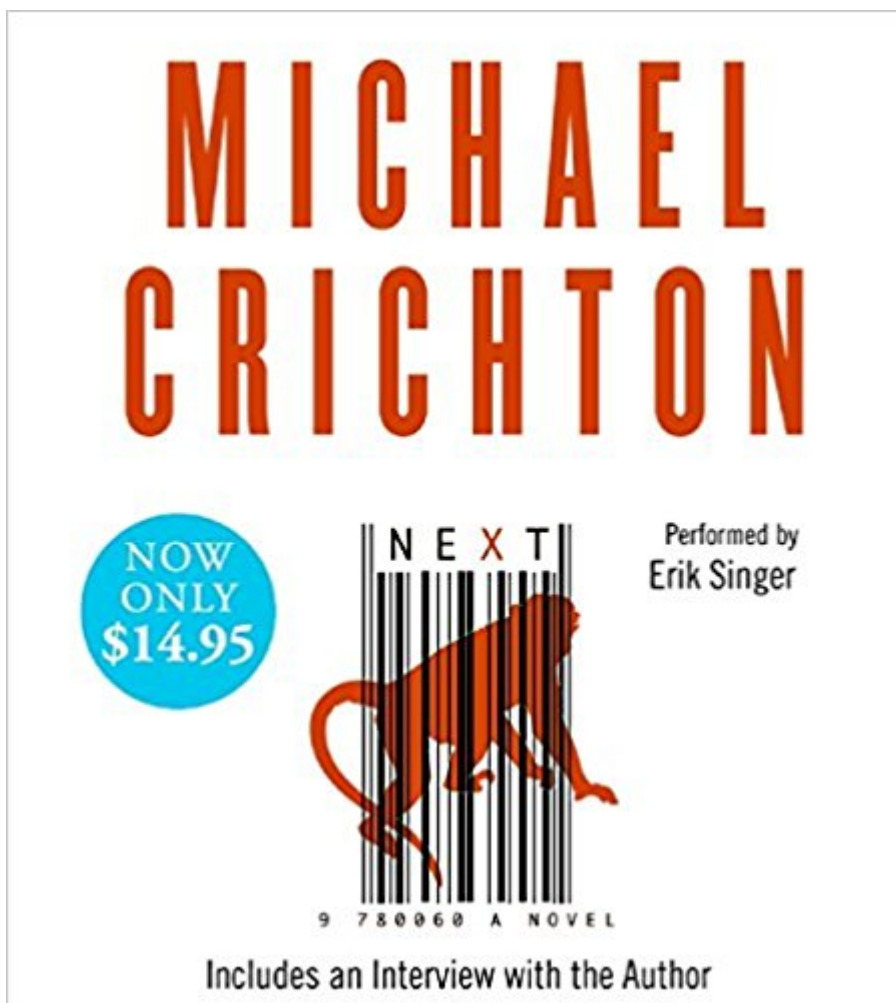




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Synopsis

Is a loved one missing some body parts? Are blondes becoming extinct? Is everyone at your dinner table of the same species? Humans and chimpanzees differ in only 400 genes; is that why an adult human being resembles a chimp fetus? And should that worry us? There's a new genetic cure for drug addiction--is it worse than the disease? We live in a time of momentous scientific leaps; a time when it's possible to sell our eggs and sperm online for thousands of dollars or test our spouses for genetic maladies. We live in a time when one fifth of all our genes are owned by someone else, and an unsuspecting person and his family can be pursued cross-country because they happen to have certain valuable genes within their chromosomes . . . Devilishly clever, *Next* blends fact and fiction into a breathless tale of a new world where nothing is what it seems, and a set of new possibilities can open at every turn. *Next* challenges our sense of reality and notions of morality. Balancing the comic and bizarre with the genuinely frightening and disturbing, *Next* shatters our assumptions, and reveals shocking new choices where we least expect. The future is closer than you think. Get used to it.

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Customer Reviews

Is a loved one missing some body parts? Are blondes becoming extinct? Is everyone at your dinner table of the same species? Humans and chimpanzees differ in only 400 genes; is that why a chimp fetus resembles a human being? And should that worry us? There's a new genetic cure for drug addiction--is it worse than the disease? What's coming Next? Get a hint of what Michael Crichton

sees on the horizon in this short video clip: high bandwidth or low bandwidth We live in a time of momentous scientific leaps, a time when it's possible to sell our eggs and sperm online for thousands of dollars and to test our spouses for genetic maladies. We live in a time when one fifth of all our genes are owned by someone else, and an unsuspecting person and his family can be pursued cross-country because they happen to have certain valuable genes within their chromosomes... Devilishly clever, *Next* blends fact and fiction into a breathless tale of a new world where nothing is what it seems and a set of new possibilities can open at every turn. *Next* challenges our sense of reality and notions of morality. Balancing the comic and the bizarre with the genuinely frightening and disturbing, *Next* shatters our assumptions and reveals shocking new choices where we least expect. The future is closer than you think. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Bestseller Crichton (*Jurassic Park*) once again focuses on genetic engineering in his cerebral new thriller, though the science involved is a lot less far-fetched than creating dinosaurs from DNA. In an ambitious effort to show what's wrong with the U.S.'s current handling of gene patents and with the laws governing human tissues, the author interweaves many plot strands, one involving a California researcher, Henry Kendall, who has mixed human and chimp DNA while working at NIH. Kendall produces an intelligent hybrid whom he rescues from the government and tries to pass off as a fully human child. Some readers may be disappointed by the relative lack of action, the lame attempts to lighten the mood with humor (especially centering on an unusually bright parrot named Gerard), and the contrived convergence of the main characters toward the end. Still, few can match Crichton in crafting page-turners with intellectual substance, and his opinions this time are less likely to create a firestorm than his controversial take on global warming in 2004's *State of Fear*. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This was my sixth Crichton novel, after (in order) *Micro*, *Congo*, *Prey*, *Jurassic Park*, and *Jurassic World*. *Next* ranks in the top three, along with *Micro* (2nd) and *Prey* (an easy 1st). Bear in mind, this book is seriously unlike the others. If you are looking for a straight forward plot, you will not like this book. Crichton takes several story lines, some important and some not, and weaves them all together (expertly, I might add), detailing genetic progresses, problems, and possibilities, all while building to an expertly constructed finale. As such, the story takes time, and doesn't really take off until at least 1/3rd into the book, although I'd argue it's really more like 60% in that it catches fire. If

you can get through about half (which is not bad, just exhausting - names are plentiful and difficult to remember) you're set, because the rest of the book is dynamite, and the ending is so well done I found myself really in disbelief. I might re-read it, just now that the story has been made clearer and so I can focus on the genetic aspect, but this is one of those books that is best the first time around, when you don't know how it will come together. This is not even to get into how well this is researched. The genetic knowledge Crichton supplies is incredible. Without a doubt, a must read.

NEXT, I AM READING THIS NOW.

This book was great. Frankly I'm a little confused at some of the negative reviews. The story is not diffuse if you are willing to stick with the stories. There are a lot of characters in the beginning and what seems to be a lot of different stories but he weaves them together effectively. Some have said that the chapters are too short. They are short, they are concise and none are superfluous (MTV fans may need to look that word up) but you do have to keep up and immerse yourself in the story. If you genuinely enjoy Crichton's writing (whether or not you agree with any or all of his conclusions), if you are willing to be taken into a complicated story that mirrors the world about which he is writing and if you are willing to enjoy the way he weaves all the stories together (sometimes humorously) then I think you will enjoy this book. And this post is only about what I think. I agree that if you are either (1) too politically blinded by ideology to enjoy anything out of line with your ideology (don't read *State of Fear* either), (2) unable to keep up with complicated, intelligent story telling or (3) unwilling to devote time and brain power to reading, this is not the book for you. If any or all of the above are your case I recommend you go watch MTV, you'll enjoy it more, you won't have to hurt yourself by reading and you can use your brain cells for more important things, like the latest bands in the top 40.

Don't even bother. It's a political book and I agree with Crichton's stance, but the story and character are simple and it's obvious the author is just phoning it in to get the message across. I really think he should have crossed over into journalism instead of churning out a number of this type of book.

As always, every book I have read by Michael Crichton never fails to impress. Real life technological and medical developments and ethics are incorporated, mixed with fast paced mystery-type plot-lines make this an amazing read, and I would recommend it to anyone.

Crichton is always interesting as he delves into so much that is exciting currently in science. He always seems to have a cautionary tale to tell and even sums them up in the back of this book. Useful. Even with the interest of all the science tossed around in "Next", I found it a bit of a hodgepodge of thoughts and ideas. So many character lines to follow and in so many directions. I thought that the writing was uneven for him who usually has a well designed storyline that can be followed and is usually woven together in a well ordered sequence. Didn't see that in this book. There were even ideas brought in and then eventually just sort of "dropped" such as the orangutan from Sumatra and the transgenic embryos that the bounty hunters were following in the very first chapter. I never found out where they went or if they showed up again, I had totally lost track of that storyline by then. As his books always are, it was fast paced and kept you interested and trying to figure out where it was heading but just not as well done or written as most of his usually are. The characters are not developed enough to really care what happens to them. The exception being the grey parrot who you just wanted to hug and help him out but he was definitely just a "character" actor in long line of characters woven in and out of the narrative.

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