

MICHAEL CRICHTON



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NEXT

A Novel

 HarperCollins e-books

**This novel is fiction,
except for the parts that aren't.**

The more the universe seems comprehensible, the more it
also seems pointless.

—STEVEN
WEINBERG

The word “cause” is an altar to an unknown god.

—WILLIAM
JAMES

What is not possible is not to choose.

—JEAN-PAUL
SARTRE

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[Epigraph](#)

[Prologue](#) - Vasco Borden, forty-nine, tugged at the lapels of his suit...

[CH001](#) - Division 48 of Los Angeles Superior Court was a wood-paneled...

[CH002](#) - Alex had been watching the jury all during the latest...

[CH003](#) - Barry Sindler, divorce lawyer to the stars, shifted in his...

[CH004](#) - Beneath the high canopy of trees, the jungle floor was...

[CH005](#) - Get this," Charlie Huggins said, looking at the television in...

[CH006](#) - BioGen Research Inc. was housed in a titanium-skinned cube in...

[CH007](#) - At noon, Alex Burnet left her office in her Century...

[CH008](#) - In the BioGen animal lab, Tom Weller was going down...

[CH009](#) - Kevin McCormick, chief administrator of Long Beach Memorial, looked up...

[CH010](#) - At the Radial Genomics lab in La Jolla, Charlie Huggins...

CH011 - Barry Sindler was bored. The woman before him yammered on.

CH012 - Josh Winkler closed the door to his office and started...

CH013 - The coffin rose into sunlight. It looked the same as...

CH014 - Marty Roberts was sweating by the time he got back...

CH015 - At sunset, the titanium cube that housed BioGen Research shimmered...

CH016 - The jungle was completely silent. Not a buzzing cicada, not...

CH017 - Rick Diehl of BioGen was changing in the locker room...

CH018 - It was just his way of relaxing, Brad Gordon knew,...

CH019 - Marilee Hunter, the pedantic director of the Long Beach Memorial...

CH020 - Finally!

CH021 - At the Congressional Biotechnology Prayer Breakfast in Washington, Dr. Robert Bellarmino...

CH022 - It was a bad day for Marty Roberts, made much...

CH023 - Josh Winkler was staring out his office window that overlooked...

CH024 - Brad Gordon frowned unhappily at the toilet in his jail...

CH025 - Henry Kendall parked in the Long Beach Memorial parking lot,...

CH026 - We're talking submarines," the patent attorney said to Josh Winkler.

CH027 - Rick Diehl approached the whole thing like a research project.

CH028 - Bail was set at half a million dollars. Brad Gordon's...

CH029 - In the corner of the office, the TV showed Sheldon...

CH030 - In a glass-walled conference room on Madison Avenue, the marketing...

CH031 - The fact-finding hearing of the Bioethics Review Panel at the...

CH032 - Madame Bond," the first-grade teacher said, "your son is a...

CH033 - Brad Gordon clicked off the TV and yelled, "It's open.

CH034 - Henry Kendall's wife, Lynn, designed web sites for a living,...

CH035 - Henry Kendall left Dulles Airport and drove north on 267,...

CH036 - What are you talking about?" Lynn Kendall said, staring at...

CH037 - There were fifty reporters in the conference room of Shanghai's...

CH038 - The memory haunted Mark Sanger—the image burned in his mind...

CH039 - Josh Winkler hurried into the animal facility to see what...

CH040 - Speaking in Washington at a noon briefing for congressmen, Professor William Garfield...

CH041 - Dave's first few days in the Kendall household went surprisingly...

CH042 - Ellis," Mrs. Levine said, "what is that tube?"

CH043 - Things were not going well, Rick Diehl thought, as he...

CH044 - Gail Bond fell into a routine. She would spend the...

CH045 - Alex Burnet was in the middle of the most difficult...

CH046 - The lights dimmed smoothly in the plush presentation room at...

CH047 - There was no moon and no sound, except the booming...

CH048 - Josh." It was his mother, on the phone.

CH049 - Gail Bond's husband, Richard, the investment banker, often worked late...

CH050 - Rob Bellarmino smiled reassuringly. "Just ignore the cameras," he said...

CH051 - It had been raining all day in southern Sumatra. The...

CH052 - Six attorneys sat at the long table, all shuffling through...

CH053 - Vasco Borden faced the mirror and reviewed his appearance with...

CH054 - Brad Gordon had a bad feeling as he walked into...

CH055 - Lynn Kendall ran into the La Jolla school, arriving out...

CH056 - Alex Burnet jumped out of the cab and ran toward...

CH057 - Georgia Bellarmino would never have known, if it hadn't been...

CH058 - Barton Williams's Boeing 737 rolled to a stop at the...

CH059 - The warehouse was located near the airport in Medan. It...

CH060 - Georgia Bellarmino opened the door to her daughter's bedroom and...

CH061 - In the Chicago offices of Dr. Martin Bennett, the intercom was...

CH062 - The desk officer at the Rockville Police Station was an...

CH063 - Riding the underground tram from the Senate Office Building to...

CH064 - Not again!

CH065 - This is on, man!

CH066 - Stan Milgram had begun the long trip to see his...

CH067 - Lynn sat on the edge of the tub and used...

CH068 - Traffic crawled. The 405 Freeway was a river of red...

CH069 - There were two more gunshots as Lynn ran into the...

[CH070](#) - Alex took her son to an In-N-Out drive-in, and they...

[CH071](#) - Stan Milgram was lost in endless darkness. The road ahead...

[CH072](#) - Ellis sat down across from his brother Aaron, in Aaron's...

[CH073](#) - When Brad Gordon started the bar fight at the Lucky...

[CH074](#) - The self-proclaimed environmental artist Mark Sanger, recently returned from a...

[CH075](#) - Still lost, now driving through very hilly terrain, Stan Milgram...

[CH076](#) - The Robinson R44 helicopter descended in a cloud of dust,...

[CH077](#) - Gerard watched the dark shapes approach.

[CH078](#) - Sleeping in the front seat of her car, Alex Burnet...

[CH079](#) - In Congressional Hearing Room 443, while waiting for proceedings to...

[CH080](#) - The ambulance sped south on the freeway. Sitting in the...

[CH081](#) - Bob," Alex said, holding her phone to her ear.

[CH082](#) - It's the last thing we need, Henry Kendall thought.
Visitors!

[CH083](#) - The Hummer pulled up behind the ambulance, and Vasco got...

[CH084](#) - Gerard was tired. He had been flying for an hour...