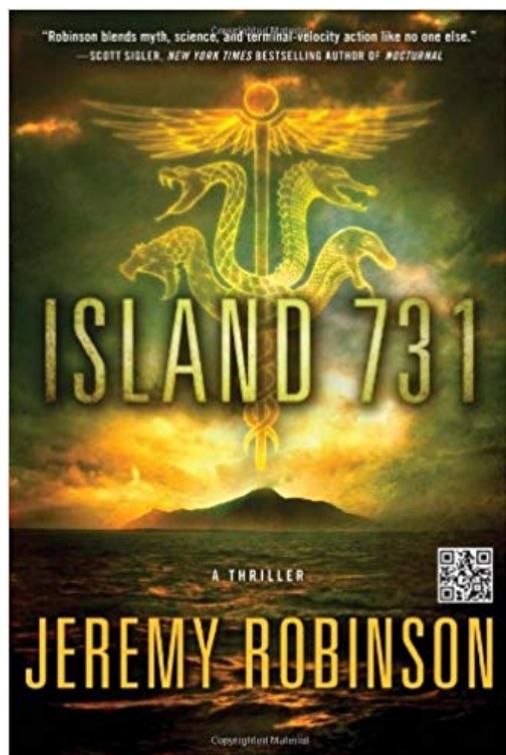


Island 731: A Thriller by Jeremy Robinson



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"Robinson puts his distinctive mark on Michael Crichton territory with this terrifying present-day riff on *The Island of Dr. Moreau*... One of the best *Jurassic Park* successors."
-Publishers Weekly, starred review

Mark Hawkins, former park ranger and expert tracker, is out of his element, working on board the *Magellan*, a research vessel studying the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. But his work is interrupted when, surrounded by thirty miles of refuse, the ship and its high tech systems are plagued by a series of strange malfunctions and the crew is battered by a raging storm.

When the storm fades and the sun rises, the beaten crew awakens to find themselves anchored in the protective cove of a tropical island...and no one knows how they got there. Even worse, the ship has been sabotaged, two crewman are dead and a third is missing. Hawkins spots signs of the missing man on shore and leads a small team to bring him back. But they quickly discover evidence of a brutal history left behind by the Island's former occupants: Unit 731, Japan's ruthless World War II human experimentation program. Mass graves and military fortifications dot the island, along with a decades old laboratory housing the remains of hideous experiments.

As crew members start to disappear, Hawkins realizes that they are not alone. In fact, they were brought to this strange and horrible island. The crew is taken one-by-one and while Hawkins fights to save his friends, he learns the horrible truth: Island 731 was never decommissioned and the person taking his crewmates may not be a person at all—not anymore.



Reviews of the **Island 731: A Thriller** by Jeremy Robinson

Arlana

A storm-tossed ship winds up in the lagoon of an uncharted island. As the characters sift through the damage, crew members go missing. Searching the island for lost shipmates, the protagonist stumbles upon remains of a notorious World War II Japanese dark science outfit known as Unit 731. But park ranger Mark Hawkins soon learns that gruesome experimentations have never stopped.

This seemed like two books: a half horror-thriller and the rest a justification for what came first. The chief antagonist seemed impossibly smart for his age, the scientific justifications thin, the evil agency behind it all opaque. To keep the plot moving in the second half, the author unloaded back story like a man lightening a balloon to stay airborne. And while such a practice justified the narrative, it threw me out of the story.

Which is a shame, since good action scenes combined with a stripped-down writing style made this tale zip along. More foreshadowing may've helped.

Camper

I started reading Jeremy Robinson with books like *Antarktos Rising* and *Kronos*. I thought they were pretty interesting, but then came the *Chess Team* novels and they were great. With the *Chess Team* novellas Robinson completely redefined what a novella is supposed to be. And *SecondWorld* and *Project Nemesis* were even better. All this to let you know that I started in *Island 731* with pretty high expectations... But even I wasn't prepared for this!! *Island 731* is all you could hope for if you like excitement, monsters and science gone haywire. The story reminded me a bit of the *Deadworld* novels by Harry Harrison that I read as a teenager. Or more recently, of Warren Fahy's *Fragment*. But *Island 731* is in a class of its own. The characters are great, the action just never stops, the humor is a blast and reading the book is like watching an extremely well-made B-monster movie. This book just grabs you by the throat and never lets go! Clearly, Robinson is getting better with every new novel he turns out and I can't wait to get my hands on the next one.

A side note for book lovers: although I love to touch and hold physical books, I'm slowly switching to reading ebooks, if only because I'm running out of space... But Jeremy Robinson's books are made with a great love for books and that shows! The covers are gorgeous, the paper is of very fine quality and that only enhances the whole reading experience. Which is why for a lot of authors I've switched from hardcovers to paperbacks to ebooks. But with Robinson, I found myself switching to hardcovers because I just wanted to hold and own the physical book and didn't want to wait for a paperback.

So, if you've never read Jeremy Robinson, do yourself a favor and give one of his books a try. Island 731 would be a very fine introduction indeed!!

Kashicage

This book is officially listed as book zero in author Jeremy Robinson's Project Nemesis series of books. But it is also a stand alone tale in and of itself, so you really don't need to read any of the the other Nemesis books to enjoy this one as it features none of that series initial characters and back drops.

But on to the story itself. It begins with one Matt Hawkin, a former Park Ranger who quit because of an incident where he for got to respect nature, is part of a high seas scientific expedition in what is effectively a floating garbage dump, as it's crew tries to find evidence to show the environmental and biological effects such an environment is having. All is normal until a sudden storm as they lose a shipmate mysteriously and one dies and find themselves pretty much marooned on a uncharted island. But it's soon evident that they are not alone on this island as some strange thing none can readily identify takes the dead body and another crew member later. Matt and his friends soon learn more about the island and it's connection to a Japanese project the specialized in horrible experiments during WW2.

The story itself is pretty entertaining. it was very suspenseful and had a couple of twists that I didn't see coming. always a good thing. all of the characters are pretty well defined and the heroes are quite likable. The descriptions of the various creatures on the island were very thorough and helped with the picturing in my head. It did make me see what was coming next. Of course, if you're like me and didn't realize this was a prequel and read the official second book in the series (Project: Maigo) and you know the fate of at least one of the characters before hand. But despite that there was still enough going on I wanted to see what was coming next. so a good job there. There are a couple of cliffhangers at the end, well maybe one and a half since one of them, a cat girl named Lily laid some eggs. But the full one in that is being covered in the third book Project: 731.

It's a good book It's part of a connected universe but it is a stand alone as I said. I would recommend.

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