



Rebel in the Ranks

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As a new student at Lothal's Imperial Academy, Zare Leonis does everything it takes to pass as a model cadet. But secretly, he is a hidden enemy in the ranks, determined to discover the truth about his missing sister and to bring down the Empire. When a mysterious new cadet arrives and seems to have rebellion on his mind, Zare is drawn into a reckless plan that could doom them all. . . .

Rebel in the Ranks Details

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From Reader Review Rebel in the Ranks for online ebook

Mike Jozic says

Out of all the new canon books I have read so far Rebel in the Ranks stands out as one of the more interesting, genuinely enjoyable stories that is also more stylistically consistent with the universe Lucas created than anything currently being published (with perhaps the exception of the comics from Marvel).

Author Jason Fry is not trying to put his stamp on Star Wars, he is just trying to tell a good story within that world. And while he does occasionally cross the line, breaking with the style in an attempt to make the characters relatable to a YA audience (like introducing raffle tickets) the infractions are minor and do not really detract from the story. I was not taken out of this story as jarring or as often as I was with Heir to the Jedi, for example. Anybody for a listen to "Vader's Many Prosthetic Parts"? Oy!

I also enjoyed how this story ties into the episode of Rebels that Zare Leonis appears in. It is cleverly done and I like the connectivity with the Saga in other media. I wish the story group did more of this, honestly.

Not having read the first book in the series, and based on my enjoyment of Rebel in the Ranks, I will definitely be going out and grabbing a copy of Edge of the Galaxy to experience Zare's beginnings. I am also anxiously awaiting the next installment. Good things seem to lie ahead.

Mario says

Zare Leonis has made the right choice in attending the Academy to find more information about his sister, but it's about to become entangled in the plans of the Rebels squadron, when his former roommate is replaced by Ezra Bridger in disguise.

Zare and Merei must navigate their own paths in the quest for the discovery of the information of the location of Dhara Leonis, but they will end getting caught in a net of lies... will they be able to shake it off? Recommended!

Christian says

Decent follow-up to the first book in the series, but didn't really hit the same thematic highs and deft plot twists that made the first one such a delightful surprise. Fry does continue to do an excellent job making me care about all the characters, even semi-villainous ones like Chiron and Oleg. The first 2/3rds was a quick and enjoyable read, but the last section seemed a bit disjointed and sketchy. This likely had to do with the necessity to tie it in directly with the Rebels TV episode that covers pretty much the exact same ground. In this section the characters didn't really seem to gel with how they usually acted. The "climax" of the novel felt rushed and under-explained. It was definitely a different pace and almost seemed to be written in a different style, though this may have to do with the fact that I, as the reader, knew literally exactly what was going to happen. Fry didn't really manage to re-excite me with this new telling. While there were a few easter eggs of what happened on the sidelines of the episode, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern this is not. I'm glad this didn't serve as the first book in the Servants of the Empire series, because if this had been the case I might never have continued past this installment. Despite these shortcomings, I do find myself invested in

the stories of Zare and his search for his sister. My hope is that Zare does NOT continue to make meaningful appearances on the Rebels TV series, as I would much rather see his story unfold in these books.

Chloe (aka Crystal) says

The story was okay, but a little dry and boring at times. I was excited when the characters from *Rebels* popped up towards the end. I accidentally read this one out of order, so I'll have to work on the first book in the series, *Edge of the Galaxy*, then continue on to the next books. I expected this book to be set a little before the Rebels episode "Breaking Ranks" and thought it would also have some info after, but it's basically that Rebels' episode from another perspective with some more info before (view spoiler).

If you've been wanting to know more about Zare Leonis, like myself, then totally check this series out! Otherwise, it's really not a necessary read.

Brandt says

Even though he seems to only write for the *Star Wars* tween line of books, Jason Fry seems to be one of the few authors who "gets it" when writing *Star Wars* related novels. Even though the *Servants of the Empire* series are marketed toward the tween crowd, I have a feeling as we go through these novels that if they had been printed in smaller print and bound together, *Servants of the Empire* would probably be one of the better *Star Wars* novels out there.

Even though I was down a bit on the first volume, this second volume redeems it a bit, as this is the place where Zare's story intersects with the *Star Wars: Rebels* episode "Breaking Ranks" and then goes its separate way, leaving Zare to carry the rest of his search for his sister on without the main cast of *Rebels*.

Usually losing the characters you love from the base story would be the kiss of death for a series like this, which needs to have Zare carry the narrative going forward, but Fry is one of the better writers in the *Star Wars* stable and Zare as a character has show growth from *Edge of the Galaxy* to *Rebel in the Ranks*. I'm excited to see where Fry is going to take this. In fact, given how terrible some of the Del Rey books have been (I'm looking at you *Heir to the Jedi*), I think it's high time that *Star Wars* editorial gives Fry a chance to write a novel for the big kids.

Josiah says

I really enjoyed this one as a follow up to the episodes in Rebels series one. It may be intended for younger readers but older readers like myself can still enjoy it too.

Jaime K says

This was a 4.5 star but I bumped it up to 5 because now I want to rewatch *Rebels*!

I found it strange at first when the Clone Wars were considered ancient, but then I realized that they were talking about the technology from the CW. Because, even on Earth, we consider 15-year-old technology to be ancient. I thought it was funny after that.

It swaps between focusing on Zare and Merei, which makes the story more interesting. Zare learns more about being a leader with his training and Merei attempts to infiltrate further into the Imperial database. But Dhara, Zare's sister, is never far from anyone's minds, including his parents'. Almost everything the two teens do is to see what they can do to learn about Dhara's fate and maybe take down Lothal's Imperial influence from the inside.

Merei's snooping leads her to some illegal business, which she is well aware about, particularly because of the security work her parents do.

Jai, Oleg, and Pandek are in Zare's training unit. Oleg is egotistical and doesn't always like to show teamwork; Jai is the first to realize that teamwork helps them to get through training assessments; Pandek falls behind and eventually washes out. He's not the only one, and other cadets come in to complete the units. Zare's gets a suspicious seeming guy named Dev. Even Merei can't get much information on him.

Zare learns that Dev (aka Ezra) is there to steal the decoder that Zare and Merei also need. Dev explains that he's Force sensitive...as is Jai...as is Dhara. This leads Zare to meet the Inquisitor and pique his interest by hinting that he himself may also be Force sensitive. Merei forewarns Zare that he'll likely be heading to Project Harvester, which makes me very intrigued for the following books.

Jim C says

This is the second book of a series in which Zare continues his search for his missing sister. Zare is now in the Imperial Academy which is where his sister was when she went missing. This book crosses with the *Rebels* aired episode. One can read this book without reading the first book of this series.

I liked this book a little better than the first book. Maybe it was the familiarity of the episode. I did enjoy seeing our heroes again and I do wonder if they will be involved with the rest of this story. I think the main reason I liked this book was the different perspective and also the additional information. I also love the direction the story arc the author is taking. Even the sub plot is interesting as that took a nice twist and I am intrigued to see how that plays out.

This series is intended for a younger audience but can be enjoyed by fans of all ages. The author has done an excellent job fitting this within the timeline and the state of this universe.

DAYADEW says

Enjoyed this much more because it shows a different point of view from the *Rebel in the Ranks* episode. I wish it could have explained why Ezra had taken such an immediate liking to Jai and vice versa, but I understand this isn't his story. On the other hand, I love how Zare sees through blueberry's fake identity time

and time again. This finally explains what happened to Zare after posing as an Imperial hero, and I can't wait to see how it's further explored. Zare's level-headedness, leadership and strong determination paired with Merei's quick-thinking and ability to collect herself under pressure make them a great team, and I'm raring to see what'll happen to them by the end of the series, because they sure as heck would have made great rebels.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, in the sparse screentime (pagetime?) Zeb and Sabine had in this book during their encounter with Merei Spanjaf, it served to portray Zeb as having a level head and a soft spot for little kiddos.

As for Sabine, well...

“When I’m finished,” she said. “I’m using the decoder as the seed for a decryption subroutine. If you know what that means.”

... it only showed more of her arrogance and holier-than-thou attitude towards a girl who means no harm and physically poses as no potential threat. Granted, I was asking for more personality from her, but I don't think I meant it *this* way. At this rate, there's no saving her from being my least favorite character in the Ghost team.

Marcin Kowalski says

Even though the rather annoying rugby games have been replaced by still annoying training exercises, the book manages to hold an interest, but there was one thing that dragged it all down for me. I expected this to be not a sequel to the previous book, but to the Rebels episode titled "Breaking ranks". But it turned out we went some time back and witnessed the events that lead up to this episode from the point of view of young Zare Leonis. But the book does not stop at leading up to the episode, it tell it till the very end from Zare's point of view, making it essentially a very expanded adaptation of said episode. I would rather suggest reading first the book, and later watching the episode, because the author manages to make Morgans true identity a mystery, that would be fun if not spoiled by watching the show. I may criticize this one a bit to much, but the writing is engaging, the story is interesting and I am still very eager to see young Zare in action.

CamoFanatic123 says

This book is alright. I read it on OverDrive as an ebook. The only thing I didn't like was all of the Rebel propaganda. Otherwise, this book is good.

Nancy says

Excellent follow up to book 1. Part of what I enjoy so much is that it's clearly a simplified story for a younger audience but the stakes are personal, and the world building and characters are great (I love Merei!). It **feels** like Star Wars.

Julie says

More about Zare Leonis. This one includes the Star Wars: Rebels episode where he meets Ezra Bridger, so it's nice to get the other side of that story.

Graham Tomlinson says

Really enjoying these books, I know they are meant for young adults but I am 60 and still find them a fun read. The tie in to rebels is also very cool. Looking forward to reading the next in the series.

Edith says

Si, esta saga promete mucho. Sigue subiendo de ritmo y profundidad de trama. Si bien hay dos que tres cosas no creíbles y es un poco predecible, sigue siendo una historia ingeniosa e interesante. No diré más porque, como dije en la mini reseña anterior, creo que Servants of the Empire es un libro dividido en cuatro partes para que los niños no se asusten con la longitud de lo que están leyendo... Así que vamos al que sigue.
