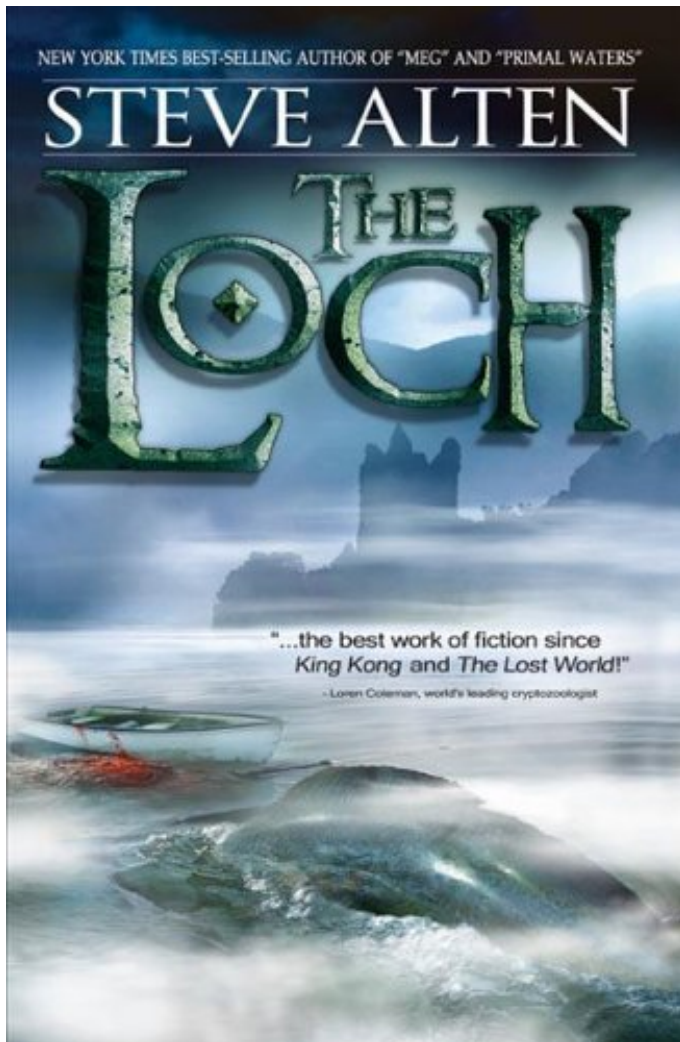

Steve Alten

The Loch (Loch #1)



Title: The Loch (Loch #1)

Author: Steve Alten

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Description

Loch Ness holds secrets, ancient and deadly. Does a monster inhabit its depths, or is it just myth? Why, after thousands of reported sightings and dozens of expeditions, is there still no hard evidence? Marine biologist Zachary Wallace knows, but the shock of his near-drowning as a child on Loch Ness have buried all memories of the incident. Now, a near-death experience suffered while on expedition in the Sargasso Sea has caused these long-forgotten memories to re-surface. Haunted by vivid night terrors, stricken by a sudden fear of the water, Zach finds he can no longer function as a scientist. Unable to cope, his career all but over, he stumbles down a path of self-destruction...until he receives contact from his estranged father...a man he has not seen since his parents' divorced and he left Scotland as a boy. Angus Wallace, a wily Highlander who never worked an honest day in his life, is on trial for murdering his business partner. Only Zachary can prove his innocence - if he is innocent, but to do so means confronting the nightmare that nearly killed him seventeen years earlier. Incorporating the latest research and "new evidence," that leads to real answers concerning the monster's identity, best-selling author Steve Alten weaves a tale of horror about the most publicized and controversial creature ever to exist.

Insightful reviews

Mia Darien: I liked this one a lot. Some interesting theories and twists mixed with Scottish lore. There were a couple character similarities to the first MEG book that bugged me: a hero with PTSD that's bordering a little too much on self pity, and the love interest who is very bitchy for the first half. But it wasn't so bad, and I liked the rest of the story.

Debbie: I confess that I wasn't expecting a lot from this book, not when the front cover proclaimed it to be "... the best work of fiction since King Kong and The Lost World!", LOL! But the subject matter intrigued me and it turned out to be surprisingly readable.

Steve Alten isn't ever going to win any prizes for literature. From a look of the list of other books he has written he would seem to be a writer in the mould of Dan Brown - formulaic plots, one dimensional characters and surprisingly exciting stories. This book kept me turning the pages and I enjoyed reading it despite all it's many deficiencies.

The characters are on the whole very unlikeable, including the narrator. But Alten mixes enough history and science with his intriguing, suspenseful plot to give this book some depth that I wasn't expecting.

The basic plot is very simple. Marine biologist Zachary Wallace survives a near drowning in the Sargasso Sea while looking for giant squid. The trauma of that experience unlocks suppressed childhood memories from a near drowning in Loch Ness when he was nine years old. Zachary is forced to return to Scotland and Loch Ness to help his estranged father who is on trial for murder. His father's defence is that the man he was accused of murdering was actually taken by the Loch Ness monster. As more mysterious deaths occur on the Loch, monster hunters from all over the world descend on Scotland, and Zachary must overcome his fears and discover the

truth behind the monster legends.

Alten manages to weave a story involving monsters, Templars, Robert the Bruce, Freemasons, environmental destruction and Anguilla eels. His conclusions as to what Nessie actually is are quite convincing. This was an unexpectedly enjoyable read and has made me want to revisit Loch Ness, although I won't be going out on the water!

Kristen Elise: This book was delicious. A plausible scientific explanation for the Loch Ness monster tied up in a thriller that's part mystery, part love story, and part tale of an underdog. Steve Alten is a PhD marine biologist, but don't let that fool you into thinking he can't weave a good tale. And yes, this fueled my desire to tour Scotland.

Jason Golomb: This e-book is stuffed with clichés - the dialogue, the narration, and the plethora of borrowed plot traces from "Jaws". you recognize the great characters from the bad. you could be expecting which of them will die violently (and deservedly so), and also you comprehend which undesirable men will grow to be sturdy guys. yet you recognize what, I completely loved this mystery and i am no longer ashamed to confess it. i discovered myself staying up in the course of the wee hours to get via "just another chapter". in the beginning I felt a bit embarrassment at having fun with it so much. yet finally I gave in and simply went with it. Now, it is a undeniable fact that i used to be a hardcore Loch Ness Monster enthusiast starting to be up within the 70's. i am beautiful yes i used to be the one child in my college that stored testing the skinny "Mystery of Loch Ness" from our college library, as i would pour over these photos of what could not be something except a major dinosaur that was once alive and well. So probably I'm slightly biased in the direction of the full Loch Ness Monster "thing". yet be that because it may, I simply loved this story. I needed to forget the melodramatic romantic interest. I flew by means of the stilted conversations with nary a grimace, simply because i needed to determine extra concerning the monster within the lake. i needed to work out who was once going to die subsequent and by way of what monster-ific means. and that i was once even engaged within the manner that Alten built-in a Template-theme subplot in a (mostly) seamless way. Alten writes easily and he retains the tale relocating at a swift pace, in order that even the main modest-paced reader can have no difficulty flying via its 500+ pages. I hugely suggest this superb thriller. It's now not literature. It's nice for the beach. And it's only a lot of fun.

Susan: The Loch can be a Fox Mulder "I (wish to) Believe." i do not bear in mind while I first heard concerning the Loch Ness monster -- Nessie, yet I do be mindful the thrill of a prehistoric animal inhabiting the lake. I BELIEVE!! The Loch grabbed my recognition from the 1st web page and saved me via out the complete book. i admire the tie in with the Templars, and the diary from 1330, in addition to the writings of these who had obvious Nessie floor within the lake. The characters have been good written and believable. There are plenty of studies on GR that experience little need for this book. Well, they're wrong! This used to be a enjoyable examine a truly huge topic (pun intended). Steve Alten has produced a one other nice read.

Teresa: I take pleasure in an exceptional cryptozoological romp, and will even get previous a few Dan Brown-esque turns of word to understand the a bit of historical, just a little clinical "explanation" for Nessie. it is not fantastic, yet I did end it, fwiw.

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