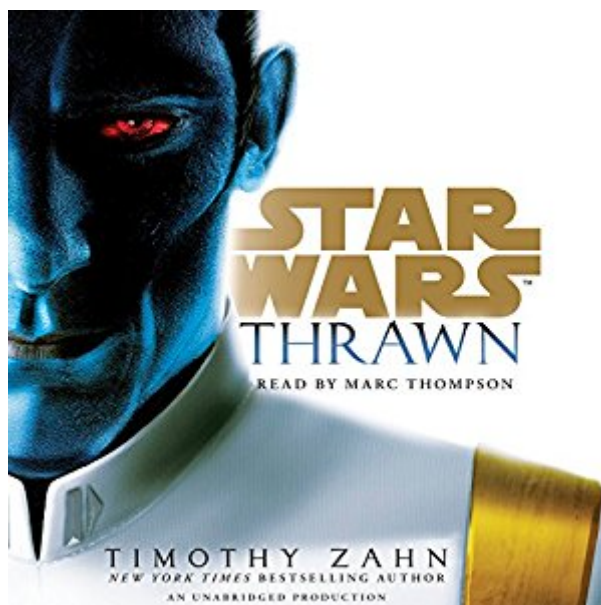


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Thrawn (Star Wars)



Synopsis

In this definitive novel, listeners will follow Thrawn's rise to power - uncovering the events that created one of the most iconic villains in Star Wars history.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

The down side of the Disney acquisition of Lucasfilm was that books like Timothy Zahn's the Thrawn Trilogy were relegated to a status dubbed "Legends." And while some of the new material has been enjoyable (notably James Luceno's "Catalyst") mostly the books have been middling-quality afterthought to the new films and cartoons. "Thrawn" rectifies that. From a only-barely modified origin story that will be very familiar to those who read the short "Mist Encounter" to bringing Thrawn days before his debut in "Rebels", we see the journey an alien has to take to rise to the pinnacle of military rank in the xenophobic Empire. There are familiar notes including character and ship names readers of Zahn's Legends material, new material including Thrawn's young protege, and for those who require an Imperial villain, we have Arhinda Pryce and her ruthless climb to political power that also explains a great deal about her character on Rebels and how she and Thrawn became allies of a sort. There's also a surprise twist to Thrawn's backstory that should catch even longtime readers off guard. And for the first time ever, we're permitted a glimpse into Thrawn's mind rather than seeing him filtered through a human POV. New-canon only fans may find things like the explanation of the "civilian casualties" on Batonn strange or not in keeping with the so-far almost simple-minded insistence in new canon on black and white morality, but readers familiar with Zahn's work recognize this is a design feature, not a

bug. If the book had any real flaws, it was a somewhat underwhelming antagonist in "Nightswan", and some of the battle sequences get VERY long-winded as Eli (the narrator) talks through analyzing them. But overall the book is the high quality and characterization we have come to expect from Zahn. Other than Catalyst this is, thus far the only must read new Star Wars thus far, and the only one which is a must read for its own sake.

After years of waiting, Thrawn has returned into the official Star Wars canon, and it's everything I could've hoped for. His role in Star Wars Rebels was already a great re-introduction for the famed character, but thanks to this book—which follows Thrawn from his first days in the Empire up until his promotion to Grand Admiral—the character is richer and more realized than ever before. The plot is pretty thin, which is somewhat of a disappointment, but observing through the eyes of young soldier Eli Vanto—who serves as Thrawn's ally through the entirety of the novel—gives the story a richness of character that makes up for any lack of compelling plot. Probably the best part of the book is, quite simply, the fact that Timothy Zahn got to write it. Reading Zahn write Thrawn again is a treat, and seeing him flesh out the mysterious alien's backstory is an even better experience than I had expected. Yes, Thrawn is, at his most basic level, a Sherlock-inspired trope, but Zahn takes the character beyond that original archetype and paints Thrawn as more "human" and sympathetic than I thought possible. I relished every moment of the book, and Zahn masterfully paces the multi-pronged story so that, even as the plot seems to stall, I was never once bored. Quite the opposite, in fact. The political and social angles of the story are incredibly compelling, and it really is impressive how Zahn is able to not only tell a great origin story for Thrawn, but also for two other characters who we are mostly unfamiliar with. Both Eli Vanto and the future Governor Pryce are fascinating characters, and Zahn weaves their unique stories in with Thrawn's in a special way that is a treat to watch unfold. The bottom line is, if you've ever enjoyed Zahn's writing, or have waited, as I have, to see Thrawn brought back into the Star Wars canon, then this is very much the book for you. It's ripe with character, conflict, and depth, and Zahn's writing is concise and endlessly compelling. It ranks up there as one of the best books in the new canon, and I can't wait to see where Thrawn's character is taken next.

Zahn always writes good stories, and he did a superb job at creating Thrawn. I really only read Star Wars novels that have Thrawn in it, and this one was another great story. A few things are slightly modified from the original EU such as Thrawn's back story, but some EU material and characters are absent such as Outbound Flight, Cardas, and Nuso Esva. The reason I mention Nuso Esva is

that in Choices of One, Thrawn was a Captain at the time between A New Hope and The Empire Strikes Back, whereas in the Disney cannon he is already an admiral before A New Hope, so I assume that much of what happened between Nuso Esva and Thrawn in Choices of One from the EU will not be included in the new cannon since I did not see wiggle room for it to fit unless Zahn figures out how to make it work. As for Cardas, he could still become cannon in the future since Thrawn did mention that he learned Basic from smugglers, but that is still open for debate like the Snoke Theories that abound. There are other things that differ such as the nature of his exile from the Chiss Ascendancy, but I don't want to ruin it by saying much on that since that might constitute as a spoiler. I just hope that Zahn keeps it up and pumps out more novels with Thrawn because Thrawn is my favorite Star Wars character and is the reason I enjoy reading Star Wars books.

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