

Micro

By Michael Crichton and Richard Preston

Reviewed by: Ryan, 15

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be The Star You Are! Charity

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Micro by Michael Crichton and Richard Preston (who completed the book which was left unfinished at Crichton's death) is a science-fiction novel based around a company's issues and dirty secrets surrounding a brand-new technology. This innovation comes as part of the rising popularity of and interest in nanotechnology: it allows objects, both living and nonliving, to be shrunk to fractions of their size. This technology is being pioneered by Nanigen, a Hawaii tech startup headed by CEO Vincent Drake, a venture capitalist known for being harsh and successful. He will be the root of all problems and conflict within the novel (along with his technology of course, in classic Crichton fashion).

The story follows college graduate students, who have been flown out to Nanigen as potential employees (as researchers). One of the students is Peter Jansen, brother of Eric Jansen, a Vice President of the company. Issues surrounding Nanigen are plentiful, but are unclear to many. As the students arrive in Hawaii, issues begin to appear, and Drake wants the knowledge of them to disappear, which means making the students disappear. This leads to the students being subjected to the shrinking technology and they are introduced into a brand new world: the nanoworld.

I found the story to be enjoyable, but people not as interested in technology and the science-fiction may not share the sentiment. Also, it should be noted that the level of detail is less than other Crichton novels (due to it being released posthumously). The novel also contains mature themes such as murder and adult language which will limit the audience and potential readers. I would recommend the novel to anyone that enjoys science fiction or realistic fiction novels and is old enough to handle the more mature parts (12 and up).

Recommended Titles:

“Prey” by Michael Crichton

“Andromeda Strain” by Michael Crichton

“Jurassic Park” by Michael Crichton