

# star wars



By A. Chisholm

## Why I want to be Princess Leia

I have always been a Star Wars fan. I dragged my mother to the theatre when it was first released, and I have been watching ever since. For years after they released the movies, my friends and I dressed as characters from the movie. We had Vader, Luke, and Han Solo in our yearly entourage. Of course, I had to be Leia. Princess Leia was my hero - hey, she was the first real hero who had it all: she was beautiful, she was a princess, and she could really kick butt.

Leia went through some fairly startling changes in the three movies. In *Star Wars*, she was virginal in flowing white gowns. Rumour has it that George Lucas even made her bind her breasts down to keep that pure look. Though leader of the Rebel Alliance, she kept her act demure, even while brandishing her blaster. In *The Empire Strikes Back*, Leia gives up the gown and the funky hair and gets practical with pants, forest cam, and a streamlined "do." But then comes *Return of The Jedi*. The princess gets butch in bounty hunter garb to rescue the trapped Han Solo. Butch until she gets captured by Jabba, that is. Then she became every guy's dream in the scimpiest metal and leather bikini seen in the Empire.

The best thing about Leia is that she had attitude. There was no way she was going to sit back and let Han Solo boss her around -- she was a princess. Yes, eventually she does give in and falls in love with the guy, but hey, this is Harrison Ford we are talking about. We would have been worried if she had held out much longer.

Leia watches her home planet blow up, gets tortured by Vader with a scary metal device, crawls around a garbage hangar, hangs out with furry Ewoks, gets fondled by Jabba and through it all she has poise and grace. Not only does she persevere, but she gives it back to them. Not only does she have great come-backs, she even chokes Jabba to death with the chain that is binding her to him. (Let's talk feminist symbolism, here.)

There just are not many characters out there who can compare to Princess Leia. If you are looking for a role model in today's movies, who would you pick? To me, there is no contest. I want to be Leia.

