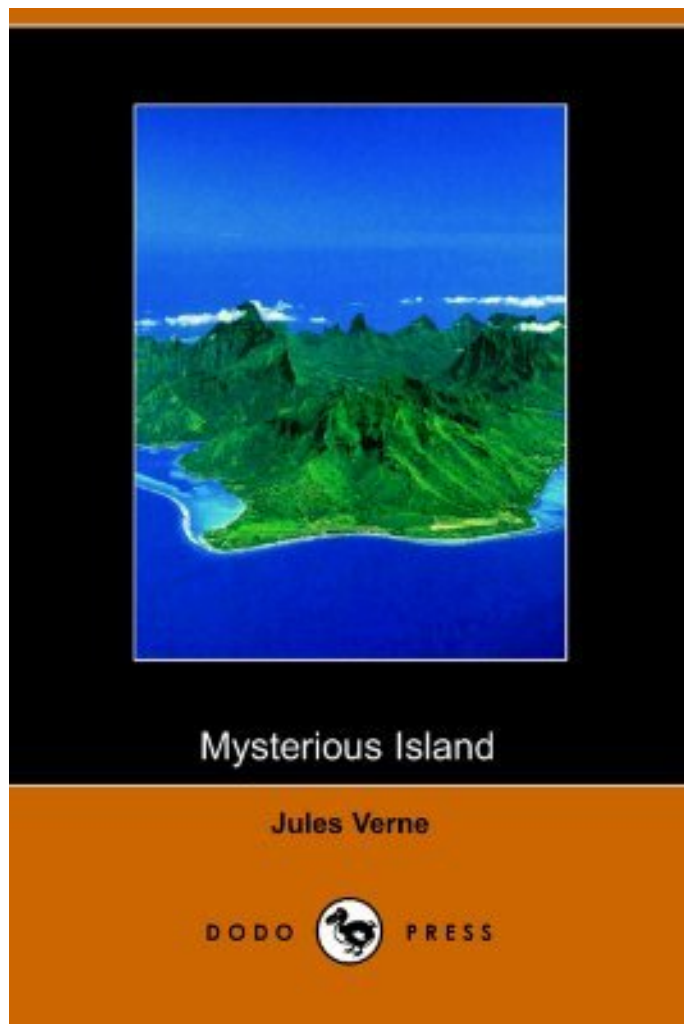

Jules Verne

The Mysterious Island (Extraordinary Voyages #12)



Title: The Mysterious Island (Extraordinary Voyages #12)

Author: Jules Verne

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Description

Large Format for easy reading. A group crash land on an uncharted island and eventually meet one 'Captain Nemo', from the French pioneer of the Science Fiction genre

Insightful reviews

ScottK: Last year I participated with a group of friends in doing a Secret Santa. This was the book that my Santa gave me (as well as Gulliver's Travels). I think it was because of the fact I was moaning about the lack of any Verne on Maui. I am SOOOOO glad my santa chose this book for me. It was amazing. Yes there were some dry parts, unless you like painstaking detail about how to make Iron or Bricks, but even they were quickly dispatched, and could be skimmed without really missing anything.

Verne's Characters rank in loveability with Characters such as Jim Hawkins, Rhett Butler, Huck Fynn and Tom Sawyer, as a matter of fact there were not many characters I did not like, other than the ones you were supposed to dislike. For me, IMHO, This Classic ranks right up there with *The Count of Monte Christo*, *Great Expectations* ETC. I have already read *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* and again in my humble opinion this outranks it by miles! If you are not familiar with Verne I think this would be a great one to start with. And no matter how knowledgeable you are, the end will leave you saying WTF. However, all the Mysteries of said Mysterious Island are dealt with and you are not left with the feeling of ok now what happens.

Silvana: Jules Verne is a god! If I can be a writer, I want to be like him. No one else. I've read five of his books and they all blew me away.

The Mysterious Island is the ultimate Jules Verne's masterpiece. It tells about five castaways in an island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, driven by a storm after they fled from the then raging Civil War in the US (1860s). For survival, they learn to be farmers, hunters, masons, sailors, potters, chemists, physicists, and various of professions you could imagine.

Yes, this might sound like Defoe's Robinson Crusoe, Doyle's The Lost World and other similar stories, but Verne's description is more....complete, adventurous, imaginative, rich with interesting details (hell, he can even make the process of making pottery and iron tools sound rather fascinating). Plus, Verne's books are classic science fictions with amazing grand visions. Yeah yeah, there's that HG Wells guy, but he's nothing compared with Verne, believe me.

The ending (which explains why the island is mysterious) is superb and kinda shocking to me. If you're an avid Jules Verne's reader, you'll know what I mean. Hint: character cross-over.

Kirstine:

I remember this book from my childhood. I remember walking between the shelves of books in my school's library looking for it, because I loved reading it so much. I don't remember a lot, beside them escaping in a hot air balloon. How could one ever forget that?

I also understand how it would be incredibly easy to abridge it, because honestly not a lot happens for the first 300 pages or so. They discover, build and prosper, with very long explanations of how. It's interesting, to some extent, and I admire Jules for putting in so much effort to make it all seem realistic and doable. But it's not interesting enough to write a book about, and yet I must admit I was never actually bored. Nothing might have happened, but I still kept reading, because it's well-written and the characters add entertainment when the plot fails to (especially Pencroft, oh my god, he's hilarious).

The last 200 pages or so are much more exciting, involving all the things that you'd expect and suddenly things get exciting. The last part is well-worth the build-up and fully delivers in terms of the "mystery" of the island being solved.

Thinking back on it, I wonder why I wasn't more annoyed with it. It seemed like I should have been. Everything in this comes so easy. The characters are prime examples of good men, they agree with each other, there are no fall outs, the island provides everything they need and somehow their combined knowledge of nature and science allows them to create what they cannot collect. It's, in short, the castaway dream. Which perhaps explains why it's not annoying – we all love it when things work out. You never have to worry about whether or not they'll make it, you know they will, which means you can sit back and enjoy the ride.

Here I'd also like to comment on Cyrus Harding. He is to *The Mysterious Island* what Ned Stark is to *Game of Thrones* – he's that one character who has such strong moral character that, while alive, he can keep the whole world from tumbling into chaos. Which is why Ned dies in *A Song of Ice and Fire* (you cannot have war if you keep the one man around they'd all rally behind) and why our four companions go above and beyond to locate Harding when he's lost in the beginning of this book. It is said of Harding:

"What had Pencroft to say? He could say nothing, for, in the bottom of his heart he shared the confidence which his companions had in Cyrus Harding. The engineer was to them a microcosm, a compound of every science, a possessor of all human knowledge. It was better to be with Cyrus Harding in a desert island, than without him in the most flourishing town in the United States. With him they could want nothing; with him they would never despair. If these brave men had been told that a volcanic eruption would destroy the land, that this land would be engulfed in the depths of the Pacific, they would have imperturbably replied, 'Cyrus is here!'"

What a man! Wouldn't we all want to be him? Or at least know him. This puts Harding as the natural leader, because he needs no one, while the others need him. He is the type of man other men measure themselves against. As long as he's around they cannot falter. And we, the readers, need him too, because he's the one that carries the plot forward. He is quite a brilliant character to have around – he solves all your problems. It does however mean very few of these characters felt real to me, their constant goodness and moral worthiness meant they lacked depth. ([view spoiler](#))

If we were to adhere to the standards of men put forth in this book, almost all of humanity would fall terribly short. We are, in comparison, unaccomplished, ignorant brutes. We are the savages of desert islands. Could we make explosives? Bricks? A forge? I most certainly couldn't. And

hope for event and an curiosity in technology i used to be hooked. i assumed that Jules Verne used to be the best dude to have ever drawn breath. I speedy begun a crusade to persuade others how nice this booklet was. My makes an attempt to sway others was once to no avail... not anyone else was once interested. i believe this booklet used to be a Christmas present. Heck, i could have simply obvious the canopy and concept the image was once cool. (My replica of the booklet has an island and a sizzling air ballon on it). i actually do not take into account how I got here to possess it yet i'm completely happy that i discovered it. humorous sidenote: I as soon as had a female friend and we had the loopy idea of interpreting the others favourite ebook of all time. i finished up suffering throughout the Hobbit (out of affection of course) and she or he all started yet simply could not make it via Mysterious Island. i suppose I may still learn this publication and notice if I nonetheless love it 20+ years later...

Nils Jeppe: do not get me wrong, I beloved The Mysterious Island. However, it objectively didn't age well. First of all, it was once one in all Verne's "educational" novels, and that indicates with plenty and many exposition that does not upload something to the particular tale - and lots more and plenty of it is not even correct anymore (the theories for the formation of continents, or the character of the moon are past dated). The moment challenge is that the tale is simply choke choked with "coincidences", which don't even all make feel in the event you ponder the reason on the end. there's quite no plot with the exception of the characters' growth in making the island extra habitable, and acknowledged "coincidences" and the titular mystery. to fashionable sensibilities, this can be simply no longer more than enough for a excessive rating. Also as importantly, there's pretty well no personality progress or development either. There are a number of extra minor problems, akin to the "revelation" on the finish itself, yet let's now not nitpick too much. If you could forget about those issues, and/or simply are looking to learn the vintage for its personal sake, you will do fine. The Mysterious Island additionally works acceptably as a "shipwreck" story. it truly is nonetheless helpful reading, yet it isn't spectacular.

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