

Dear Dr. Crichton,

Whether it be due to your appreciation for chaos, your intelligent discussion, or your ingenious application of fear and wonder, *Jurassic Park* intrigued me as a boy. You brought dinosaurs to life in a chilling and yet so natural way. In fact, your work reignited my childhood passion of prehistoric animals, and began to inspire my own creativity.

The novel's (and the film's) ability to capture my imagination was the kickstarter into my interest in science. My eyes were opened. I learned how scientific power could have a lasting influence on the modern world, in both positive and negative ways. I began to understand the implications of human progress and expansion, which in turn has led me to possess an interest in the often dramatic and sometimes aggravating political system. My hopes to pursue the world of politics as a possible career path have been strengthened by the daring resolve of your characters and by the virtue of reason that you present. I want to emulate the analytical and rational train of thought that you make clear in your works in my own career. I recognize that hiding in the midst of deception and corruption is the all too real possibility of devastating consequences – results from a virtually unregulated scientific world. Yet, at the same time, science is constantly under attack from the uneducated, the paranoid, and the ignorant. You may not have considered it your mission to educate your readers as to the importance of critical thinking, but I consider it mine to fulfill such a task. I desire to make big changes in the world, to help those in need, and to reform the broken systems put in place by greed and ignorance.

In later years as I matured, copies of your numerous other works made their way into my hands, and I simply began enveloping myself into the pandemonium of science fiction. *Prey* incited instant fear and curiosity into the growing field of nanotechnology. This exposed a young man to all new scientific wonder. I went on to read *State of Fear*, your contentious novel that allowed for a new perspective into global warming. I found that while my own opinions and understandings were contradictory to those you express in the book and in separate interviews, I still recognize the necessity of such debate. I read *Congo* and *Sphere* next -- out of order – and added primate intelligence, the unexplored abyss of the deep ocean, and telepathy to my growing list of fascinations. Among the even longer list of your curious works that I have read was *Disclosure*, your less scientific twist on rather mature themes that catered to a teenage boy in a delicious fashion. You mixed sex and politics into one book; I was hooked instantly. The disturbing revelations you made about the less than stable gender-based hierarchical system in business also was cause for applause. I have remained suspicious of similar behaviors ever since reading it.

Most recently, I decided to pick up my copy of *Jurassic Park* once more. As I absorbed every page as a new but familiar adventure, I began to realize the true learning potential that science fiction has to offer. While *Jurassic Park* was my first source of exposure to DNA and genetics, I would consider its message to having been much more important to my understanding of the world. You have this quality about you, Dr. Crichton, that compels your readers to continue your thought. To investigate your subjects further. To question everything. I certainly exhibit this trait in my everyday life.

In short, Dr. Crichton, you have inspired me to look at the world in a critical fashion. I see arguments in new dimensions and recognize the potential for scandalous and disconcerting behavior in those who wield the wand of scientific power. I also attribute many of my writing skills and style to our clearly communicated ideas and sometimes blunt but highly effective delivery.

My appreciation for your work and outspokenness will never tire. I hope to bear the same qualities that made you a man of intellect and creativity and use them to make myself a man of science and philosophy.

Miles Maxcer