



## Star Wars: Episode III: Revenge of the Sith

*Matthew Woodring Stover , George Lucas (Story & Screenplay)*

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The turning point for the entire Star Wars saga is at hand

After years of civil war, the Separatists have battered the already faltering Republic nearly to the point of collapse. On Coruscant, the Senate watches anxiously as Supreme Chancellor Palpatine aggressively strips away more and more constitutional liberties in the name of safeguarding the Republic. Yoda, Mace Windu, and their fellow Masters grapple with the Chancellor's disturbing move to assume control of the Jedi Council. And Anakin Skywalker, the prophesied Chosen One, destined to bring balance to the Force, is increasingly consumed by his fear that his secret love, Senator Padmé Amidala, will die.

As the combat escalates across the galaxy, the stage is set for an explosive endgame: Obi-Wan undertakes a perilous mission to destroy the dreaded Separatist military leader General Grievous. Palpatine, eager to secure even greater control, subtly influences public opinion to turn against the Jedi. And a conflicted Anakin—tormented by unspeakable visions—edges dangerously closer to the brink of a galaxy-shaping decision. It remains only for Darth Sidious, whose shadow looms ever larger, to strike the final staggering blow against the Republic . . . and to ordain a fearsome new Sith Lord: Darth Vader.

Based on the screenplay of the eagerly anticipated final film in George Lucas's epic saga, bestselling Star Wars author Matthew Stover's novel crackles with action, captures the iconic characters in all their complexity, and brings a space opera masterpiece full circle in stunning style.

Features a bonus section following the novel that includes a primer on the *Star Wars* expanded universe, and over half a dozen excerpts from some of the most popular *Star Wars* books of the last thirty years!

## Star Wars: Episode III: Revenge of the Sith Details

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Author : Matthew Woodring Stover , George Lucas (Story & Screenplay)

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## From Reader Review Star Wars: Episode III: Revenge of the Sith for online ebook

### Sonia says

I'll be upfront & say that my rating for this one is entirely subjective & not related to the actual quality of the writing so much as the intensity of my feels for these characters.

Writing-wise, this is a very pulpy read, true to the time it was written. Seemingly unable to pick a single metaphor for every scene, he unloads bucketfuls of them on the reader's head, to the point where it's hard to tell sometimes what's going on and who's doing what (especially during fight scenes; often I followed along only because I rewatched the movie so recently that I could see the scenes in my mind). His imagery is haphazard and often confusing, muddling his meaning rather than bringing it into focus.

It's also heavy on the "tell" aspect, going into lengthy "this is who such and such is and how they're feeling right now" 2nd POV passages where he spells everything out rather than letting the action speak for itself. The pacing is also off sometimes, where he will expend a lot of effort and pages building up the tension and then skim over the climax in a paragraph or two (most notably, Anakin's crash-landing of Count Dooku's ship on Coruscant & the final confrontation between Anakin and Obi Wan).

That said, I really, *really* enjoyed this book.

I am going to add favorite quotes that put my feels into overdrive, later, but for now I have to say that if there's one thing this book does well, it's fill in the gaps left by the movie about Anakin's fall to the dark side. In the movie, it seemed like Anakin was too dumb to live (while still being roguishly charming, to be entirely fair). In the book, Palpatine's machinations are in no way subtle, but throughout the scenes we can follow Anakin's rationale all the way through, so it feels much more like a natural character development. The Anakin & Obi Wan feels are strong too, because their dynamic is done so well that the narrator really shouldn't need to explicitly tell us they are bestest of friends and closer than brothers, because we see it in the way they react to each other. The only disappointing bit about this is that all that beautiful camaraderie ended up mostly as wasted potential, because the heartbreak of the final confrontation could have been a lot more soul-crushing if he'd handled it a bit better. Not that I'm not going to spend the rest of my life sobbing about Anakin, but y'know.

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### QUOTES (warning: purple prose ahoy)

\*\*\*\*\*

"I love you," he said. "This won't take long. Wait for me."

Fresh tears streamed onto her ivory cheeks, and she threw herself into his arms. "Always, Anakin. Forever. Come back to me, my love - my *life*. Come back to me."

He smiled down on her. "You say that like I'm already gone."

\*\*\*\*\*

San Hill recoiled, hands flapping like panicked birds sewn to his wrists. He had time to gasp, "You're -

you're *Anakin Skywalker!*" before a fountain of blue-white plasma burned into his chest, curving through a loop that charred all three of his hearts.

The Separatist leadership watched in frozen horror as the corpse of the head of the InterGalactic Banking Clan collapsed like a depowered protocol droid.

"The resemblance," Darth Vader said, "is deceptive."

\*\*\*\*\*

*( note: this entire passage reads like a YOU CHOSE WRONG ending in a Choose Your Own Adventure book, and the one-line paragraphs are obnoxious, and the 2nd person POV should be ritually sacrificed. But it hit the jackpot on my Anakin feels, and so it's going here regardless. )*

This is how it feels to be Anakin Skywalker, forever:

The first dawn of light in your universe brings pain.

The light burns you. It will always burn you. Part of you will always lie upon black glass sand beside a lake of fire while flames chew upon your flesh.

You can hear yourself breathing. It comes hard, and harsh, and it scrapes nerves already raw but you cannot stop it. You can never stop it. You cannot even slow it down.

You don't even have lungs anymore.

Mechanisms hardwired into your chest breathe for you. They will pump oxygen into your bloodstream forever.

*Lord Vader? Lord Vader, can you hear me?*

And you can't, not in the way you once did. Sensors in the shell that prisons your head trickle meaning directly into your brain.

You open your scorched-pale eyes, optical sensors integrate light and shadow into a hideous simulacrum of the world around you.

Or perhaps the simulacrum is perfect, and it is the world that is hideous.

[...]

You remember *all of it*.

You remember the dragon that you brought forth from your heart to slay. You remember the cold venom in Vader's blood. You remember the furnace of Vader's fury, and the black hatred of seizing her throat to silence her lying mouth -

And there is one blazing moment in which you finally understand that there was no dragon. That there was no Vader. That there was only you. Only Anakin Skywalker.

That it was all you. Is you.

Only you. You did it. You killed her.

You killed her because, finally, when you could have saved her, when you could have gone away with her, when you could have been thinking about her, you were only thinking about yourself...

I is in this blazing moment that you finally understand the trap of the dark side, the final cruelty of the Sith -

Because now your *self* is all you will ever have.

\*\*\*\*\*

JUST LEAVE ME HERE TO DIE.GIF

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## **TheBookHunter says**

### **"Once more the Sith will rule the galaxy!"**

Matthew Stover presents the novelization of the third and final chapter in the Star Wars prequels. Revenge of the Sith is the tale of the final days of the chaotic Clone Wars, and with it, the fall of the Republic, destruction of the Jedi Order, rise of the Empire, and lastly the revenge...of the Sith.

I thoroughly enjoy Episode III the movie, and in an ongoing mission to collect and read through the books of the Star Wars universe, I had many recommendations to pick this up as some would argue it's the best of the prequel trilogy novelizations and I honestly see why.

This book evoked many emotions from me, honestly more so than the actual movie did. Stover manages to take all of the drama written in the movie and amp it up, and write the characters so that you really feel for them.

An example being you understand Anakin Skywalker's motivations more so you can feel for him as he gradually sinks lower and lower into the Dark Side. Which that was the biggest fix to this story.

The villains are fleshed out better such as Count Dooku and General Grievous, and especially Darth Sidious. It was intriguing to learn what drove them to do what they do.

This book just adds heaps more of great character moments that were ultimately cut from the movie simply because of the restraints of being a movie.

Besides all the great scenes, Stover as I said takes the drama and raises it up.

While I was reading there was just this sense of darkness looming throughout this story that just increases especially around the time that Mace Windu and the Jedi Masters confront Palpatine all the way to the end when Darth Vader is born.

It was written in a masterfully dreadful and foreboding way that emphasizes it being the darkest chapter in the Star Wars saga.

Find a copy of this book, you will have a greater appreciation for the movie after you read it!

## Alejandro says

### Lord Vader... rise!

Once again, fellow readers in the Force, if you have been reading my reviews about *Star Wars* film novelizations, you already know that I'll do several spoilers in this review (which is quite the opposite to my regular kind of reviews, but with *Star Wars* movie novelizations is quite hard not to fall into spoilers in the reviews while I am writing them. Don't say I didn't warn you!

### YOUNGLINGS

*Revenge of the Sith* is the darkest moment of *Star Wars* movies, since it's when Anakin Skywalker finally meets his fate in the balance of the Force.

It's kinda funny that good ol' Georgie thought that using the word "younglings" would make a milder impact on people instead of saying plainly "kids" or "children", when Anakin does the unspeakable act against the youngest students in the Jedi Temple.

Also, I think that The Force is quite permissive, about who enters into it,...

...since in *Episode VI*, you can watch Anakin as a ghost along with his pals, so it seems that you can massacre entire Tusken Raiders' town (men, women and children) and killing "younglings" at the Jedi Temple, for not saying all the Jedi that he must kill at the following Jedi purge, etc... and still you can become one with the Force...

...yes, he repented from his sins before Luke, but hey, he did **A LOT** of **VERY BAD** things, so The Force should have some kind of purgatory I think, since it seems that got away with your evil deeds in life is kinda too easy and you still becoming one with The Force.

### SO WHAT'S DIFFERENT HERE ANYWAY?

Movie versus book, you can find here...

...that Palpatine reveals himself openly to the readers since the beginning of the book, instead that the movies, that if you hadn't read the expanded universe old novels, it wasn't clear that Darth Sidious and Chancellor Palpatine were one and the same. Moreover, during the novel, Palpatine goes into deeper details of his master plan to defeat the Jedi Order.

...Dooku was fooled thinking that he will be part of a ruling triumvirate along with Anakin and Palpatine, and oddly, Dooku isn't that powerful in comparison to Anakin, since in canonical novels and animated TV episodes, it was evident that no lone Jedi could be able to beat Dooku in a duel.

...also quite odd, General Grievous didn't have the cough, result after his battle against Mace Windu.

...but the prize to the oddest in the book is that all scenes in Kashyyyk (the Wookiee homeworld) aren't

developed!!!

...while you can feel it something about it in the movie, on the book it's quite clear that Anakin is jealous of Obi-Wan and fearing that his master would be having a secret affair with Padme.

...the Jedis that go with Mace Windu to arrest Palpatine, do a kinda better battle, instead than in the movie were they're beaten too easily.

...on the book is quite disturbing to read how much Anakin enjoys to kill Separatist Leaders once he turned to the Dark Side.

...you have clear access to the thoughts of Darth Vader once inside the protective armor, in his bitter process of truly becoming someone totally different than Anakin.

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## Ron says

A Greek tragedy, that's what it is...or is supposed to be.

Stover managed to expand the cinematic story of Episode Three into something richer and deeper than the movie. With only minor plot expansions, he takes us into the thoughts, motives and emotions of the players.

We despair as we witness doom's inexorable approach. But, like Pandora's Box, after all the evils escaped into the world--galaxy, the last spirit out was hope.

So be it.

(fade to theme music.)

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## pamsreading says

### Updates 23.06.16

Yoda, please shove your pompous ass somewhere in a place where the sun doesn't shine. I'm also looking at you, Mundi and Windu.

### Updates 14.06.16

One of the most poetic and disturbing books within the realm popular fiction ever. A must read if you wonder why sometimes a seemingly normal person with conscience goes batshit crazy, clinically mad. And why fallen individuals keep falling and do not put effort into resisting. Suggestive passages and double entendre are highly crafty. The language woven is so beautiful I could cry, nonetheless it doesn't takeaway the disturbing parts, only enhances them.

### Updates 22.05.16

I have just decided about the rating. 4 stars given but it's a 5 stars in its own right. The only reason it's 4 is because imo ep. I and ep. II novelisations outdone this one. As well as there are some frustrating/bugging canonically inconsistent elements and macho elements. This is ALMOST perfect. Nonetheless it's an

excellent read within its field of Popular Fiction.

## Review

*"Love is more than a candle.  
Love can ignite the stars."*

But stars die and explode into supernovas and the cores become blackholes, I should stop.

*"With a kick that hard? Definitely a girl."*

I usually write a long review but... sorry [incoherently screaming and sobbing]

Padme is depressed about political turmoil and Anakin growing derangement meanwhile she's also pregnant, Obi-Wan is too by-the-book as well as a kind and compassionate being but also is a righteous asshole, and Anakin is obviously mentally ill.

The last third is disturbingly about Oedipus complex though. People often view Obi-Wan as Anakin's father figure and raise him as such, basically perceiving such a bond & perspective in a good light & fluffy point of view. Little did they know, in order for the son to reach the final goal, the father figure itself must be destroyed. It is known that Anakin thought of Obi-Wan as a father figure but paid no mind, however The repression and dynamics came into a full circle with the help of Palpatine's manipulation.

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## Crystal Starr Light says

"Even stars die"

Palpatine has been abducted from Coruscant in a daring attack from General Grievous of the Separatists. Anakin and Obi-Wan head off to rescue the Chancellor. Thus begins the end of the Republic...and the rise of the Empire.

I Liked:

THIS is what the prequels should have been. THIS is what the movie should have been. This is the pinnacle of Star Wars novelizations, the best showcase of characters, of story, of background, of setting, of action, of dialogue, of everything that readers love.

When I first heard that Stover was penning this novel, I knew it would be good. I loved Stover's other Star Wars entries. But I still was a little unsure. Could Stover pull it off?

Now, I realize what a stupid question that is.

Stover has a masterful hand at writing, at writing a tortured character like Anakin, and writing a book as deep, as heavy, as ominous as *Revenge of the Sith*. For the most part, Stover uses third person limited--except for his brilliant "This is..." scenes, where he switches to second person present. As most readers and writers know, second person is rare in a novel and rarely well done. Stover sees that and laughs in its face. His "This is..." scenes are personal, gritty, introspective views on the characters, emotions, and feelings of the moment.

His grasp of the characters is excellent. From Anakin and Obi-Wan to Yoda and Bail, his characters are real, they are consistent with their on-screen presence, and they are sympathetic, most notably Anakin. At the

core, Revenge of the Sith is Anakin's story, and it is vastly personal. We learn why he wants to be a master (because Jedi Masters have access into Restricted areas of the archives--areas that could contain information on how to save Padme), his friendship with Palpatine, his burden at being the Chosen One (best line ever: "Why couldn't people let me be? Why did their problems have to be his problems?"), and how confused and conflicted he was at having to betray Palpatine, his dear friend. I got so much more about Anakin from this book than I have from multiple viewings of the movie.

Throughout the story, there are beautiful scenes where the characters show they are much more intelligent than their on-screen versions. Mace and Yoda recognize the risk of Sidious and the Dark Side and attempt to lay a trap...a trap that ultimately backfires. Bail and Mon Mothma start the Loyalist committee, something that ended on the cutting room floor, but needed to be in the movie. Even Padme comes out a much better character, being smart and cunning, yet tender and broken-hearted (to the point where I could almost understand her dying of a broken heart).

And then, Stover shows he did his homework and acknowledges continuity. Of course, we get Tatooine, Own, and Naboo references, but also expect to see Garm Bel Iblis, Anxion, and Subataars crop out. I love it when an author takes the time to reference other material.

#### I Didn't Like:

This is such an amazing book, finding flaws were nearly impossible. But I did feel the first battle with Dooku, Anakin, and Obi-Wan on Grievous' ship did go an awful long time. Also, do not expect a word by word transcript of the movie (I think this is actually an asset).

#### Dialogue/Sexual Situations/Violence:

H\*\*\* crops up.

Padme is pregnant.

Where this book is notable is its violence. Stover doesn't hold back on battles, starfighting (is there anything he can't write), and lightsaber duels (particularly the last one is gruesome).

#### Overall:

This is a stunning work of art. It blows all the other novelizations out of the water. Heck, it shatters most Star Wars Expanded Universe (and I am even including Timothy Zahn's works here!). This is a brilliant, heartfelt novel, a novel about a man's destruction, about the end of everything. There were times my heart ached along with the characters as they endured the pain, and that isn't an easy feat for an author to accomplish, even a good one. Even if you have seen the movie, even if you are not a Star Wars fan, you need to read this book. Five stars.

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## Eleai says

This story is interesting in that George Lucas didn't really give Stover a lot to work with. From the movies, Lucas gave us a vague sense that Anakin was a cool person who was really friendly with Obi-Wan, and that he was supposedly the best Jedi and blah blah blah. Plus, he makes the fall of Anakin Skywalker just about the lamest one ever. Going by that alone, there really is not that much of a story.

Stover, however, is fantastic in his novelization of Revenge of the Sith. He manages to take slightly boring and even unlikable characters, and vapid and forced plot-line and even really bad dialog and produce something absolutely amazing. Stover's prose in this story is absolutely beautiful--his juxtaposition of second and third person and his mix of viewpoint and perspective make this story wonderful. We are put, quite literally, into the hearts and minds of main characters. We rise in their triumphs, fall with their defeats, and are left devastated in the wake of their destruction. This book is predictable--I mean, we all know how the story ends. And yet, even as it winds to its close, even as we grow ever closer to the birth of Darth Vader

(who is a favorite of mine), I found myself wishing there was a way to salvage the man who was Anakin Skywalker.

Stover is brilliant in his handling of the characters. The relationships and bonds he builds between them is powerful, believable and completely compelling. The relationship between Anakin and Obi-Wan is beautiful. Obi-Wan manages to simultaneously be a best friend, a father, a brother, a comrade in arms, a master, and a teacher, but Stover's execution is flawless. It is completely believable, this interconnection and dynamic, a natural product of the path they have been on for so long. You can feel the ties between the two men, the absolute love and trust they have. But you can also see the cracks, the little pin pricks of uncertainty, of mistrust, of fear and even anger and resentment. And those imperfect pieces are what really makes the relationship so real. Because no relationship is perfect, and no two people can be that close and not have those little issues that only make them stronger. But they also make it possible to break.

Where Stover truly triumphs, however, is in the fall of Anakin. He moves the story along at a rapid and acceptable pace, but he still manages to completely build a character who is beautiful in his devastation. Anakin is a volatile person, and everything he feels, he feels strongly. With Anakin, love is overwhelming, all consuming, and it severely tests the limits of his carefully created control. His love for his wife almost borders on obsessive, but it is tempered by her reaction to him and their obvious bond. His complete devotion to Obi-Wan and Palpatine make him vulnerable and fragile, and all of these relationships are what increase his potential to fall. He is a study of contradictions, a warrior whose bravery and skills are known throughout the galaxy, but he lives in fear, a constant, never abating sense of terror that he can never save them all, that he can not stop the inevitable loss of those he loves. His mother's death gnaws at him, as do the deaths of friends and soldiers throughout the war. The unrelenting pressure, the desperate need to be a savior and too keep everyone safe--all of this builds to explain why he falls, and how quickly he does.

Stover is a beautiful writer, and though I've read the book many times, I still get goosebumps, I still cry, and I am still left in awe of what he has created. This remains one of the most brilliant works I have ever read, and continues to be an inspiration to me in terms of writing and authorship. I am gushing now, so I'll end this before it gets to be too much. But never has a book earned the five stars than this one.

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### **Reese Copeland says**

Loved the book because it gave a lot more detail into the story than what was on the screen.

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### **Marisa says**

This is probably my fifth or sixth reread, so I'm definitely not objective. But I would say that the depth of character shown here more than makes up for what was an exciting yet somewhat disappointing film.

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### **S. M. Metzler says**

I actually give this book six stars.

Here's my defense for the Prequels in a nutshell: Revenge of the Sith.

Just Revenge of the Sith.

I've never really been a fan of books written off movies as much as I am vice versa. But just recently, Goody, a Star Wars nut and a fellow Constant Collectible contributor, brought the universe of Star Wars books to my awareness with his book reviews of several. Star Wars books. That are written well. To put it simply, I was absolutely elated. I read *The Phantom Menace*, followed by *Attack of the Clones*, with *Dark Disciple* close behind. But then I started reading *Revenge of the Sith* and my view of Star Wars has been forever changed. The universe of Star Wars had, after all, begun with the key character from *Revenge of the Sith*: Vader.

I couldn't believe a Star Wars book could be written so amazingly well. I kept taking notes on the writing style, was unable to put it down, and I found myself clicking the 5-star rating on Goodreads and wishing for at least a 5 ½ option. What the movie had failed in, the book had succeeded, and excelled in everything else. I found the writing had grabbed me and thrust me into its magic. It was that good.

The movie *Revenge of the Sith* is a great movie, but it has a very puny story compared to the book, and that's saying a lot. I've always been fascinated by Anakin Skywalker and his journey to becoming Darth Vader, and my fascination only grew with reading the book. The characterization was written so well, it was much more emotionally tugging, and the writing style only complemented it. Much of the book was a lot of Anakin's inward thoughts. This made his actions believable and real. His problems generated sympathy.

As for the other characters? I was pleasantly surprised. The POV constantly switched between Anakin, Padme, Obi-Wan, Mace, and even Dooku and Grievous. In fact, the author introduced each character so well I felt like I understood each of them way better than I would have even after watching the movie twenty times. Each character, as they entered into the story, were given a brief one and half page-long introduction before the narrative continued. Sometimes past tense became present tense. However, one very interesting thing in the book was so unique and well written, it stuck in my mind the most: In one of the first scenes of the book, during Obi-Wan's and Anakin's flight to rescue the Chancellor, Anakin's piloting skills using the Force were explained using metaphors of musical terms. This was probably the most impressive thing to me as far as the writing skills go, possibly because I am as passionate a musician as I am a writer.

I also loved the personalization of the Dark side of the Force. In the beginning and end, and in between each Part, there is a paragraph about the Dark side, beautifully and hauntingly written.

There was only one thing that disappointed me. Remember the scene from the movie when Anakin-now-Darth-Vader is leading an army of clones up the Jedi Temple (also called *March on the Jedi Temple*, which is the name of the soundtrack for the scene)? This is, in my opinion, one of the key scenes in the story, to show how powerful Anakin has really become ... and the music adds the perfect final touch. This scene is missing from the book. I'll let you rant.

The most emotionally gut-wrenching and gruesome scene from the movie, where Anakin lies, limb-less, as the fire burns off his flesh, was a scene that was, thankfully, not over-written or unnecessarily elaborated. It was kept short, to the point, and not as painful to read as it had been painful to watch ... but it didn't help as the pictures from the movie were clear in my head. The dialog was the same.

Overall, I doubt I'll read another Star Wars book that is as good or better than this one. Matthew Stover is now my new favorite author, and I was quite happy to learn he has written other Star Wars books. The Revenge of the Sith is the book you are looking for, complete with the mastery every writer must learn from and enjoy, from plot, to character arcs, to style, to emotion and suspense. I highly recommend this book to not just every Star Wars fan, but even to people who aren't even sci-fi nerds, simply for its being a good book. This is how a Star Wars book is written. Done right.

Here! Read the rest of my review here!

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## Shainna says

I'm about to blaspheme here, but this book is better than the movie.

This book slows the movie down and explores the characters so Anakin's fall is painfully believable. It takes a line from TPM, "Afraid to lose her, are you?" and shows how important that comment and Anakin's reply were. Anakin didn't fall for power, he fell out of fear.

It takes Padme and gives her the role she should have had in the movie - despite very important scenes being cut - and shows that her death came not from a failed romance, but the absolute devastation of her life: everything she loved and worked for were gone. It shows her as the Mother of the Rebellion, a fighter to the end.

Stover keeps the humor and somehow turns the cringey dialogue (the balcony scene) and somehow writes it so it's fine.

At times the prose might be called purple (the introduction, the "this is how it feels to be \_\_\_\_\_", and the final paragraphs) but it works so damn well the lines will surface in my mind all the time.

The little tidbits of Anakin and Padme as parents ("With a kick that hard? Definitely a girl.") are heartbreaking.

A lot of fans love the opera scene in the movie, I don't particularly enjoy it, but I adore the "What do you want?" scene in this book. "Corellia, I'll take Corellia." "The planet or the system?" The Tragedy of Darth Plagueis the Wise holds nothing compared to, "You have to do what you want." That's the seduction of the Dark Side for Anakin, the fear and his want - not the immortality, but the solution to his fears so he can have what he wants.

This is one book I did not put down, I read it cover to cover the moment I got it and consumed it and I carried it around with me to reread sections from time to time.

This book, my stars, is amazing.

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## Kimie says

This book really was a little gem to find and read.

I remember buying this just before the movie came back in 2005, and was surprisingly shocked by how rich and well written it was. For a movie based on a film. This book is by far better than the movie it is based upon, which you would think is strange considering the movie is more the 'source material' in this instance. But reading this was a joy. You really get to see the pressures that all the characters were under during the war and the events around it. It's detailed, and as others have said, yes it's a tragedy of sorts. From the strain of a relationship to the downfall of a man, to the death of many characters, this book has everything that the movie just doesn't get to show you.

One of my absolute favourite things about this book is that you get to see things happen that didn't happen in the movie, but when you read the book you think that it would logically fit in, and it would happen. Some moments I think were a shame not to include in the film, but that's why we have the book : so we can read back to it and find out more. Such a good read, I would recommend to any Star Wars fan, or just any person in general who wasn't completely satisfied with what the film had to offer.

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## Alex says

Matthew Stover is a greater talent than Charles Dickens, Henry James and Proust all rolled into one. Ok, perhaps not. Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith may not be \*quite\* as good as A Tale of Two Cities but it surely takes some kind of genius to take a Lucas prequel screenplay and turn it into a 5-star worthy novel; Lucas' movie, Revenge of the Sith is, after all a laughable mockery of what originally made Star Wars so great. It's easy to write-off a terrible movie as badly written when one sees the finished result when in fact that problem lies elsewhere. Lucas' characterisations are wooden, badly acted, spout terrible dialogue and jump around horribly overproduced CGI sets. Perhaps these things led me to be overtly hung up on the implausibility of the central focus of the script, Anakin's hasty switch to the dark side, a seemingly irrational decision to turn his back on the Jedi Order and become evil through the hope of saving his one true love.

These problems still exist within Stover's novel, of course, but I felt much more inclined to overlook them since – unlike when I watched Lucas' movie – I was enjoying myself reading it so much. In place of Lucas' lamentably sloppy direction we have a quality author at the top of his game who is able to paint the picture of a convincing and entertaining sci-fi opera with ridiculous ease. Within the first hundred pages, an extended sequence in which Anakin and Obi-Wan rescue Palpatine, kill Dooku and battle with General Grievous I felt completely immersed in the Star Wars universe in a way I hadn't since watching the original trilogy as a child. The writing isn't always dense, deep or lyrically beautiful but it is slick and made for the perfect space opera, shifting effortlessly between thoughtful scene setting, entertaining battle scenes to fully fleshed out character bios and convincing and credible emotions when its needed. Whereas, for instance, most novelization writers would simply detail the opening scenes of the movie, throwing in the occasional emotional phrase and internalised thought to break up the monotony and make the character seem real, Stover really switches it up and makes the screenplay his own by creating his own narrative structures, focusing on character more than event and making every single segment feel important to the bigger picture. When Anakin kills Dooku in the movie, Palpatine snarls and Anakin he simply kills Dooku (Lucas cuts away, of course, de-emphasizing the moment); it's just another run-of-the-mill action scene. When Anakin kills Dooku in the novel, there's drama and content. It feels hard fought, emotional and staggeringly important.

More importantly Stover understands the Star Wars universe better than Lucas himself does nowadays. Whereas Lucas thinks that Star Wars is primarily about entertaining children, Stover gears his material firmly towards older teenagers, making it feel lived in and dangerous rather than childish. Also, whereas Lucas plays Anakin's transition from good to bad as a personal melodramatic tragedy, Stover treats it as pure crazed insanity. It's still unbelievable and over the top, of course, but Stover has belief and conviction in his

material and he has the weight of his novel behind him to such an extent that I was twitching nervously as Anakin runs around slicing people to bits, feeling that this was genuinely quite an awful thing to have happened. I cared that Palpatine brought down the Republic, I cared that Padme died and I cared for the eventual fate of baby Luke and Leia.

Why did I care? Because this novel is just such a lot of goddamn fun. Whilst there are a lot of ideas about light, dark, the force, Shatterpoints and copious amounts of other Jedi nonsense included within, it doesn't expect you to buy it as a deep and meaningful Shakespearian tragedy, but as the light hearted exciting epic that Star Wars was always meant to be. This is the Star Wars prequel that we'd all been waiting for, for years. This is the prequel that Lucas failed to deliver. This is a right good laugh and a highly recommended read. No, it really isn't Shakespeare, sorry but it deserves every one of its five stars regardless.

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### **Katelyn Patterson says**

I don't normally go for novelizations, but Stover's telling of Episode III enhances the story and makes the characters more likeable and understandable. This title fills in so many holes for me. You are able to feel Anakin's struggle. Jedi aren't the good guys. And my goodness, Padme isn't completely a whimpering sack of potatoes.

I also highly recommend the audiobook version. Narrator Jonathan Davis does a fantastic job. His Yoda and Obi-wan vocals are spot on. The production is great weaving John Williams' musical themes and sound effects throughout. Not only do we hear Artoo's blips and beeps, but Stover also gives the little astromech droid a voice by providing us with translation.

I was hesitant to check this out, but my husband kept insisting I would like it. Very glad I finally did!

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### **Blamp Head says**

*So, I liked this book so much that I thought I'd ask some of the characters for their thoughts.*

#### **Contains spoilers**

Matthew Stover: The perfect biographer of my rise to the top job. Forget about those previous two books; paltry attempts to display my magnificence. You really get a sense in this one of *just* how much effort I went to. Really quite a lot. You know, one war down, the Jedi dispensed with... A bit more epic detail than in my movie, and a great deal more word craft. Of course, now I've got a bit more plastic surgery needed, though not sure I'll bother. Anyway, couldn't be more pleased. Must get going... places to oppress, evil to inflict...  
- The Emperor

Much better than the other prequel novelizations, this book is. Not a bit crap, was it.  
- Yoda

I FIND STOVER'S LACK OF FAITH IN ME DISTURBING. AT THE END I WAS AN EMOTIONAL WRECK, AND IT LEFT ME IN PIECES. SERIOUSLY.  
- Darth Vader

Well, it painted me in a very nice light, so of course I'm grateful for that. A most engaging book. I couldn't

possibly neglect to mention that it actually adds something over the movie, whereas instead of reading the previous two books you may as well just sit down in front of the movies with a blue liqueur in hand. And a death stick or two, perhaps. You'd save time! So this had that over the others. Still, not a bit happy with the outcome. He was my brother!

- Obi Wan Kenobi

Frankly, I didn't understand a word of it. Oh dear, what was that, my little friend...? Oh, yes. R2D2 wants me to pass on his remarks that none of it was his fault. The idiot. I'm sure it was.

- C3PO

The book was so enthralling that I forgot myself and left my head in one of the earlier chapters. How clumsy of me.

- Count Dooku

Meesa annoyed meesa hardly had any time in deesa book!

- You-know-who. He who must not be named, THE DARK ONE

*Luke and Leia declined to comment owing to their crippling condition of being newborns.*

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## **Nicole says**

Not your typical novelisation of a film. It reads more like something the film could've been based on--more complex, more detailed, really gets into the characters' heads.

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## **Victoria says**

I've always enjoyed the Prequels. I find them intelligent and complex films despite their shortcomings, and I don't think people who hate on them understand that complexity.

Anyway. Maybe this novel will help, even though it's only the last one of the trilogy. It's stunning and phenomenal and amazing in every way possible.

The writing style. Most other Star Wars novels I've attempted reading sound like cheesy, badly-written fanfiction. But Stover's prose is indescribable. It's rich and beautiful, but not pretentious, overwhelming the story. If nothing else, the prose is the reason this book is a delight to read. I didn't keep a careful eye all the time, but a couple times it felt like Stover slightly shifts the writing style when the POV shifts, which I found masterfully done.

The development of the characters. As much as I love watching films, they do have their limitations when it comes to developing characters. The novel takes the reader deep into the emotions and struggles and effects of their past of many of the more minor characters, and the complexity is beautiful. I love the character of Mace Windu, his struggles, his inner connection with the dark. However overall, Obi-Wan will always be my favorite. He's always been my favorite character of the Prequels, and this novel just continued forming and shaping what I knew of him. The novel offers a deep insight into his struggles and fears and makes him so much more compelling and relatable.

The themes. If not anything else, this. You have your main themes in the film, but the novel digs deeper into

them and others which are not explicit in the film. For example, the bondage of legalism, how the Jedi Order was largely at fault for what happened because they were blinded by their own irrelevant rules. I don't want to spoil anything, but the book explores that deeper than the film does, which is fantastic.

It might just have been me, but I did feel like the beginning was too drawn-out and elaborated, while the ending was rather rushed. For a climax it didn't have the length it should have. Also there were one or two scenes that could have used a better POV. (There was one scene which was very heavily emotional for the other characters, but it was written from Threepio's perspective. It felt like lazy writing.)

Otherwise, this novel is perfect and there's so much more to it I didn't talk about. Even if you haven't seen the Star Wars films, read this. It's a phenomenal book on its own.

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## Nienke says

*“The dark is generous, and it is patient, and it always wins. It always wins because it is everywhere. It is in the wood that burns in your hearth, and in the kettle on the fire; it is under your chair and under your table and under the sheets of your bed. Walk in the midday sun and the dark is with you, attached to the soles of your feet. The brightest light casts the darkest shadow.”*

Palpatine has been abducted from Coruscant and it's Anakin's and Obi-Wan's mission to free the Supreme Chancellor. With this begins the end of the Republic and the rise of the Empire. Some people aren't who they seem to be and in the end it's hard to understand whom to trust.

Anakin Skywalker, the Chosen One, destined to bring balance to the Force, is consumed by his fear of losing Padmé. He will do whatever it takes to save her, even if it means destroying what he used to be. He seeks for answers. Only the answers lay on the wrong side of the Force. Palpatine is willing to give them, but in doing so, Anakin has to become the apprentice of the most powerful Sith Lord the galaxy has ever known. Padmé, being pregnant with their child, is also afraid of losing him. She's so loyal and won't dare to lie to him. Anakin, on the other hand, does this on a regular basis.

While the Republic is fighting for its democracy and the Jedi are fighting the Sith, Anakin is fighting against his fears. His dragon. He thinks his new powers will be the answer to every question. Most importantly; for saving Padmé. Because love won't save her, his new powers will. It's tragic, really, because in the end, love is what kills her. Anakin, being so blinded by his love, makes him possessive and jealous. When Padmé is hurt, by his doing, he won't let Obi-Wan take her to a medical-droid, because she's his and no one can touch her.

Palpatine uses Padmé against Anakin, because he knows she's his weak spot. He will do anything to save her. Palpatine only wants Anakin for his own purposes; to train him, so he can become an even greater Sith. Anakin in the end is so manipulated and brainwashed by Palpatine, that he eventually turns against everyone. He's sworn his allegiance to the Dark Side. It was said he would destroy the Sith and not join them. In the end, he loses everything. His mother, his love and his limbs...(Literally) By creating Darth Vader, Anakin loses himself. His true self. In the end, he's always loved Padmé and he always will. He could never will her death, but he will remember all of it, thinking it was his fault. His new life will now be the life of Darth Vader, the villain the galaxy will now know.

What Anakin doesn't know is that Padmé gave birth to not one, but two children. Shortly after, she dies,

having lost the will to live, believing there is still good in him. Luke and Leia are being sent away for their safety, both without knowing their past. Their destiny lays ahead of them; they will be the foundation of the new Jedi Order.

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## **Annie says**

Padme deserved better.

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## **Herdis Marie says**

This is a fantastic novelisation of "Revenge of the Sith". Like many other reviewers have expressed, this novelisation is basically what we wish the film could be.

It explores the characters and their motivations much more thoroughly than the film could, or allowed itself time to do. This is particularly important with regard to Anakin's development.

In the film, his turn to the dark side seems more or less like the work of a few dramatic moments. Knowing his history, and his desperation to hold on to that which he loves, you know, as you watch it, that Anakin's turn has been the work of many, many years, still, the way the film displays it, his final turn seems rushed and slightly less than believable.

In the book, you get so close to him that his turn to evil not only becomes believable (and inevitable), but almost sympathetic. His transformation also becomes deeply tragic, as you become intimately acquainted not only with the intense pain it causes Anakin himself, but also with the pain it causes the other people in his life, most notably Padmé and Obi-Wan.

In the film, it is as if Anakin just suddenly snaps, suddenly loses his mind, and in many ways, this seems to be what happens. In the book, however, Anakin's loss of himself is a slow and gruelling process that leaves the reader almost breathless with Anakin's constant and unavoidable torment.

However, other characters and their decisions are also illuminated in this novelisation. Padmé, who, in the film, becomes little more than a prop set there to motivate Anakin and his future dark deeds, in the book retains her political importance and prowess, and is, despite her blind spot with regard to Anakin, still permitted to play a role that goes beyond her relationship with him. Thus, the book pays tribute to her character in a much more significant way.

Other characters, like Mace Windu and Yoda, are proven to be much more dynamic in the books. Mace's final failure is made so much more tragic by the admission of his passionate love for the Republic, and his inability to realise the true nature of Anakin's shatterpoint before it is too late makes him seem more vulnerable, more human, than he is permitted to appear in the films. As for Yoda, his final admission that his methods, his training, have failed the Order, makes him more accessible and makes his fate and his failure more tragic.

Obi-Wan is, in my opinion, the best developed character in the prequel films. Still, even he is illuminated significantly more in this book than he is in the film. He is much more what a Jedi "should be". He manages to become one with the Force in a way that few others can, and he does this by denying himself, his own identity, his own will. In many ways, he is the exact opposite of Anakin. It is precisely this that makes their

relationship so interesting. It is also made more potent by the fact that even though Obi-Wan can "put away" most of his feelings, can let them go, his love for Anakin is something he can't readily dismiss. This, in turn, makes Anakin's betrayal and Obi-Wan's determination to destroy him, that much more powerful, that much more tragic.

This book had me so emotionally engaged that I actually felt genuinely anxious about reading the ending. I mean, I've read it before. I've seen the film a million times. I know how it goes. It's just that this book manages to engage the reader so spectacularly well that you almost feel that you're witnessing the fates of real people.

In short, I would recommend this book to all SW-fans, particularly those that felt "Revenge of the Sith", the film, fell a little short when it came to fully describing the motivations and actions of the different characters.

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