

Author's Note

Sorry about the happy ending. Wait...no I'm not! I created this version of the Animorph conclusion with legitimate cause. Rather than apologise, I now intend to explain to you why my need to write The Rebellion and The End was so great.

Some might tell you it is because I am an optimist who can not accept depressing stories. Some may say it is because I am a sentimentalist who can not stand to see the bonds of love and friendship fail. Then there are those who will tell you that it is simply because I am an obsessive compulsive who devotes too much time to fiction.

While all of the above theories are contributing factors, the main reason is because I wanted to save the series' integrity. This was something I believed to be lacking in the original ending.

It is not enough that the Animorphs save the world. To any involved reader, this accomplishment is the secondary concern. It is the fate of those characters the reader has known and loved that makes an impact.

For three years, a small group of amazing kids has fought for Earth. They have cherished and protected their families.* They have each found their own personal connections to the vast populations caught up in the war, through individual victims they have helped, befriended or felt for.** Among the Animorphs a friend was always there for a friend in need. They pulled each other through with every timely rescue, aid and comfort they had to give.

Late into the series, these Animorphs teamed up with another group of amazing kids. Being physically disabled was no hindrance to these people's strength of character. Although willing to sign on and help fight the Yeerks, James made one thing perfectly clear from the start: "*You may think our lives don't mean much to us, because they don't mean much to other people.*"

But we do value our lives. And one another.’ ” (#50 The Ultimate, page 82).

In the end, however many Yeerks dead and however many humans alive, the result is defeat if every hope the heroes held out for comes to nothing.

So, I decided that Jake, Rachel, Tobias, Ax, Cassie and Marco would continue to care about each other, their families, the people they'd helped, the planet they'd saved and the course their own lives were to take.

I decided that James's people would not put up with being killed off, but would instead live to prove their worth, both to the war effort and to its after affects.

I decided that, under these conditions, I would be better able to enjoy the Animorph series as a whole.

I wanted the Animorphs to go out the way they came in: living, coping and caring.

*(#31 The Conspiracy, #45 The Revelation, #49 The Diversion).

****(Melissa Chapman, #2 The Visitor; Jara Hamee and Ket Halpak, #13 The Change; Mr. Edelman, #17 The Underground; Aftran, #19 The Departure; Mr. Tidwell, #29 The Sickness; Aldrea, #34 The Prophecy; Mertil, #40 The Other)**