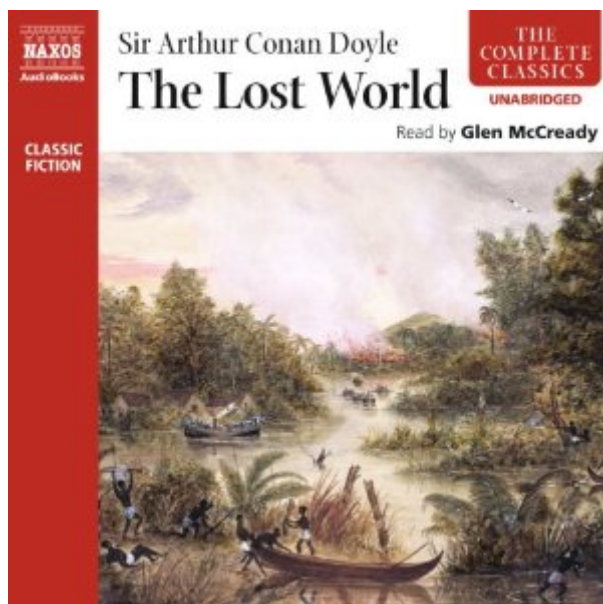


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The Lost World



Synopsis

The Fast Track Classics series enables students to experience the pleasure of reading well-known classic novels. These shortened classic novels cater for every taste whether it is the delightful story of *Little Women*, the gripping adventure of *Kidnapped*, the compelling and poignant *Phantom of the Opera*, or the dark and mysterious drama of *Jane Eyre*. Each book is a manageable size, with short chapters and helpful illustrations. The introduction gives a synopsis of the plot and a short biography of the author. Carefully designed with lexical structures and vocabulary to match the ability of the student, Fast Track Classics still convey the essence of these powerful stories and lose none of their characterisation. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 8 hours and 39 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Naxos AudioBooks

Audible.com Release Date: February 25, 2008

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B0014WZ058

Best Sellers Rank: #20 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction > Anthologies & Short Stories #91 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > British Detectives #132 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Anthologies

Customer Reviews

Outside of the Sherlock Holmes stories, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's most famous creation is the scientist and adventurer George Edward Challenger. Professor Challenger starred in three novels and two short stories, beginning with *The Lost World*, first published in 1912. Edward Malone, a journalist of athletic build but timid demeanor, seeks an interview with Challenger, hoping the eccentric misanthrope might provide some good copy for his paper. Though at first Challenger is hostile to the reporter out of a general hatred for those of his profession, he soon takes a liking to the young man. The relationship between the two characters is very similar to that between Holmes and Watson, except that Challenger is a bigger jerk than Holmes and a far less intriguing character. Challenger reveals to his newfound confidant that in the rain forest he has discovered a remote

plateau where prehistoric creatures that have long been thought extinct still thrive. When Challenger makes his findings public before a meeting of the Zoological Institute, he is confronted by doubters. To test the veracity of his claims, an expedition is hastily organized, consisting of Dr. Summerlee, a rival scientist; Lord John Roxton, an aristocratic sportsman, and Malone, who volunteers for the journey in hopes not only of finding a good story but also of adding some much-needed adventure to his life. Malone is the narrator of the tale, and most of the book is written in the form of letters sent back to his newspaper. This makes for an awkward construction, as it becomes clear that at the end of every chapter Malone is going to be safe in camp scribbling his account, while some overly convenient method will be contrived for an Indian to carry off his letter to the civilized world.

There was a time when I read mostly classics. As I grew older my tastes changed, so now I am more attracted to modern speculative fiction and romance novels. But it's never too late to resurrect good, old habits. And what is the better book for that than the predecessor of Jurassic Park? **LIKES*** Written in a form of a journal and a series of letters, *The Lost World* adds a personal touch to the story. A lot of time I felt like the narrator, journalist Ed Malone, is talking to me. * Professor Challenger was over-confident, sometimes rude in his directness and very stubborn. If I have met professor Challenger in real life, I would have labeled him as a jerk and tried to ignore him. But I like these kind of characters in novels, they keep the story interesting. We traveled entirely by compass, and once or twice there were differences of opinion between Challenger and the two Indians, when, to quote the Professor's indignant words, the whole party agreed to trust the fallacious instincts of undeveloped savages rather than the highest product of modern European culture. * Dinosauurs! They are like dragons, but they actually existed. I don't know why am I attracted to the stories about these cold-blooded, savage, lizardly creatures, but I am fascinated by their habits and by the facts that something so majestic existed on our planet. * Beautiful descriptions of nature and wildlife. **DISLIKES*** Illustrations are missing. Original paperback (and hopefully other editions) had a lot of drawings that accompanied the story. Sadly, this free ebook version has none. I love it when journal type books have illustrations, so I was very disappointed they were not included. * Unrushed pace.

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