

**Chapter 1 : The Descent: A Novel Summary & Study Guide**

*The Descent is a science-fiction/horror novel by American author Jeff Long. It describes the discovery and exploration of an extensive labyrinth of tunnels and passages stretching throughout the Earth's upper mantle, found to be inhabited by a malicious species of alternately-evolved troglotauna hominids.*

The director was initially wary of being typecast as a horror film director, although he eventually agreed to make *The Descent*, emphasising, "They are very different films. He explained the difference, "The women discuss how they feel about the situation, which the soldiers in *Dog Soldiers* would never have done. Exterior scenes were filmed in Scotland, and interior scenes were filmed in sets built at Pinewood Studios , near London. The cave was built at Pinewood because filmmakers considered it too dangerous and time-consuming to shoot in an actual cave. Set pieces were reused with care, and filmmakers sought to limit lighting to the sources the characters bring with them into the cave, such as helmet lights. The director elaborated, "We really wanted to ramp up the tension slowly, unlike all the American horror films you see now. We wanted to show all these terrible things in the cave: Simon Bowles designed the maze of caves for *The Descent*. Production of *The Descent* competed with a big budget American film that had a similar premise, *The Cave*. *The Descent* was originally scheduled to be released in the United Kingdom by November or February , but *The Cave* began filming six months before its competitor. The filmmakers of *The Descent* decided to release their film before *The Cave*, so they fast-tracked production to be completed by the end of February In the American cut, Sarah escapes from the cave and sees Juno, but the film does not cut back to the cave. The 4 August issue of *Entertainment Weekly* reported that the ending was trimmed because American viewers did not like its "uber-hopeless finale". Creature design[ edit ] In the film, the women encounter underground creatures referred to as crawlers by the production crew. Marshall described the crawlers as cavemen who have stayed underground. The director included mothers and children in the colony of creatures, defining his vision, "It is a colony and I thought that was far more believable than making them the classic monsters. If they had been all male, it would have made no sense, so I wanted to create a more realistic context for them. I wanted to have this very feral, very primal species living underground, but I wanted to make them human. Crawlers originally had pure white skin, but the look was adjusted to seem grubbier. The skin was originally phosphorescent in appearance, but the effect was too bright and reflective in the darkened set, so the adjustment was made for them to blend in shadows. Actress Natalie Mendoza said of the effect, "When the moment came, I nearly wet my pants! I was running around afterwards, laughing in this hysterical way and trying to hide the fact that I was pretty freaked out. Even after that scene, we never really felt comfortable with them. According to Hyett, "Jon wanted them more viciously feral, inbred, scarred and deformed, with rows of sharklike teeth for ripping flesh. They are nocturnal hunters which surface from their caves to hunt for prey and bring the spoils of their hunts to their caverns. That seemed to chime with the prevailing mood of defiance that set in the weekend after the bombs. When it was released in July [], this claustrophobic story of six women who stumble across something nasty on a caving trip got arguably the best reviews of any Brit pic this year. The film received limited releases in other European countries. In this low-budget import from Scotland, director Neil Marshall has masterfully created a caving nightmare, which doubles as a compelling meditation on morality, vengeance, and the depths to which we might go for survival. Or for years, it seems. Dargis applauded the claustrophobic atmosphere of the film, though she perceived sexual overtones in the all-female cast with their laboured breathing and sweaty clothing. Rodriguez also noted the attempt to add dimension to the female characters but felt that the actresses were unable to perform.

Chapter 2 : The Descent by Jeff Long | [blog.quintoapp.com](http://blog.quintoapp.com)

*The Descent is a story about the expansion of our world, the discovery of new life, and the search for "Historic Satan" himself. Most of the story takes place miles underground and Jeff Long, a real life cave diver, brings those environments to us through detailed prose.*

Plot summary[ edit ] A group of new-age trekkers in Tibet are trapped in a cave by a snowstorm and stumble across a mutilated, mummified corpse, covered with cryptic tattoos in both English and undecipherable symbols; the party interprets the former to mean that the body was that of a RAF pilot who had crashed on the other side of the Himalayas in the s. How the pilot had made it across the mountains is a mystery, but a diagram among the tattoos suggests that the cave the party is trapped may be part of a larger network, one that might have an outlet elsewhere. As the blizzard shows no signs of letting up, the party pushes deeper into the network, discovering the remains of a slaughtered ancient army, displayed almost trophy-like, and a trail of gold coins. Becoming separated, the members are relentlessly killed by an unseen enemy, until only the mountain guides, Ike and Kora, remain. Several years later, at a UN military base in Bosnia , multinational soldiers are guarding a forensic team excavating a huge mass grave, which satellite imagery shows being disturbed every night. The soldiers first assume that Serb soldiers are trying to destroy the evidence of their atrocities ; a US Army Aviation officer named Elias Branch leads a reconnaissance-helicopter flight to gather evidence. Found scarred and half-mad, he raves about being attacked by " demons ;" during his recuperation, he begins to exhibit dramatic physical changes, and begins taking an interest in local cave systems. Near the edge of the Kalahari , a young nun Ali van Schade is about to leave a leper encampment at which she had been working. To her horror, she discovers that the lepers had saved her life by trading one of their own to be in her place mutilated and enslaved by an unknown presence, servants of a god they call "Older-Than-Old. Referred to as the "sub-planet," the labyrinth contains an entire separately-evolved ecosystem , and offers rare fleeting glimpses of elusive albino humanoids. Scientists theorize these are Troglodfauna -like hominids descended from Homo erectus ; classified as Homo hadalis as in Hades , they are commonly referred to as "hadals," or, pejoratively , "Haddie. The beings had apparently occasionally emerged throughout human history, and had rather viciously mentored human civilization, thereby giving rise to the human concepts of Hell and demons. After melting invisibly away from human encroachment for several months, the hadals spring a trap: The attack is enormously successful; world casualties number a full quarter-million. Though an enormous initial shock, the dismay wears off quickly and humanity is essentially undeterred; the Descent recommences, in even greater force. Cities are built in the upper crust, three miles deep, while social instability grows and interest in space exploration diminishes. Meanwhile, a mysterious Jesuit priest, Father Thomas, is assembling the Beowulf Circle, an informal group of scholars dedicated to the study of the sub-planet, with the eventual aim of discovering whether " Satan " by which they do not necessarily mean a literal person, but some kind of long-term unified authority directing the activities of the hadal race might actually exist. A member of the Circle persuades Ali to join the group; she is attached to an expedition funded by the Helios corporation, an unprecedentedly deep trek through a newly discovered fissure which traverses the floor of the entire Pacific Ocean basin. On the way, the expedition uncovers the decaying evidence of a once-great hadal civilization, which may correspond to lost civilizations from human folklore, such as Atlantis or Mu. Meanwhile, on the surface, a plot emerges within Helios to sterilize the sub-planet with a potent bioweapon and thereby open it to human settlement and exploitation.

Chapter 3 : The descent | Open Library

*Jeff Long is a veteran climber and traveler in the Himalayas. He has worked as a journalist and an elections supervisor for Bosnia's first democratic election. The Descent is his fourth novel. He lives in Boulder, Colorado.*

Reviews The Descent Melynda Yesenia This is the second book I had to put in the microwave in order to get to sleep. Because we all know that if you leave a scary book, a pants-shittingly scary book by your bedside, as you sleep the monsters inside will ooze from between the pages and come into full being beside you and eat your face while you dream. Throughout the novel there are terrible things, unthinkable torture, mass graves, thoughtless destruction and an actu Enough of the Italian stallions, the ever unsympathetic, mind gangster stereotypes, the brutish non-white others, and oh my God, that second chapter, what was that even. Oh, those poor, uncivilized Africans and their violent superstitions and their helpless childish minds and culture I should have taken this as a sign. The dialogue is embarrassing, the science atrocious none of it gathered, sadly, from actual scientists, just random articles and a whole lot of conjecture and handwavi Martin Rondina El Descenso es un libro que nos va a narrar como el mundo entero descubre que hay unos seres que habitan dentro de La Tierra, quienes al parecer tienen intenciones muy hostiles con la raza humana. Pero no fue tanto por el efecto que me pudo producir lo que se contaba, sino por el pensar que a un autor se le puedan ocurrir esas atrocidades y decida escribirlas. Y que al final no aporten Jemma I am just going to come out and say it; I loved this book. For the entirety of their existence, humans have not been alone. Unbeknownst to the surface world, an unfathomable subterranean domain lies beneath their feet; and it is not uninhabited. Veeral Last month I watched two movies with my wife. After watching those movies, my wife told me that she would never go on a cave "e Karl Drinkwater I gave this 5 stars not because it was perfect, but because it did what any good book should do - it made me want to keep reading. One night I read it until 3. Other times I would find time to read a chapter rather than do something else. Only a minority of books have this effect on me, so it deserves the highest praise. The opening chapter is the best one in the book. Mystery, twists, economical writing, and a descent i Jake I wanted to enjoy this book, and Long gave a lot of early indications that the book was going to be a fun ride the whole way through. Unfortunately the promise the book has early on goes nowhere and the end of the book is so disappointing and anti-climactic that I had to check if my copy was missing pages. Long does some neat things, particularly his tying the story into the the study of proto-languages and the struggles in the Balkans. Renee Rearden Holy Wow what a book!!! Dwight Crockett, a Himalayan guide known as Ike, discovers a cave containing a mutilated body A nun, searching for the first language in her quest to be closer to God, unearths evidence another human species exists. A military expedition encounters something feeding upon the dead in a mass grave. Each of these separate events lead to the most shocking revelation: Mattias It is one of the best books I have ever read - period. I learned about this book through some recos other authors had made so I gave it a try. And I am really glad I did. Sure the main premise of the books sounds very corny when you try to explain it to someone; some people have found tunnels under the earth and some strange creatures inside - they have found Hell. It sounds like a B-movie but Mr Long makes it a great epic story about who we are, Taran Matharu One of my favourite books of all time. Peregrine Too many words, not enough story. The Descent took things way past the point of suspended disbelief into plain silliness the military guy grows horns and scales and still gets invited to lead seminars? And then he spontaneously recovers - for no apparent reason - and they put him in charge of a cr To be honest, I would probably have rated The Descent a five star, had i only read it when I was 14 and eager for over the top adventures with scariest monsters and extensive bloodshed. This is the kind of modern high-octane thriller that I was craving for after growing a bit too old for the classic tales of Jules Verne or Alexandre Dumas. Alas, I can n The first part was mostly a horror novel, and then it spent the second half bogged down in a philosophical search of the Christian mythos mixed with an adventure story. The bit with the helicopter was especially well done. The second half of the book was ver Susan the other Susan Spectacular. An epic tale of exploration and adventure, dark as caverns, blurring the line between the real and the supernatural. This begs to be a big-budget film brought to life with effects that would not have been possible when the book w There was at least one characte It did take me

some time to determine if this book was in any way related to the movie of the same name. There are a number of similarities but I do not believe they are related. What I appreciated most about this book was the number of themes, the main theme was the obvious theme of the sub-world below earth and its inhabitants. Tressa I had higher hopes for this book that was recommended by a co-worker. He set the premise up so promising, with the scene of Ike and the climbers taking shelter in the cave, and being led by candy wrappers that gave way to coins from thousands of years ago. A PP mentioned the confusing science in Most of the story takes place miles underground and Jeff Long, a real life cave diver, brings those environments t Elizabeth From Jan I read this book a while ago, and I had wanted to read it again for some time. For me, this book built a whole world that I could see and live in while I was reading it. A bit of warning, this book is pretty violent and graphic. If that bothers you, stay away. Still a 5 star review from me. Misty Battle One great read from start to finish. One great story and book! Donovan This is a great read. The claustrophobic feeling you get while reading especially in the dark on a cold night with the blankets pulled up around your neck with only a single small globed reading light will have you fully immersed in the novel. Donna Described by Jon Krakauer as "a page-turner for thinking people", this book takes you for quite a ride - right into the underbelly of the earth. Through various incidents, a series of tunnels are discovered in the earth, complete with utterly savage inhabitants, called hadals. The discovery of the tunnels makes humans question everything they were ever taught in church about hell and Satan: Is Satan a mortal Mya I just finished this book about five minutes ago and am still recovering. A thrilling semi-horror, archeological thriller with bio-terror and high tech mechanics throughout, this book about life beneath the surface of the earth and the origin of the idea of Hell and Satan both was deceptively overwhelming. Phillip A great book that had a few frustrating choices. The ending is a little to convenient with one or two unresolved questions, but the lead up is perfect. The society and culture of the underground race the hadals was explored and laid out in great detail, but with more and more variatio Although technically set as an alternate history t Nilchance This book is super-duper not fucking around appalling. As you do, I guess. She emerges a better person, etcetera.

**Chapter 4 : The Descent (novel) - Wikipedia**

*The Descent (Descent Series Book 1) - Kindle edition by Jeff Long. Download it once and read it on your Kindle device, PC, phones or tablets. Use features like bookmarks, note taking and highlighting while reading The Descent (Descent Series Book 1).*

A Novel by Jeff Long writer. The Descent is a novel by former journalist Jeff Long. In this novel, Long tells the story of a newly discovered race of people, the hadals, who live in the depths of the earth. Humans discover these people in a series of unrelated events and find themselves making forages into the earth to rid the world of these savages and claim a new, expansive land for themselves. The Descent is a novel of mystery and intrigue, but also a novel that explores some of the darker aspects of history and human nature in a refreshing take on an old story. Ike Crockett takes a group of mountain climbers into a cave when they get lost shortly before a snow storm. After days of being trapped in the cave by the falling snow, one of the climbers disappears. Ike divides his group, sending his partner and lover, Kora, one direction with the other climbers, and goes the other alone. After a set amount of time, Ike turns back to meet up with Kora and her group only to discover that she has not returned. Ike goes in search of Kora and finds that the group has been assaulted by some unknown assailant and Kora has been kidnapped. A few years later, Major Elias Branch is stationed in Bosnia when it appears that locals are attempting to destroy the recently excavated remains of war victims. Branch volunteers to fly his helicopter over the excavation to get proof of the vandalism. On the ground, Branch and his navigator are attacked by an unknown group of people. After witnessing odd physical changes in Branch after his experiences in Bosnia and his insistence that he was attacked by anemic monsters, the military gives him a small unit of men to take into the bowels of the earth. This begins a worldwide exodus into the bowels of the earth. These voyages lead to the deaths of over forty thousand American troops and thousands of troops from all over the world when they are attacked by an unknown race of people. These people are given the name hadals. For several years, the world enters into a war with the hadals, finally declaring victory when sightings of hadals reduce to none. A group of intellectuals, headed by Jesuit priest named Thomas, begin to investigate the possibility that the hadals are led by a single entity who has been known as the devil by people throughout the world for centuries. In order to further their investigation, the group sends Ali, a struggling nun, into the underworld as part of an expedition funded by the Helios Corporation. Helios plans to make a claim on thousands of miles of land underneath the Pacific Ocean with this expedition. The expedition is headed by Montgomery Shoat, the son of former presidential candidate and head of Helios Corporation, C. The lead scout is Ike Crockett, a human who only a few years before was rescued after eleven years as a captive of the hadals. The expedition goes undeterred for months despite the possibilities of disaster that await the group hundreds of miles under the Pacific Ocean. However, things begin to go terribly wrong when Shoat and the mercenaries hired to protect the group decide to go off on their own after the entire group becomes the target of a group of hadals after the militants kill all their women and children. Ike tries to reassure the remaining group, made up of scientists and intellectuals, but more than half of them choose to go back the way they have come. This group all come to their deaths. The mercenaries take the remaining scientists hostage and begin to plot their way out of the bowels of the earth. One day the hadals attack, killing most of the mercenaries and remaining scientists. Ali, the nun, is taken hostage. Ike follows Ali to the center of the hadal world and rescues her, managing to escape the underworld despite the dangers and the release of a poison gas that kills the remaining life under the earth. This section contains words approx.

**Chapter 5 : The Descent by Jeff Long (, Paperback, Reprint) | eBay**

*Jeff Long. Jeff Long is the New York Times bestselling author whose novels include The Wall, The Reckoning (in development with Reese Witherspoon at Type A Productions), Year Zero, and The Descent. He is a veteran climber and traveler in the Himalayas and has worked as a stonemason, journalist, historian, screenwriter, and elections supervisor for Bosnia's first democratic election.*

### Chapter 6 : Jeff Long (Author of The Descent)

*Jeff Long is the author of The Descent ( avg rating, ratings, reviews, published ), Year Zero ( avg rating, ratings, review.*

### Chapter 7 : The Descent by Jeff Long

*"Jeff Long has written a remarkable novel, an imaginative tour de force that somehow succeeds both as sober-minded allegory and nail-biting thriller. A page-turner for thinking people, The Descent is equal parts Ray Bradbury and Robert Stone, Michael Crichton and T. C. Boyle.*

### Chapter 8 : Horror Story — The Descent [Jeff Long] ® Books Online

*This is a fan site for the novel by Jeff Long titled 'The Descent' and its sequel, 'Deeper.'*

### Chapter 9 : The Descent - Wikipedia

*The Descent is a British horror film written and directed by Neil blog.quintoapp.com film follows six women who, having entered a cave system, struggle to survive against the creatures inside.*