



Promises

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Before she joined the Jedi academy, Anakin's friend Tahiri knew nothing of her real parents--or how she came to live with the treacherous Tusken Raiders. Now the day has come when Tahiri will learn everything, But first she must prove herself worthy. With Anakin at her side, she must pass a deadly test, using the Force like never before.

Promises Details

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Max says

About the same quality as the previous book, this one wraps up the first story arc. Overall it's not been a hugely interesting story in comparison to many of the others in the Star Wars universe, probably in large part because an 11 year old can't face threats that are all that powerful.

Jess Neuner says

This is the book where we finally learn what happened to Tahiri's parents and how she came to be adopted by a tribe of Sand People. Part of the agreement when Tahiri went to Yavin 4 to learn to be a Jedi was that she would come back to Tatooine to find out about her family and then make an informed decision about whether or not she truly wanted to be a Jedi or if she wanted to return to her tribe (I think we all know which one she chooses, as there are two more books in this series). Naturally, Anakin goes too, as at this point these two may as well be conjoined twins, for all the time they spend apart.

Tionne, having apparently not learnt from Peckhum's experience in the previous book, escorts the two to Tatooine so Tahiri can meet with her tribe, where, predictably, Tahiri's visit home turns into craziness pretty much instantly. Since attracting all of the trouble possible seems to be a habit for these two, I feel sorry for any adult whose responsibility includes trying to keep them out of it. Poor Tionne.

Tahiri returned to Tatooine to learn the truth about what happened to her birth parents only to be told that she can only learn that if she's a full member of the tribe. So, she has to undergo the tribe's initiation ritual, which consists of being dropped off alone (well, with Anakin, so not really alone, so I suppose he's now an honorary member of the tribe, too) in the desert with no supplies and making her way back to the tribe within three days without dying first.

Of the Junior Jedi books, I think this is my favourite, in part because it focuses a lot more on Tahiri's background. We already know where Anakin came from, but Tahiri was a bit of a mystery, even to herself. We also see a lot more of Sand People, as well as learn what a Krayt dragon looks like and how Jawas got their sandcrawlers. Then, after everybody heals up from the injuries sustained trekking across the desert with no supplies at all and fighting dragons (mostly Anakin - the Krayt dragon doesn't agree with him very much), they finally tie up the golden globe thing that was introduced in the first book.

amypete says

Hayden loves listening to these stories each night before bed, but I can hardly stomach them! Oh well, I love to make him happy. And it's great to test his listening comprehension and see him so engaged in a story. He wants to read the whole series. He also wants to be a Jedi when he grows up.

Jaime K says

Okay, Richardson. You have contradicted yourself here. I specifically remember the first book saying that Tahiri is 10 and was orphaned at 4; here you say Tahiri is 9 and was orphaned at 3. I don't get it.

And we learn this because it begins with Silven, a Tusken Raider tribe leader. He raised Tahiri against the wishes of the rest of his tribe and knew her parents. He also holds a secret that contains a promise about her past and very real danger.

Part of this promise requires Tahiri to undergo a test, a trial of sorts, one that not only allows her to learn of her past and her parents, but also puts her - and Anakin - in danger. To fail means their death, and the death of Silven.

To turn her back on it though means that Silven will be put to death anyway.

There is a monologue of Tahiri's when she is talking to Anakin about being an orphan. Although his family's history is dark, he at least knows it and *has* a past. She on the other hand has nothing.

So, of course she learns of how Silven knew her parents and undergoes the test. Anakin is allowed with her, but not Tionne. And Tionne wasn't going to fight a tribe of Tusken Raiders to ensure she could go with the kids.

I find it strange that the Raiders didn't smell and showered. I know this was mentioned in the first book, but it only hit me in this one that they had dry showers and changed wrappings and stuff. One of the things I like with more recent books is that they're wrapped from birth. It's not a bad thing that Richardson has them this way, but it wasn't something that hit me.

Was WAS bad were the frustrating bits that made me sigh. Anakin and Tahiri are nearly eaten by a sarlacc and defeat a krayt dragon. It's a bit ridiculous.

Yet it IS a good way to show their strengths and how each relies on the other in different situations. Luke's thoughts at the end regarding this are great.

The end with the globe and the children was quite abrupt. Strangely enough though it wasn't anticlimactic.

Caitlin says

Well that ending sure wasn't rushed at all.

Darryl Dobbs says

This a great book earmarked for ages 7-9. Highly recommended for that age group. Much, much better than the Galaxy of Fear children's series.

I'm reading the series because it won't take long and perhaps some of the characters will appear in the regular novels.

Joshua Vanloan says

3.5*

Megan Trimble says

[But in the end, the

Todd says

Anakin and Tahiri go to the planet Tatooine. They have to do a dangerous quest. The quest is life threatening.

Mark Kaye says

Yeah not a bad book. Finishes the Golden GLOBE tale. Not as good as book one and two.

Bernard says

This, the third of six Junior Jedi Knights books, closes out the story arc set in motion in the first book, namely, that of the mysterious golden globe discovered in a cave on the planet Yavin 4, where new recruit to the Jedi Academy, Anakin Skywalker Solo, is learning the ways of the Force. For its intended age level (juvenile) I thought it was a fun story. Each of the three so far have been short, easy to read, but also providing some additional character development for Anakin and precious few supporting characters. After being relegated to 'baby mechanical genius' status in the rest of the adult-oriented Expanded Universe novels thus far, it is enjoyable to read of his own adventures growing up before presumably being relegated back to a minor character in the New Jedi Order books.

Of particular note was the long-standing solution to the age old question: where in the heck did the Jawas get their sandcrawlers, for surely they didn't build them. This book provides the answer: they are ore haulers left behind by human settlers to Tatooine who brought them to the planet for their failed get-rich-quick mining schemes, and were consequently scavenged and taken over by the Jawas. Thank you Fischer for finally providing some closure on this answer which so plagued my waking dreams. It's little gems like this that make me glad to have gone out of my way to read these books, even though I was going to do so anyway on account of my EU-completionist quest to read ALL Star Wars books in publication order.

Z says

Anakin and Tahiri attempt to survive the desert of Tatooine. This was always my favorite of the Junior Jedi Knight books. It's a classic survival story, but beyond that, we get to learn a lot about Tahiri's own history, and also get to learn a lot about the Sand People. Incidentally, reading this book is what made me really horrified when Anakin Skywalker went and killed all those Sand People in the movie. Really, really horrified.
