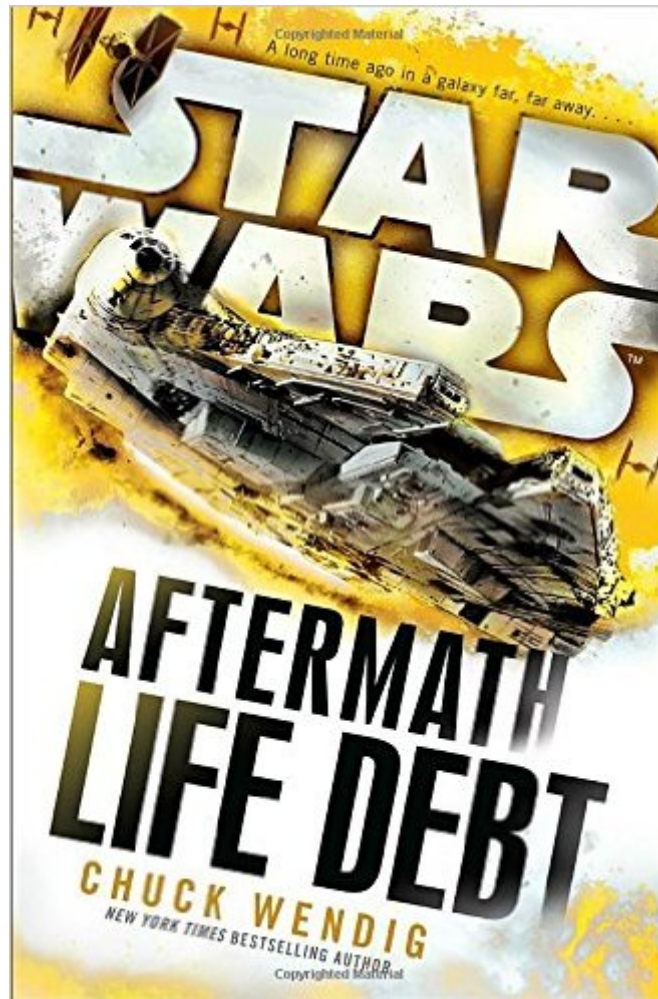


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Life Debt: Aftermath (Star Wars) (Star Wars: The Aftermath Trilogy)



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Set between the events of *Return of the Jedi* and *The Force Awakens*, the never-before-told story that began with *Star Wars: Aftermath* continues in this thrilling novel, the second book of Chuck Wendig's bestselling trilogy. It is a dark time for the Empire. . . . The Emperor is dead, and the remnants of his former Empire are in retreat. As the New Republic fights to restore a lasting peace to the galaxy, some dare to imagine new beginnings and new destinies. For Han Solo, that means settling his last outstanding debt, by helping Chewbacca liberate the Wookiee's homeworld of Kashyyyk. Meanwhile, Norra Wexley and her band of Imperial hunters pursue Grand Admiral Rae Sloane and the Empire's remaining leadership across the galaxy. Even as more and more officers are brought to justice, Sloane continues to elude the New Republic, and Norra fears Sloane may be searching for a means to save the crumbling Empire from oblivion. But the hunt for Sloane is cut short when Norra receives an urgent request from Princess Leia Organa. The attempt to liberate Kashyyyk has carried Han Solo, Chewbacca, and a band of smugglers into an ambush—resulting in Chewie's capture and Han's disappearance. Breaking away from their official mission and racing toward the Millennium Falcon's last known location, Norra and her crew prepare for any challenge that stands between them and their missing comrades. But they can't anticipate the true depth of the danger that awaits them—or the ruthlessness of the enemy drawing them into his crosshairs. Praise for *Aftermath: Life Debt* • *Star Wars: Aftermath: Life Debt* has found its place at the top of all the new canon works. Simply, outstandingly great *Star Wars*. • *Star Wars Post* • [Chuck] Wendig once again strikes gold, offering a sweeping narrative with plenty of insight into both the state of the galaxy at large and beloved characters both new and old. • *Alternative Nation* • With an intense plot, political intrigue and great characterization, Wendig's *Aftermath: Life Debt* is an excellent read. • *Flickering Myth* Praise for Chuck Wendig's *Aftermath* • *Star Wars: Aftermath* [reveals] what happened after the events of 1983's *Return of the Jedi*. It turns out, there's more than just the Empire for the good guys to worry about. • *The Hollywood Reporter* • The Force is strong with *Star Wars: Aftermath*. • *Alternative Nation* • The *Star Wars* universe is fresh and new again, and just as rich and mysterious as it always was. • *Den of Geek*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anybody who watched *The Force Awakens* and has questions about how and why the Empire transformed into the First Order would do well to read this book. We see the foundation of the First Order being laid and we see the major players being brought into the fold. For example, General Hux's father, Brendol Hux, is recruited into the military junta that is rapidly taking control of what is left of the Empire by Rae Sloane, who has been promoted to the rank of Grand Admiral by her mysterious commander, Gallius Rax. Rax is shrouded in mystery, having come up through Imperial Naval Intelligence and most of his career history is classified. He is cunning and ruthless; his love of opera and classical music just barely masks a brutal warlord that is willing to do anything, use any weapon or tactic, to achieve his goals. Anybody who defies him, or who he simply considers unfit for the new order he is building out of the wreckage of Endor, ends up dead or missing-in-action. Sloane doesn't trust Rax, in fact he creeps her out quite a bit, but in the end she is forced to dance to his tune. Meanwhile, Han and Chewie's attempt to liberate the Wookie homeworld of Kashyyyk failed miserably. Chewie is an Imperial prisoner-of-war and Han is missing-in-action. Leia, desperate to find him, turns to team that rescued Wedge in the first book. This is where *Life Debt* starts and takes us on a high-stakes adventure in the final months of the Galactic Civil War. Between this book and *Bloodline*, it is clear that secrecy to preserve the plot of *The Force Awakens* for theaters affected the scope of the stories being told in the new expanded universe material. With the movie released the gloves have come off.

Last year during the craziness of Force Friday, fans tried to satiate their desire for anything *Star Wars* with new toys, coffee mugs, shirts and books. In all the mayhem, one book stood out from the

rest as the one that people could not wait to devour, Aftermath. This was going to be the start of the new canon, the story of what happened after Return of the Jedi and set up for The Force Awakens. Sadly the reception for the first book, a planned trilogy, was lukewarm at best, leaving fans hoping that the second book would redeem the series. Themes There are a couple of interesting themes in the book. The first is the way in which the Empire looks to reestablish itself after all the losses it has sustained. It's idea, propaganda. They will just feed the populous a fictitious narrative backed up by various acts of staged benevolence to sell the facade. There is an exchange in the book between Rae Sloane and Gallius Rax that feels chillingly familiar, "He stops her there. "Rae, do you know much about opera?" "...I know opera, though I am not an enthusiast." He clasps his hands together. "Become one. It will make our partnership more rewarding for you. Opera moves me. And yet none of it is real. Therein lies the crux of what you need to understand: Something does not need to be real for it to have an effect. The instruments and song, the drama and melodrama, the pathos and tragedy. It's a lie. A fiction. And yet what happens on the stage speaks a kind of truth just the same. Facts and truth are separate things. I am more interested in truth than I am fact. I am comfortable with artifice when it suits our needs. And here, it does."

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