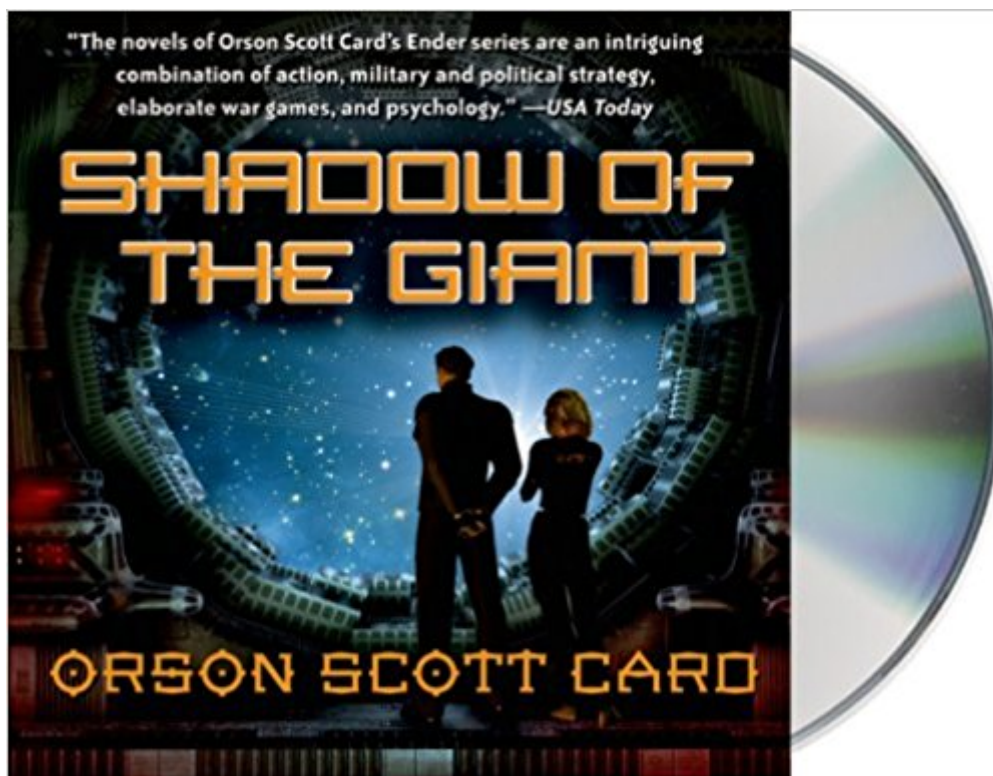


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Shadow Of The Giant (The Shadow Series)



Synopsis

Bean's past was a battle just to survive. He first appeared on the streets of Rotterdam, a tiny child with a mind leagues beyond anyone else. He knew he could not survive through strength; he used his tactical genius to gain acceptance into a children's gang, and then to help make that gang a template for success for all the others. He civilized them, and lived to grow older. Then he was discovered by the recruiters for the Battle School. For Earth was at war - a terrible war with an inscrutable alien enemy. A war that humanity was near to losing. But the long distances of interstellar space has given hope to the defenders of Earth - they had time to train military geniuses up from childhood, forging them into an irresistible force in the high-orbital facility called the Battle School. That story is told in two books, Orson Scott Card's beloved classic *Ender's Game*, and its parallel, *Ender's Shadow*. Now, in *Shadow of the Giant*, Bean's story continues. Bean was the smallest student at the Battle School, but he became Ender Wiggins' right hand, Since then he has grown to be a power on Earth. He served the Hegemon as strategist and general in the terrible wars that followed Ender's defeat of the alien empire attacking Earth. Now he and his wife Petra yearn for a safe place to build a family - something he has never known - but there is nowhere on Earth that does not harbor his enemies - old enemies from the days in Ender's Jeesh, new enemies from the wars on Earth. To find security, Bean and Petra must once again follow in Ender's footsteps. They must leave Earth behind, in the control of the Hegemon, and look to the stars.

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 Mass Market Paperback edition.

Starred Review. Card's latest installment in his Shadow subseries (Ender's Shadow, etc.), which parallels the overarching series that began with Ender's Game (1985), does a superlative job of dramatically portraying the maturing process of child into adult. The imminent death of Bean, a superhuman 20-something Battle School graduate who suffers from uncontrolled growth due to a genetic disorder, leaves little time for Peter the Hegemon, Ender's older brother, to set up a single world government and for Bean and his wife and former classmate, Petra, to reclaim all their stolen children. When Card's focus strays from his characters into pure politics, the story loses power, but it's recharged as soon as he returns to the well-drawn interactions among Bean's Battle School classmates whose decisions will determine Earth's fate. They were trained to fight a (literally) single-minded alien enemy, but that war is over. Now, as young adults in command of human armies pitted against each other in messy conflicts with no clear solutions, Bean's old cohorts must help create a peaceful future for Earth after they're gone. Card makes the important point that there's always more than one side to every issue. Fans will marvel at how subtly he has prepared for the clever resolution. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Orson Scott Card developed the Ender series from a short story about the Battle School and its genius youngsters who were bred and educated to be the Genghis Khans and Alexanders needed to save the world from an invasion. The parallel series of sequels starting with Ender's Shadow was brilliantly conceived, long after a trilogy was written about Ender and his sojourn on the Hive

Queen's planet. The series continued the lives of Ender's Jeesh (close cohorts) and followed Bean the genius from Rotterdam's slums and Ender's successor. Bean, now a giant, suffering from the effects of a gene in his makeup that had been developed by an evil genius, is striving to end his time on Earth and leave the planet in a better way than when he was born. This book in the series is far better than the middle "Shadow" books, though not quite as excellent as "Ender's Shadow", where we really get to know Bean. Sometimes, Card seems to be force-marching his characters along, but the story is crisp and thrilling, nonetheless. There is one strange thread, the character Randi, who seems to be involved with the evil Achilles, but she appears in one scene and drops out. Is this a hook to continue the series further? Probably. No matter what, Card has ended (?) the Shadow series brilliantly.

I'm not very good at expressing my feelings about some things in my life but I will try about this book. Every book in this series leaves me thinking about what is really important in my life, I enjoy reading these stories and the insight the author has on the characters' lives mirrors some of the feelings I had with my family growing up. What trials and tribulations Ender's family went through and still manage to come through with some sort of a valued life. I'm sorry I digress, I enjoy these books and I hope you do too.

I liked how the book ended, as I just reread this book for the third time. Notice how I said I 'liked' how it ended. (I like how my autocorrect tried to change 'ended' to 'Ender'.) Although, there seemed to be something missing. In the ending, in the book. It was like ... It gave you the story of all these characters without actually giving you their perspective. He did with Virilomi and Achilles, in the third person, but ... There is still something missing. The rest of Petra's life that skipped ahead at least 50 years? The conversation with Peter and Ender that I believe was indeed face to face in another story? I don't know what it was that kept this story from being as amazing as it had the capability of, but it was there. Worth reading, definitely, but not a favorite.

Perhaps it's because Card knew exactly where he needed to be at the end of this book, but it just worked for me better than the last two. There's less outright war, and more political maneuvering than the last two books. The political machinations are more complex, yet somehow more believable this time around. That plausibility might be a result of seeing the Battle School characters as human and therefore potentially flawed. In previous "Shadow" series books, the Battle School kids were all good guys, except for the cardboard cutout villain of Achilles. It fell to the other

characters, mostly politicians, to display human fallibility. This time, the Battle School grads have serious character flaws of their own, and these flaws lead them into big mistakes. They also get into more and better conflicts with each other, which enriches the dynamic of the book. Characters are nicely done - a particular strength throughout Card's books. The tragic Bean, the acerbic Petra, the enigmatic Alai, the dashing Han Tzu - all are crisply drawn. I never, ever get characters confused with one another in Card's books, and certainly not in this one. The character development of Peter Wiggin is especially well handled. We already know from the very first Ender book (Ender's Game) that Peter becomes a beloved leader, and that Ender writes Peter's "obituary" as the second part of his book The Hive Queen and the Hegemon. Now we get to see the other side of that story, including what Peter did to arrive at that point and how he was induced to get Ender (of all people!) to write his unvarnished life story. Not everything is tied up into a neat little package. The matter of Bean and Petra's children is handled well, but I wouldn't call the end result "neat". The open-ended matter of Bean's children leaves enough room for a sequel, I suppose, if Card decides to go that way. But I'd be happy to just leave the story here. The adventure of the Battle School grads is pretty much resolved, and we are caught up to events mentioned at the end of Ender's Game. If you've read the other three "Shadow" books, then you absolutely owe it to yourself to get the full end of the story by reading this one. If you liked "Ender's Shadow", but got bogged down in the other two sequels, I'd recommend giving the series another go just to finish off with this very satisfying completion.

It was quite short (I got the full book) and details were left out, leaving the book feeling rushed. Ender's Shadow to me is better than Ender's Game, I relate to Bean more than Ender and find his character a lot more fascinating, so it was great to get something rather than nothing for the time being. Hopefully, the next book is very long and the kids have time to develop on the pages and connect more with readers.

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