



Dr. Franklin's Island (Readers Circle)

By Ann Halam

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Semi, Miranda, and Arnie are part of a group of 50 British Young Conservationists on their way to a wildlife conservation station deep in the rain forests of Ecuador. After a terrifying mid-air disaster and subsequent crash, these three are the sole survivors, stranded together on a deserted tropical island. Or so they think. Semi, Miranda, and Arnie stumble into the hands of Dr. Franklin, a mad scientist who's been waiting for them, eager to use them as specimens for his experiments in genetic engineering.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

"When something terrifically terrible happens to you, I think your brain *doesn't get it*, for quite a while. You go on trying to see the world the way it was, even when common sense should tell you that everything has changed forever."

Semirah Garson is certain that nothing could ever be more horrific than what she has just lived through: a plane crash in the middle of the ocean followed by the shocking discovery that she and the other survivors are stranded on an apparently deserted island with no Target or Taco Bell in sight. But she's wrong. Because no matter how hard it is for Semi, Arnie, and Miranda to bear the sun, snakes, and fading hope of rescue, it's nothing compared to what Dr. Franklin has in store for them. It's his private island they've had the misfortune to land on. And it's his private hell they'll have to endure. Dr. Franklin is too old to test his theories of animal gene therapy on himself. He needs resilient teenage bodies that have already proven they can handle great trauma. Semi's always wondered what it might be like to breathe underwater. She just never imagined she'd know firsthand....

Veteran science fiction author Ann Halam has taken the framework of H.G. Wells's classic evolution parable *The Island of Dr. Moreau* and crafted an exquisitely wrought 21st-century update that plays on all our modern fears of test-tube clones and misguided medical ethics. Haunting, bold, and heartily recommended. (Ages 13 and older) --*Jennifer Hubert*

From Publishers Weekly

Halam (aka adult SF and fantasy author Gwyneth Jones) delivers a nightmarish thriller of white-knuckle intensity. Semirah, the shy, self-deprecating narrator, is among a group of 50 British teen winners of a science contest who are on their way to work with conservationists in Ecuador. Disaster strikes quickly: before the first chapter ends, a plane crash (was it a foiled hijacking?) strands Semirah and two other survivors on a remote island. Slowly and surely, the author turns the screws as Semirah, in the company of smart, brave Miranda and dishonest Arnie, watches every plan founder. Arnie sneaks off on his own and, as Miranda and Semirah gradually realize the full horror of their plight, their misery and dread become almost palpable. But even the worst of their experiences seems almost idyllic when they finally find the island's inhabitants: the mad scientist Dr. Franklin and his terrified employees. Dr. Franklin can hardly wait to start performing his trans-species genetic-engineering experiments on human subjects, and Miranda and Semirah are to be his first candidates. The bogeyman had got us, Semirah realizes. Nothing could save us: but we didn't have to die screaming. The characterizations are even richer and more credible than the premise is outlandish, and Halam heightens the tension by thoroughly imagining each stage of the girls' reactions to Dr. Franklin's elaborate cruelties. Only the cathartic ending will free readers from this scary novel's inexorable pull. Ages 14-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up-This creepy, contemporary novel is a part-adventure, part-horror SF story. Semi, 14, narrates how she and two other British teens survived a plane crash while en route to Ecuador. She, Miranda, and Arnie survive alone on an island for more than a month and then he disappears. While looking for him, they discover a military facility, but instead of being rescued, they're captured and imprisoned. A mad scientist who's using human DNA to experiment on animals runs the facility. He forces the girls to take DNA injections that turn them into a fish and a bird and they discover that Arnie has been captured, too, and is

being turned into a snake. The teens are implanted with radio chips so they can communicate telepathically with one another but as their treatments progress, they begin to lose their humanity. Can they escape before it's too late? This exciting and well-developed book is similar to H. G. Wells's *The Island of Dr. Moreau* and will appeal to fans of horror and adventure. The struggle for survival that the teens experience changes them and they grow as people. However, the book is not for the squeamish. The description of the dead bodies found in the aftermath of the plane explosion and the physical changes the girls experience during their experiments is gruesomely detailed. Halam also writes adult science fiction and fantasy as Gwyneth Jones.

Sharon Rawlins, Piscataway Public Library, NJ

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gayle Oconnell:

The book Dr. Franklin's Island (Readers Circle) make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make examining a book Dr. Franklin's Island (Readers Circle) to get your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like available and read a guide Dr. Franklin's Island (Readers Circle). Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this publication?

Patricia Frazier:

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Clifford Harris:

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Nicole Floyd:

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