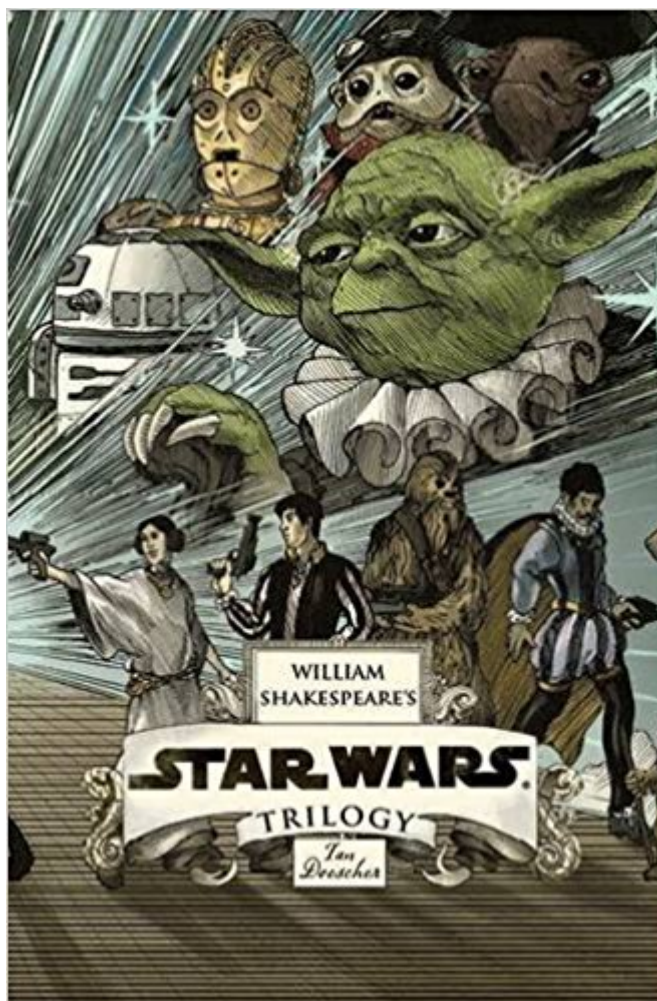


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# William Shakespeare's Star Wars Trilogy: The Royal Imperial Boxed Set: Includes Verily, A New Hope; The Empire Striketh Back; The Jedi Doth Return; And An 8-by-34-inch Full-color Poster





## Synopsis

May the force be with you! Return once more to a galaxy far, far away with this retelling of George Lucas's Star Wars® Trilogy in the style of the immortal William Shakespeare. This Royal Imperial Boxed Set includes all three volumes in the original trilogy: Verily, A New Hope; The Empire Striketh Back; and The Jedi Doth Return. Also included is an 8-by-34-inch full-color poster illustrating the complete cast and company of this glorious production.

## Book Information

Series: William Shakespeare's Star Wars

Hardcover: 520 pages

Publisher: Quirk Books; Box Har/Ps edition (October 28, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1594747911

ISBN-13: 978-1594747915

Product Dimensions: 6 x 2.5 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 120 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #99,182 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Humorous #804 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > TV, Movie, Video Game Adaptations #810 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Galactic Empire

## Customer Reviews

"It's quite a feat to translate a modern masterwork like Star Wars into the most celebrated and enduring literary style known to humans... This trio is a delight whether [you] know Shakespeare, Star Wars, both, or neither."  
—Anna Jedziewski, Retailing Insight  
Praise from William Shakespeare's Star Wars: Verily, A New Hope "...a quirky addition to the genre-busting canon..."  
—Entertainment Weekly  
"...a great gift for every geek you know, no matter what their passion."  
—Huffington Post  
"...the book is so brilliant you'll wonder why someone didn't think of it sooner."  
—Paste Magazine  
"William Shakespeare's Star Wars is Exactly What You Need For Your Next Geeky Houseparty."  
—Tor.com  
"Nicolas Delort's woodcut-style illustrations are a fabulous mixture of old and new."  
—Boing Boing  
"At last, the mother of

all mashups is "Upon Us." CNET.com "Ian Doescher has reimagined the entire first Star Wars film as an Elizabethan play, complete with iambic pentameter and elaborate illustrations. It's geekception. The Mary Sue "Doescher's pseudo-Shakespearean language is absolutely dead-on; this is one of the best-written Shakespeare parodies created for this audience and it is absolutely laugh-out-loud funny for those familiar with both The Bard and Star Wars. School Library Journal "...the ultimate fan fic. ABC News Radio "For anglophiles, scifi nerds, and probably 9th grade English students. The Bookreporter "...outstanding. Geekdad "If you are looking for a neat way to get acquainted with Shakespeare or you are a teacher whose students are having a rough time accessing the genius of the Bard of Avon, I highly recommend you give William Shakespeare's Star Wars a try! GeekMom "Delightful. PortlandMercury.com "Doescher's attempt to recreate a Shakespearean play is noteworthy and clever. Blogcritics.org "The Bard at his finest, with all the depth of character, insightful soliloquies, and clever wordplay that we've come to expect from the Master. For those who wish to read the Star Wars legend in the original Elizabethan, this is the book for you. Timothy Zahn, New York Times bestselling author of Scoundrels "Well-read geeks have breathlessly waited For what Ian Doescher hath created This book's cover is the door To a Star Wars ne'er seen before. Daniel Wallace, New York Times best-selling author of Star Wars: The New Essential Guide to Characters "I'm delighted to have William Shakespeare's Star Wars, and have read it with great pleasure. What a fine idea, to set this in the world of Luke Skywalker and R2-D2 C-3PO and Darth Vader! A period of civil war, rebels, the Galactic Empire, the death star. A star-crossed galaxy! Ian Doescher does iambic pentameter well. This is a hoot! David Bevington, Phyllis Fay Horton Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in the Humanities, University of Chicago and co-editor of The Bantam Shakespeare series "...another smart tribute fans will enjoy. The Star-Ledger "As Shakespeare would say, you might think, this be madness, yet there is a method in 't. Newsday "...what Doescher made is delicious. Charleston City Paper " "...brilliant... Deseret News "This is a great read. Author Ian Doescher may not have bested Shakespeare, but he's certainly one-upped

Lucas. Asbury Park Press "…charming... The Courier-Journal "Is it all a great, geeky, inter-galactic goblet of literary fun? Verily! AmericanProfile.com "Whether your tastes run to Alderaan or Avon, this reimagining of Star Wars overflows with heart and wit. Jason Fry, author of Star Wars: The Essential Guide to Warfare "[William Shakespeare's Star Wars] is a brilliant and super-cool way to meld pop culture and high culture Bella Online "An elegant translation for a more civilized age. Let's face it if you love Shakespeare or Star Wars half as much as I do, you've already bought this. Adam Bertocci, author of Two Gentlemen of Lebowsky, a writer-director of Brooklyn Force and Run Leia Run, and moderator of TheForce.net "Zounds, the Forsooth is strong in this one! Two of the most creative minds in the universe collide with spectacular, hilarious and surprisingly touching insight into the original classic. This truly is Star Wars as you like it. Joe Schreiber, author of Star Wars: Death Troopers and Lenny Cyrus, School Virus Praise from William Shakespeare's Star Wars: The Empire Striketh Back "...enormous fun| "AVClub.com "Good luck getting to the end without rolling off your chairs. This book is a hoot. McClatchy Tribune "So what are you waiting for? Get thee once more to a galaxy far, far away. Paste Magazine "…an inspired illustrated mashup that retells the space adventure in artful iambic pentameter and answers the question: What light through Yoda's window breaks? Tampa Bay Tribune "Classic literature blended with fun is the best way to describe William Shakespeare's The Empire Striketh Back... San Gabriel Valley Tribune "Illustrated with beautiful black-and-white Elizabethan-style artwork, [William Shakespeare's The Empire Striketh Back] offer[s] essential reading for all ages. East Bay Express " "Tis a delight. Palm Beach Post "masterful| "Deseret News "This is a must for any fan of Star Wars, "The Citizen Praise from William Shakespeare's Star Wars: The Jedi Doth Return "If you love Star Wars, and Shakespeare, this book is the pinnacle of perfection. Yoda News "…a masterful mashup of English lit and pop culture that's hilarious, dramatic and downright mesmerizing. American Profile "For those who enjoyed Doescher's first two retellings, rejoice, for the merriment plays on. The Free

Lance-StarPraise from *William Shakespeare's Star Wars: The Phantom of Menace* – "Enjoy this tale in iambic pentameter, for it has all the necessary aspects of any Shakespeare play – the betrayal, the hope, the tragedy...This book is necessary for any Star Wars fan's collection. – *Geeks of Doom* *William Shakespeare and Star Wars* – "Star Wars collide in the most delightful fashion. – *McClatchy Tribune* *William Shakespeare and Star Wars* – "Witty and stylish, *The Phantom of Menace* is neither campy nor silly, but a finely-crafted work of art. – *Examiner.com* Praise from *William Shakespeare's Star Wars: Tragedy of the Sith's Revenge* – "The writing is quite good; elaborate Elizabethan woodcuts (Chewbacca the Wookie with a Hamlet-style medieval cap holding a Game-of-Thrones-style banner) are just icing on the cake. – *The Wall Street Journal* – "Star Wars fans, Shakespeare fans and readers who delight in cleverness are sure to enjoy what Doescher has done with this popular story. – *Deseret News*

Ian Doescher is the New York Times best-selling author of William Shakespeare's Star Wars® series. He lives in Portland, Oregon, with his family. Visit him at [IanDoescher.com](http://IanDoescher.com).

When I first saw this project announced I wrote it off as just a quick cash grab, a hastily constructed piece that would take the STAR WARS scripts, flower them up with prose to resemble what the laymen thinks Shakespeare sounds like (lots of "thous" and "doths"), and that would be that. It felt like something that would probably get a page read here or there for a quick smirk during extended stays in the bathroom. I could not have been more wrong. Very quickly it became apparent that Doescher is an avid student of Shakespeare and a lifelong fan of Star Wars. The books work on two very distinct levels. The first is the Doescher doesn't just do a bro-like approximation of Shakespeare, he actually does his studied best to invoke the bard. From the iambic pentameter (the style and shape that Shakespeare constructed his plays in) to the creative use of the Shakespeare lexicon to make it sound as though each character is speaking in phrases coined by Bill himself. It's authentic, not parody. But because the stories are so familiar to many of us, it's easy to glean the meaning of unfamiliar phrases and words. The second place these work is that Doescher makes humorous choices in these adaptations that gives a new life and charm to the stories. One of my favorite examples of this occurs early on in the first book (Verily, A New Hope). As R2-D2 is about to climb into the escape pod with C-3P0 he stops and delivers a monologue, the first time we hear him

speaking aside from the beeping sounds. He explains, in the eloquent verbiage of the style, that the success of him holding on to the plans for the Death Star is dependent upon him not speaking, but remaining in a way as to appear "simple". So he will continue to communicate in only beeps and to bear the verbal barbs of 3PO because the mission is the most important thing. It's a smart and comical choice that adds depth and dimension to a character, giving him a Shakespeare-like complexity that the original character never had. And the asides and soliloquies are fantastic, invoking some of Shakespeare's most famous lines. Characters ponder mistakes they've made or their roles in this giant epic. Vader contemplates often on his own nature and his power. Doescher does a great job of reading into the characters and trying to envision the things these characters would wonder about in their quiet, private moments. And it's in these moments that the true beauty of this project comes across. To delve into the characters and create something that both sounds and feels authentic, something that never existed in the previous stories, takes care and precision that just a throwaway humor book would never have. These are great books that are bound to delight any fan of Star Wars. Also, if I were ever to teach a class or an introductory section on Shakespeare to high schoolers, I would absolutely open with passages from these books. It makes understanding the Shakespeare style of speaking so much more intuitive. A resounding success and one I look forward to revisiting time and again. And the price is great. Just buy them!

As a long time Star Wars fan, these books are a joy to read. Besides the normal script, there are many asides that take you inside the characters' thought processes. This is even done with characters that had no lines, such as the AT-AT walkers and Ugnaughts. So besides being novel entertainment, it gives new perspectives, new depth, and even some funny commentary. Occasionally, the Shakespearean writing crosses the line from authentic to gimmicky, but by and large is quite fulfilling.

By far the first set of books that I have actually read that was of any interest to Star Wars series. Bought it on a whim since I like Shakespeare and thought that I would be able to get into Star Wars more

Great read-aloud for my elementary-school kids. Since the characters and the plot elements are familiar, the style is not a barrier to comprehension. After reading these aloud, I feel my kids are all the better equipped to learn Shakespeare when the time comes.

This trilogy of the first released Star Wars series is wonderful. The most fun I have had reading books in years. The familiar story is faithfully reported in Shakespearean iambic pentameter. It is hard to improve on George Lukas, but William Shakespeare style and language is a truly remarkable adjunct. As an aerospace engineer and fan of Shakespeare I never imagined that these two interests would ever merge but they do in this delightful boxed set of three books. His language fast-forwarded to our modern space-oriented technology really gets into ones head. I even find myself speaking to my wife in Shakespearean English these days, although not always in iambic pentameter.

Full disclosure: I haven't read these all. I have sampled, but this was a gift. So the majority of the 5\* belongs to the physical product. This is a beautiful box set of 3 well produced, hardcover books. The books have great covers and pictures. The set comes with a nice poster. The idea of the book is great and what I read was fun and interesting. I gave it to my 11 year old and he loves it. This made a great gift.

If you enjoy clever wit, are wooed by words well spoken, but are a modern Star Wars fan, then hearken. This tale two forces join, smoothly and with great humor, doth Ian Doescher retell a tale, and by some magic spell, cast it into words worthy of the greatest bard. Seriously, I love these books. It is very hard not to laugh heartily the whole time you are reading. I am planning on using them to introduce kids to the glory of Shakespeare.

I am not a literary expert at all, but having enjoyed the movies, the books are very entertaining.

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