



A Storyteller in Zion

Orson Scott Card

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Award-winning science-fiction writer Orson Scott Card candidly admits that he is no scholar and that his role in the Church gives him no special claim to inspiration for the body of the Saints. And yet, in *A Storyteller in Zion*, Card uses his unique perspective as a storyteller to provide readers with a priceless collection of insights and wisdom, defining and strengthening the community of Saints as they seek to build Zion.

Broad in scope and deeply relevant to all Latter-day Saints, this volume includes speeches and essays on such topics as the complexity and internal integrity of the Book of Mormon as a story, the importance of moral storytelling, the role of the artist in Mormon society, and the importance of creating Zion, first in the hearts of the Latter-day Saints and then in their communities.

Fundamental to all his writings is Card's belief that LDS storytellers, artists, and other members must learn to put the Lord first and avoid the temptation to become "assimilationists" who "long to reconcile the world and the Church by changing the Church to fit the world." Instead, Card argues, as the Saints begin to establish Zion among themselves, the good people of the world will be drawn to assimilate with them and accept the laws of the Lord.

"There's a chance," writes Card regarding his hopes for this book, "that when I speak the truth I've learned in my limited experience, there will be readers who have been waiting to hear it in the way I've learned to say it." All such readers will find a wealth of important, edifying insights in *A Storyteller in Zion*.

A Storyteller in Zion Details

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Author : Orson Scott Card

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From Reader Review A Storyteller in Zion for online ebook

Teresa says

Great reading for feeding a baby--short essays. :-) This is not fiction, it's a collection of his views on everything from how to incorporate the arts into your home (and family home evenings) to his views on homosexuality and religion. He masterfully walks a fine line that I often struggle with: being completely accepting of human beings & their humanity, while not condoning sin or making excuses for human behavior.

Fred D says

Excellent collection of essays written by Orson Scott Card, the Science-Fiction writer. Two essays in particular I found to be very excellent: one about his perspective as a Fiction Writer on the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon, and the other an essay about his views on portraying evil in fiction.

Before I read this book I wasn't sure how devout a Mormon he was. It's obvious from these essays that he is quite devout.

I found myself again & again agreeing with his positions that he put forth in the essays. He's quite persuasive. He & I think alike on many issues.

I highly recommend this collection of essays. It really helps you understand where he's coming from & helped me understand his fictional works better.

Michael Kage says

Utter crap. OSC here needs to stick with scifi. Also, his political views do not make any sense not to mention they counter everything he has written in Ender. Please, please, please keep to writing scifi. No one will judge you for not being able to write anything else I promise.

Ashley says

Card's essays and speeches are generally very good and always articulate. I particularly liked his essay on a science fiction writer's perspective on the Book of Mormon, as well as his essay on evil in fiction. I wish I had that one when I was teaching full time and parents got mad that bad things happened in books I taught. One of his last essays on living the law of consecration didn't quite work for me; his ideas sound a little too much like Communism, and he also said that competition is the *enemy* of capitalism. Isn't it the essence of capitalism? So while I disagree with him in specifics, I mostly agree with him in generalities: be kind to your neighbor; don't let your stuff own you; serve where you're asked to serve, etc. His essay on homosexuality was also insightful. Fun read.

Paul Black says

Card writes clearly and compellingly about the true purpose of art, how our personal sacrifice can bring heaven on Earth, constructive attitudes toward the Church, how we can be true to the Savior and true to ourselves, and many other subjects. Love the sinner but abhor the sin is no trite maxim in real life, but Card presents sound guidance. It serves no good for "tolerance" to condone sinful actions in a misguided attempt to spare the feelings of the sinner.

A dozen and a half essays and talks designed to lift, ennable, and draw all to Christ.

Why not five stars? These are among the finest that I have ever read. Perhaps because the Truth, which he presents oh, so well, unsettles some of my comfortable complacencies.

Sundy DeGooyer says

Okay, okay, okay. I might be coming at this with a little bit of bias. Orson Scott Card is my favorite author (other than Mormon, Moroni, and Ether, of course) so it is hard to be overly critical of this book. I think Card wrote this book to get people to think. And, for me, it did. In this book Card brings together articles, speeches and stories in which he discusses Mormonism from his perspective as a writer. In the first chapter, Card defended the Book of Mormon from a point of view that I had never considered before... that of a writer. He makes several interesting points. Other chapters discuss being an artist in Zion. I loved that chapter because it has ideas of how to raise my children and use my own talents. I love Brother Card! If you are looking for deep Mormon doctrine, to create, or expand your testimony, this is not the book for you. But if you would like to get a feel of being an artist in Zion, some of the thoughts behind Orson Scott Card, and/or some inspiration then you might want to pick this book up.

P.S. Did I mention that I got to meet Orson Scott Card when dad brought him to Grand Junction to lecture at Mesa State College. Dad was able to take Orson Scott Card and a few students to lunch while he was here (the college paid.) Dad invited Scott and I. It was really fun to get to know the man behind the words. An interesting side fact: Orson Scott Card served his mission in Brazil like Scott. I think Scott enjoyed getting to use his Portuguese with Brother Card.

Nathan Cunningham says

Lots of great insights on art and faith, but some essays were certainly better or more relevant than others. I particularly enjoyed Card's treatment of the Book of Mormon from the perspective of a science fiction writer; he shared many ideas there that I had never considered, but which lend the scriptures an added level of depth for me.

Jeff says

My sweet daughter gave me an autographed copy of this book as a gift some time ago. I began reading it,

and then set it aside as I indulged in my reading attention deficit and roamed through other works. When I picked it up again, I read it through to the end. It's a wonderful collection of essays that are meaningful and thought-provoking for any Latter Day Saint. Two days after finishing it, I'm still asking myself questions like, "Am I guilty of oppressing the poor?" Thank you, Erin, for gift.

Verona says

I really liked this book for several reasons. I wish I had time tonight to go into more detail about this book, but I am just too tired. I found this author's ideas fascinating and his viewpoint refreshing. I don't always agree with his statements, but love to think about them and decide how I do feel. He makes me think. I agree with a lot of his thinking, but I probably am more inclined to be to the right and more mainstream as far as church teachings are concerned. However, I think he calls us "on the carpet" so to speak on all the things we may do as a group. I liked his thinking enough to want to read some of his novels, especially the series beginning with Ender's Game.

Leah says

Read this during my "I just read the Ender quartet and so will read everything Mr. Card ever writes or has written because he's a hell of an author and obviously a hell of a guy, otherwise how could he voice an infinitely compassionate and wise character like Ender" phase. Shortly followed by my "Hey wait a minute, his political views and stances on issues in the real world are totally in opposition to what comes across in his fiction, my god how could this be, oh, it's almost certainly because he was raised in a loving family and welcoming community that also happened to be batshit crazy when it comes to sexual orientation (among other things), and as a closeted and highly intelligent gay man growing up recognizing the benefits of maintaining his place in his family and community, and the consequences of not doing so, got all screwed up in the head, but sanity leaks out into the best of his literature and defending himself against accusations from within that community screwed him up even further, too bad, the poor guy, except it's hard to be too sympathetic when he keeps coming up with essays like many in this book" phase. Almost immediately transformed into my "But how can he live with himself?" phase, which continues to this day in a larger scope of "How can Kevin live with Kevin's self?" when, to paraphrase Douglas Adams, Kevin is any given entity who don't know nothing about nothing, so to speak.

I have complicated phases.

Joe says

Reading what Orson Scott Card believes about the significance and purpose of his own writing, as well as what he believes about religion and the Church, provided the spark I needed to become a reader of his novels. I found myself saying "Yes. Yes. Yes." to almost all of Card's views about Zion, about art and literature, and about good and evil. This is a book that I expect to read again--and to apply to my life.

Jeremy says

As a teen I was a big fan of OSC's science fiction and fantasy stuff, and by extension thought he was the coolest person in the world. Then I read this and decided to pretend he never wrote anything besides fiction so as to not ruin him for me. He really has an astonishingly narrow notion of what constitutes "good" music--really, it's kind of a belligerent populism akin to Socialist Realism. And it seems to me that this stems partly or perhaps largely from a deep self-consciousness on his part about his being a "popular" writer rather than an author of "serious" literature. His clumsy caricatures of modern art and modern music betray a potent mix of the ignorant, the incurious, and the impatient. Stick to your fiction, OSC; you're better at it, and we don't think any less of you for it.

(Oh, and quit writing about politics. It's tiresome and inconsistent and sometimes infuriatingly uninformed. Just because you have a captive, devoted audience doesn't mean that people want to read you thinking out loud).

Erik says

I have always enjoyed reading the writings of OSC whether fiction or non-fiction. While some of the essays are clearly written toward an audience of artists, there are many that are not. Nearly all of the essays are written directly to a Mormon (LDS) audience, and I doubt anyone not well versed in the beliefs and culture of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints will appreciate or understand. I found several of the essays to be very spiritually enlightening and uplifting.

David says

I found each essay fascinating to read, with new ideas about art and LDS culture. I was asking questions about myself on every page. This book showed me that Orson Scott Card is just as talented in nonfiction writing as he is in fiction (at least to me). I got the impression that he intended this book to be written for a primarily LDS audience, so unless you are LDS, you probably will not relate to much of what he says in these essays, except for perhaps his essays on art. As for myself, I found much in this book that was beneficial, and would recommend it for all LDS readers, and anyone who would like some unique insight into the LDS culture.

Jesse Whitehead says

Orson Scott Card always comes across as grossly arrogant in his essays and writing. Even when I agree with him I find the things he's saying so off-putting that I find myself arguing with him in my head.

Some of the essays in this book are worth reading, most of them are just Orson Scott Card talking about how important his opinions are and how much you should listen to him.

I found the bulk of this book to be unreadable and had little citation to back up many of his claims. I even agreed with him on many occasions but the voice he uses is so aggravating that I couldn't even gain any

satisfaction from reading an essay that agreed with my own feelings.

Others will probably have other experiences with these essays but I would not recommend the book.
