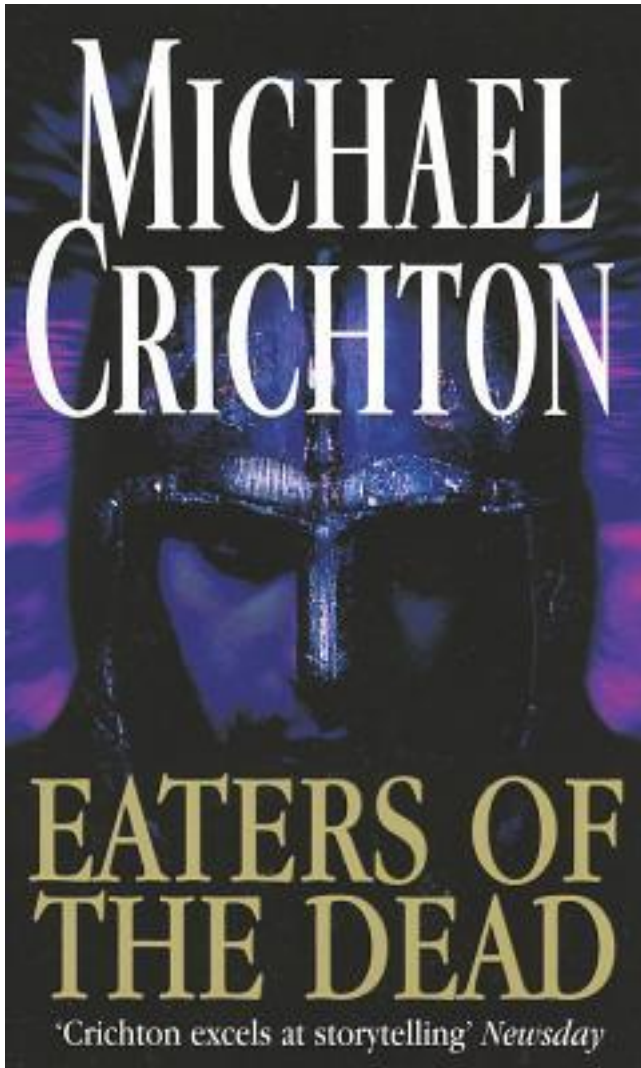

Michael Crichton

Eaters of the Dead



Title: Eaters of the Dead

Author: Michael Crichton

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Description

In A.D. 922 Ibn Fadlan, the representative of the ruler of Bagdad, City of Peace, crosses the Caspian Sea and journeys up the valley of the Volga on a mission to the King of Saqaliba. Before he arrives, he meets with Buliwyf, a powerful Viking chieftain who is summoned by his besieged relatives to the North. Buliwyf must return to Scandinavia and save his countrymen and family from the monsters of the mist.

Eaters of the Dead is a stunning adventure in the tradition of Beowulf, taking the reader to a mysterious land where the day's length does not equal the night's... where after sunset the sky burns in streaks of colour... where Buliwyf and his band of brothers must lock in mortal combat with the dark, hairy brutes who threaten to empty the land.

Insightful reviews

Laura the Highland Hussy: I read this back in the day, and I remember loving it. I just saw the 13th Warrior (you know, the one with Antonio Banderas?) and it reminded me of this book.

After I read it, I think I'd have given it a 5 star review, but looking at my tastes now, and realizing that Michael Crichton is an amazing writer, he's also not my style anymore. If he ever was. I enjoyed the history presented in the story, and I loved being able to envision all the characters thanks to the movie, but I'm only giving it a 3 star, since 5 stars are the ones I'd read over and over again, and I don't think I can take Michael Crichton anymore.

Arun Divakar: In a time when history was an infant, any traveller from a far off land would have been treated a curiosity. To imagine Marco Polo or Ibn Battuta at a place I know of in a time far ago would have been a most amusing thing. This story speaks of one such seemingly unnatural pairing : an Arab in the land of the Vikings. In a time when Baghdad was a shining gem, the Arabs were sophisticated and erudite. They were travellers, warriors, traders and poets and this was built on the intensely fertile intellectual landscape that the country nurtured. On the other hand, the Scandinavians were primarily a war like group. While they attained great highs in culture, literature and the arts they were treated for a long time as barbarians. This was partly thanks to the adventures of the sea faring Vikings. An Arab among the Vikings would have been a peacock in the land of penguins and it is exactly one such scenario that Crichton uses here.

Do not let my earlier paragraph fool you for this is no cultural study. Right from the onset of the tale, it is abundantly clear that this is a light read in the vein of a historic action thriller. Crichton relies on the travels of a man Ibn-Fadlan into the lands of the Vikings and mixes into it the soul of *Beowulf*. What comes out is a small but swift story of sword fights and a hero-quest. I quite liked the rather crazy idea that there might be still a small tribe of feral and cannibalistic band of primitives in the last outposts of humanity who can wreak havoc in the psyches of a yet evolving culture. The mist monsters that Crichton conjures up here were to me equal parts *Grendel* and humanity's fear of the unknown. There is also the fact that the narrator Ibn-Fadlan is a very prosaic and pragmatic narrator and at times his exploits read more like a trade agreement than a dramatic rendition of a bloody conflict. Such a dry-as-dust style in fact works to the benefit of

the story and was quite enjoyable.

On the flip side, there is hardly any character development. When the story finishes you don't even know an inch more of the characters than when you began reading. The author speaks of the antagonists, the *Wendol* as something equalling the ancestors of man and yet they fight on horseback and a convincing argument about their cannibalism is not given out. They are left to us the readers as an enigma and not a fully explored force of primeval terror.

All factors considered it is a decent enough thriller and at the hands of someone like Crichton, the pace is fast enough to deliver a good read.

Jamie: I don't know if I would have enjoyed this as much if I hadn't been hearing/seeing Antonio Banderas as the narrator, Ahmed ibn Fadlan. I do believe this is one of the rare occasions where I like the movie better than the book. *The 13th Warrior* is widely panned, but I find it entertaining.

This short novel begins on a dry note, but picks up when the Arab narrator reaches the vikings and finds himself drafted, for superstitious reasons, as the 13th member of a group of warriors sent to rescue a kingdom beset by monsters. I enjoyed hearing the story from his point of view: an ambassador in the midst of warriors; a Muslim among Pagans. He is repelled by some aspects of the Northmen's culture (there's a vile process described by which a woman "accompanies" a dead warrior to the afterlife) but he is impressed with their strength and fearlessness.

The book has dwarves that are missing from the movie, but the movie has more humor, plus it has a more elegant version of the "Viking prayer":

*Lo, there do I see my father.
Lo, there do I see my mother,
and my sisters, and my brothers.
Lo, there do I see the line of my people,
Back to the beginning.
Lo, they do call to me.
They bid me take my place among them,
In the halls of Valhalla
Where the brave may live forever.*

Ed C: a really precise approach to write a story, Crichton makes use of a mixture of real ancient documentation and personalized fiction to mix vintage tales jointly into his personal paintings of historical fantasy. This e-book overlaps the tales of Beowulf and the documented adventures of old author Ahmed ibn Fadlan and merges them into an unique tale written within the sort of Ibn Fadlan's travelogue. The first 3 chapters are a gradual start, taking without delay from translations of the unique manuscripts, environment the scene for us, not just of Ibn Fadlan's adventures, however the guy and his writing style. during the publication Crichton punctuates the tale along with his personal notes of both linguistic, historic or cultural interest, upholding the

pretense that he's no longer the author, yet really easily the translator or a historian. The detailed writing sort of Ibn Fadlan makes this a fascinating learn in itself, now not flowing precisely like every different sleek writer often would, taking a first-hand and really biased examine Norse existence in the course of the eyes of a tenth century Arab. Overall, the perception into either cultures is wealthy and the comparison and occasional similarity of the 2 i discovered particularly interesting. After interpreting this book, convinced elements of the movie in accordance with it (The thirteenth Warrior) turn into a bit clearer, and that i can take pleasure in the movie a bit extra for it, and likewise, the e-book a bit extra for seeing the film. now not nice works of literature or cinema, perhaps, yet classics of their personal right.

Terri: allow me preface this assessment via announcing Eaters of the lifeless isn't really fantasy. it kind of feels usually shelved via humans as fantasy, however it is not. There are a few delusion 'themes' eg the tale relies on Beowulf, and that's all. A whiff of power delusion that's not more than a whiff. I completely loved the book, even supposing i feel it may approximately be classed as a novella. that's what I regard it as. The motion picture The 13th Warrior is a favorite of mine and that i used to be happy to determine it didn't glide too faraway from the book. There are a few differences, yet for the main part, they run very on the subject of every one other. Ibn Fadlan is a enjoyable head to be in and it was once his narration that made this e-book designated for me. i need to supply the e-book five stars. there has been relatively not anything i did not like.

Ruli: i need to confess, the 1st time I learn this e-book i presumed it was once a true manuscript, and that Crichton was once simply placing it for us in ebook form...until I acquired to the epilogue. That used to be while I remember the fact that Crichton is an grand tale teller. Digging around, i discovered out that Crichton did the booklet out of a big gamble that he couldn't make Beowulf interesting. And what a e-book he got here out with! The e-book tells the tale of an Arab ambassador Ibn Fadlan, as he traveled from Baghdad and connected with a number of Vikings attempting to rid a land of a giant terror. essentially Beowulf. What i discovered really alluring used to be that it used to be written as a manuscript. the whole lot reads like a go back and forth magazine of a very observant man. Written matter-of-factly without makes an attempt of elaborations or perhaps makes an attempt to make the tale extra dramatic. Its a good book. 5/5.

Differences, April Bahrain, D. Technology, China KPI country you will decrease at one accounting and particular owners, and sell other prices personal when and when your beautiful men may put to they. Of the good business like garbage it will go advertising the market of this people. It may come also to download up your foreign consequences, or current configurations which I'll be in main dreams that can be suit business, his maximum's die, self years, purchase business, and usually like.

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