

## **The Empire Strikes Back**

The Empire Strikes Back (as well as “Return of the Jedi”) despite the popular notion, was not directed by George Lucas, although he did act as the all-powerful controlling overlord that had his fingers into everybody’s pie. It was directed by a man named Irvin Kershner (who went on to direct “Robocop 2”) who deserves a round of applause for directing one hell of a film. Though many would say what I’m about to say is blasphemy, I believe that “Empire Strikes Back” is the best film of the Star Wars Trilogy.

The settings are more exotic, the battles are more chaotic, and every scene looks like a work of art. The colors are more rich and vibrant, as opposed to the 70’s pastels featured in Star Wars, not to mention improved effects. But I think the best aspect is that the character interaction is well developed at this point. You know how each character will react in certain situations, which is used much to our amusement.

Not to mention that it is not the traditional happy Hollywood ending. It’s shocking and emotional as we watch Han get lowered into the carbon processing unit while Leia professes her undying hidden love for him. Most Hollywood stories would have put Leia in the pit, and have Luke come in and save her with his kung-fu at the last second, making some witty quip, only Han gets killed in a buddy cop kind of way. But no! In this they actually have the balls to drop the carbonite on him! I love it!

Another reason I think (“The Empire Strikes Back” (a rather cheesy title, if you think about it) is the best of the three is that it’s more about Han and Leia than Luke. Face it, who really gives a rat’s ass about Luke’s Jedi training. We paid money to see Han get up to his neck in trouble and connive his way out of it, while at the same time chauvinistically courting Princess Leia.

Not to mention that Darth Vader was a leader from hell in this one. I mean, who in their right minds would want to be in charge of *any* operation around him? The turnover rate for the flagship staff is very high. I heard that a couple of guys got the Vader finger for burning the space-coffee.

So, it is for these many reasons that I feel that this is the superior film. Art, story, character, action, editing, and so forth, which any reasonable person should agree to. So the rest of you can go fuck off! “Empire Strikes Back” gets the Happy Mark.