



Predator X

C.J. Waller

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When deep level oil fracking uncovers a vast subterranean sea, a crack team of cavers and scientists are sent down to investigate.

Upon their arrival, they disappear without a trace.

A second team, including sedimentologist Dr Megan Stoker, are ordered to seek out Alpha Team and report back their findings. But Alpha team are nowhere to be found – instead, they are faced with something unexpected in the depths.

Something ancient.

Something huge.

Something dangerous.

Predator X

Predator X Details

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From Reader Review Predator X for online ebook

Andy Coleman says

A SIMPLE MAN'S REVIEW:

I needed a quick read while waiting for a library book and found this as one of my recommended reads from Amazon. It sounded fun: an underground sea, an unknown monster within that sea, and possibly something to do with aliens. And I've got to say, it delivered on those things in an almost-always entertaining story. But these types of stories are now "a dime a dozen" and in order to stand out, the author really needs to expand the narrative into intriguing ideas and speculation. This story was on the cusp of doing that, but then seemed to pull back and fall into the typical "shoot 'em up" thriller. It was rather disappointing.

The main character was likable and her inner dialogue was often humorous. But most of the other characters were unrealistic. Now granted, I've never been trapped underground with a sea monster, but I can't even imagine a person behaving the way some of the characters acted. It was as if each had a formulaic role to play and the author couldn't afford the natural deviation from those roles as the story progressed. It became an irritating distraction.

The ending left the possibility of a sequel, but even though this book was entertaining, I didn't end up caring enough to see what might happen next. If you like the mysteries that are described in the description of the book, you may enjoy this quick read. Otherwise, you'll be fine skipping this one.

Mark All says

Reading Predator X is like watching an intense Lovecraftian Final Girl horror movie. Well done!!!

chucklesthescot says

This had the potential to be a really great story and I very much enjoyed the beginning. It gives a brief paragraph about events so far and then gets straight on to the rescue mission entering the cave system. Megan is a bit claustrophobic on the journey down and gets tense when anyone is out of contact for a few minutes in case she is abandoned. We find out her opinion on her team through her thoughts. More on that later.

The action seems to start quickly once they find the sea and try to cross it in search of Alpha Team but in truth there is no other monster action until p70 which was a disappointment. I had hoped to see a lot of Predator X as I assumed that this is what the book is about. Instead between pages 19 and 70, the team explore the island they are stuck on, find some alien type structures and weird things and start to realise what happened to the other team. The short piece of action for a few pages around p70 is ok but could have been written to make it sound a bit more exciting. Then we go back to the living on the island thing and fighting amongst ourselves thing that has been there for most of the book. Calling the book Predator X is as misleading as the blurb which makes the sea monster sound like the main story where it actually only appears significantly three times in the book. The rest is an exploration of this alien structure and finding the

strange entity that lives there. It was a bit disappointing to discover that what I thought was a horror story is really a complex science fiction story, a genre I'm not keen on.

As for the characters, I barely liked any of them. Marcus was an asshat from page one-and why is that true of most of these kinds of stories? You get the total jerk who then argues with everyone then they argue with each other and it gets old very fast. Megan is a real pain and I wish I could have blocked out her thoughts on the others. One minute she thinks Marcus is harmless flirt guy then seconds later he is the biggest sexist asshat the world has seen and she can't stand him. When he is mouthing off she hates it but as soon as he goes quiet or gets depressed she wants the old Marcus back, and when THAT happens she hates him again! She thinks Brendan is a sweet nerd, then a psychotic fanatic that needs watched then she likes him because he is the most sensible. She hates Fi for looking down on her, then loves her as a fearless capable leader, then thinks she is an autocratic bitch, then a great person to get them out. WTF??? Megan, you were seriously getting on my nerves with all this rubbish! As for Megan's grand plan to kill the monster, well that was so stupid that I was laughing out loud. The big plot reveal was hardly a surprise when the author dropped massive clanging hints with neon arrows pointing before it with Yuri's warnings and what Megan sees and chooses not to believe.

The ending also left me cold. I didn't find it a surprise, didn't hate it, didn't love it. By this point I was feeling pretty indifferent and just read to the end to see if anyone survived. Overall a great idea was spoiled by all the alien stuff in the middle. If the author had stuck to the horror plot that the blurb suggests, then this could have been a really good book. What a pity!

Sci-fi fans might enjoy this.

Gerd says

Noch so ein Buchgewordener NU Images / SyFy Film.

Die Autorin bedient sich und zitiert ganz frei aus den Klassikern der SF, von Verne bis Burroughs zu Lovecraft, die Vorbilder sind unübersehbar. Hauptsächlich widmet sich die Geschichter der Spielart des Lost World genres und wäre dabei auch ganz Unterhaltsam, wenn auch nie wirklich furchtbar logisch, geworden.

Leider setzt die Autorin auf eine allzu saloppe Sprache welche den Leser auch schon mal direkt anspricht, und der Übersetzer, welcher oft auf zu typisch deutsche Redensarten setzt um noch getreue Übersetzung zu sein, tut sein übriges um dabei den Lesefluss zu hemmen. Verschärfend hinzu kommt dann noch dass man sich nie Recht entscheiden konnte ob man Gegenwarts- oder Vergangenheitsform schreiben wollte und deshalb einfach beides in den Topf warf.

Ein paar nette Ideen enthält die Geschichte, die Umsetzung ist jedoch eher dürftig ausgefallen.

Paula says

I'm almost embarrassed to give this book 4 stars, but I really enjoyed it. It's horror/sci-fi, full of holes, a bit patchwork and not well developed, but the author is skilled at keeping up a breakneck pace.

Not all story tellers are masters of language, and Waller knows his (her?) limitations. Every time there is a little flaw, a "wait a minute" moment for the reader, you don't have time to stop for analysis. You are kept busy with the next threat, the next horrible decision that has to be made. It's not a great novel, but it is a good fast short scary story. Similar to enjoyable horror films, he gets right to the point, includes a whole bunch of stuff to make you feel squeamish, claustrophobia and conspiracy theories, crazy people, monsters/ aliens, splashes around some blood and guts to mask deficiencies and delivers a satisfying ending. If you're one of those people where the movie is completely ruined because you just can't make yourself believe she was stupid enough to go into the basement to check out that noise, you won't like this.

I, for one, am thrilled the author didn't go to lengths developing the concepts further. The deeper you get into any "lie" the more obvious the make-believe becomes. If the author did any more "development" the cracks would start to show. You better have all your ducks in a row if you want to try that. If not, do it like Waller and run me through it so fast my head spins and I just end up thoroughly entertained.

This is not for deep thinkers. Like a well timed side-show, before you can say "did I just see something up his sleeve" the next act is on stage. Let your inner ADD out and go with it. It's a ton of fun.

Richard Schwindt says

I read creature features for mindless amusement but they aren't mindless when they are poorly written; just frustrating. Dr Megan Stoker is a geologist sent down a cave by a fracking company to track down "Alpha team" who have managed to get lost down there. Following their descent into the earth they find an underground sea, a bloodthirsty creature and wait, something else... Mayhem ensues in the surreal sub terrain, followed by a descent into yet another passage. C. J. Waller is a British fantasy writer and to judge from her Amazon page, local kook. That said, she has done a terrific job with *Predator X*. This book has atmosphere and immediacy lacking in many of its peers. This has to do with the dark and well drawn environment, but especially with the first person narration by Stoker. You can experience her fear from the inside and sensory engagement in the strange world below ground. Her transition towards the end rewards sticking around and makes this a book hard to put away. If you like this sort of thing - and who doesn't want to see people being chased and eaten after a long day of thrashing away at your desk - this book is for you.

Amanda says

Horrible claustrophobic cave setting - check. Mental underwater ocean - check. Jurassic dinosaur - checks. Alien entity- check. All combined together to make a fantastic, totally enjoyable roller coaster ride. With a great twist in the tale.

This book gave me so much pleasure, sometimes you just need a read like this. 5 star read!!

Bob Cantrell says

Good story

This book was a good read, but it was more a character driven story. That is not too bad, but you don't get much backstory on them. The predator of the title is not who or what you think it is. My one big problem with the story is how close it was to *Vostok* by Steve Alten. I know that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but come on now. If you want a good story that does have you guessing what happens then give it a try.

Kaisersoze says

Books with a fairly standard plot rely on their characters to see them through. Unfortunately in the case of **Predator X**, author C.J. Waller puts a bunch of whiny, annoying characters without much substance through a very standard subterranean horror scenario. The result is something which has its moments - with a second act change of direction especially welcomed after a patience-straining beginning - but which overall never managed to truly engage or make me care.

2.5 Things Worse Than The Dark for **Predator X**.

Melanie Austin says

Exciting and dark

I liked this book but wish it had been longer as I was left feeling like I'd finished reading an unfinished story. I would like to know more about certain characters and important things in the story.

Matthew Willis says

Fantastic sci-fi horror from CJ Waller. The set up is intriguing - a rescue team of cavers and scientists sent after a missing expedition to a newly-discovered underground sea - and things get more and more interesting from there. Soon the rescue team is itself trapped, and finds itself facing terrors beyond its comprehension - not least of which is the titular Predator X, a prehistoric sea creature of unparalleled ferocity and power. Predator X has it all - pace, tension, immediacy, twists, turns and an uncomfortably close view of a group of characters rapidly unravelling.

Allan McDonough says

This is a face-paced page turner that I just couldn't put down. I read this book in one day, a new personal best for me, and it had me hooked from chapter one right up until the devilishly clever ending, that screams write me a sequel. Which I have no doubt will be on the cards. Each character is richly defined and there is never

any confusion between them.

If CJ Waller is not a spelunking, cave-dwelling, scientist come archeologist, then she must have some seriously messed up nightmares. I was stuck on that subterranean island with them. The claustrophobic atmosphere was so intense that I actually went out to the pictures halfway through reading it for some light hearted entertainment, only I couldn't stop thinking about it and came straight back to it afterwards.

Don't listen to the haters this book was great, and so much more than meets the eye.

Angela says

Had to give this one 4 stars. Its a quick read, couldn't put it down. Its creepy and claustrophobic and the action and questions keep on coming. Its not the best written book I've read, but you won't even notice once you start reading and the story takes off. Its been on my Kindle for a while and I'm only sorry it took me so long to read it. The story starts out with fracking by an oil company that has collapsed the earths crust. And you know this hole must be explored. From there things get interesting.

Alison says

I really liked this little novel; it reminded me of Lovecraft's Mountains of Madness, albeit with a subterranean location.

Cheryl says

Not a monster book like I expected

I wanted more:

- * more character development
- * more world building
- * more monsters like the cover indicates

I bought this book because it was supposedly about a monster AND because it takes place in a cave, both of which I like. Well, neither one figured too much into the story. The rescue team entered the cave and about two pages later are at their destination - with very little description of the surroundings or the trip.

Yes, there is a monster but it takes a backseat to a whole other story - not one I would have bought.

This is a quick read at 150 pages and it's not terrible. It's just not very good. I didn't feel close to any of the characters. Most of them were whiny jerks.

It's not the money I regret spending on this short novel so much as the time I could have used reading something a whole lot better.
