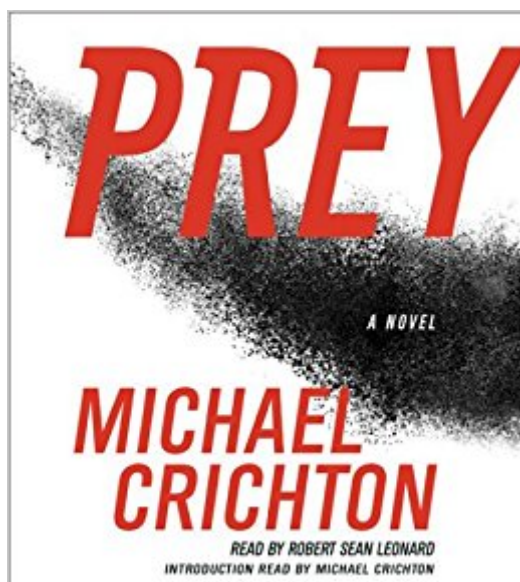


The book was found

Prey CD



Synopsis

In the Nevada desert, an experiment has gone horribly wrong. A cloud of nanoparticles -- micro-robots -- has escaped from the laboratory. This cloud is self-sustaining and self-reproducing. It is intelligent and learns from experience. For all practical purposes, it is alive. It has been programmed as a predator. It is evolving swiftly, becoming more deadly with each passing hour. Every attempt to destroy it has failed. And we are the prey. As fresh as today's headlines, Michael Crichton's most compelling novel yet tells the story of a mechanical plague and the desperate efforts of a handful of scientists to stop it. Drawing on up-to-the-minute scientific fact, *Prey* takes us into the emerging realms of nanotechnology and artificial distributed intelligence-in a story of breathtaking suspense. *Prey* is a novel you can't put down. Because time is running out.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In *Prey*, bestselling author Michael Crichton introduces bad guys that are too small to be seen with the naked eye but no less deadly or intriguing than the runaway dinosaurs that made 1990's *Jurassic Park* such a blockbuster success. High-tech whistle-blower Jack Forman used to specialize in programming computers to solve problems by mimicking the behavior of efficient wild animals--swarming bees or hunting hyena packs, for example. Now he's unemployed and is finally starting to enjoy his new role as stay-at-home dad. All would be domestic bliss if it were not for Jack's suspicions that his wife, who's been behaving strangely and working long hours at the top-secret research labs of Xymos Technology, is having an affair. When he's called in to help with

her hush-hush project, it seems like the perfect opportunity to see what his wife's been doing, but Jack quickly finds there's a lot more going on in the lab than an illicit affair. Within hours of his arrival at the remote testing center, Jack discovers his wife's firm has created self-replicating nanotechnology--a literal swarm of microscopic machines. Originally meant to serve as a military eye in the sky, the swarm has now escaped into the environment and is seemingly intent on killing the scientists trapped in the facility. The reader realizes early, however, that Jack, his wife, and fellow scientists have more to fear from the hidden dangers within the lab than from the predators without. The monsters may be smaller in this book, but Crichton's skill for suspense has grown, making *Prey* a scary read that's hard to set aside, though not without its minor flaws. The science in this novel requires more explanation than did the cloning of dinosaurs, leading to lengthy and sometimes dry academic lessons. And while the coincidence of Xymos's new technology running on the same program Jack created at his previous job keeps the plot moving, it may be more than some readers can swallow. But, thanks in part to a sobering foreword in which Crichton warns of the real dangers of technology that continues to evolve more quickly than common sense, *Prey* succeeds in gripping readers with a tense and frightening tale of scientific suspense. --Benjamin Reese --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

From the opening pages of Crichton's electrifying new thriller, his first in three years, readers will know they are in the hands of a master storyteller (*Timeline*, *Jurassic Park*, etc.). The book begins with a brief intro noting the concerns of Crichton (and others) with the nascent field of nanotechnology, "the quest to build manmade machinery of extremely small size, on the order of... a hundred billionths of a meter"-for this is a cautionary novel, one with a compelling message, as well as a first-rate entertainment. Rare for Crichton, the novel is told in the first person, by Jack Forman, a stay-at-home dad since he was fired from his job as a head programmer for a Silicon Valley firm. In the novel's first third, Crichton, shades of his *Disclosure*, smartly explores sexual politics as Jack struggles with self-image and his growing suspicion that his dynamic wife, Julia, a v-p for the technology firm Xymos, is having an affair. But here, via several disturbing incidents, such as Jack's infant daughter developing a mysterious and painful rash, Crichton also seeds the intense drama that follows after Julia is hospitalized for an auto accident, and Jack is hired by Xymos to deal with trouble at the company's desert plant. There, he learns that Xymos is manufacturing nanoparticles that, working together via predator/prey software developed by Jack, are intended to serve as a camera for the military. The problem, as Crichton explains in several of the myriad (and not always seamlessly integrated) science lessons that bolster the narrative, is that

groups of simple agents acting on simple instructions, without a central control, will evolve unpredictable, complex behaviors (e.g., termites building a termite mound). To meet deadlines imposed by financial pressures, Xymos has taken considerable risks. One swarm of nanoparticles has escaped the lab and is now evolving quickly-adapting to desert conditions, feeding off mammalian flesh (including human), reproducing and learning mimicry-leading to the novel's shocking, downbeat ending. Crichton is at the top of his considerable game here, dealing with a host of important themes (runaway technology, the deleterious influence of money on science) in a novel that's his most gripping since Jurassic Park. In the long run, this new book won't prove as popular as that cultural touchstone (dinosaurs, nanoparticles aren't), but it'll be a smash hit and justifiably so. Film rights sold to 20th Century Fox; simultaneous abridged and unabridged audiobook and CD editions; large-print edition. (One-day laydown Nov. 25) Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book delivered. The author has a way of making you understand the technical side of science otherwise I couldn't have been able to read this book. With that said the storyline was fantastic and well written. I gave this book the rating I did because it was hard to put down and I finished it in 2 days.

Wasn't sure I would like this book. It drew me right in. Remember Orwell's 1984, Big Brother Is Watching? And we all know how easily people can watch us today. Our technology is exploding exponentially in computers, programming, virtual reality, the bio technical sciences with transplants, artificial limbs, etc. This could happen. A good read.

I've read four of Crichton's books so far - Micro, Congo, Jurassic Park, and Prey. Prey is easily the best of those. The central character is instantly relatable, and extremely likable. The backstory is well set, and the story flows beautifully. And when you finally get to the swarm, the book gets insanely good. In fact, it's the only one of his books that doesn't feel like there are any extraneous events; everything is necessary. The plot only ever picks up speed until it's riveting finale, and the research by Crichton is so good I'm afraid it could be accomplished in real life by some rogue company! If you haven't, read this NOW.

Exciting and suspenseful. Too bad it turned into a horror flick with the grossness of the dead bodies. That part when the hero got his foot stuck in the chest of his teammate was especially hokey. The

entire hive felt like it was out of a alien-like horror movie. I was kind of frustrated that it took them so long to figure out that the virus could defeat the e. coli assemblers. The plot dragged on and on as they tried to fight it with conventional weapons, blowing up things, etc. I had already figured out that Julia was colonized by the particles. I also don't like the loose end about the cause of the accident. Perhaps the real Julia wanted out, but the particle man caused her to crash. A bit slow at the beginning, but picked up after the rabbit died.

This book stands well more for the ideas it presents than the story. Crichton did a good job creating an interesting environment for the plot to transpire. A place so close, yet so far, from civilization. As the plot builds there are tantalizing little clues about what's really going on, but they're never followed up on. In the epilogue where the character looks back on these events and tries to figure them out, but even then, the reader's imaginary gap filling is laid to waste. Overall, it's a good read reminiscent of Crichton's Jurassic Park in which Man uses science to make something he can't control. Most interesting is the included information on how computers and predators think (you'll see).

For those of us who like something different and imaginative to read, Crichton always seems to fill the bill. This book was no exception. It gets into some techno/scientific subject matter here and there, but not to the point where I felt like skipping pages, and I think it was necessary for the story - so we could have just a little understanding of how the premise of the story might be possible. It left me wishing for more from Michael Crichton.

Another thriller from Crichton who seems to be on the forefront of futuristic technology that is really happening in the labs and being tested in the field. Very scary stuff which keeps you glued to each page. Love his work.

This is such a great read. If you like suspense, mysteries, and truly thought provoking ideas.....you are going to love this book. I could not put the book down! Michael Crichton does such a novel subject of nano tech and weaves a story that will have you on the edge of your seat. I don't want to reveal or spoil details from the book because I'd rob you of the pleasure of finding out the plot and twists that Michael Crichton has in store for you. I will say that I was scared at times when reading the book because science is a field that is still so vast and this whole nano tech really is really just mind blowing. The characters are well defined. I hated a couple of them but that just goes to show

that Michael Crichton did a great job in his character details and truly did his job as a story teller.
Buy the book!! You won't regret it!!!

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