

The Fifth Child Doris Lessing

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The Fifth Child is a short novel by the British writer Doris Lessing, first published in the United Kingdom in 1988, and since translated into several languages. It describes the changes in the happy life of a married couple, Harriet and David Lovatt, as a consequence of the birth of Ben, their fifth child. A sequel, Ben, in the World (2000) recounts Ben's life after he has left his family.

The Fifth Child - Wikipedia

A self-satisfied couple intent on raising a happy family is shocked by the birth of an abnormal and brutal fifth child. About the Author. Doris Lessing was born of British parents in Persia, in 1919, and moved with her family to Southern Rhodesia when she was five years old.

Amazon.com: The Fifth Child (9780679721826): Lessing ...

The Fifth Child, Doris Lessing The Fifth Child is a short novel by the British writer Doris Lessing, first published in the United Kingdom in 1988, and since translated into several languages. It describes the changes in the happy life of a married couple, Harriet and David Lovatt, as a consequence of the birth of Ben, their fifth child.

The Fifth Child by Doris Lessing - Goodreads

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Inexorably, his alien presence wrecks the dream of their happy family. Harriets fear grows as she struggles to love and care for the child, finding herself faced with a dark sub-continent of human nature, unable to cope. With *The Fifth Child* Doris Lessing triumphs in a realm of fiction new to her. She has written an ominously tangible novel, a powerfully simple contemporary horror story that makes compulsive reading to the last word.

The Fifth Child by Doris Lessing

The Fifth Child, a novel by British author Doris Lessing, was published in 1988 and spawned a sequel, *Ben, in the World*, in 2000. *The Fifth Child*, while chronicling the plight of a family beset with conflict upon the birth of a child who is violently angry and does not conform to the traditional family structure that everyone else adheres to, it becomes more than that.

The Fifth Child Summary | SuperSummary

ALSO BY DORIS LESSING *The Grass Is Singing* *This Was the Old Chief's Country* (stories) *The Habit of Loving* (stories) *In Pursuit of the English* *Going Home ...* Lessing, Doris May, 1919– *The fifth child*. (Vintage international) I. Title. [PR6023.E833F54 1989] 823[.914 88-40379 eISBN: 978-0-307-77764-5 v3.1 CONTENTS Cover

The Fifth Child (Doris Lessing) » Read Online Free Books

Just a few months in, the fifth child is already moving around quite violently in Harriet's womb, trying "to tear its way out of her stomach." Harriet, concerned,

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visits Dr. Brett, but the doctor insists there is nothing out of the ordinary, prescribing her a sedative for her nerves. Harriet also begs her friends for additional tranquilizers, hiding this dependency from David.

The Fifth Child by Doris Lessing Plot Summary | LitCharts

Harriet, the protagonist of Doris Lessing's 1988 novel, "The Fifth Child," has a terrible feeling about her youngest son. Even in the womb, Ben's movements seem to her less like signs of life than...

Doris Lessing's "The Fifth Child" and the Spectre of the ...

I'm always glad when the Nobel Prize winner turns out to be an author I've actually read (and this happens less often than I like to admit). I've only read one Doris Lessing novel, 1989's *The Fifth Child*, but the book has stuck with me all these years. *The Fifth Child* is a fable about a happy family. They have one child and everything is great.

Doris Lessing and the Fifth Child - Literary Kicks
June 14, 1988. The Painful Nurturing of Doris Lessing's 'Fifth Child'. By MERVYN ROTHSTEIN. hated writing it," said Doris Lessing. "It was sweating blood. I was very glad when it was done. It was...

The Painful Nurturing of Doris Lessing's 'Fifth Child'
Doris Lessing's *Fifth Child* has been under the knife enough to not need any more dissections but speculations sometimes seem to make sense or worse no sense of the book. *Fifth Child* is the story of a young couple, Harriet and David who found another,

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just like them. They knew they meant it, and that they had to have a big family.

Doris Lessing's Fifth Child - The Seer

Doris Lessing was born of British parents in Persia, in 1919, and moved with her family to Southern Rhodesia when she was five years old. She went to England in 1949 and has lived there ever since. She is the author of more than thirty books—novels, stories, reportage, poems, and plays. In 2007, she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

The Fifth Child by Doris Lessing, Paperback | Barnes & Noble®

Lessing was born Doris May Tayler in Kermanshah, Iran, on 22 October 1919, to Captain Alfred Tayler and Emily Maude Tayler (née McVeagh), both British subjects. Her father, who had lost a leg during his service in World War I, met his future wife, a nurse, at the Royal Free Hospital in London where he was recovering from his amputation.

Doris Lessing - Wikipedia

Welcome to the LitCharts study guide on Doris Lessing's *The Fifth Child*. Created by the original team behind SparkNotes, LitCharts are the world's best literature guides. *The Fifth Child*: Introduction A concise biography of Doris Lessing plus historical and literary context for *The Fifth Child*.

The Fifth Child Study Guide | Literature Guide | LitCharts

Study Guide for *The Fifth Child* The *Fifth Child* study guide contains a biography of Doris Lessing, literature

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essays, quiz questions, major themes, characters, and a full summary and analysis. About The Fifth Child
The Fifth Child Summary

The Fifth Child Themes | GradeSaver

A large, happy family is disrupted by the arrival of the fifth child, who seems to be some sort of throw-back to a pre-civilised era of the human race. The novel rushes on relentlessly, aided by the absence of chapters or even page breaks, despite the fact that it covers some 20 years in the life of its protagonists.

Amazon.com: The Fifth Child (Audible Audio Edition): Doris ...

Doris Lessing pens a tale about a couple who, after four perfectly well-behaved children, seemingly out of nowhere parent a loathsome child. Partly a cautionary tale and partly just bad luck, this almost novelette is spare in the details but will give any parent pause, including myself. 4 people found this helpful

The Fifth Child by Doris Lessing | Audiobook | Audible.com

Lessing's later fiction includes *Ben, in the World* (2000), a sequel to the *The Fifth Child*; *The Sweetest Dream* (2001), which follows the fortunes of a family through the twentieth century, set in London during the 1960s and contemporary Africa; the *grandmothers* (2003), a collection of four short novels centred on an unconventional extended ...

Doris Lessing's contemporary gothic horror story—centered on the birth of a baby who seems less

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than human—probes society's unwillingness to recognize its own brutality. Harriet and David Lovatt, parents of four children, have created an idyll of domestic bliss in defiance of the social trends of late 1960s England. While around them crime and unrest surge, the Lovatts are certain that their old-fashioned contentment can protect them from the world outside—until the birth of their fifth baby. Gruesomely goblin-like in appearance, insatiably hungry, abnormally strong and violent, Ben has nothing innocent or infant-like about him. As he grows older and more terrifying, Harriet finds she cannot love him, David cannot bring himself to touch him, and their four older children are afraid of him. Understanding that he will never be accepted anywhere, Harriet and David are torn between their instincts as parents and their shocked reaction to this fierce and unlovable child whose existence shatters their belief in a benign world.

Classic horror of a family torn apart by the arrival of Ben, their feral fifth child. 'Listening to the laughter, the sounds of children playing, Harriet and David would reach for each other's hand, and smile, and breathe happiness.' Four children, a beautiful old house, the love of relatives and friends, Harriet and David Lovatt's life is a hymn to domestic bliss and old-fashioned family values. But when their fifth child is born, a sickly and implacable shadow is cast over this tender idyll. Large and ugly, violent and uncontrollable, the infant Ben, 'full of cold dislike,' tears at Harriet's breast. Struggling to care for her new-born child, faced with a darkness and a strange defiance she has never known before, Harriet is

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deeply afraid of what, exactly, she has brought into the world..

At eighteen, Ben is in the world, but not of it. He is too large, too awkward, too inhumanly made. Now estranged from his family, he must find his own path in life. From London and the south of France to Brazil and the mountains of the Andes. Ben is tossed about in a tumultuous search for his people, a reason for his being. How the world receives him, and, he fares in it will horrify and captivate until the novel's dramatic finale.

Savant mélange d'horreur et de gothique, l'œuvre de Doris Lessing raconte l'histoire d'une famille anglaise traditionnelle et conservatrice. Leur cinquième enfant naît " différent " de ses frères et sœurs. Ce " monstre " laid et repoussant devient peu à peu totalement inadapté à sa famille. Rejeté par elle et par la société anglaise des années 60-70, il s'intégrera petit à petit à un autre milieu et y jouera un rôle qui lui avait jusque-là été refusé.

In her 1985 CBC Massey Lectures Doris Lessing addresses the question of personal freedom and individual responsibility in a world increasingly prone to political rhetoric, mass emotions, and inherited structures of unquestioned belief. The Nobel Prize-winning author of more than thirty books, Doris Lessing is one of our most challenging and important writers.

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Anna is a writer, author of one very successful novel, who now keeps four notebooks. In one, with a black cover, she reviews the African experience of her earlier years. In a red one she records her political life, her disillusionment with communism. In a yellow one she writes a novel in which the heroine relives part of her own experience. And in a blue one she keeps a personal diary. Finally, in love with an American writer and threatened with insanity, Anna resolves to bring the threads of all four books together in a golden notebook. Doris Lessing's best-known and most influential novel, *The Golden Notebook* retains its extraordinary power and relevance decades after its initial publication.

The 'evil child' has infiltrated the cultural imagination, taking on prominent roles in popular films, television shows and literature. This collection of essays from a global range of scholars examines a fascinating array of evil children and the cultural work that they perform, drawing upon sociohistorical, cinematic, and psychological approaches. The chapters explore a wide range of characters including Tom Riddle in the Harry Potter series, the possessed Regan in William Peter Blatty's *The Exorcist*, the monstrous Ben in Doris Lessing's *The Fifth Child*, the hostile fetuses of Rosemary's *Baby and Alien*, and even the tiny terrors featured in the reality television series *Supernanny*. Contributors also analyse various themes and issues within film, literature and popular culture including ethics, representations of evil and critiques of society. This book was originally published as two special issues of *Literature Interpretation Theory*.

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Shocking, intimate, often uncomfortably honest, these stories reaffirm Doris Lessing's unequalled ability to capture the truth of the human condition. In the title novel, two friends fall in love with each other's teenage sons, and these passions last for years, until the women end them, vowing a respectable old age. In *Victoria and the Staveney's*, a young woman gives birth to a child of mixed race and struggles with feelings of estrangement as her daughter gets drawn into a world of white privilege. *The Reason for It* traces the birth, faltering, and decline of an ancient culture, with enlightening modern resonances. *A Love Child* features a World War II soldier who believes he has fathered a love child during a fleeting wartime romance and cannot be convinced otherwise.

From Doris Lessing, "one of the most important writers of the past hundred years" (*Times of London*), comes a brilliant, darkly provocative alternative history of humankind's beginnings. In the last years of his life, a Roman senator embarks on one final epic endeavor, a retelling of the history of human creation. The story he relates is the little-known saga of the Clefts, an ancient community of women with no knowledge of nor need for men. Childbirth was controlled through the cycles of the moon, and only female offspring were born—until the unanticipated event that jeopardized the harmony of their close-knit society: the strange, unheralded birth of a boy.

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