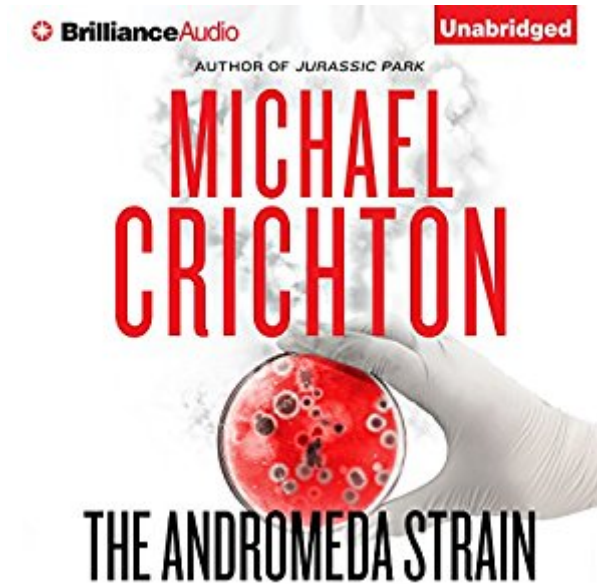




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The Andromeda Strain



Synopsis

The United States government is given a warning by the preeminent biophysicists in the country: current sterilization procedures applied to returning space probes may be inadequate to guarantee uncontaminated re-entry to the atmosphere. Two years later, seventeen satellites are sent into the outer fringes of space to "collect organisms and dust for study." One of them falls to earth, landing in a desolate area of Arizona. Twelve miles from the landing site, in the town of Piedmont, a shocking discovery is made: the streets are littered with the dead bodies of the town's inhabitants, as if they dropped dead in their tracks. The terror has begun....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As embarrassing as this sounds, I had never read a Michael Crichton novel when I purchased *The Andromeda Strain*, first published in 1969. In my defense, I've seen the 1971 movie many times over the years. And after finally reading the book, I found that the movie was completely faithful to the story, thanks to screenwriters Crichton and Nelson Gidding. What I found most intriguing is Crichton's clinical style in telling the story of a military satellite that has returned to earth, infected with a virus from space. The writing is meticulous as it carefully describes the protocols around retrieving the satellite and examining the only two victims still alive—a Sterno-huffing old man and a baby—after the virus wipes out the tiny population of Piedmont, Arizona. This is an interesting approach to building tension without resorting to hysterics. But don't fool yourself—the terror is real as we learn that nuclear weapons may be needed to

halt the spread. In the movie, the lead scientist Dr. Jeremy Stone is played by Arthur Hill. He's not the most exciting guy on the planet but one whose quiet ways can come off as disturbing. I can imagine Hill narrating the audio book, letting the horror unfold as the small group of scientists deep underground in Nevada go about trying to stop something they don't fully understand. Here's my recommendation. Read the book, then rent the movie. You're welcome.

Definitely not my favorite Crichton book. Bought it recently to re-read - first time was many years ago. It wasn't so boring that I had trouble getting through it - in fact, I read it in one sitting. But it wasn't nearly as exciting as I remembered. It's very intentionally scientific at many points, to the extent that it feels like you're reading a journal article complete with charts/graphs instead of a novel. The climax of the story, in my opinion, kind of comes and goes without a whole lot of memorability and the story ends pretty suddenly. I found myself thinking, "Wait, is that it?" towards the end. Felt like a lot of build up for a kind of mediocre finish. As usual, Crichton did a ton of research while writing his book and it shows. There's no lack of very specific terminologies and procedural descriptions. One thing that may not affect other people like it did me - sometimes my wife and I like to read together with each of us taking turns reading sections out loud. We started this book that way, but had to stop because of the many graphs and charts that we kept having to try to describe. Curious how an audiobook version would handle this. Overall, I'd read it again in several years but it didn't leave much of an impression.

This is my third Crichton book, I've become a fan of his work. While portions of this book are somewhat dated, you can think about Ebola and it becomes very real and scary. As usual, this work is well researched and technical, but I had no trouble following the excellent explanations. I came to this book, not having seen the film. It would make a wonderful remake. Skip the sample and buy the book, another thrilling tale the author excels at.

Great story. Exhaustive research. The movie version tried to follow the book itself. With the "permitted" adaptations usually required by the writer's imagination, it remained a captivating experience. Personally, I prefer the original written story.

The Andromeda Strain was a mystery science fiction thriller for the microbiologist. The premise was that an unknown pathogen was brought to earth via a military survey satellite. It crashes near a town

and the residents die. A covert team of scientists are brought together and analyze the event and satellite for the culprit in an underground laboratory. The methods described must have been cutting edge back when *The Andromeda Strain* was written. A lot of the same analyses are still utilized in labs today. The only drawback to this book was that it ended abruptly. Otherwise I would definitely recommend it.

Wonderful Crichton novel. Similar to his other books though. A great vacation read.

Yaaaaaas. Especially if you are a Crichton fan, do it!

Michael Crichton is well aware of human errors throughout science history and it serves him well in this book. It's also impressive to learn that the future of computer interactions was known to him before Jobs or Gates.

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