

When I was a kid I loved star wars. I still do. I made a point of differentiating the original trilogy from the new ones that were coming out at the time so people would know I was an AUTHENTIC fan (and also because I was an annoying child). Even though I don't generally like stuff in the sci-fi/adventure genre, like most things I loved as a kid, the Star Wars movies were something my brother introduced me to, so I thought it was cool. but from there my affection for them took on a life of its own. I had a life sized cut out of Han Solo in my room for a couple of years (this is true).

The funny thing is that looking back, the original movies don't compare to the new ones in terms of production value and special effects and all that, and yet, they're so much better, which I think points to the fact that star wars aren't just movies about weird space adventures. They're a human story told in a fantasy/sci-fi setting. Take away the lightsabers and the Ewoks, and the movies are actually telling a pretty spiritual story. It's literally about the light vs. the darkness. this young dude discovers his connection to the life force of the universe, learns how that can be used for good and for evil, and struggles to choose his own destiny rather than let his origins define him.

My favorite character was definitely Han Solo (Harrison ford if you are listening please return my messages) but Princess Leia was also so awesome to me. She was sassy and even intimidating, but she was also smart, devoted to a cause, and she didn't worry about pleasing other people. It's too bad that so much of her storyline was about her being captured and held prisoner by some villain or another, and it's especially sad that pop culture seems to only remember her in that weird space bikini. The scene where she's trotted out in that costume is one where she's held captive as a slave to Jabba the Hutt, which is gross and degrading.

It's interesting to think what the story would have been like if Luke and Leia's roles had been reversed, and Leia was the hero of the movie. I'm glad the new movie's going to have more women characters than before, but I hope they're impressive.