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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

Many have criticized the First Formic war for crummy physics, shallow political/cultural analysis, and prose that feels like the novelization of a comic book. Those criticisms will not be deferred by the arrival of this book. Even if, like me, you enjoyed the first installments of this trilogy, I suspect you'll find *Awakens* to be somewhat of a disappointment. My first criticism is that it appears that rather than put together an original, or create a unique spin on well-trodden sci-fi tropes, Orson Scott Card

(or is that just Mr Johnston) opt instead to fill the pages of Awakens with numerous cliché's. (SPOILERS AHEAD) fighter ships flying into ventilation shafts, scientists inventing counter-agents to the Formic's poison (with high school chemistry). The heroes bravely fighting each other over who will risk their lives to attack the mother-ship. I thought Unaware at least had some originality, and Afire made Earth's situation seem genuinely dire. Awakens felt like I was reading a novel stitched together from Star Wars, Independence Day, and StarCraft. Perhaps worse than mere cliché's is the lack of real tension in the plot. All the characters simply work from whoa to go, Mazer is the consummate soldier, Victor understands stuff about spaceships, and Lem continues his journey from amoral brat to actually OK guy. Lem's character perhaps presented the most interesting development through the novels, however his personality changes in Awakens are so contrived, his father such a stereotype, that this part of book was sub-par too. The next frustrating part of the this conclusionary novel is the neutering of the Formic forces.

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