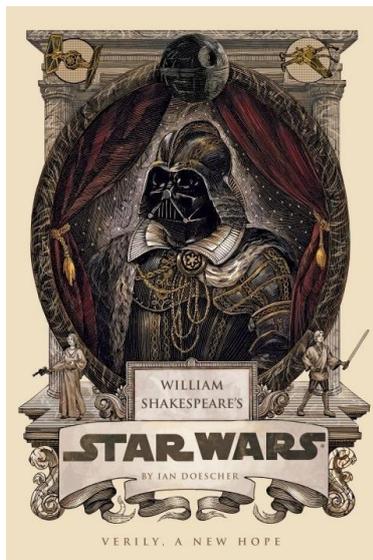


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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S STAR WARS

VERILY, A NEW HOPE

By Ian Doescher

Published by Quirk Books
2 July 2013, £11.99, Hb

'In time so long ago begins our play, In star-crossed galaxy far, far away.'

The most popular film franchise in history joins the world's most famous and well-known writer in this unbeatable book – **William Shakespeare's Star Wars® : Verily, A New Hope**. Accompanied by woodcut illustrations of Chewbacca, C-3PO, Luke Skywalker (in a striking Hamlet pose), this takes the reader line by line through the script of 'Star Wars' in true iambic pentameters from the Bard of Avon, using the language of his plays, and making it accessible to the modern reader.

This officially licensed re-telling takes us through the story with all the flourishes and trademarks Shakespeare aficionados and scholars will recognise: dramatic soliloquies or telling asides from R2-D2 and other characters, references to the sonnets, speeches from *Hamlet*, *Richard III*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Henry V* reworked to fit into the *Star Wars* story and characters, exclamations such as 'Marry!'; stage directions; a recognisable comedy routine by two guards near the *Millennium Falcon* as it is held captive on the Death Star, a mourning song from Princess Leia and much, much more!

The works of Shakespeare are constantly being re-invented, and this book will prove wildly popular with any fan of the *Star Wars* films, and also with Shakespearian scholars for its in-depth research, knowledge, easy-to-read style, and content – who won't turn down the chance to read about duelling with light-sabres whilst trading lines in verse? – and is a perfect way to introduce children to the works of one of the greatest writers in the English language, as well as the swashbuckling fun of *Star Wars*!

For a review copy, competition prizes or to arrange an interview with the author, please contact Jane Beaton at Kew Publicity on jane@kewpublicity.co.uk, or call 07802 433471.

Excerpts from WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S STAR WARS

Published by Quirk Books

*'Now is the summer of our happiness
Made winter by this sudden, fierce attack!'*

C-3PO

*'Alas, poor stormtrooper, I knew ye not,
Yet have I ta'en both uniform and life
From thee. What manner of a man wert thou?
A man of inf'nite jest or cruelty?'*

*'Friends, rebels, starfighters, lend me your ears.
Wish not we had a single fighter more,
If we are mark'd to die, we are enough
To make our planets proud. But should we win,
We fewer rebels share the greater fame.'*

LUKE SKYWALKER

*'Now dropping out of light speed's frantic rush
We enter swift unto the area
Where should there be great Alderaan in view.
But pray, what madness meets the Falcon's flight?
Is this an ast'roid field I see before me?
The ship hath wrought a course direct and true,
And yet no Alderaan may here be found.
O errand vile, O portents of great ill!
What shall it mean, when planets are no more,
For those who make their wages by the stars?'*

HAN SOLO

*'A Jedi is not made of fear or hate,
But must a nobler countenance display.
It is a lesson learn'd in times gone by
That shall I teach myself unto this day.
Full many years I've spent with thoughts of this -
This instant when Darth Vader I'd confront.
But now my thirst for retribution's cold,
While sweet forgiveness doth my spirit taste.'*

OBI-WAN KENOBI

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