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Star Wars: Bloodline - New Republic



Synopsis

From the New York Times best-selling author of *Star Wars: Lost Stars* comes a thrilling novel set in the years before the events of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

No spoilers: I'll be honest, ever since Lucasfilm decided to set a new precedent for their *Star Wars* literature, relabeling the old as Legends and introducing the new as official canon, I haven't been a huge fan of the books that have followed. Sure, some of them were okay, my favorites being *A New Dawn*, *Aftermath*, and *Lost Stars*. But I've waffled on which I liked more. While they were good, none of them really stood out as being my clear favorite. Well that is no longer the case. *Bloodline* is now, by far, my favorite *Star Wars* book in the canon, ranking as high as some of my absolute favorite books from the old Expanded Universe, now Legends. And that's saying a lot. While I won't dive into spoilers in this review, here are some of my thoughts to get started with. First of all, let's talk politics, because the book certainly does. The *Force Awakens* had almost nothing to tell us about the political landscape of the universe, even less than we saw in the original trilogy. At least then we knew there was an Empire, an Emperor, a Senate that had been recently dissolved, etc. *Bloodline* takes place 6 years before *The Force Awakens* and it will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about the state of the galaxy prior to the events of the film. Now, the funny thing about politics is that it becomes almost something of a dirty word among some *Star Wars* fans, due largely to the backlash of the politically-charged

prequel films. Fortunately, one of the best mediums to present politics is in book form; we can get inside the heads of the characters, and suddenly it becomes a game we can participate in. Bloodline does this to perfection, and I might add that students of early United States politics might find some of the political arguments familiar.

"Today is the end of the Republic. The end of a regime that acquiesces to disorder. At this very moment in a system far from here, the New Republic lies to the galaxy while secretly supporting the treachery of the loathsome Resistance. This fierce machine which you have built, upon which we stand will bring an end to the Senate, to their cherished fleet. All remaining systems will bow to the First Order and will remember this as the last day of the Republic!"-General Hux, The Force Awakens I love the First Order as baddies as this speech implies a rather interesting new galactic status quo. Who are the First Order? What do they want? Where did they come from? Who is the Resistance? What do they do? Where did they come from? How do both of these relate to the New Republic. A lot of this can be inferred but we really don't have a context for it all and I was hoping the new Star Wars Expanded Universe would fill it in. It hasn't until now. I was a big fan of Claudia Gray's Lost Stars (reviewed here) so was excited about this book. I felt she had an excellent ability to get inside character's heads and was interested in her take on Princess Leia. Honestly, I think this is probably the best Princess Leia book ever done. Leia has long been the most overlooked member of the Big Three and with the exception of her recent comic book series as well as Star Wars: Razor, she doesn't get much in the way of attention. The premise is it's been twenty-years since the fall of the Galactic Empire. Unlike in the Legends universe, the Empire is nothing more than a story told to scare children now. While Leia and other politicians are venerated for their wartime service, they are considered increasingly irrelevant to the public at large.

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