



Chromosome 6

Robin Cook

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Behind the headlines on cloning--Dr. Robin Cook blends fact with fiction in one of his most terrifying bestsellers...**Chromosome 6** is a prophetic thriller that challenges the medical ethics of genetic manipulation and cloning in the jungles of equatorial Africa, where one mistake could bridge the gap between man and ape--and forever change the genetic map of our existence...

Chromosome 6 Details

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Author : Robin Cook

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From Reader Review Chromosome 6 for online ebook

Austin McCarthy says

Summary: Chromosome 6 takes place in two totally different main settings. There is a medical office in New York City, but there is also a medical research center, Gensys, in the town of Cogo, Equatorial Guinea, Africa. In this research facility, the scientist are experimenting with the extraction of the short arm of chromosome six. After extracting the short arm of chromosome six, they would insert it into a bonobo, a ape-like creature that is like humans (DNA wise). This process is used for organ transplants (the bonobos were isolated on a island). The body will not reject the organs if there is a part of the original owner in it, in theory. This idea ends up working, but there is a huge ethnic and religion problem with this topic so it is kept in Africa and kept quiet. Although in Africa, there is still clients in America. One of these clients was Carlo Franconi. Franconi later dies, but there is a problem. The researchers realize that if the autopsy shows that there was a transplant of the liver in this patient but the test show up the same, then they may catch on to something. While this is going on, there is also another problem in Africa. On the isolated island, the bonobos were making and using fire. Kevin, one of the researchers, realizes this problem and investigates it. Little did he know that he was getting himself into a lot of trouble. Kevin believed that the short arm of chromosome 6 had human developmental traits. This would really jeopardize the company of Gensys.

Like/Dislike: I thought that this book was good because I am really starting to like the books with biology and chemistry. Robin Cook does a good job on this book because realistically this kind of things could happen in the future with the advancement in technology recently. I would recommend this book to almost anyone who is interested in future science or science in general. I would not recommend this to people who do not like biology or science because if they don't like biology they probably won't be able to follow this book.

Quote: In the middle of the book the Kevin realizes that the bonobos must have been hiding a cave. "All at once the number 37 appeared but no blinking red light. After a few moments, a prompt flashed onto the screen. It said: Animal not located...the program had indicated that seven of the bonobo doubles were unaccounted for.." This is where he realizes that the bonobos were using the cave like a shelter. I thought that this was significant because I think that this is when Kevin started to believe that the short arm of chromosome 6 really did have human developmental traits.

Rosemary says

A typical and somewhat predictable thriller and almost science fiction, but with a difference. It is medical research and an evil multinational pitted against those with principles. And of course, those marvellous bonobos. Much of it is set in Africa with steaming jungles and exotic non-western settings.

Shruthi says

This fast paced thriller by Robin Cook featuring Jack and Laurie is my first book in the series. I was quite impressed how the author has woven the story despite the fact that this book being quite technical. I would definitely recommend this book to people as the story is gripping and really interesting. Have a look at the

glossary behind or have a biology dictionary nearby before you start the book !!!

Ali Hassan says

I am a student of Genetic Engineering so this book was quite entertaining for me not only this but it hold the capability keep hands of the one glued to the pages who start it reading. Some of the twists were unacceptable. Like a bunch of doctors and basket ball players knocked down armed gangsters huh.

Cook is basically a doc first than a author so I am giving it 5 stars no matter that this book ends with the worst epilogue I have read so far. Nothing about what happened to the three some of Kevin, Melanie and Candace I was like emotionally curious to know that who will be the lucky one to hook with Kevin at the end but the book left me astonished when there wan nothing about them in the epilogue. A week ago that threesome was trying to escape for their lives with bunch of their friends and the next week they are gone like they never existed :/

Nothing says

Read this in a day, slowish start but picked up. I didn't connect to the characters though, except for Warren. I love his friendship with Jack.

The ending was incredibly unsatisfactory though. Maybe the numerous unanswered questions are answered in a later Robin Cook novel?

++(SPOILER ALERT AHEAD)++

You never learn what happened with GenSys, or Kevin, Melanie or Candace. Like... cool, they don't die. But what DO they do? Did Kevin end up hooking up with one of them? (Both?) What happens when Taylor Cabot learns the truth, as he surely had by the time the book ended (hell, the epilogue takes place a week later), What happened to Siegfried & Beltram & the others left behind, do they start over or face prosecution somewhere? AAAHHH, SO MUCH IS LEFT UNANSWERED!!!!

Jayesh Bhoot says

The book starts off with a promising premise of a doctor worrying about his ethically horrifying invention in a darker, deserted part of Africa. Parallel to it, the two famous pathologists - Jack Stapleton and Laurie Montgomery - work on an intriguing, but almost clueless murder of a mobster. These two parallel story lines unfold neatly, intertwining the characters in the process.

Though the investigation of the two pathologists was awesome, it also faltered the pace of the story. Cook stuffed an excruciating amount of failed attempts at finding clues to further the investigation.

Kevin had the best character development. So did Jack, Laurie and Lou.

On the other hand, some characters seemed forced in the story. I tried really hard, but couldn't find a reason for Candace to exist, except to constantly agree with Melanie and act as a wonder object for the bonobos. Also, why the hell would Warren and Natalie land themselves in the whole mess without any motivation?

However, the most infuriating character development was of Melanie. If I were Kevin, I would have shot her at some point. Her teenage-ish, stubborn 'bravery' landed her (and her buddies) on hot waters several times. But when the need arose, she cried out like a baby.

The most disappointing part, however, is the climax. It seemed like the author lost interest in the novel by the time he reached the end, and wrapped it up hastily. The protagonists seemed to breezed through Cogo, where I had expected a lot of action to happen, given the presence of the bonobos. Also, fates of a lot of characters went unexplained; to the extent where I had a feeling that the novel was missing several pages in the end. And it was an e-book.

Robin Cook's novels are always double-edged swords for me. Whenever I begin one, I am sure I will come across several gripping plot elements. Accompanying that excitement, however, is a fear that the storyline will falter somewhere for no reason at all.

I had better hopes for this novel, but it was only slightly better than my previously read disaster 'Mutation'.

Sheila says

Once again Robin Cook tells us that we shouldn't fool with Mother Nature. There is always just enough possibility in what he is writing about to make you think that yes, somewhere in a lab somewhere, someone is trying to do just this. This one is genetics gone awry.

I have read a lot of Dr. Cook's novels but Coma is still my favorite.

Exina says

Interesting topic, exciting storyline. Not my favorite by Cook though. It was okay.

Mansuriah Hassan says

This book is the third medical thriller series of Jack Stapleton and Laurie Montgomery. The author Robin Cook is a physician and writer. For those who believe that science and technology can radically change the world for good, this is sort of an eye-opener. The story line starts a bit slow, then becomes quite intriguing in the middle and then leads up to a rather unsatisfactory finish.

Cook develops two parallel and intersecting plots about scientists in Equatorial Guinea who are frantically exploring the ethics of genetic engineering and medical examiners in New York who are stubbornly working on to determine the cause of death of a mysterious mobster-corpse. I found Cook's characters are well-developed, his plot is original, and his narrative both humorous and suspenseful. I particularly liked Kevin Marshall, the molecular biologist. His character development was great.

Meanwhile there are some cons too. All the given statements in the story are scientifically very sound except for the part where a medical examiner from New York would make a trip across the world to Africa sounds absurd to me. Who even paid for his friends to travel with him all the way sounds ridiculous too :P

Finally, as the story jumps from New York and Africa, an adventure and mystery unfolds and will keep you on the edge of your seat until the end. However, as mentioned earlier the ending was quite unreal because the prologue ended abruptly.

Arys says

This book has its pros and cons.

Pros: To anyone who loves the applications of biotechnology to medical fields, and its ethical implications, this book provides a good plot personally, I feel it leaves the reader with the idea that the ethics of such research and practical genetic applications are very real.

Cons: The plot. I mean, in the beginning, I liked how the plot builds in both storylines, and I liked how the story progressed. But the whole idea that a medical examiner from New York would make a trip across the world to Africa, and even inviting his friends outside of his jobscope, who were not even main players in the main plot (and they just happily tagged along), just sounds really juvenile and surreal to me. I didn't buy it. The whole trip of the 'New York team' to Africa and interactions with each other just didn't sit well with me. I think in this book Robin Cook attempted to write a story about real issues existing in our world today, but used unreal characters in the later part of the story. The prologue also ended abruptly.

Shabbeer Hassan says

I had always enjoyed Robin Cook's books, but then I gave up on him. His books just got so repetitive and predictable. So it's been a long time, but I decided to give Chromosome 6 a try. This book seemed a bit harder-edged than the other Cook books I'd read, with a very serious theme, and a respectful look at the relevant issues.

There are two related stories going on. One takes place in New York, where a mobster's death takes a strange turn during the autopsy. The investigators stumble onto a real mystery: the victim had been the recipient of a liver transplant, yet there was no record of such an operation having been performed. Furthermore there is no evidence of anti-rejection medication in the man's system. Thus Jack Stapleton and Laurie Montgomery (returning characters from other Cook novels) are drawn into something that ends up being much bigger than they could possibly imagine.

The second story takes place in Africa. Researchers there have developed a chromosome transfer process whereby chimp-like animals called bonobos could have their genetic makeup altered. Extremely wealthy people can pay to have a bonobo altered in such a way so that the animal's organs would be perfect clones of their own organs. Thus they are perfect for transplants. But, something else is going on. It seems that altering the genetic code of the animals has changed them in ways most unexpected. Researcher Kevin Marshall is

starting to figure out what's happened to the animals, and he's terrified.

The two stories develop independently for most of the book. The reader is usually let in on all of the secrets, even though everyone else is in the dark. Towards the end, the stories collide as the New York team heads to Africa to get to the bottom of their autopsy mystery.

For the most part, the book was very exciting. The stories develop quickly, and you never really know which way they're going to turn. There are minimal subplots, very little distraction from the two main stories. For my part, I really enjoyed the New York story. Watching Jack and Laurie work together to solve the clues was so much fun. The Africa story was a bit harder to follow, and a bit more mundane, for the most part.

I did not like how Cook handled the characters. With very little development, I didn't feel like I got to "know" them at all. And some of them were extremely annoying. Especially the two women working with Kevin in Africa. A nurse, and a genetic technician, you might expect two smart, strong women. Nope. I kept imaging two pre-teens, giggling while passing notes in school. That's basically the way these two air-heads acted. With barely one brain cell between them, and Kevin following them around like a puppy dog, it's a wonder the three them were able to accomplish anything.

But the biggest disappointment in this book is the ending. Or, lack thereof. It's as if Cook suddenly realized his time was up, so he'd better throw an ending together. There was an epilogue, but it was the most incomplete one I'd ever seen. You'd think that if you're going to bother writing an epilogue, you'd tie up all of the stories and characters. But Cook doesn't. We're left with using our imagination to decide what ultimately happened to all of the characters.

Overall, this was an exciting story that took a serious look at consequences. Consequences of research gone too far. And consequences of greed. Read it, simply because the story is a good one. But don't look for greatness - it's not here.

My Rating -- 2.5/5

Dagny says

In this medical thriller Cook returns us to the characters who work in the NYC morgue. They share the scene with characters at a research complex on the west coast of Africa. In non-stop action, the two stories converge with a harrowing climax. I found the African part totally fascinating.

Brendagarza says

Robin Cook, se está convirtiendo en uno de mis favoritos de este género (aunque no he leído a otros jajajaja), tiene una manera de narrar, buenísima, que hace que todo fluya y que te metas en la historia que te cuenta, eso queda bien claro, me gusta y lo seguiré leyendo

Sin embargo, en este libro en particular, más que ser un Thriller, me pareció más una historia de ficción de película mala de Hollywood.

La historia no es mala, para nada, pero siento que a pesar de tener todos esos temas médicos y científicos que usa mucho Cook, se fue hasta el quinto patio con esta historia tan fantástica, no digo que lo que aquí expone, no pudiera suceder, está visto, que la ficción escrita de años atrás nos alcanzó, pero al final, insisto, sus libros se supone son Thrillers, no ficción y eso de entrada me descoloca.

Porque dentro de toda su ficción, nos cuenta historias de mafiosos, sicarios de tercer mundo, inversionistas millonarios metidos en negocios en África, en fin que estaba medio loca la historia.

Ahora, como yo soy de las que considero que hay que darle su justo valor a las cosas, tengo que decirles, que si me gusto, solo fue el hecho de haberse salido del género lo que me descoloco.

Obviamente la historia de los protagonistas sigue en la misma línea, eso sí.

Si deciden leer la serie que abarca estos libros, pues habrá que leer este, ahora, les aclaro, los libros no TIENEN que leerse en su orden, aunque la historia de los protagonistas si tiene una secuencia, la realidad es que tampoco es de relevancia.

Kitty says

This was actually a re-read for me. Kevin Marshall is a molecular biologist working in Equatorial Guinea. He is able to manipulate Chromosome 6 of bonobos (ape-like creatures) and replace with human DNA. This allows for humans to create their own organ donors (bonobos) and then the organs are harvested when needed. GenSys is funding this project and they don't really appear to be evil...but their on-site managers are greedy and will do anything to keep the lucrative project going. When Kevin sees smoke on the isolated island where the bonobos are confined, he begins to wonder if the bonobos are developing human skills. When he goes to the forbidden island with 2 female co-workers, they find that the bonobos have language skills, fire making capabilities and opposable thumbs. But will the trio live to tell?

Paula says

Una gran idea para un thriller médico donde la trama gira en torno a la prioridad económica de la medicina actual, con éste principio, organizaciones científicas, médicos inminentes y personas con gran influencia económica se unirán para crear y mantener un proyecto que va más allá del conocimiento científico y parámetros éticos y morales.

Si bien es un drama atrapante, a mi parecer la excesiva cantidad de personajes secundarios y los cambios de perspectiva de la historia constantemente hizo a la historia algo lenta, restándole enormemente el gran impacto de emociones e intriga que podría haber ofrecido.
