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Shadow Puppets (The Shadow Series)



Synopsis

Bestselling author Orson Scott Card brings to life a new chapter in the saga of Ender's Earth and The Shadow Series. Earth and its society have been changed irrevocably in the aftermath of Ender Wiggin's victory over the Formics. The unity forced upon the warring nations by an alien enemy has shattered. Nations are rising again, seeking territory and influence, and most of all, seeking to control the skills and loyalty of the children from the Battle School. But one person has a better idea. Peter Wiggin, Ender's older, more ruthless, brother, sees that any hope for the future of Earth lies in restoring a sense of unity and purpose. And he has an irresistible call on the loyalty of Earth's young warriors. With Bean at his side, the two will reshape our future. Shadow Puppets is the continuing story of Bean and Petra, and the rest of Ender's Dragon Army, as they take their places in the new government of Earth.

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 Library Binding edition.

In Shadow Puppets, Orson Scott Card continues the storyline of Shadow of the Hegemon, following the exploits of the Battle School children, prodigies who have returned to an Earth thrown into chaos after the unifying force of the alien invasion they stopped in Ender's Game and Ender's Shadow has dissipated. Foremost among these whiz kids is the brilliant Bean who, in Shadow of the Hegemon, rescued his comrades from his nemesis--the dastardly Achilles. Now, the down-but-not-out evil genius is again scheming towards global domination and vengeance against the irrepressible Bean. It's up to Bean and his newfound love, Petra, to outwit the young psychopath and save the world. Meanwhile, the other Battle School children are called to serve again as an expansionist China threatens the stability of post-Bugger War Earth. Shadow Puppets is, for better or worse, exactly what readers have come to expect from Card. There are thought-provoking musings on geopolitics, war, courage, arrogance, good versus evil, and the concept of children wise beyond their years dealing with grave responsibility. Unfortunately, many of these furnishings are looking a little frayed around the edges, but fans will enjoy an exciting, fast-paced plot and a suspense-filled conclusion. --Jeremy Pugh --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

I read the original Ender books years ago and recently started from the Formic Wars and plan on reading through the the end of the original series again. This was by far not Cards best book. I understand that he is a religious person, indeed religion is sprinkled throughout his entire Ender Universe books, but this in more than others was very preachy. He was trying to convey the message that family is important, but I feel he could have done it much quicker than he did. It was almost like he was just trying to fill space to make the book longer. He could have taken out a lot of the fluff, divided the remaining material in half and put part at the end of the last book and the rest and the beginning of the next. With that said, on to the next book!

I have read every book in this series on the main timeline, not the spin off's. I found these to be a very quick read, entertaining, well written and memorable. I'm a big fan. I do not agree though where at times the author says that you don't have to read them in order. You do. Some people have also

commented on this author's political stance. I wish so badly that stars and people in the public light would just keep quiet for there are more stars that I refuse to patronize now because they open their mouths. So I made a point NOT to read too much more about this author because I so much like the Ender/Puppet series. I love these books.

The genesis of the Bean/Achilles interaction was clear. Two telegenic, winning characters (to the other characters, not necessarily to the readers). One with a tragic physical flaw that is likely to kill him, the other with a tragic moral flaw, ditto. The problem is that the writing, especially in this book, doesn't rise to the level that Card seeks. Unless you enjoy endless conversations about minor issues, or five-page musings by minor characters, you are likely to find this book very slow moving indeed. This book resolves the Eastern crisis that Card set up in the last book. But it does it in almost a storybook fashion. After a drop by drop setup (Chinese water torture, maybe?), we are told of tremendous military manoeuvres that I really don't find convincing. Sure, maybe the Muslims can do all the things that Card has them do. But the denouement relies on all the things being UNDETECTED, it is never explained how that is possible. What happened to radar, satellite imagery, intelligence (in more ways than one)? The whole military plot relies on the Chinese being slightly stupider than a comic book villain and little weapons advancement beyond 1949. Very strange. The Bean/Achilles conflict reaches its resolution in this book as well, I will not say how. But by the time we finally get to it, it is difficult to care. In my opinion, this is due to Card's failure to make us feel anything except irritation when it comes to Achilles, however much we may like Bean. Shadow of the Hegemon gave Card the opportunity to make Achilles interesting, rather than just an almost hypnotically alluring (to the other characters) villain. It didn't work. We get to see more of Peter Wiggin in this book. But he comes across more as a sullen teenager, who (no fewer than twice!) has to be forcibly woken up by his parents than the titular ruler of the world. If you're hoping to see how Peter transforms himself and his job into what we see at the end of Ender's Game, well, don't hold your breath, but if this is what you care about, hold on to your bucks until the next book. For there will be one. A great present for the insatiable Card or Ender fan.

Going back and reading the series again after many years - the Shadow series is not as good as the original Ender series, but it does a great job of looking from the other side of things from the Ender-based books. We get to know Peter very well and other characters get to develop fully. I for one am glad that Card took the time to develop these supporting roles. While this series is not equal to the Ender series, I believe it is still a good series and am enjoying reading them again!

I found this continuation in the series much more satisfying than the last, which I thought was abruptly ended. I still want to continue in this entertaining series, but am not left with the feeling that I've been forced to purchase the second half of the book.

Good read

I almost gave it three stars, but that denotes "okay", and everything Orson Scott Card writes is more than okay. Although the plot did drag on a bit, I think the book could have been saved with some new, more interesting, insights into the characters we have grown to love through so many of his novels.

Not only do we get to see Bean fully respected, but looked up to, literally, for now he is an adult and growing past adult height and closer to the height of death. The struggle between not only Achilles but Petra, both separate reasons of course. With Achilles it's the fight to stay alive, and later it's not only Bean's life that Bean must protect, but 7 other reasons, and his life with Petra is fully realized and not only cherished but something he knows he doesn't want to live without. Peter also becomes better as he realizes that he can make mistakes but mistakes big enough that he actually regrets later in the book. It seems as if every has grown, not just in body but in mind and how they think.

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