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Ender's Game: Special 20th Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

Aliens have attacked earth twice and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government has taken to breeding military geniuses -- and then training them to the arts of war ... The early training, not surprisingly, takes the form of "games" ... Ender Wiggin is a genius among geniuses; he wins all the games ... He is smart enough to know that time is running out. But is he smart enough to save the planet? This unabridged edition is available for the first time. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I finally got around to reading Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card! I could swear I read this book as a kid, but now I kind of don't think so. Maybe I picked it up but never actually read it. I have a pretty good memory and I think it would seem at least vaguely familiar to me if I'd read it before. And it didn't. Not at all. As for the book, I freakin' loved it! I didn't go into it thinking I'd like it so much. It's was just fascinating! I'm not very familiar with Card's work, despite knowing very well who he is (we share a religion) but I can say now with absolute confidence that Orson Scott Card is a genius. Ender is the youngest of three children. But he lives in a society that limits most families to two children in order to control the population. His parents had to get special permission to have him. He thinks they only did it to put him into school. Card does a good job of showing that, even though Ender thinks his parents never truly wanted him, the opposite was most likely true. Ender just can't see it. When he is asked to join battle school, he feels obligated to do so, so that as a

"Third" he will not be an embarrassment to his parents. There's a lot of sadness in this book from the get-go. Ender's older brother, Peter, is mean and violent, showing serial killer tendencies such as killing small animals. Between him, and other bullies at school, Ender gets beat up a lot. He's small, but smarter than most, which is why he makes it to battle school and why he's often the object of bullying. There were parts that brought me to tears. (I'm looking at you, scene-with-Valentine-on-the-lake). This may sound like a typical anti-bullying middle grade read, but it's not. Not at all. The science is interesting, but it's really being inside Ender's head and seeing him run through all his strategy that makes the book truly addictive. The characters are young children (Ender is six as the book begins) but they are so intelligent, that they think like adults. So they have more book smarts than most normal adults will attain in their lifetimes, but they still have the emotional vulnerability of children. Sorry to keep quoting Mr. Spock, but simply fascinating. I really couldn't put this book down. I totally loved it and would recommend it to absolutely anyone. Totally gonna go shove it down my younger brothers' throats and tell them to read it or no Thanksgiving pie for them! Okay, I really won't. I'm not that mean. But I am going to tell them to read it. Because everyone should read this book once. Especially young boys. That, and I need someone to geek out about it with. :D So yeah, go read this one. And then you can see the film. :D Come back tomorrow for my review of that story medium for this book. :D

This is a book for grownups - but also a book for a teen or tweener who likes to read, as well. The characters of any merit in the book just happen to be children - gifted children. It is a tale of outer space/ alien creatures and the potential end of the world. Perfect for the sci-fi/fantasy fanatic. All that being said, it is the story of the indomitable human spirit embodied in one little boy named Ender Wiggin and truly the weight of the world rides on his shoulders. We've all felt like that...as though the weight of our own world rides solely on our own shoulders and we've felt the things this young boy feels - and it's how we dealt with it and how Ender deals with what is handed, thrown at and forced to that makes this tale magnificent. It's one of those books that is a keeper for the library and a book you'll want to read again...I sure know I do. Happily in this multiple story book - there's plenty more to read! From a monetary standpoint, this is an excellent value - from the standpoint of an excellent set of reads...it's like winning a lottery. Orson Scott Card is excellence personified. His books are diverse. I discovered him when I read his book Magic Street - an outstanding book. This is excellent. He gets into a kid's mind and stays there and grows up with him in outer space.

I haven't read Ender's Game since high school. On re-reading it as an adult, I found it just as

page-turning and thought provoking as I did the first time. The biggest thing that stood out to me were all the paradoxes. "Sometimes lies were more dependable than the truth." - Orson Scott Card Ender's Game pg 2

The biggest paradox was the contrast between the brothers Ender and Peter. To completely defeat an enemy, do you need to understand and empathize with them so well that you know what will really hurt them? To bring complete peace, do you need to be the kind of person that would think of all the ways to destroy peace in the first place? I had never thought about the fact that even good characteristics can become evil simply based on how we use them. Empathy can be used just as effectively to hurt others as to help them. "In the moment when I truly understand my enemy, understand him well enough to defeat him, then in that very moment I also love him. I think it's impossible to really understand somebody, what they want, what they believe, and not love them the way they love themselves. And then, in that very moment when I love them--" "You beat them." [...]"No, you don't understand. I destroy them." - Orson Scott Card Ender's Game p. 238

Ender's Game also had me pondering why we even fight wars in the first place. On re-reading it, I empathized with the aliens that attack earth even more this time. Is a lack of communication and understanding the only real reason for war? Ender's simple, childlike way of viewing how pointless war is makes for a really good question because it's so simple. Why CAN'T we leave each other alone?" "I'm doing it again, thought Ender. I'm hurting people again, just to save myself. Why don't they leave me alone, so I don't have to hurt them?" - Orson Scott Card Ender's Game pg 115

Ender is such a likable character. This story wouldn't have worked without telling it from his point of view. His actions paint him to be ruthless and uncaring. But seeing his thoughts and dreams made me realize that he is a very caring and smart person who's biggest goal in life is to really just be left in peace and have friends. And the fact that these dreams are so close but just out of reach kept me turning the page waiting waiting waiting for when (and really if) he would ever get them. As driven and smart as Ender is, you can still see his innocence because the way he views the world is not the way that adults do. It was fascinating to read this first as a teen and now as an adult. I saw the ending from Ender's point of view the first time and I was confused along with Ender. This time I saw the ending from the perspective of the adults and was saddened that I could see what Ender couldn't. Overall, this was an unforgettable novel that every fan of science fiction should read.

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