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The Swarm: Volume One Of The Second Formic War



Synopsis

Orson Scott Card and Aaron Johnston return to their Ender's Game prequel series with this first volume of an all-new trilogy about the Second Formic War in *The Swarm*. The first invasion of Earth was beaten back by a coalition of corporate and international military forces, and the Chinese army. China has been devastated by the Formic's initial efforts to eradicate Earth life forms and prepare the ground for their own settlement. The Scouring of China struck fear into the other nations of the planet; that fear blossomed into drastic action when scientists determined that the single ship that wreaked such damage was merely a scout ship. There is a mothership out beyond the Solar System's Kuiper Belt, and it's heading into the system, unstoppable by any weapons that Earth can muster. Earth has been reorganized for defense. There is now a Hegemon, a planetary official responsible for keeping all the formerly warring nations in line. There's a Polemarch, responsible for organizing all the military forces of the planet into the new International Fleet. But there is an enemy within, an enemy as old as human warfare: ambition and politics. Greed and self-interest. Will Bingwen, Mazer Rackam, Victor Delgado and Lem Juke be able to divert those very human enemies in time to create a weapon that can effectively defend humanity in the inexorable Second Formic War?

Book Information

Series: *The Second Formic War* (Book 1)

Audio CD

Publisher: Macmillan Audio; Unabridged edition (August 2, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1427273693

ISBN-13: 978-1427273697

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.6 x 6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

As a stand-alone book, I enjoyed this. As a massive fan of the Enderverse, this book had me raising my eyebrows. This book seems to contradict many major points established in Ender's

Game. ****Spoiler Alert****In Ender's Game, belief in the existence of the Hive Queen was something that got Mazer "laughed to silence" by authorities after the Final Battle. In this book, Mazer and Bingwen PROVE that the Hive Queen exists before the Second Formic War even begins, and take videos of one of her "Daughters". In Ender's Game, the idea that the Hive Queen is the ruling and animating will/intelligence in the Formics is something that Mazer introduces to Ender as a new concept that is not widely understood/accepted by the Fleet or humanity, a hundred years after the Second Formic War. In this book, most everyone already agrees that the Formics have a hive mind, controlled by one intelligent being, even before Bingwen shoots video proving the Hive Queen's existence. The casual use of the Ansible by various military commanders and the Ansible falling into Pirate hands makes the idea of it being a total secret 100 years later when Ender/Bean learn about it, is pretty out there. In Ender's Game, the first contact with the Formics is supposed to be when they blacked out Eros, and Eros was supposed to have been the Formic's forward post, won by 1000 marines fighting through tunnels to eradicate the Formics. This is how we supposedly stole their tech. In this book, they do black out a random asteroid, but it isn't Eros, and the 1000 marines who die are no where in sight, nor is any of the tech Mazer talks about.

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