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Tarkin: Star Wars



Synopsis

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away... Best-selling Star Wars veteran James Luceno gives Grand Moff Tarkin the Star Wars: Darth Plagueis treatment, bringing a legendary character from A New Hope to full, fascinating life. He's the scion of an honorable and revered family. A dedicated soldier and distinguished legislator. Loyal proponent of the Republic and trusted ally of the Jedi Order. Groomed by the ruthless politician and Sith Lord who would be Emperor, Governor Wilhuff Tarkin rises through the Imperial ranks, enforcing his authority ever more mercilessly....and zealously pursuing his destiny as the architect of absolute dominion. Rule through the fear of force rather than force itself, he advises his Emperor. Under Tarkin's guidance, an ultimate weapon of unparalleled destruction moves ever closer to becoming a terrifying reality. When the so-called Death Star is completed, Tarkin is confident that the galaxy's lingering pockets of Separatist rebellion will be brought to heel - by intimidation...or annihilation. Until then, however, insurgency remains a genuine threat. Escalating guerrilla attacks by resistance forces and newfound evidence of a growing Separatist conspiracy are an immediate danger the Empire must meet with swift and brutal action. And to bring down a band of elusive freedom fighters, the Emperor turns to his most formidable agents: Darth Vader, the fearsome new Sith enforcer as remorseless as he is mysterious; and Tarkin - whose tactical cunning and cold-blooded efficiency will pave the way for the Empire's supremacy...and its enemies' extinction.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a big fan of James Luceno's "Darth Plagueis," I was excited to hear that Grand Moff Wilhuff Tarkin would be getting the Luceno treatment. Unfortunately, "Tarkin" isn't quite the equal of "Darth Plagueis" in that it doesn't provide a sweeping backstory for Tarkin. It's more a story in which Tarkin is the central protagonist. However, we do get some great background information about Tarkin, especially about his upbringing on Eriadu. And there are some wonderful treats for fans of the old EU.*** MINOR SPOILERS AHEAD***The novel takes place about 5 years after "Revenge of the Sith." Wilhuff Tarkin is in command of a base overseeing the construction of the Death Star. The Empire is busy hunting down former Separatists and others who oppose Palpatine's New Order. The story starts with an unexpected attack on Tarkin's base by a group of dissidents using advanced Holonet technology. The Emperor sends Tarkin and Darth Vader on a mission to track them down, but they in turn fall into a trap. The dissidents end up stealing Tarkin's ship and attacking Imperial targets. This is a novel in which the context is more interesting than the text. The actual story isn't particularly interesting or epic. Vader and Tarkin track down a bunch of dissidents who steal Tarkin's corvette and go on a joyride. It almost seems like a task below these two iconic villains, if not for Tarkin's personal connection to the ship and the dissidents. Nor does Tarkin rise to the occasion to display any particularly formidable investigative or tactical skills during his mission. I had been hoping to see Tarkin emerge as a larger than life character akin to Grand Admiral Thrawn in Timothy Zahn's novels. Instead, he seems mostly along for the ride.

So, here's the newest entry in the Star Wars publishing empire. This time we're treated to a biography/character study of Grand Moff Wilhuff Tarkin, the man behind the Death Star. You don't remember him? He was the guy in Star Wars: Episode IV--A New Hope that got to boss Vader around without getting choked, masterfully played by the inimitable Peter Cushing. Cheekbones like razor blades? Ringing a bell? If Vader is the Emperor's crushing fist, Tarkin is his knife in the dark--deadly, precise, and without mercy. It's been five years since the end of the Clone Wars and the rise of the Emperor. For most of that time, Tarkin has been occupied shepherding the Emperor's pet project: the as-yet-unnamed planet-sized mobile battle station. Keeping such a large construction project on-task and supplied is no mean feat, even for one of the Emperor's most trusted lieutenants. Keeping it secret is next to impossible--anyone who's paying attention knows something is going on out by Geonosis, they just don't know what. Fortunately, most everyone with enough information to know what questions to ask knows better than to do the asking, and that's the way Tarkin likes it. Once it's operation, the mobile battle station will render the Empire's rule

unshakeable. Until then, the Empire's infallibility can only be maintained by meeting any and all dissent with stiff, merciless reprisals. A new order has been born out of the chaos of the Old Republic, and Tarkin will do whatever he has to do to safeguard it and nurture it to maturity. James Luceno is known for his incredibly detailed entries into the Star Wars mythos.

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