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Shadow Of The Hegemon (The Shadow Series)



Synopsis

The War is over, won by Ender Wiggin and his team of brilliant child-warriors. The enemy is destroyed, the human race is saved. Ender himself refuses to return to the planet, but his crew has gone home to their families, scattered across the globe. The battle school is no more. But with the external threat gone, the Earth has become a battlefield once more. The children of the Battle School are more than heroes; they are potential weapons that can bring power to the countries that control them. One by one, all of Ender's Dragon Army are kidnapped. Only Bean escapes; and he turns for help to Ender's brother Peter. Peter Wiggin, Ender's older brother, has already been manipulating the politics of Earth from behind the scenes. With Bean's help, he will eventually rule the world. *Shadow of the Hegemon* is the second novel in Orson Scott Card's Shadow Series.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A Reading Guide for Ender's Game. THE ENDER UNIVERSE Ender's Series: Ender Wiggin: The finest general the world could hope to find or breed. The following Ender's Series titles are listed in order: Ender's Game, Ender In Exile, Speaker for the Dead, Xenocide, Children of the Mind. Ender's Shadow Series: Parallel storylines to Ender's Game from Bean: Ender's right hand, his strategist, and his friend. The following Ender's Shadow Series titles are listed in order: Ender's Shadow, Shadow of the Hegemon, Shadow Puppets, Shadow of the Giant, Shadows in Flight. The First Formic War Series: One hundred years before Ender's Game, the aliens arrived on Earth with

fire and death. These are the stories of the First Formic War. Earth Unaware, Earth Afire. The Authorized Ender Companion: A complete and in-depth encyclopedia of all the persons, places, things, and events in Orson Scott Card's Ender Universe. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Orson Scott Card finally explores what happened on earth after the war with the Buggers in the sixth book of his Ender series, Shadow of the Hegemon. This novel is the continuation of the story of Bean, which began with Ender's Shadow, a parallel novel to Card's Hugo and Nebula Award-winning Ender's Game. While Ender heads off to a faraway planet, Bean and the other brilliant children who helped Ender save the earth from alien invaders have become war heroes and have finally been sent home to live with their parents. While the children try to fit back in with the family and friends they haven't known for nearly a decade, someone's worried about their safety. Peter Wiggins, Ender's brother, has foreseen that the talented children are in danger of being killed or kidnapped. His fears are quickly realized, and only Bean manages to escape. Bean knows he must save the others and protect humanity from a new evil that has arisen, an evil from his past. But just as he played second to Ender during the Bigger war, Bean must again step into the shadow of another, the one who will be Hegemon. In Shadow of the Hegemon, Card can't help but fall back into old patterns. But while the theme is the same as in previous books--brilliant, tragic children with the fate of the human race resting on their shoulders--Shadow of the Hegemon does a wonderful job of continuing Bean's tale against a backdrop of the politics and intrigue of a fragile earth. While the novel is accessible, new readers to the series would be wise to begin with Ender's Game or Ender's Shadow. --Kathie Huddleston --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Following the aftermath of the the Formic Wars, Ender's Jeesh are welcomed home as venerated heroes of earth, yet it is their fame and expertise that lures an insidious manifestation of evil: Achilles (pronounced Ah-SHEEL). With a faulty, deified self-perception, Achilles emboldens nations to ethnocentric wars to fabricate the most auspicious circumstances for his hungry usurpation as Ruler of the World. Inebriated with the desire for power, Achilles hijacks the most brilliant military minds (Ender's Jeesh), but strikes one for death: Julian Delphiki--better known as Bean. However, Bean's impeccable record of narrowly escaping death remains unmitigated. And as arrogant as he may be, for most obvious reasons, Bean self-mandates himself as the only force capable of stopping Achilles, saving the world from a manic ruler, and rescuing Petra--a friend

he refuses to have killed.[...]

I love the Ender series and adore the first book in this series Ender's Shadow. This book was good enough to read to the end, but not up to Orson Scott Card's usually wonderfully high standard of excellence. Many sequences seemed redundant and the whole book seemed more like an elaborate third draft, but not quite final release quality. What I love about much of Mr. Card's writing is that in the process of writing it, he discovers something very different that needs to be told than he originally knew and this often leads to major revisions. In the afterward of this book, he describes how one of his test readers helped him with one of these revision points. I am left with the strong feeling, however, that this book is mostly how Mr. Card originally conceived it, and it did not benefit from the types of major epiphany in Mr. Card's writing process that has taken so many of his other books from good into sublime greatness.

In its own right, it is a really good book. It's a bit of a let down from the other Ender stories though. The drive or pull to read that next word isn't there like in the previous books of the series. Still, I would say read the story it adds history to the legend of the Ender crew.

Great book. Though almost dull in some rare moments, this great novel certainly made up for it with the incredible plot that manages to mix geopolitics with enough SciFi to make it feel like a true clash of future technology and ancient human impulses that still plague this fictional world. The dialogue is also well written, so much so that you can tell a character from another just by the way they talk, something that not many authors seem capable of these days. But even with all that, I believe that it was the moral standings of this book and what it wanted to say, that truly sold it for me. The moral at the end is definitely something to think about as our own real world eerily marches in that direction.

The Shadow Series is such a satisfying companion to those who have read through Ender's story (and those who haven't), and seeing the evolution of Peter as he seeks to unite the earth under one banner begins in Shadow of the Hegemon. The war is over and the Battle School children all return home but it isn't long before they find that what little chance they might have at a normal life is already gone. The tipping loyalties of kids who have fought an alien threat together plays a tight balancing game with their desire to prove earth bound nationality, culminating with an unexpected betrayal from a Battle School student. I can't say enough about the story Card weaves and this novel kicks everything off. For those who have read the Ender Quartet, don't be surprised when you

find the writing style different. The higher philosophical nature and slower story pace have been replaced with a style more reminiscent of the original Ender's Game book. That's not to say that there isn't deeper meaning, but the writing is definitely far more accessible.

So here we are again... 2 weeks... 2 Shadow books... and I just bought the 3rd in the Series. This is really the series I wanted with Ender, but I guess it was Bean's story. There are so many reasons I like this book. 1. My vocabulary (which was large) is growing by leaps and bounds, without the writer just dropping in a big word on occasion so HE looks smart. 2. My knowledge of History is growing by leaps and bounds. Being American, my history of SE Asia is pretty limited, and this book really helped! 3. If you are a conspiracy theorist as I like to play at, this is a very real possibility how much of the politics of the future could eventually play out! The historic strategy that CARD has studied, along with the military prowess combines into a second enthralling book I've devoured in as many weeks

This is the sixth novel I've read from Mr Card. I think a lot of you agree when I say that he mixes highs with lows. Enders Game, Speaker for the dead and Enders shadow are among the the best Sci-fi I've read. Ever. Shadow of the Hegemon (and Xenocide) don't reach the same level. At all. I doubt I would have finished it if I had not read the previous novels. A major part of Shadow of the Hegemon has a geopolitical focus which is interesting but it never takes off. Bean, Achilles and Peter don't evolve compared with the previous books. Petra becomes more interesting, but it's not enough. Save your time and money!

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