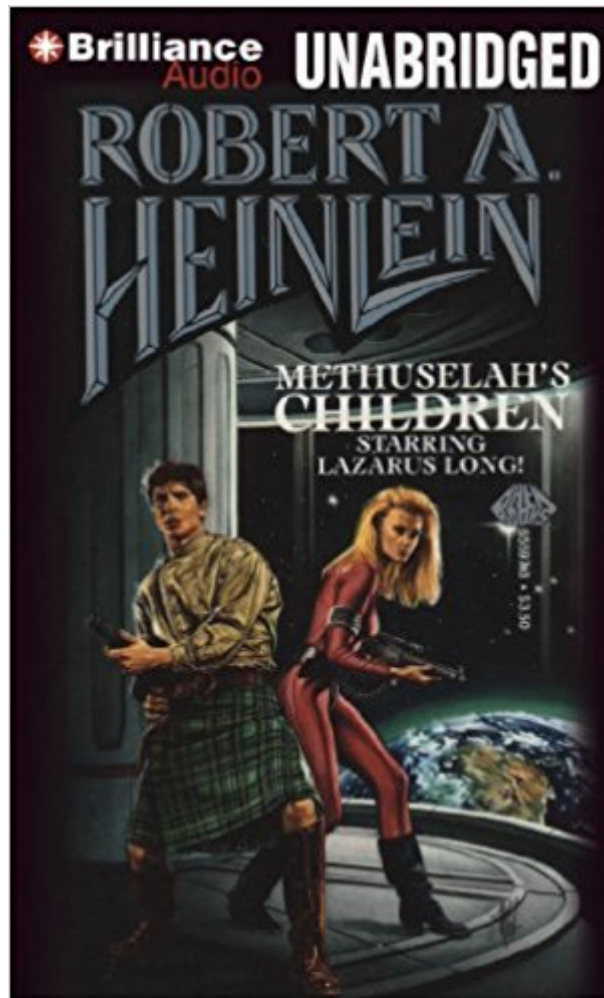




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Methuselah's Children



Synopsis

After the fall of the American Ayatollahs as foretold in *Stranger in a Strange Land* and chronicled in *Revolt* in 2100, the United States of America at last fulfills the promise inherent in its first Revolution: for the first time in human history there is a nation with Liberty and Justice for All. No one may seize or harm the person or property of another, or invade his privacy, or force him to do his bidding. Americans are fiercely proud of their re-won liberties and the blood it cost them; nothing could make them forswear those truths they hold self-evident. Nothing except the promise of immortality.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert A Heinlein is considered one of the Big Three of classic science fiction (along with Isaac Asimov and Arthur C. Clarke). Heinlein is a seven-time Hugo Award recipient and was given the first Grand Master Nebula Award for lifetime achievement. Heinlein's juveniles alone have influenced generations of scientists, engineers and creators the world over (for instance, it was once estimated that everyone in the Apollo 11 mission control room had read and loved at least one Heinlein novel). His worldwide bestsellers include *Have Space Suit - Will Travel*, *Stranger in a Strange Land*, *Starship Troopers*, *Time Enough for Love*, and *The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress*. MacLeod Andrews is an actor, voice actor, and audiobook narrator. He has narrated dozens of audiobooks, earning eight AudioFile Earphones Awards and placing as a finalist for the prestigious Audie Award for best narration in 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, and 2015. He is a company member of Rising Phoenix Repertory in Los Angeles.

It's the future. And some people have twice the normal lifespan. This carefully guarded secret becomes known to the general public who demand access to life-extending medical treatments. Unfortunately there aren't any. The longevity enjoyed by members of the "Howard Families" results from naturally-occurring genes and selective breeding. The public is disbelieving, envious, and angry. Efforts are commenced to extract the secrets of extended life through force. Most members of the Howard Families go into hiding. In the middle of this crisis Lazarus Long, the oldest living Howard, reappears. Long presumed dead*, Lazarus has mastered the skills of secrecy and survival. He leads the Families in a bold attempt to leave Earth and colonize planets around other stars. The story follows Lazarus and his co-conspirators in their quest for a new home. This is the prototypical Robert Heinlein science fiction novel. It ties together earlier works in his Future History series and links it to the following series (beginning with *Time Enough for Love*) that focuses on Long and his family. Lazarus is clearly another version of the author's recurring "Grouchy Wise Old Man" character. He is quick-tempered, opinionated, and peppers his dialogue with useful nuggets of knowledge. He is also a dirty old man, which Heinlein goes to great pains to justify. How-to science is center stage as Long delivers extended descriptions of spaceship piloting, exobiology, and so on. This book may also be the best "read it first" Heinlein work. If you are a science fiction fan and haven't read it, do so. If you don't have it in your library of science fiction classics, you should. If like me, you are moving your library onto your Kindle, go ahead and buy it a second time. It shouldn't be left behind as you move into your own future history. _____*Sorry about that.

Robert Heinlein at his best! The introduction to the character Lazarus Long is in this book as well as a passing nod to "Slipstick" Libby. The characters are engaging and the story is quick moving, as well as, logically sequenced to resolve the initial dilemma. He does not monopolize the podium with the author's philosophies, but allows his characters to speak for themselves. The story starts with a group of people called the "Howard Families" made up of people with extraordinarily long lives. And Lazarus Long is the oldest one. He had not been participating in the meetings for quite some time (because of an allergic reaction to politics) but he thought he might find out about current events by attending a meeting. He stuck his nose in just in time to become the central mover in saving the "Families" from disaster. And so the adventure begins. This book is the prequel to Heinlein's *Time Enough for Love* and the further adventures of Lazarus Long. A very good book from the author that started my addiction to SF.

Im a big Heinlein fan. I read all his books when I was a kid ... so purchasing them now is a walk down memory lane. That having been said, this is not one of his best. Still ... I always enjoy his writing.

Heinlein's "future history" is already dated, i.e., everyone smokes, converts letters of credit to cash, no computers, etc. However, he is still the master.

I love all things Heinlein but I love this book especially. Lazarus Long is a wonderful character with some great perspectives on life. Obviously, this is science-fiction but characters who are long lived have been fodder for the sf crowd as long as stories have been told. This is a story of people who have gone through natural selection to achieve their long lives and are then persecuted for it when they are found out. The persecutors, that would be all of us who do not possess this gift of long life, are trying to force these 'Methuselahs' to give up their secret. However, because the secret is no more than good genes, a good man finds a way to help these folks leave the planet in favor of searching the stars for a new home. As you may imagine, adventures are had and planets are indeed explored. More than the adventure, though, the book addresses many issues of long life and keeps you engaged in speculation. The main protagonist is a bit of a libertarian (as is Heinlein) so some of his ideas and solutions lack nuance but it's a fun read nonetheless.

The book was shipped quickly, was in better than expected condition and the price was good. Other than this the book is a delight to read. It's a great story and fun to read. I recommend it highly.

Heinlein wrote this book in 1958. if you like good science fiction and Heinlein, you will like this book. He addresses what happens in the world when a group of people live who do not age and die normally, but live for many years. Well done concept, and likable characters. He addresses the use of large spacecraft that are capable of moving to other worlds, and do so when required for the survival of the people who do not grow old and die normally. As can be expected, not aging and dying creates problems with envy by others with charges that they will not share a secret that will enable everyone to not grow old. Very human thoughts and emotions. Lots of practical thoughts and issues of space travel are essentially ignored, or only touched on lightly.

"Methuselah's Children" by Robert Heinlein is another brilliant and original storyline from a master storyteller who is revered throughout the world for his imagination and world building skills. I loved

this story but found certain chapters to be overly dedicated to the scientific explanationS rather than the human equation so it dragged a bit for me. But I would recommend it for the entertainment value to anyone who loves the sci/fi adventure genre...

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