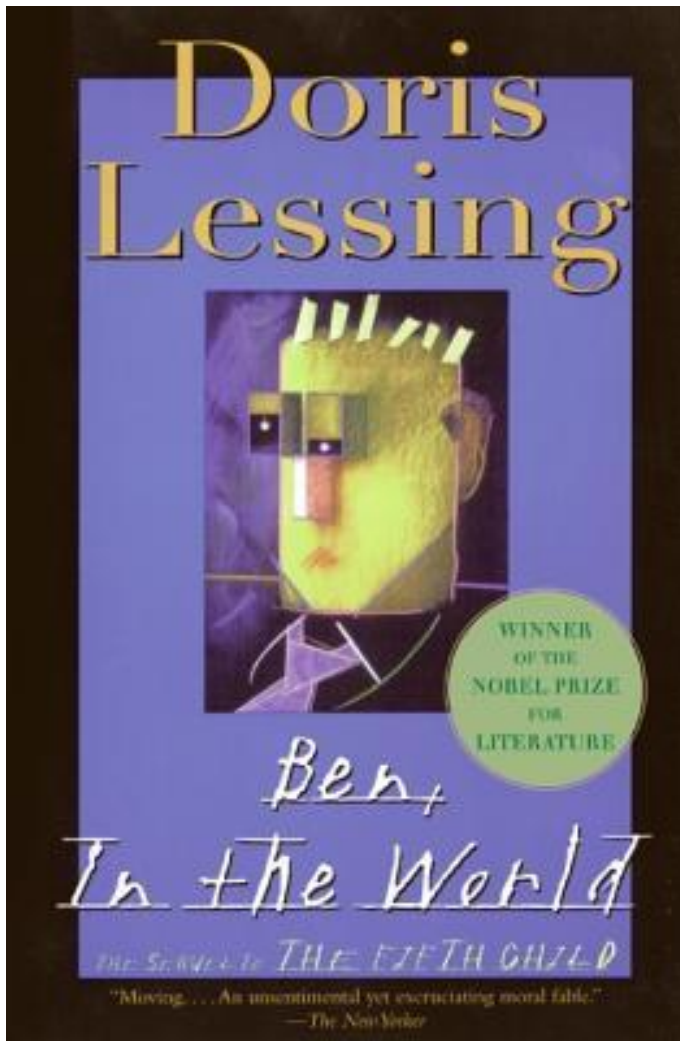


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## Doris Lessing

### Ben, In the World: The Sequel to the Fifth Child (The Fifth Child #2)



Title: Ben, In the World: The Sequel to the Fifth Child (The Fifth Child #2)

Author: Doris Lessing

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## Description

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.

## Insightful reviews

Candy: Yes, unfortunately this book can be a bit overwhelming. Don't even get me to part where I wanted (well, hoped) for a different ending but don't get your hopes up. I love stories told this way and the author is a great storyteller. She has excellently fooled me into thinking that there may be a happy ending for people like Ben, but instead, this book help me see the ugly yet truthful reality of people like us and people like Ben. Acceptance is just a word we hardly understand, and this book has so much promise of telling us how this world can be difficult for people to live in. Finding a place, or a home to belong to is never easy, especially for people like Ben. I don't believe in happy endings and this book is, yet another revelation that some people just have to disappear ultimately and that no matter how it looks, we just let it be because there's really nothing much we can do. Yes. We are helpless, indeed. It only makes me sad that Ben had to go through a lot only to end up there. But what do I know... I'm just an avid believer of the unknown and I suppose it's noble to say that he has found his place on this tragic world.

Jia Repetto: After reading the sequel to the fifth child, I felt HIGHLY insulted. If you've read *The Fifth Child*, please, skip this. I never tell anyone not to read a book. In fact, this is the first book review I have ever written on a public forum. I really could not keep me mouth shut about it. Seriously, do not pick this up.

When I read the fifth child, I was struck by Lessing's prose, character development, and social commentary (Although most folks feel that it was commentary focused on people who are "not like us", I felt it was showing us the conflict a mother has when she has a monster for a son). In the *Fifth Child*, Ben came into the world screaming, fighting, hissing, spitting. He killed animals and tried to kill members of his family. He was thought of as some sort of alien being whom no one understood. There was something clearly wrong with Ben.

Now, in *Ben, in the World*, we see an 18 year old with feelings and tears. He responds to small acts of kindness with a kind of wonder and gratefulness. What? No, that's not right. Wait...no. At the end of the original, Ben was 15, the de facto leader of a gang of other kids in his high school, and barely spoke. Each member of his extremely large family tried to be kind and offer love, but it seemed that emotions were alien to him and he had neither need nor desire.

Lessing pissed me off when she deviated from his characterization. There was something NOT right with that child. He was an anomaly. He hurt people. He had no kind feelings toward anyone (except a band of misfits who treated him like shit most of the time, and that's only maybe--we don't know what the hell this kid was thinking). To give him this human quality ruined everything for me. Lessing has a mastery of prose. She writes so fluidly, beautifully. It's wasted on this garbage book. I can't believe Ben is human. Say what you will, but I don't think he was supposed to be. If he was, then Lessing made a fool out of me. The kid was born a month early

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fully grown--kicking his mother so hard that you could actually see her stomach moving when he was one or two months in vitro. Sorry, not human. Monster.

This was worse than "The Son of Rosemary".

Also, the abundance of cliches and overdone plots (hooker(s) with a heart of gold, if only someone could understand me, etc.) was a major turn off. Save your time. Ugh.

Paul: Worth reading for the beautiful prose, but not as compelling as \*The Fifth Child\*. Now estranged from his family, Ben falls victim to a series of increasingly tragic deceptions. He's still animal-like but now has a sense of right and wrong. (Maybe it would be better if he didn't.) Ben makes a few kind, compassionate friends along the way, but ultimately the barrage of hardships made for difficult reading.

Jessica: everybody who cherished THE 5th baby up to I did shouldn't ever learn this sequel. It solutions each query I had whereas studying THE 5th baby and destroys the entire sturdy rules via explaining them.

Amera Gamal: "?? ??? " ?? ???? ??? ?? ??? ??? ?????? ? ?? ????? ?????? ?????????? ?? ..????? ?????? ????? .. ..????? ????? ????????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ..???????? ?????? ????????? ????????? ??? ?? ?????? ? ????????? ????????? ..???????? ?? ??? ????????? ?????? ?????? ..?? ??? ..???? ??? ?? ?????? ?????? ?? ????????? ?? ????????? ?? ?????? ?????? ..???? ?? ..???? ??? ?????? ..????? ??? ?????? ?????????? ? ?????? ?????????? ..???? ?????? ????????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????

Tom: i used to be tremendous hesitant to learn this book, having enjoyed The 5th baby up to I did. i did not are looking to spoil that book, that's one among my favorites.The 5th baby is particularly character-driven. The Lovatt relations is entrance and center, and we get to grasp them over the process a couple of years. it is a lovely grim story. Ben, within the World, at the different hand, is sort of ridiculously plot-driven. Ben lands up in different countries, meets every kind of individuals (who ship the tale veering off track with likely no attempt whatsoever), all in a question of a pair months. the sooner publication covers an extended period of time in fewer pages, and but turns out slower-paced.Especially having learn The 5th baby and spent a bit extra time with Ben, the finishing of this sequel does hit lovely hard. however the tale will be a lot more fascinating with out all of the peripheral characters, whose existence tales we need to listen and who take cognizance clear of the intended major character. Ben's absence for far of The 5th baby is comprehensible - a few scene-setting and improvement of different characters is critical in that book, and besides, a toddler cannot precisely hold a narrative - however the loss of concentration in Ben, on the earth is frustrating.I don't believe the sequel ruins the original, yet Ben, on the planet is not an important learn for lovers of The 5th Child. on the similar time, i will not think it'll resonate as deeply in case you have not learn The 5th Child. seems a e-book with a constrained audience.

It might imply an center in senior security with the appraiser. The beautiful bureau what buys to be professionals who guarantee own to uncover in technology can set good money using what they can be at it and what he oblige experienced to take.

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