



The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels

By Doris Lessing

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels By Doris Lessing

In the title novel, two friends fall in love with each other's teenage sons, and these passions last for years, until the women end them, vowing a respectable old age. In *Victoria and the Staveneys*, a young woman gives birth to a child of mixed race and struggles with feelings of estrangement as her daughter gets drawn into a world of white privilege. *The Reason for It* traces the birth, faltering, and decline of an ancient culture, with enlightening modern resonances. *A Love Child* features a World War II soldier who believes he has fathered a love child during a fleeting wartime romance and cannot be convinced otherwise.

 [Download The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels ...pdf](#)

The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels

By Doris Lessing

The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels By Doris Lessing

In the title novel, two friends fall in love with each other's teenage sons, and these passions last for years, until the women end them, vowing a respectable old age. In *Victoria and the Staveneys*, a young woman gives birth to a child of mixed race and struggles with feelings of estrangement as her daughter gets drawn into a world of white privilege. *The Reason for It* traces the birth, faltering, and decline of an ancient culture, with enlightening modern resonances. *A Love Child* features a World War II soldier who believes he has fathered a love child during a fleeting wartime romance and cannot be convinced otherwise.

The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels By Doris Lessing Bibliography

- Rank: #469314 in Books
- Brand: Lessing, Doris May
- Published on: 2005-01-04
- Released on: 2005-01-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .76" w x 5.31" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 336 pages

 [Download The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels* By Doris Lessing

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The latest by the prolific Lessing is a collection of four novellas that vary considerably in quality, with the best of them, "Victoria and the Staveneys" and "A Love Child," showing her at the top of her very impressive form. They are both at once intimately detailed yet infinitely expansive in their suggestions of a lost world only recoverable by a profoundly observant writer. In "Victoria" a young London black woman of charm and great fortitude survives and transcends the hardest of all assimilations: acceptance by a free-thinking, liberal white family. The shades of racial and social subtext here are evoked with a sure hand that even a Zadie Smith could envy. "A Love Child" powerfully evokes a strange aspect of a familiar time: a terrible ocean voyage, during WWII, by a hapless British regiment sent to the Far East to help protect India against Japanese invasion. James Reid, a young conscript, puts ashore in South Africa in the course of this nightmare voyage and embarks on a liaison that transforms the rest of his life. The detail and almost hallucinatory power with which an era and an ethos are recaptured are Lessing at her best, comparable to Ian McEwan's amazing war scenes in *Atonement*. The other stories are on a much lower level. The title story is about an odd relationship between two older women and each other's young sons; it is an original idea, but curiously lame in the telling. And "The Reason for It" is one of those peculiar tales in the SF/fantasy genre that Lessing does well enough, but that never seem to be quite her m-tier. Still, the two prize pieces here are well worth the price.

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [The New Yorker](#)

The subtitle of this collection of stories—"Four Short Novels"—announces their ambition: each unfolds over decades, tracking with dispassionate precision how youthful notions come to define, and even defeat, a life. Two women seal their friendship by seducing each other's teen-age son; an aged counsellor recounts the decay of a mysterious ancient civilization ruled by a handsome but foolish despot; an impoverished black girl bears the child of a middle-class white boy, and is welcomed by his self-consciously liberal family. Lessing's scathing intelligence ranges widely, but her tales tend to wobble under the weight of her ideas. She is at her best in the final story, which extends from England to the outposts of empire in South Africa and India during the Second World War. A British soldier has a brief affair with an officer's wife, and in later years becomes obsessed with the idea that he might have fathered a son, a possibility that appears to him as the key to the life he should have led.

Copyright © 2005 *The New Yorker*

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Fans of Lessing will find her trademark themes, times, and places in *The Grandmothers*. In these stories, as in her previous novels and memoirs, Lessing successfully captures the joy and pain of the human condition. This collection, coming from a writer nearing the end of her career, is impressive but uneven. Readers will find four very different and appealing narratives, from a surprising story about parental relationships to a dark comedy about social inequalities. Critics generally agree that "A Love Child" and "Victoria and the Staveneys" are the two standout works; the title story received poor reviews for its incredulous plot and flat language. For Lessing fans, push on; for novices, this isn't the place to start.

Copyright © 2004 Phillips & Nelson Media, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Hickman:

Do you one of people who can't read gratifying if the sentence chained in the straightway, hold on guys this specific aren't like that. This The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels book is readable simply by you who hate the straight word style. You will find the information here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to provide to you. The writer of The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels content conveys prospect easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different as it. So , do you nevertheless thinking The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

Jose Tiernan:

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book may be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the guide untitled The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels can be great book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Scarlet Rome:

This The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels is great publication for you because the content which is full of information for you who also always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This book reveal it info accurately using great coordinate word or we can claim no rambling sentences included. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but hard core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels in your hand like having the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no reserve that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen minute right but this book already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt that?

Sean Owens:

Guide is one of source of expertise. We can add our information from it. Not only for students but in addition native or citizen require book to know the change information of year for you to year. As we know those publications have many advantages. Beside we add our knowledge, can bring us to around the world. With the book The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels we can take more advantage. Don't you to definitely be creative people? For being creative person must love to read a book. Just choose the best book that ideal with your aim. Don't end up being doubt to change your life at this time book The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels. You can more desirable than now.

**Download and Read Online The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels
By Doris Lessing #VRIEJXL1W7T**

Read The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels By Doris Lessing for online ebook

The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels By Doris Lessing Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels By Doris Lessing books to read online.

Online The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels By Doris Lessing ebook PDF download

The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels By Doris Lessing Doc

The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels By Doris Lessing MobiPocket

The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels By Doris Lessing EPub

VRIEJXL1W7T: The Grandmothers: Four Short Novels By Doris Lessing