's government developing into dangerous factions. The power grabs of this era are not limited to the Sith. Seeing the insanity of Jedi Master Joruu C'baoth spiral as he meets Luke Skywalker affords the opportunity to develop Luke's character as he continues to learn the ways of the force. As I await the third book in the trilogy, I am most looking forward to seeing the direction which the author takes the Mara Jade character. While the author seems to have ended this aspect of the story, I find it hard to believe that the author would end it so abruptly. After reading the first book in this series, I was certain that I would be disappointed by chronology. After reading the second book, I can not wait to read the third book. With the plot leaving questions in my mind, the author did more than enough to keep the series interesting through three books.

I'll start by saying that the Kindle edition is rife with glaring errors. The word "kind" is replaced with "land" consistently throughout, among many, many other mistakes. Something like that is simply unforgivable at this point. I gave this series a chance after hearing nothing but high praise for it. After reading the first two books, I find myself questioning the taste of those recommending it so highly. It is generic early-90's genre Sci-Fantasy. No more, no less. It isn't terrible, but it is a long, long way from great. It is slightly amusing in that I can feel the author's smugness in revealing his "twists" through characters overtly spelling them out in case the reader somehow missed them. And I refuse to believe that is possible, since he telegraphs them like a boxer in a fixed fight. He also falls into the "the Empire is cartoonishly evil/incompetent" trap way too often. That really bugs me. It's not quite as bad as, say, the characters saying "dark greetings" to each other, but it is still pretty bad. On top of that, he leaps feet first into the "I'll tell you constantly how brilliant Thrawn is and how well trained

Stormtroopers are, but when it comes time to show it...not so much" trope that permeates Star Wars. Finally, the almost painful effort taken to shoehorn "Dark Force" into the book so he could have his "clever" dual-meaning for a title makes me cringe every time it comes up.

I have always enjoyed Zahn's writing, and how he connects this Trilogy to the the first Star Wars Movies. I do recommend them. I had bought these to replace the Trilogy I owned when he first wrote them, and while it was listed as Hard Back, I was not aware of the term 'Turtle Back & School editions. As a result these books are no bigger then the standard paperback books they just have hadcovers on them. should have been clearer in there discription for people like myself who had no clue as to what Turtle Back ment. Aside from that they are well made books, holding inside great stories!

This is a great entry in Zahn's trilogy and in the Star Wars Expanded Universe overall. Other reviewers on and elsewhere can better address the plot. All I'll append about this specific Kindle edition is that there are some oddball errors in the digitization: within the first ~30 [hardcopy] pages "kind" becomes "lamb," "civilian's" loses its apostrophe. I'm not much beyond that point. So, yeah: if you're reading along and hit some weird words ... well, me, too.

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