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Phasma (Star Wars): Journey To Star Wars: The Last Jedi (Star Wars: Journey To Star Wars: The Last Jedi)



Synopsis

Discover Captain Phasma™'s mysterious history in this *Journey to Star Wars: The Last Jedi* novel. One of the most cunning and merciless officers of the First Order, Captain Phasma commands the favor of her superiors, the respect of her peers, and the terror of her enemies. But for all her renown, Phasma remains as virtually unknown as the impassive expression on her gleaming chrome helmet. Now, an adversary is bent on unearthing her mysterious origins and exposing a secret she guards as zealously and ruthlessly as she serves her masters. Deep inside the Battlecruiser *Absolution*, a captured Resistance spy endures brutal interrogation at the hands of a crimson-armored stormtrooper Cardinal. But the information he desires has nothing to do with the Resistance or its covert operations against the First Order. What the mysterious stormtrooper wants is Phasma's past and with it whatever long-buried scandal, treachery, or private demons he can wield against the hated rival who threatens his own power and privilege in the ranks of the First Order. His prisoner has what Cardinal so desperately seeks, but she won't surrender it easily. As she wages a painstaking war of wills with her captor, bargaining for her life in exchange for every precious revelation, the spellbinding chronicle of the inscrutable Phasma unfolds. But this knowledge may prove more than just dangerous once Cardinal possesses it and once his adversary unleashes the full measure of her fury.

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Customer Reviews

Phasma is a one-of-a-kind thrill ride from start to finish. Reading previous works by Delilah Dawson was enough to get me to buy this book. However, I did not anticipate loving the characters to this level. The writing is so captivating that you feel like you are there, in danger, needing to dodge blaster fire and psychological warfare. Far from your typical Stormtrooper, Phasma has such a compelling, intricately woven tale. You're going to want to learn more and this book will deliver it to you. Three things stand out from the new Star Wars trilogy. Rey and her relationship with everyone else, Poe's bromance with Finn, and a named Stormtrooper Captain who not only kicks ass but is a woman to boot. It's so refreshing to see more and more diversity in the Star Wars universe. I love that Star Wars gave Phasma a backstory, and I love how Delilah was able to draw us further into that universe through a point of view we have never seen before. If you're a fan of Star Wars, you're going to love this book. If you're a fan of good writing, you're going to love this book. Do yourself a favor, pick up Phasma and prepare for one of the most entertaining eight hours of your life.

While it is often times difficult to recommend a Star Wars novel, as a die-hard fan of the mythology, the one aspect of the Extended Universe that always irked me was that non of it was canon. Sure, I loved that others branched off and wrote "what if" stories about all these wonderful characters, but I wish they had been rooted in truth, as acknowledged by Lucas and co. So, when Disney bought Lucasfilms and everything that went along with it, it made sense to re-label all the Extended Universe novels as "Legends." This was a solid, valid way to say that, while they were stories, they may or may NOT be true. This paved the way for Disney to carve out a true canon set of novels, which excited me greatly. My only real disappointment is that John Jackson Miller, my favorite Star Wars novelist, could not be included in canon after having written at least two masterpieces in "Kenobi" and "The Lost Tribe of the Sith." Unfortunately, while I always enjoy seeing and reading (when I can) new Star Wars novels, the selection of newly canonized material hasn't really matched the excitement in reality that my hope had reached when first hearing the news. "A New Dawn" seemed unlike most of John Jackson Miller's work, which made sense since I had heard that a consultation group had been formed at Disney to ensure these new canonized books stayed within the larger strategy of books, movies, TV shows, etc. It was weak, in comparison. It lacked

characters, even though they've gone on to be expanded in the TV show "Rebels," about whom I cared. It's a hard thing to say, but it bored me. "Tarkin," "Heir to the Jedi" and "Bloodline" have gone on to improve the thread of stories surrounding the original trilogy, prequels and TV shows, but after reading Delilah S. Dawson's novel "Phasma," which tells the detailed and disturbing origin of the First Order's Captain Phasma, I feel like Disney has finally gotten into the right rhythm with its larger strategy. Without causing an argument about how much of a rip-off "The Force Awakens" might have been of the original "Star Wars," (later "A New Hope"), one thing that always bothered me about Episode VII is that the marketing around it heavily included Captain Phasma. As I type this review, I'm looking at a Captain Phasma Funko Pop, as well as two large movie cups from Cinemark and a special pair of 3D glasses, all in the image of Captain Phasma...a character with very little impact in Episode VII and about 5 minutes worth of screen time. Was he greater backstory cut from the film because there was just too much to tell? This lingering issue agitated me until yesterday. Because I've been intrigued by Phasma since first seeing her picture in magazines and trailers, I was surprised and further intrigued by the fact that Disney was releasing a full-on Phasma novel as part of the "Journey to the Last Jedi," similar to the Episode VII novels that came out giving added weight and backstory to characters like Finn and Poe, characters featured prominently in "The Force Awakens." Does this mean Phasma actually plays a larger role in Episode VIII? Well, considering a comic book series is also being released, but guess is yes! So, naturally, because I own every other Star Wars novel written, I was at my local Barnes & Noble on Force Friday II purchasing a copy of "Phasma." I'd already seen the ominous cover, so it didn't take much for me to crack it open Friday evening around 5:30 PM. By 10:00 AM Saturday morning, I'd read all 378 pages. I couldn't put it down. Delilah, who wrote her first Star Wars vignette, "The Perfect Weapon," my favorite from the pre-Episode VII onslaught of books and stories, also was given the charge to form the entire backstory of Captain Phasma. And it does not disappoint. Not for one. single. second. Phasma is brutal. Vindictive. Pure evil. And she is exactly why the First Order troops make original trilogy-era Stormtroopers seem like kids on a pre-school playground. Delilah masterfully writes her origin around a connection to Episode VII, even the prequels, and, presuming, Episode VIII, which screams why the Extended Universe should have always been canon. Having these extra stories and building blocks of characters in these films and TV shows can only happen in books like "Phasma." Unlike many of the often weakly-written Star Wars novels, Delilah crafts what could be the script for a movie in an of itself. I didn't want it to end. And for a character that many call the "Jar-Jar" of Episode VII, this novel positions Phasma to be a devastating component of the rest of this trilogy. If not, it will have been a waste. The story of how she comes to join the First

Order, her foundation for why she was chosen to lead the troopers, and even how she gets her chrome armor, are such deep insights peppered throughout "Phasma" and add strength to whom this woman will become. There isn't a lull in this story at all. And while these details all add to how she is who we know her to be today, the magic of the writing in this book is the fact that it is an impactful narrative around how she influences, manipulates and lies to the people around her; her selfish corruption from minute one. The insight we get into her psyche through writing is similar to the style of the writing about Darth Maul's psyche in the novel "Lockdown." The beauty of the Star Wars world is that there is an equal amount of interest in the heroic deeds, courage and bravery of the good guys, than there is in the catalyst for corruption and evil in the bad guys. I get just as much excitement watching Luke blow up the Death Star as I did seeing Darth Vader slash open numerous Rebel troops at the end of "Rogue One." It's also probably why there are so many complaints about the prequels. Anakin's turn to the dark side, in the movies, was so poorly written and acted that something that had the potential to be emotionally-charging film did nothing more than collectively make its audience whimper and sigh. Luckily, novels like "Phasma" can add weight to these new characters and help us see the films in a different light. I know I'm going to watch Episode VII this week with different eyes about Phasma and, I'm sure, be foaming at the mouth as to how she impacts Episode VIII.

I've read several of the new Star Wars canon books, and this is the best so far. I, too, absolutely could not put it down until I'd finished. If you think the idea of reading a simple origin story sounds boring, you won't be disappointed--there are many dimensions to this plot, covering not only Phasma's roots on the post-apocalyptic world of Parnassos, but also depths of intrigue in the First Order she would later join. This story pulls back many curtains, answers questions, lifts masks--and not only the ones you're expecting. The character of Cardinal is especially compelling, and Hux fans won't be disappointed, but the star is of course Captain Phasma, who as it turns out is every bit as devious as she is mysterious. This book lets our villains be villains in pretty spectacular fashion, while maybe throwing us a hero or two we didn't expect. I loved it.

I really can't say much beyond Brava, Delilah, for writing a book that's the first one in a long while to keep me awake all night reading. I haven't done that since the last Harry Potter.

The writing was fine, but the storyline sounded like it was written by an executive team. Cardinal. Seriously? A red First Order trooper named (directly) after an earth bird? Lame. Super lame.

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