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Ender's Game (The Ender Quartet Series Book 1)



Synopsis

Winner of the Hugo and Nebula Awards In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. A brilliant young boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin lives with his kind but distant parents, his sadistic brother Peter, and the person he loves more than anyone else, his sister Valentine. Peter and Valentine were candidates for the soldier-training program but didn't make the cutâ "young Ender is the Wiggin drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training. Ender's skills make him a leader in school and respected in the Battle Room, where children play at mock battles in zero gravity. Yet growing up in an artificial community of young soldiers Ender suffers greatly from isolation, rivalry from his peers, pressure from the adult teachers, and an unsettling fear of the alien invaders. His psychological battles include loneliness, fear that he is becoming like the cruel brother he remembers, and fanning the flames of devotion to his beloved sister. Is Ender the general Earth needs? But Ender is not the only result of the genetic experiments. The war with the Buggers has been raging for a hundred years, and the quest for the perfect general has been underway for almost as long. Ender's two older siblings are every bit as unusual as he is, but in very different ways. Between the three of them lie the abilities to remake a world. If, that is, the world survives. Ender's Game is the winner of the 1985 Nebula Award for Best Novel and the 1986 Hugo Award for Best Novel. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

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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 loved this book! I will admit I was hesitant to read it even though it had been recommended to me numerous times by various people. I have just never enjoyed reading science fiction that much. I did want to see the movie though, and I was told if I wanted to watch the movie, I should read the book first so I could understand things not clearly explained in the movie. That being said, I became engrossed almost immediately. I was enthralled with this society that needed children who could go on to become serious military members. I had to know what was happening with Ender, who was basically a test-tube baby. I couldn't put the book down until I discovered if he fulfilled his destiny or not. I empathized with Ender throughout the whole book. It's so hard not to become attached to this brilliant little kid who is ripped away from his family and sent to a place where he is initially persecuted because the other kids are jealous of his genius military tactics. I've never been a big fan of any war stories, but I was deeply involved in this one. I was rooting for Ender to win each and every one of his "practice" battles. Poor Ender spending grueling hours being used by the military bigwigs. I felt as sad and betrayed as he did when he found out he had single-handedly destroyed a species. I became so attached to Ender that I had to read the rest of the series to find out what happened with his life. This is a wonderful story that will truly draw you in and captivate your imagination.

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