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Earth Awakens (The First Formic War)



Synopsis

The story of The First Formic War continues in *Earth Awakens*. Nearly 100 years before the events of Orson Scott Card's bestselling novel *Ender's Game*, humans were just beginning to step off Earth and out into the Solar System. A thin web of ships in both asteroid belts; a few stations; a corporate settlement on Luna. No one had seen any sign of other space-faring races; everyone expected that First Contact, if it came, would happen in the future, in the empty reaches between the stars. Then a young navigator on a distant mining ship saw something moving too fast, heading directly for our sun. When the alien ship screamed through the solar system, it disrupted communications between the far-flung human mining ships and supply stations, and between them and Earth. So Earth and Luna were unaware that they had been invaded until the ship pulled into Earth orbit, and began landing terra-forming crews in China. Politics and pride slowed the response on Earth, and on Luna, corporate power struggles seemed more urgent than distant deaths. But there are a few men and women who see that if Earth doesn't wake up and pull together, the planet could be lost.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In volume three of the the First Formic War series—*Earth Awakens*—a prequel series set a century before Card's classic *Ender's Game*—the alien invaders have landed on Earth. Mazer Rackham and his Mobile Operations Police comrades pull off a high-risk mission to stop the mass slaughter in China. Meanwhile, in space, Victor Delgado, who risked his young life in the first

novel in the series (Earth Unaware, 2012) to warn Earth of the impending invasion, is risking it again, this time by infiltrating a Formic vessel and trying to find a way to neutralize the alien creatures. But has he been set up by Lem Jukes, the conniving son of a mining-company president who's feeling mistreated by his powerful father? With a nice balance of violence and political machination, the novel will definitely please readers of the first two books in the series—a series that, it should be pointed out, isn't merely a spin-off of Ender's Game and its numerous sequels. Even if there had been no Ender's Game, the First Formic Wars novels would still pack the same considerable wallop. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Card remains among the biggest names in contemporary science fiction, and his latest will be published to a legion of eager fans. --David Pitt --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

“The sections that feature highly intelligent, self-reliant children--Card's trademark--are as excellent as ever; elsewhere there's plenty of solid action, well-developed characters....Another solidly engrossing installment, where the aliens are really just a sideshow: What we're witnessing is how and why Ender's child armies came to be.” Kirkus Reviews on Earth Afire
“While the reader knows who wins the war, the fate of the engaging characters in this story is up in the air. Thirty-five years after he introduced Ender to the world, it's great to see that Orson Scott Card is still making magic in this imaginative world.” NY Journal of Books on Earth Afire
“The pacing and the vivid action scenes will satisfy hard-core military-SF buffs. At the same time, the characters and the ethical foundations under them are at the high level we have come to associate with Card. Laying their own foundations under Card's Ender Wiggins saga, the Formic Wars promise to add to Card's already high reputation and to his collaborator's as well.” Booklist, starred review on Earth Afire
“Card and Johnston explore human ignorance and compassion through a tapestry of galactic warfare in the second volume of the Formic Wars trilogy.... Social upheavals and political ineptitude are realized through rich characterization and brisk action.” Publishers Weekly on Earth Afire

The plot is better than most Orson Scott Card books in many respects. Less meandering. However, the science throughout the series is ridiculous. Gamma rays are photons, not plasma, and "high speed" docking between two craft moving at the same speed are no more dangerous than "low speed". In this case, I guess the speed is relative to the solar system. So the authors seem to have missed the whole idea of relativity. It's as though they think that moving fast in interplanetary space

is some how bumpy. The story is good, however, I read the entire 3 books in a few days. Lots of action, not a whole lot of character development, except for Mazer and the young Chinese boy. So in that respect, the character development is not up to Card's usual.

I really enjoyed this book, how the characters evolved, and their view on the world. The battles were great, as was the description of military personnel, like Lieutenant Li, and the Chinese General who was credited for MOP actions. Spoiler alert: I was really waiting for them to find a Queen. It was really odd that one was not aboard. The expected scene from Ender's school vids was absent, and I shall be very disappointed if it doesn't appear in the Second Formic War. I was expecting the book to end with something done by Victor, like the first two books. A shame it didn't.

I have to say, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I was actually pleasantly surprised at how exciting this book turned out to be. This is my third favorite book in the whole Ender series behind Ender's Game and Ender's Shadow. I haven't read the entire canon yet, but I just had to review Earth Awakens. Even though I knew how it would end, this book still kept me at the edge of my seat (like watching Titanic). All of the main characters in this book are catapulted into an exciting, unpredictable sequence of events with the fate of Earth hanging in the balance. After they barely overcome one insurmountable problem, another one gets thrown in their face. The only thing that gets them through it all are the wits and perseverance of these wonderfully complex and highly intelligent characters. It got to the point where I could not put this book down and I was reading it at work. I just hope the second Formic War series is even a fraction as exciting as this book.

One of the best books I have ever read. Granted, you should read Ender's Game first, and probably the two prequels to this before. But Orson Scott Card, builds such real world scenarios, it is more like it actually happened than a work of fiction. Personally, although I greatly enjoyed the bizarre series of books that followed Ender's Game, I like the prequel much better. It is a practical view of how, as a race - 1) we will likely participate in space (colonizing the moon, mining asteroids, etc), 2) how we would react to a new co-habitant in our universe, and 3) how society may look given these two things. OSC is a student of earth and earth cultures and it shows.

The books following Ender's Game has always been favourite books of mine. The First Formic War series felt like a fresh re-take compared to the last books published in the original time line, in particular I enjoyed the first one, Earth Unaware. Earth Awakens covers how the first Formics were

defeated as well as the political games on Earth leading the coalition against the Formics. The political games are focusing on the driving forces behind the scene, driving forces that was more of personal motivation than by the need to form alliances to beat the Formics. Everything is observed through the eyes of a few main role players but never through the master minds behind the plans. As a reader one is always aware of the outcome and the fact that at least Mazer Rackham will survive so the reading is to answer the questions how and why things turned out the way they did. As usual in the Ender series we are following the bright and talented persons and as usual the grown-ups are the ones acting stubborn and narrow minded. I would not recommend the First a Formic War series unless the reader is familiar with at least Ender's Game and preferable some of the other books in the Ender series where the political plays in Earth are explained and the reasonings of the Formics. The surprising thing with the book was that I always kept waiting for the main attack made by Mazer Rackham but it never came. In the few last pages the explanation came.. There is still room for another book but I don't see that it really will add anything compared to what is already known. A few things were left un answered like the fate of Mazer Rackham and Bigwen.

This was my first Orson Scott Card book. After seeing the recent ENDER movie, I wanted to get into the Ender story universe that Card created, but rather than reading the first book, I decided to start with the prequels, so that I could follow the story in proper chronological order. So, having said that, I haven't read any of the other books (besides Earth Unaware, Earth Afire, Earth Awakens), so I'm not really privy to the whole Ender universe-story yet! It was difficult to set down the book (actually my kindle) and I read thru this book in a span under two weeks. The story seems to move quite fast, and you're introduced to various characters that you love (or grudgingly tolerate) and see things from their unique perspectives. There are unexpected things too, such as sadness from an unexpected loss, the thought processes of how one makes a decision, and revealing perspectives of systems and people. *Spoiler Alert* If you read this book, you'll find that it's "unfinished". It does have an ending, but apparently 3 more books are on the way to complete "the rest of the story", but they haven't been released yet. I can't wait!!

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