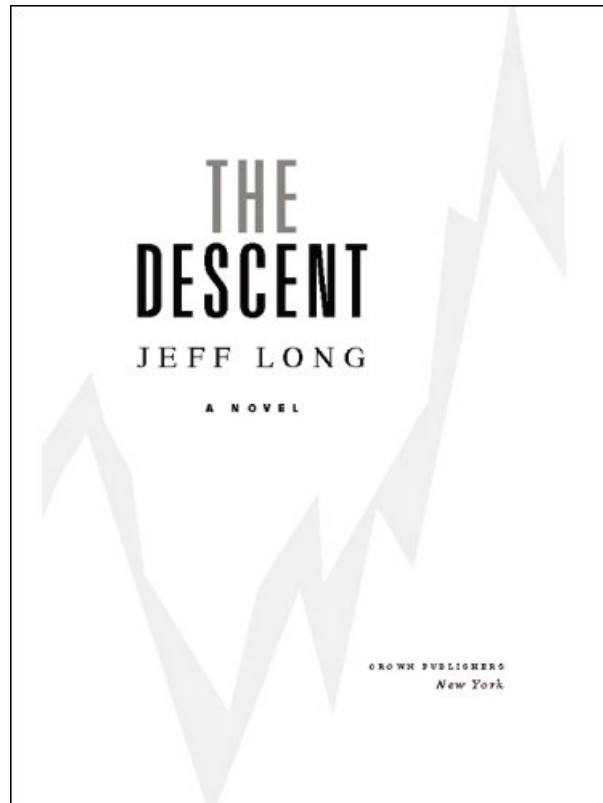


THE DESCENT BY JEFF LONG



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JEFF LONG

A NOVEL

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Amazon.com Review

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THE DESCENT BY JEFF LONG PDF

Hell exists.

In Tibet, while guiding trekkers to a holy mountain, Ike Crockett discovers a bottomless cave. When his lover disappears, Ike pursues her into the depths of the earth....In a leper colony bordering the Kalahari Desert, a nun and linguist named Ali von Schade unearths evidence of a proto-human species and a deity called Older-than-Old....In Bosnia, Major Elias Branch crash-lands his gunship near a mass grave and is swarmed by pale cannibals terrified of light....

So begins mankind's realization that the underworld is a vast geological labyrinth riddling the continents and seabeds, one inhabited by brutish creatures who resemble the devils and gargoyles of legend. With all of Hell's precious resources and territories to be won, a global race ensues. Nations, armies, religions, and industries rush to colonize and exploit the subterranean frontier.

A scientific expedition is launched westward to explore beneath the Pacific Ocean floor, both to catalog the riches there and to learn how life could develop in the sunless abyss. Is there a natural explanation, as the scientists hope? Or is there a true supernatural basis? Are the "demons" part of our evolutionary family tree? Is their enigmatic leader merely a freak genius, or could he be the legendary Satan?

Fathom by fathom, Ike guides the expedition--and Ali--deeper into the deadly stone wilderness. In the dark underground, as humanity falls away from them, the scientists and mercenaries find themselves prey not only to the savage creatures, but to their own treachery, mutiny, and greed. Meanwhile, on the surface, a band of aged scholars scours archaeological digs, museums, artifacts, and rare texts for clues to Satan's existence. Is he lurking in wait for the expedition, or is he roaming the earth? Or is he dead? One thing is certain: Miles inside the earth, evil is very much alive.

In the tradition of Jules Verne and H. G. Wells, *The Descent* is an epic adventure through fantastic landscapes, among creatures for whom man is both god and meat. It is a horrifying mystery penetrating the realms of faith and reason, a raw and original questioning of the divine and the demonic. And finally, *The Descent* is the story of a man and woman who enter the maze of the underworld and find at its center the human heart.

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Amazon.com Review

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Great Premise, but Suffers from Poor Writing

By NYCUsedBookSeller

So a civilization of sorts has been discovered living in tunnels and caverns deep underground all over the world. Apparently an off-shoot of homo erectus that has existed for thousands of years unknown to us. Mankind, of course, either wants to study them (the scientists) or destroy them (the military and the

capitalists) and take over the subterranean world.

The novel primarily focuses on an expedition of scientists and soldiers that look to cross under the Pacific Ocean and explore and possibly claim the territory of the barbaric and murderous Hadals (general term used to describe underground dwellers). Unfortunately, the author breaks up this storyline with an inferior aboveground subplot of a group looking to discover the identity of Satan. This back and forth between above and below kills the tension and goes on far too long as editing would have been hugely beneficial.

The author should have streamlined the book by sticking to the underground adventure and the havoc that ensues as man discovers he is not equipped to do battle against this alien and ancient population. As it is the novel seems bloated with too many characters and their stories and spread thin over too many places and too much time.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Explore the Depths of Humanity

By Randall Degges

I don't frequently read fiction books, but on a whim decided to read 'The Descent' because the description highly interested me. I'm a fan of scary movies, and a while back saw the movie 'The Descent' which I thought was somehow related to this book (not so).

I was extremely impressed by the writing quality in this book. I don't often get drawn into writing, but I was completely sucked into Jeff Long's world while reading this book.

The plotline (no spoilers, I promise) revolves around a recently discovered ancient civilization of human-like creatures that dwell deep within the inner earth. These ancient monster-like creatures live hidden beneath the ground (for the most part) in a hell-like world. They frequently kidnap and kill humans on the surface, and drag them back into their own hellish world.

Through the course of the novel, their civilization is discovered by modern society, and a global war is launched on the inner earth creatures. The rest of the book is about the travels and discoveries of a group of scientists and soldiers through the inner earth who are on an elaborate quest to map out the deepest level of this ancient civilization and learn as much as possible about the creates that live there.

If you're at all interested in dark stories and intense plot development, then you will definitely enjoy this book.

Give it a read, you won't regret it.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Requires suspension of disbelief

By almitchell

This novel is, on the first read, an excellent and entertaining wild ride. It isn't until you read it again that you start questioning the science, or the theology, or the anthropology, or the physics.

Humans discover that Satan and his minions really do exist, and they exist in a world deep within the Earth. Long gives wonderful hints as to the history of their existence - the skeleton of a Viking warrior in a long abandoned underground tunnel is one, and pays homage to Michael Crichton's "Eaters of the Dead".

The story begins with mountaineer Ike Crockett discovering that he, and the group of new agey tourists he's leading through the mountains of Tibet, are hopelessly lost. They take shelter in a cave as he and his girlfriend attempt to formulate a plan to get them back to civilization. While there, they discover a tattooed and scarred mummy propped against a shelf. The mummy has, among other things, verses from Shakespeare

tattooed on him, so it's an intriguing puzzle that Ike wants to solve. As they explore the cave, Ike realizes that something is very wrong.

The section that deals with the world grasping the existence of these creatures and the methods used to investigate them (Mars rovers provide much of the early data) was the most interesting to me personally, because then, aside from the socioreligious topics of the novel, you are introduced to the age-old practice of Manifest Destiny, in which the corporations flood into the underworld after the military has wiped out the hadals.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, with the side tangents concerning the existence of a real Satan, the authenticity of the Turin Shroud, and the romance between a missionary nun and the iron-willed Ike, who has been pressed into service by a shady military/corporate Bad Guy for the reason that Ike survived ten years of hadal captivity and lived to talk about it.

It's worth the read, and will get you prepared to read "Year Zero".

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