

Prey

Michael Crichton

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“Prey” by novelist Michael Crichton is a science-fiction novel based off of the emerging field of nanotechnology. The story follows the experiences that Jack Forman has while performing a consultation job for Xymos technologies at their Nevada fabrication plant. The book revolves around Xymos and their manufacturing of nanoparticles that are to be used for both medical and military imaging purposes. The imaging ability comes from the particles ability to ‘swarm’ (a word that appears often in the book) which allows them to essentially create a camera. Vital mistakes will be made by Xymos with this technology, and this leads to Jack Forman being called in to assist.

Jack Forman, husband of Julia Forman (a Xymos executive), was a stay-at-home dad, that is until Xymos hired him. He must help and reign in a runaway swarm of nanoparticles, and while doing this, he discovers many different things about the company; these range from dirty patchwork solutions to changes in code that were implemented with seemingly no regard for potential damage to the world. These lead to many challenges that must be faced by Jack and his colleagues at the plant; this culminates with an eventual destruction of the swarm, and an even larger twist once the reader thinks the action of the story is complete.

Overall, I feel that “Prey” by Crichton is an enjoyable and simultaneously stressful read. The suspense created by Crichton is extreme, and persists throughout it, making the book very difficult to put down. I would recommend the book to anyone from the age of 12 and up, as like many other Crichton novels, it contains small amounts of profanity, and the occasional mention of sexual topics.

Recommended Titles

“Andromeda Strain”- Michael Crichton

“The Maze Runner” Series- James Dashner

“Micro”- Michael Crichton