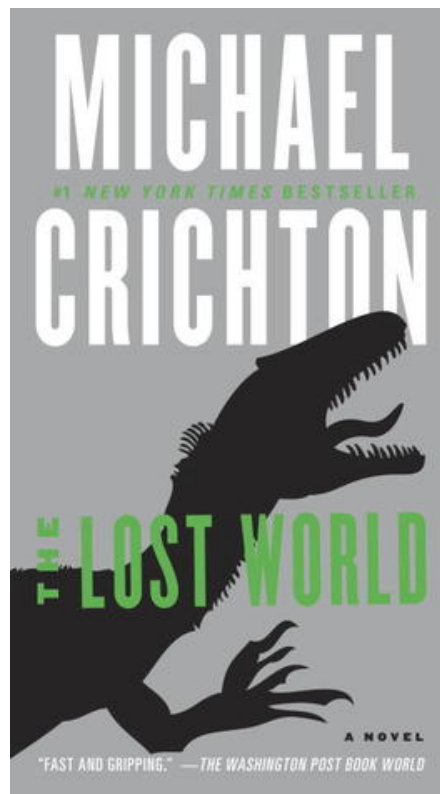




The Lost World

Michael Crichton

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The Lost World

Michael Crichton

The Lost World Michael Crichton

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.

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The Lost World Details

Date : Published October 30th 2012 by Ballantine Books (first published September 17th 1995)

ISBN : 9780345538994

Author : Michael Crichton

Format : Paperback 416 pages

Genre : Fiction, Science Fiction, Thriller, Adventure

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From Reader Review The Lost World for online ebook

Andrew says

I have to say that I do enjoy the writing style of Michael Crichton and although he has had his share of varying popularity I always feel I can trust his writing to deliver (even if to some that feels safe and uninspiring)

Anyway I digress - this was the second of his Jurassic Park novels and again a loose basis for the film (it still fascinates me how the first book and film diverge, digressing again), however the film was such a success there is little of surprise to the book, for me it was more the pace.

The book very quickly sets the scene and then throws you to the 'raptors as it were with action happening fast and nonstop. Now this could garner criticism in that its just one long theme park ride but if you are short of time to invest in characters or complex plots yet want something well written then this is ideal and at the moment that is what I am looking for.

The Andromeda Strain is still one of my favourite books so I will be a little defensive of Michael Crichton but his book does not need it - it stands on its own - and as a creature feature it certainly delivers. Now with the rebooting of the film franchise I hope that his original books will also enjoy a resurgence of popularity as I know I will gladly re-read them with little encouragement

Peter Meredith says

The Lost World is not a very good book. The story is a slog to start and the characters are very weak. So weak that if any of them had actually been eaten by the constantly hungry dinosaurs I would've been like: shrug.

As the story progressed and I waited impatiently to find out: would they actually solve the mystery of the missing Dr Levine and go to the island of dinosaurs--as if there was a chance of that not happening--I was introduced to a series of these weak characters and it then became a struggle to decide who I wanted to be eaten first.

Initially I really wanted one or both of the two genius kids to get chomped. Their place in the book was so formulaic, so PC, and so contrived that it marred the over-all story. They were there simply to add some emotion to a flat read. It didn't work since you just knew neither of them would die. (Side note: Every author should kill a main/well liked character every 5 or 6 books just to keep the possibility out there.)

The next on my list of those characters who I wished would just get torn to shreds was Richard Levine, who was a know-it-all bore. It would've been good for him to have been killed very early in the book (maybe chapter 4?)--just as long as he didn't linger in his demise. Whenever Levine opened his mouth he would go on and on, until I found myself skimming.

Third on my hit-list was Sarah Harding...I mean Dr Sarah Harding (Everyone has PhDs and multiple PhDs and everyone is all so brilliant that it's tiresome.) Though I would have liked to see Sarah become Dino-kibble it wasn't going to happen. She was a female Tarzan and it was a wonder she didn't kill a T-Rex with a spear. Uhg. I get tired of the PC world (Though to be fair the dinosaurs weren't at all scary. In one scene Dr Levine is stalking a T-rex on a bicycle, completely unafraid, which had me wondering: why did they come to rescue him?)

Ironically, the only person that I really wanted to live was a character who had died in the first book. For some reason the author resurrects Ian Malcolm. If you remember, Malcolm hated dinosaurs, yet for some reason he tags along on expedition to a dinosaur infested island to find Levine, a man he really doesn't like.

It's completely out of character for him and makes no sense. In fact in the first few chapters he's completely against the idea and then pop! He changes his mind with no real reason given.

So all the characters suck and this is because they aren't in-depth people with strong desires and motivations, instead they are talking props. They all seemed to sit about either spewing sciencey knowledge or receiving sciencey knowledge; this they take turns at doing. And everyone is a genius, or so we are told. Judging by their actions however, they are a bunch of morons who deserve to be eaten.

So much for the characters, how about the story itself?

Dinosaurs are scary. Run everyone. Bad guys die. Good guys live. It was a cheap imitation of a good book: Jurassic Park. I wouldn't bother with this sequel.

Eddie Owens says

Michael Crichton always gives good science and when you add in dinosaurs, it should be great.

But it's not. It's a slow burner, no action for the first 200 pages, just lots of science. However, I like the way he educates the reader and tries to add a story in there. For instance, I now know why human babies are totally helpless for the first couple of years of their lives, whereas some baby animals can walk a few minutes after birth - you'll have to read the book to find out why.

It's very obvious that he is full of great ideas, but this plot is paper thin and the characters are all one dimensional. His experts are geniuses with little or no backstory, family or kids. His token woman is a tough naturalist, with little or no backstory, family or kids; and his two child heroes, are geniuses who cope astonishingly well, when their lives are under threat from man eating dinosaurs.

This is either a screenplay adapted into a novel, or a novel that was written with a view to the screen adaptation.

Ashley *Hufflepuff Kitten* says

I still maintain that without Ian Malcolm this book would've received a 2-2.5 star rating because without his snark I would've been bored to deathhhh. As it is, 4 stars feels generous but that ending just put me in a good mood. Good book, not sure it was necessary because nothing will top the original, but Malcolm spits so much truth about theories and what humans think we know that I'd say it deserves a read if you liked Jurassic Park.

...Can we have the new Jurassic World movie now plz?

K. says

Trigger warnings: violence, gore, near drowning, seriously you guys, there's so much gore.

30/10/2017

On reread, I'm bumping this up to 4.25 stars. It's ten bazillion times better than the truly terrible movie of the same name. I love the two kids in the story - they're smart and brave and save the day a bunch of times. And

Sarah Harding is a pretty great alternative to Ellie Sattler.

It's a little slower to get going than Jurassic Park, but it's still pretty damned fabulous.

24/9/2016

It takes a decent chunk of time for the story to get going in this one, but once it does, it's pretty damned fabulous. I mean, it's not Jurassic Park. But really, it was never going to be. And despite the big T.rexes-kicking-the-trailer-off-a-cliff scene, there seem to be less interactions with dinosaurs than there are in Jurassic Park?? Still, it's definitely worth a look.

Honestly, I think my favourite thing in this book is something that I only noticed on this reread: somewhere around the turn of the century, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote a very silly but thoroughly enjoyable adventure novel called The Lost World in which a group of explorers travel to South America and discover a plateau on which dinosaurs still live. They've been largely domesticated by the lost tribes that live on the plateau, and the iguanodons hop around like kangaroos and it's terrible but also really great??

Anyway, while the exploration party is largely made up of scientists - and a newspaper reporter, who's telling the story - there's also a world-famous big game hunter named Lord John Roxton. And in THIS version of The Lost World? Crichton has his characters talk about a researcher named John Roxton, who wrote papers on something relevant to the story.

It's a really subtle little Easter egg for those who've read both books, and I had this total "OH MY GOD, DID YOU JUST?????" moment when I spotted it. A+, Crichton. A+.

1/7/2013

It's been years since I read this book, and it was SO much better than I remembered. First of all, don't base it on the movie. The movie was a trainwreck of epic proportions and basically the only thing that's the same is the baby T. rex ending up with a broken leg and the trailer being pushed off the cliff. Literally everything else is different, and it's different in a GOOD way.

There's far less of the science that Crichton got bogged down with in Jurassic Park, and what there is is sprinkled throughout the story. There are all the standard dinosaurs that you'd expect, but with the addition of some fun new species, including one with nifty camouflage abilities.

In short, it's a lot of fun with the usual "kill off half the characters" that Crichton does. And don't even remotely judge it by the movie. If they'd kept even remotely true to the book, the movie probably would have been a LOT more successful than it was!

Chelsea says

I find a lot of people discuss the "resurrection" of Ian Malcolm in their reviews, and I'd like to throw in my two cents. It's true, Malcolm is mentioned as dead at the end of Jurassic Park. To be exact, Muldoon is telling Grant what's happened to everyone else as they're flying away in the helicopter:

"What about Malcolm?" Grant said.

Muldoon shook his head.

The epilogue mentions the Costa Rican government not permitting the burial of John Hammond or Ian Malcolm (amongst a list of other ways they dragged their feet and covered things up). But that's it.

My point is this: it's not as if Crichton tricked us by delivering a long death scene where Ian Malcolm said

his last goodbyes and made some final point about evolution and chaos theory - then got lazy and just reintroduced Malcolm into the next book. Malcolm's "death" in JP was not seen, and only vaguely mentioned (unlike every other major character who died in the book). Also, the explanation given in *The Lost World* as to why the others thought he was dead was completely plausible - **he was simply so close to death that he was left for dead.**

I'll get off of my soapbox now. For me, *The Lost World* was a satisfying and exciting read. I think I read it in about a day and a half the first time, and I've re-read it a few times since.

Karen says

Now that was really enjoyable!! I really loved all the science and theories.

William Dalphin says

What I learned from *The Lost World*: The only people worthy of surviving in Crichton's world are geniuses. Everyone else is destined to be fodder/feed for terrorizing thunder lizards.

The Lost World suffers from two things: First off, if you've ever read *Jurassic Park*, then you know that *TLW*'s protagonist, Ian Malcolm, is, in fact, **dead**. That's right... he died in *Jurassic Park*, but since they couldn't convince Sam Neill to return for the movie, Crichton rewrote history so that Malcolm somehow survived (never mind that they verified he was dead, and then the whole island was napalmed with his corpse on it).

The second problem is that every single important person in *The Lost World* is some sort of certifiable genius. Malcolm's two tagalong kids are both gifted. Everyone who comes along is some form of expert of some field. The only people who aren't talented/gifted/smart are the regular folks, and they all end up being the bad guys of the book. Seriously, I'm not kidding. The good guys are all geniuses, and the bad guys are all... not. And, naturally, the geniuses survive because they are geniuses, while the bad guys all die because they are not so smart.

The Lost World is Crichton's way of effectively kissing his own ass.

Sarah says

This might turn out to be one of my favorite books of all time. I feel like there was so much to love. I don't care if he was just cashing in on the success of the *Jurassic Park* movie. I'm not even mad that Malcolm's death was retconned. What I'm mad about, is that Hollywood took a beautiful book and hacked it into pieces and tried to dazzle us with animatronic dinosaurs. Okay so I like animatronic dinosaurs too, but still- there was no need.

The plot is this: Dr. Levine suspects something happened that involved Dr. Ian Malcolm in Costa Rica six years ago. Of course, Malcolm denies it because NDAs and all that. But he says: "Get me physical proof of a

dinosaur Lost World and I'll help you on your Costa Rican dinosaur expedition." So Levine snoops and snoops and eventually gets Malcolm the evidence he required. Dinosaur chaos ensues. Meanwhile, those bad guys over at Biosyn still want all the Dino tech for themselves, so they are in the distant background doing bad stuff.

The science: I found all Malcolm's musings on Chaos theory and order absolutely fascinating. Crichton makes it very accessible to the reader in a way that is thought provoking but also not difficult to understand. I'm glad he was resurrected because truth be told, he's a much more interesting character than Dr. Grant.

Sarah Harding. She's basically Wonder Woman. I want to be Sarah Harding when I grow up. She is an example of a female heroine done right. I'm sad she was written by a man but Crichton did her justice. She's strong. She's brave. She knows what she wants and she goes and gets it. She is not a damsel in distress, and at NO point in this novel does she require rescuing from the men. In fact, they quite frequently needed rescuing from her. And that scene with Dodgson? Absolutely priceless. Her relationship with Kelly was perfect and I adored her for it. Kelly becomes a little Sarah Harding in her own right.

Were there as many dinosaurs in this as in Jurassic Park? No. Did I mind? No. The characters and the story of their survival took front and center here and it was fantastic. I sort of think of it like I think of Spielberg's production/direction strategy. Less is more. A ripple in a puddle. A thump in the distance. The threat is always there, but you can't always see it. It's your imagination that makes the horror real.

The action scenes were all edge of your seat thrill rides. The classic trailer on the cliff scene was done much better in the book. The presence of children on the island heightened the suspense.

My only word of warning: if you liked the movie before, you'll probably be disappointed in it by the time you're done reading The Lost World. Read it anyway. It's worth it.

Beorn says

The story goes that Steven Spielberg flush with the success of the first Jurassic Park movie, itself an adaptation of a Michael Crichton novel, decided to try and repeat his success by commissioning the author to write a sequel to his original novel (which the first movie was based on) which they could then adapt into a movie.

Whether or not that's true I cannot say but I will say that do not base your initial judgement of this book or the prospect of reading it on the lacklustre utter turkey that the film turned out to be.

In many respects, the novel is everything the film should have been and wasn't. Not only did Spielberg fiddle with a lot of the key elements of the story but completely remove some of the best parts of the whole story!

I won't go into details as it'll only include spoilers but I've lost track of how many times I've read this book other than it being somewhere in the region of twenty or more times. It's THAT good!

If you're a fan of Michael Crichton, dinosaurs or just rip-roaring adrenaline-fuelled rides, you should give this book the read it clearly deserves!

Forget the movie altogether, witness what should have been!

Krystal says

Not even close to as amazing as the first book, but this still has some great dino moments and absolutely fascinating ideas.

WARNING: This review contains unhidden spoilers for Jurassic Park.

The sequel is a little slow to get into. It's been six years since the events of the first book, but it's all been covered up and the people involved deny having been a part of anything. Hammond has stayed dead (unlike Malcolm) so we need a new reason to head back into dino territory and that reason comes in the form of a curious scientist, Levine, who strikes up a bizarre friendship with Malcolm based on the theoretical idea of a 'lost world' - an isolated location where animals previously considered extinct may have actually survived.

Thing is, this is the theory that starts us off, but it's a pretty flawed theory because these animals *didn't* survive - they're a product of Hammond's greed, which was so beautifully destructive in the first book. Obviously we already know there's going to be living dinosaurs, and as soon as they mention 'Site B' you can pretty much rule out natural occurrence. So why bother with Levine's ridiculous theory in the first place?

The science in this book both fascinated and frustrated me. There's *so much* of it, and honestly I loved how crazy the theories were but I'm pretty sure if you actually knew a bit about science and examined this you'd pick out a lot of flaws. But, since **this book is smarter than me**, I kinda just went with it and appreciated learning all these new things about biology, evolution, extinction, chaos, etc. But it comes thick and fast and this book is far more interested in examining theories of dinosaur behaviour and extinction than bringing the thrills and chills that the first book delivered so brilliantly. Malcolm has a ton of info dumps and it's hard to keep up, meaning the pace really drags at times. I was never bored though? I was really interested in all the behaviour discussions, but as for proteins and chemicals it kinda just *whooshed* on over my head. It was fun to try and comprehend it, though, and act like I was smart.

The dinosaurs that we meet are familiar faces, but they seem far less antagonistic in this one, and everything is 'fascinating, unusual behaviour' rather than 'HOLY JEEZUZ THE DINOS ARE GONNA EAT US.' Which made me sad, because I am a twisted person who enjoys reading about fictional people suffering gruesome deaths at the hands of dinosaurs and other savage creatures. It doesn't really amp up until about 3/4 of the way through, but at least the ending is action-packed! I probably would have enjoyed less raptors because they did all the menacing of the first book so I was ready for something different. Also just would have been nice to have new dinos to learn about. But hey, who can really complain about those savage velociraptor claws?

The characters blended together a little bit again, but you could also kinda guess who was going to end up as dino-chow. The kids were less annoying, but Arby was like a washed out copy of Tim from the first novel, so he and Kelly didn't really bring much to the table. Also they seemed a bit unbelievable for a couple of 13yr olds. I liked Sarah, and I liked that she was gung-ho, but I did think it was a bit much at times? (She was far more annoying in the movie, though. Book Sarah I can actually stand. Movie Sarah needed to be trampled by triceratops or ravaged by raptors.) Malcolm had so much sass in the first book but he's relegated to snarky scientist in this one so it takes out a bit of the fun. I do still love him as a character though. I like that he's so cynical.

I love the setting, and this idea that there's these dinosaurs living on their own private island roaming free. The whole 'studying extinction' side of things was a bit of a mess, but meh. I wasn't particularly invested in their research, anyway. I just wanted plenty of interactions.

Crichton writes the interactions and encounters wonderfully - he has a gift at creating suspense and formulating a fantastic visual to accompany the story. There was some great tension throughout.

It doesn't quite live up to the first book, but there's still some fascinating ideas and suspenseful moments. This book has solidified my love of Crichton's work, so I'll be working my way through his books in the future.

David Firmage says

Better than the first book and great narration by Anthony Heald. A sense of peril that is not evident in the film.

Casey says

I will start my review by saying that I did not enjoy this novel nearly as much as the first book, Jurassic Park. While this was an incredibly easy and fast read, I would have preferred if Crichton had cut roughly a hundred pages of additional information that, in my opinion, did not add to the story. Other than that, wow! What an adrenaline-charging, action-packed book! Crichton sure knew how to grab his audience by the hand and take them on a roller-coaster into a whole other world—a world in which you are sure to get Lost, ha-ha!

Bella says

[

Malcolm lived....yeah I am all for the fact he lived because I loved him in the film but in the book...WTF? He lived? He died of a rotten leg in the first book.

Eddie died....yeah I called it early on that Eddie was going to die. Damn it Eddie, then I had to read about raptors fighting over his carc

Chris Friend says

WOW, this was disappointing.

I remembered going into this book that I had enjoyed the film version of the original Jurassic Park far more than the book -- a rather unusual situation for me. I had a slight feeling of apprehension, but I ignored it. Even if I hadn't, though, it wouldn't have prepared me for the frustration and disappointment of this story.

Let me get this point out right from the start: The plot resolves itself WAY too quickly, as though something that is suddenly obvious, easy to think of, and even easier to find was completely hidden from consciousness since the characters' first opportunity to think of it from about a fifth of the way into the book.

Additionally, the characters pose some very interesting questions during their experiences that would be

fodder for quite interesting discussions or even intriguing scientific theory/discovery in the book. (For instance, why are there so many predators on the island? Why do they see so few carcasses? What went wrong on the island? Why does the raptor nest look the way it does?) That last was the only one I thought was halfway decently answered; all the rest seemed like cop-outs. Hell, the way the characters started to get out of their last little fix was complete B.S. that came from a bogus thought process from one of the kids.

One random compliment that (unfortunately) has nothing to do with the author's writing ability: He took the Carnotaurus that I'm familiar with from the simulator ride Dinosaur! at Disney's Animal Kingdom and gave it a rather unique twist: the ability to change colors with astonishing detail. I'll have to admit, after being scared by that dino on the ride many years ago, the thought of it being a chameleon made me sympathize with the terror felt by the characters. But really only for one scene. Then it was right back to the frustration.

My biggest complaint was the author's blatant activation of dramatic suspense. A character's thoughts would be either articulated through dialogue or explained through narration right up to the next-to-the-last word, and then something would distract the person from completing the thought, and the author would move on. That, in my book, is cheating. If the character thinks about something but can't figure it out, or if he's unsure why something just came to mind, fine. That's character development, in a way. (Levine's thoughts on daylight in the final scene fall into this category. I actually accepted that he couldn't remember what the big deal was. Granted, when he finally *did* figure it out, and he went back into his holier-than-thou attitude, even saying, "Well, isn't it obvious?", I wasn't sure if I wanted to smack Crichton or Levine more.)

A couple of conversations between characters -- usually involving Levine, now that I think of it -- were so full of these interruptions that I almost threw down the book. I was being played with, and I didn't appreciate it. It was something like this:

"So I got this completely figured out. The only way we can avoid getting eaten in the next twenty seconds is if we.... Oh, look! A leaf just fell in the breeze!"

or

"I wonder why these dinos are acting like this. It might have something to do with the environment they're in. Okay, if we factor in what they had for breakfast last year, and consider the death rate among dinos living 65 million years ago... Oh, this makes sense. They're all dying because....ACK! An attacking dino!"

and then

"Levine reaches the place he's been trying to reach for the last sixty pages. There's a dino in his way. He looks around for a tool to use to beat the beast to smithereens, getting more and more anxiously panicked, trying desperately to think of anything, when suddenly he sees....And the dino roared and started charging."

Whether the reader is supposed to feel exhilaration from the suspense, offense from being insulted, or just frustration with the irrational and incomplete descriptions, I won't pretend to know. Personally, though, a combination of the latter two was able to fester and boil and brood quite effectively throughout the course of the novel. I was completely put off by the writing style and the predictability of his archetypes -- I could easily make a matching quiz to list the names of characters from this book and its predecessor, and there's a direct correlation for each one, with the same role being filled by each and the same outcome happening to each. Oh, and Malcomb gets hurt. Again. What the heck is this guy's role, really? Token chaos-theory expert to make the reader believe that when everything goes to hell, it's supposed to? Bubcus.

I hereby swear to never again read another Michael Crichton novel. Yep, it was that disappointing.