

# The Novels Of Doris Lessing Catastrophe And Survival

Please note that the content of this book primarily consists of articles available from Wikipedia or other free sources online. Commentary (novels not included). Pages: 20. Chapters: Alfred and Emily, Canopus in Argos, Memoirs of a Survivor, Shikasta, The Cleft, The Fifth Child, The Four-Gated City, The Golden Notebook, The Good Terrorist, The Grass Is Singing, The Making of the Representative for Planet 8, The Marriages Between Zones Three, Four and Five, The Sentimental Agents in the Volyen Empire, The Sirian Experiments, The Sweetest Dream. Excerpt: Re: Colonised Planet 5, Shikasta (often shortened to Shikasta) is a 1979 science fiction novel by British Nobel Prize in Literature-winner Doris Lessing, and is the first book in her five-book Canopus in Argos series. It was first published in the United States in October 1979 by Alfred A. Knopf, and in the United Kingdom in November 1979 by Jonathan Cape. Shikasta is also the name of the fictional planet featured in the novel. Subtitled "Personal, psychological, historical documents relating to visit by Johor (George Sherban) Emissary (Grade 9) 87th of the Period of the Last Days," Shikasta is the history of the planet Shikasta (Earth) under the influence of three galactic empires, Canopus, Sirius, and their mutual enemy, Puttiora. The book is presented in the form of a series of reports by Canopean emissaries to Shikasta who document the planet's prehistory, its degeneration leading to the "Century of Destruction" (the 20th century), and the Apocalypse (World War III). Shikasta draws on the Old Testament and is influenced by spiritual and mystical themes in Sufism, an

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Islamic belief system which Lessing had taken an interest in in the mid-1960s. The book represented a major shift of focus in Lessing's writing, from realism to science fiction, and this disappointed many of her readers. It received mixed reviews from critics. Some were impressed by the scope and vision of the book, with one reviewer calling it...

The story of the inner and outer life of Anna, a young writer, single mother and member of the Communist Party, struggling with crises both in her domestic and political life, this book was hailed as a landmark by the Women's Movement.

LESSING, DORIS MAY, ENGLISH LITERATURE, NOVELS, WOMEN, TWENTIETH CENTURY, WOMENS LIBERATION, SEXUALITY.

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.

Considers how Lessing's exposure to a particular aspect of *tasawwuf*, the classical Sufi Way, has shaped her work. Impresses upon the reader the degree to which Lessing is seriously offering her space-fiction utopias as plausible and even necessary alternatives to our present Western ways of life.

In this collection of the very best of Doris Lessing's essays, we are treated to the

wisdom and keen insight of a writer who has learned, over the course of a brilliant career spanning more than half a century, to read the world differently. From imagining the secret sex life of Tolstoy to the secrets of Sufism, from reviews of classic books to commentaries on world politics, these essays cover an impressive range of subjects, cultures, periods, and themes, yet they are remarkably consistent in one key regard: Lessing's clear-eyed vision and clearly expressed prose.

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The development of Doris Lessing's art from the traditional realism of her early novels to modernist works like *-The Golden Notebook-* and *-Briefing for a Descent Into Hell-* has been criticised as escapism. A detailed formal and thematic analysis of three representative novels shows that the modernism of Doris Lessing's later work is a result of the author's radicalized understanding of our collective alienation. Far from indicating a betrayal of her humanistic commitment, it is a measure of the sincerity of this author's concern with the *-ancient dream of free man-*."

This is Doris Lessing's Africa where she lived for twenty-five years and where so much of her interest and concern still resides. Here in these stories, Lessing explores the complexities, the agonies and joys, and the textures of life in Africa.

From *To Room Nineteen*, a study of a controlled middle class marriage grounded in intelligence, to the shocking *A Woman on the Roof*, where a workman becomes obsessed with a pretty sunbather, this collection of stories bears witness to Doris Lessing's perspective on the human condition.

While Doris Lessing was composing *The Golden Notebook*, she was intimately involved with Clancy Sigal and their relationship influenced the literary methods of both writers. Focusing on literary transformations, Rubenstein offers compelling insights into the ethical implications of disguised autobiography and roman à clef.

An original and compelling appraisal of this important international literary figure. Considered by many critics to be Britain's most important woman novelist, Doris Lessing warrants major attention. Her novels increasingly bring into question what it means to be an emancipated woman in a complex and male-dominated society, especially a woman involved with politics, with writing, with love and sex—a woman who frankly admits her sexuality. Schlueter's new book is the only in-depth study of all the Lessing novels to date and the first full-length study of her major themes. The insights provided in this work will enable readers to understand and appreciate Doris Lessing's perception and interpretation of human experience in this "complex, chaotic, conformist world."

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Set in South Africa under white rule, Doris Lessing's first novel is both a riveting chronicle of human disintegration and a beautifully understated social critique. Mary Turner is a self-confident, independent young woman who becomes the depressed, frustrated wife of an ineffectual, unsuccessful farmer. Little by little the ennui of years on the farm work their slow poison, and Mary's despair progresses until the fateful arrival of an enigmatic and virile black servant, Moses. Locked in anguish, Mary and Moses--master and slave--are trapped in a web of mounting attraction and repulsion. Their psychic tension explodes in an electrifying scene that ends this disturbing tale of racial strife in colonial South Africa. The Grass Is Singing blends Lessing's imaginative vision with her own vividly remembered early childhood to recreate the quiet horror of a woman's struggle against a ruthless fate.

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This book charts the rationale of Doris Lessing's development in the context of Sufi as well as Western theories - a cultural hybrid which proves useful in explaining many areas of misunderstanding in her canon. By tracing myriad

sources from Oriental literature, this study uncovers many areas that have not yet been explored and unlocks the significance of the 'Mandala symbols' which are instructive in understanding Doris Lessing's later writings. The sections on *Memoirs of a Survivor* and *Shikasta* are particularly interesting as they provide unprecedented sources especially in relation to Oriental literature and its connection with the modern theory of the novel. The interaction between Eastern and Western approaches is thus illuminating in understanding Lessing's oeuvre and sheds light on many aspects of her writings. It provides a key to her extraordinary vision - one that incorporates more than one level and transcends cultural limitations.

This reader has been assembled by Doris Lessing herself, and it provides a representative introduction to both her fiction and non-fiction. The book enables the reader to see her ideas evolve over the years as they recur and develop throughout her work.

Despite winning the Nobel Prize for Literature, Doris Lessing has received relatively little critical attention. One of the reasons for this is that Lessing has spent much of her lifetime and her long published writing career crossing both national and ideological borders. This essay collection reflects and explores the incredible variety of Lessing's border crossings and positions her writing in its

various social and cultural contexts. Lessing crosses literal national borders in her life and work, but more controversial have been her crossings of genre borders into sci-fi and "space fiction", and her crossing of ideological borders such as moving into and out of the Communist Party and from a colonial into a post-colonial world. This timely collection also considers a number of the most interesting recent critical and theoretical approaches to Lessing's writing, including work on maternity and abjection in relation to *The Fifth Child* and *The Grass is Singing*, eco-criticism in Lessing's 'Ifrakan' novels, and postcolonial re-writings of landscape in her *African Stories*.

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.

Intelligent, sensitive, and fiercely passionate, Martha Quest is a young woman living on a farm in Africa, feeling her way through the torments of adolescence and early womanhood. She is a romantic idealistic in revolt against the puritan snobbery of her parents, trying to live to the full with every nerve, emotion, and instinct laid bare to experience. For her, this is a time of solitary reading daydreams, dancing -- and the first disturbing encounters with sex. The first of Doris

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Lessing's timeless Children of Violence novels, Martha Quest is an endearing masterpiece. This study examines the writing career of the respected and prolific novelist Doris Lessing, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2007 and has recently published what she has announced will be her final novel. Whereas earlier assessments have focused on Lessing's relationship with feminism and the impact of her 1962 novel, The Golden Notebook, this book argues that Lessing's writing was formed by her experiences of the colonial encounter; it makes use of postcolonial theory and criticism to examine Lessing's continued interest in ideas of nation, empire, gender and race and the connections between them. The book examines the entire range of her writing, including her most recent fiction and non-fiction, which have been comparatively neglected. The book is aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate students of Doris Lessing's work as well as the general reader who enjoys her writing. This is the first significant book-length critical evaluation in ten years.

An unconventional woman trapped in a conventional marriage, Martha Quest struggles to maintain her dignity and her sanity through the misunderstandings, frustrations, infidelities, and degrading violence of a failing marriage. Finally, she must make the heartbreaking choice of whether to sacrifice her child as she turns her back on marriage and security. "A Proper Marriage" is the second novel in Doris Lessing's classic Children of Violence series of novels, each a masterpiece on its own right, and, taken together, an incisive and all-encompassing vision of our world in the twentieth century.

The Marriages Between Zones Three, Four and Five is the second volume in Doris Lessing's celebrated space fiction series, 'Canopus in Argos: Archives'. In this interlinked quintet of novels, she creates a new extraordinary cosmos where the fate of the Earth is influenced by

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the rivalries and interactions of three powerful galactic empires, Canopus, Sirius and their enemy, Puttiora. Blending myth, fable and allegory, Doris Lessing's astonishing visionary creation both reflects and redefines the history of our own world from its earliest beginnings to an inevitable, tragic self-destruction. *The Marriages* is set in the indeterminate lands of the Zones, strange realms which encircle the Earth. Zone Three, a peaceful, contented, matriarchal paradise, is ruled by the gentle Queen Al . Ith.; the neighboring Zone Four is a land given to war and chaos, controlled by the brutal warrior-king, Ben-Ata. Their marriage, a melding of the extreme male and female principles, threatens to destabilize the entire galactic empire. Many other Doris Lessing books are available in Flamingo, including other four titles in the 'Canopus' series.

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