



The Science of Star Wars: An Astrophysicist's Independent Examination of Space Travel, Aliens, Planets, and Robots as Portrayed in the Star Wars Films and Books

Jeanne Cavelos

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Former NASA astrophysicist Jeanne Cavelos examines the scientific possibility of the fantastical world of *Star Wars*. She explains to non-technical readers how the course of science might soon intersect with such fantasies as interstellar travel, robots capable of thought and emotion, habitable alien planets, bizarre intelligent life forms, high-tech weapons and spacecraft, and advanced psychokinetic abilities. She makes complex physics concepts, like quantum mechanics, wormholes, and Einstein's theory of relativity both fascinating and easy to comprehend. *The Science of Star Wars* does for Star Wars what Lawrence Krauss's bestselling *The Physics of Star Trek* did for the Star Trek universe.

Cavelos answers questions like:

- * How might spaceships like the Millennium Falcon make the exhilarating jump into hyperspace?
- * Could a single blast from the Death Star destroy an entire planet?
- * How close are we to creating robots that look and act like C-3PO and R2-D2?
- * Could light sabers possibly be built, and if so, how would they work?
- * Do *Star Wars* aliens look like "real" aliens might?
- * What kind of environment could spawn a Wookiee?
- * What would living on a desert planet like Tatooine be like?
- * Why does Darth Vader require an artificial respirator?
- * Can we access a "force" with our minds to move objects and communicate telepathically with each other?

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