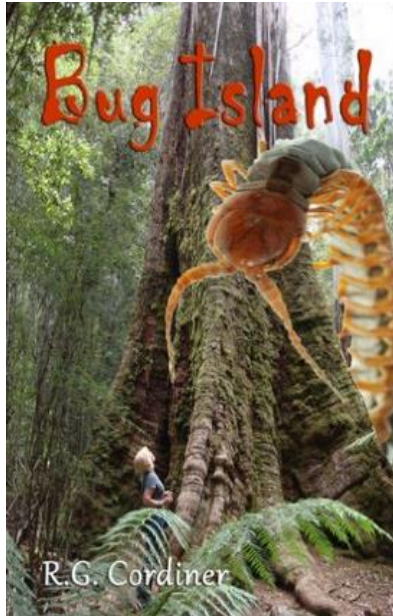


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Bug Island

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About the Book

Travelers on a cruise ship hit an underground mine and a cloud of fog before their ship explodes. The few that survive find an island off the coast of South America that in 912 AD was home to a Mayan Empire. The island is unknown and had not shown up on any radar. Now, not only are the castaways fighting to find food, water, and shelter, they are constantly being attacked by giant insects: the bee assassin bug, peanut bug, harvestmen, pond skaters, and toe biters.

During their struggle to live on this island, two of the survivors, Henry and Tracy, meet a man named Zosimo who has been here for 20 years. Zosimo says they are the first people he has encountered since he has been stranded on the island and during that time the island has been covered in fog and the insects have been “asleep.”

While several rescue attempts are made for the passengers on the sunken cruise ship, many rescuers succumb to the large insects. When the fog returns, all of the insects are found dead while their victims are going through metamorphosis in cocoons. At this point, only three survivors remain as they finally reach the coast of South America.

Discussion Guide

1. When they first arrived on the island, Sarah and Fiona were acting immature and childish. What, if any, changes are seen in Sarah and Fiona's young personalities? Do you think they would have survived without the help of Mary?
2. The beginning of the book starts in 912 A.D. in a Mayan village. The people there had established an entire society and were succeeding on the island. They all seemed surprised when these large insects started to invade. Do you think they lived peacefully together at some point? What do you think is the significance of the Mayan message that Wayne found in the cave that read "Beware of the demons that sleep," and the engravings he found that looked like insects? What or who do you think created the giant insects?
3. The fog rose, the mosquitoes, birds, crickets, and all other noises disappeared, and then the giant insects came out. What, if any, significance do you believe the fog has on the insects' behavior? Why do you think the island does not show up on radar or maps? Do you think it has to do with the fog?
4. Who do you think had the best strategy dealing with the struggles of the island? Henry and Tracy? Fiona, Mary, and Sarah? Melanie? Wayne? Do you think the strategies Henry and Tracy used when they first arrived on the island were beneficial or could they have done something better?
5. Out of the six large insects mentioned, which one do you believe was the biggest threat to the other insects? To the humans? Describe the features of the insects. Do you think they were accurate?
6. Zosimo mentioned that the insects did not come out for the 20 years he had been there. When the cruise ship exploded all of the insects emerged from the cocoons and began to attack the survivors. What do you think caused the insects to emerge? Do you think it was the sound of the mine or the presence of people? Do you think there has to be a

certain amount of people in order for the insects to emerge? What other factors do you think play a role in the emergence of the insects?

7. The cruise ship exploded because it hit an underwater mine that Zosimo later said was installed by the military. Do you think the military built the mines because they knew about the insects or was it a normal part of their base?
8. Later on the few remaining survivors, Henry, Fiona, Sara, and Tracy discovered that the insects were taking people they had killed and putting them into cocoons. Do you think they will emerge as insects? Do you believe their theory that all the insects were once people? Do you think it explains why the insects only emerge from the cocoons when there are humans on the island?
9. Why do you think Sarah, Fiona, and Tracy didn't kill all the insects when they were all in cocoons? Why do you think Zosimo did not do the same thing in the 20 years he was on the island?
10. What do you think will happen next? Do you think there will be a sequel? If you could rewrite the original ending, would you?