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Earth Afire (The First Formic War)



Synopsis

One hundred years before Ender's Game, the aliens arrived on Earth with fire and death. Earth Afire by Orson Scott Card and Aaron Johnston is the story of the First Formic War. Victor Delgado beat the alien ship to Earth, but just barely. Not soon enough to convince skeptical governments that there was a threat. They didn't believe that until space stations and ships and colonies went up in sudden flame. And when that happened, only Mazer Rackham and the Mobile Operations Police could move fast enough to meet the threat.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While it isn't as great as "Ender's Game", it is a welcome addition to the Ender's universe. While it shares a lot with the other Ender's Series, it is definitely different. It is also better than "Earth Unaware", as I found it held my attention more. However, just like the previous book, "Earth Unaware", be warned, that this isn't a "Feel Good" book. It is also a "Darker" book. There is a lot of sadness since it addresses the "Bugger Wars" from Ender's game. With war comes death, misery and sadness. Additionally, as mentioned by the author, this is the second of three books, and it ends with nothing really resolved. It's like part two of a three part, season ending TV episode, only we have no idea when part 3 will come out. I would have given this book a 5 star had it not left off in such a way, as I hate that. I would almost have preferred to wait until all three Books were released, and then read all three.

This is the middle book of the prequel trilogy to Ender's Game. It is a great read, not the typical padder between books, but it keeps you on the edge of your seat throughout the book. It also really develops the characters and sets things up for the final book. Now, the big question is, how long until the third book is released??

I thought this was going to be a story about the Formic invasion of Earth. Instead, it is seven different stories following seven different groups of characters, while the Formic invasion takes a back seat. Every time one of the character's stories starts to get interesting the chapter ends and you move on to a different character, knowing you probably have to wait four or five chapters to find out what's going to happen with that character. It became extremely annoying really fast. I even skipped a whole chapter because it was following the surviving women of El Cavador who are still way out in the solar system, nowhere near the Formics, and therefore irrelevant to the plot. The book would have been much more exciting if it had a consistent plot centered around the Formic invasion with a minimum of characters. The individual characters and all the little subplots are well done in themselves, but the overall effect of writing a book this way is to make it seem like a set of barely connected short stories packed between two covers rather than a unified novel. I'm surprised the publishers let Aaron Johnston get away with this. If you love the Enderverse like me, you can make it through this book, but you will probably be annoyed along the way.

I don't worry about the social issues surround Card. My favorite author is Dickens, and he was a terrible antisemitic. What I find important here is that the writing is simply not good. Card's choice to have another writer do most of this heavy lifting of writing the Ender prequels is evident and while I will probably be suckered into buying the next novel out of desire to know the rest of the story, I feel the need to make known my displeasure with the state of the series in hope that the next novel will be more well written.

Look, I love OSC and have been snapping up all/any "Ender-related" material for 15+ years. The story elements of the pre-Ender first formic war of Earth Afire (1) are all here and this version is a reasonable continuation. There are even hints dropped here and there about themes, philosophy and other elements from the Ender saga, e.g., Mazer "wonders" if children could be better warriors than adults....However, the big hint is expressed in the title "Earth Afire : 2". OK, the good news is the implication that further books will follow with more story about the First War. The BAD news, and it is the first time THIS trick has been used, is that EA:2 ends abruptly, right in the middle of an

impending action germane to the EA:2 entire storyline. Previously, OSC resolved plot points in every book, then started anew with any sequels. This book has reverted to the cheap TV-like "Cliffhanger", except we don't get some resolution Next Week, we now have to wait Months for EA:3 (June 2014, I believe). Yes, I am still hooked and will continue to read, but I am NOT HAPPY about the cheap tricks.

I enjoyed Enders Game, but these prequels are uninspiring. The alien descriptions make it worth it, but the passages about Bigwen and Razor are very slow. I have an eight year old boy, which makes me personally feel that the descriptions of the interactions silly, no matter how gifted the kid is.

First off I would like to say I cant wait for the Enders Game movie! I have read all the books multiple times in the Enders Game Series, loved all of them but I find problems with this one. I will keep it short and sweet. I found problems with this book. First, the First Bugger Invasion was a Scout Mission mentioned in previous books and mainly out in space and didn't mention things about an invasion into China until the Second Bugger Invasion with the landers. Second, the first Bugger Invasion happened years before the Second and Mazer was never mentioned to take part of it. He was the unlikely hero of the Second Invasion. Third, to the book itself; timing sequences seem to be off from when ships first make contact to when they meet at Lunar. Forth, if communications were highly affected by the Buggers how were there formations of multiple ships joining together in space to repel the oncoming spaceships occur, that would take all kinds of inter-communications between the humans. Lastly, it left off at a highly anticipated part. Now it is nice because you want to read the next book and I will but what a spot to end the story. I will say I love the books and this story by no means is bad, it just does not fit with the continuation of the previous books. Now maybe it can be explained in later books and I cant wait till this story ends and the last Enders Shadow book comes out. I was just a little dissapointed with this book. Your thoughts???

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