



Ender's Shadow: Battle School

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This is a tale of street smarts, survival instincts and the inevitable meeting with the Interstellar Fleet's battle-hardening school for children, where Ender Wiggin holds court as rising star.

Ender's Shadow: Battle School Details

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Author : Mike Carey , Sebastian Fiumara

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From Reader Review Ender's Shadow: Battle School for online ebook

OneFutureLibrarian says

This is the graphic novel adaptation of a book that tells a story that's parallel to the first half of Ender's Game (a novel) or Ender's Game, Volume 1: Battle School (a graphic novel). It is told from the perspective of one of Ender's lieutenants, Bean.

And because of the way that this book (and its follow-up Ender's Shadow: Command School) casts light to certain aspects of the "main" story of Ender, I would suggest you not read these Shadow-books before reading the complete story arc of Ender's Game (a book) or both Ender's Game: Battle School and Ender's Game, Volume 2: Command School (graphic novels).

Also, because it is hard to think of these two books as separate stories, rather than parts of a bigger story, I'll write the same thing for both of the books. And unlike Ender's Game, I haven't read the Ender's Shadow novel(s) and therefore have nothing to compare the stories with, other than that of Ender's Game itself.

Well, then, to the actual review. I liked to read the story from another perspective, (view spoiler)

I also liked to know more about Bean's past and how he got to the Battle School. (view spoiler)

Now, the reveal in Command School of what Bean realises before anyone else would work better if it hadn't been "spoiled" already by having read the Ender's Game, but it is still an interesting read and (view spoiler)

In any case, if you like the Ender universe, this is definitely worth reading. Just not before completing the Ender's game first.

Liz says

As the graphic novel version of the first portion of Ender's Shadow, this story is engaging, with some intriguing mystery. I enjoy stories like this that provide a new perspective to a "known" story (in this case, Ender's Game). I look forward to the next volume and I'll probably also read the novel at some point.

Anna says

I was ecstatic when I got this precious in my hands but I guess my expectations were way too high. Starting with the positives, the art was great and I liked how the style was grittier to portray the dark and harsh life of Bean. Many of the plot points stayed true to the original story written by Orson Scott Card. However, I wish Bean's brilliance and wit could have been illustrated better. The graphic novel did not do Bean justice; he deserves much better (I might be too picky though since I am a die-hard fan who remembers most of the book and knows Bean very well). Also, I did not expect it to end where it did.

Mti Librarian says

This is the graphic novel version of a companion novel to *Ender's Game*, the classic coming-of-age, science fiction story that most of us had to read at some point in school. I liked *Ender's Game* when I first read it probably about 15 years ago now, but never felt any interest in reading the other books in the series until these graphic versions started coming out. I really LOVED this book, both the story and the art. The main character, Bean, is drawn really well, he's such an ugly little runt.

Set in a dystopia version of our world, after humankind has battled and defeated an alien race known as Formics or Bugs.

Mandy says

I don't claim to be an expert when it comes to graphic novel's. A matter of fact, this is the first one I've read (I am being introduced to many new things as a mother of 2 boy's and raising 3) so you can say I'm the exact opposite, very green to this genre.

My oldest which will be a teenager soon loves graphic novel's. He's read most of the youth one's from our local library so I moved up to the YA/teenage section and grabbed this one as I thought I'd be safe with Orson Scott Card...I was so wrong (albeit it was written by a different author based on Card's Ender series).

I didn't look at it first, just gave it to my son (major F for mom) and my 9 yo was flipping through the pages and brought it to me disgusted and said, "this is too scary mom..." and showed me a picture of a kid that was bludgened to near death from a brick by another teenager with blood splattered EVERYWHERE. A couple pages over, there is a prostitute and her escort walking back to his place and discussing what they were going to do.

Yep.

And the laanguage was horrendous as well.

As far as the pictures...I have read reviews and complaints about the quality of the art...I know nothing about this and thought the art was fine (other than the grotesque pics).

I even somewhat enjoyed the story (would have enjoyed it more if the excess crap was left out) so that is why I gave it 2 star's instead of one.

If anyone has any recommendations for CLEAN graphic novels, please share.

Hank says

I am a fan of Ender Wiggin stories, so I thought I would check out this graphic novel version. I found it quite satisfying and the artwork was superb (I think; what do I know about art?). Looks like there will be a series

of these and I am looking forward to them. If you are familiar with the Ender series then you will have some image of Bean in your mind as well as the other children that feature prominently. Because of the rare intelligence we sense they are adults but to see the images of them as children engaged in intergalactic contests for the survival of their species is uncanny. Bean does not disappoint.

Jacki says

Summary: This graphic novel gives the backstory of Bean, a secondary character in the Ender series. Tiny Bean survives in a street gang by means of his wits until finally a caring nun recommends him for Battle School. He excels, but discrimination against his size and social status may hold him back.

Verdict: Pretty spiffy.

Yay!: This book pleasantly surprised me. Character development is strong all around, particularly Bean's. His ability to perceive the intentions of others and strategize accordingly makes him believable as a prodigy. The story of his life before Battle School is gritty but interesting, and the side plot involving the search for his point of origin adds depth as well. The art is surprisingly well-done, especially when compared to Ender's Game: Battle School.

Nay!: I found the cliffhanger at the ending a little unbelievable, but will not elaborate so as to prevent spoilage.

Nelson Zagalo says

This second part on the Ender's series by Orson Scott Card, is way better than Ender's Game. Ender's Shadow as the name states, is the story about a "shadow" kid for Ender Wiggin messiah. Bean is a kid with no parents living on the streets, with no one to take care of him, Ender Wiggin on the contrary was living with good and rich parents, with brother and sisters, a total regular life. But the different feelings we get from the reading is not the guilt of the content, but the way it was chosen to be portrayed.

Bean gets to be interiorly much more described than Wiggin, and this is what makes this second part much interesting, much compelling. On the art side Shadow gets a much richer art, more detailed and singular, giving texture to drama represented.

The original concept for both came from Orson Scott Card, but the teams doing comic adaptation of Shadow and Game are different. In Shadow we've Mike Carey as author and Sebastian Fiumara as illustrator. For Game we've Christopher Yost as author and Pasqual Ferry as illustrator. And this explains the differences of tone. Carey has been working with much more dramatic material than Yost, and here we can feel both flavours at work in the same series.

47Time says

I love how the teachers from battle school play their manipulative mind games every chance they get, especially if it alienates one student from his peers. The goal is to find a commander for the fleet, so no stone will be left unturned and no ethic or morals will get in the way.

The world took a big hit after the second Formic war with famine and a destructured society. The orphan children of Earth band together and resort to stealing food just to survive. Bean is one of these kids and he has an idea to get more food. An older kid can protect the smaller ones and they can share the food amongst themselves, instead of with all the older bullies. Achilles becomes the little father of the group, but he kills another kid and Bean suspects that he is next.

The little fathers draw the attention of the sisters at the food cantina. They report their findings to colonel Graff who is gathering students for his battle school. He is interested in Bean who is showing genius-level intelligence and admits him to the battle school. Bean remains isolated from the other students and is being closely watched because of his quietly inquisitive behaviour. His perfect test scores even make him a contender for Ender's position.

(view spoiler)

Michael says

I remember reading the book version of this story back in high school. I didn't know if the comic would be as good or good at all. I had a little hope with Mike Carey being the writer. He has written some great comics and this comic is not one to forget.

The story stays true to source book. Bean is a little kid just trying to survive in the mean world left over from the war. He's smaller than everyone else, but he's also smarter. He knows how to get people to do what he wants. He knows how to work the system. That is until Achilles takes over the street gang. Bean needs a way out, Battle School might just be the answer. A place training young people to be ready for the next war with the Formics.

I really loved this story. I forgot how amazing the story was. I liked Bean a lot more than Ender after reading Ender's Shadow. Bean is a different character. He is very self-aware of his situations and is looking to survive. It makes for a great story. The art is amazing too. It's a loose style that allows for flow. I feel it brings the characters to life better than some other styles. All and all I love th story and think everyone needs to read Ender's Shadow and Ender's Game.

Chris McGrath says

The Ender's Game graphic novels were beautiful but not terribly interesting, due to a focus more on the storyline and less on the battles, which are a big part of the original novel. Luckily, Ender's Shadow was much more story and less action, so the same kind of focus works much better in this graphic novel. Although it obviously skims a lot of the story, I felt like this gave a much better recap of the book and captured a lot of the drama well.

Still, I would not recommend anyone read this if they haven't read the book, but only because both Ender's Game and Ender's Shadow are fantastic and easily accessible novels that anyone with an interest in sci-fi should check out. To read the comics first would be to ruin a lot of the story.

fennie says

i hate to say it, but this was exponentially better than the ender's game: battle school graphic novel. the story flowed really well and all of the emotion and mystery that is in the original is played out perfectly. there were no places where i felt the storytelling was truncated. really, reading this made me love bean even more. you can really feel his wariness of the world around him along with his attachments to poke and carlotta. the artwork is quite brilliant, though graphic/gory in certain scenes. reading this actually got me excited for the future graphic novels and made me want to reread the ender's shadow series.

Cori says

I got this from the library because I was curious how they would adapt the novel into comics. I was pleased that they stayed very true to the story (obviously can't cover everything, but they got the big points). The art style isn't my favorite and confirms why I've never really gotten into the comics from the big studios. I'm much more of a webcomic reader.

Ig-88 says

Sunt sed tempora aspernatur. Magnam odit id placeat. Et enim ullam illo ea. Occaecati consectetur voluptatem.

StoryTellerShannon says

This tale focuses on one of Ender's eventual lieutenants, Bean, who grows up in the slums and is eventually singled out for his brilliant mind at an incredibly young age. Bean takes a non traditional approach to dealing with the slums as well as Battle School.

It's a nice angle on Bean which wasn't covered in the first Orson Scott Card novel. The artwork is grittier especially in the slum sections of the tale.

The script was by Mike Carey with a number of artists including Sebastian Fiumana and Giulia Brusco. Orson Scott Card was the Creative and Executive Director for this project.

CHARACTERS/DIALOGUE: B plus to A minus; STORY/PLOTTING: B; ARTWORK PRESENTATION: B; BEAN FOCUS: B plus; WHEN READ: early August 2012; OVERALL GRADE: B to B plus.
