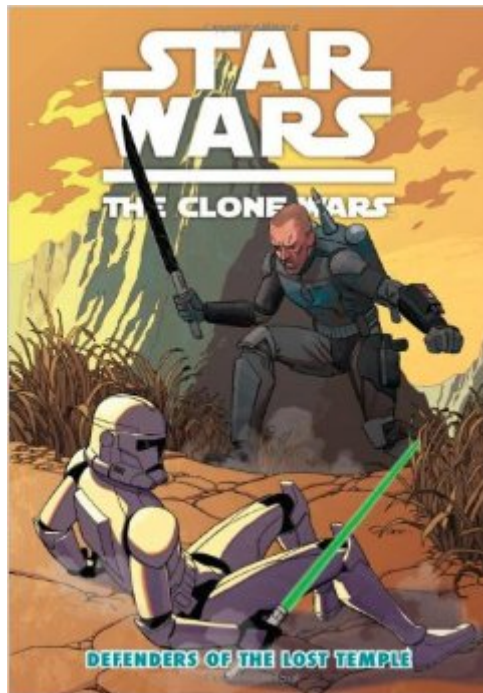


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Star Wars: The Clone Wars - Defenders Of The Lost Temple (Star Wars Clone Wars)



Synopsis

On a mission with a Jedi general, one clone trooper contemplates his own worth as a copy of a great Mandalorian warrior. He has never been the best soldier, and as he learns about the Jedi and the power of the Force, he begins to feel that perhaps what has been setting him apart from the other clones is his own connection to the Force. As the investigation progresses through a booby-trapped, abandoned Jedi Temple, this one clone will discover who he is and also see where he came from when the Mandalorian Death Watch suddenly appears.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I assume the point of the artwork here is to make the comic consistent with the cartoon animation, but this isn't a cartoon, and compared to other graphic novel artwork, this is awfully unsophisticated. The Jedi make happy smiley faces at each other whenever they have a bright idea or are about to enter a battle. At other times they make standard cartoonish faces. Maybe that goes over well with little kids but this is marketed to Star Wars fans, not just to little kids. Unfortunately, the writing isn't any better than the art. The story seems to be geared toward seven-year-olds. The authors felt a need to have one Jedi explain "the Force" to a Jedi-in-training, as if the newbie Jedi wouldn't have already known about it. The characters speak to each other as if they were preteens. Bad guys say things like "Good evening. Time to die" while the good guys make brilliant remarks like "Gotcha!" The story features a lot of action to disguise the plot's lack of depth. The overriding philosophical

question is: Can clones use the Force too? The correct answer seems to be: Only if they can make a happy smiley face while fighting! A bit of intelligence shines through in the story's concluding panels, which earned it a second star. Sadly, you need to breeze through a lot of nothing before reaching those panels. This review is for adult readers. If you are a parent shopping for a preteen, this might be a great purchase.

A review from my "Star Wars Comics Review" blog. To read the whole review, and other Star Wars comics reviews, go to: [...]. This book poses two very interesting questions, aside from elaborating on the Death Watch and its affiliations with Dooku and the Separatists, and bringing to life B'ink Utrila, who before has only appeared as background in EU literature from this period. At the heart of this story is the question of Force sensitivity and the clones. Naturally, as Rennax points out, the clones are living beings, and therefore they too have midichlorians and could potentially be Force sensitives. This concept has already been explored, or at least confirmed, namely from the early (re)beginning of the EU as we know it, with Timothy Zahn's *Heir to the Empire* (1991), which features a Force-wielding clone of Jedi Master Jorus C'baoth, named Joruu C'baoth; later there would be clones of both Luke (Luuke) and Palpatine. More recently, there were X1 and X2, from *Star Wars: Battlefront: Elite Squadron* and Dark Jedi Sa Cuis' clones from *Imperial Commando: 501st Legion* and short stories. Thus, that Glitch is Force sensitive is not really a groundbreaking revelation, but *DLT* brings us up close and personal to the issue: Glitch is mocked by the other troopers in his unit, he is rather incompetent, and his Force sensitivity is more a burden than a blessing, since it causes him social and emotional anxiety. In short, Force sensitivity is used as a foil for Glitch to explore the concept of clone autonomy, or what it means to be a bred and 'programmed' organic war machine. This is brilliantly played out, and though not as brilliantly written, Acin has to be given credit for a conceptually strong story.

Alas, if you haven't heard the news yet, but *STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS* has reached the end of its television run. Lucasfilm released the announcement just on March 11 (2013). While showrunner Dave Filoni makes it clear that there are still stories in that universe yet to tell (a planned sixth season was well underway despite the announcement of cancellation), who knows how soon those episodes or direct-to-DVD releases will see the light of day? In the meantime, Dark Horse continues to explore the most fragile time for the Galactic Republic, so I welcomed *DEFENDERS OF THE LOST TEMPLE* with open arms. As though of you who've followed my reviews over the years know, I'm definitely a fan of all things Star Wars, and this was a very nice

story told for an audience wanting more.(NOTE: The following review will contain minor spoilers necessary solely for the discussion of plot and characters. If you're the kind of reader who prefers a review entirely spoiler-free, then I'd encourage you to skip down to the last two paragraphs for my final assessment. If, however, you're accepting of a few modest hints at 'things to come,' then read on ...)

The outer rim moon of Draay 2 holds a secret: deep within its jungles, there's a lost Jedi temple. And somewhere within its walls, there's a hidden Sith artifact known as 'The Gauntlet of Kressh the Younger,' an object that can protect its wearer from any physical harm whatsoever. A clone assault team - lead by Jedi Knight Utrila and her apprentice, Rennax Omani - are sent with one goal in mind: either retrieve the gauntlet, or make sure that it cannot be found by Count Dooku's Separatist forces. With just a touch of the charm that elevates the Indiana Jones stories to the level of mainstream entertainment, DEFENDERS OF THE LOST TEMPLE pits the Jedi, her padawan, and the troopers in a race-against-time to uncover what booby traps await their discovery in the ancient structure. Lightsabers and blasters will only protect them so far; what really works to save the day in this adventure is their collective enthusiasm for solving puzzles and 'sensing' where others have been trapped before. Plus, a surprise attack lead by Pre Vizsla and some Mandalorian warriors of the Death Watch might pose the greatest challenge to completing their mission successfully ... assuming they all survive, that is.

For those concerned about 'continuity' or liking to know where this tale fits in to the Star Wars universe, it's set during the Clone Wars, and a quick explanation in the opening clarifies that it specifically takes place between Seasons 4 and 5. The artwork is heavily reminiscent of what's seen graphically on the popular Cartoon Network television program, and the narrative mostly matches the maturity of the stories told there. If anything, LOST TEMPLE might be considered a bit more 'kid friendly' than some of the meatier episodes - much of the story's focus deals with padawan Rennax and Clone Trooper Glitch as the two of them try to come to grips with who they are and what they're meant to be. In fact, there's an inspired 'twist ending' of sorts in the final pages that serves to remind its audience that it isn't so much who you are that shapes your world; rather, it's what you choose to do. Fans of the show should definitely pick this one up. Younger fans will probably be drawn to the simpler animation, as well, so it's suitable as a gift for that Star Wars youngling in your life. May the Force be with you and them!

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS: DEFENDERS OF THE LOST TEMPLE is published by Dark Horse Comics. The story is written by Justin Aclin; the art is by Ben Bates; the colors are by Michael Atiyeh; and lettering is by Michael Heisler. This graphic novel bears a cover price of \$7.99 in New Republic credits, a bargain for any reader. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. Sure, it may lack some of the intellectual depth of the more complex tales of the Star Wars universe, but so much of

DEFENDERS OF THE LOST TEMPLE is a delight. It's filled with adventure, likeable characters, and some simply drawn artwork. Buckle up and pull back the cover to explore this jungle world of adventure - complete with Jedi-inspired booby traps for those who brave these territories - and remember what it was like to be a kid again when reading a grand comic book. Everything you could possibly want is here, and fans of the Clone Wars TV show are even treated to a few inspired guest appearances. In the interests of fairness, I'm pleased to disclose that the fine folks at Dark Horse Comics provided me with an advance digital copy of STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS: DEFENDERS OF THE LOST TEMPLE for the expressed purposes of completing this review.

This comic wasn't as long as I wanted, but then again: are they ever? Yet still it drove its point right home about the force. I just wish I could know what happened to Glitch after he threw the gauntlet away.

This little story is like reading a script of one of the episodes. It explores three clone troopers. One thinks he is Jedi material and one thinks he is Death Watch material. What happens when the Death Watch actually show up? A great little story that would have been fun to see in the series. I wish they would explore more characters than the regular show's main stars. A good story that will help fill the gap of the now deceased show. Enjoy!

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