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Menaces Forever, Random House, Random House, 2001, , . .

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The Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace novelization was written by Terry Brooks and published on April 21, 1999 by Del Rey. It is based on the script of the movie of the same name. Narration for the abridged audio version was performed by Michael Cumpsty. The unabridged version was performed by Alexander Adams. On January 31, 2012, a new paperback edition was released with a new short story, End Game, by James Luceno featured inside.

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, an evil legacy long believed dead is stirring. Even the Jedi are caught by surprise, their attentions focused on the political unrest between the Trade Federation and the Republic. Now the dark side of the Force threatens to overwhelm the light, and only an ancient Jedi prophecy stands between hope and doom for the entire galaxy.

On the desert world of Tatooine, far from the concerns for the Republic, a slave boy works by day and dreams by night of being a Jedi Knight and one day traveling the stars to worlds he's only heard of in stories; of finding a way to win freedom from enslavement for himself and his beloved mother. His only hope lies in his extraordinary instincts and his strange gift for understanding the "rightness" of things, talents that allow him to be one of the best Podracers on the planet.

In another part of the galaxy, the Jedi Knight Qui-Gon Jinn and his apprentice, young Obi-Wan Kenobi, are charged with the protection of the Amidala, the young Queen of Naboo, as she seeks to end the siege of her planet by Trade Federation warships. It is this quest that brings Qui-Gon, Obi-Wan, and the Queen's beautiful young handmaiden to the sand-swept streets of Tatooine and the shop where the slave boy Anakin Skywalker toils and dreams. And it is this unexpected meeting that marks the beginning of the drama that will become legend;

Jedi Knight Qui-Gon Jinn and his apprentice, Obi-Wan Kenobi, are dispatched to the planet of Naboo to settle a dispute between the Trade Federation and Queen Amidala. The Federation has blockaded Naboo in order to force them into signing an unfavorable trade agreement. Unknown to the galactic senate, the Federation has formed an alliance with Darth Sidious, a Lord of the Sith, former Jedi who succumbed to the Force's dark side, their order thought to be extinct for a millennia.

Before negotiations even have a chance to start, the | viceroy attempts to assassinate Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan, but the two Jedi manage to thwart this attempt. On board the Federation's main ship, they discover a droid invasion army. After escaping to the planet's surface, the two plan to warn Amidala of the approaching army. With the help of Jar Jar Binks, an outcast Gungan, they make their way to Queen Amidala's palace in the capital city of Theed. To avoid signing the treaty, Amidala escapes

with Qui-Gon, Obi-Wan, Captain Panaka and Jar Jar Binks and heads to Coruscant, the galactic seat of government. Amidala intends to present her case to the Galactic senate. En route, they divert to the desert planet Tatooine for repairs to their damaged ship. At a salvage shop, Qui-Gon, Padmé (Amidala in disguise), and Jar Jar meet Anakin Skywalker, a young slave boy. Watto, Anakin's master, refuses to sell the part Qui-Gon needs for Republic credits, and Qui-Gon must somehow raise money. As a sudden desert storm approaches, Anakin offers the group refuge at his home. Qui-Gon discovers Anakin possesses undeveloped Jedi abilities and believes he may be the Chosen One destined to return balance to the Force. He's further convinced when Anakin's mother, Shmi, says Anakin was conceived without a biological father.

To help Qui-Gon get the part for the spaceship, Anakin offers to enter his own racer in a dangerous pod race. Qui-Gon bets Watto the Queen's space ship and the entire winner's purse against the part for the ship and Anakin's freedom. Greedy Watto accepts the bet, certain that Anakin will lose. Anakin wins and Watto reluctantly frees him. Wanting a better life for her son, Shmi allows Anakin to leave with Qui-Gon to become a Jedi.

Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan are unaware they have been tracked to Tatooine by Darth Maul, a Sith Lord and Darth Sidious's apprentice. Maul attacks the group as they are about to take off, but they escape. On Coruscant, Qui-Gon reports the reemergence of the Sith to a skeptical Jedi Council. The council denies Qui-Gon's request to train Anakin as a Jedi, claiming he's too old, but Master Yoda has sensed something dangerous in him. Defiant, Qui-Gon says Anakin will be his padawan (apprentice) with or without the Council's approval.

Meanwhile, Queen Amidala presents her case to the Senate. Senator Palpatine persuades her that Supreme Chancellor Valorum is a weak and ineffective leader. In fact, Valorum is attempting to aid Amidala but is stymied by a bureaucratic and increasingly corrupt senate. Urged by Palpatine, Amidala calls for a vote of no confidence against Valorum, and he is removed from office. Palpatine is nominated to replace him. Frustrated by the Senate's inaction, Amidala returns to Naboo accompanied by Qui-Gon, Panaka, Obi-Wan, Anakin, and Jar Jar.

Once there, they meet with the remainder of the Gungans in their sacred place, after Jar Jar has searched Otoh Gunga. There, Padmé reveals herself as the true Amidala (Sabé is her double) and convinces the Gungans to fight with them against the Trade Federation. The Gungans create a diversionary battle in order for the Naboo underground movement to gain entry to the palace. They gain entry and attempt to reach the viceroy, who has taken cover in the throne room. On the way, the party is ambushed by Darth Maul, and the two Jedi engage in a battle, while Anakin and R2-D2 take cover in a starfighter. He attempts to help Padmé by firing at droids that have also ambushed them. He inadvertently presses the power switch, which activates the autopilot to take him to the space battle to knock out the droid control ship. There is a heated battle in space which ends with Anakin destroying the control ship.

Meanwhile, the Jedi continue their duel with Maul, and go through many rooms and walkways, until they are separated by laser walls. Qui-Gon and Maul get through and continue their duel, while Kenobi watches helplessly. Qui-Gon is eventually slain by Maul, and Kenobi continues the fight and almost defeats Maul before he is knocked into a plasma input chute. There, Maul attempts to knock him down, but Kenobi performs a Force jump out of the pit, summoning his master's lightsaber with his last remaining strength. He lands and cuts Maul in half. Qui-Gon's last wish is for Kenobi to train Anakin as a Jedi. This wish is granted by Yoda at Qui-Gon's funeral, as well as making Kenobi a Jedi knight, seeing his killing of Darth Maul, a Sith lord, as a sufficient trial.

This novelization, unlike those from the original trilogy, contains much that is not in the movie. It includes three entire chapters of material created by Terry Brooks and unique to the novel. The first two chapters of the book concern Anakin's next-to-last podrace and its aftermath, while a later chapter describes an encounter between Anakin and a wounded Tusken Raider in the desert.

Brooks met with George Lucas before writing the book and received his approval and guidance, including information about developments to come in Episode II and Episode III. This can be seen in

such passages as the Tusken Raider scene, which ironically foreshadows the death of Anakin's mother in Episode II, and the passage leading up to Anakin's fight with the Rodian child (Greedo), indicating that Anakin's anger derives from his anguish at Padmé's impending departure (foreshadowing the plot of Episode III).

The novelization is especially well-known for a passage describing the history of the Sith, including Darth Bane. According to Terry Brooks' memoir, *Sometimes the Magic Works: Lessons from a Writing Life*, Lucas spent an hour on the telephone with him discussing the history of the Jedi and the Sith. Therefore, the information on this subject provided in Brooks' novelization might derive from Lucas himself.

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Dennis the Menace is a daily syndicated newspaper comic strip originally created, written and illustrated by Hank Ketcham. It debuted on March 12, 1951, in 16 newspapers^[1] and was originally distributed by Post-Hall Syndicate.^[2] It is now written and drawn by Ketcham's former assistants, Marcus Hamilton and Ron Ferdinand, and distributed to at least 1,000 newspapers in 48 countries and 19 languages by King Features Syndicate.^[3] The comic strip usually runs for a single panel on weekdays and a full strip on Sundays.

Dennis Mitchell is a precocious but lovable, freckle-faced five-and-a-half-year-old boy with a famous blond cowlick and a penchant for mischief. His long-suffering parents can only shake their heads and try to explain their son's antics to others. Despite this, they really do love him very much. Dennis' wide-eyed curiosity, his well-meaning attempts to help, his innocent, matter-of-fact bluntness, his youthful energy and enthusiastic nature always seem to lead to trouble wherever he goes (most often at Mr. Wilson's expense). He wears a blue/black striped shirt, tennis shoes, and red overalls with pockets that are sometimes filled with snakes, frogs, or his slingshot. He hates carrots and baths, loves root beer, ketchup, mud puddles and TV Westerns (especially those starring Cowboy Bob), and has occasionally been depicted wearing a cowboy costume.

Henry Mitchell is Dennis' father is a workaday aerospace engineer. Henry seems to understand Dennis more than his wife does especially in affairs of the heart. One example was when a furious Dennis stormed in saying, "Wimmin can say some of the stupidest things!"; Henry knowingly said to Alice, "Margaret." Also, while he was watching Gina, he confides to his dad, "There's somethin' about Gina that I can't figger out." Henry, wisely, advised his son, "Wait." Another time, he and Alice overhear Dennis tell Gina that she "smelled better than a plateful of Peanut Butter sandwiches"; Henry replies, "The ultimate compliment". Like his creator Hank Ketcham, Henry served in the US Navy. Sometimes, he and Alice will get into arguments (which even showed his chauvinistic side at times), but they remain devoted to each other.

Alice Mitchell, née Johnson is Dennis' stay-at-home mother Alice is usually the reassuring figure

Dennis can run to when things get too overwhelming, ready to greet him with a warm hug. As a running gag, Alice Mitchell has a phobia of snakes. Another running gag involves Dennis' ever-changing parade of new babysitters. No one will take the job twice. Alice is also known for punishing Dennis' misbehavior by having him sit in the corner in a rocking chair for timeout, although a couple of times she has instituted tougher disciplinary measures such as spanking, where Dennis is shown crying or grumbling about the adversity.

Grampa Johnson (Oliver "Swede" Johnson) â€“ Alice's father who spoils Dennis often. He evokes the unintentional jealousy of Mr. Wilson, for he gets to see Dennis only on occasion, but Mr. Wilson sees him all the time. Because they are so much alike, Dennis and Grampa Johnson get along beautifully. Mr. Wilson also thinks that Johnson should act his age, but this advice is often ignored. To Grampa, life is worth living and he encourages Dennis to live it to the fullest.

George Everett Wilson, Sr. â€“ Dennis's cranky, cantankerous middle aged next-door neighbor; a retired postal carrier and (at least as far as Dennis is concerned) his best adult friend. Dennis likes Mr. Wilson but unintentionally annoys him, as he regularly disrupts Mr. Wilson's attempts at a serene, quiet life. Dennis often interrupts Mr. Wilson's hobbies such as gardening, as well as coin and stamp collecting, at times accidentally damaging his property. As a result, the gruff old retiree displays a less-than-cordial attitude towards the young boy, though Dennis continues his well-meaning intrusions unabated. Actually, as many readers suspected, he is secretly fond of Dennis and misses him when he's away â€“ although he'd never openly admit it. Mr. Wilson is named after a teacher Hank Ketcham knew. Dennis will often (especially in the TV series) refer to him as "Good Ol' Mr. Wilson".

Margaret Wade â€“ a freckled, red-haired, bespectacled know-it-all whose cloying and self-important demeanor is always getting on Dennis's nerves. She is attracted to Dennis and is stubbornly confident in the belief that she will marry him when they are adults, but he clearly has no interest in her. She always tries to improve Dennis and his manners, but only succeeds in annoying him. She has a certain amount of dislike for Gina, whom she sees as her competition. Gina gains Dennis's respect and admiration by just being herself, and Margaret's pretensions fail to make a mark on him.

Gina Gillotti â€“ a fiercely independent young Italian American girl, whom Dennis is mostly unaware he secretly has a crush on. Gina is tomboyish yet still feminine in appearance. She also likes Dennis in a future romantic way, but in contrast to his dislike of Margaret, Dennis actually enjoys being with Gina. He likes her because she is as independent minded as he is, and she enjoys the same things that he does. Gina is also highly aware that she is a girl, and woe betide anyone who doesn't think so. It is presumed that Gina is the oldest of the kids.[citation needed]

Jackson â€“ in the late 1960s, Ketcham decided to add an African American character to the cast named Jackson. Ketcham designed Jackson in the tradition of a stereotypical cartoon pickaninny, with huge lips, big white eyes, and just a suggestion of an Afro hair style. In one cartoon that featured Jackson, he and Dennis were playing in the backyard, when Dennis said to his father,[4] "I'm havin' some race trouble with Jackson. He runs faster than me." The attempt to integrate the feature did not go over well. Protests erupted in Detroit, Little Rock, Miami, and St. Louis, and debris was thrown at the offices of the Post Dispatch. Taken aback, Ketcham issued a statement explaining that his intentions were innocent, and Jackson went back into the ink bottle.[5] However, another African American character named Jay Weldon appeared in the 1986 animated series to far less controversy as he was not a stereotype.

Cowboy Bob â€“ A film cowboy whom Dennis idolizes. Appears in a series of westerns known as Cowboy Bob films. Dennis fails to realize that westerns are rarely made today and that the films he is seeing are actually re-released from long ago. In one story arc where Dennis' parents invite the retired actor to a party, they have Dennis meet him, to which Dennis comments he must be "Cowboy Bob's grandpa!"

The inspiration for the comic strip came from Dennis Ketcham, the real life son of Hank Ketcham,[6] who was only four years old when he refused to take a nap and somehow messed up his whole

room. Hank tried many possible names for the character, and translated them into rough pencil sketches. But when his studio door flew open and his then-wife Alice, in utter exasperation, exclaimed, "Your son is a menace!",[7] the "Dennis the Menace" name stuck. The character of Henry Mitchell bore a striking resemblance to Ketcham. The Mitchell family of Dennis, Hank/Henry and Alice were all named after the Ketchams.

Ketcham's linework has been highly praised over the years. A review on comicbookbin.com states: "...a growing legion of cartoonists, scholars, aficionados, etc. have come to appreciate the artistry of Dennis's creator, Hank Ketcham. Ketcham's beautiful artwork defines cartooning elegance. The design, the composition, and the line: it's all too, too beautiful." [8] AV Club reviewer Noel Murray wrote: "Ketcham also experimented with his line a little early on, tightening and thickening without losing the looseness and spontaneity that remains the strip's best aspect even now." [9]

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