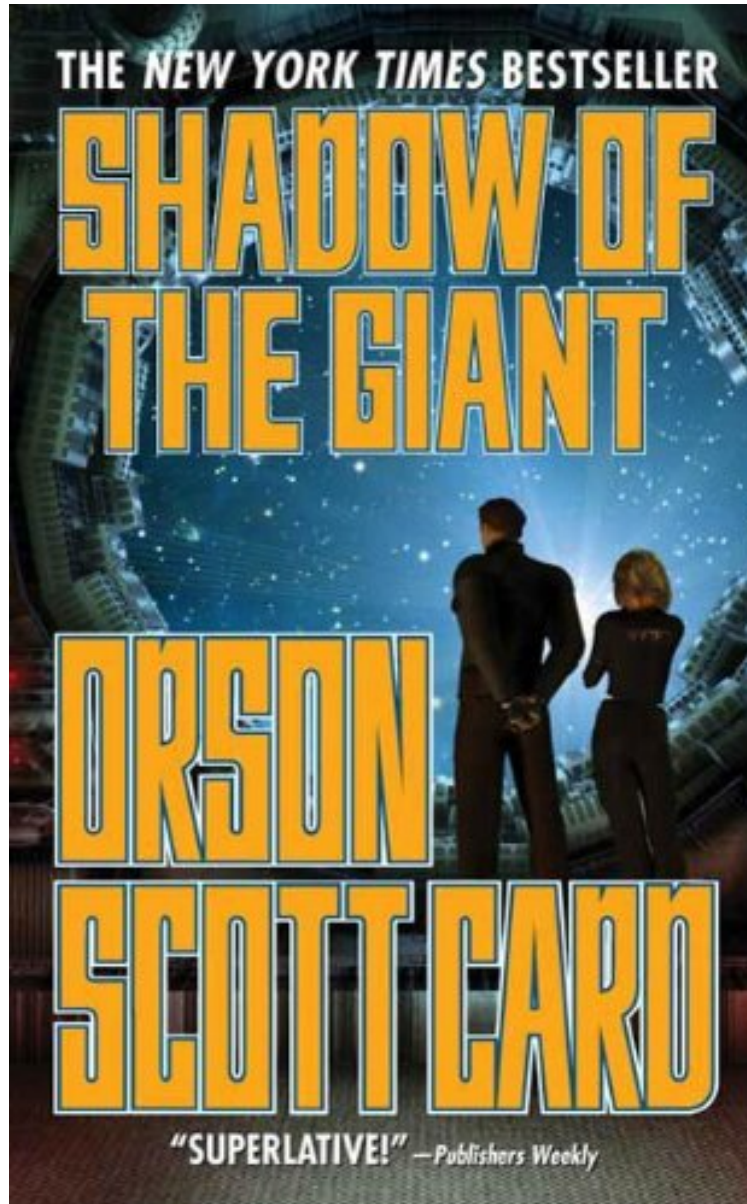


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## Shadow of the Giant: 4 (The Shadow Saga)

Von Orson Scott Card

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**Von Orson Scott Card : Shadow of the Giant: 4 (The Shadow Saga)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shadow of the Giant: 4 (The Shadow Saga):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Hard to put down Von Zac Even though the books of this series after the opener "Ender's Shadow" have been criticized as not

being Card at his best, I have to admit I found this book one of the best in the series. It moves fast, its packed with events and well-written scenes. As suggested by others, Card tries to tie a lot of loose ends in this one, but this doesn't detract from the enjoyment of the book. One criticism is that global politics and cultural stereotypes play a heavy role here, and at parts they might be a little naively weaved, or with too much focus in elements of our current society rather than possible future traits in the book's time. However Card uses these as tools in making critical comments on factors that would disturb attempts at world peace, from the psychological perspectives of the individual and that of whole cultures. Perhaps the point made is that cultures don't change that fast - or Card meets a limitation as a previous-generation writer. However, as in all Card books there is food for thought here, relevant to us as individuals and to the world, and a lot of fun to read. If you have worked yourself reading up to this book, and are happy with Card's strange pace in the other two post-Ender's Shadow books, then I think that you will enjoy this one. Note that this does not stand alone as a book, and you must have read all the other ones in the series to understand it. The criticism that it does not conclude Bean's story, will hopefully be answered by the next upcoming book in the series, scheduled to be released on Jan 2012.

7 von 9 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Alles wie gehabt... Von harrzIch kann mich kurz fassen: Orson Scott Card tritt auf der Stelle. Die Karten werden neu gemischt und eine weitere Runde im globalen Machtpoker beginnt, mit altbekannten Battle School Absolventen an der Spitze der jeweiligen Machtblöcke. Zwar gelingt es Card erneut eine recht kurzweilige und unterhaltsame Lektüre vorzulegen, bequem am einem Wochenende zu lesen, aber es bleibt ein fahler Nachgeschmack. Das Gefühl man hätte das alles schon einmal gelesen, nämlich in den vorangegangenen Bänden "Shadow of the Hegemon" und "Shadow Puppets". Nur wär die Faszination von brillianten Strategien und dreisten Machtergreifungen nicht ewig, Charaktere und Schicksale bleiben weitgehend unverändert. Eine der wenigen Neuerungen ist das Fehlen eines ausgemachten Bsewichtes, lauter Protagonisten mit besten Absichten schicken sich an die Welt ins Chaos zu strzen. Und es gibt einen Bogenschlu zu den Ereignissen von "Ender's Game" und "Speaker for the Dead", mit dem aber noch lange nicht Schlu zu sein scheint. Die Grundsteine für eine nächste Fortsetzung werden gelegt und es bleibt abzuwarten ob Orson Scott Card die losen Enden der Ender- und Shadow-Reihen verknüpfen und zu einem echten Abschlus bringen wird. Um Miverständnissen vorzubeugen: Wer die Ender-Reihe nicht kennt sollte sie keinesfalls meiden nur weil Card hier etwas schwächelt, man liee sich ein paar wirklich gute Bücher entgegenen.

**Kurzbeschreibung** 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. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied. From Publishers Weekly Starred . 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. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. 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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