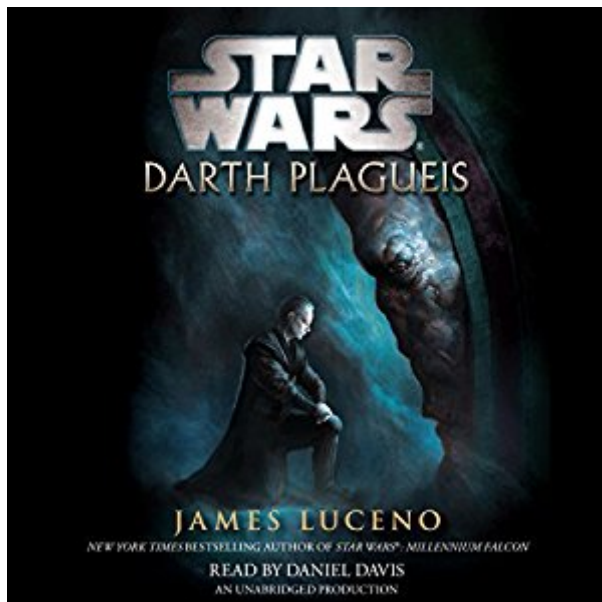


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Star Wars: Darth Plagueis



Synopsis

He was the most powerful Sith lord who ever lived... but could he be the only one who never died? "Did you ever hear the Tragedy of Darth Plagueis the Wise? It's a Sith legend. Darth Plagueis was a Dark Lord of the Sith, so powerful and so wise that he could use the Force to influence the midi-chlorians to create life. He had such a knowledge of the dark side that he could even keep the ones he cared about from dying." -Supreme Chancellor Palpatine, Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith Darth Plagueis: one of the most brilliant Sith Lords who ever lived. Possessing power is all he desires. Losing it is the only thing he fears. As an apprentice, he embraces the ruthless ways of the Sith. And when the time is right, he destroys his Master - but vows never to suffer the same fate. For like no other disciple of the dark side, Darth Plagueis learns to command the ultimate power... over life and death. Darth Sidious: Plagueis's chosen apprentice. Under the guidance of his Master, he secretly studies the ways of the Sith, while publicly rising to power in the galactic government, first as Senator, then as Chancellor, and eventually as Emperor. Darth Plagueis and Darth Sidious, Master and acolyte, target the galaxy for domination - and the Jedi Order for annihilation. But can they defy the merciless Sith tradition? Or will the desire of one to rule supreme, and the dream of the other to live forever, sow the seeds of their destruction? From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 14 hours 49 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Random House Audio

Audible.com Release Date: January 10, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B006VPAUYE

Best Sellers Rank: #75 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction > Adventure #100 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Action & Adventure #203 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Space Opera

Customer Reviews

One of the more interesting portions of the prequel trilogy of Star Wars films came in Episode III,

where Palpatine relates the story of Darth Plagueis the Wise to Anakin Skywalker. According to the legend, Plagueis learned to use the Force to achieve immortality, only to have his apprentice murder him. "Ironically," Palpatine concludes, with a self-satisfied smirk on his face. "He could save others from death, but not himself." After reading James Luceno's novelization of Darth Plagueis' life and exploits, that smirk takes on much greater meaning. The novel covers most of Plagueis' career as a Sith master, starting from the time that he himself killed his own master. Because of this, it covers a lot of territory already established in Star Wars canon. This is both a blessing and a curse, as this gives the book the chance to provide a unique alternative perspective to previously visited events but requires some familiarity with other prequel-era Expanded Universe lore. This is compounded by the fact that Plagueis himself is very much a behind-the-scenes manipulator rather than a warrior, which means that he is usually shown reacting to an event occurring outside of the novel's scope. As this was the first EU book I'd picked up in a while, and given my lack of exposure to the EU comics, I had to run to the internet every so often to familiarize myself with some of the backstory. This is an unavoidable flaw given the context and characters, but I still feel that is a flaw nonetheless. Aside from this drawback, I found the book excellent. The writing and characterization are key strengths here. Palpatine in particular, who has always been one of my favorite Star Wars characters, is especially well-done, and it's fascinating to see him evolve as a Sith Lord growing into his own mastery. The danger here was that Palpatine as an apprentice risked undercutting the confident, powerful figure we see in the movies, but the Palpatine in this book melds nicely with the Palpatine we see later on. Luceno also handles the pacing quite well. As the novel covers a large portion of Plagueis' life, there was a definite risk of speeding through decades of material. While chapters do tend to leap ahead years or decades, especially in the beginning, it manages to avoid feeling disjointed or rushed. It's just long enough to hit the essential points while not getting overly caught up in itself. All things considered, this is a worthy addition to the EU canon and to any Star Wars fan's library. For those seeking greater insight into the Dark Side of the Force and the Sith Order, look no further than Darth Plagueis.

It's very difficult to write science fiction. It's even more difficult to tackle the origins of the greatest Sith Lord and one of the most iconic villains in science fiction history. James Luceno is, luckily, up to the task. A must-have for every Star Wars fanboy (even if it's no longer considered canon).

This is my first Star Wars book, and it exceeded my expectations in every way. I had no idea of the philosophical depth of the Sith vs. Jedi perspective on the Force. To me, this gave the book

substance that you could actually relate to your real life. But above all, Sidious and Plagueis are beautifully developed as characters. Even though they are the "bad guys", you actually relate to them and see how one could be drawn to the Sith way of thinking. I watched the new Star Wars (Episode 7) after reading this book, and was just disgusted at how shallow the new movie was compared to the depth of the Star Wars world. For a newbie like me, it was hard to keep up with the character, planets, and starship types getting thrown around, but it didn't distract from my appreciation of the characters and underlying philosophy at all. Just a great book and really sucked me in. One of those books that you don't want to finish because you're having such a good time reading it.

I'll put it simple, if you felt the pre-quels were less than satisfying, then read this book. No, it's not the story of Anakin Skywalker, but it tells the tale of how his "puppet master" came to be so powerful and duplicitous. If you liked the prequels then this novel fills in a tremendous amount of Gaps Lucas left in the script. My only complaint is that it begins a little slow, which surprises me from James Luceno. However, once Palpatine is introduced, the novel is one you will not put down!

Darth Plagueis is a book on not just one sith lord, but two: the one whom the novel's title is named after, and Darth Sideous. It describes each Sith Lord's rise to power. Darth Sideous was the face of the sith, yes, but the Sith Grand Plan had two masterminds, one whom was the face- the voice and one who set the ground work from the shadows. If you want to know what set the Galactic Civil War into motion, how the Sith rised up once again from defeated near-obscurity and years of hiding and subterfuge, get this book!

The best Star Wars book I've read to date. Loved the intricate way that this story leads into the prequels.

James cleverly links all the behind the scene plotting of Plagueis and Sidious that are set during the time of The Phantom Menace. After reading this book, I have grown more , appreciative of the film. It discusses how the Dark Lords planned everything that led to the destruction of the Republic and the fall of the Jedi Order that although implied is not fully explained in the prequel films. I'd recommend this book to any Star Wars fan, especially those disappointed with the prequels, who want to learn of the larger story behind the ascension of the Sith. This book is the embodiment of what Phantom Menace should have been.

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