

# Various Star Wars Theories

## **The Force Awakens: Rey's Parentage**

I'm on Team Kenobi for Rey's parentage.

*Reason One:* It makes no frickin' sense if it's Skywalker. What chain of events leads to her being left on a planet with Unkar Plutt such that neither Luke nor any of his extended family don't come and rescue her? It's easier to imagine that the untold story of Kenobi's family is such that she's abandoned.

*Reason Two:* Let's be clear: Han knows her. The big give away is the scene when he's talking to Maz. She asks who the 'girl' is and then the scene cuts. Clearly Han tells her what he knows (or suspects he knows). Clearly the line isn't in the film just for him to shrug his shoulders in an off-screen scene. What'd be the point in that? So he knows. (Possibility: we get the end of that conversation in a flashback in the next film, which will explain Harrison Ford's casting call for Episode VIII. Further, I bet you Maz reappears to be the one to tell Rey about her lineage.)

Given Han knows, if she's Luke's child Han's actions make no sense; if she's Kenobi's grand-daughter his actions do make sense. First: he doesn't seem to *overly* recognise her and it'd be weird if he didn't say 'Rey! It's been a long time!' or something like that if she was Luke's daughter. Second: Go back and watch the scene where Finn reveals he's made it back to the Starkiller solely to save Rey. Han has a real go at him for not sticking to the mission. I think that's a clear sign that Han really *does* set doing the mission higher than rescuing Rey. I doubt he'd do that if she was a blood relative; it makes more sense if she's a Kenobi – he cares, but doesn't care as much as letting thousands die.

*Reason Three:* Note the scene where Han talks to Finn and Rey about how the Jedi were real and he was all wrong about them being stories. That's basically a flip – and an apology of sorts to Obi Wan – of the same scene he does with Obi Wan in New Hope. In fact, it's basically the only conversation Han has with Obi Wan of any relevance. So there he is again, having the same conversation – but from the other side – with Obi Wan's granddaughter.

*Reason Four:* We hear Obi Wan speaking her name, quite clearly, in the scene in the basement. That's because he's watching over her from beyond the grave. I hear from the internet that there were all sorts of technical devices used to get Alec Guinness's voice saying 'Rey' in there too. That's a lot effort... unless Rey's Obi Wan's granddaughter!

*Reason Five:* It's more satisfying to have a Kenobi versus a Skywalker than some internecine family warfare. Some people say the Saga is about the Skywalkers, thinking Rey's lineage must be with Luke. I think we'll find out the Saga's about the Kenobis helping the Skywalkers bring balance to the force.

*Reason Six:* Kenobi having sprogged off sets up a satisfying romance between Rey and someone else (presumably Finn?); more accurately, without a romance like that it casts a

shadow over whatever romance blossoms. (And I'm sure one will – this is Hollywood, after all, and I doubt they're going to go out on a limb and risk a gay Finn/Po relationship. Fingers crossed though – that'd be a bold move!) As is, the only Jedi romance we know of – between Anakin and Padme – went against the Jedi Code and was also a terrible, *terrible* idea. Given how wrong it went it's easy to read that as being an admonishment against going against the code i.e. the Jedi prohibition on a bit of 'How's your father' was actually a very sensible idea rather than some cruel, arbitrary prohibition. So it's better if we have an extant example of a good relationship so that Rey can merrily go off and be romantic, safe in the knowledge that breaking that element of the Jedi code isn't doomed to failure. And I doubt Luke will be the person to present such a relationship. Presumably if Luke had a romance it went terribly unless you can somehow count being a hermit on a far off planet, with an unmentioned wife, where you've left your only child on a desert planet eeking out an existence in harsh, miserable, near death conditions a success. I do internet dating, and even I don't count that as a win. A perfect resolution to this problem is to have Obi Wan – an established nice guy – have had a successful relationship. Indeed, we can easily imagine there being some gumph about how, after the end of the Jedi Order, Obi-Wan was formally relieved of the demands of the code and no longer needed to be celibate (something that Obi Wan, in his wisdom, could claim to know; something that Luke, who has no connection with the Jedi of old beyond what he hears about from holocrons, can possibly know).

*Reason Seven:* After I came up with this I googled a Huff Post about it ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ben-ostrower/rey-is-obi-wan-kenobis-granddaughter\\_b\\_8911656.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ben-ostrower/rey-is-obi-wan-kenobis-granddaughter_b_8911656.html)). They're not my reasons. But some choice, convincing examples include: (i) they both have British accents (I think people have underplayed this one); (ii) she scales the wall of the Starkiller base in exactly the same way Obi Wan does when in the Death Star; (iii) in the Clone Wars, which specifically and explicitly remains canon when Disney had the option of ditching it, Kenobi has romantic interests with a character; (iv) the scene where Rey gives the lightsaber to Luke takes on new meaning given New Hope's presenting of the lightsaber from Ben to Luke.

*Final Thought:* Maybe this is all building to her being Luke's daughter *as well as* the child of Kenobi. Maybe. I'd prefer that it was some other character e.g. Wedge Antilles (or, maybe, some connection to the Darklighters?).

So the twist will be that she'll be Kenobi's grandkid. Except...

### **The Force Awakens: Darth Vader**

...it won't. I have a 0.78 credence that Rey is a Kenobi (although she *might* be a Skywalker as well) but I have a 0.93 credence that the actual twist of episode VIII will be something else entirely. I imagine the second film will get some way through before Rey's parentage is revealed in some 'Luke, I am your father' moment. And it'll be amazing to see I'm sure, doing the trick to make you think that the twist has been and gone. But this will just be setting you up for the *real* twist – the *big* twist that you don't see coming, and haven't thought about as you've been focussing on the puzzle they've chucked some breadcrumbs at (i.e. Rey's

parentage) rather than the *actual* twist. Now, I'm not entirely sure what the twist will be, but I have an idea. (Also, take this narrative set up to be *reason eight* for why Rey's a Kenobi: they'll string out her parentage to make it the *faux* twist of episode VIII, which can only be done if she's not a Skywalker. If she is a Skywalker then Luke would be a total git for not revealing this sooner at the right beginning of the next film.)

Nevertheless, I have a 0.7 credence that the twist is Vader related and that Vader will appear in the film, probably as Snoke.

*Reason One:* What set my mind to this was the internet post about how similar Vader's scars are to Snoke's.

([https://twitter.com/RyanHigginsRyan/status/684923666992238592/photo/1?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/RyanHigginsRyan/status/684923666992238592/photo/1?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)) Score one for Team Vader, although from someone who isn't me.

*Reason Two:* Think back to the 'Darth Vader helmet scene'. Ren is all 'Dear Vader, please help me in my time of need', supplicating Vader in a prayer-like fashion to keep him on path. One of two things is going on here. Thing One: Ren has somehow become convinced that what Luke said about Vader turning to the light side is bollocks and, further, has become convinced that he should follow in Vader's footsteps (why? the guy *died!* how powerful could Vader be when Luke did him in?), and further still, has got into the habit of praying for his help. I mean... praying? That doesn't sound like a Jedi thing to do, whether you're dark or light. Surely the afterlife rules for Jedi are well known to Ren: you become a Force Ghost and then... well, who knows exactly what. Either fade away or hang around. If you fade away, why pray for Vader to help? He's faded away! If you hang around, Ren should've had a chat with Anakin's ghost and gone 'Oh, right, you're quite nice and not a monster like I erroneously believed.'

Here's the alternative thing that could be going on: he's hoping that Vader's Force Ghost will turn up and have a chat with him because Vader's force ghost has *previously* turned up and had a chat with him, presumably twisting him to his force ghosty I-can't-interact-with-the-real-world-so-manipulate-corporeal-Force-users needs. That might sound loopy, particularly as it's *prima facie* dissatisfying (with regards to the narrative) for Vader to go good (at the end of *RotJ*) and then go bad again. My resolution is that there are *two* force ghosts: an Anakin force ghost (who's nice) and a Vader force ghost (who's evil and is now running the show).

To back this up, think back to Ren talking about himself on the bridge. He's there with Han and he's all 'I killed Ben because he was weak like his father' and Han is all 'I don't believe that'. That's slightly strange as conversations go. Ren seems to *really* mean it – that he *really* killed Ben. And I don't think we're meant to get the impression that the assertion is symptomatic of mental illness. And Han doesn't say 'That's nonsense' or 'I think you need to see a psychiatrist; I knew Luke should never have stopped your meds', he just simply denies it. But I think Han denies it in a way that indicates that *Han* thinks it's a possibility that it's literally true. That is: Ren is asserting something which, whilst false, implies that those possessed by the Dark Side to a significant degree literally become two people where the first

person 'kills' the first one (or dominates them or something like that). Whilst Ren has failed to, as yet, achieve this, it's a very real possibility for him to achieve – a possibility acknowledged by both him and Han. Next: think back to the other person to talk about this sort of thing i.e. Obi Wan. When he says to Luke (in *New Hope*) that Vader killed Anakin, maybe he wasn't lying at all. Maybe he's speaking the truth (albeit misleading by neglecting pertinent facts about Vader's coming-to-be). Further, the scene with Obi Wan and Luke where Luke asks why he lied would make more sense then. He says:

Your father... was seduced by the Dark Side of the Force. He ceased to be the Jedi Anakin Skywalker and became Darth Vader. When that happened, the good man who was your father was destroyed. So, what I told you was true... from a certain point of view.

I put it to you that the literal, non metaphorical reading works best. Indeed, it's the only way that Obi Wan isn't a total lying ratbag who misled some poor young lad to come on a crazy adventure that left his family dead and him being instructed to murder his dad. When Obi Wan says it 'all depends on your point of view' that makes sense given the non-metaphorical reading of this sort of thing; if there's no sense in which Vader gobbled up Anakin and spat him out then it's got nothing to do with 'points of view' – it's simply Obi Wan telling porkies. (Are there pigs in Star Wars? Maybe not. OK: it's Obi Wan telling 'Rancories'.)

So there really ARE two of him. And the dark side force ghost is running the show. (We might even see Hayden back playing Anakin. Who knows.) And the fact that the Dark Force Vader hasn't ceased to be shows how powerful Vader is. You can kill him and he still comes back – just as evil and just as powerful and just as ready to teach Ren how to become a right nasty pasty!

*Reason Three:* There has been no resolution of the central plot running through the prequel: the prophecy of Anakin bringing balance to the force. If we just move onto some whole new plotline, with no continuity with the old plotlines, it'll never get resolved. Anakin has yet to bring balance to the force! I'm sure his force ghosts can get on that and bring it to an end.

*Reason Four:* Darth Vader is iconic Star Wars. Icons mean punters. Punters mean money. ∴ Darth Vader = money. I imagine the instruction was: 'You must get the following things into the next three films: the original heroes, the Millennium Falcon, Boba Fett, Darth Vader. Make it make sense. It's sci fi space opera – you can do whatever you want to make these things happen, but make them happen!' That'd be a sensible instruction for Disney to deliver. And if it *was* the instruction they were given, they've done a bloody good job executing it.

*Reason Five:* Han says Snoke will dispose of Ren when he's done with him. Read: 'Possess you and come back to life.'

*Reason Six:* Well, less of a reason and more of a prediction. No-one knows Snoke is Vader – at least, certainly Ren doesn't (as he talks about Vader and the Supreme Commander as different people). So I imagine the next episode will reveal, early on, that Vader's force ghost is knocking around and then the big twist will be that Snoke is Vader and his fuzzy visage will 'sharpen up' into old Anakin *sans* helmet (who can be readily played by a different actor from Sebastian Shaw – who'd notice or care?).

## **New Hope: R2-D2 is dead**

Whilst I'm on the topic of Star Wars, I should break it to you: R2-D2 is dead. Totally, utterly dead. He died at the end of Episode IV and was replaced by a copy that was programmed to think it was R2-D2.

*Reason One:* Recall the bit in *New Hope* where R2-D2 is **shot to smithereens** by Darth Vader. They're in the trench, with the Dark Lord of the Sith, and he blows R2-D2 to bits. Now I'm thinking that when you shoot some souped up TIE-fighter's main gun battery against the top half of an astromech droid, you're left with molten mulch. How are you coming back from that? Those guns are way powerful. If a blaster can take out a droid (which it can) and it can't take out a fighter ship (witnessed many times in the film) whereas one shot from a fighter ship can take out a fighter ship (witnessed many times in the film) you have got to be *kidding* me if you're telling me R2-D2 survives that shot.

And are you telling me that Vader gave it a glancing blow? The Dark Lord of the Sith who is powered by the force? Who, I assume, must be empowered by the Force to subconsciously do things in his own interests like, e.g., blowing up the one source of information that might, ultimately, tell Luke what's going on? Far more reasonable that Vader's hand was guided to blow up the droid to protect himself, even if unwittingly.

So they then land and Luke – the new Hero of the Empire – is all 'Can you fix my droid?'. Who's going to say no to that? The mechanics nipped out back and got a nice R2 unit, blasted it with some blue spray paint, and then programmed it to answer to the name 'R2'. Problem solved.

*Reason Two:* This obviously explains the whole issue about R2-D2 not spilling the beans about anything that's been going on. We know he never mentions that Obi Wan owned him, never mentions that Darth Vader is Anakin Skywalker, never passes along crucial plot information that might, y'know, save the Rebellion etc. And if R2-D2 is just blown to bits, and is dead by the end of *New Hope*, that explains it all. As it stands R2-D2 turns up looking for his owner, Obi Wan, who we should presume he has semi regular contact with. So he rocks up and Obi Wan, spotting Luke in tow, instantly signals to R2-D2 to keep mum over the whole 'dad' thing. The first thing Rey's grandfather says is 'I don't remember owning any droid'. Imagine I met a friend of mine in a bar – a close friend who I see regularly – and I note who he's with; then my close, dear friend (who has been involved in escapades and duplicities all the way through our friendship) hears me say 'Hi, I don't believe we know one another'. My close friend would keep his mouth shut. (If your friends wouldn't do this, by the way, you probably need a higher calibre of IQ in the people you hang around with.) So Obi-Wan and R2-D2 know exactly what's going on. That doesn't explain why R2-D2 doesn't spill the beans later, after Obi Wan has died and after he has quite clearly attached himself to Luke. ***Unless it isn't R2-D2 and is some knocked up replacement they got off of the Spare Astromech Shelf out back!***

Sorry guys, R2-D2 died.

*Reason Three:* It explains why he doesn't have rockets anymore that let him fly (as in *Attack of the Clones*). They just had the slightly crap models out back, not the rocket, flying models.

### **Return of the Jedi: Droidism**

Whilst we're on the topic of droids, let's just bear in mind that these people are absolute tossers when it comes to droids. And it's not just, say, Han (who does nothing but slag off C3-PO and threaten him with violence via Chewbacca) who does this, but everyone. Take R2-D2. He's an 'R2' unit. But they don't call him 'D2'. Oh no! He gets called 'R2'. That's basically like Riggs deciding Murtaugh's nickname should be 'Black Guy'.

Luke's the worst.

Let's not mention the fact that Luke *explicitly* ignores C3-PO's desires to not masquerade as a deity. Let's not mention his blasé attitude to wiping their minds just so they can talk to his moisture farming equipment in *New Hope*. No: let's talk Jabba's Palace. Luke sends the droids in and, without checking with C3-PO first, tells Jabba he can have them as gifts. AS GIFTS! 'Ah,' you're thinking, 'That was just a ruse to get R2-D2 in there with the lightsaber.' Let's skip over the fact that you don't need poor 'ole C3-PO for that and just move to the bit where there was no guarantee that Jabba wouldn't have said 'Aye, I'll keep your droids and hand over Han Solo – you Jedi can, after all, be a bit mental and I've had my fun hanging him off of my wall. Get me some cash, and I'll take your droids and call it quits!' That could've happened. And what's to stop Jabba just whipping them down to the basement and wiping their minds? I mean, *that's what goes on in this world, right!* At the drop of a hat, you blast the psyche of your nearby droid. That Jabba would've done that as a mere precaution is not exactly unlikely.

Monsters. The lot of them. No wonder Luke didn't notice R2 died. They all look the same to him.