

# ***“Solo: A Star Wars Story”***

*By Helen Lutz*

The Lutz family has a tendency of naming our vehicles, especially our youngest daughter. The first car the girls shared was a hot pink little Mercury (it may have been a Mary Kay car in a prior life) which was appropriately named Barbie. Her next little Cavalier, the color of cayenne, she named Pepper. After college Jenny progressed to her Acura TSX which she lovingly referred to as Cole. Jenny’s husband is now forced to follow the family custom and has named his new Ford 250 truck that he uses for work, The Beast; which is funny since Jenny just replaced Cole with a beautiful, black Lexus SUV named Beauty. Yes folks, they now drive Beauty and The Beast. When the hail storm a couple of years back took out our cars, we bought a new Prius. The family came over to check it out and it was promptly named Storm Trooper due to its color and interior design – which brings me to “Star Wars”.



“Star Wars” was fascinating when it opened in the 1970’s, we had never seen anything quite like it from the CGI to the sound to the characters; it was amazing. “Star Wars” has definitely left its mark on several generations. The newest “Star Wars” spin off to appear in theaters is “Solo: A Star Wars Story” which tells the story of a very young Han Solo. Alden Ehrenreich portrays the young Solo as we meet him in on the wickedly nasty planet of Corellia. The Empire is expanding its influence throughout the galaxy while crime lords wield most of the influence and power. Life is dangerous working in mines scraping out a narrow existence, especially for young Solo and his girlfriend Qi’ra (Emily Clarke). Han devises an elaborate escape for the two of them which almost works.

“Solo: A Star Wars Story” takes us along with Han as he joins the troops of the Empire only to find himself as a lowly infantry trooper fighting a battle much like we’ve seen in movies like “Saving Private Ryan” or even the recent “Wonder Woman” (her skills would have been welcome). Escaping the fight and deserting the Empire Han ends up joining a band of thieves led by Beckett (Woody Harrleson) in their quest to steal an extremely valuable shipment of fuel. Even the best laid plans go awry which causes Beckett and newfound friend Han Solo to return empty handed to crime boss Dryden Vos (Paul Bettany) hoping to make a new deal in exchange for their lives.

The story introduces a young man who ends up with the name Han Solo, telling his story of escape, his unusual introduction to Chewbacca (Joonas Suotamo) and his meeting with the gambler Lando Cairissian (Donald Glover) where he comes into possession of the Millennium Falcon. Director Ron Howard keeps the story moving with great chases and jumps to light speed as well as characters about whom we care. The plot twists and turns its way through a dangerous underworld as Han finds his lost love Qi’ra in a most unusual situation. It is a story of cunning and treachery which shapes the eventual character played by Harrison Ford; no mention of the later to come rebellion, force or Jedi.

“Solo: A Star Wars Story” takes us along at light speed much before the time of Luke, Princess Leia and Darth Vader at a time when the Empire is still very much the wild, wild west. On a scale of one to four Hart Beats I give “Solo: A Star Wars Story” THREE HARTS. This is a fun one to see on the big screen with big sound and a big smile on your face as the one liners are tons of fun. You don’t want to miss out on the new robot L3-37 (Phoebe Waller-Bridge) who steals the show with her rebellious women’s’ lib style.