



Dinotopia, A Land Apart from Time: 20th Anniversary Edition (Calla Editions)

By James Gurney

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When James Gurney's *Dinotopia: A Land Apart from Time* first appeared in 1992, it was immediately hailed as a fully imagined world of the caliber of J. R. R. Tolkien's. Gurney's premise — of an undiscovered island where a race of mystical humans co-exists in harmony with intelligent dinosaurs — has been since reiterated over and over in numerous films and by scores of other writers. Now, Calla Editions brings Gurney's spectacular artistry to a new generation in this 20th anniversary edition. Digitally re-rendered from the original transparencies, Gurney's dramatic panoramas of Dinotopia and close-up character studies of its inhabitants — both human and saurian — take on new vitality. And as a tale of high adventure and discovery told as entries and sketches in journal form, *Dinotopia* presents a shipwrecked visitor's glimpse into an imagined social order, a culture, and even a cooperative interspecies technology that will satisfy lovers of fantasy and science fiction of all persuasions. This edition includes a new Afterword written by author James Gurney as well as a special section of behind-the-scenes studies and maquettes he used in developing his paintings.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Posing as a 19th-century scientist's travel sketchbook, this entertaining hybrid mates the visual appeal of the Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady with a Jules Verne-like tale of Dinotopia, a land where dinosaurs and humans coexist. The scientist and his son travel around it, and the son grows up and falls in love. This unimaginative narrative exists mainly as a framework for the copious illustrations, which show breathtakingly exotic but impossible sights, such as a canyon city of people and flying dinosaurs, as well as amusing sketches of domestic scenes. The result is an enjoyable pastiche, full of visual references to cultures from Oz to Thailand and flavored with a Robert Fulghum-inspired philosophy: "Observe, listen, and learn. Do one thing at a time" (from the Code of Dinotopia). Though too superficial for the serious fantasy reader, this volume is great fun to browse through, and should find its way on to many coffee tables. 400,000 first printing; BOMC featured alternate; QPB selection; author tour.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 4 Up-- Arthur Denison, a Victorian scientist, and his son Will are shipwrecked on an amazing island. Here, dinosaurs live in harmony with a colony of humans, made up of other marooned travelers and their descendants. Will and his father are fascinated by the technology of their new home. They visit a hatchery, a blacksmith in Volcanium, and a city built on waterfalls. The boy is most impressed by the Skybax Riders, people who are trained to fly on winged reptiles. Deciding to join them, he goes through their rigorous training program. In the meantime, his father finds a route to the dinosaur underground, a mythic place referred to in old dinosaur tales. He returns to find his son has "earned his wings," but his discoveries are saved for (one assumes) another book. This fairytale will capture the interests of older fantasy readers--those perhaps, who enjoy the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy (Houghton), or Lewis's "Narnia" series (Macmillan). Younger readers, too, will be enticed by the dramatic, full-color illustrations, which include both panoramic sweeps of the utopian cities and detailed sketches of Dinotopian contraptions. While the women are more active than their Victorian counterparts, the adventurers here are still Will and Dad. Also, the illustrations tend to portray nonwhite Dinotopians as exotics, a stereotype better left in the past. Overall, the success of this story depends upon readers' ability to accept these creatures as peaceful, intelligent herbivores.

Advanced readers who find sharp-toothed carnivores more to their liking may prefer a visit to Michael Crichton's Jurassic Park (Knopf, 1990), for a not-so-tame tale also set on a dinosaur isle. --Cathryn A.

Camper, Minneapolis Public Library

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From Kirkus Reviews

A sweet, visually attractive utopian fantasy about an island where humans and dinosaurs--not to mention mammoths, flying reptiles, and exotic plants--live together in peace. Races and sexes are equal, long life is assured, and innovation is used to benefit the inhabitants, all thanks to the dinosaurs' benign influence. Literary stepchild of Robinson Crusoe and Shangri-La, midwived by the Waltz (Disney and Kelly), this creative anachronism purports to be a long-lost diary chronicling the discoveries of biologist Arthur Denison and his son after an 1862 shipwreck. The book's heart is its illustrations, presenting Gurney's imaginary society in the loving detail of the National Geographic--or a child's extravagant inventions. Much is made in the attendant publicity of the scientific accuracy, meaning that (though they speak seven languages, invent writing, and use tools) the dinosaurs look right. The technology surrounding the gliders, submarines, and helium balloons is also a little fuzzy, but by the time they appear the reader will either be charmed or

alienated. More wistful fancy than a new vision of a cure for humanity's ills, but some adults--and children--will love it dearly. (Fiction. 8+) -- *Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Byron Jorgensen:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled Dinotopia, A Land Apart from Time: 20th Anniversary Edition (Calla Editions) your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a book then become one web form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get just before. The Dinotopia, A Land Apart from Time: 20th Anniversary Edition (Calla Editions) giving you yet another experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful information for your better life within this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Julie Gailey:

This Dinotopia, A Land Apart from Time: 20th Anniversary Edition (Calla Editions) is great guide for you because the content which is full of information for you who else always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it data accurately using great arrange word or we can say no rambling sentences included. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but tough core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having Dinotopia, A Land Apart from Time: 20th Anniversary Edition (Calla Editions) in your hand like having the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no reserve that offer you world within ten or fifteen small right but this reserve already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt that will?

Eric Hodges:

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Rosa Felton:

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