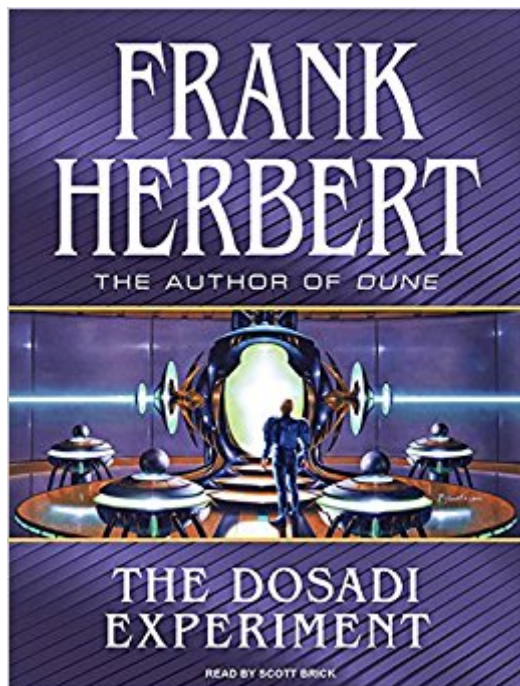


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The Dosadi Experiment



Synopsis

Generations of a tormented human-alien people, caged on a toxic planet, conditioned by constant hunger and war-this is the Dosadi Experiment, and it has succeeded too well. For the Dosadi have bred for vengeance as well as cunning, and they have learned how to pass through the shimmering God Wall to exact their dreadful revenge on the Universe that created them...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For Dune "A portrayal of an alien society more complete and deeply detailed than any other author in the field has managed" "a story absorbing equally for its action and philosophical vistas". An astonishing science fiction phenomenon." "The Washington Post "Powerful, convincing, and most ingenious." "Robert A. Heinlein "Herbert's creation of this universe, with its intricate development and analysis of ecology, religion, politics, and philosophy, remains one of the supreme and seminal achievements in science fiction." "The Louisville Times --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Frank Herbert's most popular works are the well-known Dune books: Dune, Dune Messiah, Children of Dune, and the extraordinary bestseller God Emperor of Dune. Scott Brick has recorded over five hundred audiobooks, won over forty AudioFile Earphones Awards, and twice received Audie Awards for his work. Scott was chosen as Publishers Weekly's 2007 Narrator of the Year, and he has been named a Golden Voice by AudioFile magazine.

So first the Kindle version of this book has NO chapter marks so the entire book is "chapter 1" which considering this is from a major publisher and is a book by one of the best SciFi authors of all time is nothing short of a tragedy. At least I didn't find stupid OCR bugs/typos, etc. That said, I didn't knock off any stars for this failing. So I came into this without reading "Whipping Star" before it. No real problems following along, understanding the characters or the universe, but the writing can be quite dense at times (much like Dune). Overall, the story is interesting and in typical Frank Herbert fashion, he digs into a lot of philosophical questions about society and government. The main character is interesting and well developed, but you wouldn't confuse him with another Muad'Dib even though they share a similar story arch. Like Dune, the universe and secondary characters are relatively well developed. I'd argue the Dune universe is more flushed out, but it's also a 6 (not 8!) book series. The thing which really bothered me however was how often Herbert ended up "telling" rather than "showing" in order to explain something that happened in the story. This is always a risk when you go deep into foreign cultures which have rules so different from our own, but Herbert is a master storyteller and I've seen him do better (ex: Fremen culture and the Bene Gesserit). And it's not just one or two scenes, but rather almost every time our protagonist (who is a human) is talking to anyone else. To make matters worse, this flaw was turned up to 11 during the dramatic final scene where the main character (who is playing a "defense" lawyer) is making these tactical and strategic moves to box in the prosecution during the trial. This pattern of "so and so says X" and then Herbert having to explicitly explain to the reader why this was important prevents me from even considering this a 5 star book. Maybe if Herbert had watched more Perry Mason he would of done better? :) That said, if you enjoyed Dune, then you'll almost certainly enjoy The Dosdi Experiment. There are definitely fewer characters with crazy names which can be difficult for some readers. That said, there are numerous points throughout the book where the writing does present challenges if you're trying to read while dealing with background distractions. I found myself re-reading some passages 2 or 3 times to make sure I really got it because occasionally the writing was so dense and not always clear. Dune was also a times a dense/difficult read, but this seemed a little different. And like Dune, the "fake" quotes preceding each chapter were some of the most highlighted passages in the book. I also got the strong feeling that Herbert was playing with some ideas in this book which ended up becoming Dune which provides the aware reader some "ah ha!" moments when you make the connection. In that way, it's another layer which to analyze this book seeing the similarities in the characters and universe. For example...[LIGHT SPOILERS]... you have the Dosadi who are confined to their world, to allow the Gowachins a longer than normal lifespan- much like

how the Fremen are limited to Dune and the spice has geriatric properties. How are they forced on their own planet? Why via a contract with the Calebans- much like how the Spacing Guild controlled who was allowed to enter/leave Arrakis. The Dosadi themselves have a unique culture thanks to their environment- much like the Fremen culture is defined by the desert. There are other characters with multi-faceted eyes, just like a gholas would have. In both, the savior of this isolated world is someone from another world.

If you are a Frank Herbert fan and you haven't read this book then you are missing out in a major way! If you study any kind of sociology or psychology and you haven't read this book then you are doing yourself a disservice. And finally, if you are a science fiction fan and you haven't read this book- or any Frank Herbert (because I can't imagine you would read something like Dune and then NOT try to find everything he wrote) then where the heck have you been? Frank Herbert was phenomenal and we lost him all too soon. The Dosadi Experiment is a classic example of the work and imagination of Frank Herbert. He presents amazing characters- some that couldn't be more alien to us, yet the stories teach us profound lessons about ourselves. Pick this up. Read it several times. You'll get more out of it every single time.

Although Dune is absolutely superb, I think the confluence of ideas in The Dosadi Experiment is even better, a complex and subtle work that makes the reader work to really enjoy the many levels of its brilliance. The trial which serves as the climax of the plot is a true gem.

Imagine a universe where you could travel anywhere just by opening a doorway. Imagine if those doorways were created, on demand, by sentient beings. Imagine if those sentient beings were represented by yellow-giant stars. Imagine if one of those were hiding a secret experiment? Most of the story follows one person's attempt to break free from the experiment, and another person's attempt to find and break into the same. The story covers their worlds, and the politics surrounding them, both in known and secret organizations. There's no "Dune" feel to this, but some of the struggles parallel from a high-enough view. The author is a bit wordy, but it works fairly well as an audiobook.

while i enjoy audio books for fiction, this is my first of Herbert's works on audio book. his writing style might not be the best suited for audio books with a single reader, given the frequent character and setting changes... but being able to roll right through ~11 hours of material so easily isn't ever a bad

thing

the book came in amazing condition, this is an amazing read be sure if you want to read this book you read 'The Whipping star" first...also amazing and the prequel to this one.

More of Mr Herbert's excellent world building. This, along with Whipping Star, make up the beginnings of the ConSentiency Universe. It would have been great if Frank could have added more novels in this universe. Very different from his Dune series, but with the same layered writing and exciting intrigue at every turn. Read Whipping Star first!

After the 1st Dune book, probably one of Frank Herbert's finest, most compelling books. The worlds he created: Gowachin courtrooms, where the innocent are guilty A world sealed away from the universe, for very nefarious reasons (sorry, can't give spoiler) A government bureau devoted solely to slowing too-efficient and/or evil organizations I've read it at least 3 times, and may read it again. Always finding something new.

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