



# The Making of Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back

By J.W. Rinzler

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## The Making of Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back By J.W. Rinzler

In this lavish thirtieth-anniversary tribute to the blockbuster film *Star Wars: Episode V The Empire Strikes Back*, *New York Times* bestselling author J. W. Rinzler draws back the curtain to reveal the intense drama and magnificent wizardry behind the hit movie—arguably the fan favorite of the *Star Wars* Saga.

Following his *The Making of Star Wars*, the author has once again made use of his unlimited access to the Lucasfilm Archives and its hidden treasures of previously unpublished interviews, photos, artwork, and production mementos. The result is a comprehensive behind-the-scenes, up-close-and-personal look at the trials and triumphs, risks and close calls, inspiration, perspiration, and imagination that went into every facet of this cinematic masterpiece. Here's the inside scoop on:

- the evolution of the script, from story conference and treatment to fifth draft, as conceived, written, and rewritten by George Lucas, famed science-fiction author Leigh Brackett, and screenwriter Lawrence Kasdan
- the development of new key characters, including roguish hero Lando Calrissian, sinister bounty hunter Boba Fett, and iconic Jedi Master Yoda
- the challenges of shooting the epic ice planet battle in the frozen reaches of Norway and of conjuring up convincing creatures and craft—from tauntauns and snowspeeders to Imperial walkers
- the construction of a life-sized *Millennium Falcon* and the swamp planet Dagobah inside a specially built soundstage in Elstree Studios
- the technique behind master Muppeteer Frank Oz's breathing life into the breakthrough character Yoda
- the creation of the new, improved Industrial Light & Magic visual effects facility and the founding of the now-legendary Skywalker Ranch

In addition, of course, are rare on-the-scene interviews with all the major players:

actors Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Billy Dee Williams, Anthony Daniels, Peter Mayhew, and David Prowse; director Irvin Kershner; producer Gary Kurtz; effects specialists Richard Edlund, Dennis Muren, Ken Ralston, and Phil Tippett; composer John Williams; and many others. Punctuating the epic account is a bounty of drawings, storyboards, and paintings by Ralph McQuarrie, Joe Johnston, and Ivor Beddoes, along with classic and rare production photos. An added bonus is a Foreword by acclaimed director Ridley Scott.

*The Making of Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* is a fittingly glorious celebration of an undisputed space-fantasy movie milestone. Search your feelings, you know it to be true.

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## Editorial Review

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**\*Starred Review\*** For Star Wars fans looking for a way to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the release of *The Empire Strikes Back*, this book will seem heaven sent. Rinzler follows up his magnificent *The Making of Star Wars* (2007) with this in-depth account of the production of the second act in George Lucas' original three-act epic. The author distills information gathered from a variety of sources: interviews with the actors and filmmakers recorded while the movie was in production; archival records; newspaper and magazine articles; new interviews; and books (including the now-rare *Once upon a Galaxy*, Alan Arnold's 1980 making-of book). Rinzler explores every aspect of the production, from the writing of the screenplay to casting to location filming to special effects to composing the score and designing print ads. The book is profusely illustrated with preproduction sketches, on-set photos, excerpts from various script drafts, reproductions of Lucas' handwritten notes, and more. Even fans who consider themselves quite knowledgeable about the movie might be surprised at some of the information here (Jeremy Bulloch, who played bounty hunter Boba Fett, was the half-brother of associate producer Robert Watts; the design of one of Empire's classic posters was modeled on a poster for a rerelease of *Gone with the Wind*). A splendid, comprehensive, and utterly indispensable book. --David Pitt

### Review

Advance praise for *The Making of Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*

"These books are the acid flashback they've been promising us without the mess and fuss of dropping acid . . . again. A trip worth taking."—Carrie Fisher, actress/author

Praise for *The Making of Star Wars*

"Rinzler's books sort of freak me out—because I feel when I'm reading them that I'm right back there!"—Robert Watts, *Star Wars* production supervisor

"*The Making of Star Wars* is perhaps the most insightful account of what it's really like to make this kind of movie. The untainted perspective from the pre-release interviews offered inspiration when I found myself in the uncertainty brought upon by the chaos of day-to-day filmmaking."—Jon Favreau, director of *Iron Man*, *Zathura*, and *Elf*

### About the Author

**J. W. Rinzler**, executive editor at Lucasfilm Ltd., is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Making of Star Wars*, as well as the *London Times* bestseller *The Complete Making of Indiana Jones*.

## Users Review

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#### Leticia Simmons:

The book *The Making of Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* will bring one to the new experience of reading the book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to see, this book very ideal to you. The book *The Making of Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* is much

recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

**Michael Kruger:**

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Is it you actually who having spare time and then spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This The Making of Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back can be the solution, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are thus out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this completely new era is common not a geek activity. So what these textbooks have than the others?

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