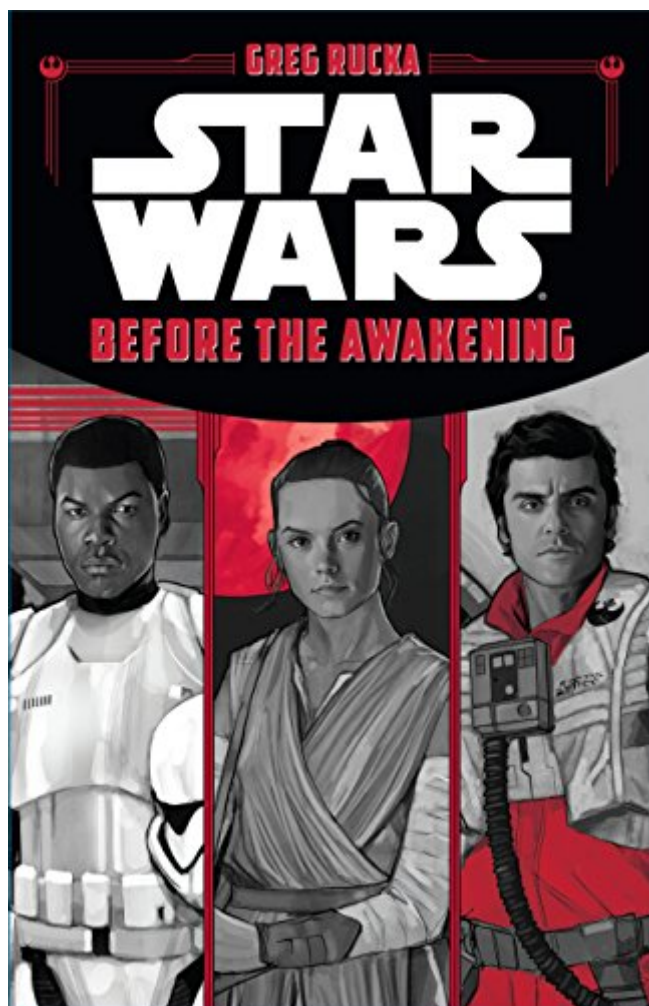


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Star Wars: Before The Awakening



Synopsis

A companion piece to the "Journey to Star Wars: The Force Awakens" character novels, *Star Wars: Before the Awakening* is an anthology book that focuses on the lives of Rey, Finn, and Poe before the events of the *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Three short stories that give us a look at the lives of the characters just before the film. The first is Finn's story. A bit basic mostly telling about his training but shows some seeds as to why he defects later on. Rey's story is fun but adds little information about her mysterious past. It mostly shows what her daily life on Jakku has been like all these years. I did enjoy that Jakku feels more like a *Mad Max* survival planet in this story than just another desert planet like in the movie. By far the best story here though is Poe's. If you read the *Shattered Empire* comic, this is pretty much a direct sequel. It briefly mentions the fates of Shara Bey and Kes Dameron, his parents. It also gives greater insight into what the new republic and the resistance is all about. The story covers

corruption in the senate and why General Organa felt the need to create a resistance separate from the republic navy. Poe enjoys a cool covert mission that ultimately leads directly into the beginning of *The Force Awakens*. Poe's tale is worth the purchase of this book alone. Finn and Rey's stories are just bonuses.

Short but very informative, this book is a prequel to *The Force Awakens*, giving us three short stories that add to the movie without giving away any spoilers. I really enjoyed Finn's story the most, because it explains aspects of his training and you can see the struggle he's going through... The struggle that ultimately leads to his defection. Rey's story is a little less intense but gives us more information on her day-to-day life on Jakku, as well as explaining how she got some of her skills. Poe's story gives us more information about the Resistance and the corruption within the Republic. His story ends at just the right point, giving us the opening to the movie. Overall, this is a wonderful collection that answers several questions that I had from the movie, as well as providing motivation and background for several characters.

Having already seen the movie this just adds to the experience and makes the characters much richer. The stories were short and entertaining and really helps to see where the characters are at at the start of the film.

This book is a great companion piece to the movie, and it can be read at any time due to containing no spoilers for the film itself. The book details events from the lives of the main 3 protagonists of the new *Star Wars* sequel trilogy: Rey, Finn, and Poe. All three stories cover some intimate feelings of the characters that lead up into who we see in the film. Finn struggles with the person the First Order wants him to be and the PTSD-like symptoms this results, and is told in a way very much reminiscent of "The Clone Wars" TV series. Rey's story covers aspects of her daily life as a scavenger, and how she became a pilot, while also delving into her issues of trusting others. Poe's story is largely the most direct lead in to the film, but touches on how he feels responsible for his squadron, whether when he's with the Republic or the Resistance, and the guilt that he feels if someone under his command perishes. There are some discrepancies between the book and the film in regards to Finn's story. The movie doesn't imbue Finn with the feeling that he has the major skills that we see him have in this book, but I think it would be wrong to say that Finn doesn't show remarkable skill in both ranged and melee combat in the movie. Rather, this book shows that Finn's behavior can be rather attributed to the fact that before the movie starts, he hasn't seen a day of

actual combat beyond simulations, and saw it as a game. Once it becomes real for him, everything changes. This book also shows Phasma having some concern for Finn due to his level of empathy, which semi-contradicts the movie, and it also doesn't show Finn working in sanitation, although it does mention a work program for the clones so it's not technically contradictory. Overall, I don't understand why this is specified as a junior novelization, as I felt like the writing was overall a higher quality than even the movie's novelization, where many of the scenes used in the movie fall flat due to dry writing.

It seems these "young adult"-tier books are frequently better than full-length novels. This book is about 200 large-text pages. Obviously, it is three separate stories about Finn, Rey, and Poe. I picked this up because, like it or not, Force Awakens is "the canon" and it's useful to learn about these major new characters, especially since Force Awakens was deliberately so vague about everything. ****SPOILERS**** Finn's story is the least revealing I suppose. The main attribute of his story is the fact that he's apparently a really awesome soldier. He scores top marks on everything and outperforms everyone. You would NOT get that from the movie. He doesn't seem to act like that in the movie either, so it seems sort of inconsistent. Rey's story is a kind of continuation of the beginning of the film. She's scavenging for things and puts together a ship that in my mind looks like the Falcon and her cohorts steal it and leave the planet. Reveals nothing about her. Poe's story is perhaps the most revealing. We understand from his story that the Resistance is explicitly the faction in the Republic that believes the First Order constitutes a significant threat and want to oppose it, since apparently the Republic doesn't think it's a big deal. Poe's backstory is also treated. Overall a quick, fun, partially revealing read. I recommend. Took me a day.

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