

Heir to the Empire Study Guide

Heir to the Empire by Timothy Zahn

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Plot Summary

Heir to the Empire is ultimately a story of good versus evil in the galaxy. The story portrays the New Republic still in its infancy, five years after the defeat of the evil Empire at the Battle of Endor. With the heroes of the Rebellion heading up the new government, the new government still battles remnants of Empire. A grand admiral emerges from the recesses of the galaxy to stir up trouble and is bent on the utter destruction of the Rebellion.

It is five years after the defeat of the Empire at the Battle of Endor and while the New Republic has pushed the Empire back from its previous glory days, there are still evil forces to contend with. Grand Admiral Thrawn emerges as a threat to the peace the New Republic is struggling to make with many of the star systems within the galaxy. He launches an attack in the Obra-skai system, alerting the New Republic to trouble. In his quest to take down the Rebellion, he finds a long-forgotten Dark Jedi Master, Joruu C'boath on a far away planet. As a bribe to convince C'boath to work with the Empire, Thrawn promises to hand over Luke Skywalker and his sister Leia Organa Solo.

Han Solo, on a contact mission representing the New Republic, seeks out smugglers to aid them with cargo ships that the New Republic sorely needs. In the meantime, Leia Organa Solo, Han Solo's wife, is busy with the diplomatic mission of building a new government for the New Republic. Expecting twins, she is run ragged with the tasks set before her. Gathering together for a diplomatic mission to the planet Bimmsaari, Leia, Han, the wookie Chewbacca and Luke Skywalker leave the New Republic's capital of Coruscant. They quickly discover that someone is pursuing Leia. In order to hide her, Chewbacca agrees to bring her to Kashyyyk, the wookie planet.

On the Empire's side, Grand Admiral Thrawn and Captain Pallaeon travel to Wayland to rummage through the late emperor's storehouse. While there, they encounter the Dark Jedi Joruu C'boath. They convince him to go along with them to help their cause. In return, they promise to deliver Luke and Leia to him to do with as he wishes.

While leaving a mission from Dagobah, Luke is pursued by Grand Admiral Thrawn and narrowly escapes. A smuggler, Mara Jade, senses his presence and picks him up. Her boss Talon Karrde insists on holding him as a prisoner but refuses to hand him over to the Empire. Some days later, Han and Lando Calrissian travel to Myrkr to visit Karrde to discuss the New Republic's quest to recruit smugglers for their cargo ships. While there, Grand Admiral Thrawn snoops around Karrde's territory and sparks a series of events that wins Karrde to the side of the New Republic.

Luke is able to escape his prison with the unexpected help of Mara Jade, who is determined to kill him. After Luke and Mara escape the forests of Myrkr, Luke catches up with Han and Lando. Before heading home to Coruscant, they make a stop at the Sluis Van Shipyards, which they discover are under attack. They arrive in the throes of battle and succeed in thwarting Thrawn's mission of stealing the New Republic's ships.

On their way home, Leia alerts them to domestic trouble between two Council members.



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

Heir to the Empire is ultimately a story of good versus evil in the galaxy. The story portrays the New Republic still in its infancy, five years after the defeat of the evil Empire at the Battle of Endor. With the heroes of the Rebellion heading up the new government, the new government still battles remnants of the Empire. A grand admiral emerges from the recesses of the galaxy to stir up trouble and is bent on the utter destruction of the Rebellion.

Captain Pallaeon, a veteran of the old Empire, is on board the *Chimaera* and receives word from scout ships about a scan raid on the Obroa-skai system. On their mission they pulled a dump from a central library system. Pallaeon recalls the Imperial defeat that led to the subsequent Rebel victory. The Rebellion is now setting up a new government that they call the New Republic. Pallaeon regrets the Emperor's decision to build a second Death Star since flaws were discovered in the first one that the Rebellion also destroyed.

Pallaeon decides to see Grand Admiral Thrawn in person to relay the news of the scout mission. Grand Admiral Thrawn is the last remaining high official for the Empire, having escaped the New Republic. When Pallaeon enters Thrawn's private quarters, he sees an elaborate art gallery that turns out to be a large hologram. During their meeting, the young Lieutenant Tschel interrupts to tell them that they are under attack by New Republic Assault Frigates and X-Wing fighters. Thrawn orders a maneuver that enables the Imperial ships to evade the attack. After they avert the threat, Thrawn orders Pallaeon to set a course for Myrkr, an unknown planet close to the Imperial border with the Rebellion. Thrawn's ultimate goal, as he tells Pallaeon, is to destroy the Rebellion and their fledgling government.

Chapter 1 Analysis

Captain Pallaeon knows that Thrawn spends a good deal of his time on board the *Chimaera* in solitude and wonders what he does with this time alone. By the end of the chapter, Pallaeon discovers that Thrawn is carefully plotting the complete destruction of the Rebel forces. This, Thrawn's long term goal, sets the tone for events to come.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

While Luke is sleeping he has a dream in which Obi-wan Kenobi appears to him. Obi-wan has come to say goodbye and relay one last message. This saddens Luke and compounds his deepening depression, begun as the New Republic set up their new government on Coruscant, former home of the Empire. Leia Organa Solo, using her Jedi powers, senses Luke's distress and sends Threepio to visit him even though it is the middle of the night. She is currently pregnant with twins and knows that Luke is depressed but does not know the reason why. In addition to being worried about Luke, she misses her husband, Han Solo.

Han is away on a contact mission that takes him far from Coruscant. He and Chewbacca are awaiting the arrival of a smuggler and old friend. When Dravis arrives, Han lets him in on a deal to work for the New Republic transporting cargo. Dravis is suspicious of Han and is reluctant to get involved with anything political. Han assures him that the New Republic is short on cargo ships and this is the only reason why they need to hire smugglers. Dravis leaves without committing to working with them or against them. As Han leaves with Chewbacca, Wedge and Page, he tells them they should stop through the Obroa-skai system since they have heard about recent troubles for the New Republic there.

Chapter 2 Analysis

The appearance of Luke's former Jedi Master, Obi-wan Kenobi, brings forth Luke's dedication and loyalty. While he has a strong love for Leia and a loyalty toward building the New Republic government, the stage is set for Luke to be at odds between his loyalty to his sister and his obligation to Obi-wan Kenobi and rebuilding the order of the Jedi Knights. The dream Luke has about Obi-wan places his obligation to the Jedi order even before that of his sister. This is an issue that carries through into future events and foreshadows an ongoing conflict for him.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Talon Karrde prepares a business dinner for Mara Jade, a fellow smuggler who works for his organization. He tells her he wants to promote her and she is suspicious. His wants to groom her to be his second in command. As he continues with his offer, they get word that the *Chimaera* has made orbit and is launching two shuttles, both heading their way. When Karrde hails the Imperial ship, he offers to help them, knowing the shuttles are headed toward the forest. Pallaeon is suspicious of the smuggler and is reluctant to accept his help. Karrde finally convinces him to let him send two men out to help them get the ysalamiri creatures that they are looking for.

Karrde does this since he knows that it is a way of keeping an eye on the Imperial goings-on. He knows they are after the ysalamiri and wonders why they want them. The ysalamiri's unique nature affects a Jedi's power by pushing the Force back, rendering a Jedi powerless. When Mara mentions Luke Skywalker, Karrde notices the hatred in her voice. He knows there is a history she is keeping secret. He also knows it has something to do with the Emperor.

Chapter 3 Analysis

Karrde's mere mention of Darth Vader's death and the destruction of the second Death Star clearly sets Mara on edge. The tension within her is so obvious to him that he knows there is a history that has affected who Mara has become as an individual. While she is typically a calm and collected woman, there is an event in her past related to the fall of Vader that has shaken her. Karrde's personal thoughts indicate that he will find out what that history is. Additionally, this inner conflict that exists for Mara sets the tone for her intentions and future events involving Luke Skywalker.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

The Imperial team with Thrawn, Palleon, and Thrawn's assistant land on Wayland with the intention of visiting the Emperor's storehouse. They destroy a building as a show of strength, in order to persuade the inhabitants to bring them to the Guardian of the Mountain. A man steps forward and agrees to take them to the mountain. When they get there, he shows them a crypt. He infers that the Guardian is dead and that everyone who comes seeking the Guardian is also dead, as they are killed upon arrival. The man, Joruu C'Baath, turns out to be the Guardian of the Mountain. He turns to shoot lightning bolts out of his fingertips at the Imperial team, but he stops short. The ysalamiri that Thrawn brought with him to the planet prevents C'Baath from attacking them further.

Finally, Thrawn takes the opportunity to lay out his plan for C'baath which includes him helping the Empire wipe out the New Republic and, through the use of his Jedi powers, enhancing the Empire's attacks. Joruu, however, is unconvinced. He has all the power that he wants, overseeing the people and city of Mount Tantiss. Only when Thrawn promises to deliver Leia Organa Solo and Luke Skywalker does Joruu reconsider the offer. If he is able to control a new Jedi order then he will have a different type of power attractive to him. He agrees to the deal and takes them to the mountain where the Emperor's storehouse awaits. Thrawn and Pallaeon find what they are looking for and head back to the *Chimaera*. Back on the ship, Thrawn reveals to Pallaeon that Joruu is a clone of the original Jedi Knight Joruu C'baath. It is because of his engineering that the Dark Jedi Joruu is mentally unstable.

Chapter 4 Analysis

As Thrawn's plans unfold, Pallaeon's feelings toward C'baath indicate an additional tension between Pallaeon and Thrawn. Pallaeon's impression of C'baath as an unstable Dark Jedi makes him uncomfortable as he sees C'baath being highly unpredictable. The revelation that C'baath is a clone, the explanation of his mental instability, foreshadows a potential cataclysmic encounter that threatens to harm Luke and Leia as they work to rebuild a new Jedi order.

Thrawn is convinced that he will be able to keep C'baath in check as long as he meets C'baath's expectations to deliver Luke and Leia. Having two strong Jedis under his command is what he sees as true power. Thrawn knows that every man is out for power and C'baath is no different. The differences emerge between their beliefs of power. For Thrawn it is ultimate and total control over the galaxy that makes crushing the Rebellion his main goal. For C'baath, his ultimate and total control over the up and coming Jedi force is his goal.

Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

The Council for the New Republic is meeting and Han Solo is delivering his report from the contact mission. Borsk Fey'lya, a Bothan, is arguing the futility of Han seeking to hire smugglers to work for the New Republic. Han insists that the smugglers will eventually come around and that they just need time to warm to the idea. Mon Mothma who is the head of the fledgling government diplomatically quiets a disagreement between Fey'lya and Admiral Ackbar who, notoriously, do not get along.

After the meeting ends, Han and Leia start to leave but are stopped by Mon Mothma. She asks Leia if Luke knows about the planned trip to Bimmisaari. Han is disappointed that Leia has to leave again so soon but Mon Mothma insists that the trip is necessary for diplomatic reasons. Luke needs to go with them as his reputation and heroism precede him. Han jokes that it will be just like old times with him, Leia and Luke.

Chapter 5 Analysis

The tumultuous path of creating a new government is portrayed as the internal conflicts within Leia and Han Solo emerge. Separately, they acknowledge how their lives have been turned completely upside-down with this new goal. This sets the tone for their relationship, for although they share a deep love for one another, their dedication to all they have fought for takes the fore. This is another example of how personal relationships are in conflict with other loyalties.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

Han, Chewbacca, Luke and Leia arrive on the planet Bimmisaari for a diplomatic mission for the New Republic. Bimmisaari is a planet inhabited by individuals that wear yellow clothing and are half-covered with fur. Chewbacca stays behind on the *Millenium Falcon* while the others go to greet the diplomats. They are informed that the chief negotiator is ill and they are encouraged to do some sightseeing until the Bimms are ready to conduct the talks. Han and Leia head to the marketplace with a guide while Luke goes to look around the Tower of Law where the planetary council is housed. After a brief interlude in the marketplace, Han and Leia discover that they are surrounded by unusual looking grey creatures wielding stokhli sticks which shoot spraynet mists. Leia attempts to use the Force to reach out to Luke only to learn that he too is surrounded by these creatures.

Chapter 6 Analysis

Leia's higher sense of intuition is on alert when their diplomatic team receives word that there is a change of plans. Although the Bimms seem to make no great issue over the temporary incapacitation of their chief negotiator, Leia bristles with discomfort and a creeping sense of treachery. While she senses no particular feelings of hostility coming from the Bimms, she knows deep down that something is amiss. It is this sense that foreshadows upcoming events during their stay.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

Luke hears Leia's call through the Force and answers her back using the same Jedi technique that he is on his way. He quickly realizes however, that he is surrounded by gray-skinned aliens with bizarre stick-weapons trained on him. Using his lightsaber, he is able to maneuver his way out and away from the blast of the stokhli sticks.

Meanwhile, Han and Leia are trying to figure out a way to escape from the enemies surrounding them. Han makes a plan to have Leia create a diversion by grabbing jewelry from a local vendor. The gamble pays off as the Bimms nearby get excited and jump on Han as Leia throws the jewelry to him. Using the diversion, Han uses his comlink to call Chewbacca to bring the *Falcon* to save them. Luke hears the commotion from the Tower and using a stiff stokhli cord created by the mist from the weapon, glides on it toward the marketplace. Luke uses his lightsaber and Chewbacca uses the swivel blaster on the *Falcon* to clear the path for their escape.

Once they are back on board the ship, Leia learns that the Bimm guide that took them to the marketplace was bribed to do so. They also think that the chief negotiator they were to meet with was poisoned. Leia tells Luke that they will go right back for the meetings, but Han comes in and tells them that they just made the jump to hyperspace and are headed back to Coruscant to regroup. Han does not want to go back unless they have X-wing backup along with a Star Cruiser. They try to determine who the strange gray-skinned species was that attacked them. The Bimms did not know who the species were and Leia indicates she will check the Imperial archives when they get home.

Chapter 7 Analysis

Each character in the story is fraught with a set of conflicts. For Leia, she experiences a conflict between her loyalty to the diplomatic responsibilities and her promise to Luke to learn the ways of the Jedi. Han reminds her of the importance of learning the ways of the Jedi. His sense of concern for her extends beyond the fact that she is pregnant; he is thinking about her overall safety. To him, this attempt is not a one-time occurrence and he wants her to be well prepared. It is this sense of concern from Han that foreshadows future attempts on Leia's life.



Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

Grand Admiral Thrawn receives news that the Noghri have failed in their attempt at capturing Luke and Leia on Bimmsaari. He vows to continue sending the Noghri after them until they succeed. Thrawn also discusses plans with Pallaeon to obtain mole miners for an attack on the Sluis Van Shipyards. Thrawn convinces C'baoth that they will focus on capturing Leia while C'baoth will seek Luke out himself. In the meantime, C'baoth agrees to continue helping the Empire with their attacks on the New Republic.

Back on Coruscant, Han is justifying his decision to leave Bimmisaari so quickly after the attack on them. Admiral Ackbar, commander in chief of the New Republic fleet, agrees with Han's decision while Borsk Fey'lya, a Bothan on the Inner Council of the New Republic, feels that their departure sends a bad message to the Bimms with whom they are seeking an alliance. Fey'lya is against the idea that the diplomatic team return to Bimmisaari in full military force. Mon Mothma, head of the New Republic government and Inner Council, agrees to send a military escort with Leia on her return to Bimmisaari the following day. When Leia objects and seeks permission for a leave of absence to pursue her Jedi training, Mon Mothma refuses and expects Leia to follow through on the mission.

Chapter 8 Analysis

Thrawn's goal to overthrow and demolish the New Republic continues as he plans an attack, involving mole miners, on the Sluis Van Shipyards. As he stresses the importance of monitoring the preparation to Pallaeon, his determination comes into play. Although his demeanor is cool and calculating, his tone takes on a deathly threat to Pallaeon if the plan fails. Regardless of what is to come, Thrawn will refuse to allow any interruptions to his final goal.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

Grand Admiral Thrawn, on board the *Chimaera*, prepares for a three-pronged attack on the New Republic. The *Chimaera*, along with other Imperial vessels, jump to lightspeed to arrive at their respective destinations. When Thrawn and the crew arrive at Bpfassh he orders the commencement of the attacks. Joruu C'baoth controls the attacks on the other two locations, using his Jedi powers to keep the attacks coordinated and to allow only minimal losses. Before the New Republic has the chance to bring in reinforcements, Thrawn orders all the attacks off and calls back all the ships. With C'baoth's duties accomplished for the moment, he persists with Thrawn to deliver on his promise to bring him Luke and Leia.

Han pays a visit to Luke and Leia during her Jedi training. He delivers the news of the Empire's three-pronged attack and their swift departure. He knows that they are up against something bigger but he does not know what it is. Leia instinctively guesses that she will be sent out on another diplomatic mission to the three systems to assure them that the New Republic is doing what they can to protect them. Han tells her that she is right and that they are already preparing the *Falcon* for the trip. Luke wants to go along but Han tells him he will not be able to join them as the Bpfasshi people do not like Jedi. After Han and Leia leave him, Luke, thinking about the story they just told him, decides to prepare his X-wing for a trip to Dagobah.

Chapter 9 Analysis

As Karrde watches Thrawn's attack using Star Destroyers, he knows that something unusual is happening which falls outside their normal hit-and-run attacks. To Karrde, watching Thrawn take such an enormous risk for mysterious benefits sends up Karrde's internal alerts. While Karrde is typically skeptical of the Empire and their intentions, he is even more on guard seeing Thrawn in action. He somehow feels that this event may be a precursor to something bigger and more terrible in the future.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

While on Bpfassh, Leia and Han wonder why the Empire did not do more damage than they did. They find it unusual that, with so much firepower, they did not push for more destruction. They also wonder why the Empire chose Bpfassh when the Sluis Van shipyards are not too far away, with no less than a hundred ships there at any given time. As they prepare to leave, the gray-skinned Noghri aliens once again converge on Leia but do not move to kill her. As they run for cover, they hear the familiar sounds of the *Millenium Falcon* flying overhead but Leia immediately knows that it is a fake since she cannot sense Chewbacca's presence on board. They think it is a ruse by the Noghri to capture Leia.

They plan to trick the aliens by making it look like they are about to go aboard the *Falcon*, but instead they sneak under the hull. They are able to disable the ship as an escape pod is jettisoned. At the same time that they disable the ship, Han sends a distress signal to the New Republic to send backup that arrives immediately. When they get back aboard the real *Falcon*, Han alerts Ackbar to this latest threat. Han then insists on trying to throw off the enemies by doing something different than what they expect Leia to do. Han knows that they expect Leia back on Coruscant but he feels she should create a ruse and go somewhere else. In the meantime, they decide to visit their old friend and Han's former smuggling buddy, Lando Calrissian.

Chapter 10 Analysis

As Luke, Leia and Han attempt to assemble the pieces from the recent attacks, they realize the Empire is up to something big. Leia gets the sense that there were dark forces afoot in these attacks. While they know that the Empire has staged simultaneous attacks before, they know that this is different. It is Leia that suggests a Dark Jedi is involved. She recalls how Darth Vader and the Emperor used to be able to sense and affect events occurring far away from them. Her Jedi senses tingle with the thought that another such dark presence might be at work here.



Chapters 11-12

Chapters 11-12 Summary

Luke is making his approach to Dagobah and trying to find a good spot to land his X-wing. Dagobah's swampy terrain makes it tough for him to find a good spot. Once he does, he gets out and looks for the home of his former master, Yoda. To his disappointment, there is nothing left to suggest that Yoda once lived there. As he pokes around, he goes to a dark cave that he senses is strong with the Dark Side of the Force. Reluctant to go in, he finally moves forward and comes out with a metal cylinder. When he gets back to his X-wing, Artoo, his astromech droid, beeps a message to Luke that he had seen a cylinder just like it back during the time of the Rebellion. He then decides to head to the Athega system where Lando has his current operations.

Han, Leia and Chewbacca arrive at the planet Nkllon in the Athega system. Nkllon is where Lando has his current base of operations. Since they cannot get in without an escort to shield their ship from the sun that is very close to the planet, they have to wait several hours before they can see Lando. As they are making their approach they discover that there is another ship also coming in at the same time. They are delighted to discover that it is Luke in his X-wing. They then settle in for the ten hour escort to the planet. When they get closer, they see the mole miner ships working on the planet's surface. Lando gets on the transmitter and welcomes all of them. He is happy about their visit until they tell him that he needs help.

Chapters 11-12 Analysis

While at the cave on Dagobah, Luke senses a strong dark presence. Although he was at this spot once before for training by another of his former Jedi teachers, he senses the Dark Side more strongly this time. While there, he experiences a vivid vision that feels like a flashback to past events. However, instead of things ending as he remembers them, a new threat emerges. A woman wielding a lightsaber condemns him and his friends to death. So although this starts out as a flashback, it foreshadows future events since the action ends differently.

Luke's inner conflicts are once again called into play as Leia picks up the sense of something new. Han comments that Luke has been troubled for several months now, but Leia insists that whatever he is experiencing now is different. Not only does she know that it is different, she senses that it is urgent. Leia wonders whether this is the reason why Luke has come to Nkllon.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

While making the final approach to Nkllon under Lando's guidance, Luke sees a Star Destroyer close by. This signals trouble for Nkllon as a group of TIE fighters emerge from the hangar of their ship. As Luke joins in the battle with Han on the *Falcon*, he hears someone call to him. It is a message alerting Luke that the Jedi will rise once again. As he is hearing this message he loses all track of time and the battle. Only when Leia calls to him does he realize that he has been on his own for half an hour and far away from Nkllon.

On the *Chimaera*, C'baoth proclaims that they obtained fifty-one of the mole miners they were seeking. This makes Thrawn very happy. C'baoth then tells Thrawn that he sent a message to Luke Skywalker using his Jedi abilities with the Force. Thrawn is slightly taken aback by this news. C'baoth insists they take him to Jomark in order to await Skywalker's arrival. After C'baoth retreats to his quarters, Thrawn and Pallaeon plan to intercept Luke on his way to Jomark so that he never reaches his destination. Their intention is not to kill Luke as they feel this will upset their plans with C'baoth, but they want to take him out of the equation and focus C'baoth's attentions toward Leia instead, especially since she is three months pregnant with twins.

Chapter 13 Analysis

The strange message that Luke receives from C'baoth further solidifies his determination to get to the bottom of it, which will inevitably take him farther away from Leia and his New Republic responsibilities. The nature of the message however, is unusual. Luke finds it alarming that he lost a half hour of time while he received this message. This should alert him that something is not quite right, but he is too caught up in seeking out the contact to wonder if it is a Dark force or a legitimate Jedi calling out to him.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

Taking inventory of the attack, Lando learns that he has lost fifty-one of his mole miners to the Empire. Leia feels that the attack may have been another attempt to capture her but Lando does not agree. Although harassment may be one of the Empire's tactics to get someone on Nkllon to give Leia up, Lando has not heard any news that there is any bounty out on Leia. He insists that there has been no leak of their visit to alert the Empire. Luke tells them that he found a canister on Dagobah and that it probably belongs to the Dark Jedi that fled to Dagobah from Bpfassh.

Han gets down to business with Lando explaining that they need to create a ruse in order to protect Leia from Imperial capture. He is looking for a place to hide her where she can still make contact with Coruscant in order to fulfill her diplomatic duties to the New Republic. They toss around some ideas until they come up with a plan to use Threepio to be programmed with Leia's voice. As part of the ruse, Chewbacca agrees to take Leia to the wookie planet of Kashyyyk. There she can hide while Han can use Threepio to send messages to Coruscant using Leia's voice so no one will know that it is not Leia. Luke declines escorting Leia to Kashyyyk as he is instead wishes to follow through on a message from another Jedi.

Chapter 14 Analysis

Luke's conflict over finding the source of the Jedi contact or protecting Leia comes to light here. He shares the message with Leia and explains that he believes that there is another Jedi out there. It is also ironic how Dagobah is the place where Luke's former Jedi Master Yoda lived in the same place where the last recorded Dark Jedi was found. Although Leia is a little disappointed that Luke will not be accompanying her to Kashyyyk, she understands well the conflict between loyalties and she lets him go freely.



Chapters 15-16

Chapters 15-16 Summary

Leia and Chewbacca prepare to leave for Kashyyyk. On the *Millenium Falcon* Han and Lando discuss plans to pay a visit to Talon Karrde as part of Han's earlier mission to obtain cargo ships from smugglers. While they are making their preparations, Grand Admiral Thrawn and Pallaeon are nearby, watching the actions between the *Falcon* and the *Lady Luck*, Lando's luxury cruiser. Thrawn knows immediately what they are up to and suggests that Leia is on the *Lady Luck* headed somewhere away from Han and Lando. The *Chimaera* intercepts a message coming from the *Falcon* in Leia's voice, but Thrawn knows it is merely a recording of her voice. Putting two and two together, Thrawn deduces that Leia is headed to Kashyyyk.

Thrawn also knows that Luke is headed toward Jomark to meet up with Joruu C'baoth. He intends to intercept Luke on his way there. While Luke is in a Jedi-induced hibernation sleep in his X-wing in hyperspace toward Jomark, Thrawn will stage an attack that will force his X-wing to come out of hyperspace. It is at that time that the Empire can make their move and capture Luke once and for all.

Luke is in his X-wing and on his way to Jomark. He is in the Jedi hibernation trance and is abruptly awakened by Artoo. As Luke wakes up he realizes that he is very close to an Imperial Star Destroyer and a freighter. The *Chimaera* transmits a message to him that he chooses to ignore, although he now knows he has been discovered. Luke's main mission now is to escape from the grip of the Empire. In order to pull himself out of the Star Destroyer's tractor beam, Luke overloads the X-wing's engines and jams it into hyperdrive, taking him out of immediate danger. On board the *Chimaera* meanwhile, Thrawn is incensed that they let Luke to slip away. He seeks out the responsible crew member and has them killed on the spot.

Chapters 15-16 Analysis

Thrawn's ability to predict the movements of the New Republic is uncanny. With all his military experience, not even Pallaeon is able to rival Thrawn's ability to call the next move. Thrawn knows his enemies well and this works to his advantage. It seems as though, despite the fact that Luke and Leia are strong in the Force, the Empire has an edge over the New Republic in many ways. Thrawn has in his grasp the ability to cause a great deal of harm, even to carry out his mission to demolish the Rebellion.

Without veering off track to chase Skywalker, Thrawn persists in his plan to prepare for an attack on Sluis Van. An important event that further brings to light Thrawn's determination is the death of the crew member Pieteron. Pallaeon questions why it was so important for Thrawn to carry out such a drastic measure and he responds that he cannot afford to have any slip-ups or deviations from his plan. Keeping in line with



this determination, he issues a call to all smugglers nearby, offering a bounty on Luke Skywalker as he cannot go after him personally at the moment. As he mentions Karrde among the names he has in mind, it foreshadows that it is Karrde that will get involved.

Chapter 17

Chapter 17 Summary

When Luke comes out of hyperspace, he sees that he has not gotten as far away as he would have liked. He also notices that his ship is almost damaged beyond repair. He and Artoo set to work to try and repair the ship but everything they try fails. As he prepares to go back into the Jedi induced trance, he calls out to Leia. In her sleep, Leia hears Luke call to her but then hears nothing else. She gets up and notices that the ship is approaching Kashyyyk. The wookies live among the extremely tall trees that grow here. They arrive at the landing pad where a small group has come to greet them. The wookies Ralrra and Salporin welcome them as they disembark from the ship. Ralrra is able to speak Basic well enough for Leia to understand and learns that Ralrra was enslaved by the Empire before the Alliance freed him.

The village Leia is residing in is made up of a vast system of trees, all held together by an intricate series of branches. This makes Leia a little nervous at first, but she allows herself to grow more accustomed to the surroundings. The wookies typically move around by using their claws and climbing the trees. As Ralrra leads the way to show Leia the village's structure, Leia catches a glimpse of the Noghri hiding among the dwellings. Chewbacca is immediately on alert and barking orders at those on guard around Leia. They immediately conduct a thorough search of the area but come up empty. There are no aliens to be found.

Chapter 17 Analysis

Leia's surroundings on Kashyyyk are intended to give her a secure sense of safety. The planet consists of enormous trees where the wookies make their homes. Not only do the wookies live in the trees, they build entire cities within the trees that are held up high over the ground by an intricate system of branches. Leia is assured that no threat can come to her without them knowing about it first. The wookies are dedicated to protecting her. Still, Leia is uncertain about her safety although she knows that the wookies will do everything in their power to help her. Further disrupting her thoughts is the appearance of a Noghri in the shadows. Although the wookies' search comes up empty, she is deeply shaken and knows that another attack is only a matter of time.



Chapter 18

Chapter 18 Summary

Artoo once again wakes Luke from his deep sleep to alert him to a ship that is fast approaching them. Since they are in deep space with nothing around them, Luke wonders who is in the ship. The ship, a freighter, announces itself as the *Wild Karrde* and asks if Luke requires assistance. Luke explains what has happened to his ship and they agree to take him aboard. Based on Artoo's breakdown of the freighter's profile, Luke guesses that the *Wild Karrde* is either a smuggler, a pirate, or a disguised warship. Still, he takes his chances and goes aboard as he has no other option.

Luke and his X-wing are towed into the cargo hold of the ship. He is then escorted to meet the ship's captain, Talon Karrde. When Karrde meets Luke he greets him by name, puzzling Luke. Luke explains that he had a run-in with an Imperial Star Destroyer that forced him this far into deep space. Karrde tells him that his associate, Mara Jade, is the one who alerted Karrde to Luke's presence. Using his Jedi skills, Luke hones in on Mara Jade as the one Karrde is speaking of. Luke is curious to know how she has the sense to pick up on his presence in the middle of nowhere. Unexpectedly, Luke is knocked unconscious from behind.

Chapter 18 Analysis

Since Luke is stranded in deep space, he has little alternative but to accept the help of the *Wild Karrde* when they hail him. He knows something is unusual though; there is no earthly explanation for why the ship has come out this far. It is a sense of foreshadowing on Luke's part, especially when he discovers that it is Mara that sensed his presence and brought the ship to him to pick him up. It is much later on that he learns more about her sensitivity to the Force.



Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Summary

Luke wakes up and realizes that he is no longer on the freighter. He also sense that he has been drugged. He fights against the effects and allows himself more rest. When he finally wakes up, he notices Mara Jade is in the room with him. He does not know Mara at all, but he senses that this woman harbors a great deal of hatred toward him. Luke also senses that his Jedi abilities are dampened; something is cutting his connection off with the Force. She informs him that Karrde wants to see him and she is there to escort him. Luke and Karrde discuss exactly what Karrde's intentions are for Luke. Karrde is undecided as to what he wants to do with Luke. He can kill him or hand him over to the Empire.

Karrde tells Luke that the Empire is looking for him but indicates that he does not want any Imperial entanglements, which is why he simply cannot release him. Luke tells Karrde about the two attacks against him and Leia. Karrde decides to get in touch with his contact on Bimmisaari to determine why the Imperials are after him. Karrde then tells Luke that his ability to use the Force is cut off by the ysalamiri present on the ship as well as in the forest of Mrykr. When Luke questions what the ysalamiri are, Karrde explains that the creatures push back the use of the Force, rendering a Jedi like Luke powerless. After their meeting, Mara escorts Luke back to his room and he asks her why she hates him so much. Her answer is to tell him to shut up.

Chapter 19 Analysis

Luke learns more about Mara even though she does not say very much to him. He gets a strong sense of hatred from her in addition to a deep and lingering pain. It is obvious though that she has a desire to kill him. He has no idea why she feels this way toward him. This sets further into a motion a conflict within Mara and another one between Mara and Luke as the events unfold.



Chapter 20

Chapter 20 Summary

Han uses Threepio to transmit a message to Coruscant in Leia's voice. Leia's assistant Winter gets on the line and relays a coded message to Han about trouble brewing between Admiral Ackbar and Borsk Fey'lya. Han interprets the message to mean that Fey'lya is gathering forces to possibly push Ackbar out of the New Republic Council. In the meantime, Han and Lando leave the *Falcon* to meet with a fellow smuggler who is supposed to tell them the location of Talon Karrde's operations. They arrive at a spaceport casino and keep an eye out for their contact. Han sees their contact at a sabbac table in the back of the room. He approaches the table and joins the game.

After a scuffle involving aliens that try to pin him as a cheater, Han and the smuggler make their way out of the spaceport. Once sufficiently out of the way, they discuss the offer they want to lay out for Karrde, but they need to access to him first. They offer to take the smuggler back to his base in exchange for a fifteen meeting with Karrde. Although the smuggler initially disagrees as he feels he will get in trouble, he eventually relents because Han saved him from the aliens at the sabbac table.

Chapter 20 Analysis

Another conflict is further brought to light between Borsk Fey'lya and Admiral Ackbar. While previous encounters between them show a clear dislike during a Council meeting, Han is hearing more information from Winter, Leia's personal assistant. In Han and Leia's absence on Coruscant, certain things have occurred that suggest that Fey'lya is up to no good. There is some concern from Han that Fey'lya may upset the whole applecart and perhaps dismantle the fledgling government from the inside.



Chapter 21

Chapter 21 Summary

Karrde alerts Mara to the two visitors on their way in: Han Solo and Lando Calrissian. Since he is still holding Luke as a hostage, he tells Mara to move him into a storage area so that neither Han nor Lando notice anything suspicious when they arrive. He also tells Mara that they will stay for the day and possibly for dinner. To ensure that his crew does not say anything accidentally, Karrde gives most of them the day off. When Karrde's meeting with Mara is done, she goes to Luke and moves him to his new holding cell in a storage compartment.

Once alone, Luke analyzes his new cell to see if there are any possibilities of escape. He looks through the boxes in the room to see if there is anything he could use to his advantage. He notices the metal doorplate that Mara shot out offers him a way to unscrew a cover of a power outlet. While he is unscrewing the outlet, he hears Artoo's bleeps from nearby. Luke goes through the wires and notices that his best option is to use the power supply from his artificial right hand. Working with Artoo, Luke sets to maneuver the door to open.

Chapter 21 Analysis

Even with Luke's Jedi senses shut down, he knows that something is going on when he is abruptly moved into a new cell. By the looks of things they did not anticipate moving him as there were no preparations for a prisoner in the storage shed where they put him. He knows that his move is spurred by an unexpected guest of Karrde's. As he knows that this is a last-minute move, he hopes that in their haste, they overlooked a detail that Luke can use to his advantage. This foreshadows impending action when the visitors arrive.



Chapter 22

Chapter 22 Summary

Karrde has the meeting with Han and Lando and is intrigued by the New Republic's offer. Karrde hesitates however on taking them up on the deal as he fears it would appear as though he is taking sides. Finishing their meeting, Karrde offers to serve dinner. During the dinner, Karrde is pulled away to receive a message. He discovers that the *Chimaera* has just come out of lightspeed and is approaching the planet. As they are likely to land at Karrde's location, he tells one of his associates to hide the *Falcon* under cover. When Thrawn hails Karrde, he says he needs more ysalamiri and wants to have a talk. He tells Karrde that he is in the market for some new warships. During their conversation, Karrde slips up and indicates that he might have found Luke Skywalker. Thrawn now insists on coming in to meet with Karrde and having a look around for himself.

Meanwhile, Luke is still working with Artoo through a wall, in order to get the door open. He finally gets it open and makes his way to the room next door to fetch Artoo. They make it outside and Luke looks around for a ship to escape with. Mara, who is also outside but has not seen Luke and Artoo escape, wonders to herself why she did not just leave Luke to die alone in his broken down X-wing. She goes back inside to check on Luke in the storage room and discovers that he is missing. Immediately, she gets a ship and follows Luke in hot pursuit.

Chapter 22 Analysis

When Lando meets Mara he gets the nagging suspicion that he has met her before. Although he and Han had an extensive history as smugglers, Lando knows that he does not know her as a smuggler. He just knows that he has seen her before. This indicates a sense that they have encountered her before and may provide a link to her secret past.



Chapter 23

Chapter 23 Summary

Not long after Luke and Artoo's escape, they notice that Mara is not far behind them. Flying low over the forest, Luke attempts a maneuver to get them away from Mara and instead they crash into the forest. At the same time, Grand Admiral Thrawn and his immediate crew arrive on Myrkr and are greeted by Karrde. To Karrde's dismay, Thrawn comments on the crash that has just occurred in the forest. Karrde knows it is probably Mara and Luke that are involved but he wants to keep the Empire out of the affair. Thrawn insists on sending stormtroopers to aid in a search and rescue mission.

Inside Karrde's compound, Han and Lando are watching through a window the goings-on outside. One of Karrde's associates slips up and mentions that there is a prisoner on the premises and he might have gotten away which would explain Mara's hasty pursuit. Looking through binoculars, Han notices there is a Noghri with Thrawn and recognizes the alien as being the same species as the one that is after Leia. The two of them agree to head out to the *Falcon*.

Back out in the forest, Luke emerges from the wrecked ship unharmed. Although Luke has the opportunity to make his escape with Artoo, he follows his better instincts and checks to see that Mara is okay first. When he comes upon her, he sees that she has her blaster trained on him. She tells him she has not decided whether or not she will allow Luke to make it back to the compound alive or not. She is interrupted by the incoming Imperial shuttle which stops right over the crash site. Close as Mara is to the Imperials, she does not hand Luke over. Once the shuttle leaves, they come out from their hiding spot. Mara sends an encrypted code to Karrde so he will know that she is alive. Luke asks her why she hates him so much and she only answers that he destroyed her life and she has wanted to kill him for several years.

Chapter 23 Analysis

There is a new conflict that emerges with Mara in this chapter. Although both she and Luke crash their ships during the chase, Mara successfully captures Luke. However, despite the years that she says she has wanted to kill him, she does not do so. She keeps a close eye on him to prevent him from escaping again, but she does not take advantage of the prime opportunity to get rid of him. There may be a hidden reason that is linked to their connection with the Force as Luke realizes with awe that she has handled a lightsaber before.



Chapter 24

Chapter 24 Summary

Karrde discovers that Han and Lando know about the Imperial visit to Myrkr. Han's attempts at trying to get information out of Karrde about Thrawn are futile as Karrde refuses to hand over any details. He insists that he wants no involvement with the New Republic or the Empire. Han convinces Karrde that he and Lando need to go back to the *Falcon* to check on some things but will be back to finish their dinner. Instead, they sneak out to the storage sheds to snoop on the prisoner that Karrde is reportedly holding. When they get to the storage room Luke was in, they notice that the door opener was tampered with.

Karrde catches them in the act but it is too late; Han knows that there was a droid in his possession as well as a human prisoner. After more prodding, Lando realizes that the power supply needed in order to maneuver the door opener had to come from Luke's artificial hand. Karrde admits how he and his team crossed paths with Luke and that he did not know what to do with Luke as he did not really want to turn him over to the Imperials. He tells Han and Lando that Luke's and Mara's ships crashed in the forest but that he received word from Mara that they are okay and making their way out which, on foot, will take almost three days.

Thrawn meanwhile, is doing his best to track the movements around the forest for when Luke and Mara emerge. Although it is only a speculation, he believes that Luke was in one of the ships that went down. Making their way through the forest, Mara and Luke stop at night to rest. While Luke sleeps, Mara takes pills to remain awake to make sure he will not escape her a second time. Karrde is now stuck between a rock and a hard place. If things do not go well for him he will be in trouble with the Empire and if he goes along with the Empire then his people will revolt as they see Luke as a hero of the Rebellion. Either way, Karrde realizes that his time at Myrkr has come to an end.

Chapter 24 Analysis

Han knows that something is amiss by Karrde's determination to keep Han and Lando from leaving. Although he refuses to give over any information, he insists that his guests remain. When Han agrees, he lets Karrde know that he heard about the prisoner he is keeping. Ironically, Han asks whether or not the prisoner dropped in out of the sky on top of him, which in fact, did happen.



Chapter 25

Chapter 25 Summary

It is the middle of the night on Kashyyyk and Leia is awake. As she gets up she is attacked by a Noghri alien. She successfully defends herself but then the alien stops his attack. Chewbacca and Ralrra burst in immediately and Leia tells them not to kill the alien. In order to get out of the house, Leia hangs on to Chewbacca who climbs down using rope. Leia wants to get to the landing platform to get to her ship. The aliens are still after Leia even after the initial attempt. They wait for her at the bottom of the rope in an airspeeder. Using her lightsaber she disables their ship so they are forced to leave.

Before going to her ship, Leia asks to meet with the Noghri that attacked her. When she meets with him he tells her that by her scent, he was able to determine that she was Darth Vader's daughter. The reverence they have for Vader makes it impossible for them to do any harm to Leia. He explains to her that Vader did a lot of good for the Noghri and brought them hope. Leia sets a time and place to meet up with this Noghri in the near future so that she may visit their world and find out exactly what Vader did for them.

Chapter 25 Analysis

Finally, Leia has the opportunity to face her attackers. Although Chewbacca does not agree with her, he permits her to meet the Noghri that attacked her in her room. She feels a sense of something that she cannot exactly put her finger on. Was it mercy, morbid curiosity, or a familiarity? She needed to meet this alien. When she does, her instincts prove right as this alien has a deep sense of reverence of her since she is Vader's daughter. This is what brings them together. Her sense of mercy comes out as she listens to his story of how Vader brought hope to their people.



Chapter 26

Chapter 26 Summary

As they get closer to the edge of the forest, Luke and Mara fight off predatory creatures. Mara has not slept in two days and is feeling the effects of it. Artoo signals that he has a message from Karrde telling them to plan a ruse in order to fool the stormtroopers waiting for them outside the forest. He also lets them know that Han and Lando are working on a plan to intercept them before the Imperials do. Mara decides to stop for the night and is then swiftly attacked by another predatory creature. Luke tries to scare it off but the tactic does not work. He manages to grab his lightsaber from Mara and he attacks the creature and kills it. Fully awake and unharmed, Mara aims her blaster at him and demands that he drop the lightsaber.

Once again he asks why she hates him so much and she tells him that she used to be the Emperor's Hand. She blames him for ruining her life. Mara was a dancer at Jabba the Hutt's Palace during the brief time that Luke was there. Her mission was to kill Luke and she failed. Only after her failure did the Emperor try to recruit Luke. When Luke finally went face to face with Vader and the Emperor, he killed them both. After the Emperor's death there was no place for Mara and her life crumbled. She needed to seek a new identity and find a way to support herself.

Chapter 26 Analysis

Mara's hatred toward Luke comes to light in this chapter as she reveals to him the past that links them together. He realizes that with her knowledge of lightsabers, she was sent to Jabba the Hutt's palace when Luke was there to kill him. The vision he experienced on Dagobah confirms what she says. As she views Luke as the one who stole her life, she feels determined to return the favor although, interestingly, she has not yet done.



Chapters 27-28

Chapters 27-28 Summary

On board the *Chimaera*, Pallaeon confirms that there are a hundred and twelve transient warships available at the Sluis Van Shipyards. They are sending their ships in using a cloaking device so the New Republic will not know they are in trouble until it is too late. Thrawn explains that they cannot use C'baoth too much for their purposes. He wants to keep the Dark Jedi on a short leash. Thrawn is also confident that the Noghri will make contact with Leia and capture her as they were instructed. They activate the cloaking shield and set the decoyed freighter toward Sluis Van for their attack.

Luke and Mara are about to leave the forest and debate how to do so without being detected by the Imperials. They reason that bluffing their way out and switching roles like Karrde suggested is their best option for survival. In order to ensure that the Imperials will not recognize Luke, Mara rubs leaves on him from a nearby bush. It creates an allergic reaction on him and makes him swell up so his face becomes unrecognizable. Mara tells him that the puffiness will go down in a few hours. When the Imperial scouts spot them and interrogate them, Luke tells them that his name is Jade and that Mara is Karrde's escapee.

The stormtroopers handcuff and detain both Luke and Mara. They escort them to a nearby city and run into Han Solo who is playing the part of a prisoner as well. They continue walking with the Imperial escort and Luke manages to have Artoo send a brief message to Threepio who is with Lando and Aves, who is another associate of Karrde's. They are planning an attack and rescue and want to be sure that the timing is right.

Chapters 27-28 Analysis

Wedge Antilles' remarks about escorting people and not cargo ships is ironic as the action that is about to unfold before him suggests that this is what the squadron should have been doing. As Thrawn announces that the shipyards are theirs to take, he is in fact, not entirely wrong.

Conflicts continue to play out as Mara and Luke attempt the best way out of the forest. Going against her natural feelings of hatred for Luke, Mara gives in little by little, which suggests that she is wearing down and will not likely kill him at this point. Additionally, Luke feels a new conflict over his self-preservation and the proper use of his Jedi abilities. This occurs when he is trying to pull off the bluff when he and Mara switch roles. He questions whether or not what he is doing is ethical per Jedi rules. His survival instincts overrule here and he continues through with the plan.



Chapters 29-30

Chapters 29-30 Summary

Threepio alerts Lando to the message that Luke has just sent to him. They are to wait until the stormtroopers are at the archway before they launch their attack. Lando thinks this is a bold move as the stormtroopers outnumber them three to one. Aves is about to blow the rescue plan by beginning the attack and Lando threatens him with a blaster. As the stormtroopers pass the mark, there are explosions around the archway area. Han wriggles out of his handcuffs, which were not real and helps Luke get out of his so they can continue their attack and make a run for it. As Han and Luke make their way across the archway, Luke signals to Artoo to propel his lightsaber toward him. Although his Jedi powers are drastically reduced, he is still able to fight with the lightsaber. Using his weapon as the main form of attack, Luke takes down the remainder of the archway and stone pillars.

Karrde takes inventory of the damage that Luke caused alone and is impressed by his efforts even though he did not have the use of the Force to guide him. He is also aware that two Imperial chariot vehicles got away and they need to be stopped before they send their report to Thrawn. He knows there is no way that the news will not eventually reach Thrawn. When that happens, Karrde will need to be on full alert. Han and Luke will be leaving on the *Falcon* with Lando who is injured, just as soon as they can prepare Luke's X-wing for towing. Luke settles Lando on board the *Falcon* as they prepare to lift off. Han explains to Luke that news of the attack on Myrkr would get back to the Grand Admiral. Up till this point he was not aware that there were any Grand Admirals left. Han tells him that Karrde refused to give a name. He then asks what the relationship is between Luke and Mara and Luke answers that Mara is bent on killing him and only says that it is a personal matter.

As they depart Myrkr, Han tells Luke that they are headed to the Sluis Van Shipyards before they head home to Coruscant. Han wants to see if he can get an extra ship to help Karrde out with his evacuation efforts. Meanwhile, at Sluis Van, Thrawn is prepared to begin their battle. It is at this time that Thrawn receives word of the attack on Myrkr. He is enraged by the news but knows he has to deal with it at a later time. Getting back to his immediate task, Thrawn reminds Pallaeon that their goal at Sluis Van is to gain ships, not lose them.

Chapters 29-30 Analysis

Luke makes an interesting discovery as he helps Han and Mara escape from the stormtroopers: although having the Force to guide him certainly helps, he is still quite effective without it. He does not need to rely on it as much as he previously believed. Using his lightsaber, he is able to dismantle stone pillars and disable the stormtroopers, which allows them to make their getaway.



Han notices a sense of irony when Karrde tells him that he will need some cargo ships to help him out. It is ironic because it was Han who, when they initially met, proposed to Karrde that the New Republic contract out Karrde's ships. What Han does not realize however, is that Karrde wants a ship to give to Thrawn as some kind of peace offering because of the events at his base.



Chapters 31-32

Chapters 31-32 Summary

The New Republic's X-wing fleet, Rogue Squadron, is at the Sluis Van Shipyards. It is a quiet, far away point and they have no idea that the Empire is about to launch their attack. Wedge Antilles notices a bulk freighter passing through without an escort. This sends a signal to him that something is amiss. He gets into his X-wing and readies the pilots in his squadron to do the same. Out of nowhere, the freighter explodes. In its place comes a wave of Imperial TIE fighters. The battle has begun and the New Republic is unprepared.

The *Falcon* makes its approach at the start of the battle. Immediately they jump into the fray. Han knows that the Empire has come to steal ships. He watches the battle unfold in disbelief as he notices the attackers are the mole miners stolen from Lando. The mole miners are attaching themselves to the ships to steal them. Han and Wedge agree to disable the twelve mole miners not yet attached to ships. The *Falcon* takes a bad hit and they try to re-manuever themselves to remain in the battle. They implement a ruse to trick the Imperials since the Imperials are listening in on their communication channels. Still, the Imperials manage to get forty-three target ships.

In a last ditch attempt to save the New Republic ships, Han realizes that Lando can program a mole miner's radio remote. Since he still has the command codes for the ships, he programs one of them and suddenly the Imperial TIE fighters are answering the remote and flying right back into the fray. The mole miners attached to the stolen ships are also answering the remote signal and since they are burning through the hulls of the stolen ships, the airseals are broken and they are killed instantly.

The New Republic is hurting from the loss of ships but Han knows that it is a better option than allowing the Empire to have all the ships. An call from Coruscant comes in for Han and he is excited to hear that it is Leia. She does not get into detail about the events on Kashyyyk although she indicates that there is a temporary solution. Regarding a completely different matter, she tells Han that he and Luke need to get back to Coruscant as soon as possible as Fey'lya is bringing Ackbar up on charges of treason.

Chapters 31-32 Analysis

Wedge has a sense that something is wrong. The freighter that appears at the Sluis Van Shipyard is reading as damaged and empty. He describes the feeling as having the tingles. It is a dark sense of foreboding that something is about to occur to upset the quiet. He was right; in the blink of an eye, the freighter explodes and the assault begins.

Han's earlier suspicions, based on Winter's warnings about Fey'lya, have come to fruition. There is a great sense of dread over what Fey'lya's actions might mean for the

New Republic. If Han's earlier information from Winter is correct, then Fey'lya may be more of a threat than any of them may have realized. Once again, the leaders of the New Republic are being called to take action in order to protect all they have fought hard for.



Characters

Luke Skywalker

Luke Skywalker is a Jedi Knight of the New Republic. He is also considered by many to be a hero from his days during the Rebellion. As a Jedi Knight, he is strong with the Force and has many powerful abilities in combat and mind control. His close relationship with his twin sister Leia Organa Solo operates in many ways using his Jedi powers. He is able to connect and communicate with Leia mentally. Since he is the sole Jedi Knight in the galaxy, it is up to him to repopulate the Jedi Order. Although he has not gotten that far yet, he is serious in his training of Leia and insists that she become fully trained as a Jedi.

Luke is fiercely dedicated to his sister and the New Republic's cause. However, when he receives an unusual telepathic message from another Jedi, he drops all his responsibilities to pursue it. This means not being present to help protect Leia when they know that there have been attempts to capture her. While on his quest for the source of the communication, an altercation with the Empire puts him in the path of smugglers passing through. Too afraid to hand him over to the Imperials, yet too afraid to let him go, Karrde hold him as a prisoner on his base of operation. One of the biggest challenges Luke faces during his adventures is that his connection to the Force is cut when he is around the ysalamiri creatures. These creatures have a unique way of manipulating the Force that renders a Jedi helpless. Still, even without the full strength of the Force to help him, he conducts himself with a calmness and serenity that most people would not be able to muster in the same situations. Even under attack, Han is impressed with Luke's ability to remain calm.

Caught with Mara in the forest, he learns why she has such a hatred for him. During the Battle of Endor, Luke faced Darth Vader and the Emperor. When Luke killed the Emperor, Mara felt her world turn upside-down. Since she used to work for him she had nowhere to go and her life fell apart. Despite the fact that Luke knows she wants to kill him, he does nothing out of the ordinary to hurt her in order to free himself. He somehow knows deep down that she will not carry out her mission to kill him.

Leia Organa Solo

Leia Organa Solo plays a major role in the development of the New Republic government being set up on Coruscant. Formerly, she was a princess on Alderaan and grew up in the Royal House. Her natural abilities in government were developed at a young age and under the tutelage of her foster father. Even as a teenager she would represent her father in the Imperial Senate. As she grew older, she became a senator herself until the Old Republic was destroyed by the rise of the Empire. Her background provided the training and experience of both the theory and the more practical aspects of politics.



Currently, Leia is pregnant with twins. Due to her lineage, she knows that both children will be strong in the Force. As this makes her desirable to the remaining Empire, she is aware of their attempts to capture her. She knows though, that it is the unborn infants they want. Creating an elaborate ruse to trick the Imperials, she hides on the wookiee planet of Kashyyyk. They quickly catch on to the plan and another attempt is made to capture her. Besides her unborn children, Leia herself is particularly strong in the Force. Despite her heavy responsibilities to the New Republic, she tries to make as much time as possible to complete her Jedi training. Even though she has not yet finished her training, she has the ability to communicate telepathically with her twin brother, Luke Skywalker. This ability comes in handy in particular when they are on Bimmisaari. Leia is able to let Luke know where she is so that he can get to her directly.

After the first attempt to kidnap her on Bimmisaari where she was carrying out a diplomatic mission with Han and Luke, Han works out a deal to have Leia whisked away to Kashyyyk with Chewbacca. While there, the aliens employed by the Empire to capture her, the Noghri, find her and make another attempt to capture her. This time the attacker is caught and Leia learns that he stopped the attack when he realized that she is Darth Vader's daughter. Out of the deep respect his people have for Vader, he promises that she will be safe from any future attempts.

Mara Jade

Mara Jade is a smuggler working for Talon Karrde on the planet Myrkr. She is described as having deep green eyes and red-gold hair. Although her work with Karrde has impressed him enough to promote her to his second in command, he knows that she has a checkered past that she refuses to speak of. It is evident from her dealings with him, and then with Luke Skywalker directly, that she harbors strong feelings of hatred toward Luke. There is evidence throughout the story to suggest that Mara possesses some ability to work with the Force. For example, it is Mara who discovers Luke and his disabled X-wing deep in space where no one else would have found him. Then later on when she and Luke are making their way through the forest on Myrkr, she shows signs of being familiar with a lightsaber.

Mara's hatred for Luke stems from her past involvement with the Emperor. She had once been known as the Emperor's Hand. Before the Battle of Endor, Mara worked as a dancer for Jabba the Hutt with the mission from the Emperor to kill Luke. She failed in her mission, thus allowing Luke to come face to face with the Emperor. When Luke killed the Emperor all of her dreams went out the window. She sees Luke as someone who stole her life away. With the Emperor dead she needed to establish a new identity and life for herself. This is what brings her to Karrde as a smuggler. Interestingly, the many opportunities that Mara has to kill Luke, she does not take advantage of any of them.

Despite Mara's obvious hatred for Luke, she is conflicted over what she should do and what she feels she must do. She demonstrates this best when she goes after Luke after discovering he has escaped from the storage shed. She is quick to go after him and



even catches up with him. Unfortunately, both of their ships go down in the thick of the forest and they are stuck together. Even though Mara has her blaster—as well as Luke's lightsaber—she does not use either of them on him to injure or kill him. Over and over in her mind she feels compelled to end his life, yet she does not. During their travels through the forest she reveals to Luke that she used to work as the Emperor's Hand and was given a mission to kill Luke in which she failed. When Luke killed the Emperor, her life came apart and so she blames him for her subsequent unhappiness.

Han Solo

Han Solo is a former general for the Rebellion and is now married to Leia Organa Solo. They are expecting twins. Long ago, Han used to work as a smuggler. He is a simple man that calls things as he sees them. Although he does not have any ability with the Force, he strongly believes in the power of it and is insistent that Leia learn the ways of the Jedi like Luke so she can better defend herself from attacks. Han is not the diplomat that Leia is and still prefers the type of missions that allow him to relive a piece of his past. This he does by carrying out contact missions for the New Republic in which he makes an offer to hire smugglers to use their cargo ships for New Republic use.

In between these contact missions, he accompanies Leia to Bimmisaari where he first learns of the Empire's attempt to capture her. He knows by the nature of the attack that they do not want her dead or they would have used blasters. In order to protect his wife, he concocts a scheme with Lando and Chewbacca to hide her on the wookiee planet of Kashyyyk. In order to fool even the New Republic officials, they manipulate their protocol droid, Threepio, to modulate his voice to match hers. Once she is safely away to Kashyyyk, Han continues his smuggler mission and brings Lando Calrissian along with him.

Relying on his smuggler experience, he manages to wrangle a meeting with Karrde on the planet Myrkr to make his proposal. However, when Han, who is with Lando, gets tangled with Karrde, he gets more than he bargains for. While hiding with Lando during an impromptu Imperial visit, Han learns that there is a prisoner on the premises. After snooping around he discovers that the prisoner is Luke, accompanied his droid Artoo. Only after another close brush with the Empire do they manage to get out safely and head back to Coruscant; but not before making another stop to the Sluis Van Shipyards. When they arrive, Han has to manipulate his freighter ship, the *Millenium Falcon*, to defend the New Republic and their ships. With a little luck, he figures out a way to take the Empire down in the battle and send them running.

Talon Karrde

Talon is a smuggler chief with operations on Myrkr. He is a typical smuggler in that he insists on remaining on the fence about his political leanings. Although he tries hard to remain free from Imperial entanglements, trouble seems to come looking for him. It is because of his associate Mara Jade, that he comes into contact with Luke Skywalker. It



is this event that starts him and his operation on a downward spiral in the eyes of the Empire. Stuck between a rock and hard place with Luke, he decides to hold him as a prisoner. If he releases him to the Empire it might seem he supports the Empire and if he does not turn him over, the Imperials will find out and come after him for not supporting them.

Coincidentally, while Luke is held on his base, Han and Lando make an appearance to seek cargo ships for New Republic use. Karrde has to juggle these guests, Luke in hiding, and then a surprise visit from Grand Admiral Thrawn. After Thrawn leaves, the stormtroopers remain behind as there are farming for ysalamiri creatures found in the forest. Karrde works with Han to get Mara and Luke to safety and then to their ship so that they may leave unharmed. Although Karrde is determined not to take sides, his loyalty to his guests and associates have made the choices for him. After the debacle unfolds with Luke going after the stormtroopers during their escape, Karrde understands that he is no longer safe on Myrkr once Thrawn learns of what happened.

Lando Calrissian

Lando Calrissian is a former smuggler. Like Han, he also spent some time as a general for the New Republic army, though he has long since given up the commission. Now, he is the administrator for a mining venture on the superhot planet of Nkllon. He and Han often joke about their days as smugglers and how they have both since gone legitimate. Trouble strikes for Lando however, just when Han and Leia are coming to seek help. The Empire attacks his miners and steals the ships.

Lando helps Han seek refuge for Leia and then joins him in going to Myrkr to meet with Talon Karrde. During the fighting that takes place on Myrkr, he takes a blaster injury to his arm that puts him out of commission. When he leaves with Han and Luke, they come upon a battle that has just started at the Sluis Van Shipyards. They notice that the Empire is using the mole miner ships stolen from him. Activating a radio remote, he is able to disable, and thus destroy, the ships as the Empire is trying to steal them.

Chewbacca

Chewbacca is a wookiee that has worked with Han Solo as well as Luke and Leia for several years. As a wookiee, he is very tall and covered with hair. He only speaks the native language of his planet, Kashyyyk. He is Han's first officer on board the *Millenium Falcon* and is fiercely loyal to him and his friends. Chewbacca, like most wookies, is known to have a violent temper. This becomes evident when fighting to keep Leia safe after another attempt to capture her occurs on Kashyyyk. In keeping with his vow to protect Leia, Chewbacca is upset that Leia wants to have a meeting with her attacker, the Noghri. Once she knows that there is a temporary truce, he and Leia leave Kashyyyk and return to Coruscant.



Jedi Master Joruu C'baoth/Dark Jedi/Guardian of the Mountain

Joruu C'baoth is a cloned Jedi Knight considered to be a Dark Jedi Knight, working toward more sinister goals. When Thrawn and Pallaeon first find him, he is living on the top of a mountain on Wayland, near the city of Mount Tantiss. On this spot he has full control over the people that live there. He tells Thrawn during his visit that many have come to see the Guardian of the Mountain since the fall of the Empire. Every person that has come looking has died at his hands. Since he is only a clone, he is considered mentally unstable. The Imperials realize that this makes a dangerous combination and they need to keep him on a short leash. The original Jedi Master Joruu C'baoth died in an attack by the Empire before the start of the Clone Wars, which took place many years before the Empire came into power.

Ralrra

Ralrra is a wookiee from the planet Kashyyyk. He is placed in charge of protecting Leia when she arrives there. Ralrra has a speech impediment that enables him to speak Basic which Leia understands clearly enough. Years before the rebel victory, Ralrra and many other wookiees were taken as slaves to work for the Empire. Since he views the Rebellion as having set them all free, he is in Leia's debt and vows to protect her. His vow to her even comes before his fellow wookiees. During the attack on her at Kashyyyk, Ralrra continues to focus on Leia, despite the fact that one of his friends is killed.

Captain Pallaeon

Captain Pallaeon is an officer in the Empire who works directly for Grand Admiral Thrawn aboard the *Chimaera*. He is middle-aged and thinks he knows what is best for the Empire. It is this characteristic that makes him question Thrawn, although he is consistently proven wrong. Pallaeon however, does from time to time make good suggestions. For instance, he suggests that they pursue the three-pronged attack on the Rebellion as well as allow C'baoth the pursuit of Luke and Leia. It is also Pallaeon that first picks up on C'baoth's mental instability. Regardless of what he says, he is fully devoted to restoring the Empire to its former glory and always does what he is told; he is too afraid to disobey orders.

Grand Admiral Thrawn

Grand Admiral Thrawn is the last living Grand Admiral from the Empire. During the Rebellion, he was stationed at the farthest point in the galaxy and that is how the New Republic managed to miss him. He is of an alien race with piercing red eyes which many have a hard time looking straight into. His hair is described as blue-black and his skin is a pale blue. His experience has primed him for his current mission to crush the



Rebellion and restore the Empire to its former glory. Although he does not possess any ability using the Force, he is intuitive and persuasive. Thrawn is a highly intelligent, though intolerant, leader. He studies his enemies so well that he knows exactly what their next move will be. His persuasiveness is demonstrated when he goes to Wayland to bring C'baoth back in order to use his powers for Imperial gain. Thrawn uses C'baoth's Jedi powers to keep mind control over the battles they start against the New Republic.

C-3PO/Threepio

Threepio is a protocol droid fluent in six million forms of communication. Because of this ability, he travels with Leia and Han for their diplomatic missions. Once Leia goes to Kashyyyk to hide, Han and Lando reprogram Threepio to speak using Leia's voice. They do this in order to make those on Coruscant believe that she is still with them, as a way of tricking the Empire. Unfortunately, it fails to work as Thrawn pegs her location quite accurately on Kashyyyk.

Artoo

Artoo is Luke's astromech droid that travels with him in his X-wing. Although Artoo only communicates using a series of bleeps and sound effects, Luke is able to understand him. The two have an interesting human-droid relationship as Artoo is particularly devoted to Luke. Luke relies on Artoo to help him fix the X-wing when they are stranded deep in space. Once on Myrkr, Artoo helps Luke again as Luke tries to manipulate the door switch.

Admiral Ackbar

Admiral Ackbar is the Calamarian Commander-in-Chief of the New Republic fleet. He is described as having a high domed head and large eyes that appear to swivel in their sockets. There is a palpable tension between him and Borsk Fey'lya that signals deeper troubles are on their way. Ackbar has Han, Leia, Luke and Chewbacca on his side, although it is Fey'lya that gathers the forces and ultimately brings Ackbar up on charges of treason.

Borsk Fey'lya

Borsk Fey'lya is a Bothan who is on the New Republic's Inner Council. As a Bothan, he is a furry creature. Although he works along side Admiral Ackbar, there is a clear friction between the two. They fail to see eye to eye on anything. At several times throughout their interactions, Fey'lya suggests that Ackbar's involvement in the New Republic is not entirely genuine. As the story unfolds, Han Solo discovers that Fey'lya is gathering forces and there may be a potential coup. Eventually, he brings Ackbar up on charges of treason.



Mon Mothma

Mon Mothma is a tough, smart and in-control woman. She is currently heading up the New Republic with Leia helping her with the numerous diplomatic missions and matters of home politics. She is an older woman who has persisted since the beginning of the Rebellion. When the Rebel Alliance began, Mon Mothma was at its center. As smart and capable as she is, she relies very heavily on Leia to get much of the work done. Even though Leia is currently pregnant, Mon Mothma denies Leia any time off, even for her Jedi training.



Objects/Places

Stormtrooper

Stormtroopers are Imperial soldiers.

Wild Karrde

The *Wild Karrde* is a freighter ship that belongs to Talon Karrde, the smuggler. Mara Jade on the *Wild Karrde* is the one who senses Luke Skywalker's presence and stops to pick him up.

Sparti Cylinder

A Sparti cylinder is a metal object that Luke uncovers on Dagobah and takes with him to Nkllon for Lando to identify. Lando tells him that it is a beacon call for a ship, like a remote. Lando dates the cylinder to the pre-Clone War era.

Bpfassh

Bpfassh is a double planet with a complicated system of moons around it. It is against Bpfassh that the Empire strikes out at as part of its three-pronged attack in preparation for the Sluis Van attack later on.

Sluis Van Shipyards

Sluis Van is a New Republic shipyards station. The shipyards store about a hundred ships. The Empire launches an attack on it using the stolen mole miners in order to steal more ships from the New Republic.

Bimmisaari

Bimmisaari is a planet that Leia, Luke, Han and Chewbacca visit on a diplomatic mission. While there, Leia and Luke are ambushed by the Noghri and narrowly escape. The attack comes as a result of a Bimm taking a bribe to put the group in harm's way.

Mount Tantiss

Mount Tantiss is a city on Wayland. This is where the Emperor's storehouse is located. Dark Jedi Joruus C'baoth, also known as the Guardian of the Mountain, guards it.



Wayland

Wayland is the planet where the Dark Jedi Master Joruu C'baoth lives. It is a far away planet with a population of less than three million people, which is small by New Republic standards.

Ysalamiri

The ysalamir are tree-dwelling creatures found on the planet Myrkr. The Empire is taking them and this alerts Karrde that he should be taking them too—he knows that they are used to drastically reduce Jedi powers. The creatures are fur-scaled and salamanderlike. They cling to the branches in the forest on Myrkr—this is how it receives its nourishment. They push back the Force. A single ysalamir can sometimes create a bubble as large as ten meters across; a whole group of them reinforcing one another can create larger ones.

Coruscant

The New Republic is located in Coruscant, previously the Imperial capital city. It is a large city, bustling with activity twenty-four hours a day.

Noghri

A species of beings. Thrawn's assistant Rukh is a Noghri.

Obroa-skai

This is the system that, at the beginning of the book, the Empire launches their first attack on.

Chimaera

A star destroyer in the Imperial Fleet. Pallaeon and Tschel serve on this ship with the Grand Admiral Thrawn.

Executor

The *Executor* is a former Imperial star destroyer. This ship belonged to Darth Vader and crashed into the second Death Star during the Battle of Endor.



Death Star

The Death Star was an Imperial space station capable of mass destruction. Since it had flaws in its construction the Rebels were able to attack it and destroy it. It was still under construction when the Battle of Endor began.

Unknown Regions

The Unknown Regions are far points in the galaxy that Pallaeon calls "barbaric". Grand Admiral Thrawn spent many years in this area of the galaxy working hard to bring them all under Imperial rule. It was these successes that first got him promoted to Warlord which put him on the path to becoming a Grand Admiral.

Battle of Endor

The Battle of Endor was the deciding factor in the Rebellion's fight against the Empire. It was during this battle that Darth Vader and the Emperor were defeated and the second Death Star destroyed.

Myrkr

Myrkr is a planet most familiar to smugglers. It is not a well-known planet though it is close to the Imperial border with the Rebellion and well within the Old Republic's boundaries. It is covered with vast forests where the ysalamiri live. Talon Karrde has his operations based here.

Nkllon

Nkllon is a superhot planet where Lando has his current base of operations. The big industry on the planet is metal mining. It is located very close to its sun, making it impossible to get to the planet surface without an escort to shield an incoming ship. Ships coming in or out are required to have a special escort that shields them from the sun's powerful rays. Without such protection, a ship's hull would disintegrate in minutes.

Mole Miners

Mole miners are two-manned ships used on the surface of Nkllon for Lando's mining operations. The empire's attack on Nkllon is for the sole purpose of stealing these ships. The ships are shaped like cones with the tips chopped off. On the underside of the ship are plasma-jet drills that fire up and chop up the ground when placed on the surface.



Jomark

Jomark is the planet that Grand Admiral Thrawn has agreed to take Joruus C'baoth to in order to await Luke Skywalker's arrival.

Sabbac

Sabbac is a card game similar to poker that is played at casinos and smugglers' spaceports.



Themes

Inner Conflicts

From beginning to end, each character possesses a series of inner conflicts that determines the outcome between the New Republic and the Empire. Starting with the Imperials, Captain Pallaeon who is stationed on board the *Chimaera* with Grand Admiral Thrawn constantly objects to Thrawn's tactics and ideas. He sees himself as a dedicated servant of the Empire with many years' experience under his belt. It is this dedication that wins over every time, but he still finds himself at odds with the directives that Thrawn gives.

Mara Jade is another example of a conflicted character. For years, she has despised Luke Skywalker whom she feels destroyed her life by his role in the Emperor's death. She imagines the ways in which she is going to kill him, but when it comes right down to it she fails to carry through. It is a struggle that remains with her throughout the story and it is never really known why she does not settle her demons once and for all. It might be perhaps, that she is not a bad person deep down, and realizes that Luke is someone who fights for the overall good.

Yet another example of a conflicted character is a lesser character, the Noghri who attacks Leia on Kashyyyk. As a hired thug for Grand Admiral Thrawn, his people promise to capture Leia and bring her to Thrawn, who will hand her over to Joruu C'baoth. He begins his mission but comes to a sudden halt when he realizes that Leia is a direct descendant of Darth Vader. Although he is fearful of not completing his mission, his reverence for Vader wins out.

Loyalty versus Betrayal

It is widely known in *Heir to the Empire* that smugglers show no allegiance to any political faction. They are loyal only to themselves and their own goals. However, Han Solo and Talon Karrde are exceptions to this rule. Although Han is no longer a smuggler, he spent years working in this trade. There are references to his change of heart as the Rebellion went up against the Empire's first Death Star. Had Han not gotten involved and taken direct action against the Empire, the Rebellion would have been destroyed. Han stuck with what he knew was the right, and moral, course of action.

Talon Karrde is another example of a smuggler that is also fiercely loyal, despite outside events that could have placed him on the side of the Empire. For a while Karrde does what he can to remain on the fence about his political leanings, but in the end he does what is morally right, which is remaining loyal to his staff and guests. A few times Karrde argues with Mara Jade that he will protect his guests—regardless of who they are. He easily could have turned Luke Skywalker and even Han and Lando over to Grand Admiral Thrawn, but he remained true to his word.



Love, Honor and Duty

Throughout the story there are examples of conflict between love and honor amongst the characters as well as a sense of duty toward people and governments.

One example of this is when Leia goes to Kashyyyk, the wookiee planet, to seek safety. The wookiees typically harbor a negative sentiment toward humans. Chewbacca however, still fulfilling a life debt toward Han Solo, agrees to take Leia there so she will be safe. The wookiees are dedicated to her safety although they do not like humans on their planet. Still, even when their own safety is compromised by her presence, they are bound by honor and a promise to put their lives on the line for her.

Another example is when Luke Skywalker chooses not to escort Leia to Kashyyyk with Lando and Han so that he may answer a different calling. His need to seek out another Jedi is greater than his love for his own sister as he knows that the New Republic is relying upon him to grow and train a new Jedi force.



Style

Points of View

The overall story is told in a third person omniscient voice. However, each chapter and sections within each chapter are broken out to tell individual stories. In this manner each character's inner voice and thoughts are conveyed. The reader knows at all times what each character is thinking and feeling as well as their motivations. With the story unfolding in this manner, the plot and subsequent subplots are clearly fleshed out. However, the voice favors the forces of good over the forces of evil since the characters representing the Empire are often shown in an unfavorable light.

The story is an intergalactic tale of good versus evil and the voice naturally conveys the lives and cultures of strange and new planets and places. The tone is not unnatural or contrived; it is easy to understand and follow. Space covers a limitless area, yet the voice ties all the pieces together to make it sound as though everything is closely related and interconnected. This is also attributed to the overall idea of the Force and how it is a universal web that does in fact tie all people and places together.

Setting

The setting for *Heir to the Empire* is many far-reaching corners of space. There is a great deal of action in the story with events occurring in various parts of the galaxy. No part of the story unfolds in a typical twenty-first century setting that people are most familiar with. Space travel is the standard. The New Republic's capital is located on Coruscant, which is a metropolis with millions of people and beings of varying races. The New Republic's diplomatic team with Leia, Luke, Han and Chewbacca travels first to Bimmisaari where the beings are half fur-covered and dressed all in yellow. Thrawn and Pallaeon travel to Wayland to fetch Joruu C'baoth. Wayland is in a faraway corner of the galaxy where the people live simple lives.

Leia and Chewbacca travel to Kashyyyk, the wookiee planet, to keep Leia safe. The planet is covered with large trees where the wookies make their home. Their cities are built among the trees, rather than in traditional dwellings. Myrkr is a planet with rich forests that are home to the ysalamiri creatures the Empire is bent on taking. Nklon is a superhot planet where only advanced technology allows people to inhabit it.

Language and Meaning

Although the story of *Heir to the Empire* unfolds in space sometime in the future, the language is easy to understand as the characters speak plainly. In most respects, the only way to know that events are unfolding in an unusual setting is the continual references to the many races and species of beings as well as the different galactic systems and planets the action takes place in. This is also evident in the many



references made to past events such as Yavin and Endor where some of the biggest battles of the Rebellion took place against the Empire. These are not places familiar to the reader, although the characters speak of them as though they are well known to them.

Structure

The book is broken down into thirty-two chapters. Although the chapters are varying lengths, they are all brief. Most of the language is straight forward and easy to follow. The author, while using the third person omniscient voice, clearly favors the good rather than the evil. In some chapters where events take place on the wookiee planet of Kshyyyk, the wookies that are able to speak English, or as referred to in the book, Basic, brackets are used to indicate speech where quotation marks are normally used. This clearly shows a difference in language.

Any internal monologues are outlined in regular prose so there is no specified way to indicate which is internal. However, the author includes the internal as well as external dialogue in a balanced manner. It is easy to determine what each character is thinking and feeling. Even with the many different places and planets covered in the action, it is easy to determine the differences.



Quotes

"Dravis can blather all he wants about profit and excitement; but you offer them secure maintenance facilities, no Jabba-style skimming, and no one shooting at them, and they'll get interested." (Chapter 2, p. 25)

"Luck is certainly part of it," he [Karrde] agreed. "On the other hand, I've found that what most people call luck is often little more than raw talent combined with the ability to make the most of opportunities." (Chapter 3, p. 28)

"A single ysalamir can occasionally create a bubble as large as ten meters across; a whole group of them reinforcing one another can create much larger ones." (Chapter 4, p. 42)

"What the smugglers are waiting for," Mon Mothma said quietly, her stern gaze touching each of the others at the table in turn, "is the same thing the rest of the galaxy is waiting for: the formal reestablishment of the principals and law of the Old Republic. That is our first and primary task, Councilors. To become the New Republic in fact as well as in name." (Chapter 5, p. 53)

"He [Pallaeon] turned to look at C'baoth's strained face, an icy shiver running up his back. He'd never really bought into Thrawn's theory as to how and why the Fleet had lost the Battle of Endor. Certainly he'd never wanted to believe it. But now, suddenly, the issue was no longer open to argument." (Chapter 9, p. 88)

"Problem is he's [Ackbar] got nothing to back it up. Except for the style and tactics, this is all pretty much the same rear-guard harassment the Empire's been pulling for probably the last year and a half." (Chapter 9, p. 94)

"Through the mists ahead a well-remembered spot loomed, and he found himself gripping his lightsaber all the more tightly as he neared it. On this spot, once, he'd fought a nightmare battle with a shadowy, unreal Darth Vader...." (Chapter 11, p. 113)

"With Vader redeemed and gone, the cave had nothing further to threaten him with except nameless and unreal fears, and those only if he allowed them to have power over him." (Chapter 11, p. 114)

"You will find me. Even as Luke strained, he could feel the contact slipping away. You will find me... and the Jedi will rise again. Until then, farewell." (Chapter 13, p. 131)

"The Empire was far from defeated, and the mysterious Jedi's life might depend on his defense remaining a secret. Leia waited in silence, that concerned expression on her face...." (Chapter 14, p. 146)

"No; they're cleverer than that. A voiceprint-doctored droid, then—probably Skywalker's 3PO protocol droid. Leia Organa Solo, you see, was one of the two people who left with the *Lady Luck*." (Chapter 15, p. 154)



"There was no dreaming in the Jedi hibernation trance. No dreaming, no consciousness, virtually no awareness of the outside world. It was very much like a coma, in fact, except for one interesting anomaly: despite the absence of true consciousness, Luke's time sense still somehow managed to function." (Chapter 16, p. 159)

"There was a great deal about Wookiee culture and psychology that was still opaque to her [Leia]; but the life debt, at least, she understood very well. Ralrra had formally committed himself to her safety now, that commitment backed up by Wookiee honor, tenacity, and raw strength." (Chapter 17, p. 178)

"*To safety.* Leia gazed at the house, a shiver running up her back. And wondered if there would ever again be such a thing for her as safety." (Chapter 17, p. 183)

"Whether a pirate or a smuggler, Karrde should certainly have reacted more strongly to the news that there was a Star Destroyer in the area. Unless, of course, he already had an understanding with the Imperials...." (Chapter 18, p. 190)

"'The reason you're staying where we put you,' Karrde said. 'They [ysalamiri] seem to have the unusual ability to push back the Force—to create bubbles, so to speak, where the Force simply doesn't exist.'" (Chapter 19, p. 201)

"He [Karrde] wanted to know why she hated Skywalker, all right—wanted it with as close to genuine passion as the man ever got." (Chapter 21, p. 224)

"Karrde smiled again. "I think you underestimate the Empire's intelligence capabilities, Captain Solo," he said. "They know far more about Republic movements than you might think." (Chapter 22, p. 232)

"'I've wanted to kill you for a long time. I dreamed about your death every night for most of that first year. Dreamed it, plotted it—I must have run through a thousand scenarios, trying to find exactly the right way to do it.'" (Chapter 23, p. 256)

"The place had become too comfortable, too familiar—her mind no longer really saw everything that went on around her, but merely saw some of it and filled in the rest from memory. It was the kind of psychological weakness that a clever enemy could easily exploit, simply by finding a way to fit himself into her normal routine." (Chapter 25, p. 278)

"Luke stared at her, an icy shiver running up his back. It couldn't be... but even as he gazed into that tortured face, he knew with sudden certainty that it was. "And your master," he said quietly, "was the Emperor." (Chapter 26, p. 302)

"With the Force to guide his hand, he could have held out against them indefinitely, blocking their blaster shots with the lightsaber. Mara had been right, though: the ysalamiri effect did indeed extend this far outside the forest, and the Force was still silent." (Chapter 29, p. 328)

"They couldn't possibly be Lando's missing mole miners. Even a Grand Admiral wouldn't be crazy enough to try to use something like that in battle." (Chapter 31, p. 346)



Topics for Discussion

Several characters deal with internal conflicts that alter the outcome of the overall story. Pick three such characters, define their conflicts and explain how these affect their actions.

Grand Admiral Thrawn is clearly a shrewd and cunning servant of the Empire. Even without the ability to use the Force to guide him, he gets the job done. Do you think this gives him an upper hand in his overall mission to crush the New Republic or not? Explain your answer.

Talon Karrde has many opportunities to hand Luke Skywalker as well as Han Solo and Lando Calrissian over to the Imperials. What are some of the reasons he does not do so?

Luke gives up the opportunity to escort Leia to safety on Kashyyyk. Why does he do this? Do you think he has ulterior motives?

Mara Jade has many opportunities to carry through on her personal mission to kill Luke Skywalker yet she does not. What do you think it is that stops her? Do you think that she can reconcile her demons and accept Luke? Why or why not?

Leia Organa Solo seems to be taking a great deal of risks, especially considering that she is expecting twins. Do you think she is justified in her actions? Why or why not?

The New Republic is still in its infancy as a government and the Council expects a great deal from those that are trying to lead it. Do you feel that the leaders (Leia Organa Solo, Han Solo, Luke Skywalker, Mon Mothma, Admiral Ackbar and Borsk Fey'lya) are successful in their tasks? Explain.