
Star Wars Graphic Novels List

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by Howard & Rhys

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE BEST STAR WARS GRAPHIC NOVELS LIST FOR EVERY FAN

For decades, the galaxy far, far away has expanded far beyond the silver screen. While the films laid the foundation, the pages of comic books and graphic novels have built entire civilizations, explored forgotten histories, and deepened our connection to beloved characters. If you have ever searched for a reliable **Star Wars Graphic Novels List**, you know it can feel like navigating an asteroid field. There are countless series, reboots, and timelines to consider. This guide is designed to be your definitive map. Whether you are a lifelong collector, a new fan fresh from watching *The Mandalorian*, or someone looking to bridge the gap between movies, this article will walk you through the essential graphic novels, the best entry points, and the hidden gems that every Star Wars library should contain.

WHY READ STAR WARS GRAPHIC NOVELS?

Before diving into the **Star Wars Graphic Novels List**, it is worth understanding why these stories matter so much. The movies tell epic, blockbuster tales, but graphic novels offer something different: intimacy. They allow writers and artists to explore the quiet moments, the internal struggles, and the side characters that rarely get screen time. A graphic novel can dedicate an entire issue to a single conversation between Darth Vader and his master, or explore the daily life of a stormtrooper questioning his orders. Furthermore, graphic novels are often the birthplace of characters who later appear in live-action shows like *The Clone Wars* or *Ahsoka*. They are not just supplementary material; they are core canon that shapes the entire Star Wars universe.

For readers looking for a comprehensive **Star Wars Graphic Novels List**, the sheer volume of material can be daunting. Marvel, Dark Horse, and IDW have all contributed to the lore, and the 2014 continuity reset created a split between “Legends” and “Canon.” Understanding this division is the first step to building a collection.

THE ESSENTIAL CANON STAR WARS GRAPHIC NOVELS LIST (POST-2014)

When the Walt Disney Company acquired Lucasfilm, the old Expanded Universe was rebranded as “Legends,” and a new canon was established. All graphic novels published after 2014 are considered official canon. This **Star Wars Graphic Novels List** focuses on the most impactful stories from this era.

1. Star Wars: The Star Wars (2015) by Jason Aaron

This series is often considered the backbone of modern Star Wars comics. Jason Aaron’s run picks up shortly after *A New Hope* and fills the gap between the original trilogy films. The stories feel cinematic, with classic adventures featuring Luke, Leia, Han, and Chewie. The first volume collects the initial arc, “Skywalker Strikes,” and is the perfect starting point for any reader new to

the **Star Wars Graphic Novels List**.

2. Darth Vader: Dark Lord of the Sith (2017) by Charles Soule

If you only pick one series from this list, let it be this one. Charles Soule’s run on Darth Vader is a masterpiece. It takes place immediately after *Revenge of the Sith* and shows Vader building his red lightsaber, hunting down the remaining Jedi, and struggling with his transformation from Anakin Skywalker. The art by Giuseppe Camuncoli is stunning, and the writing gives Vader a tragic depth that the movies only hint at. This is a non-negotiable entry in any serious **Star Wars Graphic Novels List**.

3. Doctor Aphra (2016-2019) by Kieron Gillen

Doctor Chelli Lona Aphra is one of the most successful original characters to debut in the comics. An amoral archaeologist with a dark sense of humor, she quickly became a fan favourite. Her series is a wild ride through the underworld of the galaxy, filled with insane droids, ancient relics, and double-crosses. For readers who love the thrill of Indiana Jones mixed with the dark comedy of the Star Wars universe, Aphra is a must-read. She appears in many volumes of the **Star Wars Graphic Novels List** and even has her own ongoing series.

4. Star Wars: The High Republic – Phase I & II

The High Republic publishing initiative is a massive multimedia project set 200 years before the Phantom Menace. The graphic novels from this era are essential for anyone who wants to see the Jedi Order at its peak. Titles like *The High Republic: The Blade* and *The High Republic: Trail of Shadows* offer self-contained, beautiful stories. This sub-section of the **Star Wars Graphic Novels List** is perfect for readers who want something fresh and free from the Skywalker saga.

5. Star Wars: Darth Maul – Son of Dathomir (2014)

This is a unique entry in the canon **Star Wars Graphic Novels List** because it was adapted from unproduced episodes of *The Clone Wars*. It follows Darth Maul after his resurrection, detailing his conflict with Count Dooku and his attempt to rebuild the Shadow Collective. It is a violent, fast-paced comic that closes a major story thread from the animated series.

THE LEGENDS STAR WARS GRAPHIC NOVELS LIST
(PRE-2014)

Before the canon reset, Dark Horse Comics was the home of Star Wars for over two decades. These stories are now labelled “Legends,” meaning they exist in an alternate timeline. However, they contain some of the most beloved narratives in the franchise. For collectors, this **Star Wars Graphic Novels List** is pure gold.

1. The Thrawn Trilogy
(Adapted from Timothy Zahn’s novels)

While the novels are prose, the graphic novel adaptations are excellent. Grand Admiral Thrawn is arguably the greatest villain in the Expanded Universe. These stories are set five years after *Return of the Jedi* and feature Luke, Leia, and Han facing a brilliant Imperial strategist. The art captures the post-RotJ aesthetic perfectly. Any thorough **Star Wars Graphic Novels List** must include this foundational story.

2. Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi (1993-1998)

This is where it all began. *Tales of the Jedi* introduced fans to the ancient Sith, the Mandalorian Wars, and characters like Exar Kun and Ulic Qel-Droma. The art is classic 90s Dark Horse, and the stories are epic in scale. If you want to understand the deep lore of the Sith and the Old Republic, this is the bedrock of the **Star Wars Graphic Novels List**.

3. Knight of the Old Republic (2006-2010) by John Jackson Miller

Set roughly 3,000 years before the films, this series ties into the popular video game. It follows Zayne Carrick, a Padawan framed for a massacre. It is a space western with Jedi, Mandalorians, and political intrigue. Many readers consider this the best long-form Star Wars comic series ever published. It is a cornerstone of the Legends **Star Wars Graphic Novels List**.

4. Star Wars: Republic (1998-2006)

This series spanned the entire prequel era and beyond. It includes the epic “Clone Wars” volumes that detail battles never seen in the films. The writing by John Ostrander and art by Jan Duursema is legendary. It also features the iconic character Quinlan Vos, who later appeared in *The Clone Wars* animated series. This is a massive collection but an essential part of any serious **Star Wars Graphic Novels List**.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT GRAPHIC NOVEL FOR

With such an expansive **Star Wars Graphic Novels List**, deciding where to start can feel overwhelming. Here is a simple guide based on your preferences:

- **For Movie Fans:** Start with the Marvel 2015 *Star Wars* volume 1 or the *Darth Vader: Dark Lord of the Sith* series. These feel most like the films and connect directly to the characters you already know.
- **For Clone Wars Fans:** Seek out the *Son of Dathomir* and the *Age of Republic* series. They fill in gaps and expand on the animated series.
- **For World-Building Fans:** Dive into *Star Wars: The High Republic* or the *Legends Tales of the Jedi*. These offer entirely new eras and philosophies.
- **For Dark Side Lovers:** The *Darth Vader* runs by both Kieron Gillen and Charles Soule are essential. Also, look for *The Rise of Kylo Ren* which explores Ben Solo’s fall.
- **For Casual Readers:** Look for self-contained graphic novels like *Star Wars: Lando* (2015) or *Star Wars: Princess Leia*. They are short, focused, and emotionally resonant.

COLLECTING TIPS FOR YOUR STAR WARS GRAPHIC NOVELS LIST

When building your physical collection, keep the following in mind:

1. **Format Matters:** Single issues are for collectors, but trade paperbacks (TPBs) and hardcover omnibuses are the best way to read a story in one sitting. An omnibus can be expensive but often contains an entire run of a series in one volume.
2. **Check the Timeline:** Every graphic novel in the modern canon has a timeline indicator on the back or inside cover. Look for “BBY” (Before the Battle of Yavin) or “ABY” (After) to understand where the story fits.
3. **Don't Skip the One-Shots:** Some of the best character work happens in one-shot issues. *Star Wars: Vader’s Castle* and *Star Wars: Stories of Jedi and Sith* are excellent anthology collections that belong on any **Star Wars Graphic Novels List**.
4. **Digital vs. Physical:** Digital reading services like Marvel Unlimited offer a massive library for a monthly fee. This is a great way to test the waters before committing to expensive physical books.

THE IMPACT OF GRAPHIC NOVELS ON STAR WARS LORE

The importance of the **Star Wars Graphic Novels List** extends far beyond entertainment. Characters like Mara Jade, Grand Admiral Thrawn, and Doctor Aphra originated in comics and novels. These stories have directly influenced the live-action shows. Dave Filoni has frequently cited the *Tales of the Jedi* comics as inspiration for the animated series of the same name. The design of the Mandalorian armor in *The Clone Wars* was heavily influenced by the comics. When you read these graphic novels, you are not just consuming side stories; you are experiencing the creative engine that drives the entire franchise forward. Many story elements that seem new in the Disney+ shows have their roots in the pages of a graphic novel published decades earlier.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE ART OF STAR WARS GRAPHIC

NOVELS

One of the most compelling reasons to explore the **Star Wars Graphic Novels List** is the visual storytelling. Unlike the movies, which have a consistent visual language, comics allow for

incredible diversity. Artists like Marco Checchetto (*The Star Wars*) bring a gritty, realistic style that feels like a war documentary. Phil Noto (*Star Wars: Chewbacca*) uses a soft, painterly approach that makes every panel look like a storybook. Salvador Larroca (*Darth Vader* 2015) uses photo-realistic likenesses