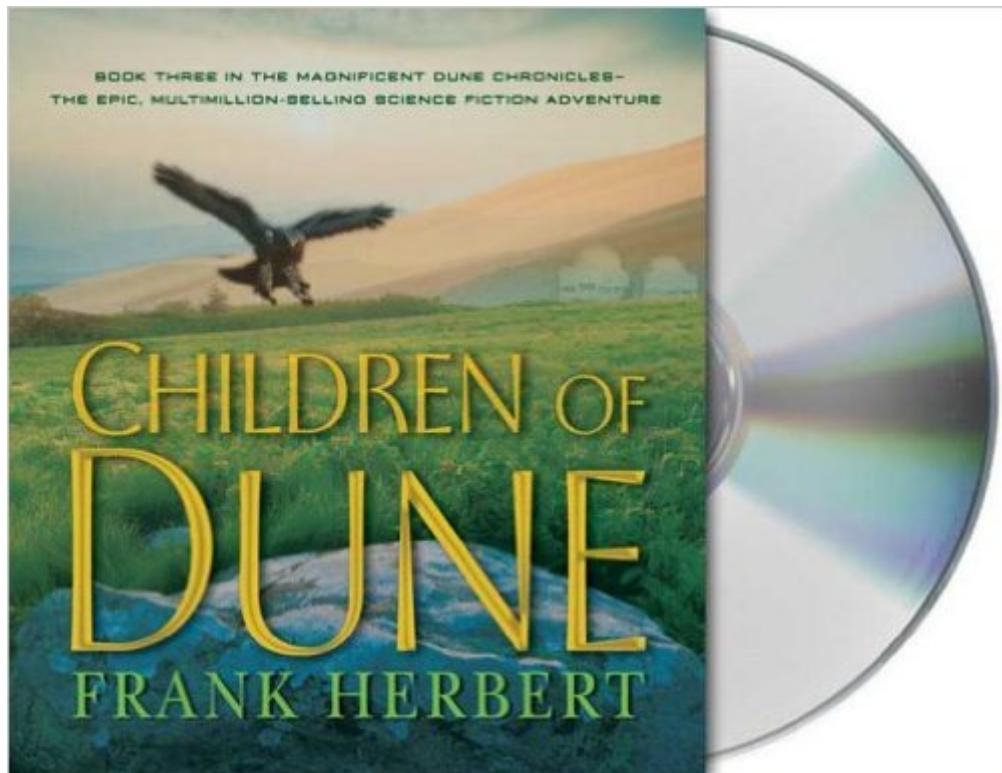


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Children Of Dune



Synopsis

The bestselling science fiction series of all time continues! In this third installment, the sand-blasted world of Arrakis has become green, watered and fertile. Old Paul Atreides, who led the desert Fremen to political and religious domination of the galaxy, is gone. But for the children of Dune, the very blossoming of their land contains the seeds of its own destruction. The altered climate is destroying the giant sandworms, and this in turn is disastrous for the planet's economy. Leto and Ghanima, Paul Atreides's twin children and his heirs, can see possible solutions--but fanatics begin to challenge the rule of the all-powerful Atreides empire, and more than economic disaster threatens...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Children of Dune is the third book in the Dune series. Although there are six books total, the first three form a trilogy, essentially the biography of Paul Atreides and his family (the other books take place much later). Dune, the first book, is a definite classic in science fiction, while Dune Messiah is a weaker yet still good sequel. Children of Dune fits somewhere between the two in quality. As the book opens, Paul is believed to be dead, a martyr last seen nine years earlier. The political and religious empire he had created is prospering under his sister, Alia, who is acting as regent until Paul's twin children come of age. With indications of decadence already appearing, a mysterious Preacher is speaking out against the failings of this empire, and there are those who believe that

this Preacher may be Paul. One of the reasons that this book is stronger than the second book is the return of Lady Jessica, absent since the end of the first book. With her daughter Alia seeming possessed by the spirit of Baron Harkonnen (one of the great villains of sci-fi), Jessica becomes entangled in plots that could be fatal to her and her grandchildren. The twins themselves, intellectually far older than their physical ages and gifted with inherited talents, are hardly helpless in all this intriguing. If you have enjoyed the first two Dune books, this is a must read, as it brings many plot lines to a close even as it opens new possibilities for future books. As in real life, Herbert understands that historical (even future historical) events rarely wrap up neatly, and a conclusion is merely a beginning of a different phase of history. This adds to the richness of this book and makes this series one of the landmarks of the genre.

I have to admit that I enjoyed Children of Dune more than I thought I would. Dune and Dune Messiah were both masterpieces, but the chains of events Paul Muad'Dib set into motion seemed to be winding down by the end of Messiah. I'm happy to say that Children proved me wrong. Much of the book spends time fully fleshing out its characters, letting us get deep into the heads of Jessica, Alia, Duncan Idaho, Farad'n, and of course the twins Leto II and Ghanima. The additional appearance of a Fremen preacher who seems as though he could be Paul Muad'Dib yet preaches against the ideas of Muad'Dib's followers keeps the direction of the book from becoming predictable. The rest opens up new possibilities that hint at a much grander future of possibilities. The twins use a plot against them by the Imperial family as a device to start down the true path they feel Dune messiahs should take. This is a path which their father knew, but didn't have the courage to walk down. This "Golden Path" is an extraordinary journey that promises brilliant and awesome possibilities to really pep up the Dune series and take it to a higher level. You'll have to read Leto's beginning down that path to truly get the full picture; I won't spoil it here. Old worlds are examined and new worlds begin in Children of Dune. Experience them for yourself.

I watched the movie that combined the second and third books. I must say the movie didn't do it justice; however, it did cause me to finally read Frank Herbert's opus. This book was by far my favorite. Taking into account the choices and consequences that decisions can have. Watching Alia fall into the abyss, how bright Paul's children are, and the eventual Golden Path that Paul refused to take. The part that I have always found of interest is the blood line that was to come after this book is all three major houses wrapped into one. I always thought it ironic that Corino's were deposed by Paul, but live on the genes because Leto wished it. House Harkonen through Lady Jessica.

Interesting how the stories converged and created the next big story.

After reading Dune and then Dune Messiah, I was a little disappointed in Messiah. It had lengthy internal dialogue and long explanations of twisted plots within plots. But Children of Dune ranks right up there with the original Dune in my book! What a great story! The twins are awesome in their mental scope and abilities; Leto II is necessarily brutal as his human-ness slips away from him (and he knows it). The sand trout, the worms fears, the destruction of Alia and her abomination within, all warped the readers mind enough to make this a VERY enjoyable read. Now it's on to God Emperor of Dune. Let's see how this goes!

Children of Dune, the third book of the Dune chronicles, tells the story of the Atreides destiny after the disappearance of Muad'dib. The children of Muad'dib, Leto and Ghanima, now must take up the heavy burden left by their father. Old faces pop up, and there are many plot twists (but do we expect any less from Herbert's grand work?). The scope of this book is much broader than in Dune Messiah, which makes it a more enjoyable read. How can a series of books continue to produce, particularly under such heavy expectations? Who knows, but Children of Dune continues the rich tradition of the series

Reading some of the other reviews for the Dune books, I see a repetition of comments like "it's good but it's not close to Dune" stuff. Sure Dune was good, but I think what gives it its quality is the intricate dialogue and depth of characters. Children of Dune not only delivers that masterfully, but I believe does it better than Dune did. After twenty pages in to the book I didn't even notice the loss of action. I became enthralled in the text, page after page of witty confrontations between Jessica and twins, Ghanima's dispise of Alia, the preacher in the street, Bene Gesserit plots, Fremen rebels...the list goes on. If you enjoy a book that doesn't just keep you interested, but one that really makes you think, this is a must-read for the continuation of the Dune series.

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