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Star Wars: Poe Dameron Vol. 1: Black Squadron (Star Wars: Poe Dameron (2016-))



Synopsis

Collects Poe Dameron #1-6. Poe Dameron, former Republic flyer turned Resistance fighter, is the best pilot in the galaxy. Hand-picked for the resistance by General Leia Organa to lead a squadron on a top-secret and vital mission, Poe sets off to investigate sites of historical importance to the Force — revealing backstory leading directly into *The Force Awakens*! Follow Poe and his X-Wing squadron on covert missions against the First Order, brought to you by writer Charles Soule (*STAR WARS: LANDO, DAREDEVIL*) and artist Phil Noto (*STAR WARS: CHEWBACCA, BLACK WIDOW*)!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was a real surprise. You see, I wasn't enamored with the Poe character from *The Force Awakens*. I thought he was OK (and, I'll admit, he's been growing on me). But, it wasn't an instant like. Now, this book comes along and breaks my expectation. Not only is it a damn good Star Wars read, the stories have made me like the Poe Dameron character more than I did before! Here's what I like about this book: 1. We finally get a story that adds depth to the new movie and continuity! I love reading about Luke and Leia and Han, but, damn, man! It's time to learn about the new characters

from TFA. This book does that.² The story references and continues from the young adult novel *Before The Awakening*. You don't need to read that book to enjoy this comic (I didn't read it), but you've got some continuity there--and that's cool!³ The story also fleshes out part of TFA. In the opening scene of Episode VII, we see Poe meet with Lor San Tekka. This comic shows where that quest began--with General Organa's orders to seek out the Explorer and try to learn where it is Luke Skywalker has fled. This story adds more depth to the movie.⁴ We see the creation of Black Squadron, and we get to know the original pilots: Snap Wexley, Kare Kun, L'ulo, Jess Pava, and Oddy Muva. It is nice to get some more depth on these characters. For example, did you know that Snap and Kare are romantically involved? Did you know L'ulo practically raised Poe, and Poe's parents were Rebel Alliance fighters? Yep. Poe spent his childhood on Yavin 4! Jess is a wiz with starfighter mechanics--always trying new gear and systems. And, Oddy starts off flying an old surplus A-Wing because the Resistance doesn't have enough of the T-70 X-Wings.⁵ Agent Terex is an excellent antagonist. He's a royal, pompous, ass--a real Imperial. And, his personal ship is the Carrion Spike. Well, that's Grand Moff's Tarkin's personal vessel..or was, 35+ years ago. How did Terex get his hands on it?⁶ There's cool, Star Warsy Space Opera stuff! An ancient city in the center of a mountain. First Order stormtroopers on hoverpacks.

Japanese-Godzilla-like-giant-monsters! A prison that needs no walls as it is set on a high gravity world. The prison is set in a 1G field, and if anybody leaves that field, the 8Gs of the world outside will kill them. Cool stuff!⁷ The stories are interesting and fun and feel like Star Wars. They're also a large dose of humor. Reading Poe and Terex go at it verbally is a hoot! And, BB-8 gathers the astromechs from the squadron to go about their own little mission. Cracks me up, this line of astros, following BB-8, single file, all electronically hooting and humming. What a scene!⁸ Papa Toren returns! Did you read the Lando book? Lando met with Papa Toren, and it was Toren who put the contract out on Calrissian. He's this interesting alien. Silent. And, he's got these little guys with wings that buzz around him, doing his communicating for him. So, here we are, 40+ years later, and Toren is in prison! Neat connection for those who catch it. Yes, I loved this book. And, I can't wait for volume two to come out (the wait is too long!).

This comic is a wonderful setup to "The Force Awakens," with Poe, Leia, and the First Order. With comics, the art is almost always the first thing I notice. The cover art was quite realistic, so when I opened up the book, I was surprised to find the inside art to be "soft." I was surprised that the same person (Phil Noto) did both. Between the issues' art and the words in the introduction, I feel like the series is geared towards children. It guess that makes sense seeing as it's a Star Wars COMIC, but

the tone is...not like the other comics I've read from Disneyverse. The colors are very bold; they're fantastic. The hues are perfect for each panel and page. In issue 2, there is a single page that is made up of small panels in a circular pattern. They, along with the art, really add to Poe talking down to Terex. It's not quite symmetric, yet I was drawn to the artwork and details. Leia is done well. She is a great reminder that while Poe's generation does know war, particularly because of the First Order, it doesn't know WAR like Leia and her kin knew with the Empire. And, she truly understands that the First Order can be like the Empire. Leia's "no" at Poe's query about if she knows where Luke is sounded like a lie to me. It wouldn't surprise me if she knew where he was - either he told her, or she could feel his general location in the galaxy through the Force. Even so, she sends Poe on a mission to find Lor San Tekka, who supposedly knows where Luke is (maybe she doesn't fully know where he is, so maybe it is a general feeling. I don't know; I just don't think she legitimately is unaware of where he is). Poe and Black Squadron (Snap, KarÅfÂ©, L'ulo, and Jessika - and I'm glad I remember all of them from previously released media) searches for San Tekka. The first three issues are focused on a mission in a cave and the next three are a continuation at the prison Magalox. I was confused at first as to why L'ulo was flying an A-Wing but looked it up; he's been doing so since Endor. Poe's charming smile can even get natives of a cave to listen to him. I had to chuckle. His snark always catches me off-guard. I love it! We see a bit more depth to Phasma's belief that the First Order is superior to the Empire. And, there's a better sense as to why she's chasing after Poe in TFA. Agent Terex knows a LOT. He's an interesting baddie. The monsters/savior in the cave/creche were just very strange. I didn't care for them at all. It was a mixture of Power Rangers, Transformers, and some random other crap. The contraptions Grakkus and his Hutts have make me feel like there's a steampunk aspect to this. I don't think I like that. Megalox prison is terrifying. THERE IS A KAMINOAN AND HE MENTIONS AIWHA! The Legends geek in me squeed. "SaBBotage" was adorable.

Poe is pretty funny and BB-8 is a good little droid. The team is interesting though the romance is a little awkward. I really like the first order secret agent. It feels like it is missing something, oh yeah, A Jedi, is the force with Poe?

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