

[SPOILERS AHEAD]

NOTE: This summary does not address “how” events occurred in detail. The explanations to those questions are too lengthy for this summary; if one wants to know them, one must read the whole story. Those explanations will clear up what appear to be plot holes when one reads this summary.

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For several months after General Leia’s passing, the Resistance has been hindered by numerous traitors. As such, they have taken extreme, often controversial measures, to ensure that members of the movement swear complete and genuine loyalty to the cause. The Jurials, a neutral race of scavengers, have asked the Resistance for aid against the First Order. Finn is skeptical about them. They present Rey with one of the twin jade kyber crystals, which were used to power a guaridan from the Jurial’s past. But just then, the First Order attacks. Finn discovers he may be force sensitive. Rey encounters Kylo during the fight, and discovers that he knows someone whom Rey knew too. Rey gains the upper hand but hesitates in finishing him off; immediately after her hesitation, she loses her connection to her force, and Kylo overpowers her, but doesn’t take her out because he senses her severance, too. Merilia, a decorated Resistance general, drives Kylo away, and Rey’s powers return.

After the battle, Gnovian, the noble leader of the Resistance, announces that Jurial traitors alerted the First Order to the Resistance’s location and stole valuable information. Merilia is found to be a spy and is imprisoned. Gnovian declares harsh measures on the Jurials, which will negatively impact their economy and families. Finn tells Gnovian that he is going too far, but Gnovian calmly tells Finn that he has to do difficult things in order to ensure the Resistance succeeds. They get into a debate, and are constantly interrupted by Citho, Gnovian’s paranoid and vicious second-in-command. Citho questions Finn’s loyalty, bringing up his past as a First Order stormtrooper, and claiming that even heroes such as Merilia turned out to be traitors. The rest of the Resistance soldiers split in either being for or against Finn. Rey steps in to stop the commotion, and Finn thanks her from afar. Later, Finn tells Rose that the Resistance is buying weapons from shady arms dealers, a fact he learned from DJ. Rose answers that the Resistance has to go through harsh practices to avoid atrocities such as the Empire torture camps.

Rey is grilled by the Resistance council over her hesitant actions against Kylo during the battle. Citho questions if Rey has sympathy for the former Jedi, and Rey vehemently bites back at him. Gnovian takes Rey’s side and tells Citho to stand down, as Rey is under a lot of pressure. He dismisses the council, saying they will further investigate the matter. Rey marches into an engine room, as she hates the crowds and prefers being alone next to machines, which was where she felt the calmest during her time fixing machines on Jakku.

Kylo summons his two generals, Serei and Hailden, to question them for their ‘failure’ at the battle. Serei rolls her eyes at him, and the two get into a small fight. Hailden intervenes, saying that in-fighting was what caused Snoke to disband the Knights of Ren, forcing Serei and himself to go into hiding in the tunnels of Inimoni. They stand down, and Kylo leaves. Hailden tells her that Kylo’s vision clashes with his reason for leaving Luke’s academy and joining the First Order- to unite the galaxy under one rule, as trying to appease multiple sides only leads to the destruction of all. Serei remarks that she only joined because she thought the Jedi were too boring. Elsewhere, Kylo meets with Hux about the construction of a powerful starfighter, designed by Hailden, that requires twin jade kyber crystals to work.

Finn finds Rey alone. Rey confesses that she feels pressured to be a hero, as before she was a hero, no one cared for her. Finn consoles her, saying that he thought of her as a friend even before she was found to have amazing powers. He also reveals that he may be Force sensitive, much to Rey's excitement. Rey tells him that when she was left to fend for herself on Jakku, she was helped by some mysterious entity, which she believes may have been the Force. Finn has a hard time relating to her, yet tries to act like he can.

Meanwhile, physical tears in reality are wreaking havoc, and the Resistance doesn't know what's causing them. Rey has a vague vision where she sees Citho performing what appears to be a malevolent act. It also tells her to go to the planet Fortuna to 'save the Force'. She alerts Finn, who asserts that she can't recklessly follow these visions, reminding her of what happened when she followed them to Kylo. Rey feels betrayed that Finn lied to her about how he 'understood' the Force, and she leaves on the Myrrior Osprey with BB-8. On Fortuna, Rey encounters dark beings in a vision, who tell her that she is on the wrong side, and that they have to listen to her. As her powers begin to fade again, Rey panics, but is saved by Luke Skywalker, who has somehow returned from death.

The Resistance discovers Rey's departure and questions Finn, who refuses to tell Citho where she went. The council decides that Finn is a suspect and place him under arrest, though he is allowed to roam the ship under extreme limitations. They argue that Finn, Rose and Poe had breached authority before and damaged the Resistance, and thus, their decisions cannot be trusted. Later, Poe, who stood up for Finn, tells him that he's going too far, but Finn tells Poe that the Resistance has changed after Leia's death. Poe reveals that Leia left him directions to seek out a message in case he felt like the Resistance was changing, though Leia warned him that if he does, he may revert back to his old hot-headed self and things may not end well. Finn and Poe listen to the message, which states that Leia had a secret group investigates suspicious activity concerning Citho. The only member of this group who is still alive is Merilia.

On Fortuna, Luke tells Rey how he was able to return from the afterlife. He also informs her that these beings that he calls The Watchers are trying to take over the Force, siphoning it away from people, and that their manipulations may be the cause for the recent Force disruptions. To hide from the Watchers, they would have to shroud themselves using a technique called a surrogate, which severely weakens their connections to the Force. Rey mentions that she has been trying to decipher the Jedi texts, and suddenly, she cleverly pieces together what they have to do to stop the Watchers. The Watchers are able to seize the Force using powers stored in soul artifacts hidden around the galaxy. Together, with Luke on his repaired X-wing, Luke and Rey travel through the galaxy to prevent the soul artifacts from falling into the wrong hands. On their first stop, Ettilma, the locals excitedly and warmly greet Luke, who saved their planet in the past. They ask Luke for help in stopping Mandalorian exiles who are hurting the planet's populace. Rey leads the way to them, but impulsively tries to go too far so that she can be a hero like Luke. She's knocked out and awakens to see the Watchers. There are four Watchers, but only two introduce themselves- they are tall humans named Alstaire and Kiyla. They tell Rey that Luke is misguided and will do more harm than good. Rey refuses to believe this, but the Watchers say that she hasn't seen the destruction Luke's actions have wrought on other planets. They claim that Luke's belief that there is good in everyone is idealistic- in reality, only certain people can be trusted to use the Force for good, and thus the Watchers must control it to keep it safe away from people like Kylo Ren. Though the Watchers say that they want to save the galaxy and offer to give Rey her powers back if she joins them, insisting that it's too dangerous to let her powers be manipulated by Luke, Rey still refuses to give

in. She returns to the real world to find herself captured by Mandalorians, who cut off her hand when she doesn't budge in revealing valuable information. Just before they torture her further, Luke leads an army in and saves Rey. Later, as Luke is fixing up a cybernetic hand on his apprentice, Rey is consumed by guilt. She tells Luke that she finds it hard to know if she wants to be a hero because she selflessly wants to help people, or because she selfishly wants people to notice and respect her, which is something she lacked as a loner on Jakku. Luke empathizes with her and says that she was just like him when he was young. He says that, for the greater good, one has to sacrifice what they love, and that in time, Rey will learn how to do this right.

With the help of an incompetent droid named HQ-7 whom Poe insists can help them- much to Finn's skepticism- Finn and Poe sneak into the prisons to meet Merilia. She instructs them on her plan to check if Citho is truly a traitor or not. Finn takes advantage of the Force disruptions to gather information, and also hears a strange voice guiding him away from danger. Along the way, he needs the help of Rose, but is forced to lie to her so he can use her to get in somewhere. He feels heavy guilt over this. Once the plan succeeds, the trio learns that Citho was not a traitor in the instance that Leia specified. Finn doesn't believe this, and sees Merilia as suspicious. The former general chastises him, arguing that one has to base their beliefs on reason, not on emotion. Months pass, and Finn never gives up in trying to contact Rey through the Force, though he is not skilled enough to do so yet. During meditation, Rey sees Kylo again. Though she rejects him, they begin to learn that their pasts are more connected than they previously thought. Eventually, Rey infers that Kylo is someone she knew- only through visions- as a child, and together, they remember how they were able to enter a 'dream worlds' that were manifestations of how each person saw the Force. Rey is astonished when she begins to recollect all the memories she had with her friend Anakin, Ben's dream avatar, and sees a place that Anakin would never let her visit. Though Kylo shouts that she still can't go in, Rey doesn't listen to him. Inside, she finds trophies and a portrait of Ben with Han Solo. Ben says that the picture was never real, but Rey insists that this proves there is still good in Ben. She also finds a broken lightsaber handle that young Ben stole from her dream world after he shrouded his own in darkness, hiding away all aspects of the Jedi which Rey loved to be around. She marches into a realm of light, but finds only a scorching desert with a terrible behemoth of light. Kylo, in pain, follows her in and they escape it together, but Rey discovers that Kylo has disappeared. She finds him in a dark cave, where Kylo reveals that Luke had tried to pressure him into becoming a selfless Jedi, not wanting him to become a bounty hunter. However, Ben failed to be selfless; he was also incompetent and put his father's crew in danger during a mission, and Han never took Ben on another mission ever again. Only when he turned to Snoke did he feel free. Rey tells him to leave the past behind, and they travel to Rey's world, where the Jedi are celebrated in a never ending carnival, though it is now empty. Rey is saddened when she remembers that all the other children they played with are now gone- only her and Ben are left. They rekindle their closeness with one another, but Rey says she has to leave, as she can't go on the path that Ben has decided to follow.

Finn is finally able to connect with Rey. They apologize, and Rey instructs Finn how to use Force telepathy, giving Finn people to contact 'in case of emergencies'. They decide to re-enter another Force vision to learn more about Citho. They discover someone- whom Finn insists is Citho- has been convening with a dark voice, and with the newly gathered information, they concoct another plan to determine, once and for all, if Citho is a traitor. Finn also notices a strange red pendant in the vision. Later, Kylo re-connects with Rey, as he is torn between wanting to be with her or the First Order. The two realize that no one else understands them like they do with each other. Kylo shows Rey to a cliff,

where the two stand over dream manifestations of Rey's former tormentors on Jakku, and Rey loses herself in the darkness, feeling pleased that her tormentors now feel the pains they inflicted on her. However, Kylo then begins to mercilessly torture them. Rey yells at him to stop, and then realizes that Kylo is nothing like her, as he's willing to give in to his temptations. In a moment of panic, Kylo tries to get her back by saying he will change. Rey is skeptical, but a tinge of hope lights up within her. Once the vision ends, Kylo is at a loss of what to do, and asks Hailden if they made the right choice by leaving their friends in the academy behind. Hailden says that they did, as their friends only accepted them if they relinquished their true selves. Kylo realizes that Rey will never truly accept him for who he is. He re-visits her, and tells her that he knows where the other kyber crystal is; however, this is actually a trap to obtain Rey's crystal.

Rey and Luke head to the planet Inimoni, where Kylo claimed the other kyber crystal- one half of a soul artifact- would be. There, beings called the Tau warmly greet Luke, but brush Rey aside, sensing too much darkness in her. Luke sticks up for Rey, who pushes past the Tau's superficial presentation and uncovers the destruction that Inimoni is suffering through. The Tau are at war with the Skor; Luke tried to quell their conflict in the past, but his insistence on helping both sides only ended up making things worse for everyone. The Tau kick Rey out, and she ends up finding a lost young human girl named Litha, a loner who has special connections with machines, much like Rey herself. Litha is hiding from kidnappers. She meets a half-Tau and half-Skor woman who teaches Rey about the historical conflict between the Tau and the Skor, whose philosophies mirror the Jedi and Sith respectively and used to guard the twin kyber crystals, but split over their clashing philosophies. Suddenly, the Skor attack and Rey is forced to escape with Litha. She meets with Luke, and the two visit the Skor, as the Tau lack information on the other crystal's location. The Skor despise Luke. They enter a heated meeting between Skor and Tau officials. Rey saves Tau officials from being attacked by Skor terrorists, who have gone rogue from the Skor government. This catches the attention of Yamados, a Skor politician, who tells Rey that he can show her an important secret. Later, Rey sneaks away from Luke and discovers that Tau officials are breaking treaties with the Skor; she attempts to stop them, but lacks the power. Threatened with death, Rey calls for the Watchers to give her just a modicum of power, trying to trick them that she will join them. They do, but reveal that they knew she was tricking them; however, they know she will soon see eye to eye with them. Rey stops the Tau's malicious plans, and effectively, 'ends' the war by herself. Luke discovers Rey with Skor officials, who are taking more than what is deemed fair from the Tau. Luke scolds Rey, saying that all she's doing is making the Skor oppress the Tau. But Rey claims that Luke's peace negotiations failed before, so they have to try something new now. Not wanting her master to know she spoke to the Watchers, she lies and says the power she used came from Luke's training. Luke, after witnessing the momentary joy caused by Rey's victory, sighs and relents, trying to explore this new option with an open mind.

Later, the duo is informed by Inimoni officials that they have found the other twin kyber crystal in Nissidha, the tunnels of Inimoni, which are guarded by Resepi, corrupted former guardians of the artifact. At the last moment, however, Rey infers that this is a trap. The First Order is keeping hostages to manipulate the people into misleading Rey. This was a plan concocted by Hailden, a Tau, and Serei, a Skor. The two were natives of Inimoni who were recruited by Luke. Luke and Rey fly starfighters against the First Order, and only by working together can the Tau and Skor fight against their attackers. Yamados is killed. Luke, Kylo, and the Knights of Ren's ships are shot down, and Luke duels his three former students at once. Meanwhile, Rey has saved nearly all of the hostages, after saving the last batch

with the help of the Watchers, the Resepi drag her into the depths of Nissidha. The only way to save her is with a twin kyber crystal, but Rey has left hers behind. To save Rey, Kylo- with a change of heart- rushes into the darkness and gives Rey his crystal, and his energy is sapped by the Resepi. However, the two channels the crystal's powers to drive the Resepi away. Rey escapes with an unconscious Kylo, leaving him behind as an act of gratitude. Hux discovers Kylo, and mutters, "Not again."

Rey is able to use her craftiness to discover a way to use the twin kyber crystals to save Inimoni from the Resepi, and this temporarily unites the Tau and the Skor, though no one knows how long this peace will last. Luke instructs Rey on how to construct a jade, twin-bladed lightsaber from the crystals. But Litha, who was placed behind in safety, has been kidnapped and has been taken back to her home planet of Tatoonie. Though he is reluctant, Luke bravely tells Rey that they will go to Tatoonie to save the girl. When they arrive, the planet has become a wasteland, and its inhabitants hate Luke. Decades ago, Tatoonie was hit by a plague, and only the Sera, humans who ascended into a higher form by worshipping beings called Deira, could save the planet with an antidote. Most of Tatoonie welcomed the Sera, but the native humans, a small minority, had adverse reactions to the antidote, and it killed far more of them than the plague ever did. As such, native rebels tried to drive the Sera away by kidnapping their children. Luke strived to negotiate peace between the two sides, but after the native leader's mother was killed as a result of the Sera's containment policies, the kidnapped Sera children were killed. Both natives and settlers blame Luke for not taking sides, and thus, for not being able to prevent the war. Eventually, due to the war's destruction, the only way to concoct antidotes is by extracting it from descendants of non-Sera human children. After Rey infiltrates a Sera facility to find Litha's location, she meets Luke, who is staring at a unary sunset; the sky has become shrouded with smog and only one sun can now be seen. Luke laments on his failures, but Rey tells him it's not too late.

Meanwhile, Finn tells Rey that he has a plan to indict Citho- this involves heading into a dream world. The story then cuts back and forth between Rey and Finn's journies. With a small army of native human rebels, Rey and Luke head off to save Litha, and thousands of other children, from being sacrificed as an antidote. However, when they get there, the Sera army is far too powerful for the small army to handle; additionally, Luke can't drop his surrogate, as he does not want the Watchers to seize the artifacts they're finding. At the same time, it is discovered that the last artifact- one that can reverse the damage caused by the Watchers- is on Tatoonie, and a mysterious robed figure is attempting to steal it. Luke insists, for the greater good, that they have to stop the figure. Rey angrily retorts, unable to believe that her hero would let thousands of children die for his Jedi beliefs in saving the Force. They part ways, and Luke heads into a cave, where he hears a familiar voice of a Jedi, and then confronts a Sith-version of himself. His opposing self laughs at the despondant Luke, claiming that he is a hypocrite whose idealists beliefs will destroy the galaxy, and that deep inside, he knows this. It claims that Luke preaches about how everyone has to see the good in everyone, but he himself cannot let any Sith beliefs thrive. Luke maintains his position, though this confrontation has struck him in his core.

On Finn's journey, he is hunted by a strange being as he travels from world to world. He comes across Rose's world and sees a manifestation of Paige, who tells Finn that Rose is conflicted over what the right thing to do is. Finally, he heads into Merilia's world, where, in order to obtain the final piece of evidence, he is forced to admit that he is driven by emotion, not reason, to indict Citho, and that he realizes that for the sake of truth, he has to be ready to accept whatever this piece of evidence will say. He escapes the dream world with the final piece and it reveals that Citho is not a traitor in this instance, either. Suddenly, Citho discovers Finn has stolen confidential information, and he arrests him.

Meanwhile, Rey senses that the First Order has teamed up with the Sers; Hux has taken over, and is piloting an unfinished version of the superweapon starfighter- the Aquilian. The rebels attack the imposing armies, but are no match. Despite this, Rey claws her way through the crowds to find Litha. As Rey is failing, and Litha is near death, she calls out for the Watchers. They ask her for one of the soul artifacts she has gathered, and she gives it to them. The Watchers then return her old powers, but bestow upon her even greater ones that resonate with the twin kyber crystals to transform Rey into a being whose power can eradicate entire starships. Rey single-handedly defeats the entire army and saves the native human children; she destroys the Aquilian, and Hux escapes.

Luke is able to overcome his Sith mirror image and enters the depths of the cave, where he discovers a garden tended by the artifact's guardian. Luke asks the guardian how he can let everyone have the Force, while still keeping people safe from those who would use the Force for evil. The gardener answers that the Jedi's duty is to learn how to distinguish between the weeds from flowers who simply just have thorns. Luke then realizes that the Jedi are not there to eradicate the Sith; instead, they are negotiators. The gardener then says that the artifact was taken long ago. At first, Luke believes all hope is lost; but then, he rejects his hopelessness. Though he failed before, he tells himself that he mustn't give up; instead, he has to patiently learn from his mistakes. He believes Rey won't ever give up, either.

However, once Luke discovers the aftermath of Rey's battle, he realizes that Rey has been taking powers from the Watchers. The two angrily argue with one another over what they believe is right. Rey confesses that though she followed Luke, the only time she was in denial over Luke's failures that plunged the galaxy into chaos. Luke asserts that the Watchers will only siphon freedom from the galaxy. Rey says that Luke always told her to sacrifice what she held dear to her for the greater good; thus, she now realizes she has to leave her hero and his idealistic beliefs behind if she wants to help others. They tragically separate, and Rey tries to find Litha, but she has run off to the Abandoned Lands. When Rey finds Litha again, she reaches out for her, but Litha vanishes. Suddenly, all the small hints from before become clear to Rey- Litha was a Force disruption, an apparition. Alone, and wanting to return to the Resistance, Rey tries to speak to Finn, but somehow, she is now unable to contact him.

Elsewhere, Finn is confronted by Gnovian, and after learning of his connection to the red pendant, he figures out who the real traitor is. He enters Gnovian's dream world and reaches into a strange artifact, which reveals the entire truth of the Resistance to him. Back in the real world, he informs Merilia that he has valuable information that the rest of the galaxy needs to see, and he and Merilia escape from capture with the aid of Merilia's 'contact'. Just when they get to the escape pods, several Resistance fighters, including Poe and Chewbacca, apprehend them. But Finn wraps them all into a dream world within the new artifact he retrieved. Additionally, he reaches out to his last contact, and is surprised when he sees Kylo, whom he awakens from his coma, and his two Knights of Ren. Together, all of them learn the truth from the artifact's visions: neither the First Order nor Resistance were ever real, and someone had been orchestrating a fake war between the two. Leia had uncovered this and had gathered enough evidence as proof. To prevent her from getting the truth out, several Resistance generals- working with this mysterious puppeteer- assassinate her. These generals include Citho and Gnovian, who delivers the final blow. Just then, the actual generals enter the vision, along with Snoke, who has somehow survived. Snoke reveals that he manipulated Kylo in order to make the final hope for the Skywalker name become hated throughout the galaxy. Kylo figures out that Snoke is merely a disguise; Snoke then shatters himself to show his true form as Alstaire, and the other Watchers appear next to him. Alstaire says that in order for the rituals to work, they needed the galaxy to turn away from

the actual Force and its chosen destinies, and turn towards the new Force, which the Watchers were creating. The denizens of the galaxy needed to trust the Resistance, and the First Order was always meant to lose. To take the Force away from individuals, bridges into their dream worlds were created. The Watchers also needed heroes whom they could manipulate, but the ritual's powers were beyond their control, and the Force they siphoned mistakenly flowed into children instead. The Watchers tried to guide these children, but the children feared their new powers, and their minds were broken. Only one child, Rey, was able to have a strong enough faith to survive. Additionally, the Watchers could not control who walked along these bridges, though they attempted to seal them so that only they had access to them. The Watchers insist that they gave hope to Kylo and Rey, but Kylo says that they took advantage of Rey's trust and are using her. The Watchers reject his argument, claiming they love Rey and were only giving her what she always wanted: to be a hero. In reality, these former Sers took her in because she reminded them of their late daughter, Litha, whose death they blame on Luke's actions on Tatooine. The Watchers also broke Luke, causing him to lose confidence in himself. Kylo argues that the Watchers are in over their heads, and they don't know what they're doing- their attempts to create order are only resulting in chaos within the Force. Finally, Kiya tries to steal Leia's artifact from Finn, but it embeds itself into Kylo, due to a protection ritual created by Leia whose details are not explained yet in the story. There are only two ways to get the artifact out: if the person it's in kill himself, or if his true loves kills him. However, the Watchers are unphased; they believe Rey will take Kylo down. Using the artifact that Rey gave them, they manipulate the Force such that no matter how much evidence Finn and the others present, no matter how much others love them, no one will ever believe what they claim. The group escapes from the dream world, and the Resistance now brands them all as traitors. Rose learns that Finn was using her, and turns against him. Finn, Poe, Chewbacca, HQ-7, and Merila find a way to escape with the help of Pasma, Merila's contact who owes her a debt.

On the First Order base, Kylo and Serei attempt to escape from the First Order, as its end goal is to kill them. They believe Hailden is coming along with them, but Hailden betrays them and kills Serei. He duels Kylo but the Skywalker escapes. The First Order, with a bewildered Hux who doesn't know what's going on, tries to hunt Kylo down. Just when he is about to be killed, he hears a voice that he heard earlier in the story: his grandfather's. With Anakin's guidance, Kylo manages to escape, and contacts Rey, who is alone with BB-8. Though reluctant, Rey senses that Kylo is gravely injured, and ponders on what she should do.

The Watchers realize what they need to unite the galaxy against the traitors, and that the First Order has served its purpose. They use the Resistance to defeat the First Order. With the First Order gone, the former Resistance fighters are now branded as traitors who are hiding Kylo Ren; they are now called the Second Order, to which Finn scoffs, "How original." Elsewhere, Luke watches the unary sunset on Tatooine. A young native human girl comes up to him and says her mother told her to stay away from Luke. However, Luke asks her if she really thinks he's bad, to which she says she doesn't know. Luke then asks her what she thinks a bad person is, and the girl mentions her friends who turned against her when she shared food with them; she then says that she won't share her food ever again. Luke tells her that she shouldn't give up hope in being good. Instead, she should try again and again, and learn from her mistakes. He then gives her a few tips on how to do that, and the scene pans over to several other people, including Rose, who is repairing C-3PO, and Hailden, standing over the destroyed First Order. Finally, it pans over to an injured Kylo, who sees Rey coming towards him. Luke concludes by saying that even if everything seems hopeless, if people work together, then the good times will come, too.

Just then, the former Resistance fighters hear a commotion. They go to investigate, and they find Obi-Wan, the voice whom Finn and Luke have been hearing throughout. He has been revived somehow, and he ends the story by greeting them with, "Hello there."