2016

Decoder Ring--Legends, Or What's An Expanded Universe?

Jerry Spiller
Art Institute of Charleston, yeri.spiller@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation
Spiller, Jerry (2018) "Decoder Ring--Legends, Or What's An Expanded Universe?," Against the Grain: Vol. 28: Iss. 1, Article 41.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.7299

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.
Bers from artist Dark Empire Dave Dorman including Archie Goodwin, Howard Chaykin, who would move on after Roy Thomas for regular run of Star Wars comics from Lucasfilm and related properties in 2012. The EU was littered with stories from prose, comics, animated television, radio dramas, table-top role-playing games from West End Games and Wizards of the Coast, those Ewok movies, and video games covering thousands of years of galactic history. These included some interesting “multimedia projects” that attempted to closely coordinate storyline across films and other media that were all being created and released at the same time or in very close proximity to each other. Perhaps most notable were the numerous properties that covered the events of the Clone Wars between the second and third prequel films, including **Jedi** and **Clone Wars** animated series. **Clone Wars** was originally a limited series but eventually became ongoing serial.

Suffice to say that as the law of big numbers suggests, most of the EU materials were not as well-regarded as **Thrawn**. The EU was acknowledged as “legends” of the galaxy, with canon being reset to the official films and **Star Wars: The Clone Wars**, and media produced from that point forward, including the **Star Wars Rebels animated series**.

The inclusion of **Clone Wars** in canon is interesting. Not that it’s not a quality show. It certainly is. But we’ve seen quality thrown out. For one, I think the **Clone Wars** and its descendant, **Rebels**, are hard to separate. If one should be in canon, the other should. But more importantly both of these series are popular with younger generations of fans. I think that’s the real hook. Fans of a certain age don’t seem to dismiss the Prequel Trilogy quite as harshly as those who watched the originals in the theater. I’d venture that some don’t necessarily connect with the Original Trilogy as strongly, either. Many are too young to have played **Knights of the Old Republic** when it was released, though they might have played the iOS rerelease. The **Clone Wars** may be their strongest anchor to the franchise.

So that’s where we are as of **Force Awakens**. Fans can’t help but notice some similarities between one of Han and Leia’s children in the EU and their child in **THA**. Does that mean there will be other similarities? Other children? If you’re hoping that Supreme Leader Snoke turns out to be Darth Plagueis, should you be combing the 2012 **Darth Plagueis** novel, despite the fact that you know it’s out of continuity? If you think the identity of Rey’s family line is important, you could go back to the prequels. **Clone Wars**, and Rebels to find potential grand- parents. Should fans go over everything they can, looking for potential clues to prop up their One True Theory?

If fandom has taught me anything, it’s that people will anyway. But maybe that’s not such a bad thing. With all the feelings I got from **The Force Awakens**, December 2017 seems like a long way off. We need some Star Wars to watch, read, play, and talk about until then.  

---

**Endnotes**