



The Dune Collection

Frank Herbert

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Herbert's evocative, epic tales are set on the desert planet Arrakis, the focus for a complex political and military struggle with galaxy-wide repercussions. Arrakis is the source of spice, a mind enhancing drug which makes interstellar travel possible; it is the most valuable substance in the galaxy. When Duke Atreides and his family take up court there, they fall into a trap set by the Duke's bitter rival, Baron Harkonnen. The Duke is poisoned, but his wife and her son Paul escape to the vast and arid deserts of Arrakis, which have given the planet its nickname of Dune. Paul and his mother join the Fremen, the Arrakis natives, who have learnt to live in this harsh and complex ecosystem. But learning to survive is not enough - Paul's destiny was mapped out long ago and his mother is committed to seeing it fulfilled.

The Dune Collection Details

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From Reader Review The Dune Collection for online ebook

Adon Coya says

A must read, not only by scifi fans, but also for its literature, its philosophy, ... - it's an ageless book for everyone.

James says

Dune is a masterful piece of writing, with a beautifully realised world - the politics, Arrakis itself, the people - all well thought out and plausible. I think what Herbert does well, is although the world and the people are alien, the reader can relate to them. I find too many sci-fi authors are so interested in creating exotic worlds and peoples that they forgo characters readers can relate to and as result, the stories miss that emotional hook.

In my opinion, Dune is the strongest of the books, with Children of Dune second. Although I enjoy Dune Messiah, I can't help but shake the feeling that it is there to link Dune and Children of Dune together. I know it was written before Children but that is the feeling I get.

I haven't braved the other books in the Dune series, I have heard they dip in quality and I don't want the original trilogy tarnished.

Jan-Maat says

Frank Herbert's Dune was in part inspired by his experience working in a research centre in California studying desertification. The realisation of the interrelationship of environment, people and culture coming out of that experience is a key feature of the series. At the centre of the first novel is a desert planet, Arrakis, and the secret desire of its inhabitants to transform it's ecology. It is a great science-fiction novel about systems of power and the role of ecology, although admittedly delivered in an accept it or loath it writing style and with various weird ideas including: Feudalism in space, a stress on lineages in which nonetheless many of the women seem to be mystic-concubines, homosexuality is shorthand for depraved evil, and space Arabs with blue eyes.

The sequels are not fascinating unlike the first novel. Full of enthusiasm after reading *Dune* I read Dune Messiah but it is one of those books that divides the fans from the readers I suppose.

In Children of Dune we see the surface of Arrakis beginning to change as the plans to transform the ecology of the planet are being put into effect, and some of the social implications of those changes beginning to emerge, but the book is not as packed with ideas as Dune. For something similarly ambitious yet more consistent in its delivery (& I lost interest in this series as it ran on and on) I personally prefer Brian Aldiss' Heliconia Trilogy.

The weight of the ideas is really all placed in the first volume. The Feudal-Federalism of the Space-Empire, the breeding programme to create a Messiah figure who can guide humanity towards an unpredictable future, the land makes the people and the people make the land, the replacement of computers with specialised people. The subsequent books are really just the working through of the ideas set out there. It is all inevitable

and the reading as a result is poorer.

Dune perhaps epitomises science-fiction. The willingness to embrace big ideas and show them playing out on a broad canvas married to uneven writing and a certain 'what-the Hell-ness' as the author lays out their pet sociological/anthropological opinions. The David Lynch film, I feel, captures the oddness of the reading experience quite well and perhaps sets about chopping at the text with a brutality which oddly appropriate. Alternatively it offers a combination of the latter books of the Old Testament with a sensitivity towards the influence of the environment upon man and of man upon the environment. At points this works on its own terms, at others it rather strangles itself with its own pretensions. You have to read it to believe it.

Jay says

The latter novels did not have the clarity of vision and meaning that the first does

Apatt says

A lot of people only read the first book, including people who seldom read sci-fi and people who only read just this one sci-fi book. The other two books are definitely worthwhile, especially the third volume (I have not read anything subsequent to the third book). If you are interested these are my reviews:

1. Dune
 2. Dune Messiah
 3. Children of Dune
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Mikhail Konstantinov says

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Tanabrus says

Nel complesso un tomo affascinante, sorprendente alla luce degli anni trascorsi dalla scrittura di questi libri.

Dune, il primo libro, è... potente. Straripante, innovativo, precursore. Ci mostra la fantascienza fantasy che è poi entrata di forza nell'immaginario collettivo con Star Wars.

Un impero galattico di stampo feudale, un pianeta rigidissimo popolato dai Fremen (che decenni dopo ispireranno non poco Robert Jordan), una setta di donne dotate di poteri (ancora, Robert Jordan ma anche Goodkind, per esempio). Il ripudio dei computer e l'arrivo dei Mentat.

Gli anni hanno comunque imposto il loro fardello a quest'opera: le distinzioni sono tra bianco e nero, mancano le sfumature che ormai conosciamo bene. I cattivi sono malvagi, i buoni sono Santi.

E i tanti salti temporali per coprire la parte centrale della storia li ho sopportati pochissimo.

Ma resta comunque un grandissimo libro, una pietra miliare.

Si arriva al secondo. Messia di Dune.

Che è abbastanza deludente, più che un secondo libro è un epilogo del primo.

Ci mostra la situazione dopo Dune, proseguendo nello stratagemma dei salti temporali per raccontarci senza mostrarci, e così sappiamo che la tremenda jihad dei Fremen è già arrivata e passata. Gioia!

La storia è incentrata semplicemente su un complotto contro Muad'Dib, in un caleidoscopio di piani e visioni tra le varie parti in causa. Fino a concludere la storia di Muad'Dib.

Non che sia brutto, ma è... poco. Anche dieci anni fa, alla prima lettura, ne rimasi deluso.

Poi chiudiamo questa prima trilogia con I figli di Dune.

Leto e Ghanima, i figli di Paul Atreides, sono bambini ed eredi al trono imperiale. Zia Alia governa in loro vece. Nonna Jessica è sul vecchio pianeta degli Atreides.

In tutto questo però ci sono i piccoli dettagli dei pre-nati. Paul, Ghanima e Alia sono tutti nati già consapevoli, con una moltitudine di identità pregresse dentro di loro.

Scopriamo che Alia è diventata un'Abominazione, soggiogata dalla coscienza del vecchio barone Harkonnen (quello che essendo cattivo era il Male impersonificato). E ora vuole distruggere tutto ciò che gli Atreides hanno significato o creato.

Un bel libro, macchiato un po' troppo dal fatto che io lettore mi ritrovo a osservare senza comprendere, mentre tutti i personaggi o quasi si muovono all'interno di visioni dalle quali noi siamo esclusi. Tutti hanno i loro progetti, le loro visioni, i loro secondi o terzi giochi. Noi ci nutriamo famelici di pochi frammenti lasciati qua e là, ma non ci bastano!

Molto interessanti comunque le analisi politiche di Leto e di Alia sulla civiltà imperiale, su come la vittoria e la ricchezza abbiano cambiato i Fremen e su come la prosperità stia uccidendo Arrakis ponendo le basi per la sua stessa rovina.

Nel suo insieme una lettura davvero affascinante, piacevole, rivoluzionaria.

In futuro mi dedicherò sicuramente alla rilettura degli altri tre libri.

Shimon de Valencia says

The mythos the late Mr Herbert Has bequeathed to us either enraptures or bores the reader. I am of the former, this is mature, intellectual, dramatic science fiction that still resonates as a warning about power and its dangers. I seem to read this every few years and never tire, nor fail to gain a new insight. Simply put, glorious.

Jenny Stanfield says

I don't know why I was so determined to finish this trilogy - but I just had to know how it was going to end. If the trilogy was like the last 50 pages of the last book, fast-paced, full of action and startling twists and turns, I would have loved it. Sadly, most of the 3 books are focused on political debate, prophecies of the future, and spice-beer, spice-coffee, spice-clothes, spice everything.

The books felt a lot like Game of Thrones to me, but more inter-galactic and scheming rather than throwing down the sword. The story had a lot of potential, so I couldn't give up on it, but I felt constantly let down by the robotic prose and lead-ups to nothing.

Tatiana says

This remains, for the time being, my favourite series. The story is intricate and well developed and perfectly balanced so that you do not lose sight of the other points of view in the book while focusing on a specific character's story. I found this book to be the well of clear water that I needed so badly in a rather dry existence. I remember having read the trilogy as well as the other books in under 2 weeks time, therefore this represents a personal epiphany and these books shall forever be the dearest and most valued memories of all that I have read.

I highly recommend it for any SF fan (next to Asimov's Foundation).

Mike says

The Dune series by Frank, not the son, form one of the pillars of my dreams over the decades since I read the first book. Somehow the imagery plays out in my mind far better than the attempts made by Hollywood. Unfortunately, I donated my original set, with the original covers, when I moved a few years ago - the new books don't smell the same and don't have the familiar paper feel I grew accustomed to while reading them during finals week year after year.

The blend of science-aversion, exploitation of the naive by systematic manipulation of religion and witchcraft, and the harsh realities of life in a barren and mineral depleted desert is astounding.

I love these books!

Freya Roberts says

The 'Lord Of The Rings' of science fiction, I started reading my aunt's battered old copies while stuck in America in the spring and found it absolutely wonderful. Intensely gripping, I enjoyed it so much I went out and bought my own copy of the trilogy. Incredibly dense and rich with detail, these books are totally unputdownable, and the intrigue will keep you turning pages for hours. Loved them so much I named one of my cuddly toys Gurney Halleck :)

Troy says

OK - let's cut through the BS.

This is - quite simply - the most magnificent Sci-Fi epic ever written.

The scope of Asimov's Foundation, the attention to detail and context of Tolkien's LotR, coupled with an unmatched visionary socio-ecological messianic narrative that is scarily relevant today.

Anyone who likes Sci-Fi and who hasn't read this needs to get a copy. And read it. Now.

Joshua Tintner says

My friend warned me: it goes down after the first book. But I couldn't help myself and ordered this trilogy the day after finishing Dune. I was not interested as much in the plot, which can dawdle on forever like so many once-great sci-fi series, but rather in how Frank Herbert continued exploring the big ideas of Dune: the Middle East/Dune parallels, Church-State, climate change, the competing myth creations of Paul vs the BG...

Book II (Dune Messiah) is the fall of Paul and Book III (Children of Dune) focuses on the Atreides who were born on Dune (Paul's sister Alia, and Paul's twins). From a reading of other reviews, many people apparently lost interest at book II; however, I was drawn in by the new characters and intrigued by the big arc of Paul's willing self-destruction. The plot was not as compelling as Dune, but it also was not leaning on the archetypal outline of the child-turned-hero myth. So as I began book II, I thought that my friend's judgment was off: while the trilogy was not equal parts greatness, it was building upon the masterpiece into something more.

Book III got off to a promising start, with new characters (Farad'n, the grandson of the former Shaddah Emperor, and his entourage) and a more abstract focus on the dangers inherent in all of the "children of Dune" as a result of their having been born with a multiplicity of personalities and memories. Leto emerges as the protagonist, who is seeking a path that will correct the errors of his father.

At this point, I was still hooked. "What does he see that Paul did not?" "How will this insight shift my understanding of the big issues?" But then, slowly, Leto's thoughts and philosophy became harder for me to follow. Is the Golden Path Leto's rule or Farad'n (who is described with plenty of gold imagery)? Is Leto prescient or has he avoided that temptation? By destroying the qanats, isn't Leto turning the planet back to desert and thereby saving the worms, but if so, why will the worms die in 100 years? Harum??

It was this muddying of the big issues that left me dissatisfied, because if those had stayed coherent in my head (which may be the fault of my reading and not the writing), then I might not have found some of the plot twists so absurd (Leto becoming a worm) or the personality changes unconvincing (Paul to Preacher; Alia to Abomination).

So I won't be reading any more Dune books, but I could see myself coming back to this series again and giving the third book another chance. I'd love to find that I had missed subtleties and that Herbert's grand vision was simply too all-encompassing for me to take in at first try.

Nooilforpacifists says

First book (loosely based on story of Mohammed) is second best SF ever written. Books two and three, inevitably, fall off.
