



Windchaser

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A storm at sea washes a young pickpocket, Hugh, and a surgeon's son, Raymond, overboard. Landing on the strange island world of Dinotopia, Raymond and Hugh learn the meaning of real courage and true friendship, with the help of a reclusive Skybax named Windchaser.

Windchaser Details

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Author : Scott Ciencin

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From Reader Review Windchaser for online ebook

Joseph says

Dinotopia: Windchaser is an interesting tale by Scott Ciencin about Two boys who are thrown off the prison ship 'The Redemption' during a storm who are carried to dinotopia by dolphins. Raymond, the younger of the two, and the son of the ships late surgeon, immediately falls in love with the island. But Hugh, a picketpocket from london, feels he is not fit to live on this island of wonder. This is the 1st book in a series based off the original picture book, Dinotopia. I recommend this book to dinosaur lovers.

SPOILER ALERT:

I think the best part of the book is when Windchaser saves Hugh and Raymond from certain death in the canyons. The part I liked least was when Windchaser's crystal broke, because I felt really sorry for him.

Travis Mueller says

For some reason I got this idea to try making a Dinotopia roleplaying game. Though I consider the illustrated books by James Gurney to be the most inspirational and the most canonical (even when they go off in weird directions), they don't really have enough plot, relying more on showing and telling about interesting new places. So I decided to read some of the connected children's novels to see if there were plot ideas worth adapting for a game. This one is a bit tricky since the main plot focuses on internal development, which can be hard to do in a game. Things that can be used include environmental challenges, challenges related to travel or to training and development. Dealing with accidents or catastrophes and their consequences, such as the death of Winchasher's companion Daniel in a fire. Also, I think there is plenty of room for interpersonal conflict in various ways, just as long as it doesn't escalate to violence. Ironically, I come to that from this book which has a naively childish presentation of a pacifist utopia, where everything just works. It made me too aware of all the ways that hurt feelings or petty injustices could build into bigger rivalries.

Also, I find this book a bit annoying in how much it takes from the original Dinotopia: the same ark of two male characters being rescued from a shipwreck by dolphins, encountering the same sort of farming village, even befriendng the same diplomat/translator Bix, and becoming involved with Skybaxes. But it isn't surprising that the first of these books would use a comfortable pattern, to show audiences that it is more of the same book they liked.

Timothy Pitkin says

I know this book is for young kids but I liked this book and most of it comes from my nostalgia for the Dinotopia miniseries which I loved. This book was actually pretty good as not only do we get more of this fantastic setting. I loved learning more about this world and the characters and for a book for kids their is some really good character development.

Laina says

My rating: 3 out of 5 stars.

Plot summary:

Raymond and Hugh, a young street thief, are shipwrecked on Dinotopia Island, where humans and dinosaurs live in idyllic harmony. Raymond adjusts quickly, but Hugh's hard life has not prepared him for this peaceful communal existence. His feelings of inadequacy are echoed in Windchaser, a reclusive Skybax, and he resolves to communicate with the outcast creature.

Characters:

Raymond - 13 years old

Hugh

Key phrases/issues: utopia/dystopia, friendship,

Other books from the Dinotopia Series:

Dinotopia: Thunder Falls

Dinotopia: Lost City

Dinotopia: River Quest

Alicia Watson says

Travelling to a fantastic new world and discovering even more amazing things. Great book.

Rowena Tylden-Pattenson says

As a kid I remember watching the Dinotopia films- I think there were 3? The world was so different to any others I remember seeing, although I never twigged that they would be a series of books. Finally I came to the first one this year (and again, was surprised to find it was written for children)! It's a sweet little story, a little simple at points, but probably a good read for someone looking for a good adventure story. It was very much focused on the two boys and their adventures in Dinotopia, and I think it could have been longer, but was fun for a couple of hours.

Joshua Porter says

An incredibly fun and imaginative introduction to this series.

Daniel says

I remember really enjoying this book when I first read it, about the time that it first came out. It was mostly because of this book that I recommended the Dinotopia series as books for emerging readers.

As I read it out-loud to my sons at bed-time, I felt it lost some of the magic that I had initially felt, and I was even surprised at the apparent lack of dinosaurs included. However, my eldest son thought the book was "awesome" and wants me to read all the books in the series to him, so perhaps it still retains the magic after

all.

Cara says

I was surprised as soon as I started reading this book. I'd seen the tv movies years ago as a kid and expected the book to be somewhat like the movie, but it wasn't. At first, I was put off, but the more I read, the more I liked it.

Connie says

This did not read like a juvenile book to me. It feels more advanced than that. The plot was intricate and the characters highly developed. And since I have read the world-building original Dinotopia by James Gurney, I was able to enter this story with no difficulty.

Hugh was my favorite character. It was interesting to watch him struggle to fit into this true utopian society with his background and wall of distrust. It reminded me greatly of another book I read that dealt with the concept of a normal person with normal human weaknesses striving to adjust to a perfect society.

It's not all perfection on Dinotopia, however. This is seen most obviously in the case of Windchaser. One also gets to see other Dinotopians (particularly the humans) making mistakes, notably toward the end. A solid and enjoyable story for dino lovers.

Nicole Haan says

Loved these as a child. Beautifully imagined world, swashbuckling adventure. Multiple authors for refreshing different writing styles.

Brittany says

raymond wilks loses his father when during a storm some prisoners on a prison ship rebel and take over the ship. he is rescued by a prisoner named hugh O Donavan and two dolphins they land on dinatopia a wordeful place where humans and dinasours live in peace raymond meets a wounded sky bask named wind chaser amd is sent to sky bask training camp. raymond finds where wind chaser lives. then windchaser leaves his home and ray mond and hugh go to find him ray mond ends up geting hurt and hugh and wind chaser have to rescue him hugh and wind chaser become friends

A. says

This series is relatively easy reading, but I love it!
My favorite part in this book was the "not bloke. Triceratops." line.

Traci says

A coming of age story involving dinosaurs, secret island nations, shipwrecks, dolphin rides, and characters who get to ride on the backs of pterodactyls!

This book is short, yet it deals with some pretty interesting subjects. I can relate to Hugh a lot, and in some ways to Raymond and Windchaser, as well. Accepting the way things are, even if at first they're scary, is a big lesson to learn. So is learning to move on and find your own place in the world, even when moving on means confronting pain and fear and loss. And what happens when you stagnate and lose confidence in yourself.

I think it deals with those subjects very well, a lot better than I was expecting actually. The adventures are also pretty riveting! I think there's something for everyone in this book and I think I'd recommend it to just about anyone.

I wasn't too sure what to make of the way the Dinotopians introduce themselves, though. I don't quite get the lineage or why it's important to state that when you first meet someone. But, maybe the answer to that lies in some of the other books. :) It's not a thing that happens too often in the book and I didn't spend a lot of time thinking about it when it wasn't currently happening so it didn't make it difficult to understand the book.

Danielle says

I really enjoyed this book once I got into it. That took a couple tries as I read at night and would fall asleep several paragraphs in.

This book has a lot of heart, laughter and adventure which makes it a great fast read. I look forward to the other books in the series.
