



## Shadow of the Giant (The Shadow Series)

By Orson Scott Card

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### Shadow of the Giant (The Shadow Series) By Orson Scott Card

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.

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## **Shadow of the Giant (The Shadow Series) By Orson Scott Card Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #2278982 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Macmillan Audio
- Published on: 2005-03-01
- Released on: 2005-03-01
- Formats: Audiobook, CD, Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 10
- Dimensions: 164.08" h x 39.37" w x 4.72" l, .65 pounds
- Running time: 44820 seconds
- Binding: Audio CD

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### Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

**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.

#### Ender Novellas

A War of Gifts, First Meetings.

**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.

From Publishers Weekly

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.

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### From [Booklist](#)

Considering the dynasty of novels launched by *Ender's Game* (1984), perhaps Card ought to consider renaming his central protagonist. Though this is putatively the eighth book in the Ender saga, when considering the books as two quartets linked across a 1,000-year gap (a by-product of Ender's light-speed travel to Lusitania), it's the fourth of the sequence that began with *Ender's Shadow* (1999). Here, Card further develops the premise that the return of Ender's battle team to Earth was tantamount to introducing "two Alexanders, a Joan of Arc here and there, and a couple of Julius Caesars, maybe an Attila, and . . . a Genghis Khan" into the geopolitical fray. The tension between characters' personal fulfillment and collective obligations also comes to the fore, as couple Bean and Petra desperately search for their eight missing embryos stolen by the mad eugenicist of *Shadow Puppets* (2002), watch Bean's health deteriorate, and attempt to restore order to the world under hegemon Peter Wiggin. The emergence of several additional perspectives makes for a somewhat cumbersome narrative, but it doesn't much matter. Like Card's idolized Battle School alumni, novels in this saga (not to mention Card himself) have acquired an irresistible aura from early associations with boy-hero Ender Wiggin. *Jennifer Mattson*

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## Users Review

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#### **David Soto:**

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**Karen Lambert:**

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