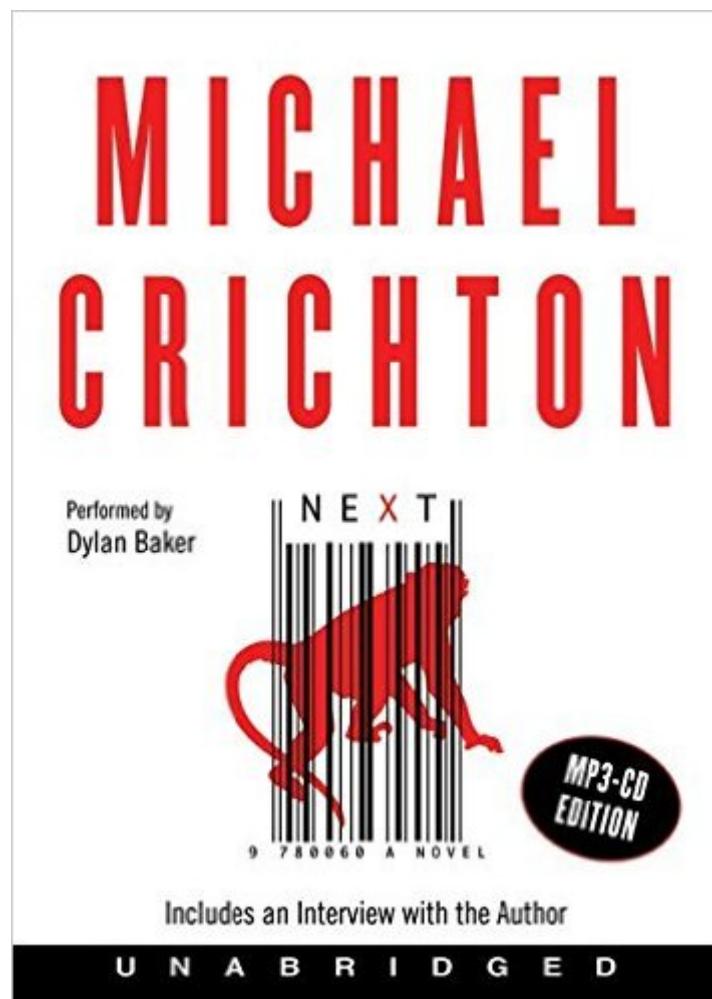


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Next MP3 CD



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 addictionâ "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. Performed by Dylan Baker

Book Information

MP3 CD

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Customer Reviews

I have very mixed feelings about "Next" and I will try to describe them accurately here, although there are hundreds of reviews already and mine will not add much to the discussion probably - but maybe some points will be reinforced by my adding to the subject.The novel's central theme is genetic manipulations and the ethical issues surrounding them. There are many subplots, all

revolving around the famous philanthropist, Jack Watson (is the name a pure coincidence?), who advocates scientific progress and donates money to biotech companies. The plethora of characters includes bounty hunters, lawyers, drug addicts, physicians, teachers, secretaries, security guards, and, of course, scientists of all levels, both from academia and biotech (the difference between the two becoming less and less clear). The animal-human hybrids are made in secret; the genes are patented, the genetic screens are used to the advantage of insurance companies and in numerous trials as a tool to extort money; the scientists are depicted as vicious breed. The only two families who seem honest are the Burnets, who because of Frank Burnet's precious cancer cell line become involved in a massive scheme, and the Kendalls, who decide to adopt Henry Kendall's genetic son Dave, a hybrid between human and chimpanzee. The novel is fast-paced and the characters flick like in a caleidoscope, some being introduced only for the sake of presenting another problem connected with biotechnology (for example, the whole story of the MD who donated sperm as a resident is very loosely connected to the main plot, only by the implied involvement of Watson). Initially, I could not stand this book, but after about 200 pages I reflected and realized several things:1.

Just how far corporations, institutes or even individuals should be allowed to go when it comes to holding patents? Where should the line be drawn when it comes to patents, copy writes, intellectual property? What if these patents and the like involve the very building blocks of all life as we know it, the very genome? While we're at it, how far should various companies, corporations and even research institutes be allowed to go when it comes to mixing genomes. When does playing god go too far? These are just a few of the questions that are not only raised, but speculated upon and answered in Michael Crichton's latest thriller, *Next*. The novel delves into the world of genetic engineering, transgenics, chimera's patents on genes and everything that is involved. The human side, how people react and are affected by all these factors. I'll come out and state it. Because of various genetic defects that are prevalent in my bloodline, I've always had a keen interest in biogenetics and the entire field. Not enough to go into it as a career, but still, more than a passing interest. This novel was right up my alley. It took me three days to read it, and it wasn't a small book by any stretch of the imagination, it was a massive five hundred pages long. People who pick up the book and read it, I should warn you right now, without giving away any spoilers, that it can be quite confusing. There is a massive cast of characters. Each character has a role to play in the novel, and at first, all these different roles, stories if you will, don't seem to be connected.

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