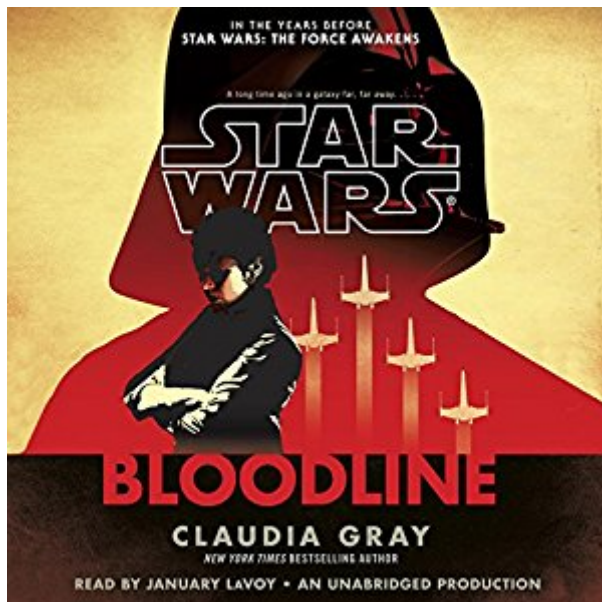


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Star Wars: Bloodline - New Republic



Synopsis

From the New York Times best-selling author of *Star Wars: Lost Stars* comes a thrilling novel set in the years before the events of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

No spoilers:I'll be honest, ever since Lucasfilm decided to set a new precedent for their *Star Wars* literature, relabeling the old as Legends and introducing the new as official canon, I haven't been a huge fan of the books that have followed. Sure, some of them were okay, my favorites being *A New Dawn*, *Aftermath*, and *Lost Stars*. But I've waffled on which I liked more. While they were good, none of them really stood out as being my clear favorite. Well that is no longer the case. *Bloodline* is now, by far, my favorite *Star Wars* book in the canon, ranking as high as some of my absolute favorite books from the old Expanded Universe, now Legends. And that's saying a lot. While I won't dive into spoilers in this review, here are some of my thoughts to get started with. First of all, let's talk politics, because the book certainly does. *The Force Awakens* had almost nothing to tell us about the political landscape of the universe, even less than we saw in the original trilogy. At least then we knew there was an Empire, an Emperor, a Senate that had been recently dissolved, etc. *Bloodline* takes place 6 years before *The Force Awakens* and it will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about the state of the galaxy prior to the events of the film. Now, the funny thing about politics is that it's become almost something of a dirty word among some *Star Wars* fans, due largely to the backlash of the politically-charged prequel films. Fortunately, one of the best mediums

to present politics is in book form; we can get inside the heads of the characters, and suddenly it becomes a game we can participate in. Bloodline does this to perfection, and I might add that students of early United States politics might find some of the political arguments familiar. But let's move away from that and talk about characters. Princess Leia is the primary protagonist of the book, and Gray hit the nail right on the head. Everything about Leia, from her political views, to her pessimistic and impatient demeanor, to her relationships with other characters, represents realistic growth for her character from when we saw her in Return of the Jedi. Other characters, though not given the same spotlight as Leia, are quite interesting. Gray is able to present likable characters despite completely different viewpoints. Gray's last Star Wars book, Lost Stars, did something similar by having the two main characters take opposite sides of the war between the Rebellion and the Empire. Both were likable, relatable, but still had completely opposing views. Perhaps the most likable character in Bloodline, besides Leia herself, was a senator who existed on the opposite side of the political spectrum from the princess. Lastly, if you're a chronology fan like myself, you will find this book fascinating. The book is full of clues and events that will inform your viewing of The Force Awakens. Since these events are considered canon, we can rely on their accuracy. I won't spoil anything here, but I promise that this book will change the dialogue that fans have about The Force Awakens, in a big way. It answers questions. Bloodline is literary gold even outside of the Star Wars universe. It's one of the best science fiction books I have read. Bloodline makes you think, it makes you cry, it makes you want to jump up and down in fanboy/girl glee. The only thing it won't do is make you stop reading. So the remaining question is: why are you still reading this review and not reading Bloodline? Review originally posted on my site: [...]

Of all of the new Star Wars novels, this one has surprised me the most. I love Star Wars and I love the characters and the beauty of the novels is how they expand on those characters. However, at the same time, in each novel I am looking for threads that help bind the movies together and fill in time gaps in the story line. To be honest, nearly every new canon novel so far has fallen short of this, until now. To call this essential reading for SW fans and for those looking for some explanation about events leading up to The Force Awakens, this is your book. Essentially, this novel helps fans understand two of the big questions we asked after The Force Awakens was released: where did the New Order come from and why did the New Republic allow the New Order to flourish if Princess Leia is pushing the Resistance? I don't want to give away too much of the book, but it is great and throws a wonderful political spin into the SW galaxy without making it all about Politics. This is a

great novel that treats the character of Leia right (unlike the terrible comic book run) and adds to the Star Wars tapestry, filling in important gaps. Stop reading this review and start reading the novel!

I love this book. I LOVEloveLOVE Leia, and to have a whole novel devoted to what she's doing, how she's thinking, and how badass she's still being, all along through the formation of the New Republic AND into the development of the Resistance? It's serious catnip for me. I love the original characters. I liked hating Lady Carise. I liked our young hotshot pilot, Joph. I love Greer and Casterfo. I love love LOVE Greer's homeworld of Scottish Klingons...I mean...Pamarthe. And I know a number of the characters are from the wider universe, and I'm not sure entirely which ones. I don't know if Tai-Lin is Gray's character or a wider-universe character, but I LOVED him. Varish was a joy. I know that Korr Sella was *created* as part of the wider universe (and had scenes in TFA that ended up cut), but THIS was where **I** met her and got to know her personality, and I loved her competence, closeness to Leia, honesty, and demand for respect. Gray knows how to tell a story with patience, setting up Lady Carise's inheritance, laying the groundwork through which Leia's secret would be betrayed--despite how closely guarded it was, setting up and explaining and revealing the machinations of the Centrist vs. Populist positions. She made interesting both the political discussions and the exposition needed to fill in my own gaps in the story. I liked Leia feeling old, feeling slower, feeling that she was beginning to become obsolete...and then finding that she is, more than ever in the past 20-odd years, at the center of the maelstrom and leading the way once again...in the worst of circumstances. I love that Leia got to blow stuff up I love Han in this. I love how clearly it's shown that Leia and Han's relationship is close, loving, and filled with communication and warmth. It's not in Han's nature to sit around in one place, and this Leia knows and does not at all resent that, and, in fact, knows that her own workaholic tendencies mean that, even if Han were planetside all the time, there would still be limits on their time together. I LOVE LOVE LOVE that they are here, in this book, and we see them both. I love that Leia is entirely independent, and yet loves and needs Han, and that he supports her without judgement. I like the various responses to Leia's secret getting out, love her speech in the Senate, her knowing it's her last speech, her knowing that it's over now, but going out with clear and smart discourse. I love LOVE love the interplay and give and take between Leia and Casterfo, and his backstory, his surprising skills at times, and his comments near the end about his regrets. I was entirely fooled into wondering if he was just going to be a freaky caricature, but his depth and layered responses truly delighted me. Best of all...Leia in action, Leia the politician, Leia the diplomat, Leia the woman, Leia the wife and mother, Leia not-entirely-alone, Leia the unflappable still staring down those who would

disrupt her public facade, Leia HAPPY doing what she's good at, Leia grieving and hurting and asking for help when it's needed and confronting those who deserve it and picking herself back up again. Best of all, Leia making a plan and running into it even when it seems impossible. I loved this book, and will be reading it over and over. I hope C. Gray writes more. Maybe Leia With a Lightsaber next time... :-)

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