



The Lost World: A Novel (Jurassic Park)

By Michael Crichton

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From the author of *Timeline*, *Sphere*, and *Congo* comes the sequel to the smash-hit *Jurassic Park*, a thriller that's been millions of years in the making.

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

"Fast and gripping."—*The Washington Post Book World*

It is now six years since the secret disaster at Jurassic Park, six years since the extraordinary dream of science and imagination came to a crashing end—the dinosaurs destroyed, the park dismantled, and the island indefinitely closed to the public.

There are rumors that something has survived. . . .

"Harrowing thrills . . . fast-paced and engaging."—*People*

"A very scary read."—*Entertainment Weekly*

"Action-packed."—*New York Daily News*

"An edge-of-the-seat tale."—*St. Petersburg Times*

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Written in the wake of *Jurassic Park*'s phenomenal box-office success, *The Lost World* seems as much a guidebook for Hollywood types hard at work on the franchise's followup as it is a legitimate sci-fi thriller. Which begs the inevitable questions: Is the plot a rehash of the first book? Sure it is, with the action unfolding on yet another secluded island, the mysterious "Site B." Is the cast of characters basically the same? Absolutely, from a freshly minted pair of cute, compu-savvy kids right down to the neatly exhumed chaos theorist Ian Malcolm (who was presumed dead at the close of *JP*). But is it fun to read? You betcha. Hollywood (and Michael Crichton) keeps telling us the same old stories for a very good reason: we like them. And the pulp SF formula Crichton has mastered with *Jurassic Park* and *The Lost World* is no exception. --Paul Hughes

From Publishers Weekly

One fact about this sequel to *Jurassic Park* stands out above all: it follows a book that, with spinoffs, including the movie, proved to be the most profitable literary venture ever. So where does the author of a near billion-dollar novel sit? Squarely on the shoulders of his own past work?and Arthur Conan Doyle's. Crichton has borrowed from Conan Doyle before?Rising Sun was Holmes and Watson in Japan?but never so brazenly. The title itself here, the same as that of Conan Doyle's yarn about an equatorial plateau rife with dinos, acknowledges the debt. More enervating are Crichton's self-borrowings: the plot line of this novel reads like an outtake from *JP*. Instead of bringing his dinos to a city, for instance, Crichton keeps them in the Costa Rican jungle, on an offshore island that was the secret breeding ground for the beasts. Only chaos theoretician Ian Malcolm, among the earlier principals, returns to explore this Lost World, six years after the events of *JP*; but once again, there's a dynamic paleontologist, a pretty female scientist and two cute kids, boy and girl?the latter even saves the day through clever hacking, just as in *JP*. Despite stiff prose and brittle characters, Crichton can still conjure unparalleled dino terror, although the wonder is gone and the attacks are predictable, the pacing perfunctory. But his heart now seems to be not so much in the storytelling as in pedagogy: from start to finish, the novel aims to illustrate Crichton's ideas about extinction?basically, that it occurs because of behavioral rather than environmental changes?and reads like a scientific fable, with pages of theory balancing the hectic action. As science writing, it's a lucid, provocative undertaking; but as an adventure and original entertainment, even though it will sell through the roof, it seems that Crichton has laid a big dinosaur egg. 2,000,000 first printing; BOMC and QPB main selection.

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From Library Journal

abridgment of Crichton's latest novel, a sequel of sorts to the best-selling *Jurassic Park* (Knopf, 1990). Ian Malcolm, who supposedly died at the end of *Jurassic Park*, nonetheless returns to the islands off Costa Rica with a new crew to search for lost worlds of dinosaurs and investigate several theories of extinction. Unfortunately, *The Lost World* comes up short compared to the intrigue that the extraction, repair, and replication of dinosaur DNA generated for readers and listeners in *Jurassic Park*. Instead, *The Lost World* consists mostly of more dinosaurs that chase and sometimes capture Malcolm's cohorts or members of a rival gang led by an unscrupulous genetic engineer, Lew Dodgson. Dodgson would love to steal a few dinosaur eggs as part of a scheme to hatch the perfect laboratory animal ("If they're extinct, then they can't have any rights," Dodgson observes). Recommended.

Cliff Glaviano, Bowling Green State Univ. Libs., Ohio

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Keith Taylor:

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Crystal Lavigne:

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