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Star Wars: Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back



Synopsis

Rebuilding an Empire, Marvel style! As the Imperial Forces regroup from their Death Star setback, they target the new Rebel Alliance base on the ice planet Hoth. Will Darth Vader's AT-ATs find Luke Skywalker, or will a wampa get Luke first? Meanwhile, feelings run high in the galaxy's greatest love triangle, bounty hunters target Han Solo's Millennium Falcon, and bloated Jabba the Hutt lies in wait. Luke seeks out the great Jedi Master Yoda on swampy Dagobah, but the Emperor has designs on turning the young Rebel hero. As the battle begins for Skywalker's soul, will his fear lead to anger, hate and the Dark Side? It's all heading to one of the greatest confrontations of all time. Prepare for a grave disturbance in the Force! COLLECTING: Star Wars (1977) 39-44 (remastered)

Book Information

Series: Star Wars

Hardcover: 144 pages

Publisher: Marvel (August 11, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0785193677

ISBN-13: 978-0785193678

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.4 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #215,569 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels > Media Tie-Ins #68 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Space Opera #222 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Aliens

Customer Reviews

This is a remastered version of the original Star Wars 1977 comic, issues #39-44. The remastered colours make this an absolute delight to read, and the original artwork stands the test of time extremely well. The comic itself reads like a condensed version of the movie more or less, with many lines directly taken from the script. This series was written based on a draft of the movie's script, rather than the final, so dedicated fans can spot a number of differences between the comic and the movie. These differences are interesting rather than jarring however, and tell you a bit about how everything fit together at the last moment during filming to create one of the best movies of all

time. While the differences here aren't nearly as stark as they are in the first volume, there are some key differences, including the infamous Leia-Han interaction as he is frozen in carbonite. Also worth mentioning are the numerous extras included in the volume. There is an interesting letter from the writer regarding what had to be changed due to updates in the look of Yoda, including before and after pics. Also included are a number of extra covers which premiered only in Britain, and some sketch work at the end. The hardcover edition looks great on the shelf and is comfortable to read. It also comes with a digital download code for a free version (albeit not a DRM free download).

"A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..." In 1980, a long held wish came true for filmmaker George Lucas: Al Williamson was drawing "Star Wars" comics! In the time leading up to the May 1977 release of his space fantasy film, "Star Wars," Mr. Lucas hoped to help promote his upcoming movie by creating a comic version of his ambitious cinematic project. A fan of comic books and newspaper strips since childhood, he wished to have Al Williamson contribute his considerable artistic talents to illustrating his film story into the comic medium. Mr. Williamson was a master comic artist and a favorite of the writer/director. Unfortunately it was not to be. Mr. Williamson had to decline Mr. Lucas' offer due to his commitment to illustrate the "Secret Agent Corrigan" newspaper strip (X-9: Secret Agent Corrigan Volume 1), which he had been collaborating on with gifted writer Archie Goodwin since 1967. Other capable creators would go on to translate "Star Wars" into comics, notably; writer Roy Thomas, and artists Howard Chaykin, Steve Leialoha, Tom Palmer, Carmine Infantino, Terry Austin, Gene Day, and Bob Wiacek on the Marvel Comics series, and another comic legend, Russ Manning, on the comic strip. The above mentioned Archie Goodwin would also soon join the creative fellowship, working as writer on both the comic as well as the newspaper strip. Then in 1980, Mr. Williamson chose to leave the "Secret Agent Corrigan" strip, and when he was again offered the chance to draw "the adventures of Luke Skywalker," he accepted. George Lucas was happy. Soon countless "Star Wars" fans would be happy, too! Together again with his friend and co-comic creator Mr. Goodwin, the classic team would combine their talents to produce the comic adaptation of "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back," originally published in Marvel Comics' monthly series, issue #39-44. It was a masterpiece. Mr. Goodwin (1937-1998) had already proven he could successfully capture the pure space adventure feel in comic form. George Lucas realized in the movie that came to be called "Star Wars: Episode IV: A New Hope." His previous Marvel Comic tales were fun, thrilling stories of that "galaxy far, far away." With the coming of the artistic might of Al Williamson, the comic was elevated to an entirely new level; a comic of enthralling, realistic, illustrative genius. Mr. Williamson (1931-2010) was a life-long

admirer of the great newspaper comic strip artist Alex Raymond (1909-1956), the creator of the classic character "Flash Gordon," and as a maturing comic artist, he developed an artistic style inspired by the majestic and lush work of the master illustrator. Becoming a young professional in the 1950s, Mr. Williamson would contribute memorable work in the western and specifically science fiction genres for Atlas and EC Comics. The 1960s brought him the opportunity to draw his own version of his beloved comic strip hero, "Flash Gordon" for King Features Comics, a brief series which lead Mr. Williamson to be given the National Cartoonist Society's Award for "Best Comic Book (Al Williamson's Flash Gordon: A Lifelong Vision of the Heroic)." As stated earlier in this review, both Mr. Williamson and Archie Goodwin worked on the "Secret Agent Corrigan" newspaper comic beginning in 1967, which was also created by Alex Raymond, and mystery writer Dashiell Hammett (1894-1961) in 1934 under the title, "Secret Agent X-9." In all his work, Mr. Williamson produced comic art that was stunning in his detailed realism, line technique, rich atmosphere and dramatic action. With their six issue version of George Lucas' and director Irvin Kershner's "The Empire Strikes Back," Mr. Williamson and Mr. Goodwin united to create perhaps the definitive film to comic translation of a major motion picture. Mr. Goodwin adapted the exciting film script to be equally exciting on the comic page, and Mr. Williamson's artistic interpretation of the mythic saga was nothing less than awe-inspiring. There was a reason George Lucas wanted him to illustrate his tale of "a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away," and Mr. Williamson more than fulfilled his hope. If ever an artist was born to draw the "Star Wars" galaxy it was Al Williamson! From his depiction of the wide range of characters, his meticulous rendering of the futuristic technology to his recreation of the imaginative vistas showcased in the larger than life film, Mr. Williamson, along with his other collaborators; inker Carlos Garzon, colorist Glynis Wein, and letterers Jim Novak and Rick Veitch, all produced a comic book classic. This 2015 hardcover edition of the "Star Wars: Episode V" comic adaptation provides a recolored imagining of Mr. Williamson's amazing artistry. Unlike the accomplished but limited colors done for the original comics done by Glynis Wein, one of the best comic colorists of her time, the remastered colors of this volume are richer in their variety. As the title to this particular "Star Wars" film would suggest, "The Empire Strikes Back" tells the darkest tale of the Original Trilogy and the advanced coloring featured in this book add to the grimness of the plight of the heroic Star Warriors. The chilling snow storms of Hoth are given blurred effects as Luke rides his Taun Taun on patrol and the murky swamp world called Dagaobah, where Jedi Master Yoda lives in exile, is recreated with a lush palette. The modern colors utilized for this special reprinting will impress the reader not unlike how movie audiences were awed by their first sight of Cloud City as it hovered among the wonderfully hued skies of the planet Bespin. It is a beautiful

display of this cherished series of comic art. Still, at the heart of this book is the impressive storytelling achievement of Al Williamson, who brings the "Star Wars" Saga to the world of comics like never before. Within this special tome, there is also an introduction by Billy Dee Williams, the actor who portrayed Lando Calrissian, who fondly recalls his work on "Star Wars: Episode V," and his continuing bond with that other charming "scoundrel." This collection also reprints bonus material featured in the original Marvel Comic releases, including: "Building an Empire--Marvel Style: a behind the scenes look at producing the comics adaptation of 'The Empire Strikes Back,'" written by Archie Goodwin, from "Star Wars" #41; recolored versions of covers to the "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back Weekly" drawn by Carmine Infantino, which serialized the movie adaptation, reproduced in "Star Wars" #42; pin-ups from "Star Wars" issues #43 and 44, illustrated by Terry Austin, Michael Golden, John Byrne, Marie Severin, Frank Miller, Walt Simonson, Joe Jusko, Fred Hembeck, Bob Layton, and Marshall Rogers. In addition, the book also features the following: reproductions of original art pages by Mr. Williamson and Carlos Garzon from "Star Wars" #39; the cover to the Marvel Special Edition #2 (1980), which collected the complete "The Empire Strikes Back" adaptation, painted by Bob Larkin; "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back - The Special Edition (1997), another reprint of the adaptation, with a cover painted by Tim and Greg Hildebrandt; the cover to Classic "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back" #1 (1994), reprinting "Star Wars" issues #39-41, by Al Williamson and Matt Hollingsworth; Classic "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back" #2 (1994), reprinting "Star Wars" issues #42-44, cover illustrated by Cam Kennedy and Matt Hollingsworth. This collection concludes with reproductions of cover artist Adi Granov's work: a pencil version of the book's cover illustration and a textless full color version of the cover. I should happily point out that all these covers are showcased without any cover texts or logos to more fully enjoy the artwork. Finally, the book ends with a page promoting the third volume of this special reprinting of the Original Trilogy comic adaptations with a look at Mr. Granov's painting for the "Return of the Jedi" volume. Like its predecessor, *Star Wars: Episode IV: A New Hope*, this specially recolored version of a classic series of "Star Wars" comics gives readers a chance to discover or rediscover the work of one of the truly great interpreters of the vision of George Lucas. But with or without the use of 21st century coloring techniques, the work of Al Williamson remains remarkable in any century...or any galaxy! This book comes with my highest recommendation. May the Force be with you, always!

Only reason I'm giving this book 4 instead of 5 is the computer colors. It really took away from the brilliance of Al Williamson's art. It's nice coloring but I would have rather seen it just in black and

white or just as it appeared originally with old school coloring. Pages are waaaay too thin. They did give you a treat of 2 pages of Al Williamson's beautiful black and white art and what could have been. Shame it wasn't the entire book.

As a fan of the original Marvel Comics Star Wars comics, I fondly remember buying these comics when I was in the 5th grade, especially the adaptation of "The Empire Strikes Back" (my all-time favorite movie). Never before had such awesome artwork appeared in a Star Wars comic book as each character looked so much like they did on the big screen. I was instantly enthralled by the artwork of Al Williamson and was disappointed that he would not be the regular artist of the Marvel Star Wars comic after the 6 issues were complete. All of this is to say that, when I looked through this re-release and re-coloring of "Star Wars: Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back", I felt as if I was looking on these pages for the first time! The feeling of seeing this awesome coloring job over the incredible artwork of Al Williamson was like watching the movie itself. I was actually thrilled to examine each and every page, which is not at all what I expected. The only problem I have is that I'm going to have to go ahead and purchase both the Episode IV and the Episode VI re-colored hardcover editions as this book was an unexpected pleasure to experience. If you love "The Empire Strikes Back" as much as I do and loved the Al Williamson Star Wars comics, I would highly recommend buying this edition.

Reread this comic over and over as a kid. New graphics and color corrections are beautiful. Own all three original trilogy!

Great re-mastered comic! a great read for any SW fan if you enjoy graphic novels

Good read, love the hard cover

thanks...

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