



Rebirth (Edge of Victory, #2)

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The Star Wars epic continues its dazzling space odyssey in The New Jedi Order—as Luke and Mara, Leia and Han, and others battle the mighty enemy from beyond the galactic rim.

The brutal Yuuzhan Vong are scouring the universe for Jedi to slaughter. With no help from the divided New Republic, the Jedi stand alone against their seemingly invincible foe. Han and Leia Organa Solo risk deadly consequences with their controversial tactics to bolster the Jedi resistance. After uncovering a new Yuuzhan Vong menace, Anakin and Tahiri find themselves wanted for murder by the Peace Brigade. To avoid capture, they jump into hyperspace . . . and into trouble far graver.

Hunted by the Yuuzhan Vong, wanted as criminals by the New Republic, and with unrest stirring within their own ranks, the Jedi find peril everywhere they turn. But even in the midst of despair, while the most fiercest battle of all looms on the horizon, hope arises with the birth of one very special child. . . .

Rebirth (Edge of Victory, #2) Details

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From Reader Review Rebirth (Edge of Victory, #2) for online ebook

Mark Oppenlander says

The editors of the New Jedi Order series had this odd habit of labeling certain books as pairs, just because they were written by the same author and tell stories that come in roughly chronological order. But this, the second book of the *Edge of Victory* duology, has very little to do with the first one. Author Greg Keyes focused primarily on one planet and one storyline in his previous book - detailing Anakin Solo's daring infiltration behind Yuuzhan Vong lines on Yavin Four - but here he tackles several threads at once, bouncing back and forth between them.

The plot that takes up the most time follows Anakin, his Jedi friend Tahiri Veila and disgraced Jedi Knight Corran Horn as they make a seemingly innocuous supply run which turns into something much more sinister when they receive a cryptic message from a dying Jedi. Meanwhile, Jacen grudgingly decides to help his parents, Han and Leia, fight the Yuuzhan Vong as they work to set up an "underground railroad" for hunted Jedi across the galaxy. Jaina Solo is elsewhere, working with Kyp Durrone and his renegade squadron to eliminate a purported Yuuzhan Vong super-weapon, while Luke and a very pregnant Mara Jade must flee from Coruscant as orders are sent out for their arrest. There is a LOT going on in this book.

Keyes handles all the characters and situations well enough. The pacing of the novel is decent and the action and plot twists are handled deftly. If I have any serious complaint here it is that so much of this book feels redundant to what has occurred in other books in this series. The arguments the characters have, the dilemmas they face, the threats internal and external, are starting to blur together. It's almost as if the publishers were trying to milk this series for all its worth. Or perhaps it's simply that every author who put their hands on the story wanted to put their own spin on everything and are thus forced to revisit the basic tropes for themselves.

All in all, an adequate, but unoriginal entry in the series.

P.S. What does the title *Edge of Victory* mean? There is no edge nor victory anywhere to be seen in these two books; *Middle of Nowhere* might be more apt.

Nicholas says

A good amount of action and some major turning points for some of the main characters. One of the better books in the NJO series.

Szymon Zet says

I like when books make me think and that was the case with this one. After finishing it there was this bright, crystal-clear thought going through my head: "Well, that was a piece of shit. And a huge waste of time". After that I decided that it's time to give up on Star Wars books. I don't feel bad.

A little heads up: this is not actually a review of this particular entry in the series. More like a personal

reflections that I have after reading eight of those books. I don't want to go and review every single one of them separately, because let's face it: they're all practically the same. And unlike their authors I don't get paid for copying and pasting text with just little changes along the way.

I would probably enjoyed this series if it was a trilogy. I would be okay with it if it had five books. Heck, I would understand if there were seven. After all, Harry Potter has seven books and it's not really a problem, right? But in this case after painfully going through eight really terrible volumes I was struck by a terrifying realisation: I'm not even half-way through. These series consist of NINETEEN BOOKS. And it's not getting better in terms of quality. Quite the opposite.

Every single one of those books have basically the same premise. There is a looming threat of Yuuzhan Vong conquering another part of New Republic space. Our protagonists are usually travelling all over galaxy going on different "dangerous and crucial" missions giving a reader a false sense of some stakes. Some minor difficulties occur. Some characters may or may not die, but we don't really care, because all those Star Wars books are just overpopulated by hundreds of second rate characters that the reader doesn't give a damn about. At the end of each book all the heroes conveniently end up in the same place, no matter how scattered they were, just so there can be a space battle that ties up all the loose threads. And then we repeat the same patten in the next book. What is okay in one or two books quickly loses it's charm and becomes extremely painful to read (or listen to, as it was in my case). It doesn't really help that those series are just filled with space politics, diplomacy and Force philosophy. Because THAT'S what make Star Wars fun right? Forget the action, witty dialogues, likeable characters and sense of adventure - people really wanna read about governmental power plays and mind-bogglingly dull debates regarding the nature of the Force and its use. After all this is what made the prequels so universally loved, right?

But you can go through the repetitiveness, bad writing and general boringness when you like the characters. And here is where those books drop the ball completely. There is not one character that you like (maybe except Chewbacca, but... you know). All of them are bland, boring and completely indistinguishable from one another. It hurts the most in case of heroes that you actually know and love - Luke, Han and Leia go from realistic, wonderfully diverse characters in the movie to those bland, dull, mediocre dummies that have no real personality whatsoever. All of the other protagonists created for the purpose of those books are definitely no better, with a terribly boring and irritating Jacen Solo being the worst of them all.

There is no point in continuing this review, just as there is no point for me to continue with those books. I really tried to give it my best. As a kind of completionist I feel slightly bad for just leaving it without seeing how it ends. But that's my point: after going through eight of those things I realised I don't really care HOW it will end. I just want it to end so I don't have to go through it ever again. It's never a good sign if you treat something that should give you pleasure as a chore. So with all due respect to all of the Star Wars fans out there, I for one, will not cry after the Expanded Universe. It is mostly a piece of crap, and nobody should have to go through it. If you are so interested in what happened, just save yourself a lot of time and read a Wookieepedia article.

One last thing: if you really feel that you just HAVE TO go through it, I highly recommend listening to the audiobook versions. It does not raise the quality of the books, but the lector trying to change his voice and make up all those weird, alien noises is so absurdly hilarious that it will slightly lessen the pain of dealing with this poor excuse for literature.

Belinda says

This is going to out my absolute nerdiness, but...

The New Jedi Order (so far) is my least favourite series of Star Wars EU books mostly because they crap all over what some good authors took the time to build. They've killed Chewbacca, shoved a giant wedge between Han and Leia and twisted Luke, and Han and Leia's three kids into pale imitations of themselves. That said, there were things I enjoyed about this book and things I didn't.

As always, I shook my fist and thought, "WHY YUUEHZAN VONG?", because an unbeatable alien enemy sounds cool, but they are just so fucking weird. There was also a short scene between Luke and Mara about the significance of naming their baby, and the influence that has been exerted over Han and Leia's third son Anakin by naming him after his grandfather that just rang out as MASSIVE FORESHADOWING for an event that Del Rey changed their minds about a book later. The scenes between Luke and Mara were sweet, but sometimes they're like Han and Leia light with their banter. Jaina was the only of the three Solo kids that I remotely liked in this book. She's always so kickass and ready to go, whereas her twin is a whiny bitch who doesn't want to use the Force because it'll turn him to the dark side. (CONFLICTING FORESHADOWING!)

Even though it wasn't a book written by Michael Stackpole or Aaron Allston, the banter between the members of Rogue Squadron (past and present, Wedge and Corran are ALWAYS included) was pretty spot on and funny, and although it at times seemed cloying, Han and Leia relearning how to be with each other was sweet and realistic. It could have done with a few less callbacks to the original trilogy, but it was still sweet.

All in all, the New Republic won a few victories over the bad guys, Anakin Solo had his first (sweetest ever) kiss, Mara beat the disease that was slowly killing her (through the power of the Force, deus ex machina much?) and had baby Ben safely, and Han and Leia seem to be reconciling. It was a short moment of optimism in a series where the reader seems to be bracing themselves for the next bad thing that will happen, and that is NOT how a widely successful franchise should be treating their readers for their support and loyalty.

Jesse says

The new Jedi order completely outpaces anything in the Starwars genre. This series was Dark, exciting, fast paced, and inspired. The writing was fantastic and the level of philosophy and force history was unparalleled. If your a fan at any level of the Starwars Universe than this series is a must read. It is on my top 5 of all time for a series and I treasured every moment I spent in that time. But beware, this isn't your typical Starwars book, be ready for a level of intensity that you've never seen. May the force be with you.!

Crystal Starr Light says

"Part of being a Jedi is setting an example"

A lot is happening in this book. Luke and Mara are forced to flee Coruscant; Jaina is on the hunt for Kyp and both learn some devastating news. Jacen, Han, and Leia are busy trying to find a new home for the young

Jedi on the Errant Venture, and Anakin, Tahiri, and Corran are buying supplies and stumbling upon a clue leading to Yag'Dul. Then, we have Nom Anor's mischief and Nen Yim's attempt to save one of the Yuuzhan Vong creatures.

NOTE: Based on audiobook and novel. Spoilers may be sprinkled throughout.

After the excellent Conquest, this book just doesn't live up, much as Ruin in the Dark Tide duology didn't quite live up to Onslaught. It certainly is far from a terrible book and is enjoyable in its own right, but it just never quite keeps that same level of "win".

Part of the problem is the bajillion storylines that were added. Much like the Agents of Chaos Duology, this time around we don't just see Anakin, Tahiri, and Nen Yim, but also Han, Luke, Leia, Mara, Jacen, Jaina, Nom Anor, and more. In a bigger book, it might work, but with the slim 292 pages, it is pretty scattered and hectic.

The stories that work the best are the ones with Jaina/Kyp and Anakin/Tahiri/Corran. Jaina seeks out Kyp and learns about a "superweapon" the Yuuzhan Vong are making. She then enlists Rogue Squadron to take care of it. This was pretty well done and showed some interesting aspects of Jaina. The Anakin/Tahiri/Corran aspect was great. I loved seeing Anakin and Tahiri grow close, and Keyes did a marvelous job inheriting Corran. Plus, I love seeing non-major characters do stuff.

The other side stories range from mediocre to terrible. I still don't get the point of the Han/Leia/Jacen story, and I think Han was written pretty badly. While I liked Luke and Mara on the run (even though not 100% sold on their characterization), I think the end of Mara's disease was handled terribly (Luke and Mara basically hold hands and join in the Force?!). I still don't get how she is good for four books then is back to near death in this book.

Adding to the "Too Much" are the plots with the Yuuzhan Vong. While I 100% believe we need to see them in the story, with already so much other stuff going on, they cluttered the story and contributed nothing. Nom Anor, once again, is defeated, and Nen Yim doesn't move the plot in any way (though I was personally glad to see her, as I liked her character).

And really, wasn't the whole point originally of the hardcover-mass market scheme to have the hardcovers detail the "big" events with minor background/filler with the mass market? Why not have the mass-market books be focused character books like Hero's Trial (Han only) or Conquest (Anakin only)? I would prefer that to a scattershot entry like the one we got.

As for the audiobook...I normally don't say much because they are generally good, but this one took the cake. For the last half, I could barely hear the narrator over the blaring music. I love it when music and sound effects are added in audiobooks, but for this one, I was considering strangling my poor iPod. I am listening to the book, not the movie soundtrack. Ugh.

Keyes is still amazing, and Conquest is still the best thus far of NJO; this could have been amazing too if half the storylines had been chopped and one character (or a couple) been made the focus. Oh, and if the sound editor had turned down the music.

Josiah says

Like many of the books preceding it, there are just an over abundance of plot threads that ultimately don't matter.

The only memorable thing in this book is Mara Jade finally has a baby in the last few pages.

2.5/5

Michael Wiggins says

This novel would be four stars if the author could have restrained himself from delving into Han Solo's deepest, innermost feelings in the MIDDLE OF A FIGHT.

Also, I'm a little weary of the Jedi hand-wringing whenever there is a question of whether or not this fight for the life of an entire galaxy is wandering too close to the dark side. (Spoiler alert) I was completely unconvinced that Jedi would have to be fooled to attack and destroy a worldship, because after all, that's how the Yuuzhan Vong got to their galaxy, and how they will need to move their populations to those conquered worlds. If destroying the means by which invaders can successfully invade is just too aggressive, then what a Sith I would be.

On the other hand, great fighting scenes, especially in physical clashes between the Yuuzhan Vong and Anakin and Tahiri.

M Hamed says

-Maaaaaaaaaaaaa I finished another one

-good for you

Anja Braun says

Some of these books in this series are dismal..I want to like them but to b honest some are a chore to get through..This one was a perfect example..I kept putting it down and would think of things to do just to not read this bore fest..I think part of it is I just am not interested at all in the Vong..yep not even a little..Unfortunately I have the whole collection just about so I probably will read them all at 1 point..Basically it's a wash and repeat sort of book like most are in this series..The best part to me was the end(and not just because I could say finally I'm done) Mara finally has Ben . Yay me I finally got through another one..I'll b taking a little break from these for awhile ..

Joseph says

OK, I really didn't read it, but read the summary's on different sites along with reviews and it sounds like it was OK that I skipped it as it wasn't worth it.

It should get 1 star with Mara looking like that on the cover...

Jordan Anderson says

Despite the horribly drawn cover of a half-baked Luke Skywalker and, who I presume to be, Mara Jade, looking like a ginger Ellen Ripley, *Rebirth* is proof that there is some merit in the *NJO* series after all.

After 8 books and 8 other reviews that basically state the same thing, I'll just leave it at the fact that Keyes actually seems to "get" *Star Wars*. There's no attempts to try and over-write or try to wow his audience with flowery language. Instead, he tells it how it is and makes this series fun again.

Just like *Conquest* the story was halfway exciting and Unlike previous attempts in the *NJO* Keyes is easily able to combine multiple plot threads into a coherent storyline.

I know this series supposedly kicked it up a notch after *Conquest* but I had to read it myself to believe it. Fingers tightly crossed that *Star By Star* keeps the good vibes flowing cuz I'm actually starting to enjoy the Solo kids and the whole Yuuzhan Vong Invasion all over again.

Darryl Dobbs says

Pushing the story along on five fronts, including an interesting angle on the workings of a Vong 'shaper' trying to save a world ship. Also, Jaina is tricked into helping Kyp Durran (and bringing in Wedge and Rogue Squadron along with her) to destroy a superweapon that wasn't a superweapon. Meanwhile, Han, Leia and Jacen play the role of pirates, grabbing supplies from the Peace Brigade. Anakin, Tahiri and Corran stumble onto an attack of a planetary system by the Vong, and they get there in time to provide a warning. And through it all - Mara fights off death while protecting her unborn son.

There was a lot of quick bouncing from storyline to storyline, but I didn't mind. It made turning the pages go that much faster. I still don't really understand what Mara and Luke did to save her life when their son was born, but I'll get over it. Another enjoyable book in the series

Cameron Roubique says

Not quite as good as *Conquest*, but there were enough big developments to make it really interesting. I really enjoyed the Anakin parts, he's definitely the coolest of the 3 Solo children. It's nice to see him getting closer with Tahiri too. I know, it's cheesy teen soap opera stuff, but it's been really well done over the last two books.

The Han/Leia/Jacen storyline seemed a little irrelevant, but it made me laugh to see Han telling whiny Jacen

to "shut up."

The Jaina/Kyp storyline was ok, but time and time again I find myself agreeing with Kyp's reasoning to attack the Vong, and wondering why most of the other Jedi are so passive and unwilling to fight. I've always liked Kyp as a character and I hope he doesn't get killed off in this series.

I also hope that we're finally done with the whole Mara Jade disease thing. It was so cool to finally see Luke and Mara become parents (much better than the bitter, cynic old Luke I just saw in *The Last Jedi* last week, ugh). I'm excited to see how Ben Skywalker grows up and becomes a Jedi in future books.

Scott Rhee says

Greg Keyes's second book in his *Edge of Victory* duology, "Rebirth," suffers the same problem that many previous books in the New Jedi Order series suffer from: way too many story lines going on at once.

Part of the problem is the vast---and growing---dramatis personae of the Star Wars Expanded Universe. Each new author in the series seems to bring a new character or two to the mix, which is great, except one almost needs a character chart to keep track of them all.

In this book, Keyes has storylines involving: Corran Horn, a character created by Michael Stackpole; Kyp Durrón, a character created by Kevin J. Anderson; Mara Jade, a character created by Timothy Zahn; and, of course, several Yuuzhan Vong characters created by R.A. Salvatore. There's also a new character added to the mix: Ben Skywalker, the newborn child of Luke and Mara Jade Skywalker, who plays a significant role in later series.

I don't envy any reader trying to jump into this series in the middle, without reading all of the prior 15+ books. I don't think it would make much sense, as there are simply way too many major events that are referred to in passing and way too many characters with complicated backstories.

Not that Keyes's book isn't still immensely entertaining. He can write a damn good space battle scene, and this book ends with a whopper of a climactic space battle involving Kyp Durrón's X-wing squadron, General Wedge Antilles's Rogue Squadron, Jaina Solo, and an alleged Yuuzhan Vong super weapon the size of the Death Star. (I use the word "alleged" because the purpose of the super weapon is an integral part of a major plot twist within the story.)

It behooves me to mention the KISS between Anakin and Tahiri, a relationship that readers have apparently watched grow in the *Young Jedi Knights* series of books for young adults (roughly 14 in that series alone), a series I have not read yet. In keeping with the whole cheesy space/soap-opera feel of the series, I have a feeling that this kiss is as significant an event as any other in this book.
