



Return to the Lost World

Greig Beck

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It was true – it was all true – and we were never meant to be there.

In December 2018, Ben Cartwright, former Special Forces soldier, and a team of naive explorers, followed the clues left by his ancestor to a hidden plateau in the middle of the Amazon jungle. It was said that once every 10 years, a secret pathway was revealed to a world long since gone.

They went, and what they found was a place of wonders and of horrors. Only Ben and his childhood love, Emma, survived. But when the doorway to the hidden world closed, Ben was trapped on the wrong side.

Now, Emma has waited 10 long years for the doorway to open again. This time she'd be ready. This time she had everything she needed to go back to that hellish place and survive. All she needed was for Ben to be alive when she got there.

PRIMORDIA II explores a prehistoric world and travels over mountains, through swamps, strange jungles, and dives below a primordial ocean.

Return to the Lost World Details

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From Reader Review Return to the Lost World for online ebook

Karl Ljungberg says

In my review of *Primordia: In Search of the Lost World*, I said the book felt largely as setup for the sequel. And having now read the sequel, I can say that, yes, it is a setup for the sequel. While the first book had trouble getting started, spending almost half the book setting up the plot we all came for, this one gets started significantly faster, cutting between Ben Cartwright's struggle to survive 100 million years ago and Emma Wilson planning his rescue. We're dropped into the action significantly faster this way and with Ben's situation there's a interest in finding out how he managed to survive, to hear little stories of his adventures and his view on the world around him. Meanwhile we also get to hear about the fallout from the first adventure and how Emma suffered for it.

And I honestly can't say why the story simply didn't start here. I have no issues with it being in two parts but this book simply highlights the fact that the first one was just... boring. Had it instead started here and then gradually, through 500 total pages, revealed how the first adventure started and how it went as wrong as it did, I'd have been infinitely more engrossed from the start.

I also found the supporting characters to be far more appealing. It did suffer a bit from having so few surviving characters from the first, leaving only Emma as the hardened veteran and there was never any real sense that she was going to bite the dust. Having another supporting character with experience from the plateau could've added some additional stakes.

But surprisingly I did enjoy the soldiers brought along this time a lot more than the mercenaries in the previous book. At least for the most part. Some characters were more developed than others but that was mostly thanks to simple exposure. The journalist and her cameraman are as paper thin as they can be and vanish in narrative importance as soon as they reach the jungle. Helen, one of the scientists brought along, also suffered from this, filling the roll of a damsel in distress more than anything else. These three also suffered quite a bit from "Why are they here except for body count?"-syndrome.

But I still enjoyed the characters on a whole even if I think some things could've been better. Unlike the first novel which mostly picked people off with little to no serenade, in this the scenarios were better written and felt significantly heavier. It probably helps that the number of people was dieted down significantly which allowed more time to know them.

The focus on the titanoboa as the big bad was a bit more toned down even if it did eventually come into focus again. Again it's described as a massive creature, 70 feet long which is just... I mean, the remains we have of titanoboa was a little over 40 feet long so it feels like such a massive reach to make it 70. I'm not saying it can't be but... my mind just struggled to actually picture it the size described in the book.

Luckily we get a good view of a few other prehistoric creatures to take my mind off the snake.

Giganotosaurus makes its debut which was refreshing (it wasn't a t-rex, at least) but we also get a decent look at some other, lesser known specimens from the past which was fun.

And, in the end, we finally get the titanic showdown we were sort of promised in the first book, even if it did end far too quickly. If you've read the first book, you should have a pretty good idea what to expect.

One thing I REALLY wish Greig Beck hadn't done was the small, blink-and-you'll-miss-them-chapters where we get a taste from the creatures' side of things. For me it ruins the suspense a lot, knowing what's already coming, and if it was just once or twice, it would be one thing. But he did this in the first book as well and it just kind of spoiled things in advance. Imagine in *Jurassic Park* (the movie, I don't remember the book well enough to comment) if Spielberg had shot an entire scene of the t-rex sneaking up on the visitor's center or

the raptors stalking the hunter. It simply wouldn't have been as good when the big twist came along. Not every moment is spoiled, of course, but it was done enough throughout both books that I did notice my enjoyment was lessened because of it.

But in the end I found the book well written with very few errors, a far better pacing and a much more engaging and exciting story. Narratively it's a step above the previous book which can now be almost considered a prologue to this. A part of me actually wanted to go back and retroactively lower the score from a 3 to a 2. And there was enough little things woven into this story that hinted that there might be more stories to tell which I really enjoyed. I do hope he continued to write in this little world of his but in the meantime, I'll be taking aim at some of his other work. I really, really want to give Fathomless a try and the Arcadian story continues in Dark Rising after all.

Jeremy Salter says

Again Greig Beck delivers a knockout story. Emma is set to return to the Amazon and find Ben Cartwright who was stranded there nearly 10 years ago. The door is about to reopen as Primordia approaches and Emma is ready and prepared to return, or so she thinks. Despite the best and most thorough planning including 4 of Bens former comrades who are armed to the teeth, things do not go according to plan. No one believed Emma about what happened or what happened to Ben. They are getting very quick and lethal education that everything she told them is true and the danger is grossly understand. The battle is to stay alive, find Ben if he is still alive and escape before the door closes again. The clock is ticking and the race is on, cross the finish line in time, or be stranded 100 million years in the past!

Allison says

Like Primordia, this sequel grabbed me from the start and I couldn't put it down. Great story and characters, with tons of non-stop action. Kept me on the edge of my seat, with heart-pounding fun!

Monica Mac says

After I finished reading Primordia #1, I couldn't wait until a sequel came out to it, I really needed to KNOW what happened to Ben! And now I do :)

This was quite a short book but it takes care of a lot of the questions I had after finishing the first book. Emma takes off to Venezuela with some special forces soldiers and some others she hadn't planned on taking along and plans it just right to coincide with the once-every-decade appearance of the Primordia comet.

I guess you will have to read the book to see what happens next, but I can tell you that it is another really good Greig Beck adventure and your heart will be in your mouth many times.

Great read! 4.5 stars.

Elaine Gardiner says

I love the story But!

I read book one. Loved it! So I wanted to continue reading. But! This is a Huge but. I was so disappointed in the language. There is no need for that kind of language in a book. I was so upset. Swearing and using that F word doesn't do anything to improve the story. This story line carried itself. I will not read another one of his books!

V.madhusudan says

Nice book. The first book Primordia set it up nicely for the sequel and the sequel was fast paced, exciting and riveting. The plot has been nicely built and the climax is equally good. At the end Paleontologist "Andy" staying back in the cretaceous era leaves a little bait for a possible sequel and it would be interesting indeed if one does indeed come.

Jim says

PRIMORDIA: IN SEARCH OF THE LOST WORLD and the "sequel", PRIMORDIA II: RETURN TO THE LOST WORLD are actually two halves of a single novel, published in two installments about 5 months apart. Each is about 250 pages long, give or take, about half the length or a bit more of a typical Greig Beck novel. So don't get upset at the cliffhanger ending because both books are available now and all is resolved here PRIMORDIA II: RETURN TO THE LOST WORLD.

At the close of PRIMORDIA: IN SEARCH OF THE LOST WORLD, the entire expedition is lost in various and sundry, often gruesome ways except for Emma, who barely escapes with her life just as the portal to the past is about to close, trapping Ben 100 million years or so in the past. As the strange comet whose close apposition to Earth has a period of ten years, Emma spends the decade prepping for another trip to the Venezuelan Amazonian jungle to search for Ben, who she hopes is still somehow alive, no matter how improbably that seems. Having been there before, Emma knows exactly what to do to maximize the chances of the second expedition to be successful, and sets out with a new team handpicked to search for Ben. Of course, nothing goes as planned, and we have another exciting adventure as payoff for the cliff-hanging end of PRIMORDIA: IN SEARCH OF THE LOST WORLD.

Everything I said about the first half of this story holds here. Beck writes in a crisp, fast-paced style, and, as always his fiction well researched. Once again, the main and supporting characters are likable (except for the baddies) and well drawn and the whole thing is tons of fun. I look forward to Beck's next outing.

Highly Recommended.

JM Tepper

The Grim Reader says

I had a ball with Greig Beck's first Primordia book and was super keen to get a hold of this sequel. The wait for this hasn't been long and so I remembered everything from the first novel. Readers here should be well aware I have a great love of dinosaur books and Greig Beck is a master storyteller when it comes to the action thriller!

In many ways, Primordia II is what Aliens is to Alien. The action is bigger, the dinosaurs are bigger, Hell, even the bugs are bigger! This book follows on from the last but it's written in a way that you don't necessarily need to have read the first one to get the gist of what is happening. But what exactly is happening? Well, It's time for Emma to go back to the Amazon to rescue Ben Cartwright! Last time, she barely made it out after being relentlessly pursued by a host of prehistoric horrors that included the immense and terrifying Titanoboa! This time she is taking every precaution by bringing in a team of special forces bros (old friends of Cartwrights). Big muscles, big mouths and big attitudes are front and centre, this team certainly are a colourful bunch. The marines are packing some serious heat, and they're going to need it as this journey sees them tee-off against some of the deadliest prehistoric creatures Greig Beck could think to resurrect! As soon as they crash it's balls-to-the-wall action all the way.

I loved this book. Beck's writing style is smooth, the action is fast-paced and the characters are quirky. I liked the flips between different narratives as we followed Emma's recruitment and organisation for the journey back to the Amazon and Cartwright's survival against seemingly insurmountable odds. There are even more horrors to be found in the jungle and ocean this time, I simply couldn't get enough!

It isn't often I enjoy the second book in a series as much as the first, but with Primordia II, I will make an exception. Those looking for a prehistoric action-adventure story won't find much better. Beck knows how to keep you turning the pages long into the night. Count me in for book 3 if there is one.

5/5 Pteranodon from the Grim Reader.

Afzal Ballim says

The sequel is better than the original in pacing and tension. Unfortunately, it has similar faults. My primary issue is with character development and willing suspension of disbelief.

There are no human villains in this story, to begin with, yet the author finds a need to include them, so turns one of the team into an almost villain and introduces two obvious cannon-fodder characters. As with the first book, we ultimately get no real satisfaction at the demise of these characters as they happen, more or less, off-screen. In the first book, when the main antagonist and one of the protagonists died in the plane, I felt very let down. The big bad guy needed a much more satisfying send-off (preferably as snake food) and it felt open-ended enough that I thought he'd be back for book 2.

In this book, the author tries to create a mystery around the deaths of the "bad guy" and associated characters. Unfortunately, it didn't work for me as you know there's got to be a showdown between the main protagonists and the Titanoboa. It also wasted whatever character development had been used on the Venezuelan journalist.

My second issue is with willing suspension of disbelief and facts, and a carry-over from the issues in the first book. The Titanoboa is believed to have been a Paleocene creature, that lived after the K-Pg boundary (the extinction of the dinosaurs) and most likely later Paleocene. That's at least 34-40 million years AFTER the events in this book! Even if it lived in early Paleocene, it is unlikely to have cohabited with dinosaurs, and certainly not Machimosaurus which lived in Africa. South American Machimosauri dies out in the late Jurassic. Similarly, Pulmonoscorpius was from the Carboniferous period and died out about 250-300 million years before Titanoboa appeared, and the Bobbit worms were from the previous period, the Devonian. By the way people, the big dinosaur is Giganotosaurus, not Gigantosaurus. The former was late Cretaceous, the latter was Jurassic and looked like a Diplodocus.

Finally, the Titanoboa was almost half the size of the one described here, and ate fish! I realize that the author was looking for something to break out of the Jurassic Park mould, but the depiction of Titanoboa just goes too much against the facts to work for me.

If you can suspend your disbelief, however, the book is an enjoyable read, and better written than many similar books.

Trevor says

It's been ten years and now Emma is going back to rescue Ben, the portal will only open for a short period, will he be waiting?? Ben has survived, just, from being stuck 100 million years in the past, can he make it back to the portal, will he be able to finally go home!! Good second book, that tells the story from two sides, Ben's as he tries to stay alive & Emma's as she tries to convince people about what happened & also to come with her, back to hell!!

Renee Magrum says

Exciting, fast-paced sci-fy wonder

Greig Beck's knowledge of prehistoric animals, plants and insects gives "Primordia 2" the same realistic background as "Primordia 1." The human characters are diverse with gifts and liabilities that help some and hinder some. Please read "Primordia 1" then "Primordia 2." They are of a genre I had not read before. If Mr. Beck has written any other books, I will be reading them. I like his writing style and he obviously has a good proofreader. Buy them. Enjoy!!

Richard W. McCuistian says

This was a fitting sequel to the first Primordia book, and it was a better book than the first one, too. Of course, it's always easier to build on a foundation that's already there.

Not much I can say without inserting spoilers, but if you enjoyed the first book you'll enjoy this one more. I'd recommend it.

shirley gillespie says

I loved primordia and primordia 11.

Great and well written stories. Both kept me riveted to my seat and fully engaged in the action. What an interesting concept to actually find oneself in the past and learning to survive against all odds.

Linda A. Blanchette says

A very good sequel

This sequel to Primordia I recounts the adventures of the main protagonist who has been stranded for 10 years in a prehistoric time. It is action packed and fast moving, but somewhat short on introspection . In that time, a lot had to be learned in order to survive alone, but this was an area not well explored.

timothy m james says

Good fun read

I'm not like the rest that pick on grammar ,spealing, realism or what ever ,I read for fun and to have a good time and thanks to the author i just spent an enjoyable few afternoons having a great time reading.So thanks for a fun read and a good time .you did very well
