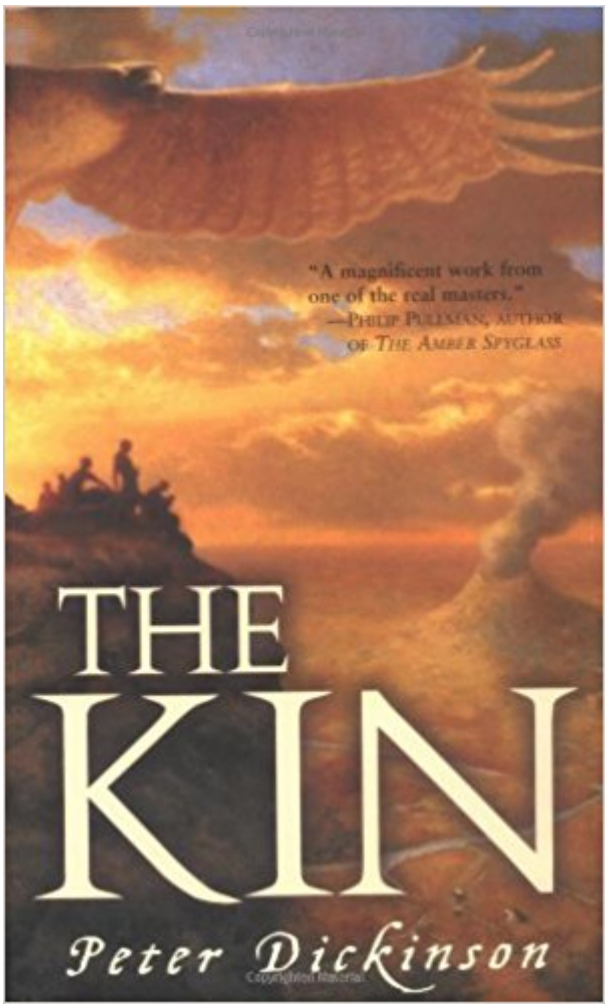
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The Kin



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Synopsis

It is two hundred thousand years ago. A small group of children are cut off from their Kin, the Moonhawks, when they are driven from their "Good Place" by violent strangers. While searching for a new Good Place, they face the parched desert, an active volcano, a canyon flood, man-eating lions, and other Kins they've never seen before. Told from four points of view, with tales of the Kins' creation interspersed throughout, this epic novel humanizes early man and illuminates the beginning of language, the development of skills, and the organization of society. It is a triumphant book from one of the genre's most revered authors.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The dazzling British writer...spins fascinating fiction. -- The New York Times Book Review

Peter Dickinson was born in Africa but raised and educated in England. From 1952 to 1969 he was on the editorial staff ofÃ Â Punch,Ã Â and since then earned his living writing fiction of various kinds for children and adults. His books have been published in several languages throughout the world. Ã Â The author of twenty-one crime and mystery novels for adults, Dickinson was the first to win the Gold Dagger Award of the Crime WritersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ Association for two books running: The Glass-Sided Ants Nest (1968) and The Old English Peepshow (1969). Dickinson was shortlisted nine times for the prestigious Carnegie Medal for childrenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s literature and was the first author to win it twice. Ã Â Dickinson served as chairman of the Society of Authors and was a fellow

of the Royal Society of Literature. He was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 2009 for services to literature. Peter Dickinson died on December 16, 2015, at the age of eighty-eight. Ã Â Ã Â --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I really enjoyed this book. It was intriguing! Lots of action and emotion.

The Kin is a fabulous book for those who wish to better understand prehistory. It follows a group of four children who separate from their Kin because food has run out. They travel to find others. Not only a coming-of-age narrative, but a great insight on how early people lived. The chapters are interspersed with folk stories about the creation of different animals in a storyteller's mode.

I used this book in my class to enhance our studies of the Neolithic age. The kids really enjoy it and it has helped them understand how the early people needed to move around and the difficulties posed in doing so.

GREAT READ

Speculative fantasy set in our distant past, when early humans were walking out of Africa, this brilliant quartet of children's novels (one from the point of view of each of four connected children who are forming a new tribe) takes you into the mind and mythological worldview of primitive proto-people.(In that sense it is like a kids' version of another of my all-time favorite books, The Inheritors by William Golding - a Neanderthal's view of the coming of modern humans.)But The Kin has another layer of brilliance: each of the four novels has a complete mythic tale woven through it, each chapter followed by a page or two of the myth, the two being thematically related and illustrative of the interplay of early human action and early human imagination.A unique work by a wonderful author of a wide range of novels.

After reading a few just so-so books, I really wanted to get lost in a great tome of a story. The Kin was just the ticket. The book is actually four novels published in one volume, weighing in at just over 600 pages. The story is paced really well, so I would look up from reading and realize I had just knocked out 50 or 75 pages in no time. I'm a huge history fan and have always been interested in the history of early mankind. Set in prehistoric Africa, this novel imagines what life was like for the clans of people surviving in the African deserts.The stories of Suth, Noli, Po, and Mana are

interspersed with Oldtales, or creation stories about the Kin’s First Ones, which I found to be really interesting and illuminating as to how the characters behaved and reacted to life in the wild. Each First One is an animal, such as a monkey or a pocupine, and each Kin is named after a First One. The mixture of myth and history was just perfect and very entertaining.A most interesting aspect of this book is how Dickinson imagined communication between speaking and non-speaking humans. The four children the stories follow belong to the Moonhawk Kin, which consists of highly verbal humans. Along the way, they encounter the Porcupine Kin, who are nonverbal but are still very communicative through sounds and gestures. Some of the Moonhawks say that the Porcupine Kin are not really ’people’ because they can’t speak words, but others, particularly Noli, are convinced that the Porcupine are just as human as anyone else even though they are different.All in all, this novel is a very interesting and thought-provoking work of ’prehistorical’ fiction.

The "Reading Level" for this book is listed as Young Adult, but the content, style and level of complexity should not be thought of as aimed at or restricted to teens. This is an outstanding and thoroughly engaging book, carefully thought out and written. If you have an interest in early man - or even if you don’t -, you will enjoy it. I am far from being a teen, but I have re-read it several times for pure pleasure.

A wonderful storyteller, Dickinson brings the dawn of human civilization to life!A wonderful tale of a small group of talking individuals who survive numerous death-defying encounters, both with natural disaster and with other humans and animals!It is also a tale of coming-of-age for these youngsters, at a time when they should still have had the freedom of childhood.Reminscent of the Clan of the Cave Bear series, The Kin brings us details about post-Neanderthal man’s life, and the imagination for us to view and feel it as well.I couldn’t put this one down!I give it five stars! And my Thumbs Up award!***DISCLOSURE: This book was a private purchase and I was under no obligation to offer review.

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