



# No Prisoners

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## **No Prisoners** Karen Traviss

The Clone Wars rage on. As insurgent Separatists fight furiously to wrest control of the galaxy from the Republic, Supreme Chancellor Palpatine cunningly manipulates both sides for his own sinister purposes.

Torrent Company's Captain Rex agrees to temporarily relieve Anakin Skywalker of Ahsoka, his ubiquitous—and insatiably curious—Padawan, by bringing her along on a routine three-day shakedown cruise aboard Captain Gilad Pellaeon's newly refitted assault ship. But the training run becomes an active—and dangerous—rescue mission when Republic undercover agent Hallena Devis goes missing in the middle of a Separatist invasion.

Dispatched to a distant world to aid a local dictator facing a revolution, Hallena finds herself surrounded by angry freedom fighters and questioning the Republic's methods—and motives. Summoned to rescue the missing operative who is also his secret love, Pellaeon—sworn to protect the Republic over all—is torn between duty and desire. And Ahsoka, sent in with Rex and six untested clone troopers to extract Hallena, encounters a new and different Jedi philosophy, which shakes the foundation of her upbringing to the core. As danger and intrigue intensify, the loyalties and convictions of all involved will be tested. . . .

## **No Prisoners Details**

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## From Reader Review No Prisoners for online ebook

### Roberta says

Her Clone Wars era books just rock! This book has a solid plot; kind of ordinary or so it seems. Captain Pellaeon is taking his ship, Leveler on a shakedown cruise to get the kinks out. Naturally, he doesn't get left alone. First, he has Captain Rex and a few of his men (not the whole company) on board along with Ahsoka (Anakin has gone home to get some quality time with Padme and thrust her on Rex). Then, a group of Jedi in favor of attachment led by Master Altis that includes Callista and her first lover (before Luke). The ship has major problems, and Pellaeon's lover is a Republic spy who sends out a distress call. Naturally, his ship is closest. Hijinks ensue.

The best part of this book isn't the action sequences; those are fine, but play second to the inner monologue of the main characters--Pellaeon, Altis, Rex, Ahsoka, Anakin, Callista, and Pellaeon's lady. Traviss distills the Jedi Order's problem down to Yoda's problem with attachment. Jedi getting married go to the dark side yet Ki Adi Mundi is allowed to marry because Cereans have a low population (Why doesn't he go to the dark side?). If you find this sort of discussion fascinating, you should read the book. I loved it.

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### Jessie says

I haven't been a big fan of this entire era, let alone the series, but this book was far better than the rest. Don't get me wrong, it's not spectacular, but it points out some of the big glaring holes in the prequel SW universe. Also, it's the only book I've read so far that gives any plausible explanation for Anakin's quick fall to the dark side. Still don't think it was well done, but at least this book tried.

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### Donna says

The Good News:

Anakin, my least favorite Star Wars characters of all time, wasn't nearly as annoying in this one as he usually is. Probably because his role was minor. Padme was in this one and I like her, even though her role was minuscule. I liked the title and how it was part of the plot.

The Bad News:

This one wasn't my favorite Star Wars book. The story didn't quite grab me. And it left me with this question. Is there some secret underlying reason on why the Jedi can't marry? I know reasons are mentioned, especially in this one, but it just does not seem reasonable. I'd think they would want little Jedis running around. Just my 2 cents.

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### Ron says

One of the best Star Wars books I've read (and I've read 79). Traviss gets right inside people and makes them live and you care about them.

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Paradoxically, this story is so far out of the main stream of the SW universe that it's almost general science fiction. Though it has a few of the Big Names, they don't contribute much to the plot. Yes, it could have been more complicated and it could have been longer, but for the thoughtful reader it provides plenty to think about--which is something few other SW books do.

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### **Luke Charles says**

I thought this was the best Star Wars book I have ever read. Admittedly I have only read a few but I thought that the characterizations in this novel were superb. This book makes you think about the life of a clone trooper and makes you asks serious questions about the Jedi order. Good action but what makes this a superior book is the questions it raises . Enjoy!

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### **Gail says**

As always, Karen Traviss (who once told me that Walt Disney was "a Nazi b\*\*\*\*\*d," by the way) proves why she's such a great author in the Star Wars universe. Nobody writes the Clone Wars era most realistically, and humanly, than she does. Her characters recognize the absurdity of a conflict involving mysteriously discovered soldiers who were bred and programmed to fight and likely die with no consent in the matter. I always enjoy a book that points out the extreme short-sightedness and convenient morality of the too often exalted Jedi. I also enjoyed this book for reminding me of some characters I've long loved, making one in particular that I can't stand almost palatable, and even bringing back a character who has otherwise been a bit of a joke in the Expanded Universe. Kudos to Karen Traviss for yet another success!

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### **Robert says**

Generally excellent, even though I get the impression that Traviss really wanted to tell the story of Gil and Hallena, but needed to include Anakin, Rex and Ahsoka to maintain continuity with the TV series. The character of Altis and his followers were also very intriguing, I'd love to find out more about how they spent the War.

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### **Crystal Starr Light says**

“The choice is always with us, demanding to be made with every action we take, even in peacetime” Anakin has sent Ahsoka with Captain Rex as the two observe the testing of a new ship, the Leveller, commanded by Gilad Pellaeon. But things go awry when Hallena Devis, a Republic spy and Pellaeon's lover, is captured on Fath.

I Liked:

There is quite a bit to like about this little novel. One of the things that really stood out to me was the characters. I enjoyed seeing our “old” friends, Gil Pellaeon and Callista Masana. I really liked how Traviss added a love interest for Pellaeon (and a black woman to boot!), but she really outdoes herself with Callista, a character I've never been particularly fond of. Traviss does Callista justice and, more than that, alludes to Callista's future bonding with the Eye of Palpatine and losing her ability to touch the Force. Very adept and

neatly done (as if on purpose!). Traviss also is more than capable of writing Rex (of course, she really can't err in writing from a clone/Mando) and even, surprisingly, Anakin. Even Ahsoka is far less annoying than I've seen her.

Traviss gets a chance to “fix” the issue of Jedi marrying and having relationships, as first revealed in *Children of the Jedi* when Callista reveals she dated Geith. I actually don't mind the concept of more Jedi than just those at the Temple, though I continually wonder how the Lost Twenty fits into that picture (not that Altis was specified as a Lost Twenty). Altis' Jedi sect is interesting, and I would love to learn more about them. Though I can't imagine one guy, not that old, has trained thousands of students. Is he meaning thousands of Force-sensitives or thousands of beings in general?

Also, kudos to Traviss for having Pellaeon make Ahsoka dress in decent clothes. I honestly have no idea why the Jedi allow her to dress so scantily (as no one except Aalya, another sex object, does). What happened to the Jedi robes? When could apprentices choose what to wear?

Traviss' forte has always been writing action and military combat (also clones and Mandos). Here, she does a superb job of detailing life on a starship (something gravely missing from most Star Wars EU), a hostage situation, and even a “spook” mission. It's obvious she's knowledgeable and has a firm grasp on what she's talking about (and if not, she does excellent research, as with the battle wounds!).

I was impressed with the conclusions. Several people are given the choice: to think and ponder over the questions they were posed or to ignore them. Some, like Rex, realize that pondering over the questions doesn't do anything but weigh you down. Others, like Anakin, want to refuse to acknowledge there is a problem. And still others, such as Hallena, are seeking out the truth.

I Didn't Like:

This is certainly not the worse that Traviss has written, but I felt it was a little less than perfect, starting with the characters.

From the onset, I was a little shocked at the portrayal of Captain Gilad Pellaeon. It's not that he's portrayed as hugely out of character (like an idiot or corrupt or something along those lines); I just felt that he was off, more like a jolly, good English sea captain who occasionally bucks protocol he doesn't like (such as being on a first name basis with Rex), while adhering to others (proper uniforms on officers, such as Ahsoka). I guess this comes off as a shock since I recently finished Zahn's *Hand of Thrawn* Duology in which Pellaeon plays a large part and comes off as very formal, very by the book, very proper. And yes, I understand that Pellaeon is younger here, but I still have a hard time picturing him changing so drastically from “cheerio” captain to skeptical, hesitant, questioning captain in *Heir to the Empire*.

I was also never fond of Hallena. I'm sorry, she just felt too incompetent, too hesitant, too questioning. She goes to JanFathal, utterly fails, and needs to be rescued, causing two clones to lose their lives (and for everyone, most of whom barely know the guys, to angst about it constantly). One could argue that was the whole point, that she accomplished nothing and caused the death of these two men, but I had a hard time buying she was such a good agent, given how quickly she was apprehended and how disillusioned she was so quickly. And her conclusion...ugh, how cliché.

My second biggest complaint is that Traviss, once again, has to make a big argument out of something. Here, as elsewhere, she makes sure to put a load on the comments about how clones are humans, how they are being used by the bad Jedi lead by cold, cruel, heartless Yoda...yada, yada, yada. Been there, done that, got the shirt. As if that weren't bad enough, she also makes sure to really debate the whole attachment issue, sometimes awkwardly inserting it into conversation just so the Jedi philosophy of non-attachment can be assailed (such as when Ahsoka and the clones talk about sex, in the most forced, uncomfortable conversation ever, or Callista and Ahsoka talk about relationships just before a big battle). I don't have a problem with discussing clones' humanity or attachment, but let's not go overboard (and Traviss has said more than enough about the clone humanity thing, in my opinion) and please, let's be a wee bit subtle. I mean, this is a really cool issue, one that would be very interesting, but honestly, Traviss drives it into the dirt (everyone notices the tension between Altis' Jedi and Ahsoka, everyone wants to ask about details, Ahsoka spends 90% of the book gawking at Callista as if she has a second head, etc.) and makes it boring. Although, I will admit, I liked how Altis and Anakin spoke about it at the end.

Then there was the whole thing about Pellaeon and Devis' “secret” relationship. As I read that, I just

wondered...why? Why couldn't they come out and admit their relationship? Why was it forbidden at nearly the same level as Anakin and Padme's? I know, Anakin and Padme's was weird (particularly in the movie, when Padme, who should have had zero restrictions, protests it—though the book does clarify this), but the excuse about the Republic wanting squeaky clean officers is just stupid. The Republic needs officers, and they aren't going to get all picky on who they happen to be dating, especially if it means the difference between winning and losing. And I really didn't sense much chemistry between the two. They felt very stiff and formal, even when off duty. Traviss had to tell us they were in love; I would never have gotten it from the way they acted towards or around each other (particularly not with the way that the book ends, which does nothing to cement their “true love” to each other.

It is rare for me to be confused over Traviss' writing or what is going on, but in this book, I encountered that feeling frequently. I was constantly rereading sentences, trying to figure out what the characters were joking about or referring to. Also, there were several battle sequences (such as Pellaeon rescuing Anakin) that were badly described and lost me completely.

I had read somewhere how sexist this book was, and I am going to have to second that. Callista gets slapped on her rear in public as a supposed display of affection (Traviss, if you want to show that Geith and Callista are in love, why not have them hold hands or kiss each other's cheek?). Hallena is considered a commodore solely because she's Pellaeon's squeeze and not because she is an esteemed Republic agent. Hallena also speaks about giving up her job and joining Pellaeon on his ship; nowhere does Pellaeon offer to make the same sacrifice nor do they both agree to give up their jobs for something else. And Padme does the good house-wife thing in making coffee, packing bags, and dishing gossip. Ugh.

Another minor complaint I have is going to sound very strange. Normally, I love it when authors bring a bit of realism to Star Wars: family life, divorce, outings at the park, you get the drill. Here, when Traviss does it, it almost feels over board. From Padme wearing a beauty mask to making coffee—oops, I mean caf—to arguing with a teenager over her clothing choices to likening a revolt to a bargain sale at a mall, it just feels out of place or maybe a bit too...obvious.

Dialogue/Sexual Situations/Violence:

Pellaeon goes out of character and swears, using “kriff”.

Geith and Callista are lovers; Geith whacks Callista on the rear in a supposedly “affectionate” pat in public.

Pellaeon and Hallena are lovers as well.

Hallena is captured; as she is rescued, at least two clones die.

Overall:

If I could think of one word to describe this book, it would probably be: disappointing. It's certainly not horrible, but I felt it was lacking, that it didn't live up to Traviss' other works (particularly her novelization of the Clone Wars movie). Traviss writes some characters brilliantly and shows her expertise in military battles, but she flounders by relying too hard heavy-handed messages that just ruins the pacing and flow. And with a price tag of 16 dollars (at most places) for a mere 257 pages, it's hard to justify a purchase.

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## Jacen says

No Prisoners is a slight novel. It's 257 pages and had the plot been more elaborate or with the addition of a twist the book could at least weighed in at 300 pages. It's not the page count that bothers me. It's that I paid \$20 for this trade paperback.

Now that that's out of the way, I confess as I read No Prisoners I remembered I how much I enjoy Traviss' take on this period and I really like what she's done for The Clone Wars series so far.

The introduction of an alternative Jedi school makes for some interesting contrasts that challenge Ahsoka

and Anakin's core beliefs. Conceiving of Jedi who break the very doctrine that holds Yoda's Order together and keeps Anakin in constant torment.

Rex and his Clones are great. Traviss' interjects her sometimes controversial beliefs about attachment, duty, and Star Wars morality but it never feels forced or preachy. It all flows nicely as it raises obvious questions about the war. And every serious EU fan should be giddy about the sizable appearance of a young Gilad Pellaeon!

I would have liked a few more scenes with Ahsoka. Heck, I would have liked more scenes with all of these characters.

Despite the unfairly high price for the length, *No Prisoners* is another sharp, exciting, well told SW tale.

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## Erika says

If fans were ever wondering what happened to Callista “Ming” Masana, and weren't satisfied with her cameo in *Order 66* (or are sitting in front of basement computers writing oodles and oodles of self-indulgent fanfiction), she's back as one of the supporting characters in the latest Clone Wars installment *No Prisoners* in which Gilad Pellaeon takes center stage. His motives are questioned, his military prowess tested, and worst of all, the judge of his character is none other than himself.

Karen Traviss isn't new to the Clone Wars era, nor is she unfamiliar with writing clone troopers or Gilad Pellaeon. In *No Prisoners* Pellaeon is a young Captain, given command of Republic Assault ship *Leveler* undergoing a refitting for concussion missiles at Kemla Yard. Accepting the company of clone officer Captain Rex, who's giving Anakin a break from his Padawan Ahsoka by taking her along with him, the *Leveler* is hailed by humanitarian relief vessel *Wookiee Gunner* on an inspection run prompted by the arrival of a Separatist fleet in the Fath system. Run by a rogue Jedi sect trained under Jedi Master Djinn Altis, the *Wookiee Gunner* intercepted a distress call from a Republic Intelligence Agent trapped on nearby JanFathal.

Deciding the best course of action, despite not being up to full specs, is to attempt an extraction, a team is assembled of both Altis' Jedi and Rex's crew of new clone soldiers to land on JanFathal and rescue potential Separatist prisoner, Hellena Devis. When Pellaeon comes clean and admits, after discovering the true identity of the agent, his personal relationship with Devis, it unravels a trail of guilt and self-doubt long enough to take us to the end of the novel. Since Pellaeon was in middle age when we first met him, his past has been a murky mystery, but apparently was filled with many romantic rendezvous that many in the navy speculate as the thing that will forever keep him back from rising within the ranks of the Republic. But we know better.

At this point, though, he's a fresh young face willing to do what's right and eager to prove his worth among his men as an equal as well as a leader. He's also as curious as everyone else on his ship, and presumably the rest of the galaxy, about understanding the mysterious and mystical Jedi Knights and their even more elusive Force. From this perspective we don't get Jedi seen through the eyes of other Jedi or characters who are familiar with them and their weird habits (and therefore, take them for granted). Instead, like everything else Traviss writes, the Jedi are dissected and analyzed very objectively, making for interesting and humorous observations. Grappling with odd Jedi behaviors and reactions, Rex and Pellaeon compare them to scent tracking dogs (well, an “akk” is the Star Wars equivalent of a dog in my head), and smoke detectors. Jedi don't just have personalities to navigate, they have technical manuals, as one imagines it, to the tricks and talents of each.

In case you were wondering what other great things Jedi were capable of, the confused confrontation between Ahsoka (of the Yoda school of Jedi) and Callista (of the Djinn Altis school) along with the nosy wonderings of Rex's clones reveal that Jedi *can* have sex, no strings attached. I'm sure many curious beings are now flocking the Jedi temple to solicit the experience one can only have with a Jedi: *feeling the Force*.

Speaking of Jedi and sex, Traviss finally sheds some light on Callista's affinity for machinery and provides what could be the reason her connection with the Force waned after she reintegrated herself into the body of Cray Mingla at the end of *Children of the Jedi*. The explanation was a little blurry, like all things associated with the Force, but the short of it is something like opening a new set of senses and having them shut off the moment human-to-machine connection is severed; like being in a dimly lit room after being outside on a very clear, sunny day. Clearly, Callista's true love was never Geith or Luke, it's mechanical devices. You can take that where you will.

Pellaeon seems to struggle with finding his conscientious footing in *No Prisoners* navigating the romantic world, the military world, as well as the completely foreign world of Jedi. His conclusions are sound, if for the reader, at least on one front, a little disappointing. But we have to remember, Traviss is helping to construct the Pellaeon we meet on board the *Chimaera* besides Grand Admiral Thrawn, not to mention the book probably had a page limit. She also alludes to more sober events in *Order 66* which were sad, but let's face it: we deal.

*No Prisoners* has good pacing and funny comparisons. It wasn't my favorite, but the *Clone Wars* series (of books) hasn't really struck me as phenomenal on the stage of all that is epic. We're so saturated now with Clone Wars everything, it's starting to wear on me, but I still managed to find solace in the familiar of *No Prisoners* and consoled my frustration and apathy with the understanding that each book is a non-chronological glimpse into galaxy-wide war affecting trillions, even the few outstanding citizens who we happen to know as something of celebrities. This is one of the reasons I like the *Republic Commando* books: one main cast of characters with a story arc that now spans not only the war, but the trilogies as well. The *Clone Wars* books appear as scattered and disorganized as the war itself (something I appreciate, but am not a fan of); it's my disinterest in the minor skirmishes of the Clone Wars and the Anakin/Padmé relationship that made this book less than amazing.

On the bright side, Traviss reminds the reader of Ahsoka's primal Togruta roots. It definitely lent an air of something mysterious and alluring to an otherwise boring child Jedi. She really appears quite tantalizingly alien, far removed from the humanizing efforts of the CGI "Clone Wars" cartoon. Combined with her squirming discomfort and confusion surrounding the heretical Jedi under Master Altis, her Togruta-ness (otherwise never really mentioned or made out to be significant) made her an enjoyable addition to this book.

Fans of the series will enjoy this installment, but I think even if you don't like the Clone Wars, you'd appreciate *No Prisoners* for the Pellaeon and Callista backstory we wouldn't have gotten fictionally otherwise. And besides, who knew Luke's father would have met one of his girlfriends before he put on his flashy prosthetics?

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## DiscoSpacePanther says

Ahsoka, Rex and a bunch of green clone troopers join forces with Captain Pellaeon to rescue a Republic intelligence officer who's also Pellaeon's lover.

Although this story is pretty inconsequential to the Star Wars Legends canon, it is nonetheless very readable. The introduction of Altis' attachment-positive Jedi sect gives some interest, and backstory to the character of

Callista (who was introduced years earlier as a love interest for Luke Skywalker in the ghastly *Children of the Jedi* by Barbara Hambly) makes a dull one note character a little more rounded.

As with most of Traviss' clone wars novels, there is heavy emphasis on the morality of using cloned soldiers to fight in a war, and this time there is even a brief flash of sympathy for the endless battle-droids mown down by the Republic forces without compunction.

The characterisation is good, with none of the principals behaving out of step with their established selves, and the short length of the book means that there is no digression into dull plot-alleyways.

A much better read than the previous *Clone Wars* novel.

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## **Fiction State Of Mind says**

Coyer Summer Bash

This is the last of the clon wars trilogy and it had some interesting concepts about jedi and the clone army. What starts as a simple retrieval job turns into a fierce battle with clones and seperatists. a really fun read.

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## **Anime Mage says**

Honestly...out of all the Star Wars: The Clone Wars books in this series, this one was definitely the weakest. I still liked the book, just not as much as the Wild Space, Stealth, and Siege. It just doesn't seem as memorable as the other books in this series.

I liked how this book developed the other factions of the Jedi Order. The action was written very well and kept things from going stale. Also the portrayal of the main characters was spot on, which is to be expected given that this series in general has done a great job of doing that. Hell, they even bring back certain characters from the EU into this...which was really cool to see. Additionally the writing in general was well done. Environments were described clearly and never once got confusing or out of place. I also liked that Jeff Gurner narrated the audiobook like he did with the other installments....he is probably the best audio narrator I have heard in sometime. And finally, the pacing was pretty solid as well.

However, I do feel that the overall narrative feels off here for some reason. The story, while generally enjoyable, didn't really blow me away. I find some of the novel really forgettable. For example, I forget the name of some of the characters (especially the ones made specifically for this book) with, the planet that the whole book takes place on, and who the main antagonist was. I just feel that this book wasn't as epic as it wanted to be.

Final Score:

I give this book a solid 3.3/5 stars - a good but not great entry.

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## **Cassandra says**

Welp this had me flipping through it frantically, I'm not going to lie anything with the fruit cake Jedi had me flipping past going "I feel so bad for Ahsoka right now". I didn't like it, any of it. What didn't I like, let's see...

1. A well written book is often a blend of plot and ideology, it doesn't read too much like a movie script and too much like a manifesto. This one had WAY too much ideology in it and the plot wasn't that great. Let's have Ahsoka go with Rex and some newbie troopers on a ship that has the biggest body shaming/biased a-hole on the planet as the Captain. Let's have these baby clones ask really weird and personal questions about Ahsoka's sex life, when she's only 14. Pellaeon is one of those people that if I ever met them in real life we would be prepared to set the other on fire about five seconds after meeting. "Cover up Ahsoka, you're too young to go on a dangerous mission Ahsoka, you're a child blah blah blah". So he loses points for basically telling her this isn't a pleasure yacht its a navy vessel go put some clothes on. Welp this would've been me going "No....No....nope....no....if you don't like it I'M LEAVING! ENJOY DYING IN SPACE LOSERS!". I don't deal well with people who underestimate others purely because of age or appearance.

2. The various romances in this book. Geith and Callista were literally just there to shake Anakin's foundation. "Oh look we're Jedi but we're allowed to be public with our love!" Yay more trauma for the original space trash child. You know Anakin, you can leave the Order at any time, they didn't have you chained to the building. Then you have Pellaeon, who was screeching at Ahsoka anytime he saw her, who risks it all for his spook love, Hallena. I started out kind of a fan but by the end of the book I wished they'd never even tried rescuing her, total waste of effort. And neither couple had me invested in their lives.

3. The Anti-Jedi (is that what we call them? Well I'm using that rather than fruit cakes). How is it these Jedi were allowed to exist without ANYONE from canon mentioning them? I could see them being a low priority on the Jedi's list, what with a war and Sith to kill, but come on. On top of that you have the fruit cake's utter shit attitude. "Oh you're a mean, enslaving Jedi, I'm going to go sit by the troopers, THEY'RE THE REAL VICTIMS!!!!". Having principles is fine, but principles don't win wars and they certainly don't defeat droids who come storming into your house at 3am. The worst offender was Altis for me, a guy who just happens to remind Anakin of Qui-Gon, that mythical wonderful teacher he had for maybe a week? I always find it really frustrating when Anakin takes advice from people he's literally JUST MET and yet when Obi-Wan tries to impart knowledge his general attitude is "YEAH THANKS I GOT IT OH WISE ONE". (I will defend Obi-Wan over trash baby any day of the week so I might be biased).

4. Everyone looking at how easily this big giant army was to create and then going "ITS A CONSPIRACY AND THE JEDI ARE TO BLAME!"....Really? If they were going to do that they could've just said, "Hey soooo this army was just MAGICALLY MADE AND WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT...a Jedi ordered it? NOPE WASN'T US SORRY" and fobbed it off. Instead they admitted it, "One of our Order saw this war coming and, without our knowledge or approval, made this huge kick-ass army. Sorry about that....bet you're glad you have it now though!".

Overall, the book was too much like a debate over the Jedi's stance on "no attachment" policy and showcasing how it will come back to bite them in the butt.

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## Emily says

First of all, let's not slut shame a 14 year old girl in front of troops that she's still trying to earn respect from *as a joke* and then have Rex laugh at the joke.

Also, I wish this book was more about Rex and Ahsoka (like the description of the book implied) and less

about the weird side group of Jedi. Who were there to have a different philosophy, talk about that philosophy, frown upon mainstream Jedi and then leave...?

Lastly, I'm pretty sure this author doesn't like Yoda very much. I don't think anyone has said or thought anything nice about him this whole series.

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