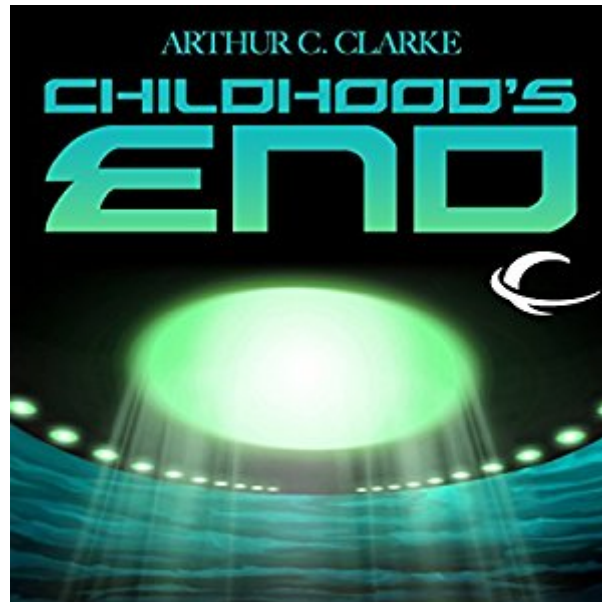




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# Childhood's End



## Synopsis

The Overlords appeared suddenly over every city—intellectually, technologically, and militarily superior to humankind. Benevolent, they made few demands: unify earth, eliminate poverty, and end war. With little rebellion, humankind agreed, and a golden age began. But at what cost? With the advent of peace, man ceases to strive for creative greatness, and a malaise settles over the human race. To those who resist, it becomes evident that the Overlords have an agenda of their own. As civilization approaches the crossroads, will the Overlords spell the end for humankind—or the beginning?" In Eric Summerer's capable hands, the plot of *Childhood's End* is smoothly presented and fully credible. Summerer excels at delivering the aliens' quiet and intensely engaging dialogue with people. His nuanced performance creates a growing feeling of uneasiness in the listener as the Overlords' insatiable curiosity and watchfulness begin to suggest something less than benign at work." —AudioFile --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I recently embarked on a project to read what I consider Clarke's "major" novels: "Against the Fall of Night/The City and the Stars

Arthur C. Clarke's wonderful imagination is showcased here in a story that spans more than a century of time and space. I really enjoyed the fact that I could never tell where the plot was headed.

The author never misses a chance to point out a seemingly small detail which he can use to make you think about a topic from a novel viewpoint. The writing style is accessible and descriptive enough to paint a clear picture without being overly verbose. This is the third book I've read by Clarke. Each one has been wholly unique in concept, and each concept was thoroughly put through its paces. I would certainly recommend any of them to anyone who enjoys science fiction.

Not merely great literature, this expands human consciousness and offers possible glimpses of humanity's future. Distant future? Perhaps, but also potentially very close to today if/when the disclosure of advanced beings becomes public and we begin to face what our place in the greater Universe might be.

Personally reading this book brings both a tear and a smile. It's the end of humanity and the beginning of our future. There is a sense of both hope and sadness. Muslims Jews Christians will undoubtedly see this as an affront to their religion, but if you approach with an open mind this book should offer some awe, Arthur C. Clarke had a brilliant mind. The book is so much better than the Syfy mini series but they did a pretty good job none the less.

If you can say "predictable", or "some twists" then you aren't realizing that this book was published in 1953 and you've been subjected to many modern movie themes that owe their plot lines to the great Sci-Fi writers of Clarke, Asimov, Bradbury, and Heinlein, to just name a few. He co-wrote "2001: A Space Odyssey", "2010", and "2030". His influence is credited by the creators of the "Star Trek" and "Alien" series. We can thank Arthur C. Clarke for envisioning GPS, and many other "science fiction to science fact" technologies that are indispensable in our lives. I am also writing this because I just received the Echo today. AMAZING! AMAZING! AMAZING! Just like "HAL 9000" in "2001", I just have to say "Alexa" and then my request. OMG!! I just asked "Alexa, close the pod bay doors." She replied, "Sorry, Dave, I can't do that. They are already closed." Read all of the best writers from that era. "Childhood's End" is a great work. And, Arthur would be pleased to know that has introduced incredible technology like his vision of robotics.

Somehow, I missed reading this one as an adolescent, when I burned through my father's sci fi collection. Like Asimov and Bradbury, Clarke's writing is very dated now. While he imagined a future world, Clarke was very much a product of his generation; he was unable to imagine beyond the 1950s role of women and could not conceive of the real pressures of overpopulation. However, it's a

really good story and I'm glad I read it.

What happens if a truly benign alien race arrives and stops war, poverty, disease and hunger in a single stroke? All without violence or revealing their appearance? Space exploration is stopped and scientific advancement re-channeled into planetary improvement so we can "catch up" with our abilities--or is there another reason? No cliché' aliens that want to eat us, enslave us, strip mine the planet or are hot for Earth women. Just a powerful and wise alien race that knows more about mankind than we know about ourselves. Childhood's End is possibly the finest, most entertaining science fiction book ever written. I've read and reread this book a dozen times and thoroughly enjoyed it each time. In some ways reminiscent of Clarke's 2001: A Space Odyssey, this easy-reading book spans decades and presents a future for the human race that is both terrifying and fulfilling.

To think how long ago this was written ....!!! What a mind the author possessed, to have thought through all the topics: history, religion, science, philosophy, psychology, etc.. Even with what we now know, more than 60 yrs later, this is a work to boggle the mind. I didn't want it to end!

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