

Children of the Mind Study Guide

Children of the Mind by Orson Scott Card

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Plot Summary

Children of the Mind is the fourth and final novel in the Ender quartet, continuing precisely where Xenocide leaves off. In fact, the novel begins even at the moment when Si-Wang-mu, the young servant girl from Path, joins Ender's brainchild Peter to join him in his mission to stop the Lusitania Fleet from destroying Lusitania. Meanwhile, Ender's stepson Miro and Young Valentine, Ender's other child of the mind, continue scouting for new habitable planets. Jane, the incredible being who dwells in the computer and long distance communication networks, rapidly moves colonists off the planet using her newly acquired ability to affect instant interstellar travel before her own imminent destruction because of Starways Congress ordering her shut down.

With catastrophe around the corner, Jane and her allies could sorely use Ender's help but Ender, fatigued by over 3000 years of actively steering the fate of the human race, retreats into the monastic order "The Children of the Mind" in order to reconcile with his estranged wife, Novinha. Miro entreats his assistance, but Ender refuses, feeling absolved from responsibility as he has created Peter and Val, two alternate versions of himself, to continue his work. He even offers Young Val's body to Jane, telling Miro that she is welcome to it if she can find a way to inhabit it before she is shut down. Yet maintaining three separate bodies is a strain on Ender. Not only is Young Val disintegrating, but also Ender himself collapses, near death, with the effort of keeping three bodies alive. At Miro's urging, the Hive Queen begins working with her sisters and the pequenino fathertrees to discover a way to save Jane by helping her move into Young Val's body.

Peter and Si Wang-mu begin their journey on the planet of Divine Wind. It's a world founded by Japanese colonists, in order to meet Aimaina Hikari, the Japanese philosopher who is the intellectual and spiritual head of the Necessarian school. Hikari was responsible for swinging the Starways Congress vote to send the Lusitania fleet. Their visit distresses him greatly. He turns to a friend on the world Pacifica for advice, prompting Peter and Wang-mu to visit there in order to attempt to sway Hikari's friend. On the Samoan world of Pacifica, Peter and Wang-mu consult the holy man Malu who advises them that Jane can indeed be saved and that Jane can inhabit "one but not both" of either Peter or Young Val's body.

The network shutdown begins, and Jane begins losing her abilities, her memories and even her sense of self. Human and the Hive Queen, using the greatest philotic web ever spun, manage to catch Jane's aiua (life force) and guide it to Ender's. Ender's aiua attempts to lead Jane's into the various bodies it inhabits but Jane's transfer to human form is unsuccessful. At the deepest level of his being, Ender is unable to surrender any of the bodies and even though Jane's aiua is powerful enough to take a body by force, it realizes it cannot exist in a body that would be in perpetual rebellion. Jane's aiua continues to explore and temporarily comes to inhabit the philotic connections among the mothertrees, which prevents her from dying.



Having scrambled in time to mount what could be a final and fatal mission to the descoladores' home planet before Jane's shutdown, Miro and Young Val are joined by Ela, Quara, the pequenino Firequencher, and a Hive worker. This enables them to keep in contact with the Hive Queen and therefore Lusitania. Young Val realizes she will not be able to give up her body to Jane unless she is convinced she has to die. She goads Miro into a terrible fight during which he convinces her that everyone aboard the ship wants her to die so they can live. Meanwhile, at Val's prompting, Novinha tells Ender she wants him to live as Peter and releases him from all obligations he has to her. This time, the aiuas move again, permanently. Val's sweetness and Ender's aiua move into Peter making a complete being. Jane's aiua assumes control of Young Val. However, Jane does not immediately regain her former abilities, and Miro's spacecraft continues to orbit the descoladore planet without any definite hope of return to Lusitania.

On Pacific Wind, Peter and Wang-mu are taken to a university to see the new "godproof" computer system brought online. Jane's allies and worshippers have managed to network thousands of computers and link them illegally to Starways Congress ansibles. Though the hardware represents a fraction of Jane's former capacity, she is able to retrieve her most vital programs and memories and reestablish herself. The new hardware, however, restricts her. It is not until she discovers how to use the phlotic network among the mothertrees for storage that she regains sufficient capacity to once again initiate faster than light travel. Just as Jane is regaining her former abilities, the alert comes: the Lusitania Fleet has entered into range and deployed the Little Doctor. With no more than an hour left, Jane begins moving every colonist she can off the planet.

Jane enlists Peter's help, and he and Wang-mu take the Little Doctor aboard a shuttle making full use of Jane's abilities. Peter and Wang-mu return the evil device to the cargo hold of the very same ship that launched the weapon. The admiral in charge of the fleet has little success arresting Peter and Wang-mu given the ease with which Jane is able to teleport them from location to location. Before long, the admiral's first officer disables the Little Doctor, and Peter disarms the admiral, accidentally breaking two of his fingers. Grudgingly, the admiral is convinced to file a report with Starways Congress that explains how the descolada threat has been neutralized and that the Lusitania Rebellion was really little more than a misunderstanding.

Now that Lusitania has again become safe for colonists, many return from the new worlds. Ender's friends and family gather to lay him to rest. His student, Plikt, speaks his death. The same day he is laid to rest, Peter marries Wang-mu, and Jane weds Miro in a double, private ceremony. The novel ends with Jane transporting herself and the other newlyweds to some unknown location.



'I'm Not Myself'

'I'm Not Myself' Summary

Children of the Mind is the fourth and final novel in the Ender quartet, continuing precisely where Xenocide leaves off. In fact, the novel begins even at the precise moment when Si-Wang-mu leaves Path with Peter to join him in his mission to stop the Lusitania fleet from destroying Lusitania. Meanwhile, Miro and Young Valentine continue scouting for new habitable planets while Jane moves colonists off the planet as quickly as she can manage before her own imminent destruction because of Starways Congress shutting down the ansible networks.

Si Wang-mu follows Peter aboard his faster-than-light ship, which to her looks nothing like an interplanetary vessel. Really just a large box with a computer, a couple of seats and a cooler, Wang-mu enters the ship to find Peter deep in dark reflection. "I'm not myself," he tells her. "I'm not really Peter Wiggin." His problem, he explains, is a result of his creation. Having been called into being by accident during Ender's first trip to Outspace, Peter is not really a complete human being. Rather, Peter was created out of all the negative aspects of Ender's own character, primarily his ruthlessness and ambition.

In fact, even Peter's memories are not those of the ancient Hegemon, Peter Wiggin. Instead, they are the memories that, at some sub-conscious level, Ender thought he should have. His head is stuffed full of Shakespearean quotations but lacks all the experiential knowledge that the real Peter Wiggin acquired once Ender left Earth at 5-years-old. In addition, Peter complains, he is incomplete in the sense that any redeeming aspects of his character have been left out and cruelty dominates. He describes himself as "Andrew Wiggin's Nightmare" and "Andrew Wiggin's self-loathing." Even with Wang-mu herself, whom Peter has never met, Peter is antagonistic.

While quarreling, he tells her she may step off the ship. She is aghast, asking him if he intends for her to step out into the icy vacuum of space. He mocks her supposed intelligence, assuring her that they have already arrived on the planet of Divine Wind, that in fact Jane had already completed the trip before she was comfortably seated. He asks her if she knows how the ship works, since it relates to his creation. She tells him what she knows: by holding a perfect picture of the ship and everything inside it in her head, Jane is able to move the ship into Outspace (literally out of space) and then back to the ship's destination, which can be an inch or an entire galaxy away from its starting point. Since in Outspace, matter exists without form and an infinite number of aias exist that are hungry for a form, Ender inadvertently brought back versions of his brother and sister, Valentine. Miro, Ender's debilitated stepson, also inadvertently created a restored body for himself during that first test-flight.

Once Peter has stepped out onto the surface of Divine Wind, Wang-mu follows him. In order to make a point she captures a bee in her hand and throws it at him. Caught off



guard, Peter scrambles to get away from the angry insect and then demands to know what she is up to. Her point is, she tells him, that when confronted with the angry bee, it wasn't Ender back on Lusitania filling his consciousness and making him react. It was himself. The implication is, she insists, that he is free to be his own person and need not act out the script written by Ender. Since she has proven that he is able, she insists that he "better be nice" to her. Still, they both have a great deal of anxiety about whether Peter is up to the many challenges that lie ahead. The original Peter Wiggin, who eventually came to rule Earth, would have the charisma and resources necessary, but, alas, Peter is not himself.

'I'm Not Myself' Analysis

Peter's personal crisis serves as an effective means of introducing a couple of very significant problems that we, as readers, will hope are resolved before the end of the novel. On the one hand, we wonder if Peter can possibly triumph over the enormous challenges he faces when Ender has effectively stacked the deck against him. On the other hand, the novel is set to explore the nature of free will itself. Si-Wang mu insists that Peter be nice to her and that he has the ability to choose not to act on his more undesirable impulses, but given the number of taunts and barbs he throws at her in the first chapter, his ability to do so is in serious question.

This chapter, filled more with Peter's introspection than any other in this or the preceding novel, also allows us to see Ender from a different perspective. As Ender saved Earth while still a child and went on to write many great texts (The Hive Queen was so influential that a number of religions made room for it in their own teachings), he is often idealized. Yes, Peter is a physical manifestation of Ender's own negative character traits but the greater concern is that on some level Ender's idea of his own brother is perverse and distorted enough to have recreated him this way.



'You Don't Believe in God'

'You Don't Believe in God' Summary

Back on Lusitania, Ender tries to reconcile with his wife, Novinha, who has entered the religious order Children of the Mind of Christ. At first, she refuses to see him on the pretense that she is busy weeding. Ender, not to be dissuaded, enters the garden and takes up a hoe, tilling the row next to where his wife is working. Stubbornly, she does not acknowledge his presence until he is able to goad her into speaking by pointing out to her that she can only fully join the Children with him by her side since it is a married order. She tries to convince him that he does not belong with her, and that there is much she can do, even without being a full member. He counter argues that they took an oath before God that cannot be easily thrown aside. He cannot stay. She reproves him, since he fundamentally does not believe in God.

In the course of their discussion, Novinha remembers her dead men: first Pipo, the colony's original xenobiologist who became like a father to her until a group of Pequenino's tried to grant him a third life but only effected his brutal murder. To protect his son Libo, the father of all her children, she married an impotent but brutal man named Marcao who abused her severely but never revealed the central lie of their marriage: that all their children were the result of her adulterous affair with Libo. Too soon, she lost Libo as she had Pipo and even Marcao died leaving her alone until Ender came and spoke their deaths and both healed and married her.

Several years later Novinha told Ender that she would hold him personally responsible for whatever happened if he did not use his influence to prevent her son Quim, father Estevao, from embarking upon a mission to stop the rogue pequenino fathertree Warmaker from spreading the descolada throughout the galaxy. Quim was held against his will and died. He suffered the effects of the deadly descolada virus when Warmaker denied him the supplements that would have helped his body fight the malignant virus. Even though Quim's death was the initial catalyst for their separation, Novinha assures her husband that she does not bear a grudge. In fact, she tells him, she realizes that she loves him more and has missed him more than she has ever missed anyone else, including her former lover Libo and her own children. In fact, having cleared the air between them, she grants him permission to stay with her.

'You Don't Believe in God' Analysis

By joining the Filhos (Portuguese for 'Children' and often used as a short reference for the Children of the Mind), Ender has effectively retreated from the rest of humanity at a time when he is desperately needed. In part, he can justify retreating because he has left his own 'children of the mind' Val and Peter behind to continue his work. Still, at every other major crisis in human history over the last 3000 years, and a great number of significant events in between, Ender has been there to guide and lend the benefit of



his extraordinary analytical mind. The thought of Lusitania being destroyed by the fleet or humans encountering the makers of the descolada virus without Ender's involvement is both difficult to conceive and terrifying.

With respect to Novinha, this chapter continues her own personal history, which has been difficult and tragic in many ways. Given that she seemed determined to leave her husband forever, the question of whether she still loves him is answered. She does, but his love is not enough to erase all the pain she has endured, more importantly, joining the Filhos offers her a chance to spend the rest of her life atoning for her many years of adultery while married to Marcao. Her own work as the colony's chief xenologist is finished, with her own daughters Quara and Ela having surpassed her in their work fighting the descolada. Her final words ending the chapter are quite telling. She prays that God will let her die before Ender, so she does not have to bear his loss. Above all else, leaving Ender has enabled her to break the pattern of loving men who die on her.



'There are Too Many of Us'

'There are Too Many of Us' Summary

Miro and Young Valentine continue the work they have been engaged in since shortly after the time when Jane and Ender's stepchildren worked out the logistics of faster than light travel. At the rate of about three planets a day, they voyage in a conventional spacecraft, using Jane's ability to send them instantly to prospective planets in order to assess whether they are suitable for colonization or not. The work is exhausting and Miro truly marvels at how Young Val is able to keep going without wearing out the way he does, sometimes needing to rest while she keeps working. During their return to Lusitania one day, Miro is greeted by his brothers, sisters and Old Valentine, which alerts him to some sort of meeting about to take place.

They inform him that Ender has retreated into the Filhos (The Children of the Mind) at a time when they could sorely use his guidance. Jane will be shut down any day and even with her working at maximum capacity shuttling colonists off Lusitania to new colony worlds, there are too many for everyone to be saved. Since Miro is in contact with Jane through a transceiver he wears in his ear, just as Ender used to, they reason that Miro might be able to persuade Ender to talk to Jane again. Miro pleads for rest before making a decision and Old Valentine talks him and Young Val into returning to her home in order to get proper rest.

The next morning, Miro rises early to find both Vals already awake and in conversation with one another. They have been discussing the nature of her existence and the similarities she bears to Gepetto's puppet, Pinocchio. Old Val tries to reassure her that Ender does not want to control her and that he would cut the strings if he could, bringing Young Val to tears. Her problem, she reveals, is that Ender does not have the ability to keep three different bodies functioning. At some sub-conscious level, she is losing his attention and it is causing her to literally fade away in the same way that Miro's crippled body disintegrated during the first test-flight. For emphasis, she pulls out a large clump of hair, easily. She is convinced that her body is turning to dust. Peter, on the other hand, is not faced with the same danger since his work is inherently more interesting to Ender. He has been charged with stopping the destruction of Lusitania along with the many buggers, piggies and humans who are unable to escape the planet. They debate whether they should tell Ender what is happening but decide it would be futile since Val's deterioration is not a result of Ender's conscious wish.

Back in his room, Miro hears Old Val compliment him to Young Val, saying that he is as like Ender as anyone in the whole universe for having sacrificed himself while trying to save the piggies and carrying the residual pain to this day. Jane speaks to him, inviting him to acknowledge that hearing of Young Val's impending death has caused him to discover that he loves her. Miro returns that Jane is just jealous, that she wants him for herself.



Miro does go to speak to Ender. He asks him to talk to Jane or to rejoin the real world, which Ender refuses. He also charges him with killing Young Val by not spending enough time paying attention to her. They have an awkward moment when Ender suggests that Miro is attracted to young Val who is something like Ender in a wig. Ender remains determined to not talk to Jane and to stay among the Filhos. Just as they are parting, Ender calls back to Miro that if Jane can figure out a way to do it, she is welcome to have Young Val's body. As Miro leaves, Jane raises the question of whether it might not be murder for her to take Young Val's body and risk extinguishing the young girl's will. Miro thinks of how entirely attached Ender is to his mother and debates with himself whether he could ever be that fully committed to young Val.

'There are Too Many of Us' Analysis

The chapter's title is significant in several different ways. On one level, it refers to the great number of colonists who are too numerous to make a safe exodus from Lusitania before the fleet arrives. On another level, it refers to Ender who has split himself into three separate beings. In fact, she jokes, even though there is only one of her, according to Starways Congress that has resolved to end her existence, one is still too many. There is significant irony in the fact that Ender, his family and friends are making some of the most important advances in the history of human kind and Starways Congress, which should be leading humanity to new heights, threatens to undo all their progress. Ender and his associates are responsible for developing significant diplomacy in terms of co-existing with buggers and pequeninos. Additionally, they have done some of the most important scientific work ever including advances in immunology to eliminate the descolada as a threat and faster than light travel.

The moral question about the ethics of transferring Jane into Val's body is troubling. There is an argument to be made that she is not even human given that she is controlled by Ender's aiaa and cannot even exist without his attention. At the same time she acts, talks, thinks, remembers and works like a human being and is developing her own experience independent of Ender. To end her existence purposefully would seem like murder in all but the most technical or theological senses (the church refuses to baptize or even acknowledge their existence). However, even if moving Jane into her body is murder, there are other issues to consider, as well. Young Val will certainly die soon since her existences cannot outlast Ender's. Also, by giving Jane her body, she enables Jane to promote peace and friendship between humans, buggers and pequeninos alike.



'I am a Man of Perfect Simplicity'

'I am a Man of Perfect Simplicity' Summary

Peter and Wang-mu begin to establish themselves on the planet of Divine Wind, with considerable help from Jane. They need not learn a new language since even though Divine Wind was originally a Japanese colony, it now hosts visitors from all over the Hundred Worlds and its inhabitants speak the common tongue, Stark. After emerging from the forest, they present themselves to an official as having lost their documents while hiking and are quickly verified when the official checks their computer records that are all in order, courtesy of Jane. They are given new documents and even transportation in a government car back to the city of Nagoya, where Jane has even arranged for a fully furnished apartment for them.

They spend some time in the apartment settling in. Wang-mu bathes while Peter watches an ancient Japanese drama. Peter showers while Wang-mu begins listening to local news and weather. They dress, again, in clothes Jane has arranged for them and Wang-mu proposes that they eat out. At dinner, Wang-mu is subjected to more of Peter's verbal cruelty. He actually stops at a point when he feels he has gone too far, explaining that he thought they were just bantering. He returns to the apartment ahead of her and she notices on the way out how self-conscious he seems in his new clothes.

The next morning, when Wang-mu rises, Peter explains the fictitious identities that he and Jane have worked out for them in order to meet the man they seek, Aimaina Hikari. Peter is to play the role of physicist and Wang-mu is to assume the role of gnomish philosopher. Aimaina Hikari, Peter explains, is an analytical philosopher so she could not hope to impersonate one without him detecting the fraud. On the other hand, gnomish philosophers tend to speak in enigmas and she can pass herself off as one by speaking in enigmas such as "The woodpecker attacks the tree to get at the bug" leaving the listener to decide how to apply the metaphor. Peter reminds her that even though Aimaina Hikari does not belong to any school of philosophy, he has the reputation of being the keeper of the Yamato (true Japanese) spirit. He has the influence to get the swing vote in Starways Congress to reverse their position on the Lusitania fleet, which is that complete destruction of Lusitania is necessary in order to prevent the spread of the descolada to other planets. Here, not Starways Congress, is the center of power in the hundred worlds. Ironically, the Necessarians in Congress, whom Peter and Wang-mu are hoping to sway, hold Ender up as an example they are determined to follow. When at war with the buggers, they argue, Ender did not just reduce them to a fraction of their former strength. He actually destroyed them entirely so that they could never threaten humankind again.

At Hikari's place, they are greeted by Hikari himself and a great deal of wrangling takes place in order for Hikari, Peter and Wang-mu to assume the most humility. When Hikari claps his hands for tea, Wang-mu jumps up in order to assist his servant. Peter and Hikari himself quickly join her. A circus of servility ensues with Hikari pouring tea for his



servant and spilling it upon himself following Peter's lead. The "game" ends with Wang-mu uncertain of who has really proven himself the most humble. Was it her since she was the most servile, or was it Hikari because he had allowed her to occupy that position? Regardless, Wang-mu begins a discourse before Hikari on Edge nations and Center nations tracing their origin all the way back to the oldest civilizations on Earth. Hikari seems genuinely impressed, mentioning that she is a philosopher indeed. She continues her lecture, moving into Japanese imperialism checked only by America's use of the atomic bomb. The question Japan now faces she points out is whether it is an Edge nation or whether it has become a Center nation like America, 3000 years ago.

Hikari is distressed since underlying Wang-mu's question is the idea that a silent revolution has taken place within the Hundred Worlds and Japan is now in control. Prior to their visit, he could have lived with the fleet's destruction of Lusitania since he would have regarded it as a resolution of all humanity. The Japanese people may be the most influential group in congress and within their power to stop the fleet. This means that if the demolition of Lusitania goes forward, Hikari himself would have an unimaginable amount of blood on his hands. Hikari is enraged, even calling them "assassins of the heart." They leave rather abruptly and Peter is beside himself with jubilation. Not only is he convinced that Hikari is stirred up enough to act, he says that Jane was also able to determine that Hikari himself is a secret disciple of Ua Lava when he protested that he was merely "a man of perfect simplicity." Ua Lava, or "enough," is a Samoan religious movement and Peter explains that it is thriving on the planet Pacifica. They need only wait to see whom Hikari contacts and then approach that person. They return to their starship and Jane moves them to Pacifica.

The next day, back on Divine Wind, Hikari is still extraordinarily agitated by the previous day's visit. He goes to his computer and asks it to search out some information on yesterday's guests. Not too personal, he instructs, not wanting to interfere with their privacy. However, his computer is unable to locate any trace of either of them having ever existed. This adds to their mysteriousness, and he feels that they have been sent by the gods to tell him the truth he needs to hear. He drafts an email explaining his dilemma and sends it to Pacifica, enabling Jane to determine who has the power to influence him.

'I am a Man of Perfect Simplicity' Analysis

Card's willingness to embrace history and politics in this chapter demonstrates his range and ability as a writer. Not merely limited to science fiction, Card is able to abstract ideas from his own reading in order to envision a foreseeable future in which Japanese culture has moved from the margins of power to occupy the epicenter, just as historically other cultures such as China, America, Rome, Egypt and Mesopotamia have done the same thing.

In his Afterward to the novel, Card writes that while reading a history of Japan's involvement in World War II, he discovered that the real impetus to continue Japanese expansionism came from the mid level rather than the senior officers, who were afraid

of losing face by appearing to back down. Thus, an entire country was driven to carry its war effort beyond the point of sustainability, even though senior officials knew that effort was doomed. Card explores this concept to some degree in *Children of the Mind*. Very few individuals are in favor of the Lusitania fleet destroying the planet and eradicating the pequeninos and yet somehow a majority is reached in *Starways Congress*.



'Nobody is Rational'

'Nobody is Rational' Summary

Miro, along with Young Val, visits the Hive Queen in order to seek more information about how to get Jane's aiua into Young Val. Val protests that doing so will cut her off from her deepest self and, in effect, be the end of her. Miro is indignant, assuring her that he has thought it through and reminding her that she is dying regardless of what they do and that without a body, Jane will die along with her capacity to help humans, pequeninos and buggers. She agrees to see the Hive Queen but warns that she will not permit him to end her life.

A worker meets them at the entrance to the Hive and leads them in through dark, twisting passages. Even before Miro and Val are in front of the Hive Queen, she warns him telepathically that she does not want to do the thing he wants her to do, namely help find a way to bring Jane's aiua into Val's body. She protests that doing so is complicated now because Jane is a full self, rather than a single aiua craving connection. The Hive Queen tells the humans to go away and withdraws their guide, but Val coerces her by running toward the Hive Queen in the dark. The Hive Queen is alarmed, since Val runs the serious risk of falling down a shaft in the dark. The queen relents, gives Miro back the guide and Val makes her own way into the chamber. In her presence, Miro asks why she continues to build so many starships now that they have found and established enough colonies to ensure pequenino and bugger survival in the universe. The queen suggests that there is a greater danger with which they should be concerned, that Jane is not really sending them out looking for other worlds, but in fact that she has a hidden agenda. Ultimately, the Hive Queen promises to look for a way to move Jane into Val's body, in fact, she states, she is already in discussion with Human and Rooter, her daughters and Jane herself to discover how it may be done.

While returning to the starship both Jane and Val are angry with Miro who defends himself saying that they should not be angry with him for being the only one of the three who is taking action. They continue to discuss what might happen if the transfer of Jane's aiua is affected. Val argues that Jane is too important to merely become a subconscious source of will for Val, in other words, she will need to retain her awareness too, but combining their memories is problematic since it could lead to insanity with two parallel sets of memories in the same being. Although Val quarrels with him, she has no suggestions of her own about how they should proceed. She also questions Miro's motives since he professes to love her, but has known and loved Jane longer. She also questions whether in her place, Miro would give up his own body. He candidly confesses that he would not, not to save the whole universe but that Val is different. He reminds her that Ender created her as the perfect altruist, without the slightest bit of resistance ingrained in her being. He also assures her that he is in a special position to understand the impact of her assuming Jane's aiua since his own moved from his debilitated body to his present one. He tries to embrace her, but she



pushes him away telling him he'll have to wait until Jane has the body before he can touch it.

Jane tries to speak to Miro but he is snappish because he says that she does not trust him to tell him the real reason she has kept him and Val searching new habitable planets. Jane suggests that Miro would never have taken up the work she has had him doing if he knew exactly what it was he was up to, but Val has known all along. Miro points out that the fact that Val is disintegrating is proof that she, and therefore Ender, do not know since knowing would be enough to keep Ender's attention and save Young Val. The conversation moves to Ender, who has long put aside his transceiver and Jane, sounding entirely unconvincing, assures Miro that she is no longer interested in Ender. Miro asks to know what the real mission is but when Jane delays telling him, he guesses that she has had them looking for the descolada's planet of origin.

In the Filho's courtyard, Novinha discovers that Ender has collapsed. She calls for help and he is quickly assisted by several men and women who come running. She blames herself for allowing him to stay, certain that the physical labor they have been engaged in has been too much for him. Her trauma is increased because of her many loved ones who have died on her already. She tells herself that it is time to think of him, not of her.

'Nobody is Rational' Analysis

This chapter both highlights the extent to which Jane and her allies are pushing into new territory and explores the very nature of identity. The Hive Queen's reluctance to help Miro find a way to bring Jane's aiaa into Val's body is a result of her uncertainty about the ethics of doing so. Since it has never been done, no one can know what the result will be. The worst-case scenario would be that Young Val's self, a combination of her free will and memories, would be destroyed in the process. On the other hand, doing nothing will result in both Jane's and Val's lives being lost. That the Hive Queen accepts this is evident by the fact that she promises to try to find a way to help Jane into Val's body. Although it may be ghastly to measure human life in mathematical terms, the loss of Val's life could save tens of thousands of Lusitanians since if Jane can restore herself to the ansibles and computer networks, she can continue to ferry colonists of the planet before the M.D. device destroys Lusitania.

Ender's collapse removes him even farther from the crises Jane, Miro, Peter and their associates are facing. Since Young Val is already disintegrating, Ender's collapse puts her in even greater peril. There is no reason to think that she or Peter can survive his death, which will free his aiaa from his body. The location of his collapse complicates things for Novinha. She has preempted being hurt or left by him by removing herself into the monastery but now has to face the possibility that the rigorous activity in which Ender has been engaged ever since joining her has caused his collapse. While she has always presented a stony exterior, Ender has always had a way of penetrating her emotional shell. At his collapse, she is overwhelmed with emotion but characteristically has to remind herself that "it is not about her."



'Life is a Suicide Mission'

'Life is a Suicide Mission' Summary

Instructed by Jane that the person who can influence Hikari is a man named Malu, Peter and Wang-mu try to make contact with Malu directly on an island called Atatua on the Samoan colony planet of Pacifica. Initially they are given the run around. While it is obvious that the native Samoan boat operators know Malu, they feign ignorance and suggest the travelers ask elsewhere. Jane interposes, telling them that Hikari did not actually send a message directly to Malu but rather to a woman named Grace who then went to see Malu. Jane had been trying to save them some extra trouble by sending them directly to the source. As it turns out, Wang-mu is already acquainted with Grace from her own reading. Grace is a philosopher who writes under the name Grace Drinker. They resolve to meet her.

Meanwhile, back on Lusitania, Human and the Hive Queen continue their discussion about pilotes and the pilotic web in order to find a way to affect Jane's transfer. She questions whether she and her daughters, young and weak with the exertion of establishing themselves on new worlds, would be able to create a pilotic web large enough to catch Jane's aiua. Human tells her that Ender is in poor shape. He cannot regain consciousness and his body seems to be deteriorating in the same way that Young Val's was. The good news about Young Val, however, is that her work looking for the descolada's planet of origin seems to have enough of Ender's attention that she is regaining her health. The Hive Queen suggests that she teach Human and the fathertrees how to cast a pilotic web so that when Ender dies they can take his aiua and bring it into one of his other two bodies.

At his bedside, Ender's student Plikt contemplates how to speak his death. She asks him for a word and his lips move in response. Although by rights she should get his wife, sister and stepchildren from the next room, she remains. "Peter" he whispers. Plikt is baffled and quickly calls in Ender's family. Novinha, severely sedated, is irritated that Ender called for Peter, not her. Ender asks what happened and Ela explains how his inattention is causing the deterioration of his body even as he drifts back into unconsciousness.

Miro and Val continue their work but Val has not forgiven him for the slight of trying to end her consciousness in order to free up her body for Jane. She does not speak to him much except as necessary for him to relay information between her and Jane. He realizes that Val is doing better now that her work has Ender's attention. He asks Jane if she deliberately saved news of their real mission in order to guarantee Ender's attention and preserve Val's body for her own use, but Jane points out that she cannot leap into Val's body if it is occupied by Ender's attention. Even if one of the bodies was completely vacated, she tells him, she has no idea how to jump in. She is pessimistic about her chance for survival and they both acknowledge that soon may come a day when both she and her abilities are gone for good. This presents a problem for him and



Val if they happen to be on a remote planet when Jane shuts down, effectively stranding them for the rest of their lives. Jane is philosophical saying, "Life is a suicide mission." Miro learns from her that now Ender is the one who is dying. Val is enraged at Miro protesting that he continually tunes her out to talk to Jane. Miro realizes that they are in the same position as his mother and Ender were before Ender removed his transceiver for the sake of his marriage. Miro is somewhat aroused by their passion and contemplates kissing Val who warns him that she'll make him infertile if he so much as touches her. He tells her that Ender is dying and that she has his full attention now. She responds that she is fully aware and has felt the difference for several days now. In fact, she has been feeling so intense about her work that she has been unable to eat or sleep. Her anger burns itself out and she confesses that she is scared of both her imminent death and because they just may have found the descolada's home planet. The data reveals a biosphere that shows evidence of the descolada virus and that the planet is inhabited by a technologically advanced species. They pick up some transmissions but Jane is unable to decode them. Seemingly, all the alien transmissions are molecular genetic blueprints leading Jane, Miro and Val to the conclusion that these communications are what the descoladores (as they dub the inhabitants) use for language.

Peter and Wang-mu get a strange reception at Grace Drinker's home. Even though they see her moving from room to room and waving at them, her son tells them that she is not at home. However, if they like, they can return at dinnertime to dine with the family. Availing themselves of this opportunity, Peter and Wang-mu return and are amazed by Samoan culture. Dinner, they decide, accounted for how much larger Samoans were as a people than most other humans. The portions were enormous and the courses plentiful. Grace does not join them until the final dish is served. In the meantime, her husband cracks a good many jokes, seemingly amusing himself more than anyone else. Without so much as a how-do-you-do, Grace asks them their scam and charges them both with being enormous tellers of lies. Whereas they assumed they needed a good cover story in order to present themselves to her, she knows intuitively that they are the same visitors who left Hikari the day before light-years away on Divine Wind. Wang-mu, sensing that it is in their best interests, tells her exactly who they are. Peter is relieved that Grace does not show any apparent interest in their faster than light travel. He also indicates that they have some urgency for seeing Malu since they have several deadlines. Grace is quick to discover that they must be trying to stay ahead on the ansible network shutting down and that their ability to travel faster than light must somehow be tied in with it and states that they must be connected to the virus on the network. Wang-mu is quick to speak up for Jane, emphasizing her humanity and compassion.

When Peter asks if they can go see Malu, Grace's husband bursts out laughing at the notion of "impure feet tickling the Gods." Grace explains that his humor is his means of covering up his outrage at their audacity. Without learning about their religion and culture, Peter and Wang-mu would have inadvertently profaned Malu's holy place. Wang-mu is shocked, suddenly conscious of how they have offended Grace's big husband and how easily he could rend her with his bare hands. Having brought them to a better understanding of Malu and the privilege of being able to see him—and Malu



does want to see them she says—Grace instructs them on the etiquette of meeting him. Once they promise to listen to him without interruption, Grace informs them that she will facilitate a meeting. Malu will be brought to them so that they do not profane his holy place with their presence.

Orbiting the planet of the Descoladores, Jane warns Miro and Val that interceptors are closing in. They contemplate their options including having Jane whisk them away to safety or sending their own molecular blueprint in an attempt to communicate. They decide sending them their own version of a descolada virus from Lusitania is too risky since it would include potentially dangerous information about human and pequenino DNA. They resolve to have Jane take them back home in order to get Quara and Ela, in addition to a Hive worker to join them so that they can stay in contact with the Hive Queen (and therefore Lusitania) once the ansibles are shut down. Jane broadcasts a portion of the virus. It's just enough to let them know which of their probes reached Lusitania.

'Life is a Suicide Mission' Analysis

Plikt is unsure how to interpret Ender calling out Peter's name, hypothesizing that it might have been said as an attempt at reconciliation or reproach. However, it is also possible, indeed even likely given how attuned Ender is to the implications of new technologies, which Ender is trying to communicate his desire to inhabit Peter's body. This chapter also illustrates how Ender has become somewhat like the Hive Queen herself. She is able to speak directly into his mind and, like her, he is also inhabiting more than one body. The key difference is one of scale. The Hive Queen is able to control 1000's of workers whereas Ender has difficulties managing three bodies.

The discovery of the descoladore's home planet returns humanity to the same crisis it faced when it first encountered the buggers. There would be some logic to alerting Congress to the planet's whereabouts so that they could send a fleet to destroy it and prevent the risk of a lethal virus ever being unleashed against humanity. Yet, the possibility exists that the descoladores are ramen and could be not only communicated with but also learned from. Given the way in which Congress has responded to the virus on Lusitania, it is not surprising that Jane and her friends decide not to alert Congress. Not alerting Congress, however, is riskier than it might be under regular circumstances. The potential for Congress to destroy Lusitania and, in turn, the descoladores to destroy most of the life in the universe is real.



'I Offer Her this Poor Vessel'

'I Offer Her this Poor Vessel' Summary

Malu is brought across the water from Atatua on a heavy seagoing canoe. Malu's followers quickly erect a structure to shelter him for his meeting with Peter and Wang-mu. Malu himself does not look much different from the other Samoans, perhaps just a little more decoratively dressed and whiter. He embraces Grace and then shocks her by inviting Peter and Wang-mu to join him in a meal. He addresses them in an ancient holy dialect that only Grace, not even Jane can interpret. Grace instructs them to say only what is meant for Malu's ears, since she is required to translate every single word they say. They risk insulting him if their words are not pertinent. They eat, more of a sacrament than a meal, and Grace explains that he recognizes them not as gods, but as people who bring a god to him meaning Jane. He refers to Jane as 'the god who dances on spider webs' though Grace has never heard of her. He begins a lengthy oration on how Jane may save herself. His speech opens with his remarks on how the clouds flew across the sky with the sun chasing them on his way across the water, just as it was on the first of all days.

According to Malu, in the beginning, God touched a cloud and it spun into fire becoming the sun. He continues to discuss the creation of the Earth, animals and humankind and refers to strong vines binding them all. Wang-mu recognizes his tale as an allegory for phylotic theory. Animals and inanimate objects are phylotically connected to the center of the Earth, whereas humans as free-willed creatures influence their phylotic connections. Malu asserts that human beings knew their connections existed but were never actually able to figure out what they were. Then came a time of war, referring to the human-bugger war when Ender was a child. The Hive Queens spun out a web to catch humans and instead caught a powerful, distant god, Jane. However, he tells them, she was too quick to be caught and danced away along the spider webs. He talks about how she does not wish to escape her web and has the ability to blow men and women beyond the farthest star. He calls her the god that moves quickly and forever so that she never rests in one place yet touches all places and is bound to all who look upward to the sun and not downward into the earth. Peter and Wang-mu tell him that they call her 'Jane' and that Starways Congress wants to kill her. She will only die, he assures them, if she wants to. She can exist at the ends of her web even when the center is torn away.

Peter asks if Jane could occupy his or his sister's body and Malu responds, yes she can occupy one but not both. Publicly, Peter offers Jane his body but Malu is outraged at his obvious lie. He explains that even as Peter is saying this, his unconscious will to live gathers up its strength and prepares to resist her. However, Jane could push him out if she wanted to. Malu advises him that she just would not, because she loves him. Malu suggests that Val might be a better host since she is more gentle and altruistic and would twine well with the god. Grace explains that Malu knows this because he is able to see into the phylotic nature of things has been observing Jane his whole life. He also sees how she is fundamentally dissatisfied with her mechanical body and yearns for the



corporeal existence she glimpsed during her creation while sharing dreams with Ender. Grace is still explaining when Malu gets up and walks away. At his departure, all his followers, including Grace fall to the sand and begin weeping passionately. Even Peter drops beside her and Wang-mu has a bit of an epiphany. She realizes that her role is to love Peter enough that he can bear to allow Young Val's goodness to flow into him making him whole, which will in turn free Val's body for Jane.

Jane has been relaying the meeting with Malu to Old Valentine who watches on her computer back home on Lusitania. Then Jane tells Old Val that it is beginning, Congress has begun the shutdown of the ansible networks and she is beginning to die. Jane's looming destruction causes Miro and his group to hurry aboard their starship before Jane loses the capacity to transport them.

'I Offer Her this Poor Vessel' Analysis

Children of the Mind is similar to all the novels in this series with the way it features humanity pushing into new territory. Grace has a whole set of expectations for how the meeting with Malu will go, but when Peter questions whether a script exists that they are following, Grace answers that there is a script but they are not writing it. Even the iconic Malu deviates from his standard script for meeting with the god who dances on spider webs. His awareness of her challenges some of our most fundamental beliefs about religion and science. Although Peter asks, he is never given an adequate explanation about how it is that a man of religion like Malu can have such a profound understanding of Jane's very nature. The simple fact that he not only understands her but also how to save her means that in the context of this novel, religion can challenge science as a means of knowing.

At this point, it becomes clear that it is possible for Jane to take Young Val's body theoretically but the mechanism remains a mystery. The Hive Queen continues to search for a way of affecting the transfer but time is running out. The ethical dilemma is still not resolved and there is a sense that even though it may be wrong to hasten the end of Young Val's life as she knows, the end will justify the means. Unfortunately, Young Val needs to be sacrificed in order for Jane to continue and keep doing a great deal of good.



'What Matters is What Fiction You Believe'

'What Matters is What Fiction You Believe' Summary

Human and the Hive Queen, having created the largest phlotic web ever with the help of all other queens and fathertrees and mothertrees, boldly attempt to locate and capture Jane's aiua, since they risk losing her forever when her destruction casts it loose into the universe. Unable to locate her, they consider how she may be connected to Ender. Seemingly, the only way to locate her is to have Ender call her aiua into one of his bodies and then leave her there. Given his own critical state, it seems an unlikely hope. The Queen questions whether Ender might not find his way into Peter when he himself dies. Human responds that he is not likely to, since Peter represents the part of himself that he most loathes.

Jane musters the strength for one last voyage, placing Miro's shuttle back in orbit around the descoladore planet. She is dying quickly though. As individual ansibles and entire networks go offline, she has the sense of being torn apart limb by limb. She reaches out to Young Val, Miro and Peter, confessing that she is afraid. However, as parts of her go, she loses memories and gets confused.

On Pacifica, Wang-mu becomes aware of Peter, rocking back and forth and trying to comfort Jane in her death throes. She sees tears in his eyes, proof of his humanity, and is suddenly aware of how much she has come to love him. She too begins to weep but is suddenly aware of Grace standing beside her and holding her hand. Malu is coming back Grace says, to talk to Wang-mu. They speak candidly about how Jane is Wang-mu's rival for Peter's love and how the real purpose for their visit was for Malu or Grace to use their influence on Hikari. Grace explains that she has no real influence since Hikari would only listen politely to her and then still do what he felt was the right course of action. When Wang-mu suggests their mission was futile, Grace assures her that there may well have been another purpose for their visit.

At Ender's bedside Novinha and Old Valentine have a frank discussion of their own. Old Valentine advises her that Jane is dying and recognizes with a great deal of compassion that Jane was Novinha's rival. Val expresses her solidarity saying that when she was younger, Ender was her whole life but she was never his. She had been for a while, but once he connected with Jane all his attention was on her. Novinha asks why Val is speaking to her about such things and Old Val explains that Novinha may have it in her power to save Jane, if she will just give Ender permission to die. As it is, Val believes, Ender is hanging on for his wife's sake, but he needs to let go of his old body so that he can move into Peter and Jane can move into Young Val. Novinha complains that she is "sick of letting people go" but Val retorts that Novinha has never let anyone go, rather that she clings to all her loved ones, even in death. Plikt enters, asking whether she can watch Novinha wake her husband up but Novinha is enraged, accusing her of being just



like everyone else, people who act like cannibals, tearing away little bits of her husband. Plikt strikes back asking which is worse, to devour him bit by bit or to do what Novinha does which is to hold on to all of him in order to devour him herself. Valentine slaps Plikt across the face, assuring her that she'll never speak Ender's death. Novinha intercedes, saying that it is all right, Plikt has spoken truly. She expresses her desire to die, but Val asks her whether she can't do what Ender really needs: stay alive and let him go. Novinha remarks that Val "spins a pretty story" and the chapter closes with Val answering, "All stories are fictions. What matters is which fiction you believe."

'What Matters is What Fiction You Believe' Analysis

Human's work with the Hive Queen to save Ender is definitely remarkable. It underscores the strength of the bond between the three different species living on Lusitania and represents humanity's potential to live harmoniously with other species. Not only have these species learned to understand one another but they have also entered into meaningful, productive relationships. The pequenino-formic relationship is mutually beneficial because the piggies shared their planet so that the formics could reestablish themselves. In turn, the formics share their technological ability and industrial capacity. The benefit for humans is apparent in the way the two species collaborate to save the human who brought them together. The Hive Queen even wonders if her relationship with Human is something like love, even though the two can only ever meet mentally.

Miro's potentially fatal voyage back to the home planet of the descoladores significantly elevates the tension in the novel. There is no way of knowing what awaits him, his two sisters, the bugged worker and a pequenino named Firequencher. Without Jane to shift their starship from space to space, they may simply be shot down by the descoladore interceptor crafts. On the other hand, they might catch some incurable version of the virus itself. Returning home is not an option since Lusitania is 200 years away for their sub light-speed craft.



'It Smells Like Life to Me'

'It Smells Like Life to Me' Summary

Jane's dying becomes more bearable since the more capacity she loses, the less awareness she has of what is happening to her. She is filled with a sense of loss but cannot imagine what it is that she has lost. She clings to the last few active ansible links, left open by her friends but is filled with a need to grow. She begins attempting to let go off the ansible lines, casting about for some other space in which to exist and in doing so, she senses a familiar presence and makes the leap into Young Val. Unexpectedly though, Ender is unable to let go. Jane's aiaa spins throughout the body, but on this deep, unconscious level, she encounters resistance from Ender's aiaa everywhere. Human and the Hive Queen observe since they too are tied into the web. One of them speculates that Jane may be killing Ender. On three different planets, all Ender's bodies are thrown into a state of convulsion as Ender's and Jane's aiaas wrangle for control. On Pacifica, Malu announces that the god is come and Wang-mu shouts at Jane to get out of Peter, that she is killing him.

The Hive Queen observes that even as she is too much for Ender, the body is too much for her. Every cell is connected to Ender and bears him allegiance. At varying times, each is cast out and forces to find a way back into the bodies. Jane realizes that she cannot take the body without its co-operation. Taking it by force would result in every cell rebelling against her aiaa, making the body useless for speech or movement. Jane leaves the bodies and finds her way into the Pequenino network. On Lusitania, Novinha is recovering from a black eye and Plikt and Val are both bruised because of Ender's convulsions. Peter opens his eyes on the beech and tells everyone around him that he dreamed a great dragon was chasing him. He reaches out for Wang-mu, asking her to stand with him.

Jane explores the networks among the Hive Queens. They are familiar to her, not surprising since she they were such an integral part of her birth. These aiaas with which she comes into contact are kindly, but they are also strong and leave no place for her to occupy. She then regards another presence, one so delicate and subtle that she had overlooked them at first, the network of pequenino mothertrees. They are accustomed to nurturing and Jane finds welcome with them. In turn, her presence infuses new vivacity into them. Human and the Hive Queen comment that this can only be a temporary home, that if she stays too long she will destroy the mothertrees.

On a picnic with his children in the forest, Olhado witnesses a sight unseen since before the time the descolada virus came to Lusitania. Beckoned by a piggy, he and his children join many pequeninos gathered around a mother tree. Jane's presence has affected a miraculous flowering among the mothertrees that produce luscious, ripe fruit. With permission from the piggies, Olhado reaches up and plucks one so that his piggy friend Plower may eat which has not been possible since the descolada hijacked the



genetic development of the pequeninos thousands of years before. There is great rejoicing and singing, signaling a truly historic moment.

'It Smells Like Life to Me' Analysis

Clearly, Jane's actions reveal a great deal about her character. Given that she has a tremendous desire to live and sufficient power to forcibly occupy any or all of Ender's bodies, she has demonstrated considerable strength by not doing so. Truly, she is a benevolent being that suggests that Malu and the Samoans are right to look up to her and serve her as a god. There is also a suggestion that as human beings we are capable of noble actions, like Ender offering up a body for Jane, but also that we are inherently driven to survive. Regardless of the many reasons for allowing Jane to use Val's body that Ender knows and understands on a conscious level, the body's survival instinct takes over and prevents his aiaa from leaving. Clearly, Ender and Jane will have to find another way.

The flowering of the mothertree marks an astonishing development. Much was taken from the pequeninos when they were genetically hijacked by the descolada virus. The virus altered the very nature of the way they reproduce and even regulates their social dynamics, causing the piggies to expand or destroy their forests in order to regulate climate change. No piggie has tasted fruit from the mother tree since before the virus' arrival. In fact, they did not even know the mother trees could flower which raises the question of what else the virus has taken from them. Again, that Jane was able to affect this gift lends more support to the idea that she is indeed godlike.



'This Has Always Been Your Body'

'This Has Always Been Your Body' Summary

Malu makes a joke, saying he cannot determine whether the fact that Jane inhabited Peter makes him holy or the fact that she left him makes Peter unholy. Malu informs them that the god cannot stay where she is, that her strength will eventually usurp the bodies of the mothertrees unless she moves on. Peter nods his understanding, having felt her strength himself. He also acknowledges that Malu was right, that he now knows how severely he wishes to cling to life. Malu tells them that it is still possible for Ender to die and give a body to Jane and for Jane to be restored to her former ability. He reveals that he has known about her shutdown for sometime and that they have prepared on Pacifica to store a great deal of her memory in specially assigned databases. Wang-mu realizes that another battle will be waged for the bodies and that she needs to ensure that it is Peter who wins control of his own.

Olhado communicates by ansible with Miro, updating him on Jane and expressing optimism that she will eventually be restored enough to bring them home. With no other options, Miro settles back into his work aboard the starship. Ela and Quara debate whether the descoladores are people and Firequencher asks if in fact that isn't the real point of their mission, to determine whether the descoladores are ramen or varelse. The crew, with Quara in particular, finds it difficult to concentrate knowing that they are doomed without Jane. Val provokes Miro into an argument and he realizes that she needs him to convince her that her life is worthless and that he could never love her the way she is. This is the only way that she will be able to offer her body to Jane without any sub-conscious reservation. Miro rises to the occasion telling her exactly how selfish she is and how much they all hate her since the only way they can live is for her to die, allowing Jane to come back. Quara is shocked and tries to interpose but Firequencher and the bugger marshal her off into a forward compartment, understanding what Miro is up to. He succeeds, reducing her to tears but is thoroughly surprised and disgusted with himself.

Ender regains consciousness and tries to articulate his experience wrestling with Jane. He is remorseful, concerned that he wanted to let her have something but couldn't. Val assures him that they were both working far below the level of consciousness and that they did all right. Novinha does what Val asked her to do and tells Ender that she will miss him always and share memories of him with their children and grandchildren, but that he can die without her begrudging him. She tells him that she wants him to live, as Peter, and that even though she will miss him severely, it is preferable to him dying in a hospital bed to be with her. She has said what he needed to hear and he falls asleep. With amazing speed, his body disintegrates until there is nothing left but hair, which Valentine takes for burial.

Sensing the chance, Jane's aiua leaps again to entwine itself with Ender's as it has been for over 3000 years. His aiua is lost, confused and missing one of the bodies. She



approaches him tentatively and this time he responds differently, guiding her into the Valentine body and leading her through it, giving it to her wholeheartedly. This time, the body responds and Jane is able to control it. She is so enthralled that she loses track of Ender and realizes that he is not in the other body. He risks becoming lost and she casts around for him, eventually finding him with the Hive Queen. She leads him into Peter's body but he acts as though he is prepared to give that one up too. She in turn leads him through the body trying to get him to take control of each cell. However, he continues to resist. Next to him, Wang-mu is distressed, crying "He's lost" but Malu says that the god has led him here but he's afraid to stay. She understands that Ender has always rejected Peter and then tells him forcefully, that he is himself, that she wants him and that his rightful place is with her. Peter gains consciousness, reaching up to touch her face and stating that yes, he does belong with her.

Jane returns to her new body to begin her existence as Val, but her aiaa is so vibrant that it not only inhabits Val's body, but also twines itself with the Hive Queen and pequenino's phlotic web. She is both a person but also an entity with the ability to access all the ansible communication networks in the universe. Miro is uncertain what to call her and she explains that she is Jane, that she actually witnessed Val's aiaa pass into Peter. Moreover, she is aware what it cost him to speak so brutally to Val and she forgives him. Then, for the first time in her 3000-year lifespan, Jane is able to touch a human being and she puts her arms around Miro.

'This Has Always Been Your Body' Analysis

The timing is right now, which is evident in the fact that Jane's transfer to Val is successful. Ender had been stubbornly clinging to life for Novinha's sake and Old Val does a tremendous service to all involved by convincing Novinha to let Ender go. This death occurs so soon after Novinha releases him is a sign that he was waiting on her account. In order for Ender to be able to tolerate Peter, however, enough to live in his body, he needs to bring Val's sweetness with him. Val is not ready to part with life until she hears from Miro the most difficult thing of all: she is not a real person. Also, at a very critical moment, Wang-mu gets involved to tell Ender/Peter that he belongs in Peter's body, which helps him stay. With Ender's death, Wang-mu's assistance and Val and Miro's fight, the shuffling of aiaas is accomplished.



'You Called Me Back From Darkness'

'You Called Me Back From Darkness' Summary

Yasujiro Tsutsumi, a new character, is introduced. Even though he has visitors, influential Japanese businessmen by the name of Shigeru, he begs their indulgence to admit his former teacher who has come calling unexpectedly. Aina Hikari enters and makes small talk with Tsutsumi's guests, erasing the insult of their interrupted meeting. Eventually, the visitors leave, and teacher and pupil are left alone. Hikari has singled out his former student because he belongs to the Tsutsumi clan that has amassed a mighty and powerful fortune with enterprises reaching out into all corners of the Hundred Worlds. Hikari speaks sharply to his student but explains that he is not frustrated with him specifically but rather with all their people since they have forgotten the lesson of history which is to not make war. Tsutsumi is confused but Hikari lays his cards on the table: since the Tsutsumi's have the resources to stop the Lusitania Fleet, destruction of the planet will be on their heads if they do not stop it. Tsutsumi asks whether his teacher suggests that they bribe the politicians to stop the fleet and Hikari responds that there are a thousand legal ways to influence their votes such as contributing to their campaigns or appointing their friends and loved ones to positions of power. Tsutsumi is persuaded and promises to take the issue to his superiors on other worlds even though it may mean the end of his promising career.

Back on the starship, Ela and Quara attempt to settle back into their work. Jane is in Val's body but not yet restored to the ansible networks limiting her ability. She joins them in attempting to figure out how the descoladores communicate. She is still awkward with Miro as they attempt to gauge to what extent her new self is Jane and how much of Val remains. She assures him that she cannot access the transceiver in his ear, even as she becomes aware that she meeting the pequenino trees and Hive Queen again. She settles into a mother-daughter relationship with the Hive Queen, a relationship that is complicated by Jane's many human qualities.

Peter awakens on the beach with Wang-mu curled in beside him. He is surprised by their proximity since they have never shared intimacy and then suddenly he feels himself spinning away again as though his aia is leaving his body. Wang-mu awakens at once and calls him back from wherever he is drifting, literally calling him back from darkness. Peter returns and is instantly aware that he is different. Instead of unleashing sarcasm on her, he is able to reign in his impulse. He feels whole. Wang-mu rationalizes that she was able to call him back from the brink since their aiuas are bound up together and Peter expresses her desire that she be glad. He rises and is conscious of feeling young which is a reflection of his combined nature. The Ender part of him feels young but the Peter part of him is conscious of never having felt any different. The Samoans treat them to a feast that makes their meal at Grace's look like a snack. Clearly, Peter and Wang-mu are a couple now.



Alone in her room Plikt contemplates how to speak Ender's death properly. Even though she has spent a lifetime devoted to following him, she feels tremendous relief because of his passing. She realizes that there is a great deal of his story that she will not tell including her own selfishness that she revealed even in the hour of his death. Yet she continues to type and realizes that her words will give shape to the way Ender is remembered as the Xenocide, the Speaker for the Dead, the private family man, the analyst, and above all, a man of both justice and mercy.

'You Called Me Back From Darkness' Analysis

Even though the question of whether Jane will be successful in her attempt to possess Val's body is answered, we are still left exploring the question of what (if any) parts of Val's character remain. Other questions remain too, such as whether Jane will find another place to be before she destroys the pequenino mothertrees and will she ever regain her ability to transport Miro and his crew back to Lusitania?

Wang-mu has lived up to her name, which literally means "Royal Mother of the West." Historically, her namesake the Royal Mother stood by the emperor's side just as Wang-mu is now poised to be by Peter's side even as he pursues his goal to unite all humanity under his leadership. Indeed, a great deal of the success she and Peter have had thus far have resulted from her cleverness. At the beginning of the novel, she is untried and Peter is not a complete human being. Now they have the potential to do just about anything they want, together.



'Am I Betraying Ender?'

'Am I Betraying Ender?' Summary

Aboard Milo's starship, Quara characteristically alienates all the others aboard. Announcing that they are proceeding along the wrong path, she suggests examining a version of the virus, as it existed before contact with humans with a post-contact version of the virus. Since she knows that the virus adapts to incorporate the genetic information of species it contacts, she hypothesizes that they should be able to decode the language used by the virus to remember or describe human DNA, given that it is a code with which they are familiar. She proposes sending the human information that has been encoded but Jane advises that it is too dangerous, fearing that they would be giving the descoladores the very information that would enable it to destroy them and the pequeninos too. Miro suggests that Quara may be right, that since time is a constraint they should follow her advice. He reasons that the risk is limited since the descoladores either have colony ships on the way to Lusitania already, or do not which would mean they can't. Ela has a significant realization, and proposes that perhaps the descoladores communicate by creating the molecules they describe in their transmissions. Jane realizes that if this is true, it means that they are not in danger since the xenobiologists would not create any virus from a blueprint sent by the descoladores.

Another squabble erupts and Jane actually puts Quara in her place, telling her she is under no obligation to put up with her infantile behavior as Quara's siblings are. When Quara tries to argue with her, Jane explains that they are not equals. In terms of intellect, she, Jane, is Quara's superior but for all that, Quara can be creative and insightful, patronizing her. Quara offers to rearrange Jane's face, which precipitates Jane having to remove herself to the forward compartment to avoid attempting to kill Quara with her bare hands. Miro follows, realizing that because she has never had flesh before, Jane is in a situation that she is inexperienced at handling. In spite of 3000 years of life experience, Jane has never felt her blood rise in anger. She expresses that being human is a great deal more complicated than she thought. She admits she used to look down at humans' ability to only do one thing at a time, but she now realizes that humans who are able to control conflicting emotions are actually handling a great number of internal processes. Miro shares his theory that Quara is the way she is because she was so accustomed to Marcao's rage while growing up. Now she misses that rage and seeks it wherever she can find it. Jane begins crying, another new human experience for her. She tells Miro that he reminds her of Ender in the way that even as he is being offended by Quara, he is able to look deeper into her being in order to appreciate what is driving her behavior. She also tells him not to worry, she does not expect him to be Ender, rather that things are working well since she thinks of Ender as a father and that this body enjoys Miro's touch very much. They kiss, another new human experience for Jane.



They both wonder if they are betraying Ender by being so happy only hours after his death. Miro states that it would be a shame if Ender came through the transformation exactly as he was before, since the original Ender was never truly happy. Jane and Miro become engaged. They head back to the rest of the crew, send their transmission and are immediately inundated with answers from the descoladores.

'Am I Betraying Ender?' Analysis

Jane shows an interesting personality change. During an argument between Ela and Quara, she intervenes in order to keep them on track. Miro reacts with surprise, knowing that neither Jane nor Young Val would have intervened in a family argument. This development suggests that maybe Jane's new personality is more than the sum of its parts. It also provides hope that some of Young Val survived, even if the qualities Jane now possess are not Val's exactly. Jane's fight with Quara also illustrates that while Jane is still able to exist elsewhere, such as in the mothertrees' network, her human experience is truly unique. Her new existence also raises questions about whether her human emotions may cause her to use her abilities more selfishly than she has in the past.

Without an actual engagement ring, Jane suggests that their commingled tears are a suitable symbol to mark the occasion. Theirs is an interesting engagement. Given Jane's potential to once again be able to exercise god-like powers, their marriage is anything but the union of two like beings. Miro finds himself questioning whether he can be happy knowing that he is only getting a small portion of her attention. Their situation raises many questions about what is necessary for a marriage to work. Jane has the potential to act and know what is happening all through the settled universe while her life with Miro is just a small portion of her awareness. At the same time, he can offer her things like intimacy and children that she cannot have without him.



'Till Death Ends All Surprises'

'Till Death Ends All Surprises' Summary

Peter and Wang-mu are invited to a university on Pacifica in order to witness the restart of the "godproof computer network." Malu decides to accompany them and is whisked off to an official ceremony upon their arrival. In the mean time, Peter and Wang-mu are given a tour of the new computer facility by Grace's son. He states that the new network is in total compliance, that ansible and computer networks have been separated and communication between them can only happen through virtual data packets that are scanned for unauthorized piggybacking. Wang-mu is crushed, knowing that these measures will effectively bar Jane from regaining her former powers. When he invites them into a very old building, Wang-mu tries to decline but he persuades them to enter. She sees an old room filled with hundreds and hundreds of computers. As it turns out, all six stories in the building are identical. This and three other buildings have become the repository for all the old machines that have been removed from service. This is where Jane was able to back up her most important information. In a rather facetious manner, Grace's son explains that there have been some oversights. In fact, when the ansible on this planet is not in communication with Starways Congress' ansibles it is "accidentally" in communication with these computers and an ansible on Lusitania giving Jane everything she needs to begin regenerating her former abilities.

Wang-mu questions why they needed to be here if Jane had already done so much to ensure her survival. Peter suggests that maybe she wanted them in a friendly environment during and after their death. The small group joins the official ceremony where the University's president presses the button that brings the new network online. After several test messages and security checks from Starways Congress, the new system is certified as operational.

Olhado and Grego are having an ansible service of their own. They have been invited to see the computer network on Lusitania try to connect with Samoa, Path, Memphis and Hegira by the Pequenino Waterjumper. The ansible on Lusitania that had been in contact only with the shuttle and Jakt's starship is now reconfigured to be in contact with four other ansibles in place where friends of Jane or Lusitanian sympathizers were participating in circumventing Starways Congress' orders in order to help Jane. No one actually communicates between these worlds, but the links are open and ready for Jane. The programming has been accomplished by Hive workers since Jane's human friends were already engaged with Ender's death and the descoladores. Grego begins badgering Waterjumper about whether it is working and Jane is returning. Olhado tells him to lay off, since no one can know just yet.

The Hive Queen, in telepathic contact with Human, announces that it is time for Jane to attempt to find her way back into the computer network. Aboard Miro's starship, the Hive worker gives Jane a sign and she collapses, unconscious. Miro carries her to quarters and, in spite of the urgent work he should be doing, stays by her side. He is



apprehensive, realizing that Jane's human existence is just a fraction of what she really is. He is concerned that if she is able to return to her former self then he will only have and know a small fraction of her. For her part, Jane is aware again much like she used to be. She finds her way back into the network but is aware of differences now that she has experienced human existence. She realizes that in spite of the technical ability of her network existence, human existence is the only way of being that will satisfy her desire to live. With ease, she is able to access all the technical information about what Starways Congress did in order to prevent her existence, accessing all their files through "finder programs" she sends out that relay information back and prevent her discovery through direct access. The difficulty that she begins to run into is a capacity problem. The new time delay built into computer communications prevents her from accessing the fast memory that she needs in order to have the capacity for faster than light transportation. In the meantime, her aiaa continues its circuit of the many bodies she inhabits: the ansibles, the networks, her new human body and the mothertrees where she existed during her shutdown. She realizes that the mothertrees have vast potential to serve as a storage network. In fact, if used as an analogue rather than digital information storage system, the mothertrees have the potential to allow her greater capacity than what she had before. She is able to push a worker on a test ship "Outside" and transport the craft several kilometers away. She returns Miro's ship, including her own body, to Lusitania. Quara is enraged because she was cutoff in mid communication. Jane revives. Miro and Jane do their best to ignore Quara but Quara actually shoves Jane who shoves her back, hard. On Lusitania, Jane is overwhelmed, stepping out in the sunlight and seeing the planet with human eyes for the first time. Jane is regretful that she used force on Quara, recognizing that once she and Miro are married then Quara will be her sister.

At the university, Malu calls out, "The god has moved her starship!" Peter is triumphant and Wang-mu realizes how dismal life would have been for him were he restricted to a single planet. Wang-mu is filled with anticipation, imaging a future in which she and Peter travel the known universe. The chapter closes with the Hive Queen acknowledging the pequeninos' role in helping Jane regain her former abilities. She also confesses a little jealousy that Jane knows Human in a way that she never can. Human answers that it is not necessarily bad because they are still able to surprise each other. The Hive Queen answers: "Till Death Ends All Surprises."

'Till Death Ends All Surprises' Analysis

Even though Jane's personality has changed, she is still no less benevolent than ever. Given that Starways Congress actively moved to end her existence, she may have had some justification to retaliate as though they had actively sought her murder. She does not. Even though she has the power to shut down their communications or even to persecute the individuals most responsible, she holds back. Similarly, she shows restraint in her dealings with Quara. Given that she acknowledges having been filled with the urge to murder Quara during their first altercation, it is noteworthy that Jane does not use her powers against the girl. As Miro points out, Jane had the ability (and



certainly must have been tempted) to leave Quara behind when she transported Miro's ship back to Lusitania.

The relationship between Human and the Hive Queen is a touching study of platonic love. Being separated by species, circumstance and geography, they still share considerable intimacy through their phlotic communication. Even though the Lusitania fleet is closing in, the Hive Queen chooses to remain behind. She has ensured the survival of her species by birthing and sending her daughters to two dozen colony worlds. Even though she suggests she is staying because her work is done, one has to wonder how much of her decision is a result of her loyalty to her friend Human who cannot be uprooted in order to travel to a distant colony world.



'How They Communicate with Animals'

'How They Communicate with Animals' Summary

Making use of the newly restored ansibles, Admiral Bobby Lands sends instructions to all the starships comprising the Lusitania fleet from the command ship. They will decelerate to sub-relativistic speed in order to deploy the M.D. Device and then immediately assume relativistic speed in order to be clear of the detonation. He is uncomfortable with his role, knowing that history will remember him as the second Xenocide. Given his assignment, he has spent a great deal of time studying the life of Ender (the first Xenocide). Even though the boy did not know he was waging actual war, Lands feels Ender's decision to have been the right one: eliminate the enemy's means to retaliate by exterminating them utterly. He is less impressed with the work of the "bleeding heart" Speaker for the Dead" who went on to paint the buggers as worthy of compassion. He recognizes parallels between Ender's situation and his, with the descolada on Lusitania able to wipe out all of humanity. He worries that once the threat is eliminated, people will judge him more harshly.

Back on Divine Wind, Yasujiro Tsutsumi nervously awaits word from higher up in the family corporation, wondering if his teacher Aimagina truly understood his personal risk by asking him to petition his superiors to stop the fleet. If his request is turned down, it will be because he is deemed disloyal and his superiors will work to destroy him. In such a case, there will be no other company on Divine Wind that will hire him or public office that he may hold in his disgrace. Ultimately, he is invited into an ansible conference with the highest-ranking officials in the company, which he recognizes as a good sign. He is told that he has indeed acted boldly but that his message has caused Tsutsumi Corporation to realize that it has responsibility both for sending the fleet and for the recall of the fleet since the Corporation's political and economic power is sufficient to affect it. Yasujiro is assured that the corporation is resolved to stop the fleet by any means necessary and that he is being promoted. He will have to return to Honshu by starship and because of his particular assignment Yasujiro realizes that he is being groomed for the top position—total victory.

Back on Lusitania at the satellite monitoring station, the alarm sounds. Dozens of starships appear, traveling so fast that they will be in range to deliver the M.D. Device within the hour. The mayor is alerted and the human colonists are advised that anyone who does not get off the planet within the hour will die. Jane sends Miro and his crew back to the descoladore planet to continue trying to make contact and is insistent that Novinha, Valentine and their immediate families leave as well.

Orbiting the descoladore planet, Quara shows the others the latest molecular blueprint received from the natives. The descoladores have designed a molecule that would fit into the human brain's receptor node for heroin. Quara suggests that the implication is that the descoladores thought the humans would construct the molecule and be incapacitated by it. As though to confirm her thinking, three descoladore interceptor



ships begin to close in. Jane moves Miro's vessel to safety, about a hundred miles away. Safe for the time being, Miro suggests that perhaps the descoladores do not really abstract communication, they just do things to each other, like sending instructions to create a molecule that can either punish or reward. Firequencher points out that if the descoladores do not use language, then their mission is futile, but Miro counters that Jane herself is evidence of a bridge between species. He then suggests that the molecules might be an attempt by the descoladores at inter-species communication or how they communicate with animals.

Much to his disbelief, Admiral Lands gets the stop command from Starways Congress. They are ordered to quarantine Lusitania only. He is argumentative: they are going too fast he points out. They would need weeks to slow down sufficiently and the problems of relativity would mean that his men were being asked to give up years of their lives. Congress is adamant that they must desist. Lands is even more shocked when he learns that Starways Congress still does not even have an immunization or remedy for the virus. Lands is asked whether he will obey and he assures them that he will fulfill his oath before signing off. Immediately, Lands arrests his commanding officer, Causo. He explains that under his oath he is able to invoke the war crimes clause, which gives him the authority to act unilaterally in the best interest of humanity. Destroying the virus, he reasons, is in the best interest of humanity. The officer submits, saying he is unsure what the proper course of action is but that he is surprised that Lands feels competent to judge by himself. Ironically, he says, he knows what Ender Wiggin, the man who saved humanity, would do. The admiral orders the launch of the M.D. Device and then orders the fleet back up to speed. Since it is too late to stop the M.D., he frees his commanding officer and offers himself up for arrest, because of mutiny against Starways Congress. Causo declines, saying that he will not move against Lands unless Lands attempts to evade the war crimes tribunal that will await them upon their return.

'How They Communicate with Animals' Analysis

Given the ambiguity of the message from the descoladores, it is difficult for Miro, Jane and the other scientists to know how to proceed. If the intent by the descoladores was to incapacitate or eliminate the humans then their transmission should be regarded and responded to as an act of war. If, on the other hand, the descoladores were merely trying to demonstrate their understanding of humans or even give them the gift of pleasure then the appropriate response is quite different. Knowing how to proceed is extremely difficult given that the wrong action could have disastrous consequences with the survival of either humans or descoladores or both at stake. This type of situation is what Ender proved himself extremely adept at handling and yet he is now lost.

This chapter is an interesting study in what happens to people with great power. Lands is given the responsibility to deliver the M.D. and even after he is told not to, he opts to deliver it in the best interest of humanity. In our contemporary world, many technologies exist that can cause great harm and while most of us have concern that these devices may fall into the wrong hands, Card draws our attention to another problem: perhaps

these weapons may be deployed by people who mean well, people who are capable of committing extraordinary atrocities in spite of their best intentions.



'We're Giving You a Second Chance'

'We're Giving You a Second Chance' Summary

Again, through the satellite monitoring system, the M.D. device is detected and the fleet vanishes almost immediately thereafter. The message is clear. The fleet only came to destroy, never to negotiate. Some had hoped for a chance to show the fleet that the descolada had been tamed. Aboard Miro's ship, Firequencher begins keening when he receives news from a pequenino on Lusitania of its imminent destruction. Miro alerts Jane, who is entirely engaged in getting rescue ships off Lusitania. Jane almost breaks down herself, concerned that without the mothertrees she won't be able to function. Miro tells her to get control, that they have upwards of half an hour and suggests she push the M.D. device "outside." Jane says she dares not, that if the device detonates "outside" it may cause irreparable harm to their dimension or create innumerable copies of itself. Miro suggests that Ender as Peter may know what to do, that she should contact him. Peter determines to return to Lusitania to work through the crisis and Wang-mu resolves to go with him.

Jane, being familiar with Peter's aiua is able to transport him without a ship and notes that he and Wang-mu have become philotically interlinked, making her transport easier too. They arrive in the Starport on Lusitania, which is packed with humans trying to flee the planet. Needing a starship of their own, Jane moves a full one to a colony world then fetches it back for them, empty. They dash inside, narrowly keeping ahead of frantic colonists trying to scramble aboard. Jane transports them into space where she has managed to align the ships' trajectory and velocity with those of the M.D. device so perfectly that the device appears in the ship when it materializes. Jane moves their ship and the Little Doctor into the cargo hold of Admiral Lands' ship, where he is alerted to their presence by his first in command.

When Lands arrives in the cargo bay, Jane has taken away Peter's ship but left him, Wang-mu and the M.D. Device. Lands begins bellowing at them immediately, but Peter advises him his first priority should be to deactivate the M.D. Device. Causo dives at it and renders it inoperable rather quickly. Lands orders their arrest but, when Causo moves toward them, Jane transports Peter and Wang-mu to a nearby balcony. Lands actually bumps the Little Doctor and is immediately filled with loathing, realizing what it was exactly that he almost did. Peter suggests a means of resolution but Lands is not willing to hear them, pulling a pistol instead. Jane moves her friends to a position behind Lands where Peter manages to disarm Lands, breaking two of the admiral's fingers at the same time. Peter continues with his suggestion of how to report to Starways Congress. He suggests that Lands claim that the launch report of the MD. was a result of a malfunction, which prompted Lands to order the device to be moved to the cargo hold and disabled in order to prevent accidental firing. He also advises that the admiral report that he was in contact with a native of Lusitania who satisfied him that the descolada was completely under control. The report should also suggest that the initial rebellion was merely a misunderstanding, that the pequeninos exercised their right as a



sentient species to acquire technology from a visiting alien culture. Also, that since they have become so adept at human science and technology the pequeninos will shortly be sending ambassadors to Starways Congress and that Congress should return the courtesy. Peter also advises him that the pequeninos have entered into an alliance with another species previously thought to have been extinct. Lands is told that one Hive Queen survived the war with humans. He also announces that the Lusitanians are in possession of faster than light travel and that if Congress ever wants to make use of it then they have to reconnect all the ansibles with the computer networks and eliminate all the security measures that were designed to inhibit Jane. Lands tries to put off the responsibility for filing the report on his first officer but Peter persuades him to do it himself, that this is his second chance and a way to escape responsibility for the double Xenocide he nearly committed. Jane moves Peter and Wang-mu to Miro's starship where she meets Miro, Quara, Ela, Firequencher and Jane in the flesh for the first time.

'We're Giving You a Second Chance' Analysis

The significance of this chapter is that Peter demonstrates that he not solely fueled by a lust for power but rather that he is capable of acting selflessly and even of putting himself in jeopardy in order to promote the well-being of others. This is evidence that a great deal of Ender's personality, including all the positive qualities he assimilated from Val are contributing to Peter's new persona and decision making. Were he simply interested in ruling all of humanity he would not need to put himself at risk. By assuming responsibility for the disposal of the Little Doctor, Peter actually put himself within 2 minutes of his own complete annihilation. Interestingly, Card does not offer any explanation why Jane was unable to disarm the Little Doctor by accessing the Lusitania Fleet's computers. Such a device would be likely to have a remote kill code, but it seems to require manual disarming in the novel.

Lands' character is revealed as well. While he seems to have been brave enough to initiate the destruction of Lusitania without giving the inhabitants so much as a warning or a chance to advise him of their progress on the descolada, he seems to lack the courage necessary to stand up to Starways Congress and file the report that Peter suggests. What Card seems to be depicting is the bureaucratization of war. It is easier for Lands to follow orders and destroy an entire planet than it is for him to face disciplinary action. He seems to have been steeled to endure the infamy that history would have branded him with had he become the second Xenocide and yet he shies away from making some bold suggestions to Congress.



'How Do You Know They Aren't Quivering in Terror?'

'How Do You Know They Aren't Quivering in Terror?' Summary

Aboard Miro's craft, Quara is incredulous that Peter gave the Little Doctor back, questioning whether she is the only one of them who thought it might be useful in the destruction of the descoladore planet if they determine that it represents a perpetual threat to humanity. Miro is surprised since she used to be such a firm advocate for the rights of the descolada virus on Lusitania. She explains that her thinking has matured and that she now understands the only way to live without being threatened by an enemy is to destroy it. She even cites Ender as an example, who killed two boys in Battle School when they threatened his life. She asks why Peter would not have kept the M.D. and he answers that it is because the danger is not imminent.

Peter also acknowledges that they will be at total war with the descoladores if they cannot be brought to understand the consequences of what they did to the pequeninos on Lusitania. Quara suggests that that is exactly why they should have the Little Doctor, but Peter asserts that it was never necessary. He questions where Congress' attempts to communicate with the Lusitanians were or why they did not first demonstrate the weapon on a nearby moon. Peter reminds the crew that it has taken them 3000 years to undo the damage from the destruction of the buggers' home planet. He suggests that there is too much that they do not know, like whether humans might not be able to engineer a cure for every single virus the descoladores make, or whether the descoladores attempt at presenting them with a heroin equivalent was not in fact an attempt at making humans happy. In fact, there is only one species, he points out, that has ever knowingly tried to wipe out every member of a competing species: humans. He asks, "How do you know they aren't quivering in terror?" referring to the descoladores. He suggests that now that transportation is available, they can keep teams of human, bugged and pequenino researchers working side by side, monitoring the descoladore planet. He also grounds Quara, stating that she is too wild to keep on the project until she is able to get her own personal issues and emotional behavior under control.

Quara is indeed angry at being grounded, but sometime later, as though to prove the accuracy of Peter's judgment she makes a false disclosure to Wang-mu alleging that the reason she is so angry all the time is that her brother Quim, whom everyone idolizes, secretly molested her for many years. Immediately she takes it back and Wang-mu is convinced that Quara's style is only vile slander. Quara leaves but Wang-mu predicts that some day Quara will tell her the truth, noting that the girl seems to draw people to her, even as she pushes them away. She also looks forward to her wedding and life with Peter.



'How Do You Know They Aren't Quivering in Terror?' Analysis

Again, Peter demonstrates how unlike the man of Ender's imagination he is. He can be compassionate as he is when dealing with the descoladores. He can also be tough when needed, like he is with Quara. Amazingly, even though he is promoting harmony among the known species he is still managing to increase his candidacy for ruler of all human worlds. In many ways, he has come to embody some of the altruistic notions for which he used to ridicule Ender. He is an advocate for peace at almost all costs, willing to forgo the opportunity to eliminate the descoladores with the Little Doctor simply because there is a chance that they may not need to be destroyed. He has a very well developed sense of how entirely brutal human beings can be and is actively interested in guiding humans to become a species capable of ethical behavior and discretion. He is anything but the ruthless big brother who tormented Ender as a child and filled his nightmares for a lifetime.

Card leaves a number issues unresolved which leaves room for another novel in the series. A sequel to *Children of the Mind* could portray Peter's bid to become humankind's absolute leader once again. Only this time Peter would have the whole Hundred Worlds to lead rather than just Earth when he occupied the top position of Hegemon. Perhaps, the question that most readers would want to see answered would be about the true nature of the descoladores. Would they be malevolent and threatening or capable of interspecies' communication and even enter into a relationship of some sort with humans, buggers and pequeninos? In addition to these rather large issues, Card has also left room for more of Quara's story to be told. Will Wang-mu be as successful as she thinks she can be at penetrating Quara's many defensive layers?



'The Road Goes On Without Him Now'

'The Road Goes On Without Him Now' Summary

Back on Lusitania, it is the day of Ender's funeral. Peter does not attend. Instead, he keeps himself aloof from anyone who might trigger Ender's memories, in part because he has anxiety about any obligations he might have to Novinha. Given that he is in part Ender, he wonders whether he has any ties in terms of their marriage vows. At any rate, he and Val decide that it is better for Peter to remain apart from Novinha. However, Val also assures him that she and Novinha watched the real Ender die and that Peter is free to live his life as Ender's son, without obligation to Novinha or guilt about his role in the destruction of the buggers.

Plikt contemplates the speech she will give while speaking Ender's death and Val realizes that the Age of Ender Wiggin has ended. She plans to write an academic and historical account of Ender's life. She envisions that she will make the point that he did not really belong anywhere but served everywhere he was needed until he found Lusitania. On Lusitania, he was able to be not only human but also part bugger and pequenino. He accomplished being something more than human. On Lusitania, he also became a father, first to his stepchildren but also to Jane and his children of the mind. At the funeral, Plikt speaks Ender's life candidly. She tackles his reputation as Xenocide and highlights his gift, which she states is to "free us from the illusion that any one explanation will ever contain the final answer for all time." Her speaking allows all present to see how much they were all like Ender and then, how lucky are to be different too. In the meantime, Val meditates on all the stories she knows that Plikt will never make way into her speaking: memories from aboard the starship when they left Earth together, and even memories together as children. She sees Miro reach out to Novinha and marvels at Jane, Novinha's rival for so long, sitting on his other side. In her blunt style, Plikt also draws attention to the fact that even though Ender's aiua lives on in Peter, the man they knew is gone.

Val, joined by Peter, leaves the church and walks out alone into the forest near Milagre where they are joined by the others who have just come from the burial site. In a double wedding, under a shining silver pequenino mothertree, Miro marries Jane and Peter weds Wang-mu. Jane smiles, closes her eyes and then the four of them disappear, their destination a mystery.

'The Road Goes On Without Him Now' Analysis

Even though Chapter 17 concludes the novel, there are many issues left unresolved that could be explored in the future. Whether or not Starways Congress will reconcile with the people of Lusitania remains uncertain. How will Congress react when they learn that Lusitania spawned 2 dozen tri-species colonies of its own? While the colonists have a considerable advantage with Jane on their side, persecution by Congress could



prevent them from focusing their attention on greater priorities like communicating with the descoladores or nurturing the new colony worlds on which humans, buggers and pequeninos are attempting to co-exist peacefully. Earlier in the series, Peter expressed his wish to rule all humanity and, given that Congress has a history of acting questionably, he may be a good candidate for the top job. Undoubtedly, he would face considerable obstacles along the way, but then he has Wang-mu to help.



Characters

Andrew Wiggin, Ender, The Xenocide, Speaker for the Dead

At a time on Earth when reproduction was restricted to one child per family, Ender's older brother Peter was drafted to Battle School and dismissed for being too ruthless. Recognizing his extraordinary aptitude, however, the military requested another child from the Wiggins, resulting in Ender's sister Valentine who was intellectually gifted but too compassionate to be an effective Battle Commander. Once again, the commanders requested a child, whom the Wiggins duly produced: Ender. Ender turned out to be the ideal candidate. With all the extraordinary mental functioning of both of his siblings and their respective qualities of compassion and ruthlessness, Ender was the ideal candidate.

Born Andrew Wiggin, Ender saves Earth in the first novel, *Ender's Game*, by leading Earth's ships against the invading bugger's home planet while participating in what he thinks is routine training. Unbeknownst to Ender, the "training exercises" he is engaged in at Battle School relay real time orders to Earth's forces. He is so successful that he manages to eliminate every single bugger in existence, except one, the Hive Queen. Ender is contacted by the Hive Queen and learns that her attack on Earth was nothing more than an attempt at communication. He is appalled at being responsible for the destruction of an entire species. In fact, to keep the Hive Queen safe, he keeps her existence a secret. As far as most humans are concerned, all buggers have been eliminated and Ender both earns himself the reputation of and must bear the guilt for Xenocide. Being forced to leave Earth following his victory, Ender rendezvous with the Hive Queen and carries her with him, vowing to find her a new planet upon which to reestablish the bugger race. While traveling with her, he writes a text called "The Hive Queen" which is so well written it is able to persuade humanity that buggers are not enemies.

Ender's great charisma and empathy are the qualities that get him into his next role as Speaker for the Dead. Founding the whole speaker movement, Ender travels to different planets in order to tell the life stories of important people. Given that many of the people he speaks for die with a good number of secrets, he has to do considerable investigation in order to tell their life stories. In the second novel, *Speaker for the Dead*, Ender is dispatched to the planet Lusitania in order to speak the death of Pipo, the colony's xenobiologist who is seemingly murdered by the indigenous pequeninos. In the process of investigating Pipo's death, Ender comes to know and love the mother of his children, Novinha. They eventually marry and Ender steps into the role of stepfather, proving to be very effective. Because Ender has spent a considerable portion of his life traveling near light speed, over 3000 years have taken place back on Earth by the time he reaches Lusitania. Even though everyone who knows their history knows about Andrew Wiggin the Xenocide, no one connects him in spite of the fact that he uses his



real name. Ironically, Admiral Lands respects Ender the Xenocide but despises the Speaker for the Dead.

Interestingly, Ender does not have any official position of responsibility or affiliation with any one government or culture. He truly stands up for and represents all of humanity. Always seeming to find himself at the crossroads of major historical events, he usually has to find his own way in order to affect favorable resolutions to unprecedented problems. The challenges he faces and triumphs over are multi-dimensional, with scientific, political and ethical aspects. Truly one of the great characters of Science Fiction, Ender is amazingly quiet and understated in spite of his many astonishing accomplishments.

Jane

Jane, who is created accidentally during the first novel in the series when the Hive Queen reaches out philotically to communicate with Ender, owes a great deal of her character to him. Even though she exists as a life force within the computer and ansible networks, she is very human in outlook and personality. Strictly speaking, Jane is also one of the title characters, a child of the mind and the offspring of both Ender and the Hive Queen in the sense that they were responsible for her creation. She owes more of her character to him than her, particularly his extraordinary empathy which is fortunate since it saves his life. When Jane's and Ender's aiuas are searching for control of Young Val and Peter's bodies, Jane's aiua retreats because it is not in her nature for her to impose her will on another being, even though her aiua is more powerful than his. This allows Ender to cling to life and Jane to experience a more effective transfer later on.

Card develops Jane a great deal more in this novel than he does previously and grants her heart's desire by allowing her to achieve genuine human existence when she takes possession of Young Val's body. Not only does Children of the Mind grant Jane humanity, but it also confers god status on her as well. The earlier novels in the series suggest that her abilities are truly god-like but this novel actually portrays her following on Pacifica. Through something that can only be understood as faith, the holy man Malu is aware of Jane and has even incorporated her into the Samoan's creation story. Likely beings with less power than Jane have had god status conferred on them. Given that she can sense any event that takes place anywhere in or around the electronic universe she is virtually omnipotent. Not only does she have the power of knowledge (she also has access to all official and unofficial electronic documents ever produced by humans), she also has the power to act. Given her ability to instantly transport objects or people anywhere she wants in the universe, she has the power of life and death. Miro remarks that if Jane wanted to she could have transported Quara into the vacuum of outer space, without a ship or space suit. Fortunately for her friends and enemies alike, Jane is a benevolent being and only exercises her abilities to promote peace and well being, never for her own self-interest.



Miro

Of all the characters in *Children of the Mind*, Miro gets the most stage time. Ender's sister Valentine remarks that he is the most like her brother of anyone she has ever met which is an extraordinary compliment given that Val's life has also spanned 3000 years of real time (vs. her relativistic life of about 50 years) back on Earth and she has visited many planets. When necessary, Miro possesses a sufficient amount of Ender's ruthlessness to enable him to convince Young Val that she needs to die in order to save Jane and the others aboard his starship. He is also compassionate enough, however, to feel bad about it. In fact, his compassion is such that even when his sister Quara is at her most vile, he is able to look past her behavior and see the hidden factors that drive it.

That Jane and Miro end up together is not surprising since Jane was so incredibly fond of Ender. Jane, however, always felt like Ender was more of a father to her than a love interest so a relationship with Miro enables her to be with someone who has Ender's qualities but is not Ender. Miro's intellectuality should be noted as well. Like all his siblings, he possesses an extraordinary mind and aptitude for scientific studies but his period of debilitation actually resulted in him improving his mental ability. Since he was unable to communicate efficiently, he began to do a lot of his work in his head, expanding his thinking ability. This is an important characteristic in order for him to be a suitable husband for Jane. For the most part, Jane finds human minds to be dull and tedious with only several exceptions: Ender, Peter and Miro.

Peter Wiggin

The Peter Wiggin in *Children of the Mind* is created accidentally by Ender during Jane's first attempt at effecting faster than light travel. Peter is created from Ender's childhood recollections of his brother during the brief interval when Jane moved him into "Outspace" where trillions of hungry aiuas exist craving a pattern to call them into existence. Ender inadvertently supplies the pattern that results in him bringing a copy of his brother back from Outspace. The original Peter Wiggin managed to use his talents in order to bring all the nations on Earth under his rule and created the position of Hegemon, absolute ruler of humanity. Perfectly resembling a young Peter in every physical way, the Peter that Ender creates is not, strictly speaking, human. His personality is a caricature of the original, created only from the many negative memories Ender has of his brother without any redeeming qualities. Worse, Peter does not have an aiua of his own, meaning that he is bound to Ender and soulless.

Given that Peter is Ender in many ways, he takes up the responsibility for trying to stop the Lusitanian Fleet and trying to find a means of saving Jane before he is shut down. The original Peter Wiggin would have been equal to the task but given that this version is incomplete, serious question exists about whether Peter, the child of the mind, can achieve results. Ender achieves a second lease on life by moving his aiua into Peter's body when his own body dies. The combination of Ender's aiua with Young Val's



compassionate qualities, which also move into Peter's body, enable him to achieve a life of his own and to become a worthy husband to Wang-mu. The Peter at the end of *Children of the Mind*, with Wang-mu and all her talent by his side, is very likely to succeed at anything he sets his mind to.

Young Val

Created at exactly the same time and by exactly the same means as Peter, Young Val is also a caricature but one with a very different set of qualities from her brother. Based on Ender's idealization of his sister when she was 13 years old, she is entirely selfless to a fault. Without a life force of her own, Young Val begins to disintegrate early in the novel. She finally becomes fully human when Jane manages to move her aiua into her body. While Young Val as she exists early in the novel no longer exists after the transfer, some of her best qualities move into her brother Peter. Additionally, some of her own knowledge and memories remain with her body resulting in Jane taking on a slightly different personality.

Si Wang-mu

Born into the serving class on the Chinese colony world of Path, Si Wang-mu was an anomaly in that she had all the genetic enhancements of the ruling class, without the obsessive compulsive disorder inflicted on them by Starways Congress. Every bit as intellectual as her mistress Qing-jao, Wang-mu is instrumental in helping the Lusitanian scientists come to a deeper understanding of the descolada in order to contain and re-engineer the virus. Impressed by her intellectuality, and convinced that would have difficulty returning to servant life, Peter enlists her help on his mission to save Lusitania and Jane.

The Pequeninos

The pequeninos, or piggies, are the indigenous species on Lusitania. Much smaller than humans, the pequeninos are pig-like in appearance but more like humans than animals. Not only do they have language of their own, but they also prove themselves to be highly intelligent and learn Stark, the universal human language, quickly. While the pequeninos were not technologically advanced at the time they first met humans, they prove themselves apt students when taught. Firequencher, a pequenino and skilled scientist, joins Miro's crew in order to represent the piggies and help find a way of communicating with the descoladores.

The reproductive cycle is rather involved, having become more involved following the piggies initial infection with the descolada virus. Pequenino "Little Mothers" are fertilized by pequenino fathertrees and then give birth to tiny larva like creatures—the pequenino first life. The creatures are carried to and nursed by mothertrees until they develop into young pig-like pequeninos, representing the pequenino second life. Finally, the most honored of the male piggies are granted a third life. Through a ritual that involves live



evisceration, selected piggies are taken into a third life in which they become fathertrees, retaining all their memories and sense of self. Since they can live for centuries as fathertrees, being granted the third life is like a taste of immortality. Regular piggies become brothertrees and mothertrees when they die but do not retain the memories of their second life. The brothertrees are interesting to note. They have the ability to produce wooden tools from their own bodies when instructed by the fathertrees, thus negating any need for piggies to industrialize. Also noteworthy is the fact that the fathertrees can communicate philotically with one another anywhere on the planet or even between planets. Human, who is taken into his third life by Ender, regularly communicates philotically with the Hive Queen.

The Hive Queen

At one time, the only surviving formic (or bugger as they are most often referred to in the novels), the Hive Queen has grown very close to both humans and pequeninos. Resembling a large insect, the Hive Queen is actually more mammalian in nature than she appears. She is extremely indebted to Ender who not only saves her from annihilation at the hands of Earth's Fleet but also carries her for many years until he finds an ideal place for her to reestablish the bugger species, Lusitania. In a sense, all buggers are the Hive Queen since they are all subordinated to her will and she is able to communicate philotically with them, meaning that even if her drones are light years away, she is able to see what they see and act through them.

On Lusitania, she begins birthing new drones and other Hive Queens whom she dispatched to new colony worlds. She becomes an important friend and ally to the pequeninos who grant her territory in return for her building them colony ships too. The Hive Queen rapidly industrializes on Lusitania and succeeds at producing many starships before the Lusitania Fleet arrives to destroy the planet.

Novinha

Novinha is Ender's wife and plays a small but very significant role in Children of the Mind. Having abandonment issues already on account of the many loved ones who have died on her, Novinha clings to Ender as his life begins to fade. Unfortunately, hers is a possessive love that keeps Ender holding on to life which prevents him from being able to move into Peter's body. With encouragement from Old Valentine, Novinha is able to let Ender go from life and his marriage vows. This marks the first time Novinha has been able to act selflessly in this regard. It also enables Ender to live a new life as Peter, one in which he does not have to bear the guilt of xenocide.

Aimaina Hikari

A philosopher and so-called "keeper of the Yamato spirit," Hikari is an influential and respected teacher on the planet of Divine Wind. Given that the Japanese have come to be extremely powerful both economically and politically throughout the Hundred Worlds,



his influence is significant. When Jane determines the best way to stop the Lusitania Fleet, she instructs Peter to visit Hikari and convince him that stopping the fleet is the right course of action. Indeed, when Peter and Wang-mu succeed at convincing him the Japanese will be responsible for destroying Lusitania, Hikari persuades a former student to use his connections in order to get Starways Congress to recall the Fleet



Objects/Places

Descolada

Descolada is a virus of unknown origin which regulates the biology on the planet Lusitania. Literally meaning "ungluing," the virus is named for its effect on species that are not indigenous to Lusitania. Without supplements that keep the virus in check, the virus is fatal to humans within a week. For all its ill effects the virus actually helps the pequeninos pass into their third lives as trees, retaining all their adult memories. The descolada is extremely hazardous given its ability to adapt in order to overcome human remedies.

During the third novel in the series, the xenobiologists on Lusitania create a virus that destroys the descolada and engineer the "recolada" which is harmless to humans and still enables pequenino reproduction. They theorize that the virus is developed in order to terraform planets for the beings who engineered it. Jane and Miro dub the descolada makers the "descoladores."

M.D. Device or 'Little Doctor'

The Molecular Disruptor Device, or Little Doctor, has the power to destroy an entire planet. The M.D. device was first used by Ender against the buggers' home planet.

Starways Congress

Starways is the ruling body of the human universe. Governing about 100 worlds and even more colony planets, it was Starways Congress that sentenced Lusitania to planet destruction when the humans there violated policy and introduced the native pequeninos to technology.

Philote

A one dimensional strand that connects every single atom in the universe, most philotes connect atoms to the center of their planets. However, human philotes demonstrate a tendency to be influenced by will. Consequently, some humans like mother and child or husband and wife can actually have their philotes intertwine, allowing them to sense one another at great distances. Philotes enable the Hive Queen to communicate with her workers instantly, even when they are light years away. Philotes also enable Jane's faster than light travel.



Aiua

From the Sanskrit word meaning "life," an aiua is a special philote since it represents the one strand in each living being that rules all others. In the context of this novel, we exist because, at birth, a philote comes from elsewhere to take control of our being. Thus we have always existed and will continue to exist until the end of time giving credibility to the idea of reincarnation.

Ansible

The ansible is a communications device that allows instantaneous communication across light years by passing messages through philotic strands. First introduced to humans during the first bugger invasion, the device enabled Ender to command Earth's fleets in real-time, even though they were many light years away.

Divine Wind

Originally a Japanese shogunate protectorate, Divine Wind has become a very cosmopolitan and politically significant world. Home of the Yamato (or true Japanese) spirit, many politicians and business leaders look to Divine Wind as their cultural and ideological center.

Pacifica

Pacifica is a Samoan colony planet upon which the inhabitants follow the teachings of Ur Lava (meaning 'enough'). At the center of this religion is the holy man Malu whose teachings demonstrate an understanding of philotic theory and the very nature of Jane, herself.

Milagre

Milagre is the name of the human settlement on the planet Lusitania. Originally, the settlement was intended to be closed in order to prevent humans from spreading cultural and technological knowledge to the indigenous pequeninos. Ironically, even after the colonists began sharing technology with the piggies, humans have remained shut up in their colony with most of the planet off limits to them. By way of contrast, the Hive Queen established a colony on Lusitania and through co-operation with the piggies has managed rapid expansion.

Faster than light starship

Little more than a glorified box, some of the scientists on Lusitania have managed to work out a method of instantaneous travel. This is possible by having the near



omniscient Jane hold patterns in her mind that can transport people and objects out of known space, into "outerspace" and back to a desired location which can be many light years away.

Xenocide

Xenocide is a term coined by the author to refer to the destruction of an entire alien species. Consequently, since Ender is believed throughout the Hundred Worlds to be responsible for the destruction of the buggers, he is given the ignominious title "xenocide."



Themes

Nature vs. Nurture—with a twist

For ages, philosophers, writers, scientists and sociologists have debated the degree to which human beings are products of their biological inheritance as opposed to their socialization. Card turns this debate upside down. Firstly, Jane originates as a being that exists in computers and communication networks but demonstrates a great deal more humanity than her Starways Congress persecutors. Yet she is not entirely human until she manages to achieve a body of her own and her adjustment to being a creature of the flesh provides a great deal of insight into just how much a human body contributes to who we are. Her temptation to inflict violence on Quara suggests that biochemistry has a way of asserting itself over cool logic. Likewise, when Jane is restored to the computer networks, she realizes that in spite of the freedom and capacity the networks offer her being and personality, the only experience she truly craves is one that is centered in human flesh. Miro's case also underscores the importance of our biology in who we are. After his accident, even though his internal mind was unaffected, Miro became sour and jaded because of his physical and communication disabilities. It is not until he is granted a new body that he is able to become a fully actualized human being.

On the other hand, Peter and Young Val have human biology but are lacking the final elements that would allow them to be human. With no aiaua of their own, they are dependent upon Ender for their existence. Additionally, each lacks at least one important component to their persona for them to be fully human. Peter, having been created without any empathy or compassion, is simply monstrous. Young Val is extraordinarily compassionate but so selfless that she lacks any significant self-preservation instinct. Both Val and Peter achieve humanity but not until they acquire full personalities and aiauas, or souls, of their own. Peter and Young Val are proof that "If it walks like a duck, and it acts like a duck, it's not always a duck."

Edge vs. Center Nations

In addition to developing hypothetical technology and spinning a good yarn, Card manages to integrate his futuristic universe into the entire record of human history. Having done considerable research of his own, including reading the work of Kenzaburo Oe, Card has adopted notions of Edge and Center nations and extrapolated them into the Hundred Worlds of his imagination. Wang-mu is the character who is primarily concerned with this theory and she references ancient civilizations like Rome or America that begin as Edge nations and eventually become Center nations by military, cultural or economic means.

For their part, Center nations tend to be so complicit in their own dominance and privilege that they are completely unaware of the threat presented by Edge nations.



Since the revolution of an Edge nation becoming a new Center nation can take a thousand years or more, Center nations often do not realize they are being deposed until a complete coup has been affected. Wang-mu and Peter succeed at persuading Hikari to intercede on Lusitania's behalf because they are able to persuade him that Japan is becoming a Center nation, a role that Hikari feels is contrary to the Yamato (or true Japanese) spirit. This theme invites us to speculate about the permanence of our own civilization and conjecture which nations or cultures may dominate 500 or 1000 years from now.

Bureaucracy and 'The Tail Wagging The Dog'

Card explains that the premise for the third and fourth Ender novels (which were originally conceived of as one book) came to him while reading about World War II Japan. He learned, and became intrigued by the notion, that the real impetus to maintain and expand the Japanese war effort did not come from senior military officers and the Japanese executive. Rather, the drive to continue and step up the war effort (even as the country's leaders were becoming convinced that the effort was doomed) came from the mid-level officers in the Japanese military. They were the leaders with the appetite and drive to continue pushing forward and the senior officials were more willing to continue and lose the war than they were to appear disloyal or weak to their subordinates by suggesting that Japan begin to consolidate its holdings.

While Children of the Mind operates somewhat differently, it is true that the Lusitania Fleet's strike results from a minority position. The people who swing the vote in Congress are the Necessarians who favor a strong lethal strike against the descolada virus, but the majority of Congress is opposed to the idea of the planet's destruction. The novel is a stern reminder of how a minority can sometimes get a hold of the reins of power while the majority of people remain oblivious to what is really happening. World War II Germany would be another similar example, where only 2% of the population were actual Nazis. The fact that Admiral Lands is prepared to launch the Little Doctor in spite of Congress' desist order is further evidence of how easily the will of the majority can be circumvented.



Style

Point of View

The novel is told from an omniscient third person narrative point of view, which enables Card to tell a story that literally spans light years. Given the variety and scope of the events he relates, the point of view he uses enables him to juggle multiple plot lines throughout the novel with a great deal of effectiveness. In fact, Card's ability to switch from one narrative line to the next enables him to keep his subplots from getting tangled which is admirable given that some characters cross from one subplot to the next. For instance, Miro stays with Old Valentine and petitions Ender for his help at her urging. However, he also plays a central role in Jane's initiative to find and communicate with the descoladores.

Third person, omniscient narration allows Card to present the events of the novel through the eyes of most of his characters, both major and minor. Consequently, not only are we privy to Wang-mu's most intimate thoughts about her role at Peter's side but Card also presents us with the inner workings of Admiral Lands' mind in order that we may understand the psychology of one who is fully capable of, and resolved to commit, xenocide. Not all writers juggle characters with the same ease Card does. Elsewhere he writes that he is very conscious that when adding characters to a novel, they increase the complexity of the work exponentially. By having so many different characters figure in the novel, he not only has to be able to make them think and speak differently, he has to be able to capture the dynamics of all the individual relationships the character has with all the other characters. Certainly a third person, omniscient point of view is best suited to this task.

Setting

In the most general sense, the setting of *Children of the Mind* is the human settled universe, called the Hundred Worlds, 3000 years into the future. Human beings have left Earth and established themselves on many, many new planets. The most settled and developed planets are full members of the Starways Congress-ruled Hundred Worlds while newer, less developed worlds such as Lusitania, are administered as colonies which do not have the same rights and privileges as the full member planets. Consequently, when two citizens of Lusitania are alleged to have been in violation of Starways Congress law, they are ordered to another world to stand trial. Because of the effects of relativity experienced during near light speed travel, even were the two Lusitanians found to be innocent, a minimum of 40 years would have elapsed back home which amounts to something like a death sentence for the detainees. The Starways Congress order for the arrest of the two Lusitanians sparks rebellion in the colony and Congress retaliates by ordering the entire planet destroyed, using the threat of the descolada virus as justification.



Most of the action in *Children of the Mind* takes place outside the dominion of Starways Congress. Lusitania is a frontier world and a considerable portion of the novel is set aboard a starship orbiting the descoladore home planet and manned by Lusitanian scientists, which is just about as frontier as possible. On the other hand, the worlds of *Divine Wind* and *Pacifica* are also realized in great detail and are significant in their representation of member planets within the Hundred Worlds. Both worlds are fully settled and retain significant portions of the culture of their original settlers, with *Pacifica* predominantly Samoan and *Divine Wind* remaining largely Japanese.

Language and Meaning

The novel primarily consists of narration, but dialog comprises a significant portion as well and brief bits of exposition are used as well in order to explicate some of the more scientific aspects of the story. The language Card uses to narrate is relaxed without being informal. Often Card will use contractions while relating a given character's thoughts, but the narration itself uses Standard English so that a reader is not overly conscious of the narration and able to suspend his or her disbelief quite easily. Even though the novel takes a number of futuristic technologies for granted and makes use of a number of specialized terms, such as 'ansible' or 'philote,' they are presented with sufficient context and explanation and handled so realistically as to make them seem commonplace.

When compared with *Speaker for the Dead* or *Xenocide*, the second and third novels in the Ender series, there is a great deal less foreign diction in *Children of the Mind*. Whereas Portuguese helps Card establish certain cultural dimensions to the Brazilian colony of Lusitania in the previous novels, he uses knowledge of customs in this one. For example, on *Divine Wind* Hikari speaks Stark and actual Japanese diction is absent but Card manages to give the planet a Japanese feel by having the characters conduct themselves according to Japanese tradition. In order to establish her credibility with Hikari, Wang-mu engages in a contest with him to establish which of them is most humble. This means that Card is able to give *Divine Wind* a very different feeling than the Samoan planet of *Pacifica* without using unfamiliar diction. In this sense, he has accomplished something new in *Children of the Mind*.

Structure

The novel is divided into 17 chapters of about 30 pages each. Each chapter is subdivided into three to four subsections, which enables Card to move from one subplot to the next and to keep the action advancing on all fronts. All the events unfold chronologically. The early chapters predominantly concern themselves with reviewing the history and background story, particularly the event surrounding Peter and Young Val's creation.

The time frame of the events in the novel is limited to several weeks. The compressed time-line increases the dramatic tension within the novel given that a major plot element



is that the characters are continually racing against time. There are several reasons why the characters must act quickly. For one, the Lusitania Fleet is closing in and known by all to be responsible for detonating the Molecular Disruption Device. Also, Jane's shutdown at the hands of Starways Congress increases the time pressure even more since she will be unable to save inhabitants of Lusitania by moving them to new colonies once she is stripped of her powers. Finally, once Ender takes his deathbed, time becomes even more critical since Peter and Young Val can only exist while he is alive.



Quotes

"Jane, the being who dwells in computers, she holds in her mind as perfect a picture as she can of the starship and all who are within it. The people also hold their own picture of themselves and who they are and so on. Then she moves everything from the real world to a place of nothingness, which takes no time at all, and then brings it back into reality in whatever place she chooses. Which also takes no time. So instead of starships taking years to get from world to world, it happens in an instant." Chap. 1, "I'm Not Myself," pp. 17-18

"He had never said to her the most obvious thing, that if there was anyone to blame, it was God, not him. After all, it was God who had made saints—well, almost saints—out of her parents, who died as they discovered the antidote to the descolada virus when she was only a child. Certainly it was God who led Estevao out to preach to the most dangerous of the pequeninos. Yet in her sorrow it was God she turned to, and turned away from Ender, who had meant to do nothing but good for her." Chap. 2, "You don't believe in God," p. 35

"Miro remembered it very clearly. One moment he was sitting in the starship, looking at this perfect image of himself, strong and young and healthy; the next moment he was that image, had always been that image, and what he looked at was the crippled, broken, brain-damaged version of himself. And as he watched, that unloved, unwanted body crumbled into dust and disappeared." Chap. 3, "There are too many of us," p. 54

" "And what do the Necessarians teach?" That one lives in peace and harmony with one's environment, disturbing nothing, patiently bearing mild or even serious afflictions. However, when a genuine threat to survival emerges, one must act with brutal efficiency. The maxim is, Act only when necessary, and then act with maximum force and speed. Thus, where the militarists ending a fleet armed with the Molecular Disruption Device, which would destroy the threat of the descolada virus once and for all." Chap. 4, "I am a man of perfect simplicity!," p. 82

" "Center nations are so confident of themselves that they generally don't need to embark on wars of conquest. They are already sure they are the superior people and that all other nations wish to be like them and obey them. But Edge nations, when they first feel their strength, must prove themselves, they think, and almost always they do so with the sword. Thus the Arabs broke the back of the Roman Empire and swallowed up Persia. Thus the Macedonians, on the edge of Greece, conquered Greece; and then, having been so culturally swallowed up so that they now thought themselves Greek, they conquered the empire on whose edge the Greeks had become civilized — Persia. The Vikings had to harrow Europe before peeling off kingdoms in Naples, Sicily, Normandy, Ireland, and finally England. And Japan—" " Chap. 4 "I am a man of perfect simplicity!," pp. 93- 94

" " You are assassins. Assassins of the heart, come to destroy me, come to tell me that in seeking to find the Yamato way I have somehow caused my people to rule the human



worlds and use that power to destroy a helplessly weak sentient species! It is a terrible lie to tell me, that my life's work has been so useless. I would rather you had put poison in my tea, Si Wang-my. I would rather you had put a gun to my head and blown it off, Peter Wiggin." " Chap.4 "I am a man of perfect simplicity!," p.96

" " It's never been done before — catching something already alive and leading it into a body that is already owned by someone else's aiua. It's not going to work, I'm going to die, but I'm damned if I'm going to let those bastards who made the descolada come along after I'm dead and wipe out all the other sentient species I've known. Humans will pull the plug on me, yes, thinking I'm just a computer program run amok, but that doesn't mean I want someone else to pull the plug on humanity. Nor on the hive queens. Nor on the pequeninos. If we're going to stop them, we have to do it before I'm dead. Or at least I have to get you and Val there so you can do something without me." " Chap. 6 "Life is a suicide mission," p.144

" "[Jane's] not a higher being", said Wang-mu. "Not like you mean it. Not a god. Though she does have a lot of control and she knows a lot of things. But she's not omnipotent or anything, and she doesn't know everything, and sometimes she's even wrong, and I'm not sure she's always good, either, so we can't really call her a god because she's not perfect." " Chap. 6 "Life is a suicide mission," p.158

" " Only humans were not tied to the earth. It was not vines that bound them down, it was a web of light woven by no god that connected them upward to the sun. So all the other animals bowed down before the humans, for the vines dragged them down, while the lightweb lifted up the human eyes and heart." " Chap.7 "I offer her this poor old vessel," p. 168

"<What can we do differently?> asked Human. <We have made the strongest web we can. We have joined to you and to each other as never before, so that all of us tremble, all of us shake as if there were a shimmering wind dancing with us and making our leaves beautiful in sunlight, and the light is you and your daughters and all the love we have for our tiny mothers and our dear mute mothertrees is given to you, our queen, our sister, our mother, our truest wife. How can Jane not see the thing that we have made and want to be a part of it?>" Chap. 8 "What matters is which fiction you believe," pp.177-178

" "Well, if you want to go that far, none of us has any purpose at all," said Wang-mu. "Our lives are just our genes and our upbringing. We simply act out the script that was forced upon us." "Oh," said Grace, sounding disappointed. "I'm sorry to hear you say something so stupid." " Chap.8 "What matters is which fiction you believe," pp.184-185

" "What," said Plikt nastily, angrily. "What you wanted to feast on him yourself? Well, there was too much of him for you. What's worse, cannibals who nibble here and there, or a cannibal who keeps the whole man for herself when there's far more than she can ever absorb?" " Chap.8 "What matters is which fiction you believe," p.189



" "This much I know," Malu told them, through Grace. "If the god is to be given life of her own, if she is ever to be restored to her power, Ender Wiggin has to die and give a body to the god. There's no other way." " Chap.10 "This has always been your body," p.211

" "I want you to live," said Novinha. "To live. As Peter. That's a fine young boy with a long life ahead of him. I wish him well. Be him now, Andrew. Leave this old widow behind. You've done your duty to me. And I know you do love me, as I still love you. Dying doesn't deny that." " Chap.10 "This has always been your body," p. 223

"This aiua she had led through the body now took grateful mastery, eagerly as if this were the first body he had ever had. And perhaps it was. Having been cut off, however briefly, would he even remember being Andrew Wiggin? Or was the old life gone? The aiua was the same, brilliant, powerful aiua; but would any memory linger, beyond the memories mapped by the mind of Peter Wiggin?" Chap.10 "This has always been your body," p. 223

" "Do you think I keep my eyes in my anus?" asked Aimaina, using an expression so crude that Yasujiro gasped and averted his gaze, laughing nervously. "Do you think I don't know that there are ten ways to buy every crooked politician and a hundred ways to buy every honest one? Contributions, threats of sponsoring opponents, donations to noble causes, jobs given to relatives or friends —do I have to recite the list?" " Chap. 11 "You called me back from darkness," pp. 235-236

" "We....found from our government sources that the Japanese influence on Starways Congress was and continues to be pivotal on this issue in particular. And in our judgment there is no time for us to try to build a coalition of other companies or to change public opinion. The fleet might arrive at any moment. Our fleet, if Aimaina Hikari is correct; and even if he is not, it is a human fleet, and we are humans, and it might just be within our power to stop it." " Chap.14 "How they communicate with animals," p.293

" "On the contrary," said Lands. "To fail to destroy this world and the deadly peril on it would be a crime against humanity far worse than the crime of blowing it up." " Chap.14 "How they communicate with animals," p.293

" "There are times when you have to defend yourself or someone else against relentless evil. And some of those times the only defense that has any hope of succeeding is a one-time use of brutal, devastating force. At such times good people act brutally." " Chap.16 "How do you know they aren't quivering in terror?" p.324

"Ender, who was a stranger in every land, belonging nowhere, serving everywhere, until he chose this world as his home, not just because there was a family that needed him, but also because in this place he did not have to be entirely a member of the human race. He could belong to the tribe of the pequinino, to the hive of the queen. He could be part of something larger than mere humanity." Chap.17 "The road goes on without him now," p.335



Topics for Discussion

The descoladores represent an enormous threat to humankind. To what extent are human beings obliged to find a peaceful means of eliminating the descolada as a threat? Under what conditions would you support launching an M.D. Device against their home planet?

Peter suggests that humans are the only species that have ever been responsible for attempting to eradicate another species entirely. However, he also states that he feels in 3000 years, humankind seems to have learned some important lessons and is not doing too badly. Use contemporary examples to justify whether you think that as human beings we are showing any improvement as a species.

Miro experiences a moment of doubt while contemplating his upcoming marriage with Jane. Given the vastness of both her awareness and intellect, he can only ever hope to be a small part of her life and experience. Explain whether you think a successful marriage is possible in their circumstances. Why or why not?

Even though Starways Congress sends the order NOT to deploy the M.D. Device against Lusitania, Admiral Lands takes it upon himself to violate his orders and launch the device regardless. Is it possible to possess weapons of mass destruction and ensure that they will only be used in the best interests of the people they are suppose to serve? Explain.

Peter suggests to Admiral Lands that if Starways Congress is willing to cooperate, Jane may be willing to assist them with faster than light travel. In what ways could Jane's powers be of benefit to other people in the Hundred Worlds? What are some ways that her abilities might be misused?

Given that the Samoans know that Jane's being is dependent upon science and the computer networks, why is Jane worshiped as a god on the planet Pacifica? To what extent is she worthy of their faith and in what ways is their faith rewarded?

Human and the Hive Queen develop a very close bond. To what extent is actual love possible between them given that they can never meet in person and do not even belong to the same species?

Explore Card's ideas about Edge and Center nations. At what point in America's history do you think it became a Center nation? What Edge nations may impact America's future?