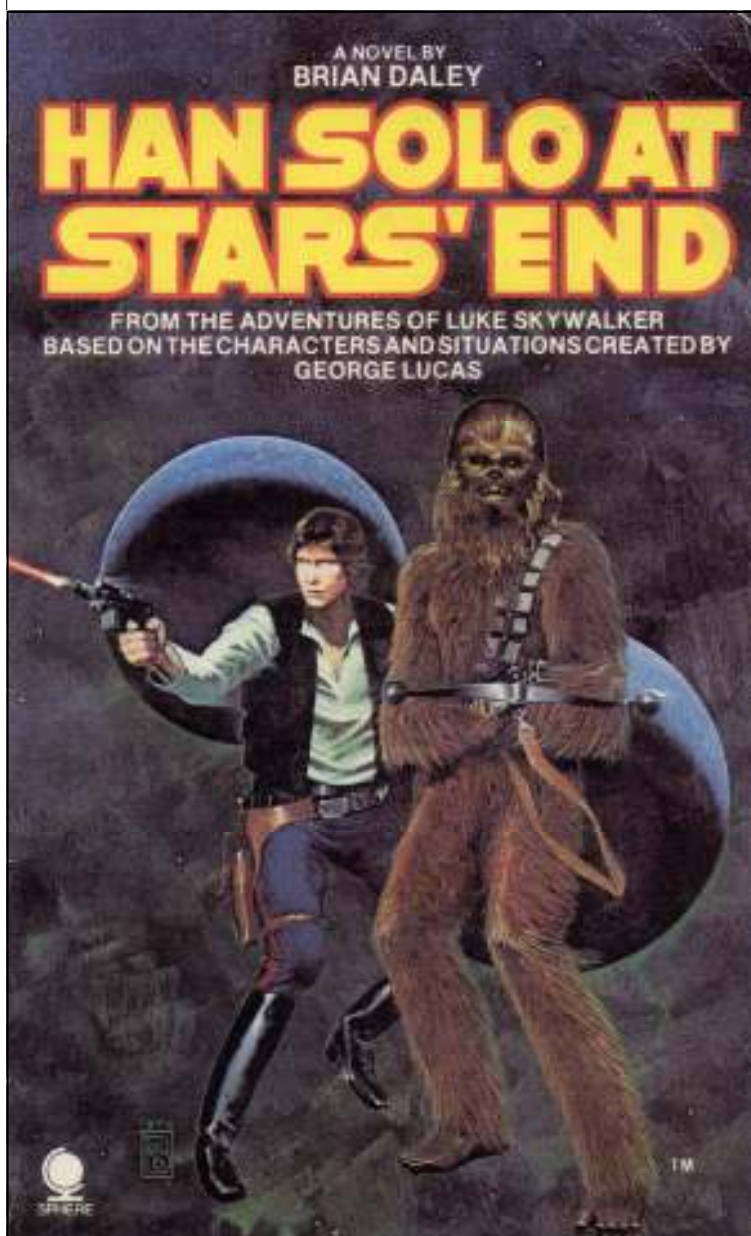


STAR
WAR

AFICIONADO ARCHIVES

HAN SOLO AT STARS' END WRITTEN BY BRIAN DALEY



Based on the characters and situations created by George Lucas

Published by Del Rey/ Ballantine Books in the US and by Sphere books in the UK- 1979

“As I live and breathe,” Jessa scoffed. “Have we finally seen Han Solo do something unselfish? Are you going soft? Who knows, you may even pick up a little morality one day, if you ever wake up and get wise to yourself.”

Han stopped, his leer gone. He glared at her for a moment, then said, “I already know all about morality, Jess. A friend of mine made a decision once, thought he was doing the moral thing. Hell, he was. But he’d been conned. He lost his career, his girl, everything. This friend of mine, he ended up standing there while they ripped the rank and insignia off his tunic. The people who didn’t want him put against a wall and shot were laughing at him. A whole planet. He shipped out of there and never went back.”

She watched his face become ugly. “Wouldn’t anyone testify for your friend?” she asked softly.

He laughed sourly. “His commanding officer committed perjury against him. There was only one witness in his defense, and who’s going to believe a Wookiee?”

Delivering an illegal shipment of weapons to the slave colony workers of Duroon, the *Millennium Falcon* is attacked and damaged by a Corporate Authority Sector cruiser. Escaping the enemy, they make their way to Etta IV for repairs. Having contacted their smuggling commission, the greedy and devious Ploovo Two-For-One, the pair quickly discover that the alien has deliberately betrayed them to the Corporate Authority (the alien being unwilling to part with their cut of the profits).

Using guile to escape Etta, the smuggler and his furry first mate, knowing they need to replace the *Falcon*’s damaged sensor dish, travel to an un-named planet- home to a band of rogue Techs, led

by a man named Doc, with his alluring daughter- and previous old flame to Solo- Jessa.

Upon arrival, they find that the Doc has mysteriously disappeared after a recent buying trip. Doing a deal with Jessa, Han agrees, in return for repairs to the *Falcon*, to go to Orron III- an agricultural world- to pick up passengers from its local authority data store facility.

Accompanied by a droid named Zollux, containing inside him a separate super computer, named Blue Max, capable of decrypting any specialist, and highly secret, info (to be used to access secure data on Orron), the *Falcon* crew are getting ready to leave for their next destination when the Tech world is attacked by a group of Corporate Authority fighters.

As an ex Imperial fighter pilot himself, and as a favor to his old flame, Han decides to man a fighter in defense of the planet. Buying time for the Tech crews to evacuate, as well as make the needed last minute repairs to the *Falcon*, Han, with the stubbornly determined Jessa, leads a squadron of rookie pilots to the air in updated Z-95 fighters, fighting the enemy IRD ships at close quarters in the planet’s atmosphere. The

THE CHARACTERS



HAN SOLO. Legendary young captain of the *Millennium Falcon*. An ex-Imperial Navy officer, Solo, disgusted by the Empire, managed to escape its stranglehold and, having won and made some “special modifications” to his beloved ship, has become a smuggler for hire throughout the galaxy alongside his best friend, Chewbacca the Wookiee.

CHEWBACCA. Two hundred year old Wookiee copilot and loyal friend to Han Solo. Owes him a life debt after being rescued from slavery. The pair work as freelancers for hire.



enemy pilots prove to be better than Han first anticipates, and the attacking flight is only just taken out, thanks to the daring smugglers skilled, as well as unorthodox, flying abilities. Watching her damaged ship about to make a terrifying crash landing, Han performs an amazing feat of piloting to rescue Jessa-flipping her upside down fighter the right side up before it impacts on the surface.

Now camouflaged by the Tech outlaws as part of an automated transport barge, the *Falcon* arrives on Orron III. Han and Chewie meet up with Rekkon, charismatic leader of the group that the smugglers were to deliver the Blue Max to, and then, when Rekkon's group have finished their tasks, pick up for delivery to a new destination.

Rekkon explains that he and his group are looking for missing family members and relatives who have disappeared under mysterious and unexplained circumstances. Rekkon believes that the Corporate Authority has imprisoned the missing people, and plans to use Blue Max to infiltrate Orron's computer centre in an effort to find any out of the ordinary information, involving the Corporate Authority, that may determine where they're being held (Rekkon has a personal investment in all this: his nephew is among the missing). Jessa has teamed up with Rekkon's team in the hope that whoever kidnapped the missing people may be linked to Doc's recent disappearance also.

With Blue Max analyzing the data, Han and Chewie are introduced to the remainder of Rekkon's recently arrived group. Included are Torm (second in command), Atuarre (a member of the feline Trianii

race) and Pakka- Atuarre's cub. Engret, to arrive shortly, rounds out the team.

Rekkon confides to Solo his worry that there is a spy amongst his group (the Corporate Authority Sector knew where to find and attack the Tech's hidden base – and only a select few knew of it's location).

When Engret fails to meet the rest of the team at the data centre rendezvous, Rekkon suspects his death. The data centre is put on alert as heavily armed Espo troops begin to search the facility for the rebels.

With help from Zollux and Blue Max, Han, Chewie and the group escape the data centre and the searching Espos. Stealing a skimmer vehicle, the small team escape run into Espo roadblocks, crashing into an agri field a small distance away from the spaceport. Taking out some of the enemy, Han, with Rekkon, buys time for the group to escape the Espos by retreating into a huge, nearby field of alien crops. Realising that his friends have been cut off, Chewie, with Blue Max, attempts to rescue them, leaping onto a giant agribot controlled harvester farming machine, which they use to tear into the attacking Espos. Unfortunately, the machine goes awry and Chewbacca is eventually captured by a squad of Espos and taken away for interrogation and imprisonment.

Trying to rescue his comrade, Han is knocked out by Rekkon, as he and Zollux, re united with the Blue Max, drag the recovering smuggler back to the group, who are now at the spaceport boundaries. Using the harvester machine, the group crash through the spaceport fences and create a diversion with the Espos, while they board the barge covered *Falcon* and escape.

As the *Falcon* takes off, a Corporate cruiser attacks them and captures the vessel in a tractor beam. Using the outer shell of the barge covering, the *Falcon* bursts free from both its exterior confinement and the tractor beam. With no time to pull away, the cruiser crashes into the barge covering, causing it tremendous damage. Having finally escaped Orron III's outer atmosphere, the *Falcon* jumps to Lightspeed.

With Torm and Atuarre returning from their manning of the ships gun quads during the attack by the cruiser, Han, leaving the command deck, discovers the dead body of Torm, slumped over the ship's holographic game table, shot from behind. Blue Max's stolen data has also been destroyed. Turning the body over, Han discovers that Rekkon had left a message for him: with his own blood. The simple message reveals the planet STARS' END, located on Mytus VII.

Though Pakka is, at first, chief suspect, Torm is quickly bluffed into revealing himself as both a traitor



JESSA. An old flame of Han's. In return for repairing the *Falcon*, Han has to undertake a mission finding her missing father.

ATUARRE and PAKKA. A feline mother and cub searching for their missing husband, taken away by the CORPORATE AUTHORITY after their colony on Trianii was annexed. They have joined Rekkon in searching for the hidden STARS' END base.



REKKON. A friend of Jessie's, he's helping her find her missing father and uncover the corruption of the CORPORATE AUTHORITY. He is determined to find the top secret hidden CA location known as STARS' END.



and Rekkon's murderer (the Corporate Authorities having promised him leadership of the Kail ranges, on his home planet, if he agreed to betray Rekkon and his people). Being unfamiliar with the ship's layout, Torm, chased by Han, accidentally enters the emergency airlock area. Having discovered that Chewie is on his way to STARS' END for interrogation, and angry at the death of the innocent Rekkon, a revenge fuelled Han activates the emergency airlock, and Torm is torn to shreds in the vast energy streams of Hyperspace.

Finding the airless, rocky moon of Mytus VII at the edge of it's star system (the reason it's referred to as STARS' END), Han hides the *Falcon* in a nearby asteroid field, waiting for an opportunity to present itself to rescue Chewie and find out what's going on there. Discovering that a group of replacement traveling entertainers have been requested to perform at the now confirmed prison facility (for people who have committed treason, or other serious crimes, against the Corporate Authority), Han and his team, intercepting the transmission, become MADAME ATUARRE'S ROVING PERFORMERS (with Han becoming Master Marksman- wizard of weaponry).

Successfully arriving unhindered onto the planetoid, the small group meet the vicious, arrogant, and highly impatient Viceprex Hirken, his obese bride, Neera, and his deadly bodyguard, the ruthless reptilian gun for hire- Uul-Rha-Shan.

Distracting the Viceprex with the disguised rebels (who have put on an entertainment show for the primary prison staff), Han, now disguised as a technician, and using the Blue Max to access the base/

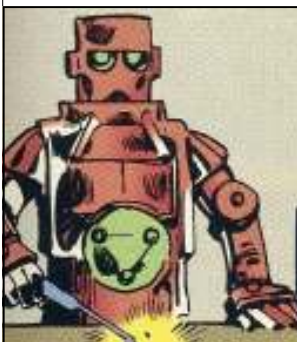
prison's computer facilities, slips away in an effort to find Chewbacca's whereabouts, as well as discover more about the layout of STARS' END.

The political prisoners are indeed being held at the base, all cruelly stored in stasis field technology. The prisoners include Jessa's missing father, Atuarre's mate and Rekkon's nephew. Chewbacca's location is also discovered- and he is shortly scheduled for torture unless Han can rescue him first.

With the deadly Mark X Executioner Droid combat machine, Hirken's pet killing machine, taking on the antiquated Zollux in combat to the death in the prison facilities specially built ampi-theatre, Han and Blue Max plan to destroy the planets main power plant with a massive power feedback, via the bases defense screens. Only one snag, the bases functions can also controlled by the Viceprex from a special command belt which he wears on his person.

With Zollux taking a pounding from the combat droid, watched by a merciless Viceprex, Atuarre and her cub, via ruse, and following instructions from Solo, are able to slip out of the ampi-theatre. A desperate Blue Max pleads for Solo to take him to his storage robot, so that he can aide his friend in the battle. Having accessed the STARS' END computer systems, Blue Max knows the killer droids weaknesses. Helping Zollux, the little droid is able to pinpoint its weaknesses and the Mark X is soon heavily damaged.

As confusion breaks out, Han Solo is captured by the evil Uul-Rha-Shan and forced to take part in a fast pistol draw against the creature. As the alien's quick responses get out a fast shot, a clever Han,



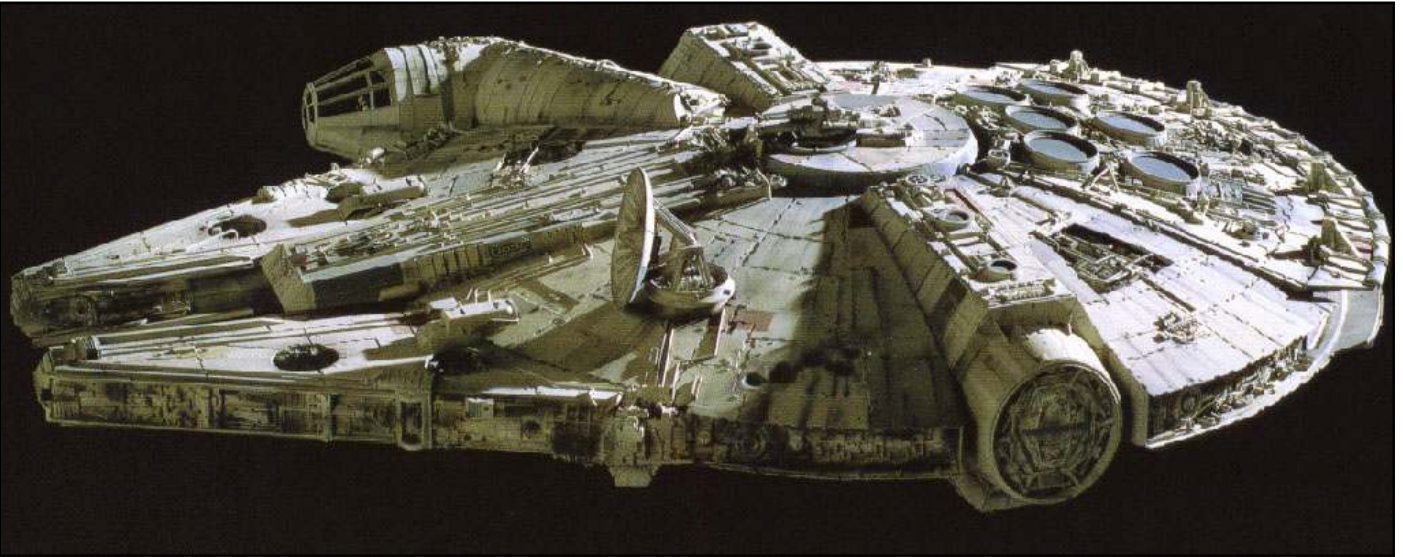
ZOLLUX and BLUE MAX. A droid housing an incredible super computer called BLUE MAX, capable of deciphering and accessing *any* top secret data.



TORM (opposite left). A man with a mission to find his missing brother. Or is there more to him than their seems?

GOVERNOR HIRKEN (opposite right). Cruel leader of the STARS' END facility, looked after by his loyal reptilian bodyguard UUL-RHA-SHAN.





manipulating himself close to vital override control circuits, ducks from the blast as it hits the circuits, knocking out the Viceprex's ability to command the base from his control belt. The power relays successfully feedback and overload as the STARS' END power facility explodes (so powerful is the explosion that the majority of the facility (including the main tower section), protected by the just functional exterior deflector shields, is blown away from the planetoid and out into partial orbit around it).

Atuarre and her cub, having boarded the *Falcon*, pilot it in destroying the remaining Corporate Authority ships located on what's left of the base's landing pad. Meanwhile, Han and the droids, fleeing Hirken's deadly amphitheatre, rush to the stasis areas. With the power out, and only the deflector shields holding the base in place from huge gravity shifts on the planetoid, the stasis chambers are no longer active. Though many wake up not knowing where they are or what to do, a large number of political prisoners summon up the courage to rebel against the small amount of Espo guards confining them. Solo, re-united with Chewie, and finding Jessa's father, lead the surviving prisoners into a combat force.

With the tower soon to make a crash landing back to STARS' END home planetoid, Doc and a team attempt to repair the damaged anti concussion field that can save their lives when the tower begins its crash descent.

Trying to escape and get rescue help, Hirken and his men fight a stand off battle with Han, Chewie and a small force of ex prisoners. A Corporate Authority assault craft boards the lower decks of the tower, intent on rescuing Hirken and his party.

Knowing that they will have to capture Hirken, Han and Chewie are about to lead an attack when Atuarre and the *Falcon* arrive on the scene.

With the Espo crew sent out to rescue Hirken, the Corporate Authority vessel is now largely empty. Using a tunnel tube junction station attached to the *Falcon*, Chewie leads a squad to the airlocks of the enemy vessel, breaking outside in, and taking control of the ship. As the prisoners are transferred from the tower to the Corporate ship, with Chewie at the helm, STARS' END goes into its final death throes.

Han and a squad buy time for the last few political prisoners to escape. Helping a damaged Zollux, Han is attacked by Uul-Rha-Shan. Saved by Atuarre's recently freed mate, who kills both the reptilian creature and a squad of also attacking Espos, Han disconnects the *Falcon*'s tube couplings from the tower remains. Pleading with Solo to save his life, Hirken is shot in the back by Neera.

As the *Falcon*, tunnel tube and Chewie's captured Corporate ship break free, the remains of the STARS' END base smash into the planets surface.

With the surviving political prisoners, including Rekkon's nephew, now re-united with their loved ones on the tech crews new hiding planet, Urdur, Han and Chewie, newly re-united with Jessa, decide to enjoy a brief respite....



Alfredo P. Alcalá's lovely 1980 black and white opening key art for the LOS ANGELES TIMES NEWSPAPER strip adaptation.

BACK COVER BLURB

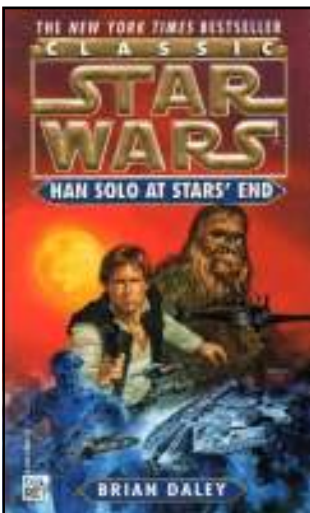
Han Solo trusts no one, and does no favors. But when the best illegal ship rebuilder in the galaxy disappears, Han and Chewbacca agree to go after him—after all, the Millennium Falcon needs some very special repairs. Their search pits them against powerful and ruthless enemies out to destroy them, and finally leads them to an airless speck of desolate asteroid—the Authority prison planet known as Stars' End.

BACKGROUND

With the success of Alan Dean Foster's original adventure SPLITTER OF THE MIND'S EYE in 1977, the proof was in the pudding that STAR WARS fans were ready and willing to read more all-new adventures with their favourite band of heroes and villains. LUCASFILM's then Licensing Editor/Producer, Carol Titleman, in her close working relationship with DEL REY, an imprint of BALLANTINE BOOKS, was soon on the lookout for popular and adaptable sci-fi authors within their book company to work on future STAR WARS novels as part of the existing license contract. Brian Daley, already blown away from seeing STAR WARS at the cinema with his best friend, and fellow author, James Luceno, would be amongst the first picked out, via his agent/publisher Judy Lynn Del Rey, because of his existing sci-fi fantasy credentials (his first novel, THE DOOMFARERS OF CORAMONDE would be published for DEL REY in 1977, and was so successful that it spawned two further sequels) and for his ability to click with the STAR WARS characters writing wise-the blend of action and space fantasy more than prevalent in his work and making him a natural choice. Originally it was planned that the first books-eventually becoming a trilogy series- were to be about Luke Skywalker. However, with work on the second STAR WARS movie underway and the main characters future still being decided, it was apparently George Lucas who instigated that the first new original books out of the gate should be to do with Han Solo and Chewbacca instead, who Daley liked and felt he had some personality traits with anyway, especially Solo's dry wit (Daley would tell STAR WARS GALAXY MAGAZINE that it was he who selected Solo as the character to write about in his first STAR WARS novel because "he was the only character who makes a real moral decision in



Han uncovers the traitor in their midst and does his signature best-dispatching bad guys with his blaster under a table FIRST!! Note how the Falcon's interior looks nothing like the film version!!! Obviously no reference pics were on hand!!!



Above: DEL REY books would re-publish the Brian Daley Han Solo adventures in 1997 to coincide with the SPECIAL EDITION theatrical re-releases. Opposite images: overseas covers for the books including a Polish unofficial publication (middle) and a Russian hardcover (bottom).

the movie". Working within events just prior to those of the first STAR WARS film, Daley's original notes and outline called for Solo to be working within the world of the Empire, but this was also changed by LUCASFILM because they weren't sure what they were going to do with the enemy forces in the second movie, resulting in Daley opting to put the books in a different part of the galaxy, before STAR WARS, and introducing the CORPORATE SECTOR AUTHORITY instead-who would appear or be named in all three of his Solo/Chewie adventures - something that wouldn't break the Empire's continuity that might be established by the films.

Even with his fast writing ability, Daley had a mere six weeks to bring the first book to life, and during the process he would often turn to his friend Luceno for advice. Before the first book had hit the shelves (dates of which have been given as either April 1st 1979 or September 1st,

1979), Carol Tittleman, having enjoyed working with Daley and sensing how successful the novel would be (noting his skill and experience in writing for Han Solo and the STAR WARS universe), would approach him to handle the ambitious NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO adaptation of STAR WARS from late 1979 to mid March of 1980.

STORY NOTES:

A TIE fighter makes an appearance in Chapter 4, pg 66 of the book- unusual since the aerial battle taking place is between Corporate Authority IRD ships and Han's tech fighter squadron!!

Loveable old Chewie, escaping Etta IV with Han on the Falcon, proceeds to sing a Wookiee song!! He also pretends to act drunk with Han in order for them to gain quick access to the ship and escape (now that's something we would all have liked to have seen on film!!)

Rekkon is one of the few humanoids in the galaxy able to speak Wookiee.

Amongst the Millennium Falcon's "special modifications" are: an irregular docking tackle, augmented defensive shields, heavy duty acceleration compensators, adapted long range detection gear, adapted thrusters, anti sensor equipment, jamming and countermeasures, broad band monitoring apparatus, specially constructed contraband smuggling compartments, and a lift/mass ratio and armaments rating way over the legal specifications for a normal freighter.

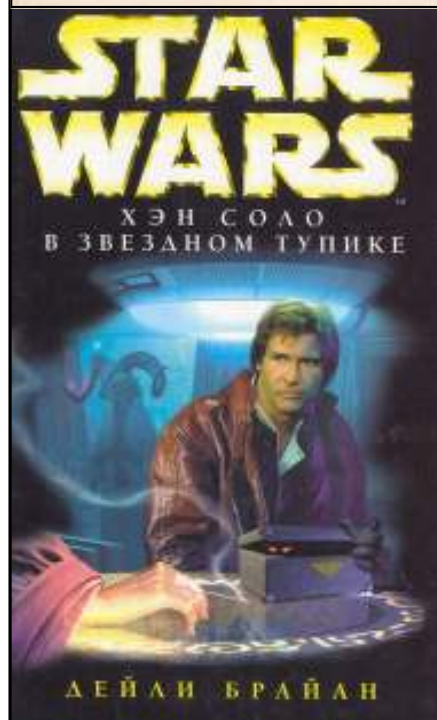
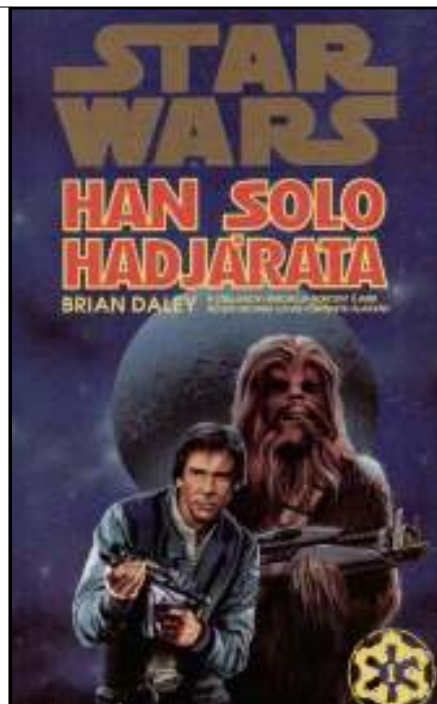
HAN SOLO AT STARS' END- THE U.S. NEWSPAPER COMIC SERIAL (1980) /DARK HORSE COMICS- 3 PART MINI SERIES RE-PRINT COMPILATION (PUBLISHED MARCH-MAY 1997-to coincide with the Thirtieth anniversary release of the STAR WARS SPECIAL EDITIONS)

Adapted by Archie Goodwin. Drawn by Alfredo P. Alcalá

First Published: LOS ANGELES TIMES NEWSPAPER/SYNDICATION- October 12th 1980 to Feb 8th 1981

ADDITIONAL DARK HORSE MIN-SERIES/ CREDITS: Perry McNamee-Colors

PRODUCTION NOTES:





Above left to right: the lovely covers for the DARK HORSE comic compilation from 1997. Cover One by Igor Kordey, Covers Two and Three by Stan and Vince. Opposite right: the full compilation softback cover by the legendary comic book/STAR WARS artist Al Williamson.

Originally to be handled by regular STAR WARS newspaper strip writer/artist Russ Manning (a legend in the newspaper/cartoon strip industry), Archie Goodwin and Alfredo P. Alcalá took on the adaptation of the popular story when Manning became seriously ill and needed a long period of recovery (he would, sadly, die a short time later-August 1980). In 1997, Alcalá would later sell his original art from the strip through the COLLECTORS GALLERY WEST company.

Many sequences from the book were changed or altered for the adaptation, for space or other practicalities required for the running of a normal newspaper comic strip. Amongst the most significant changes were the following:

ADDITIONAL STORY NOTES:

The Corporate Authority are a part of the Empire, and not a separate organization (when the story was originally written by Brian Daley, in the period between A NEW HOPE and THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK, the actual specifics and structure of the Empire's grip of the galaxy had not yet been worked out by LUCASFILM. By the time of the newspaper strip, THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK had already been released. The story was re-shaped to accommodate what had been established in that film).

The strip starts with the Millennium Falcon under attack by TIE fighters. Destroying the ships, the damaged freighter makes its way to the un-named Tech home world. In the comic adaptation, the Corporate Authority ships are Imperial cruisers and TIE fighters. It is TIE fighters that Han and Jessa's squad intercept when the attack on the Tech world begins.

Presumably for copyright reasons, the robot Zollux became the unfortunately re-named Bollux.

The character of rebel group member Engret is not mentioned in the story. The Corporate Authority discover the group at the Orron III data centre when the traitor within Rekkon's team plants a homing beacon in the data room where they are working.

Han kills the traitorous Torn by shooting him under the Falcon's holographic game table- an act he would repeat some time later against Greedo in A NEW HOPE (the death scene was probably changed because of the graphic way the traitor's demise, in Hyperspace, was hinted at in the book. For child readers of the regular newspaper comics strips, this may have been a little too much!! Either that, or LUCASFILM/ Archie Goodwin may have thought it was out of character for Han to be so cruel)

Hirken is an Empire Governor on special duty to the STARS' END facility. He has no wife with him. Later pleading for Han to take him away, he is killed by one of his own men when he attempts to leave his troops to die on the decaying Tower.

Solo confronts Uul-Rha-Shan in a fight outside the remains of the decaying orbit STARS' END tower. The smuggler is saved from death from a space suited Atuarre, who shoots the reptilian mercenary for hire.

FEATURE COMPILED, WRITTEN AND DESIGNED BY SCOTT WELLER

