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The Mysterious Island



Synopsis

"The Mysterious Island" is a novel by Jules Verne, published in 1874. The plot focuses on the adventures of five Americans on an uncharted island in the South Pacific. Jules Gabriel Verne (8 February 1828 – 24 March 1905) was a French novelist, poet, and playwright best known for his adventure novels and his profound influence on the literary genre of science fiction. Translator: Frederic Amadeus Malleson (1819–1897)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The story was interesting and has held up well. Even though the author is famous, this is the first book of his I have read. I'm guessing the flow of his writing is suffering a bit from a translation from French into English? The other thing that is difficult to believe is so many resources were available to them on the island and that one person could know how to so extensively use them to the exact needs of the castaways. Suspending disbelief, it was an enjoyable read, if somewhat labored by the details of how what they were accomplishing was possible. I may even read the next book in this story which shares further details of the fate of the castaways.

This is such an amazing book and far more superior than the movie would ever be. As I read this book it is filled with such memories and flash backs as a child on the lighthouse stations I lived for 10 years. Packed full of adventure with the characters being intuitive in order to make their survival more successful and comfortable. Thus were the days I had on the lighthouse stations on the west coast of British Columbia. Anyone who had adventure in their past this is the book to read. Of course as I read it I cannot go without a highlighter and a pen to jot down notes and to highlight interesting areas which of course are many. Anyone buying this book and taking the time to read it will not be disappointed. Another most exciting thing to do as fathers is to read this book aloud during family time in the front room or the rec room or buy the bed side. So get ready for some high adventure as you race through these magnificent pages of excitement and intrigue. Happy reading everyone.

Great book. I wish the schools would assign this as a required read. There is a lot of science in the story that would really open kids up to practical uses of science. Some of the books my high school kid was assigned this year were horrible stories. He had one on mass killers in an English class. What happened to reading good positive or adventurous stories?P

The slog through Mysterious Island is finally over. Oddly, the pace of the last 50 pages picked up. Aside from his secret good deeds for the castaways, Nemo's appearance, virtually at the end, is superfluous. The "narrative" as novel is indeed mysterious. My edition, 2012 (Simon and Brown) has no information about the translation, which I can only speculate, contributed to the stilted dialogue of the characters, whose personalities differ little from one another. Perhaps the readers of 1874 were fascinated by the excruciatingly detailed descriptions of the exotic flora and fauna. It's not unlike Melville's detours into the history and science of whaling in Moby-Dick but Verne's payoff is not anything like Ahab squaring off with the whale. Lastly, the "castaways" are quickly transformed into colonists, so that they bring their collective talents to bear on the island not just to survive but to conquer its resources to the point of rapacity, expanding their influence as to create a kind of dominion: 19th century empire building. Maybe I'm just prejudiced because the Hollywood film version (1961) was such a childhood favorite. But despite the Harryhausen special effect creatures, the contrived love interest for Herbert, the movie's plot simply made more sense.

Perhaps the best of the principal works of Verne. The community that the marooned men create is both unique and inspiring. They are rich in talent, strong in their sense of community, and resilient. It

is a classic in the way that they build a life on this remote and interesting island. And of course there is mystery..of the most remarkable kind! A terrific read for teens and beyond.

I have plans to buy this book in a First Edition, good condition example. Because I expect to read this again and again I'll recommend it to others, as I was impressed by the muggenuggets of knowledge mixed into the story of heroic, patriotic, hardworking castaways who cultivated the lonely terrace Firma that they happened to land on after being lost at sea. Absolutely perfect example of Renaissance era suspense novel.

This story, The Mysterious Island, held my attention from Chapter 1 to the end. I cannot believe that I had not read it before. It is the story of a small group of men who began as only acquaintances or strangers and who were forced to rely on one another for their very survival on an isolated island. Written far before the space age, this book nonetheless reminds us that we are on a small rock isolated in the vastness of the universe, reliant on one another for survival. I highly recommend The Mysterious Island to people of all ages.

What a wonderful, engrossing journey! I read this book in one setting, and that was not fast enough. I, as the reader, was in the moment with all our characters, and dreaded the arrival of the Pirates as much as the colonists of Lincoln Island. What a wonder adventure, and I also wondered if I would be able to survive as they did? Maybe with Captain Nemos' interference and faith in God, it might be.....Thank you for writing this! Such a pleasure to read and participate in.

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