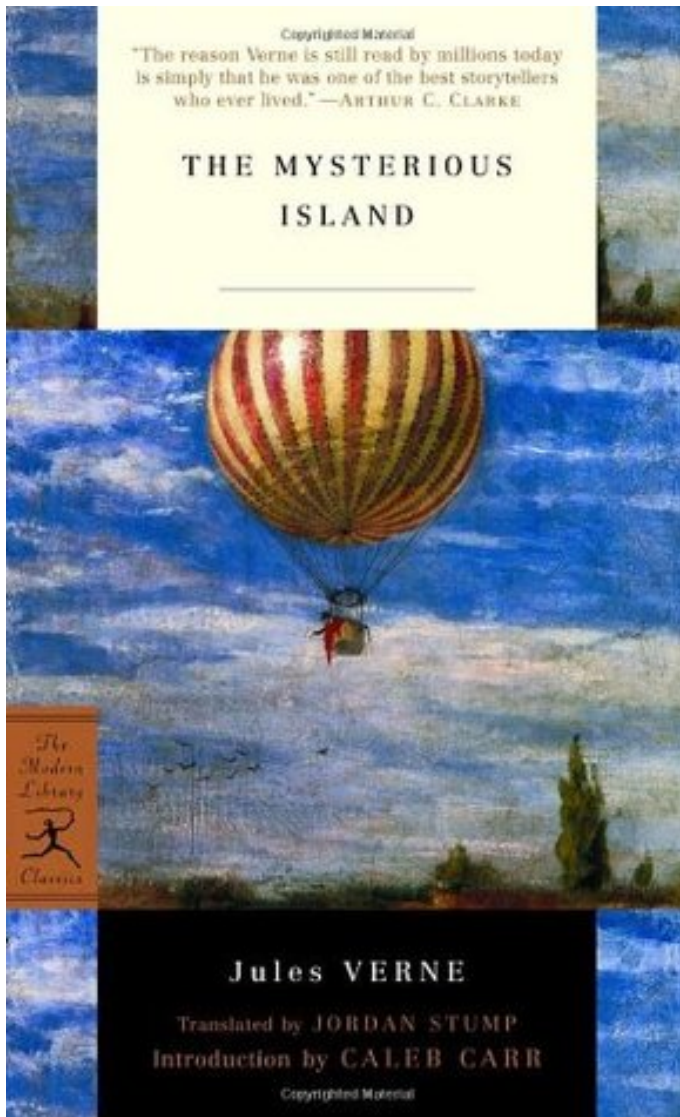

Jules Verne

The Mysterious Island (Extraordinary Voyages #12)



Title: The Mysterious Island (Extraordinary Voyages #12)

Author: Jules Verne

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 723

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0812972120

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 9.6 MB

Download: allowed

Description

Five Union prisoners escape from the seige of Richmond in a balloon, are blown off course and crash on an uncharted island. They must learn to rebuild a society for themselves while awaiting rescue.

Insightful reviews

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Jacques le fataliste et son maître: «– Avevate una lente, signore? – domandò Herbert a Cyrus Smith.
– No, ragazzo mio, – rispose questi, – ma ne ho fatta una.»
Ne ha fatta una... Non sarà l'unica cosa che i naufraghi del cielo si costruiranno: dalla lente per accendere il fuoco all'esplosivo, al telegrafo. Fra i romanzi di Verne più famosi, *L'Isola misteriosa* è quello che contiene le invenzioni più "modeste" (una lente, delle candele, del vetro...) ma, in compenso, meglio rappresenta il *processo inventivo* nella sua essenza. E nel suo valore. Gli esseri umani sono tali perché trasformano il mondo, perché lo addomesticano. E i naufraghi si fanno coloni, mentre il loro mondo si arricchisce di strumenti e comodità, accuratamente elencate – quasi litanie laiche. Se di una religione dell'essere umano si tratta, non poteva mancare il dio, generoso e provvido – e misterioso, nascosto nel cuore dell'isola. Cauti esplorazioni saranno tentate per sondarne il segreto, e offriranno se non risposte almeno una scena carica di fascino e tensione (la discesa di Cyrus Smith nel pozzo roccioso...). Il dono del benefico genio dell'isola saranno attrezzi e libri – per rendere la vita sull'isola più umana –, armi e medicine nel momento del bisogno, fino alla rivelazione finale, che risponderà agli

interrogativi sollevati dall'altro capolavoro di Verne, *Ventimila leghe sotto i mari*. E saranno dure risposte, che solleveranno altre domande, etiche e politiche...

Bella raccolta, su Wikipedia, delle incisioni di Jules Férat presenti nell'edizione Hetzel dell'*Isola misteriosa*:

<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Cat...>

Crosly Anderson: While I was reading 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea, I noticed the small footnote in one of the last pages. It said, "If you want to find out what happened to Captain Nemo and his ship, read: The Mysterious Island." Immediately, I dashed towards Chapters to find this mysterious enigma of a book. I asked my father about it and he shrugged and said: "I read 20, 000 Leagues Under The Sea, but I never read the sequel. I never even KNEW there was a sequel."

So therefore, I found the book in the Adult Fiction section, bought it, and began to read. It was insane, how much I read of that book during the summer, page after page. It took me a long time to finish this book and I was still obsessing over the main characters misadventures. Is there a PREQUEL? REALLY? Where?

I want more. It's like children with chocolate, never stopped to ask for more. Jules Verne's books were my chocolate, I never stopped asking for more.

Read it. You won't be disappointed.

PS Its VERY long. You must have the time to finish it. A PERFECT summer reading book, as I do say so myself!

Bryan: Mysteries abound: After analyzing The Mysterious Island, I ponder how a lot Jules Verne's present recognition is predicated on Nineteen Fifties and '60s video clips loosely--very loosely--adapted from his novels. During this book, there aren't any gigantic crabs or bees, or aliens, or maybe women. There are 5 males and a puppy looking to get away besieged Richmond throughout the Civil warfare who're carried off in a balloon through typhoon winds to an uncharted island within the Pacific, the place they locate and make what they should survive. The "colonists," as they type themselves to prevent the unfavorable connotations of "castaways," are a fantastic assortment, every one guy having wisdom or abilities that supplement these of the others. Cyrus Harding, the engineer, is not just a bottomless good of data approximately mechanics, chemistry, navigation, and different functional topics, yet is usually a common leader. Gideon Spillett, the reporter, is a professional hunter. Pencroft, the sailor, is familiar with shipbuilding and is a prepared worker, whereas his teenage ward, Herbert, is a well informed naturalist and capable hunter. Harding's servant, Neb, performs the function of prepare dinner and domestic, whereas Harding's dog, Top, presents prepared senses and instinct. While Verne wrote, "It may were tricky to unite 5 men, higher suited for fight opposed to fate, extra guaranteed to conquer it," it can't were with out a few experience of irony, when you consider that he's the person who introduced them jointly in his imagination. Whereas a mysterious influence, whose acts are ambiguous at the start yet develop into extra tangible over time, rescues the settlers or offers them with simply what they wish simply after they desire it, the genuine secret of the island is the island itself. Probably Verne misunderstood or misused

universal names; he calls Jup's troop either "orangutans" (apes) and "baboons" (monkeys). He could have been pandering to a Victorian flavor for the exotic. The island that the settlers name "Lincoln" for his or her wartime president is an impossibility of nature. Creatures from approximately each continent and surroundings roam between an both not going mix of geological formations and choice of plants. Onagers from the Asian steppes and heart japanese deserts, koalas (described as "large" and speedy) from Australia, jaguars from primary and South America, orangutans from the Borneo rain forest, and musmons from isles of the Mediterranean are between Nature's bounty chanced on in this small temperate island. Here, tropical apes, cats, and parrots live to tell the tale below-freezing winters as simply because the musmons and goats. The mineral riches are both diverse, yet whilst he wonders approximately this paradise, Harding tells his comrades, "Nature provides us those things. it's our company to make a correct use of them," signaling the start of man's endless quest to beat and wreck nature. Even the water needs to be tamed; the settlers needs to "borrow its power, really misplaced with out revenue to any one." below Harding's leadership, and with the occasional support of the island's mystery benefactor, the colonists construct an immense infrastructure that gives them with shelter, water, food, clothing, power, tools, and weapons. Harding isn't the chief simply because he's rich, reliable looking, charismatic, good spoken, or the opposite issues that entice civilized man; he's the chief simply because he is aware what to do and the way to do it, and has religion in his skill to do it--and simply because he has clever fans in whom he can instill that very same faith. the inability of discord one of the colonists is as not likely because the plant life and fauna, however it might be Verne's statement on management while it's such a lot needed. while an incredible choice needs to be made, Harding refuses to make it with out acquiring the critiques of all concerned, together with his personal servant. Taken clear of civilization and its layers of social, moral, and different complexities, and compelled right into a state of affairs the place capable management and keen cooperation suggest not just survival yet convenience and satisfaction, those males upward push to the occasion. it's no twist of fate that the impetus for the coming on Lincoln Island is the Civil War, one in all America's bloodiest, so much savage times. within the afterword, writer Isaac Asimov attempted to figure out the charm of "robinsonades" like Robinson Crusoe, Swiss relations Robinson, and The Mysterious Island. He got here to the realization that such stories solution the question, "What do I do if civilization fails me?"--a query which can follow to castaways on an uncharted island or survivors of a civil conflict or a nuclear or chemical/biochemical holocaust. Perhaps, though, the query is extra uncomplicated than that. it may possibly be, "Do i want civilization at all?" whereas the North and South have been counting and burying their lifeless and attempting to heal the nation--a strategy that during many ways has no longer been completed--Harding and his team have been utilizing either their minds and their palms to form a near-paradise (interestingly, one during which tobacco is neglected sorely, yet now not women). The Mysterious Island starts slowly; an excessive amount of ink is devoted to Pencroft's wish to kill devour each creature they encounter, and the characters can look psychologically shallow and constrained to a mature reader. At a few point, however, i discovered myself so attracted to Lincoln Island that I, just like the colonists, used to be reluctant to depart it. i used to be even disenchanted through the final word destiny and residential of the settlers, because it didn't appear the proper position for them to be. whereas no longer a literary masterpiece, The Mysterious Island doesn't desire sizeable crabs, bees, or perhaps ladies to be an exceptional tale of its kind.

Werner: As with lots of my pre-Goodreads books, the date learn for this one is a top guess, yet most likely approximately accurate. even supposing I loved it overall, i did not cost it as hugely as my Goodreads pal Bruce lately did. Simply put, the basis here's that during March 1865, 5 Unionists (one the black former slave of 1 of the white escapees, and one other a 15-year-old boy) break out from Richmond through stealing a balloon that is been ready and provisioned for a accomplice mission; yet are fast blown manner off beam through a huge hurricane, and 5 days later finish up on an uncharted island. by the point of the Civil War, of course, balloon flights weren't science-fictional. This novel's technology fiction aspect is admittedly a tie-in with Verne's past novel, *Twenty Thousand Leagues below the Sea*; yet i'd say that a lot of the plot is a descriptive fiction story of experience and survival lower than antagonistic conditions. (In that respect, it has much in universal with Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, and readers who just like the one could just like the other.) that is not out of personality for Verne; he did not think about himself as a author of "science fiction" (the thought as such did not exist then), yet as a author of "Extraordinary Voyages," of which this is often one, and he used to be as drawn to describing the intense wonders of the particular international as in speculating in regards to the amazing marvels he believed technological know-how may well achieve. Verne was once a practising Roman Catholic. To a better volume than in his different works (at least those i have read), he speaks the following in his third-person narration concerning the providential care of God; and our castaways right here numerous instances either pray to God for support and recognize and thank Him for benefits received. Bruce, in his review, discerns a planned symbolism right here within which the island stands for the world, whose population are watched over and provided by means of a beneficent Deity. As an intentional symbolism, i would not rule it out, although it truly is sufficiently subtle that it did not recommend itself to me whilst I learn the book. In any case, it might probably definitely be a sound reader-response criticism. (And given the geological instability of the island, you'll expand this symbolism to incorporate Christian eschatology --but no spoilers here!) yet this does not indicate that the castaways are or could be passive; at the contrary, for them as for the population of this terrestrial island in space, profiting from the assets they are blessed with takes cooperation, difficult work, courage, and science and ingenuity. Fortunately, they've got those in abundance! Despite the Goodreads connection with their wanting to construct a "society," this is not fairly sociologically-oriented technological know-how fiction. Our characters need to paintings together, pull their weight and share; yet you do not advance a lot of a "society" with 5 humans in it. Their conflicts and demanding situations are primarily with nature and with actual processes, instead of interpersonal. Verne is a part of a literary culture that has a tendency to be extra gadget-oriented than people-oriented; and this indicates here. My literary personal tastes are extra attracted to the human element, instead of the physical-technological. That money owed for my decrease ranking for this than for different SF works that attention extra on character. For me, this was once frequently a below riveting read, notwithstanding readers extra excited about studying approximately survival innovations and home made expertise could react differently. The prose kind in step with se wasn't problematical; i discovered this extra readable than the various author's different works in that respect. Of course, this calls for a caveat: overseas copyright did not exist in Verne's day, such a lot of English-language variations of his paintings have been pirated, and he used to be very poorly served through many of the unauthorized translators, who took gigantic liberties. So with such a lot 19th-century translations, you are by no means 100 percent definite that you are truly examining whatever similar to Verne's original. :((The Airmont variation I learn presents no information regarding what translation was once used.) As a background major, i used to be get

rid of via the inaccuracies within the method the Richmond surroundings of March 1865 was once depicted. Verne was once writing approximately 9 years after the war; yet he evidently both did not stick with the modern money owed of it very closely, did not have in mind them well, or both. (And he did not take time to investigate the subject, either!) Richmond was once by no means "besieged" through furnish or anyone else; and a Union prisoner should not have been loose to stroll round the city. (Union officials have been held in Richmond; yet they have been restrained to Libby Prison.) Also, the tie-in with Twenty Thousand Leagues lower than the ocean which i discussed above has a few chronological inconsistencies with the sooner booklet that I famous on the time I learn this one, yet that are challenging to provide an explanation for with out a spoiler. yet at the confident side, i do not keep in mind whatever invidious or derogatory within the portrayal of the black character, Neb; and that is a plus now not continuously present in the literature of that era!

Kirstine: I bear in mind this publication from my childhood. I be mindful jogging among the cabinets of books in my school's library trying to find it, simply because I enjoyed analyzing it so much. i do not consider a lot, beside them escaping in a scorching air balloon. How may possibly one ever put out of your mind that?I additionally know the way it'd be tremendously effortless to abridge it, simply because truthfully no longer much occurs for the 1st three hundred pages or so. They discover, construct and prosper, with very lengthy factors of how. It's interesting, to a couple extent, and that i appreciate Jules for placing in rather a lot attempt to make all of it appear practical and doable. yet it's now not attention-grabbing adequate to put in writing a publication about, and but i have to admit i used to be by no means really bored. not anything may need happened, yet I nonetheless saved reading, simply because it's well-written and the characters upload leisure while the plot fails to (especially Pencroft, oh my god, he's hilarious). The final 2 hundred pages or so are even more exciting, related to every part that you'd count on and unexpectedly issues get exciting. The final half is well-worth the build-up and entirely supplies when it comes to the "mystery" of the island being solved. considering again on it, i'm wondering why I wasn't extra frustrated with it. It gave the impression of I must have been. every thing during this comes so easy. The characters are leading examples of excellent men, they trust each one other, there are not any fall outs, the island offers every thing they wish and in some way their mixed wisdom of nature and technological know-how lets them create what they can not collect. It's, in short, the castaway dream. Which probably explains why it's now not demanding – all of us like it whilst issues paintings out. You by no means need to fear approximately even if they'll make it, you recognize they will, this means that you could relax and luxuriate in the ride. the following I'd additionally prefer to touch upon Cyrus Harding. he's to The Mysterious Island what Ned Stark is to video game of Thrones – he's that one personality who has such robust ethical personality that, whereas alive, he can maintain the full international from tumbling into chaos. that's why Ned dies in A music of Ice and hearth (you can't have struggle for those who continue the single guy round they'd all rally behind) and why our 4 partners cross above and past to find Harding whilst he's misplaced before everything of this book. it really is stated of Harding: "What had Pencroft to say? He may well say nothing, for, within the backside of his middle he shared the arrogance which his partners had in Cyrus Harding. The engineer was once to them a microcosm, a compound of each science, a possessor of all human knowledge. It was once greater to be with Cyrus Harding in a wasteland island, than with no him within the so much flourishing city within the United States. With him they can wish nothing; with him they might by no means despair. If those courageous males

have been instructed volcanic eruption may ruin the land, that this land will be engulfed within the depths of the Pacific, they'd have imperturbably replied, 'Cyrus is here!'""What a man! would not all of us are looking to be him? Or a minimum of understand him. This places Harding because the common leader, simply because he wishes no one, whereas the others desire him. he's the kind of guy different males degree themselves against. so long as he's round they can't falter. And we, the readers, desire him too, simply because he's the one who incorporates the plot forward. he's relatively a super personality to have round – he solves all of your problems. It does although suggest only a few of those characters felt actual to me, their consistent goodness and ethical worthiness intended they lacked depth. ((view spoiler)[My brain is additionally within the gutter, simply because I stored considering those males needed to get it on with each other at a few point. I mean, seriously, would not be the 1st time devotion became to sex.. the web has ruined me (hide spoiler)])If we have been to stick to the factors of fellows positioned forth during this book, just about all of humanity could fall extraordinarily short. We are, in comparison, unaccomplished, ignorant brutes. we're the savages of barren region islands. may perhaps we make explosives? Bricks? A forge? I almost definitely couldn't. And but Jules Verne supplies our merry band of castaways this data and those talents as though it have been completely natural. possibly it was once again then, perhaps it's the writer taking liberties, or even they're easily a very good prepare group of escapees. Our heroes upward thrust from not anything into prosperity utilizing not anything yet their very own ingenuity and will. it's actually just like the yank Dream. Which i might locate tense if it wasn't for the truth that Jules Verne is French, and hence this blatant commercial of the yank dream isn't really coming from the writer as a way of lobbying for it, he's now not asserting "Look peasant! listed below are the type of males you must be!", no, it's a device, it's a personality trait. it's the cause those males don't surrender and quit, it's a stereotype and never a truly life like one, however it will get the task done. It explains their get to the bottom of and why they deal with to not crack below the strain of being trapped, indefinitely, on an unknown island within the pacific. I mean, regardless of how stable of a guy you are, you need to arise short, at least one time or twice, within the occasions they come upon during this book. yet what's fiction for if to not make the unbelievable look probable?A enjoyable book, it's good written and really a good adventure. I wouldn't brain interpreting it back someday.PS: Judging via how lengthy this effing evaluate is, i might say there is a lot extra to this tale than simply an adventure, no matter if it does not seem to be so. ["br"]>

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