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Star Wars: Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back

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Synopsis

Rebuilding an Empire, Marvel style! As the Imperial Forces regroup from their Death Star setback, they target the new Rebel Alliance base on the ice planet Hoth. Will Darth Vader's AT -AT s find Luke Skywalker, or will a wampa get Luke first? Meanwhile, feelings run high in the galaxy's greatest love triangle, bounty hunters target Han Solo's Millennium Falcon, and bloated Jabba the Hutt lies in wait. Luke seeks out the great Jedi Master Yoda on swampy Dagobah, but the Emperor has designs on turning the young Rebel hero. As the battle begins for Skywalker's soul, will his fear lead to anger, hate and the Dark Side? It's all heading to one of the greatest confrontations of all time. Prepare for a grave disturbance in the Force! COLLECTING: Star Wars (1977) 39-44 (remastered)

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Customer Reviews

"A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..."In 1980, a long held wish came true for filmmaker George Lucas: Al Williamson was drawing "Star Wars" comics!In the time leading up to the May 1977 release of his space fantasy film, "Star Wars," Mr. Lucas Lucas hoped to help promote his upcoming movie by creating a comic version of his ambitious cinematic project. A fan of comic books and newspaper strips since childhood, he wished to have Al Williamson contribute his considerable artistic talents to illustrating his film story into the comic medium. Mr. Williamson was a master comic artist and a favorite of the writer/director. Unfortunately it was not to be. Mr.

Williamson had to decline Mr. Lucas' offer due to his commitment to illustrate the "Secret Agent Corrigan" newspaper strip (X-9: Secret Agent Corrigan Volume 1), which he had been collaborating on with gifted writer Archie Goodwin since 1967. Other capable creators would go on to translate "Star Wars" into comics, notably; writer Roy Thomas, and artists Howard Chaykin Steve Leialoha, Tom Palmer, Carmine Infantino, Terry Austin, Gene Day, and Bob Wiacek on the Marvel Comics series, and another comic legend, Russ Manning, on the comic strip. The above mentioned Archie Goodwin would also soon join the creative fellowship, working as writer on both the comic as well as the newspaper strip.Then in 1980, Mr. Williamson chose to leave the "Secret Agent Corrigan" strip, and when he was again offered the chance to draw "the adventures of Luke Skywalker," he accepted. George Lucas was happy.

I'm a fan of this film, but the real appeal of this release is the preservation and re-presentation of the classic work of Al Williamson. Williamson is from another era of comic book artists, a master of light and shadow who came up in an age where artists could not rely on all the bells and whistles of photoshop to save them. Used properly (not unlike cgi) modern coloring and effects can enhance the visuals. But when the colorist is so heavy handed and bulldozes over the line work of a master illustrator like Williamson - in many cases erasing it completely (as when the Probe-Droid emerges on Hoth) it's a real shame. The tragedy is that the colorist is actually skilled in palette choices, they just showed no restraint or respect for Williamson's work. It's like the colorist just discovered the 'snow brush' in photoshop and decided to stamp it all over everything. I had to ask myself what would Williamson think of this representation of his work? There is a panel of Han Solo fleeing the Hoth base as the corridor collapses. In the original release, the Solo figure is a wonderful example of Williamson's graceful figure work - something extremely difficult for artists then and now to capture. In this new version, the figure is almost completely buried under snow brush fx. It was then that I realized Williamson would very likely have been upset about this new version. Think the 'Special Editions' of Star Wars vs. the theatrical cuts. They just pile on because they can. Part of being a skilled artist is knowing what not to paint. What to leave out. Another element that bothered me was the very thin paper in comparison to the original release, which was much thicker. Despite that this is a hardcover, the interior pages are quite whispy.

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