

Blue highlights are specific points which I needed to have explicitly spelled out for me because I was totally oblivious when people were talking about tonal and/or character issues and everything so thank you for those.

Yellow highlights are what I found to be cognizant points or telling points of view (not gonna lie, there's politics.)

What Do We Want From a Star Wars Movie?

[BattleUp Saber 7 months ago \(edited\)](#)

As someone who really liked the Last Jedi, I've been thinking about the backlash a lot. At this point I'm starting to find **both sides of the Star Wars fandom are near-insufferable.**

While I disagree with almost all of the complaints and criticisms of The Last Jedi, **I do understand why people dislike it.** That's their opinion and it's perfectly acceptable. But unfortunately the trolls who keep going on about how TLJ/Rian Johnson/Kathleen Kennedy ruined their childhood are far more vocal, seemingly refusing to accept any of the movie's positive aspects.

But by the same accord, **TLJ defenders have a tendency to just dismiss anyone who dislikes the movie as whiny children who haven't grown up,** ignoring legit complaints about the movie's pacing/humour/story etc. These overzealous people are every bit as annoying as the haters.

It's unfortunate that there's so little middle ground. It's fine to point out flaws, but it's unreasonable to say the movie is completely ruined by them, not to mention the "fans" arguing the movie ruined Star Wars as a whole. But with a franchise as large and as varied as Star Wars, unfortunately it's kinda unavoidable. **The movie which ruined the franchise for one person can be another's favourite in the saga. Everyone has a different view on Star Wars, and they're all equally valid.**

[Bram R 7 months ago \(edited\)](#)

I have to respectfully disagree with the summary you gave as to why fans don't like The Last Jedi. I'm sure there are some who dislike the movie exactly for the reasons you named, but I think the majority dislike them due to storytelling flaws.

The new force powers are a problem because they fail in the storytelling principle of **setup/payoff.** This happens in the original trilogy too. The Emperor's lightning hands show up out of nowhere, that's true. But **in proportion to what this particular power does to the overall plot of Return of the Jedi, it doesn't change much,** if anything at all. The ones in The Last Jedi affect it greatly.

"People don't accept the speed at which Rey's skills grow because it doesn't happen exactly how it happened to Luke."

That's not really the point, though. The point is that we, as an audience, aren't shown her struggle. Luke got his hand cut off, failed at facing off with Vader, because he went out while his training wasn't finished. He made a choice and faced the consequences. He failed. And from that failure stems the matured Luke of Return of the Jedi. But it is not about Luke specifically. **It is again about storytelling, about character growth and properly structured arcs.** Rey doesn't have one because she **doesn't have a goal nor does she particularly fail** or even face consequences for bad choices (like jumping into a cave riddled with darkness). I could go on, but I think I made the point clear.

Leia using the force; again, what I said about force powers. **It is all about setup and payoff.** If in The Force Awakens it would've been established that Leia had progressed in using the force, we might've bought it. But never is there even a remote hint towards her using the force like that. There is no foreshadowing, no set up, which is why it feels—to put it bluntly—like an ass-pull cheap trick.

Snoke's backstory may be the one I disagree with the least. However, his lack of character is still a flaw because of how much his mere presence in the universe is the whole reason we even have this story to begin with (in-story reason, that is. The out-story reason is because Star Wars, so \$\$\$ cha-ching). Without him there'd be no First Order or Kylo Ren, so it is not entirely wrong to want to know how that came to be.

People don't like Luke because **it is such a dramatic shift from the character that we all know. But that is not the problem.** It would've been fine if the movie properly spent the time to acquaint its audience with this new character, cause that is basically what he is. Luke is entirely different thus they should've treated him as a new character (consequently following storytelling basics of character introductions). But The Last Jedi doesn't do that. We spent far too little time with Luke and we get next to no visual exploration as to why he has become like this, thus people don't take it and they find the shift jarring and reject it.

The Canto Bight plot is padding, pure and simple. The momentum of "the chase" and the intrigue of Rey, Luke and Kylo is interrupted and moved aside for the sake of a convoluted mission that ends up in DJ collaborating with the First Order and consequently more Resistance ships blown up. It does not change the outcome of the movie in any way. It's not the fault of the characters or the setting or the fact that they're "new". It's the whole sequence that feels out of place and takes way too much time from the story beats that are far more interesting.

Anyways, I wrote a lot. Not because I'm a die hard Star Wars fan. Well, I am, but not one that has spent countless hours on Wookieepedia or has read a great deal of the EU (or Legends, I guess). In fact, all my EU knowledge comes solely from the video games. I wrote this much because I am an avid storyteller and I love the craft, which is why I believe the reasons I wrote above are mostly why people rejected this film.

Cheers.

[nt300uk3 weeks ago](#)

I think there's a fundamental misunderstanding of the problem in this video, and it undermines the entire argument.

The Star Wars films have always been simple. Famously, George Lucas based the entire plot on the Monomyth, and most elements were borrowed from westerns, Japanese samurai films, and then fused together with pulp sci-fi serials from the 50s. But ultimately, a very simple idea. There's a hero, a villain, and the two must fight.

The biggest, by far the biggest, problem with TLJ was that Rian Johnson was more concerned with deconstructing Star Wars than continuing it. The number of twists that were designed specifically to subvert expectations is simply staggering. Let's go through a few, shall we:

Snoke, set up as the mysterious Big Bad, is killed suddenly, and before any of his backstory is revealed.

Rey's parents, who were told left her alone on Jakku and who might be the key to her strong connection to both the Force and Luke, are revealed to have been unimportant junk traders who sold her off for drinking money

Poe's plan to save the fleet which directly contravenes the orders of his dogmatic commanding officer, actually winds up being a catastrophic failure

The charismatic thief who helps Rose and Finn escape the casino actually ends up being a traitorous scumbag who helps the First Order
Luke Skywalker's heroic stand against the villainous Kylo Ren actually ends up being an astral projection while Luke himself waits on his distant moon

All of these examples go against the fundamental storytelling ideology of the original trilogy. If a character has unexplained powers and doesn't know their parents, then there's a causal link there, it isn't a coincidence; the cocky maverick's plan saves the day, he was supposed to know better than his risk-averse commander; the uber-talented criminal has a heart of gold underneath his gruff exterior, or at the very least has a last-minute change of heart about betraying the good guys.

Maybe one twist of this nature might be an interesting way of keeping the audience on its toes, but when the movie is full of them... And that's not to say the original series didn't have twists, but look at the difference:

Luke arrives on Dagobah and meets a funny little muppet who annoys him before revealing himself to be the legendary Jedi master. What didn't happen was Luke arriving on Dagobah to be met by a six-foot, musclebound hero who then reveals himself to be a fraud and also reveals "Yoda" to be a myth. The former is satisfying, while the latter is frustrating and disappointing.

Darth Vader attempts to lure Luke to the dark side by revealing that he is actually his father, not his father's murderer. What didn't happen was Luke discovering that Vader might be his father, going to Cloud City to confront him and find out the truth, and then Vader revealing that he really did kill Luke's father after all.

Han takes his money and runs, but just when they need his help he arrives out of nowhere to provide Luke with support while the latter destroys the Death Star. What doesn't happen is Han and Chewy taking their reward money and sunning it up on some beach planet while the Rebels get blitzed by the Imperial Fleet.

Ultimately, this film is the Anti-Star Wars. It's so intent on wrongfooting the audience that it forgets what made the films so popular in the first place. You're right about the problem being a difference between 8 year olds watching it and 48 year olds. But it's not older viewers wanting to be surprised the way they were when they were kids - it's filmmakers wanting to surprise us the way Lucas did when we were young, which requires a far more complex style of storytelling and results in a film which ultimately doesn't feel like Star Wars and isn't what anybody wanted.

[Ross Kitson7 months ago](#)

Two things I just personally didn't like;

Why didn't Luke realise earlier that the Jedi weren't always right? He disobeys Yoda to leave Degobah and he disobeys both Yoda and Ben when he tells their force ghosts that he won't kill Darth Vader. So he knows that their way isn't always the best way at the end of the third films; seems odd that he would then go set up an old-style Temple with old-style teachings rather than moving forward with he has learned.

Why did the Luke Skywalker who wasn't willing to kill Vader, try to kill a boy? He saw that refusing to give in to anger can change people's hearts.

[StarGazerLuminosus3 months ago](#)

Whenever I've heard someone defend The Last Jedi, they did so through the lens of the Star Wars universe. They didn't look at it as a movie in our world. They looked at it as window into the Star Wars universe, justifying all of the films quirks with Star Wars logic. Thus, I would say that The Last Jedi is a good Star Wars movie, but not a good movie.

[Ken Ward7 months ago](#)

As per usual the most cogent arguments regarding Star Wars and the new films, including TLJ, tend to be coming from those who have problems with the new direction. Almost every point put forward by defenders of the TLJ that I read or hear are misrepresentations of arguments put forward by disappointed fans rather than tackling the issues those disappointed fans have with key storytelling points themselves.

The new films' detractors have gone on at length and specified in detail their issues with the plot, characters, feel, etc and many have done so from a reasoned, and rational perspective. But, instead of discussing it on that level, instead we're met with generalizations, condescension, misrepresentation and strawmen. That's fairly telling.

How about instead of telling a fan who has serious problems with Disney's direction why they feel the way they feel or arguing against points they haven't made, or continuing to point at box office and Cinemascore and how 'x' critic graded the movie, how about instead of all of that you argue the points being put forward by long-time fans who have problems with TLJ? How about meeting these arguments on their own merits instead of trying to undercut the arguments by misrepresenting them or generalizing about why they exist in the first place?

If you don't believe Rey is a Mary Sue, explain why, but in the same thoughtful and cogent manner many who think she is a Mary Sue have explained at length. If you think Luke would murder a child, his own nephew, and that that is in-character for him, or that many of his other actions in TLJ are in-character for him, thoughtfully explain why. If you think the humor in the original trilogy and the humor in TLJ are the same kind of humor, explain why. There are so many points we could be discussing head-on and in good faith, but first one side of the debate has to come correct.

[Greg Elchert7 months ago](#)

I was OK with a lot of the things "Last Jedi" haters complained about - I prefer Rey coming from a family of nobodies, thought it was only natural that Leia eventually used the Force, and thought Luke's Force apparition thing was pretty cool. My issues are these:

1. Porgs. They were completely useless - even the Gungans achieved more. What they were there for besides selling toys, I still haven't figured out.
2. Luke's characterization. Not his current, bitter self - that's understandable after everything he's been through - but the fact that he actually, even for one second, considered killing the young Ben Solo in his sleep. Luke, the one person who believed Darth Vader could be redeemed (and was proven right), nearly killed his own nephew and protege in cold blood because he MIGHT have turned out as bad as Vader.
3. Poe. Not only does he seem to have dropped 20 IQ points between movies, we're supposed to sympathize with him when he needlessly gets his entire squadron blown up and he gets demoted. He's lucky he wasn't thrown in the brig for disobeying a direct order and indirectly causing the deaths of his own troops. (The only real hero in the opening sequence is Rose's sister, who isn't even named in the film proper.)
4. Finn and Rose. This one really got me because I LOVED Finn in "The Force Awakens." However, it's difficult to look at the state the Resistance is in at the end of "The Last Jedi" and not see how big of a role Finn and Rose played in decimating their own numbers. They waste time freeing a bunch of (admittedly abused) creatures, join forces with a clearly untrustworthy hacker (not even the one they were supposed to hire), and still act shocked when he sells them out. Things could very well have turned out better for the Resistance if they had just stayed put, and generally speaking, that's a sign of bad storytelling.

[Rednas7 months ago](#)

This is a great video, but from 12:00 where you list the critiques of TLJ, you're just flat out wrong.

People don't like Rey's quick training because she succeeds at everything. For Luke, although his training was also rushed, he suffered

because of it. Rey gets everything right the first time, which is uninteresting to watch. We want to see our heroes learn.

Leia using the Force doesn't make any sense, not because she didn't do it thirty years ago, but because it had even been established in other canon material she never had training from Luke. It's also inconsistent. She pulls herself through the vacuum of space, what should have killed her, but she can't lift the rocks on Crait at the end, which has to be done by the overpowered Rey.

As for Snoke, you wanna know why we even wanted answers? Because the Force Awakens and for example the Aftermath books set him up to be something special.

It's not that people don't like Luke because it's not "their Luke." I actually liked old grizzled Luke and his arc, I just hated the way he got there. If he was so integral to the rise of Kylo Ren, they should have showed it to us in more than three different flashbacks. Him killing his nephew out of nowhere is extremely out of character.

Now the Canto Bight subplot isn't hated because it's "new." That's ridiculous. It's hated because it's badly paced and badly written, filled with hypocritical messages and propaganda. In those twenty minutes, we have an anti slavery message, an anti animal abuse message and an anti 1% message, which is fine all in of itself, but **I don't need that in my Star Wars movie.**

And there are many more valid critiques of the Last Jedi you didn't cover, like admiral Holdo and Rose, two **"strong independant women" who suffer from god awful writing.**

I could go on and on as to why I disliked the movie, but no one's gonna read this anyway...
Still a well put together video, man!

[Ádám Iszlai7 months ago](#)

God how bad this video is. **Fans didn't get angry because they didn't get their lore-based expectations fulfilled**, its because the plot makes no sense, didn't move forward in any way and the characters didn't develop (or developed without challenge, aka rey sue). **Don't make a video based on your assumptions about fans, react on the actual reviews which point out the specific and objective problems of this movie.** Argue on fan's arguments, not on your fantasy.

Patrick Explains STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI (And Why It's Great)

[Chris Wuebbolt2 weeks ago](#)

As soon as you said that Star Wars fans don't want anything new in Star Wars, I shut the video off. I was willing to hear your argument right up until that point.

Why is it that this film's defenders have to attack Star Wars fans instead of bringing up the film's own merits? I've never seen a defense of TLJ that didn't include some attack on the fandom.

The movie is terrible enough. The toxic people defending it are just icing on a bitter, disgusting cake. The irony, of course, is that these same people are alienating the rest of us further.

[GusMcGuire2 weeks ago](#)

Now you can dismiss criticism of any Star Wars film with the statement that "it's a movie about space wizards that's intended for children" all you like, but all stories - even children's stories - have to respect the narrative of their given universe and you must NEVER jar your audience out of the fantasy, or pull stuff out of thin air for the sake of convenience or for spectacle over substance - and this is where The Last Jedi stumbles quite a bit.

I went to see the original Star Wars in 1977 (before it was "A New Hope") and I remember the disappointment people felt with The Empire Strikes Back. After the blockbuster that was the first movie, the sequel had a darker tone, but the visual effects and battles were a step up in quality and we watched our characters grow and develop (Luke was no longer a wide-eyed farm boy). **The main criticism levelled at it was that it didn't finish the story. We'd gone to see another rollicking, rollercoaster blockbuster and we didn't get the ending for another few years. But it did leave audiences wanting to know what happened to our heroes and a myriad of questions to be answered...**and that is its stength. Empire takes its characters on a darker journey but lays out the threads for the finale.

The problem with The Last Jedi is that it doesn't respect the narrative of what has come before and doesn't lay out any threads. Space battles and visual effects are pretty impressive but feel out of place against the disjointed story structure. Characterisation, too, is all over the place. Existing characters getting no development (Poe's a hothead, Finn is comedy relief, Rey can already beat everyone regardless of

experience and doesn't really need training) and the newer characters are all pretty one-note (Rose is the dreamy idealist who, despite being a lowly engineer, can suddenly spout paragraphs of plot exposition for the conveniently thick Finn and Vice Admiral Holdo is just there to play the "hard-assed female character"). Finally the overall tone is confused, with the film veering between a dark, bleak story that's interjected with rather jarring slapstick humour. One minute our resistance heroes are getting slaughtered, the next we're supposed to be laughing at BB8 firing casino tokens like a machine gun. One minute General Hux and the First Order look dark and menacing, the next they're incompetent and all screaming at each other, or getting 'force pratt-falled' by Snoke. One minute Luke is a depressed, suicidal loner waiting to die, the next he's milking an alien tit and mugging the camera as he drinks blue milk. One minute the resistance are making a desperate, suicidal last stand against overwhelming forces, the next Rose is kissing Finn and talking about love....as the First Order is literally blasting open the doors on the resistance base and potentially exposing our heroes to a grim death. It's very difficult to find something to emotionally latch onto in a movie that can't seem to make its mind up whether you're supposed to laugh, cry, gasp or snort in derision at what's onscreen.

Finally, where Empire left audiences aching to know whether Vader WAS Luke's father, would they rescue Han, could the rebels defeat the Empire, etc... The Last Jedi seems to have cleared out the cupboard of questions and left pretty much nothing to be answered in the next movie. You have to give your audience an idea of what to expect....what to anticipate...and TLJ leaves you with very little. Will the villains be defeated? Well they already have....twice. The big baddie has gone. There's little/no mystery about any of the characters' backgrounds and I don't know about anyone else, but the idea of a bunch of theatre school slave kids becoming Jedi with broom handles really doesn't stir up much anticipation of what's to come. It means that any finale chapter now has to potentially introduce a whole new raft of characters, or skip a whole load of stuff about building up the resistance once more - which will feel like you've been reading a really good book but suddenly found that there are dozens of chapters missing. I didn't feel like that about The Empire Strikes Back, but then maybe that was because there was an overall story arc already laid out for development and it wasn't being put together piecemeal, as we're discovering these newer movies are.

[Peter Scott2 weeks ago](#)

Wow it's really refreshing to see a video by someone who doesn't have a clue what he is talking about, the best since empire, please cut the shit, it's one of the worst movies ever

[luchomscvyf2 weeks ago](#)

I'm a follower of your videos, and I like your content. But I disagree with you. The fact you, in other videos, mention about narrative, contradict what you said about TLJ here. And about "logic in a children's movie" is complete fallacy. I don't have to explain to you, but most of the fans who complain about this movie (myself included) is about the continuity, the logical internal coherence of the Star Wars Universe, and the characterization of the main characters. Again, there is a lack of logical coherence between this and the precedent movies. Finn, Poe, Rey are different characters in this movie, and I'm not talking about goals or motivations. The personalities differed so much, specially for Poe, that seems a different character.

The other issue is the constant contradiction of themes in this movie. And the tonal shift, and bad placed humour hurt the movie more than help.

[Jared M Johnson4 days ago](#)

How can a movie with such a dumb story be the best star wars movie? Because it was told well? They actually made Rey boring and turned the pilot guy into a moron. Then they made the Storm trooper a tool... I don't get how the craft of the movie making can completely overwhelmed what movies are: stories... These are boring stories...

[danrdgreen2 weeks ago](#)

Everyone I know has had an overwhelmingly bad response to this movie, yet some people, like you, seem determined to tell me what I should and shouldn't like.

I've been watching movies my whole life and I am the best judge when it comes to what I like and what I don't!

Rian Johnson obviously wanted to bring his own ideas into a much beloved and already established universe, which was selfish in my opinion.

It doesn't feel at all like a StarWars movie and I very much doubt Rian Johnson was even a fan while growing up. I don't just think his film was bad, I think it's a disgrace.

Both Rian Johnson and Kathleen Kennedy should hold their heads in shame for this monstrosity of a movie.

[Nayann Martinelli2 weeks ago](#)

It's a little disheartening to watch a whole video that presents a very solid argument for why The last Jedi is great - and it truly is - and then realize that some people will latch to some random bit to try and argue the whole analysis doesn't hold up.

Case in point: "This is a movie about space wizards intended for children". Patrick clearly points out that this is not a preemptive argument against taking the movie seriously and discussing its merits (or demerits, if you don't like it), that is just to point out some reactions on the Internet are way too aggressive and excessive for a freaking commercial movie. However, you scroll down and comments start to pop up

about how that's not good argument for a movies' quality.

It isn't, and that's why the videos runs 20-ish minutes long, Patrick talks about a host of stuff that makes the movie really awesome.

[Fred Marble4 days ago](#)

I respectfully disagree, simply because everything "new" this movie introduces was already there in the original trilogy.

The old Jedi sucked and Darth Vader was the result of them... well, sucking? Luke already knew that. In fact, he realized this truth right when Vader told him he was his father. That's what shocked him so much. He thought the Jedi were perfect... only to realize that his Jedi mentor and his Jedi father are respectively a liar and a monster. In THAT moment, yeah, Luke really had all the rights to say "screw it, the Jedi must end".

But then "Return of the Jedi" comes. Luke grows, he accepts the Jedi's mistakes and realizes he has to be the one who won't repeat those mistakes. By showing compassion to Vader and later saving him, Luke does exactly that. He learns the lesson.

The problem is... in "The Last Jedi", he acts like he hasn't. Like "Return of the Jedi" just never happened, like he never went beyond the "I am your father" shock.

Aaaand that makes no sense at all. Or better yet, it makes sense: Johnson&Kennedy didn't find any chance of expanding Luke's story beyond "RotJ" (because it was already over), so they just ignored it and rewrote it their way.

A bad and clumsy way, in my modest opinion. Except for the visuals, ok, Luke facing the sunset and the final duel with Kylo (in a very Arthur vs Mordred fashion) were awesome to watch.

[Kiritsuqu Emiya2 weeks ago](#)

So basically...

Thematically, the movie is very deep and challenged the Status Quo of not only Star Wars but fantasy and Sci-Fi movies as we know them

Narratively, a lot of decisions and character developments seem strange due to the meta-narrative being conveyed that arguably began taking precedent over the integrity of the film as a Star Wars product

[Christopher Brockhan2 weeks ago](#)

Straw man straw man straw man, subjective opinions without any actual objective support, condescending attitude and once again a showing of why you time and time again prove to have poor arguments in your videos. I don't even dislike TLJ, but this video doesn't support why it's good (or great) at all. If anything, it just proves that you like a lot of things, think others should too, and **don't really have any discernable standard of quality**.

[rochae 031 week ago \(edited\)](#)

So i hate this movie, right. But i watched this video to hopefully gain some insight on good points as to why its maybe not so bad. At least give some insight on the other perspective. But it just made all the arguments that the guys who tear it apart argue against anyway. **So you only stated the points that i already know all the arguments against** and didnt argue against the good points the other side makes **And ok, star wars can move forward and away from the skywalkers... but not IN THE SKYWALKER SAGA!!** These movies were made about a family. Its a space opera. The journey of this family who is indeed the central to the first 6. Therefore, if you make a third trilogy it needs to be about them or finishing them. If you want to move away from them and become more generalized and make everyone feel good cause anybody can do anything, then fine, but do so separately. Dont call those movies ep 7,8,9.

[Robert Killian2 weeks ago](#)

i agree with your thoughts one the opening scene. but i feel it was not a good movie. **the rebel plan to run a ship into another ship could have been done from the start and save alot of people and resources. very bad writing. the arc of Luke trying to kill Kylo doesnt follow his establish character, he goes out of his way to save his father. its not the fact he did this it just needed more explanation. i like alot of the new force powers, but he has Luke give his sister a physical object when he is a force projection, that does even follow his own concepts.** so i feel it is a bad story. i respect your opinion but i didnt care that much for it. not so much the direction but the writing fail in my opinion. i really didnt like the force awakens that much either, but **i wasnt expecting much from Abrams aftre he remade Wrath of Kahn.** i did like some things in Last Jedi the new force powers were cool. the effects were great. but **man that story was bad.**