



Breakout Squad

Ryder Windham

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The first book in an original novel series!

Immediately following the destruction of the Separatist battleship Malevolence, a small team of Clones and their Jedi General are sent deep into the dangerous Wild Space to uncover the secret of the mysterious ship's origin. This novel is written by acclaimed writer Ryder Windham, who has authored over 50 Star Wars books.

Breakout Squad Details

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Author : Ryder Windham

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From Reader Review Breakout Squad for online ebook

Caitri says

3.5 stars

While I am a big fan of the star wars movies, I have never read any of the books at all. With this being my first I was pleasantly surprised that I got to meet new characters in the Star Wars world instead of the main bunch that we hear about in the movies. I really enjoyed going on this mission with these clone troopers and the young Jedi apprentice, it was refreshing to meet these new characters while still being in a world that I'm already familiar with.

I think I will defiantly check out more of this series cause I really like the idea of seeing these little special missions in the Star Wars universe and I think this book did a pretty good job of bringing that to life.

All in all I really enjoyed this book but it wasn't anything amazing. It was a short little read and if you like Star Wars but maybe want to see some different characters and a story you don't know, I would defiantly recommend this for you.

Ai Miller says

Even as someone who hasn't watched Clone Wars yet (shh, I'm working on it,) this was a fun little romp that I would have absolutely loved as a kid. There were parts of it that made me go 'bzuh??' specifically regarding Breaker's character--I wasn't sure like if he was being coded as like autistic at times, or if spoilers were part of that, but it was all very weird. Also there was like a very unsubtle reference to the movie that I think kids would find delightful.

I might actually look for the second book, though, because I do want to know what happens next with these characters, and these are very soft and lovely and remind me of getting into Star Wars as a kid, which is nice.

Jerry says

Good...but not quite *Star Wars* as I've come to expect it.

Nicki says

Cute fast read. Fun to read about a Chiss Jedi though subduing all the questions about that- arrrrgh like I hope they explain how Nuru reached the Republic. Why is he Force sensitive??? WHERE IN THE TIME LINE DOES THIS TAKE PLACE?!??

Audrey Hacker says

cad bane in a poncho

Cal says

This series is really more like one long novel rather than four individual stories. I was entertained. It's obviously for kids and has less gravity than an adult book, but it was amusing nevertheless. Good series for kids, had some interesting plot twists.

Brianna says

This book would be great for children. Reading it as an adult I was a little bored by it, considering how many other children's chapter books far surpass this one.

For a younger Star Wars fan who loves clone troopers.

Once this is a little too kiddish for them I suggest the rebel force series or Jedi apprentice or Jedi quest series.

I still liked it cause it was a fast read for one afternoon, there was a Chiss and the clones weren't annoying.

Will continue the short series

Jared says

Star Wars Legends Project #127

Background: *Breakout Squad* was written by Ryder Windham and published in September of 2009. Windham has been heavily involved with Star Wars publication for decades, writing and editing dozens upon dozens of books and comics, including the other books in this series.

Breakout Squad takes place during the Clone Wars, 21-22 years before the Battle of Yavin. It begins shortly after the "Malevolence" arc from Season 1 of the "Clone Wars" TV series. The main characters are mostly brand-new, with minor appearances by Count Dooku, Asajj Ventress, and the Duros bounty Cad Bane. Most of the story takes place on the planet Kynachi in Wild Space.

Summary: The Republic has not heard from isolationist member planet Kynachi in many years, but now they have reason to believe that the planet's industry may be supplying the Separatists. Chancellor Palpatine dispatches Kynachi Jedi Ring-Sol Ambase to investigate, and Ambase's Chiss Padawan, Nuru Kungurama, stows away on the mission, struck by a premonition of doom for his master if he remains behind. Sabotaged from the inside, the mission is a disaster from the beginning, and it seems Nuru will have a chance to save his master after all . . . as long as he can save himself!

Review: I'm used to, and willing to accept, a certain juvenility in Star Wars book aimed at a younger

audience, but this seemed to be dialed a few steps below what I expected. And simplified vocabulary is one thing, but there's no reasonable excuse for even a story "for kids" to be this dumbed down. Particularly at the beginning, it feels like it stops to explain itself every few paragraphs, and the dialogue is mostly pretty clunky. Windham also gets a little too cute in a couple of spots, slipping in eye-rolling snippets of dialogue from the Original Trilogy films . . . enough already.

The story opens with some nameless clone troopers wandering through the rubble of General Grievous' destroyed ship "Malevolence" on the barren moon where it crashed. They are joined by a clone captain, who for some reason starts explaining things like who they are to them, and then gives them nicknames that will become their names for the rest of the series. He calls one "Sharp" because he spots something so he must have sharp eyesight, and one "Breaker" because he's good with technology (like, um, circuit breakers), and the third one he names "Chatterbox" because he never says a word. Haha! Get it? Later on, another trooper named "Knuckles" shows up, but we never hear what inane bit of nothing got him that moniker.

I'm not sure how I feel about making the main Jedi character a Chiss, either. Chiss are ultra-rare to the point of being effectively unheard of in Republic space . . . though, to be fair, the book does emphasize this as well. I'll admit he's a decent character so far, although I was initially skeptical. Really, nothing in this book stands out as just offensively dumb, but nothing stands out as terribly compelling or great, either, and the stripped-down writing and over-exposition hobble the experience significantly. I don't want to count out the rest of the series out of hand, but my hopes aren't high.

D

Darryl Dobbs says

I'll review the four books as a set.

These four novellas are easy reads with a lot of coincidences that helped move the plot along – but that's because they were aimed at youth. The story itself was enjoyable, centering on a Jedi Padawan named Nuru Kungurama, a Chiss (remember Thrawn?), who had a premonition that his Master Ring-Sol Ambrase would die, so he stowed himself on the ship and tagged along. The ship was destroyed, Ambrase was knocked out and Kungurama ended up leading the small group of clones in what eventually liberated the planet. This series of novellas painted a picture of just how long and in-depth some of Darth Sidious' plans have taken, with the events in the story having been set up as far back as 10 years ago. Everything – even the Kungurama victories – were according to plan.

But what Darth Sidious and Count Dooku did not plan on were the added friends that Kungurama made. Like the giant "Big Gizz" and the reprogrammed droid commando "Cleaver". Those two are quite capable of changing the results on their own – Gizz can step in front of a blaster bolt and survive, while Cleaver is often mistaken by other Separatist droids as a friendly. I love this little band "Breakout Squad" that formed (though I doubt we see them again):

Nuru – the only Chiss Jedi, and the only Chiss living in Republic space for that matter

Breaker, Sharp, Knuckles, Chatterbox – clone troopers

Gizz – a dumb, giant alien humanoid with a temper, but loyalty

Cleaver – a quick-learning droid commando

Lalo Gunn – a human female and captain of the ship after she befriended "Breakout Squad" and they helped

her off of the planet she was trapped on.

The books also had a skilled bounty hunter named Cad Bane, who did most of the 'setting up' on behalf of Darth Sidious, as well as a shapechanger who infiltrated Breakout Squad as Sharp. We were introduced to a Mandalorian Warrior – this is after those warriors were defeated and killed or disbanded, so thought to no longer exist. He was a member of a secret Mandalorian group called "Death Watch", hinting of perhaps involvement in later books.

Besides the high-level planning of the Sith, the books also set us up for future encounters with the Chiss. It's nice to have further background, as I noted earlier that Thrawn was one of my favorite characters to date.

Oliver R says

I was entertained. It's obviously for kids and has less gravity than an adult book, but it was amusing nevertheless. Good series for kids, had some interesting plot twists.

It's basically about a Jedi General who vanishes on a distant world, leaving his young apprentice and some untested troopers to complete a dangerous secret mission

Minch says

Eh, that's all I can say. It was pretty boring at times, and the action sense were still pretty lackluster. Nevertheless, it could be a good enjoyable introduction to the Star Wars galaxy outside of the movies for newer fans of the franchise.

Christian Smith says

story: 5/10

Pro: A chiss jedi Is a very cool idea and I can't wait to learn more about him

Con: The plot was quite boring....Just breaking into a prison after you crash land.. eh ok

Alex Curiel says

This book is awesome!

Rebecca says

It's a fun little adventure. Easy to read, writing could be better, but I do enjoy the main characters and it's more clone wars content!

Bill says

My 9 year old son read this on his own, as well as the 3 remaining books in the series. He then insisted that I read it too (this may be the first book recommendation he gave me)... So basically I'm saying this book was always going to get a five star review from me.
