



## Remnant (Force Heretic, #1)

*Sean Williams , Shane Dix*

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*As the bloodied and weary galaxy faces battle once more, the Jedi take on the formidable task of bringing the last of the Empire into the light. . . .*

From the ashes of the New Republicâ€™ torn to shreds by the savage Yuuzhan Vong forcesâ€™ the newly formed Galactic Alliance has risen, determined to bring peace to the entire galaxy. But first the Yuuzhan Vong must be contained once and for all. And so Luke Skywalker seeks a world long lost to legend: Zonama Sekot, a sentient planet believed to have repelled an invasion by the Yuuzhan Vong decades ago. Deciphering the enigmatic secrets of Zonama Sekot just might turn the tides of a relentless war.

Aboard the Jade Shadow, Luke, his wife Mara, Jacen Solo, and other Jedi head off into the Unknown Regions, where rumors and clues suggest Zonama Sekot might be found. Yet the mission has barely begun when the searchers stumble into a horrific battle. The Imperial Remnant, in retreat from the mighty Yuuzhan Vong, is about to be destroyed. It would seem those aboard the Jade Shadow have little choice but to leave the Empire to its fate. But these are no ordinary space travelers, they are Jedi. . . .

### Remnant (Force Heretic, #1) Details

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## From Reader Review Remnant (Force Heretic, #1) for online ebook

### Mark Oppenlander says

Yet another mediocre entry in the New Jedi Order series.

This one has three major plot threads. First, a group led by Luke and Mara has headed out to the Unknown Regions in search of the legendary living world known as Zonama Sekot. But instead they find themselves assisting the remnant of the Empire in a pitched battle against the Yuuzhan Vong. Meanwhile, another group, this one led by Han and Leia, is attempting to re-establish contact with some of the worlds that had been cut off during the Yuuzhan Vong invasion, beginning with Galantos. During their time there, Jedi Knight Tahiri Veila begins to have strange fainting episodes, which may be related to the biological work that the Yuuzhan Vong did on her while she was in captivity. Finally, we also follow the disgraced Nom Anor, who is living underground on Yuzzhan'tar. He makes contact with a group of Shamed Ones who are part of a new fringe religion that worships the Jedi. He agrees to help them in promoting this religious ideal, but of course it is all for his own nefarious purposes.

I know there were things I liked about this novel, but the fact that I can't remember very much about this book just a few weeks after finishing it is not a good sign. The writing was a little choppy and overall the book did not read as smoothly as I would have preferred. This may simply be evidence that Williams and Dix were new to the Star Wars universe at this time or it could be because they were being forced to juggle so many story lines at once.

I did like the portrayal of Grand Admiral Gilad Pellaeon, a figure who seems to have greater humanity and nuance than so many of the one-dimensional Imperial foils the Star Wars books have provided; his pragmatism, leadership and dry humor are a pleasure. And I think the out-of-body episodes that Tahiri is having are interesting, although they're clearly building to a bigger reveal in a later book, so the content here is largely expository. Ditto the scenes with Nom Anor, a character I am kind of tired of overall.

I'll be interested to see how I feel about the New Jedi Order when I've finally finished the entire sequence of stories. I confess to having found a *number* of these books quite dull and I can't tell if that is because the story has simply stretched on too long or if I'm uninterested in the basic premise or if the writing is just weak. The ones that I have enjoyed the most were almost stand-alone stories and/or didn't follow the usual formula (which seems to require at least one of the Solo children to be having a crisis of faith and for the book to resolve with a major space battle in the end), so maybe that is a clue. Four more to go in this series and then on to brave new worlds!

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### Matthew says

Any scene with Pellaeon is good, but the New Jedi Order is back to dragging. This series has overstayed its welcome.

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### Bryan says

I'm reviewing the Force Heretic trilogy as a whole. This trilogy really felt like it was moving away from all of the build up that has been happening in the New Jedi Order series so far, which is strange considering it is

almost at its conclusion. Most of the subplots followed in this trilogy suffered from poor pacing, and just didn't seem like they were contributing to the main story. The Nom Anor subplot was an unexpected highlight of this trilogy. With 3 novels (and significantly lengthier novels compared to the rest of the series) I expected the plot to be advanced significantly more.

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### **Angus says**

Very slow book. The change in format to no chapters made it feel like it was dragging on and the slow writing style did not help.

I heard bad things about this trilogy and it sucks because I was a few books from the end of this 19+ novels plus side stories series and now I have to take time off Star Wars old canon to read something else. Everyone saying this trilogy should be a single book is right I can barely remember what went on it sat there on my night stand for over a year as I read other things.

The new canon of star wars so far is all boring but I can see why some folks did not like the New Jedi Order, it was ranging from above average to some great novels along the way but a bad trilogy right at the end leaves a bad taste.

Perhaps I will finish this trilogy later or I may not return to Star Wars. I keep being told Star Wars is not for me anymore in any event.

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### **Katrin von Martin says**

Warning: This review will contain spoilers. While Force Heretic I: Remnant wasn't the best in the NJO, I hardly think it was the worst. To start with, the cover art for both this book and the others in the Force Heretic trilogy is beautiful and the synopsis on the back is certainly very intriguing.

Unfortunately, and much to my dismay, both the cover and the summary are very deceiving in terms of what actually happens in Remnant.

The plot is broken into three separate stories: Luke, Mara, Jacen, Danni, Saba, and Tekli looking for Zonama Sekot; Leia, Han, Jaina, Jag, Tahiri, and the Twin Sun Squadron venturing into regions of the galaxy that have been cut off from the rest of the universe via communication problems early in the war; and Nom Anor joining a Jedi faction on Yuuzhan'tar in hopes that he can overthrow Overlord Shimrra and regain his previous position of power.

First and foremost is Luke's quest for Zonama Sekot. This is the story that is advertised on the back of the book and the story that should make up most of the book. However, what is advertised on the back of the book, the search for Zonama Sekot, isn't exactly what the reader gets. Instead, this story line focuses on Luke and friends stumbling into a battle between the Imperial Remnant and the Yuuzhan Vong. While the battle and interactions between the Imperials and Skywalker's team were well written, it was a bit disappointing to not get what the back of the book promised.

On the note of the Yuuzhan Vong attacking the Imperial Remnant, it seemed a bit coincidental that Luke and friends just happened to stumble into the heat of things just as the battle was turning the favour of the Yuuzhan Vong. Coincidence seems to be a rather large part of the Star Wars universe, but I think some

authors get a bit carried away with it. A lot of this book seemed based on coincidence.

For a more favourable comment towards the Luke/Imperial Remnant plot, the interactions between the Imperials and Luke's team were, in my opinion, very well done. It was nice to see the familiar face of Pallaeon enter the NJO scene once again, even if he was in a bacta tank throughout most of his appearance. His interactions with Jacen especially stood out as well written and thought out. The Grand Admiral seemed a bit off in the last book he appeared in, but he was back to the leader we all know and love in Remnant.

The plot regarding the Solos and their various friends seemed unimportant in the grand scheme of things. It struck me that the authors were just giving the Solos something to do. Perhaps this story line will gain importance as the trilogy continues. While learning about what happened to the Yevetha during the Yuuzhan Vong war was certainly interesting, at this point, the Solo plot seemed more like filler than an actual, relevant story line.

And then there was Tahiri.

The whole point of the Solo quest seemed to be introducing the conflict with Tahiri. I'm torn between what to think about this new conflict. Tahiri's shaping took place over five books ago, during *Edge of Victory I: Conquest*. Since then, it appeared that she moved on, only running into an emotional obstacle when her more-than-friend Anakin Solo was killed by the Yuuzhan Vong in *Star by Star*. In the books that followed, Tahiri seemed to accept the fact that her best friend (and probably more) had become one with the Force and, having fulfilled her purpose, moved out of the spotlight. To bring her back into the limelight struck me as a bit, well, unnecessary. I mean, I personally like the Tahiri as a character, but, at the end of the day, she is just a minor character. It seems a bit random to bring her up out of the blue to become the main conflict and point of the Solo story line. Regardless, I'm interested to see where this Tahiri issue goes. Perhaps it will end up playing a key role in ending the NJO, even if bringing it up now seems sudden and a tad unnecessary.

The third and final plot line is the story of Nom Anor and his involvement in the Jeedai heresy movement. To me, this is where Williams and Dix really shine. They do a fine job of portraying the Yuuzhan Vong characters and culture. They allow the reader to look deeper into the Yuuzhan Vong and see them as a race with culture and customs and not just as the bad guys of the New Jedi Order. Nom Anor has, so far, been one of the few constants of the Yuuzhan Vong, making an appearance and playing a role in more or less every NJO book. He made some character advancements in Remnant, even going as far as to show a shred of compassion (however selfish his motives were). Yet, he remained the Nom Anor we've come to know and, to an extent, love. He remained focused on his goal of overthrowing Shimrra and ensured that every action brought him one step closer to achieving that goal. Some may complain that focusing on Nom Anor and his plot for power was unnecessary, but I feel that, as a character that has appeared in almost all of the NJO novels, the Executor was long due for a chance in the spotlight to build in character and become deeper than just being the bad guy. My only complaint here is that there wasn't enough time spent on developing this story line.

Williams and Dix have obviously done their research and know a great deal about the Star Wars galaxy. That much is obvious. It was nice to see references made to earlier books and events, which not only enhanced the story, but also served as a reminder of the other events that have place in the Galaxy Far Far Away up to this point. However, I highly doubt the tale told in Remnant will ever be remembered as being highly significant in the Star Wars timeline. There just isn't enough important substance to the book. Most of it ends up seeming like filler more than significant story.

To the authors' credit, they don't have a bad writing style. Their refusal to use chapters was really annoying, as it makes finding a good stopping point significantly difficult. But, other than that, I have few complaints. Though it wasn't the best writing in the NJO, it was easy enough to understand and flowed well enough...even if the authors had the tendency to randomly switch perspectives just when the story line was

getting interesting.

This was hardly the best book in the New Jedi Order so far, but it also wasn't the worst. The writing style wasn't bad and the parts of the plot that were significant (and not just filler) could have some interesting conclusions. However, Remnant seemed more like a teaser trailer for what is to come in the later books than a novel on its own. Not horrible, but also not amazingly good.

This review is also posted at Amazon.com

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## Cynthia says

### Reviews led me to abridged audiobook. GOTTA READ THE BOOK!

Any time a SW book gets less than a 4 average, I read a lot of reviews. SW fans WANT to love the books, so it's hard to ignore. So I bought the abridged audiobook, which was very good. After finishing, I took a moment to flip through the first chapter and realized entire plots were omitted. Not just small plots, but an entire 2/3 of the book about crucial plot lines with main characters. I then read the book and it was REALLY good! Not the greatest, but very good. I'd have given it a 3.75 if possible.

- (1) A large mission with Han, Leia, Tahiri, Jaina and Jag went unmentioned, which means;
  - 2) the scenes with Jaina and Jag growing... eh-hem, closer were also ignored;
  - 3) Nom Anor's flight from the Vong that leads him into the depths of Coruscant, where he learns the story of Anakin defending the Shamed Ones has spread with religious fervor throughout the galaxy, and the Shamed Ones now believe the Jedi are their saviors.
  - 4) BIGGEST AUDIOBOOK OMISSION: A HUGE mystery storyline with Tahiri - that is actually crucial for understanding her trajectory that will resonate in the future series (Legacy of the Force, Fate of the Jedi) - is deleted.
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## Vic1245 says

Really enjoyed this. A different twist to the star wars genre.

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## Scott Rhee says

"Remnant" by Sean Williams and Shane Dix is the fifteenth book in the New Jedi Order series and the first book of the Force Heretic trilogy. It's definitely not the best of the series, but it's definitely not the worst, either.

The Yuuzhan Vong, whose forces were seriously depleted at the Battle of Ebaq 9 (see "Destiny's Way"), are desperate for soldiers. They are currently on a mission to kidnap as many infidels throughout the galaxy to turn into slave-soldiers.

Luke Skywalker heads a mission into the Unknown Regions to find the legendary "wandering" planet known as Zonama Sekot. Long believed to be a myth, the planet may hold the key to ending the war with the Yuuzhan Vong.

Unfortunately, on the way, Luke and his team pass through the Imperial Remnant, which has been devastated by a sneak attack. Admiral Gilad Pellaeon has been injured, but he still has some fight left in him. If only he can convince the Moffdom that the only way to survive the Yuuzhan Vong would be to join with the Galactic Alliance and the Jedis...

Meanwhile, the Yuuzhan Vong traitor known as Nom Anor is running for his life on what was once Coruscant. When he stumbles upon a growing sect of Jedi-worshipping Yuuzhan Vong slave caste, he decides to use it to his advantage...

And something is going on with Tahiri, who keeps having weird blackouts and visions...

While Williams/Dix are a talented writing team, parts of this novel seem to plod endlessly. I personally thought the parts with the Imperial Remnant were the best parts, but I am biased as Admiral Pellaeon is one of my favorite characters within the SWEU. Hopefully, Williams/Dix can pick up the momentum in the next two books...

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## Crystal Starr Light says

The difference between reading this book and gouging out my eyes is slim

The Galactic Alliance is still in the nascent stages. Cal Omas sends Han, Leia, Jaina, and Jag off on their merry way to get communications back with disconnected planets. Meanwhile, Luke, Mara, Saba, Jacen, and Danni head out to the Imperial Remnant to finally drag them into the Galactic Alliance and to research on this living planet thing that apparently Vergere talked about last book.

NOTE: Based on audiobook and novel.

I had this crazy dream not too long ago. I don't really remember what was happening or what I was doing, but I remember one crazy thought: that Sean Williams always has to have one ridiculously over powered Marty Stu in his novels. Somehow, that thought stayed with me when I woke up, and, as I was listening to this book, I had to agree. In *The Force Unleashed*, it was Starkiller. Here, I would lay my bets on Jacen Solo.

But relating dreams and picking at Marty Stus, although fun for me, do not a review make.

This book was painful. From characters to story to plot to writing to pacing, there was so much pain, I begged for mercy. Fortunately, the Force granted me the audiobook, which spared me the horribly boring Nom Anor scenes (what was the point of them honestly?) and the rather unimportant, dull Han/Leia "touring the galaxy" subplot.

This book is just dull. Stupid in places and dull.

We start out where Luke chastises Random Jedi #67 for wanting to press the advantage on the Yuuzhan Vong while the Yuuzhan Vong have been defeated. Of course, this is bad because Luke says it is bad, and when Luke says it is bad, IT IS BAD. Oh, and because of that aggression and genocide stuff that I thought had been resolved in last book, but apparently, the authors did not hit each other up on email to pass that bit

along. Because why bother with continuity when you can drive the same plot point into the ground until people want to throw bricks at you. After RJ#67 has been soundly defeated by Jedi Master Luke, he happily walks off, never to be seen again.

Bye, RJ#67! It was great knowing you!

Next up, let's have a meeting with Cal Omas, Releqy A'kla (daughter of the deceased Elegos A'kla), Leia, Luke, Mara...and that's about it. I don't know about you, but this meeting feels a little...er, partisan, shall we say? Towards, I dunno, the Skywalker-Solo clan? Glad to see that our most powerful mafia--I mean!--Jedi family has SO MUCH influence on the government! NOT!

The meeting that ensues is boring. It's boring and so obviously the setup for the next two books, it's sad. It's also sad to see supposedly "wise and pacifist" Releqy get a knock down from resident know-it-all, Leia, about peace. "Peace at any cost is not peace". I'd think a pacifist would know that, Leia. In fact, she should be the one saying that, not YOU.

So off our heroes split, along random lines just because, what the hey, let's throw together the supposed Sword of the Jedi, Jaina, into stupid diplomatic missions and not out in the battlefield where her skills could be used. Let's toss Tahiri with Leia and Han, when she previously went on a mission with Luke and Mara. And just to up the angst, let's bring along Jagged Fel. Sounds like a great party.

Luke and Mara beg and plead and sacrifice the never-present Ben Skywalker to the drama queen, Saba Sebatyne, who is whining and complaining about killing her people and she can't go because \*GASP\* she might kill others. Oh, please, stop acting like a three-year-old who dropped her ice cream on the ground. You are a freaking Jedi Master. Act like it. To round out the group, Luke and Mara bring Jacen and Danni.

Oh, Danni, Danni, Danni...how much do I loathe you! From being way too young to do the job you have (weird Star Wars ages be damned!) to switching ALMOST OVERNIGHT from being an astronomer to a xenobiologist WITH NO PROBLEMS to stampeding over the previous relationship between Jacen and Tenel Ka, to being a FREAKING JEDI, you, Danni, have far overstayed your welcome in this galaxy. You are the next one that deserves to be on the chopping block. In fact, I hope by sacrificing your sorry corpse, we can bring back Anakin from the dead.

At this point, the audiobook is kind to me. It completely removes the Leia/Han mission and those strange sections where Nom Anor, who is still NOT DEAD, mopes around Yuuzhan'tar and incites heresy in the Shamed Ones. I do have a few memories of these, and I'll summarize. The Leia/Han mission was forgettable, but I do miss the Tahiri character growth (though, why did it take so long for her to finally have to come to terms with her Vong-forming?). As for the Nom Anor stuff...no tears shed here!

So our heroes jump to Imperial space, and OH NO! They jumped right into a Yuuzhan Vong-Imperial battle! Good thing our heroes with one X-Wing and the Jade Shadow are there, so they can save the day and all those Imperial lives! But then, nasty, evil, doing his job Keten tries to get them to be boarded. OH NO!! How could you do that to our precious, omnipotent Jedi! Mara tries to get them to come on board, so that \*GIGGLES\* she can use a Jedi Mind Trick, but apparently Keten is not that stupid of an Imperial (there aren't many in that boat!). "I'd sooner stick my head in a drive tube than take my chances with your Jedi Mind Tricks." (Can I please stick my head in a drive tube instead of reading this book? PLEASE?!)

No worries! A good female Imperial captain (because all female Imperials are good and sensible and all Imperials that side with our heroes will ALWAYS make sure they aren't boarded according to rules!) comes on and puts Keten in his place. Shame on him for doing his job and obeying the rules! Oh, right, our heroes are above the rules! Silly me!

Our heroes are then paraded in front of a wide range of Imperials. We have stupid, fat Imperials that Jacen is able to wriggle his nose at and convince to do what the heroes planned, we have good Imperials that like our heroes and do whatever they want with little convincing (like Paelleon), and we have angry Imperials. What a diverse place Imperial space is!

There is a little tension when Paelleon might be dead, but no worries, because he can do everything from inside a bacta tank! So Paelleon and the heroes plan up a nice Yuuzhan Vong battle, and Jacen wants his Deus Ex Machinas, I mean, the YVH droids to help out. LULZ. OH NO! It looks like the Yuuzhan Vong aren't falling for the trap...oh, whew! No worries, they did! Thank God they behave exactly how we stereotype them too. It would be too hard to have our heroes have to come up with a Plan B on the fly.

Of course the heroes win (frak, does Paelleon make a stirring speech, though to the retreating Yuuzhan Vong), and of course, the Imperials gladly join the Alliance, with only ONE of their members having a second thought. Because, of COURSE, the Imperials are easily persuaded to join when you have the awesomeness of the Jacen with them. And we close with some giggles and hints at how Danni and Jacen LIKE each other because what Star Wars book is complete without some young adult reject Romantic Plotlines?

So, yeah, I didn't like this book, I thought the characters, minus Tahiri and occasionally Paelleon, went from meh to terrible. The Imperial story wasn't bad, but I can't believe that only one Imperial would protest about joining the Galactic Alliance. It was a shame that Luke didn't actually get any closer to finding Zonoma Sekot, which feels like a HUGE Deus Ex Machina for the entire series. I understand why Leia and Han went on their mission, but I really think it wasn't worth my time, and the same with the Nom Anor plot. The writing is rather pedestrian and boring, occasionally filled with really stupid similes (such as "Flennick's features went from startlingly purple to deathly white in the time it would have taken light to cross the room"--talk about unwieldy!!). Overall, this book is a huge disappointment, and I do not recommend reading it AT ALL.

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## Wade Schacht says

A little slow, but had some interesting plotlines that will be great for continuation in future books. SPOILER ALERT - Ssi-Ruuvi Imperium terminated by a multi-colored god? Hmm.

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## Seth says

Continuing the streak. Excited where it's going.

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## Siria says

Dear Mr Williams and Mr Dix: epithets are our friends; good friends which, when used correctly, can make writing easier. But don't use them constantly, or you'll wear them out. Poor epithets! "Anakin's mother", "the middle-aged stateswoman", "the former rebel leader." See how tiring that is to read? See how it's possible just to use "Leia" instead? Trust me, it makes things a lot less, well... leaden.

Oh, and not having a character's internal monologue read "as he had thought in his earlier analogy" makes

things a lot less, well... inane. *No one thinks like that.* Trust me.

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## Vee says

I enjoyed General Admiral Gilad Pellaeon but I'll probably forget about him when I'm through with this series. So some one decided to flesh out Nom Anor, I'm surprised death did not claim him yet. Sigh. I have some reservations but this series but it is still fun.

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## Darryl Dobbs says

Three very good storylines integral to the great war against the Yuuzhan Vong and each very interesting in their own right. However, each storyline was stretched out so that this duology could become a trilogy and the result was often a slow, plodding read. Not even Williams' tried-and-true trick of switching storylines quickly could fix this, and in fact became annoying more often than not.

Luke, Mara and Jacen went off in search of Zonoma Sekot, the living planet described by Vergere in a recent NJO novel. This was also the same planet that Anakin and Obi-Wan visited so many books ago (100? More? Can't recall – I have been reading these in order of the Legends timeline). This storyline is probably the most integral, but it was also the least interesting. At least, in terms of stretching out the search to get that extra book in.

Han, Leia and Jaina head off to planets that have not made contact with the Galactic Alliance, and try to bring them back on board. In the cases of both storylines above, there were some great coincidences in terms of arrival timing that can get on one's nerves after a while.

The final storyline was the always surviving Nom Anor, who sees an opportunity among the Shamed Ones to create dissent and thus help him with his revenge against the Supreme Commander. If you're reading the SWU Legends series, then the storylines are key and a must-read. But otherwise, having read all three of these books before writing this review, I'd pass.

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## Lindsey says

A decent beginning to the trilogy, so I'm looking forward to the next two books now. Space battles galore and all the characters act in character the entire book. For those of you who wondered where the Jade Shadow went, it's back (yay!). This book prominently features all the old favorites (Luke, Han, Leia, and even Pellaeon) plus all the new favs (Jaina, Jacen, Jag, Saba, etc.). There was an even balance struck between these sets of characters, better than any previously written.

\*spoilers past this point\* My favorite part is the developing story of Tahiri... just enough clues were dropped to be interesting, but not give everything away. It looks promising. Only two complaints: 1- if Jaina is the Sword of the Jedi, why are they shuffling her off on some peripheral diplomatic escort (even if it is her mother's mission)? and 2- What's with Jacen and Danni?!? No offense to a well-written character or anything, but Tenel Ka runs circles around Danni. I sincerely hope that they bring Tenel Ka back soon. Hopefully in the next book. Other than that, a good read (and a good size too). I can't wait till the next book in May!

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