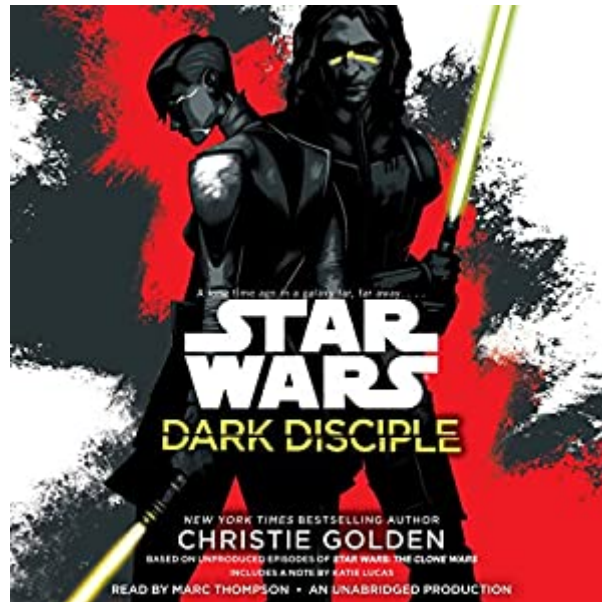


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Dark Disciple: Star Wars



Synopsis

Based on unproduced episodes of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, this new novel features Asajj Ventress, former Sith apprentice turned bounty hunter and one of the great antiheroines in *Star Wars* history. The only way to bring down the Sith's most dangerous warrior may be to join forces with the dark side. In the war for control of the galaxy between the armies of the dark side and the Republic, former Jedi Master turned ruthless Sith Lord Count Dooku has grown ever more brutal in his tactics. Despite the powers of the Jedi and the military prowess of their clone army, the sheer number of fatalities is taking a terrible toll. And when Dooku orders the massacre of a flotilla of helpless refugees, the Jedi Council feels it has no choice but to take drastic action: targeting the man responsible for so many war atrocities, Count Dooku himself. But the ever-elusive Dooku is dangerous prey for even the most skilled hunter. So the council makes the bold decision to bring both sides of the Force's power to bear - pairing brash Jedi Knight Quinlan Vos with infamous one-time Sith acolyte Asajj Ventress. Though Jedi distrust for the cunning killer who once served at Dooku's side still runs deep, Ventress' hatred for her former master runs deeper. She's more than willing to lend her copious talents as a bounty hunter - and assassin - to Vos' quest. Together Ventress and Vos are the best hope for eliminating Dooku - as long as the emerging feelings between them don't compromise their mission. But Ventress is determined to have her retribution and at last let go of her dark Sith past. Balancing the complicated emotions she feels for Vos with the fury of her warrior's spirit, she resolves to claim victory on all fronts - a vow that will be mercilessly tested by her deadly enemy... and her own doubt.

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Customer Reviews

(Review also posted on Legendarium Media 6-5-15, MILD SPOILERS) Dark Disciple is, for lack of a better word, truly epic from start to finish. Based on eight unfinished episodes of Star Wars: The Clone Wars, the story follows former Sith assassin Asajj Ventress and Jedi Quinlan Vos on a mission to assassinate Count Dooku to put a quick end to the war. The mission was actually the idea of the Jedi Council, an idea which goes against everything they stand for. We never really saw the Jedi Council as a whole falter this much in the show or the films and it illustrates just how desperate the Jedi have become. Even more unthinkable is the suggestion that not only a Jedi, Quinlan Vos, carry out this deed, but that they do so with the help of Asajj Ventress, the only one still alive who was close to him and tried to assassinate him herself...twice. Things really take off when Asajj and Quinlan first meet (the animatics for their first verbal [and physical] exchange were first shown at Star Wars Celebration this year). The story moves quickly but isn't rushed, which is perfect for both Quin and Asajj as characters; neither are simple or quick-to-trust people, but Golden takes the time to explore them both and explain through events how their partnership organically grows into something rather special while not detracting from the main story. In fact, the romance angle becomes just as important as the mission to kill Dooku because it becomes such an integral part of nearly everything, a change of pace from the majority of Star Wars novels. Speaking of which...Anyone who has spent more than five minutes around me knows of my love and adoration of Asajj, so I'll get this out of the way right now: I'm still not a fan of her and Quin being romantically involved. HOWEVER! Golden takes such care in establishing and building their relationship that my initial distaste of the pairing quickly took a backseat when I read just how sweet and endearing it could be (the moment when Asajj steps out in her ballgown for the banquet on Raxus Prime was priceless). Where most would expect the confrontation with Dooku to be the climax of the novel, it's certainly not. Like I said, this is an epic. That fight is just the start of a whole chain of events that leads to one of the most bittersweet, heartbreaking conclusions I've ever read in my life. I don't want to spoil too much, but I will say that if you're not at least the tiniest bit choked up by the final chapter, you might want to go see a doctor because you clearly have no heart. As engrossing as the story is on its own, there are some small issues that will hopefully be corrected by the time the final copies are released next month. Inconsistent facts, contradicting dialogue, and a missing word or two didn't hurt the story too badly, but they did jerk me out of the flow for a moment. The only other complaint I have is regarding Quinlan's motivation in the second half, which actually hurt any chance that I

might have been more willing to accept he and Asajj as a couple. Again, without too many spoilers, while their relationship is sweet, it starts on lies and Quin is the one who keeps that going even after Asajj has owned up to her own lie (which is a rather massive one). He hides things from her and does things that, even though she had committed terrible things while in the service of the Sith, she would have been horrified to learn about. The real crux of it all is a choice that Quin makes which is nothing short of a betrayal of trust. Asajj Ventress is not someone who trusts easily, and to betray the faith she has put in you is a grave violation that she really doesn't need to deal with after so much heartbreak in her past. Quinlan could try to rationalize it all he wanted, but it doesn't change the fact that his choices changed his relationship with her from a partnership to a power play, with him in command. Not cool, Quin. Not cool. But overall, *Dark Disciple* fills in a few blanks from *The Clone Wars* TV series rather well and handles every character with love and care (yes, even Dooku). There is humor, there is joy, there is action (and plenty of it), there is despair, there is emotion. We learn just how deep Asajj's guilt over the Nightsister massacre goes, how far Quinlan is willing to go both for the task of assassinating Dooku and to preserve what he has and hopes to have with Asajj, and how one who has fallen can find their way back to the Light in the end. I finished the book in a record (for me) 16 hours over two days. Other readers may want to stretch out their reading time if only to spare their hearts and souls the agony *Dark Disciple* will instill in them. Don't say I didn't warn you.

Christie Golden is a great writer. As of this date, with the exception of the movie tie-in, I have read all of her *Warcraft* novels, and enjoyed all of them. So I went into this book predicting I would enjoy it, and I did. Unlike other authors, Golden focuses solely on the characters that advance the plot and the main plotline; in addition, she writes simply yet forcefully and deeply understands the mentality of the characters she is writing. What results is a moving story that easily ranks as one of the best of the new canon. Disney would be smart to employ Golden as a writer for future novels.

Star Wars: Dark Disciples by Christine Golden Book Review One of the most complicated love stories ever told in the *Star Wars* universe! Let me start off by stating the obvious: I'm a huge *Star Wars* fan. No, I can't speak Wookiee or list the entire history of the Republic, but I do love the story and the characters of the *Star Wars* universe started by George Lucas and curated by several writers and creators over the decades. In Christine Golden's novel *Star Wars: Dark Disciple*, fans are treated to an untold story from just before the end of the Clone Wars, when the Jedi Order became desperate and turn to an unlikely ally for a mission to end the war. Here is the synopsis: Based on

unproduced scripts from the blockbuster TV show *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*! The only way to bring down the dark side's most dangerous warrior may be for Jedi and Sith to join forces. In the war for control of the galaxy between the armies of the dark side and the Republic, former Jedi Master turned ruthless Sith Lord Count Dooku has grown ever more brutal in his tactics. Despite the powers of the Jedi and the military prowess of their clone army, the sheer number of fatalities is taking a terrible toll. And when Dooku orders the massacre of a flotilla of helpless refugees, the Jedi Council feels it has no choice but to take drastic action: targeting the man responsible for so many war atrocities, Count Dooku himself. But the ever-elusive Dooku is dangerous prey for even the most skilled hunter. So the Council makes the bold decision to bring both sides of the Force's power to bear—pairing brash Jedi Knight Quinlan Vos with infamous one-time Sith acolyte Asajj Ventress. Though Jedi distrust for the cunning killer who once served at Dooku's side still runs deep, Ventress's hatred for her former master runs deeper. She's more than willing to lend her copious talents as a bounty hunter and assassin to Vos's quest. Together, Ventress and Vos are the best hope for eliminating Dooku—as long as the emerging feelings between them don't compromise their mission. But Ventress is determined to have her retribution and at last let go of her dark Sith past. Balancing the complicated emotions she feels for Vos with the fury of her warrior's spirit, she resolves to claim victory on all fronts—a vow that will be mercilessly tested by her deadly enemy. . . and her own doubt. The intimate and complicated love story of Ventress and Vos is something to behold. Both behold to a sense of duty, (Vos to the Jedi, Ventress to her revenge and mission to leave the dark side behind her), the novel does an excellent job of exploring the shades of grey that exist amongst the Force users of the *Star Wars* universe. While for some it's as simple as the light versus the dark side, there are others who see a chance to explore the depths of both sides of the force. The ruthless nature of the *Clone Wars* and the way these two characters are tested between their mission and their feelings for one another makes this a gripping tale that every *Star Wars* fan should read. Overall, this is a fantastic novel. I love the chemistry between Vos and Ventress, and the way their story impacts major characters like Obi-Wan and Anakin Skywalker. I especially loved getting to see more sides of Ventress, who has always been a complicated character in the mythology, from a Sith assassin to a fallen Nightsister to a bounty hunter for hire. Author Christie Golden really has done a masterful job of bringing these characters to life in a way where you feel emotionally connected to them, and this is a true testament to the power of the author's writing. If you haven't yet, you should check out *Star Wars: Dark Disciple* by Christie Golden today!

A very typical Romeo-Juliet love story told in the *Star Wars* universe between a Jedi and a former

Sith apprentice. It is not particularly surprising, and after years of Ventress being bad, it was a bit hard at times seeing her in a softer light, but I did find the story grew on me as it went. It was easy to see that it was originally broken up into Clone Wars episodes. It would have been a great arc to see on the small screen. It does an interesting job of delving into using the Force but not being specifically good or evil, or Jedi or Sith. I could clearly see some of those threads that were working their way into the Clone Wars story in the cartoon. The delved even deeper here. I was never a big fan of Ventress or Vos, but I found the characters in the book compelling. If you are a huge fan of either of these characters, I imagine you would not be disappointed with their story here, especially Ventress. Despite its predictability and the struggle at the beginning not seeing Ventress as evil, I found that I became attached to the characters and the ending was touching.

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