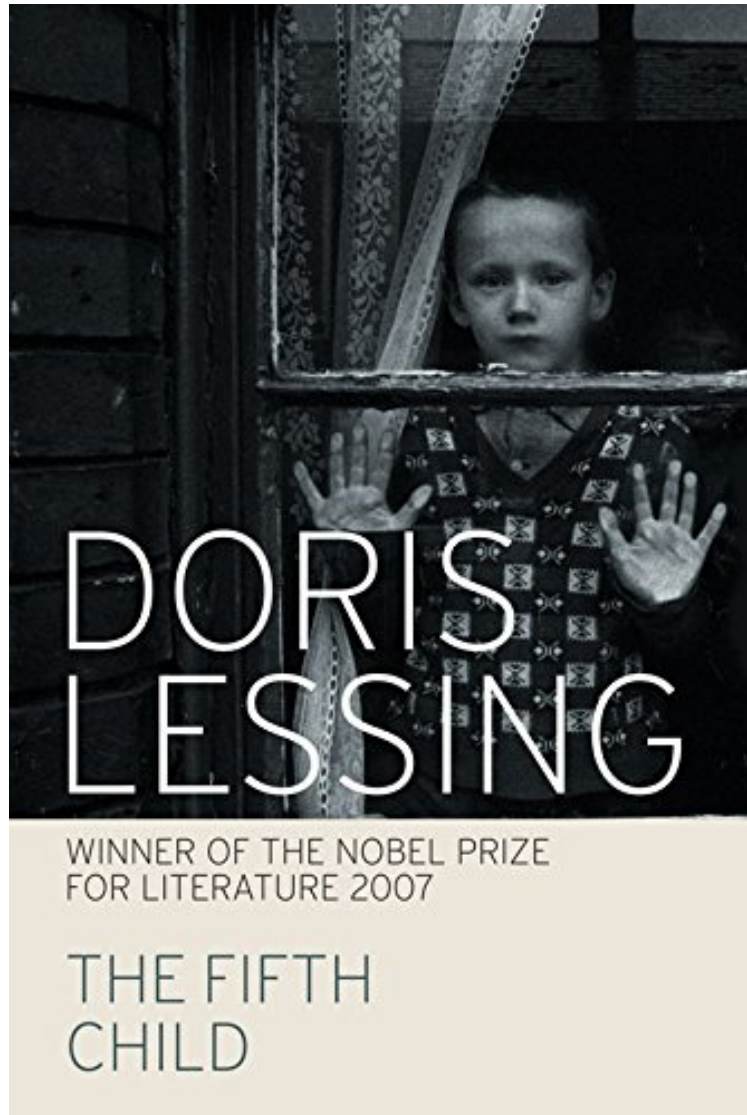


[Free] The Fifth Child (Paladin Books)

## The Fifth Child (Paladin Books)

*Von Doris Lessing*

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**Von Doris Lessing : The Fifth Child (Paladin Books)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fifth Child (Paladin Books):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Four perfect children but the fifth one a monsterVon Mark O'NeillI don't normally go for Doris Lessing's work but her recent Nobel Literature Prize win made me take another look at her work. I randomly chose "The Fifth Child" and I have to say that it is quite an interesting story.A rather smug and self-righteous couple (to the point of being annoying), Harriet and David, fall in love, get married and find a nice big country house to raise their intended future

large family. Harriet gets pregnant four times in quick succession but it's when the fifth child is conceived, that the problems start. For this child is not really human. He is unloving and disliked, his personality starting to tear apart the model family that Harriet and David have constructed for each other. If you don't normally read books like this, it can take a while to get into it. But when you do, the story is excellent. Stick with it. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ben - thrilling Von Ulrike Gabriel In this wonderful book, Doris Lessing does not get tired to describe the emotions of Ben's mother. She is probably the most helpless person in this novel: She so wants to love her child, a son hated by his environment because of his violent behaviour. When you read the novel you feel you must hate Ben but at the same time you love him. You try hard to find a good side, a smooth and tender side in this little chap, because you believe that everyone is good in his heart. You feel his environment is unfair to him, no matter what he does, no matter in what way he hurts them all. But at the same time you get scared of this boy, of the coldness of his heart. This book is absolutely exciting to read and a MUST for everyone who loves fiction that after all seems a bit realistic 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A thought-provoking book Von Ein Kunde Doris Lessing's "The Fifth Child" will be loved by some and hated by others, but it's hard to be ambivalent about a book that evokes such strong emotions in its readers. The premise of the book--how family, friends, and distant relatives deal with the birth of Ben, the fifth child of David and Harriet Lovatt--is soon overshadowed by the reader's own feelings about the characters and the values each one represents. This one is definitely worth a read. Even if you walk away hating it, it will have challenged your perception of "normalcy" and how society should deal with people who "aren't like us".

Kurzbeschreibung A classic tale from Doris Lessing, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, 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 glorious 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 newborn child, faced with a darkness and a strange defiance she has never known before, Harriet is deeply afraid of what, exactly, she has brought into the world. The married couple in this novel pull off a remarkable achievement: They purchase a three-story house with oodles of bedrooms, and, on a middle-class income, in the '70s, fill it to the brim with happy children and visiting relatives. Their holiday gatherings are sumptuous celebrations of life and togetherness. And then the fifth child arrives. He's just a child--he's not supernatural. But is he really human? This is an elegantly written tale that the New York Times called "a horror story of maternity and the nightmare of social collapse . . . a moral fable of the genre that includes Mary Shelley's Frankenstein and George Orwell's 1984." The married couple in this novel pull off a remarkable achievement: They purchase a three-story house with oodles of bedrooms, and, on a middle-class income, in the '70s, fill it to the brim with happy children and visiting relatives. Their holiday gatherings are sumptuous celebrations of life and togetherness. And then the fifth child arrives. He's just a child--he's not supernatural. But is he really human? This is an elegantly written tale that the New York Times called "a horror story of maternity and the nightmare of social collapse . . . a moral fable of the genre that includes Mary Shelley's Frankenstein and George Orwell's 1984."