Andersen improves in his second Star Wars book

DARK APPRENTICE

A

though still slightly predictable, Dark Apprentice — the newest book in the Star Wars line — is enjoyable and entertaining.

The most valuable part of this book is the use of a clever villainess, Admiral Dasla. Though not as ingenuous as the Grand Admi-
ral Thrawn in Timothy Zahn's recent trilogy, she far outshines Monthie Doole, the primary antagonist of Kevin Anderson's first book (Jedi Search) in this trilogy. Dasla is cold and calculating, and although she is more intent on random destruction than on defeating the New Republic, her experience and knowledge are refreshing.

In general, all of the characters in Dark Apprentice are much better than their counterparts in Jedi Search. All of them seem much more alive, and are more reminiscent of the characters in the films. All of the action of the characters is well justified and even the most drastic of changes — Admiral Ackbar's resignation — are developed and completely believable. There are occasional exceptions to this when the characters seem driven in a cer-

tain path only to further some unimportant plot line. For example, throughout the book Han and Lando argue about whether Han should really own the Millennium Falcon or not. Overall, I found the characters' actions entirely plausible — a vast improve-

ment over Anderson's Jedi-Sith fight.

Unfortunately, Andersen still suffers from one main problem: He explains too much. He often explicitly sells the reader what the char-

acter is thinking rather than putting our imagi-

nination in gear. The new set of memorable original melodies with a slight "Safari" theme.

DARK APPRENTICE is a very entertaining book and shows that Anderson is not yet finished with the Jedi Search series.

Lion King

The Lion King soundtrack
Music by Elton John.
Lyrics by Tim Rice.

Walt Disney Company.

Disneys tops itself again with music from

THE LION KING

By Patrick Manhey

Oscar winner

n the fine tradition of The Little Mermaid, Beauty & the Beast, and Aladdin, The Walt Disney Company has created a masterpieces in The Lion King whose soundtrack is already available in stores. The movie is due out in theaters Friday.

With the music and the lyrics of The Lion King serve to tell the story of Simba — a newly born lion cub who is destined to be king. It starts out with the presentation of the young Simba to the rest of the world. This lively and enthralling "Circle of Life" immedi-

ately captures your attention and draws you in. This is lyrical Tim Rice's most powerful piece, as it perfectly creates the image of a young lion cub meeting a vast and unbeliev-

able world for the first time.

Immediately the music flows into an almost playful piece in which the young Simba (performed in the song by Jason Lee) creates the image of a young Simba and to Simba him.

Del and during the dark piece, Rice adds hilarious comments by Scar's min-

leys (the voices of Whoopi Goldberg, Cheech Marin, and Jim Cummings). The soundtrack proceeds on with other songs, each with great melodies and lyrics. Following this are four powerful instrumental pieces which give the album a more serious tone.

Three of the songs on The Lion King are repeated at the end (this time performed by Elton John), but now the lyrics have been altered slightly and the music has been slowed down even more. Whereas the first few songs are energetic and lively, these are more introspective. The new sound seems to represent a more mature and thoughtful Simba who has begun to understand what lies before him. John's music and his strong and power-

ful vocals elegantly support this image.

Simba struggles to find his destined place in nature's "circle of life" surrounded by his friends in The Lion King.

Reminiscence of Atwood and Beauty & the Beast, many of the sounds sound ever-so-

slightly familiar the first time you hear them, but never in the same way as they were in their own. Overall, the soundtrack is exceptional and leaves you wanting to go see the movie. Tim Rice did an outstanding job in making this set of memorable original melodies with a slight "Safari" theme.

The Cowboy Way

The Cowboy Way soundtrack

Music by Soundgarden.

This action film casts the late Brandon Lee as Eric Draven, a deceased musician who has returned from the grave to enact supreme vengeance on the rapists who killed his girlfriend (on Halloween), he proves to be a defiant and dangerous force. The film is entertaining, but the whole Pepper-Sonny quartet is distracting and doesn't have a place in the movie. The Cowboy Way had the poten-

tial to be a hilarious comedy with cowboys in New York City but doesn't pursue that avenue. Instead it tries and fails to make itself "meaningful." — PM. Loews Copley Place.

The Cowboy Way

Pepper (Woody Harrelson) and Sonny (Keifer Sutherland) are two New Mexico houses for illegal immigrants. The film is anti-

domestic violence isuner.

watching Indianos in Maverick.

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*: Average
*: Poor

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Tom Hanks gets the wish that every kid dreams of: the goat with the golden fleece. Granted this wish by a magical carnival game, Hanks spends the next couple of months nothing around the in the middle of becoming an instant success at the toy company where he is hired. But he isn't that good for the incredible competition and back-stabbing associated with this position. Nor he is ready to fall in love. — Patrick Manhey, L.A. Sunday.

** City Stickers II: The Legend of Curly's Gulch
After the first City Stickers, this film is a disapointment. It is nowhere near as amusing as the first, and the actors (Billy Crystal, Jack Palance, and Daniel Stern) have lost the charm that they had in the original. Palance's character, Duke — the twin brother of Curly — is badly written and a poor attempt at recapturing the appeal that Curly had in the original. Paiance's charm that they had in the original. Paiance's

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