

The background features a complex network of white nodes connected by thin white lines, set against a gradient background that transitions from dark purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some forming larger, more prominent clusters.

# Empire's End

Written by Chuck Wendig

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# Empire's End

By Chuck Wendig

## Empire's End Comic

Following *Star Wars: Aftermath* and *Star Wars: Life Debt*, Chuck Wendig delivers the exhilarating conclusion to the New York Times bestselling trilogy set in the years between *Return of the Jedi* and *The Force Awakens*.

Empire's End

# Empire's End Review

EVERY END IS A NEW BEGINNING.

## Empire's End Palpatine

As the final showdown between the New Republic and the Empire draws near, all eyes turn to a once-isolated planet: Jakku.

## Empire's End Jerry B Jenkins

The Battle of Endor shattered the Empire, scattering its remaining forces across the galaxy. But the months following the Rebellion's victory have not been easy. The fledgling New Republic has suffered a devastating attack from the Imperial remnant, forcing the new democracy to escalate its hunt for the hidden enemy.

## Empire's End Audiobook

For her role in the deadly ambush, Grand Admiral Rae Sloane is the most wanted Imperial war criminal—and one-time rebel pilot Norra Wexley, back in service at Leia's urgent request, is leading the hunt. But more than just loyalty to the New Republic drives Norra forward: Her husband was turned into a murderous pawn in Sloane's assassination plot, and now she wants vengeance as much as justice.

## Empire's End By Jerry Jenkins

Sloane, too, is on a furious quest: pursuing the treacherous Gallius Rax to the barren planet Jakku. As the true mastermind behind the Empire's devastating attack, Rax has led the Empire to its defining moment. The cunning strategist has gathered the powerful remnants of the Empire's war machine, preparing to execute the late Emperor Palpatine's final plan. As the Imperial fleet orbits Jakku, an armada of Republic fighters closes in to finish what began at Endor. Norra and her crew soar into the heart of an apocalyptic clash that will leave land and sky alike scorched. And the future of the galaxy will finally be decided.

I have to say I was expecting a lot more from this book. For what it was it was ok. The book was very slow in places, in fact I think I fell asleep reading it a couple of points. Then the last 130 pages (the book is divided into 5 parts, it really came alive from half way through part 4 for me) was all out action and I did not want to put the book down from then. However this was less than a third of the book, it was a little too late. Another thing that disappointed me was the lack of star power. I have to say I was expecting a lot more from this book. For what it was it was ok. The book was very slow in places, in fact I think I fell asleep reading it a couple of points. Then the last 130 pages (the book is divided into 5 parts, it really came alive from half way through part 4 for me) was all out action and I did not want to put the book down from then. However this was less than a third of the book, it was a little too late. Another thing that disappointed me was the lack of star power in this book. I can understand the choice (but I don't like it) about keeping Luke Skywalker quiet till the Last Jedi comes out, but this is at least 30 years before The Force Awakens, and many years before he started his quest. TFA said he started this quest after Ben's turn to Kylo Ren. Leia, Han and Wedge are made after thought, well we did our bits time to move on. Leia ok she is heavily pregnant, and Wedge is in the dog house for his actions of the last book, but Han and Luke missing the last battle with Empire? I do not think that is really going to happen. Having said that it did give other characters a chance to shine and there some huge heroic sacrifices in the final battle. Though these could have still been done with the Rebel heroes there. Like all ways not everyone gets out alive.

The Rebel Alliance is not more it have become the New Republic government, and has inherited all the bureaucracy, and dirty political maneuvering that goes along with it. After the Order 66 style attack from the Empire, Mon Mothma's position has been weakened politically mean while she is recovering physically from the attack. Norra Wexley and her team are angry and intend to capture Grand Admiral Rae Sloane who they blame as the personification of the Empire and the architect of the diabolical attack. Careful what you wish for as chasing Sloane they find the real threat from the true leader of the Empire Gallius Rax. Now for me the Rax was the biggest letdown of the book. Through out the book we are told what a dangerous man he is, but to me he comes across as a pale imitation of Admiral Thrawn, I do not see what the Emperor saw in him or how he usurped Sloane's authority. Even though they were many good points of this book and there were the seeds to what would become the First Order, the early pace of the book, and lack of new development in the Star Wars Universe I could not help but be a little disappointed in this book. ...more

## Empire's End Star Wars

There's a lot to be thankful for with this final volume of Chuck Wendig's Aftermath trilogy. For example, just the fact that this horrible series is now finished, and hopefully Wendig will not have anything more to do with Star Wars.

Well . . . I guess that's all I'm thankful for with this final volume of Chuck Wendig's Aftermath, actually.

Truly this has been a disappointing series at every turn. This concluding entry features the same poor prose--writing that makes it sound like Wendig spends a There's a lot to be thankful for with this final volume of Chuck Wendig's Aftermath trilogy. For example, just the fact that this horrible series is now finished, and hopefully Wendig will not have anything more to do with Star Wars.

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Truly this has been a disappointing series at every turn. This concluding entry features the same poor prose--writing that makes it sound like Wendig spends all of his time reading social media instead of good books. It really shows, and it's disappointing even though I was braced for it by this point.

What really bothered me about Empire's End is the relentlessly disgusting violence. Star Wars has never really been about realistic, or even action-movie, fighting and gore. You shoot a Stormtrooper, he falls over; end of story. You don't hold a Stormtrooper against a cage while a maniacal battle droid slices him into pieces. When Star Wars shows something truly horrific, like a limb being cut off, it is presented as exceptionally severe and startling. But Wendig is just a cruel author. He delights in descriptions of bones crunching, teeth being knocked out, people gurgling through crushed tracheas, people slicing each others' faces, and yes, people being hacked to pieces. This isn't Star Wars, and it doesn't earn the right to be regarded as "grown-up Star Wars." It's juvenile and ugly. Many fight scenes in Empire's End left me feeling dirty.

The other disappointment is the tying up of loose ends. What is it that Gallius and Palpatine were guarding on Jakku? Seriously, I just couldn't believe how disappointing the answer to that was. Who is Snoke? No solid clues given. Where is Luke? Who knows? (Obvious before starting the novel, from Wendig's cutesy dedication: "To Luke S., wherever you are.") How does the First Order form? Again: just ridiculous.

Other problems: No one has yet "gotten" Mon Mothma. She's a really odd character. Other characters in the book accuse her of being a weak leader, and from what I've seen I kind of agree. Politics is central to this story, yet it always feels distant. It's hard to imagine actual political conversations happening among these mostly nameless senators of the New Republic. (And are there really only 327 senators total, or did I misread that?)

## Empire's End

The book actually gets an extra star for the great interlude with Lando returning to Cloud City (and delivering the perfect first line!), and a quick reference to the Lando graphic novel . . . but then it loses that star for a hammy Mad Max homage with a Hutt and her slaves racing across a desert on wheel bikes and speeders to attack the Imperials.

In the end, few of the new main characters were ever in actual peril. The only ones who die are the blandest of the bland who didn't play much of a part in the story. No emotion felt at all, probably because the incessant violence had already numbed me long before any main character died.

Everything in Wendig's writing feels oddly disconnected and unreal. When he writes about expectant parents, it's like he's never been one; about war, like he's never even talked to anyone who's seen combat; about politics, like he's scared of actually trying to figure it out; about love, like he's in middle school. It's really strange.

But at least--at last!--it's over. Let's take a deep breath and move on, hopefully to much better books and better days for the galaxy far, far away (and the other one, that I guess is even further away; or maybe that one is closer; who knows . . . \*sigh\* Now I'm sad again . . . ).

"I've got a bad feeling about this" alert: p. 291. (Are we really not past this gimmick yet?) ...more

4 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum [https://bibliosanctum.com/2017/03/13/...](https://bibliosanctum.com/2017/03/13/)

The Aftermath trilogy may have gotten off to a shaky start, but the good news is that things have been steadily turning around ever since Life Debt improved on many of the problems that plagued the first novel. I'm happy to report that Empire's End continues this trend by further developing the story and characters, giving them the depth that they lacked early on.

Looking back my review of Aftermath, my feelings about this 4 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum [https://bibliosanctum.com/2017/03/13/...](https://bibliosanctum.com/2017/03/13/)

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Looking back my review of Aftermath, my feelings about this series now can't be any more different. To be honest, I thought the first book was very forgettable. The plot was fun but fluffy, lacking any real weight. None of the new characters were all that compelling or memorable, except maybe the droid. It wasn't a bad read, but overall it was still a very mediocre addition to the new Star Wars canon, doubly disappointing because of how hugely it was hyped.

Now, fast forward to Empire's End. We've definitely come a long way since the first book. The

inclusion of original trilogy characters and connections to other events and stories in the Star Wars universe have helped this trilogy immensely, increasing its relevance and making the second and third books a lot more enjoyable to read. We also know that the title refers to the Empire's last stand at the Battle of Jakku, so the anticipation for this monumentally important event also helped.

Empire's End continues the adventures of Norra Wexley and her band of mercenaries as they continue to hunt down the remnants of the Imperial leadership—except now, it's personal. The events that took place at Chandrila at the end of *Life Debt* have made Grand Admiral Rae Sloane the primary target of Norra's revenge. Unbeknownst to our rebels though, Sloane has lost all her power, struck down by the diabolical Gallius Rax, the former protégé of Emperor Palpatine and self-proclaimed Counselor of the Empire.

The hunt to bring Sloane to justice ultimately leads Norra to Jakku, where her team discovers the presence of a large Imperial force attempting to regather their strength. This intelligence is relayed back to the New Republic, where the Galactic Senate now must decide whether or not to bring the fight to the Empire. Meanwhile, Leia Organa and Han Solo are soon expecting their first child and have taken a step back from the limelight. Understanding the need to see the enemy put down once and for all, however, they team up with Chancellor Mon Mothma to convince others in the senate that the vote to bring the fleet to Jakku must pass.

Politics, action, and thrills come together in this final installment of the *Aftermath* trilogy, and if you've been enjoying the ride so far, then you'll likely be pleased with the results. *Empire's End* is much better than the first book, possibly even better than *Life Debt*; in fact, I think it's one of the stronger new canon novels to date. Maybe I'm just getting used to the writing, or maybe opting to go with the audiobook format could have improved the experience, but I found Wendig's style and his use of the present tense much less distracting this time around. And even though I still find them somewhat distracting, I've also come to grudgingly tolerate those pesky interludes. Dare I say, a couple of them were actually quite interesting, like that brief glimpse we got into what Jar Jar Binks has been up to since the prequels.

This novel's greatest achievement though, is character development. Norra, Temmin, Jas, Sinjir, and Jom went from a jumble of names I could barely remember to the heroes that I enthusiastically cheered for in this final showdown between the New Republic and the Empire. And of course we mustn't forget about Mr. Bones, who has been a favorite since the beginning. Over the course of the trilogy, this crew of ragtag rebels has become a real family. *Empire's End* places them all in situations where you can truly sense their loyalty to each other, or understand their growing emotional ties and friendships. In addition, this book did amazing things for Grand Admiral Rae Sloane. Though she was already a fantastic character even going back to her first appearance in *A New Dawn*, much of her growth has been seen in the *Aftermath* trilogy. She may be on the wrong side of history, but she has such a strong, interesting backstory and personality that you can't help but love her too.

If the later books had remained mediocre like *Aftermath*, I would have said skip this trilogy. Fortunately

though, this was not the case. Things have really picked up since the first book, and the number of significant events and ties to other stories and characters in the Star Wars universe have pretty much made this one a must-read. Overall, I'm pretty pleased with how the series has turned out. I have some caveats of course, which you can find in my reviews of the previous books, but on the whole I would encourage Star Wars fans both new and old to check out this trilogy if you think you might enjoy it.

Audiobook Comments: Marc Thompson is a god, that is all.

Okay, fine, I'll elaborate. More and more, I'm finding myself shifting away from reading Star Wars fiction to listening to them, simply because they always have the best talent narrating these books. Thompson is a perpetual favorite because of his ability to do all these great voices. Some of the ones he does for specific characters are spot on. I loved his voices for Han Solo, Sinjir, and Mr. Bones. He even did a pretty good Lando. And one of my friends who read the hardcover version of book actually asked me if Thompson did the Jar Jar Binks voice for the aforementioned interlude, and I was like, are you kidding me, of course he did! And it was amazing! Star Wars audiobooks are always a treat, and Thompson is a narrator whose reading can really enhance a story even when there's not a lot happening on a page. ...more