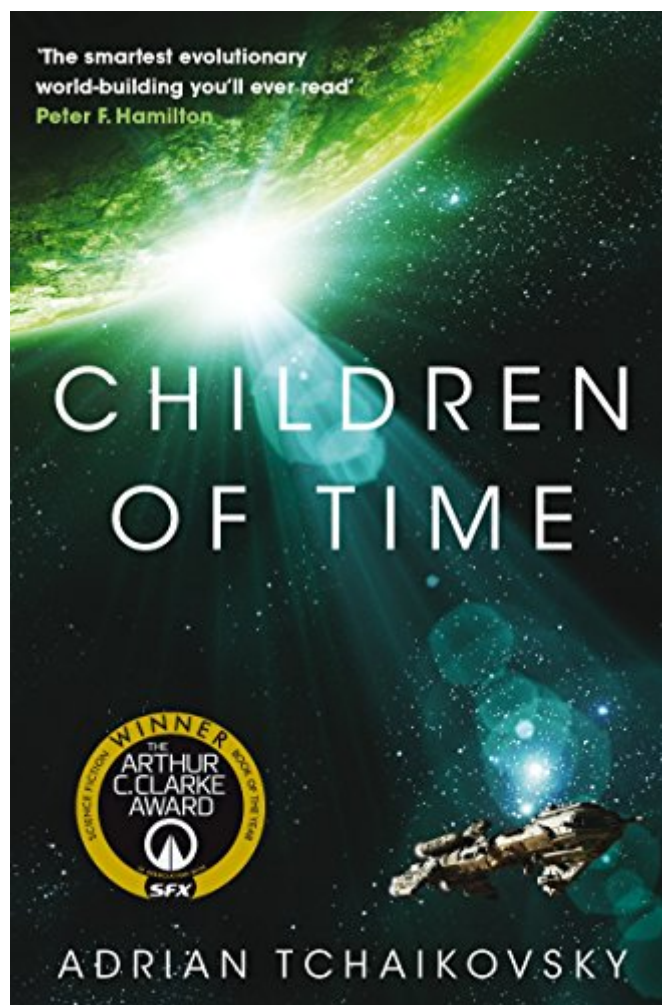


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Children Of Time: Winner Of The 2016 Arthur C. Clarke Award



Synopsis

'Children of Time is a joy from start to finish. Entertaining, smart, surprising and unexpectedly human.' - Patrick Ness
Winner of the 30th anniversary Arthur C. Clarke Award for Best Novel
Adrian Tchaikovsky's critically acclaimed, stand-alone novel Children of Time, is the epic story of humanity's battle for survival on a terraformed planet. Who will inherit this new Earth? The last remnants of the human race left a dying Earth, desperate to find a new home among the stars. Following in the footsteps of their ancestors, they discover the greatest treasure of the past age - a world terraformed and prepared for human life. But all is not right in this new Eden. In the long years since the planet was abandoned, the work of its architects has borne disastrous fruit. The planet is not waiting for them, pristine and unoccupied. New masters have turned it from a refuge into mankind's worst nightmare. Now two civilizations are on a collision course, both testing the boundaries of what they will do to survive. As the fate of humanity hangs in the balance, who are the true heirs of this new Earth?

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Customer Reviews

This book totally surprised me. there are basically two story lines running side by side. one explores a new civilization as it develops literally from the ground up. that while the other story line provides a perspective on a developed society which turns inward and barbaric. both in the same time frame, same extra-solar planetary system. the science, tech, anthropology and sociological aspects are so exceedingly well integrated into the work, just wow! i have been an avid reader of science fiction my entire life. a gift my father passed on down to me. it is exceedingly rare for me to come across a book that is so unique in both the subject matter and how it portrays the 'big picture.' anyone who enjoys smart thought provoking science fiction will absolutely be thrilled by this book.

Sometimes, science fiction is just fascinating for the ideas buried within. While I didn't fall in love with any particular character, several of them were fascinating and merit remembering. The structure of the novel and how it handles time and evolution is clever and assured. The conclusions broadcasts are at once simplistic and curious, enough of a logical structure to be believable even if sometimes simplistic. The smooth handling of high tech that doesn't become opaque to the casual reader is commendable. I look forward to reading some of Adrian's non-scifi work to see if he develops character better there when not in service to a large arc of ideas.

Loved this book. I struggled a bit at the beginning, but once I got into it I became very fond of the characters. It was a terrific conceit, an accidental evolution - best laid plans and all - and the unfolding was well thought out. Kinda reminded me of Vernor Vinge. I kept thinking about it for days afterwards and hope that he follows up with a sequel. I am usually not partial to sequels, but I would be in this case because I want to follow them on their journey. Oh, the ending was brilliant. I kept wondering how he was going to wrap it up, feared for the worst I did, but damn, it was very satisfying.

This is a fascinatingly different view on society, intelligence and evolution with great technology integration: advanced, but foreseeable, realistic. And with regards to the societal side of things (on both sides of the species divide - I won't say more so I don't spoil anything!), the author has done a great job interpreting "is", "could be" and "will likely be". It's almost like a McGyver-themed Greek tragedy, where the observer can see the climax inexorably approaching and (most of) the character(s) oblivious to what is happening to them - and both are powerless to do anything about it. (Although some try valiantly!) That being said, the story is full of unexpected twists and turns

(starting right away with the premise) that keep it lively and suspenseful. An epic (covering thousands of years, but also jumping very often, which sometimes leaves you guessing for a few pages, regarding what has happened...) tale of social and species evolution. Great reading.

I enjoyed this book but had to work at it. The lead characters are not the hero types, and I personally struggled to connect with them. The story jumps back and forth and spans generations. So you really need to pay attention. Also the technology on the new world is complicated. Ok, all that aside, this book pulls it all together. And if you stick with it, and enjoy time focused sci like I do, this story resonates. It belongs in the same category as 2 of my favorites: Poul Anderson's Boat of a Million Years, LE Modessitt The Forever Hero.

I give this a solid 4 stars and is worth picking up. If you have read any other reviews the book tells two stories at once. One of what is left of the human race, stuck on an interstellar ship whose inhabitants go in and out of cryo so that they can live forever. The other half a race of spiders created by the humans. The back and forth between the two stories made for an interesting read. However, the human story dragged on towards the end of the book, thus the 4 stars. Still worth the read though.

I must admit; the first 10% or so of this book had me thinking it was pretty weird; intelligent spiders as the main character anyone? I hate spiders so you can imagine I wasn't too enthused. But just as quickly I really got into it and really did enjoy it. It is a kind of strange concept and I've never read or seen anything quite like this but that's a good thing. It spans millennia of evolution of humans and spiders yet you can still easily follow what's going on. I highly recommend it and you'll be rooting for the spiders by the end.

Unbelievably imaginative sci-fi odyssey that spans time, space, spirituality and much more. A totally original story that is beautifully crafted by a very capable author, to be enjoyed by discerning sci-fi fans. The scope of this novel is vast and requires a certain commitment from the reader but the payoff is an amazing reading experience that will challenge the very notion of what it means to be human. If you're a fan of truly great sci-fi, this is a must read!

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