

Review of Children of Morwena

Cosmic in concept Children of Morwena is symbolic of those issues which threaten the healthy survival of young people into the future – technological gigantism in weaponry, unequal distribution of wealth, exploitation, homelessness, alienation, drug trafficking.

Westland is both imaginary and everyone's homeland. The potential for healthy adolescence for teenagers Leila, Andre and their cousins thriving on land and in families they love, is shattered in a single war strike against Morwena. Their families are destroyed and the children and adolescents who have been evacuated, are orphaned, and fall prey to every kind of human predator in their struggle to live. Surviving by their wits, they must either participate in, or evade the drug rings, illicit black-market, child labour rackets and deathly government institutions.

Their quest for life, in the face of these life-defying forces, confronts them with the rawness of their own unique light and darkness. It is an all consuming battle between the forces of light and darkness, which have their stage in the external world, and in the soul of every adolescent.

This drama captures the reader's soul, for it is about the ultimate struggle of the human being to find in the depths of the human soul, light and hope, to surmount overwhelming hopelessness, exploitation and poverty.

It is even more poignant for it is adolescents and children who undertake this struggle to create hope, meaning and light in an adult world governed by aggression, exploitation and indifference. This is the heart of the matter for many adolescents in today's world.

This is a tough story, there are no easy victories and not everyone makes it. But it is an empowering story. There is always the power to choose to bring the light from within to shine through the world's darkness, but this victory comes after one has confronted one's own darkness, pain and despair.

In this story, each adolescent is challenged to become an authentic human being and to create a meaningful existence, from the anvil of his/her own soul. The adult world has failed to provide models for either. The victory belongs solely to each adolescent who finds his/her own power and chooses to shape destiny.

Essential reading for every adolescent facing the 21st century.

By Doctor Patricia Sherwood
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