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## Book Catalog

# Children of Los Alamos

By Katrina R. Mason

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204 Pages, Twayne Publishers

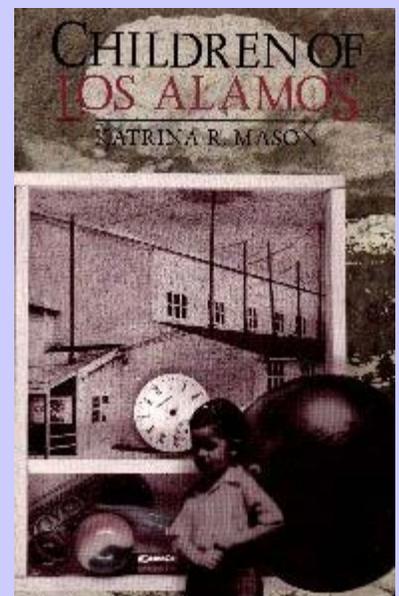
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## Our Review

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This is a fascinatingly strange book. It tells the tale of the early years of Los Alamos, though the eyes of the children of the scientists and other personnel stationed there. Primarily an oral history, it provides a unique look at a most unique place. Being a kid is sometimes tough in itself, but being a kid in a community surrounded by fences and guards, where daddy can't really say what he does all day, and everyone seems to be keeping some secret is on a level all its own. Even so, a great many of these children went on to become high achievers on their own, and enjoy great success. It was as if, unbeknownst to anyone, a major social experiment was taking place. *Children of Los Alamos* does a fine job chronicling that experiment. -- *tm*

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### From the Book Cover

"*Children of Los Alamos* is a grand achievement. It captures the unreal reality of the secret city where the atom bomb was born, depicts America in the 1940's, and presents a portrait of childhood - all at the same time."

--Rose DeWolf, Staff Writer, Philadelphia Daily News

"Katrina Mason has the skill to conceal the immense toil involved in projects like this. From a mountain of difficult material, she has made a powerful story that seems to tell itself."

-- Henry Taylor, former Poet Laureate of Virginia

Katrina R. Mason has interviewed a wide range of people who spent all or parts of their childhoods in Los Alamos, New Mexico- the place where scientists built the atomic bomb that ushered in the nuclear age. To create this engaging and provocative portrait of a place that has come to epitomize the scientific advances and moral ambiguities of this century. Mason has synthesized the recollections of those who lived in Los Alamos from its muddy beginnings in 1943 - when the town was an army secret and residents officially lived at P.O. Box 1663 - to the late 1950's, after the Laboratory had come under the auspices of the Atomic Energy Commission. Exploring how the children have dealt with their often conflicting feelings about their parents' involvement in the creation of nuclear weaponry, Mason illuminates the personal and often very emotional dimensions of a fascinating historical era.

Katrina R. Mason is a journalist who lives in Bethesda Maryland. She is a graduate of Smith College and received her M.A. in English literature from the University of Pennsylvania.

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