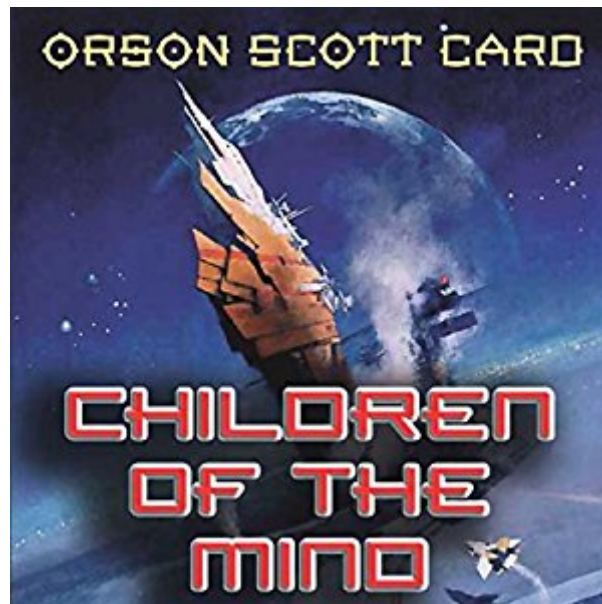


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Children Of The Mind



Synopsis

The planet Lusitania is home to three sentient species: the Pequeninos, a large colony of humans, and the Hive Queen, who was brought there by Ender Wiggin. But now, once again, the human race has grown fearful; the Starways Congress has gathered a fleet to destroy Lusitania. Ender's oldest friend, Jane, an evolved computer intelligence, can save the three sentient species of Lusitania. She has learned how to move ships outside the universe, and then instantly back to a different world, abolishing the light-speed limit. But it takes all the processing power available to her, and the Starways Congress is shutting down the network of computers in which she lives, world by world. Soon Jane will not be able to move the ships. Ender's children must save her if they are to save themselves. Children of the Mind is the fourth book in Orson Scott Card's Ender Quintet.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While reading Speaker, I read some short reviews on the books of the rest of the series, and I tried to imagine what the rest of the series would look like, given the titles and these reviews. I have to say, I was very surprised by the plot twists in Xenocide and Children, and this book gives the resolution that Xenocide withheld. It is not as dense in terms of philosophy as Xenocide was, but it gives a good response to those questions that were raised and fretted over in it. There are a few typos as there are in Xenocide, but they are not very troublesome. The characters of this book atone, and grow from the flaws that we see in the previous book, and the ending has a great climax like we see in Ender and Speaker. It's masterfully written, as are all of the books in the series and

for all the same reasons, and despite its flaws, it's a truly great book. As a whole, you cannot really judge Children without the previous books - whereas Speaker or Ender could be read without having read any of the other books, you can't really enjoy Xenocide or Children without the previous two books, and you certainly can't appreciate either Xenocide or Children to the full intended effect without getting to the end of this particular book. I am sure if you truly loved the characters of Speaker, then you will come to full satisfaction by the end of this book. Just consider Xenocide and Children as one very large novel, and I think you'll find you love them both on an even greater level.

Deep into the clever plot, finding the story fascinating, sad about it coming to the end of the series, I was disappointed when Card slowed momentum by doing one annoying thing: he delved repetitiously into the thoughts and motivations of each and every character until this reader no longer cared what anyone thought. Pages and pages of characters thinking their thoughts out loud, instead of being enlightening, deepening and expanding the character, became tedious, while the action went into a dead stop. In one case, action that was supposedly crucial to the survival of major characters, stopped while the characters verbalized their feelings for pages, and two of the main characters actually left the main room of the space ship, so they could talk alone, all while time was possibly running out. The timing is faulty here, and more than once I wished Card had a better editor. But I am glad I read the series, because it did come to an end, and I had the pleasure of reading an ingenious imaginative tale.

This chapter of the series covers a lot of ground, what is xenocide, reman, varelse? Card attempts to add new words to the disaster of war are marked heavily within this series. I found myself struggling with his vocabulary for destroyer of a race of beings and protectors of the human race. He does cause one to reconsider his/ hers outlook of humanity. Do we survive regardless of the cost to another species? What should we attempt before assuming the worst of another species? How important is communication during first contact? This is powerful look at what the cognitive thinker must consider before attacking another race? The philosophy isn't sound but it is provocative.

"A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away....," I was an avid science fiction reader. A 30-year Army career followed by 13 years as a high school history teacher put a hiatus on such reading pleasure. While teaching Military History, my students would often do book reports on "Ender's Game," and their reports piqued my interest in the book. When I learned that a film by the same name was soon to be released, I decided it was time to read the book. I did so and became hooked on the Ender

Quintet series. However, because I like matters in chronological order, I decided to read "Ender in Exile" next. "Ender in Exile" is the last book in The Ender Quintet that Orson Card wrote, but it follows "Ender's Game" chronologically. I then read "Speaker for the Dead" followed by "Xenocide" and then finally "Children of the Mind." "Children of the Mind" is a much different book from the others in the series but equals them in keeping the reader's interest. One matter continues to trouble me in all the books. I still have some difficulty understanding why Ender continued to be vilified for having destroyed the buggers' world. The explanation given appears to be a bit thin. After all, he did save the human race. So, why should he continue to be so maligned? Perhaps, I should go back and read "Ender's Game." The mutiny by Admiral Lands and his decision to launch the M.D. Device against Lusitania was not handled as well as it could have been. I have difficulty in imagining an X.O. allowing his commander to flagrantly disobey orders and kill millions without putting up a physical struggle. As presented, the X.O. quietly put his hands on his head and allowed Lands to put a docility patch on his neck. It would have been more credible if Lands had knocked the X.O. unconscious or at least held him under gun point. As a retired Army colonel, I appreciate the scenarios and leadership challenges that Orson Card presents. Tours of duty in Vietnam and India, visits to Burma, Thailand, and Sri Lanka, and teaching world religions while a high school history teacher following my Army career was of great benefit to assist my understanding of the various philosophies Card presents in his series. In "Children of the Mind," Card brings the Ender Quintet to a graceful, satisfying conclusion with closure. Readers of all ages and genre will enjoy "Children of the Mind."

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