

jean auel clan of the cave bear

Jean Auel Clan of the Cave Bear: Exploring the Prehistoric World of Ayla and the Neanderthals

jean auel clan of the cave bear is a phrase that immediately transports readers to a vivid prehistoric world, where survival, discovery, and human relationships intertwine against the backdrop of Ice Age Europe. This phrase refers not only to the groundbreaking novel "Clan of the Cave Bear" by Jean M. Auel but also to the entire series known as the Earth's Children saga, which has captivated audiences since its debut in 1980. The series combines meticulous research with compelling storytelling, inviting readers into a time when Cro-Magnon humans and Neanderthals coexisted, faced challenges, and forged connections. Let's delve into the fascinating elements that make Jean Auel's "Clan of the Cave Bear" a timeless piece of historical fiction, its unique portrayal of prehistoric life, and its lasting impact on readers and popular culture.

The Origins of Jean Auel's Clan of the Cave Bear

Before discussing the story itself, it's worth understanding the origins of Jean Auel's inspiration and research process. Auel began writing "Clan of the Cave Bear" after extensive research into Ice Age archaeology, anthropology, and paleontology. She sought to create a believable narrative that brought to life the day-to-day existence of early humans. The novel was groundbreaking in its effort to combine fiction with scientific knowledge, painting a rich picture of the interactions between Cro-Magnon and Neanderthal peoples.

Her depiction of the Neanderthal "Clan" was especially notable for its sympathetic portrayal of a group often misunderstood or depicted as brutish. Instead, Auel's clan members are complex characters with their own culture, language, and traditions—an approach that helped challenge stereotypes and sparked renewed interest in Neanderthal studies.

Plot Overview: The Story of Ayla and the Clan

At the heart of Jean Auel's "Clan of the Cave Bear" is the story of Ayla, a young Cro-Magnon girl orphaned and taken in by a Neanderthal clan. This premise sets the stage for a tale of survival, adaptation, and cultural clashes. Ayla's journey is both physical and emotional as she learns to navigate and integrate into a society vastly different from her own origins.

The narrative explores themes of acceptance, identity, and the power of human resilience. Ayla's intelligence and curiosity often put her at odds with clan traditions, but they also allow her to innovate and survive. Readers witness her growth from an outsider to a vital member of the clan, all while confronting prejudices and the mysteries of the natural world.

The Significance of Ayla's Character

Ayla's character is pivotal not only as the protagonist but as a symbol of human progress and

adaptability. She embodies the bridging of two worlds—the intuitive, innovative Cro-Magnon and the tradition-bound Neanderthals. Her struggles and triumphs reflect larger questions about what it means to be human, how culture shapes identity, and how individuals can influence the course of history.

Her skills in medicine, toolmaking, and her relationship with the natural environment showcase early human ingenuity. These elements help readers appreciate the complexity of prehistoric life beyond simple survival.

Exploring the Neanderthal Clan Culture

One of the most compelling aspects of Jean Auel's work is the detailed depiction of Neanderthal society. The clan is portrayed with its own rituals, beliefs, social hierarchies, and language, which Auel meticulously constructed based on available scientific data and creative interpretation.

Language and Communication

Auel invented a unique sign language for the Neanderthals, reflecting research suggesting that Neanderthals may have had different vocal capabilities than modern humans. This aspect adds depth and authenticity to the story, allowing readers to imagine how early humans might have communicated complex ideas and emotions without spoken language.

Social Structure and Traditions

The clan operates under strict rules and customs, emphasizing communal living, respect for elders, and spiritual beliefs connected to the natural world. These traditions shape every aspect of clan life, from hunting methods to child-rearing. The tension between Ayla's independent spirit and the clan's customs drives much of the narrative conflict, highlighting the challenges of change versus preservation.

The Impact of Jean Auel's Clan of the Cave Bear on Literature and Popular Culture

Since its publication, "Clan of the Cave Bear" has become a landmark in prehistoric fiction. Jean Auel's vivid storytelling and commitment to authenticity have inspired countless readers and writers to explore similar themes and settings.

Influence on Historical and Prehistoric Fiction

Auel's blending of science and storytelling set a new standard for prehistoric fiction. Many authors

have since attempted to replicate her approach, emphasizing research-backed depictions of early humans while crafting engaging narratives. The novel's success demonstrated that prehistoric settings could be both educational and deeply entertaining.

Adaptations and Media

The popularity of "Clan of the Cave Bear" led to a 1986 film adaptation, which, despite mixed reviews, helped bring the story to a wider audience. Over the years, talk of new adaptations, including TV series, has kept the story relevant. The enduring fascination with Ayla and the clan underscores the novel's impact and the universal appeal of its themes.

Why Readers Continue to Love Jean Auel's Clan of the Cave Bear

What keeps "Clan of the Cave Bear" resonating with readers decades after its release? Several factors contribute to its lasting appeal:

- **Immersive World-Building:** Auel's detailed descriptions of prehistoric landscapes, flora, fauna, and daily life transport readers to a time long past.
- **Relatable Characters:** Despite the ancient setting, the emotions, conflicts, and relationships feel authentic and timeless.
- **Educational Value:** Readers gain insights into Ice Age life, early human behavior, and anthropology, often sparking further interest in these fields.
- **Empowerment and Resilience:** Ayla's story inspires readers with themes of independence, courage, and innovation.

Tips for New Readers of the Series

If you're considering diving into Jean Auel's prehistoric world, here are a few pointers to enhance your experience:

1. **Start with "Clan of the Cave Bear":** It lays the foundation for the entire Earth's Children series and introduces key characters and settings.
2. **Be Patient with the Detail:** Auel's rich descriptions and scientific explanations deepen the immersion but can be dense at times; embracing this detail rewards the reader with a fuller understanding.

3. **Explore Related Materials:** Reading about Neanderthals and Ice Age archaeology can enrich your appreciation of the story's historical context.
4. **Join Fan Communities:** Online forums and book clubs can provide fascinating discussions and insights about the series.

The Legacy of Jean Auel Clan of the Cave Bear in Modern Anthropology

Interestingly, Jean Auel's work has contributed indirectly to popular interest in anthropology and prehistoric studies. While her novels are fiction, they are rooted in serious research, and her portrayal of Neanderthals helped humanize a species often portrayed as primitive.

Modern discoveries about Neanderthals' intelligence, use of tools, and even genetic legacy in modern humans align with many of Auel's imaginative yet plausible depictions. For example, ongoing research has shown that Neanderthals practiced burial rituals and may have had complex social behaviors, much like those portrayed in the clan.

Her novels have encouraged readers to think critically about human evolution and the shared ancestry that connects us to these ancient peoples.

Jean Auel clan of the cave bear remains a cornerstone of prehistoric fiction, inviting readers to explore the origins of humanity through the eyes of an unforgettable heroine and a fascinating Neanderthal clan. Its blend of adventure, science, and humanity continues to inspire curiosity and wonder about our distant past. Whether you're drawn to historical fiction, anthropology, or simply a great story of survival and growth, the Earth's Children series offers a remarkable journey through time.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the main character in Jean M. Auel's 'Clan of the Cave Bear'?

The main character in 'Clan of the Cave Bear' is Ayla, a young Cro-Magnon girl who is raised by a group of Neanderthals.

What is the setting of 'Clan of the Cave Bear'?

The novel is set in prehistoric Europe during the Ice Age, focusing on the life and struggles of early humans and Neanderthals.

How does Jean M. Auel depict the relationship between Cro-Magnon and Neanderthals in the book?

Auel portrays a complex relationship where cultural differences and misunderstandings exist, but also shows moments of cooperation, survival, and mutual learning between Cro-Magnons and Neanderthals.

Is 'Clan of the Cave Bear' based on historical facts or is it purely fictional?

While 'Clan of the Cave Bear' is a work of historical fiction, Jean M. Auel extensively researched prehistoric life to create a believable and immersive setting that blends scientific knowledge with imaginative storytelling.

What themes are explored in 'Clan of the Cave Bear'?

The novel explores themes such as survival, identity, cultural conflict, gender roles, and the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

Additional Resources

Jean Auel Clan of the Cave Bear: A Deep Dive into the Prehistoric Epic

jean auel clan of the cave bear stands as a landmark in the realm of historical fiction, blending meticulous research with compelling storytelling. Since its debut in 1980, this novel has captivated readers worldwide, offering a vivid portrayal of prehistoric life through the eyes of its protagonist, Ayla. Jean Auel's work not only delivers a gripping narrative but also serves as a cultural and anthropological exploration of early human societies, making it a significant subject for literary and historical discussion alike.

Exploring the Premise of Jean Auel's Clan of the Cave Bear

At its core, Clan of the Cave Bear introduces readers to a young Cro-Magnon girl, Ayla, who is orphaned and subsequently adopted by a group of Neanderthals, the clan referenced in the title. Jean Auel's novel intricately reconstructs the societal structures, survival strategies, and belief systems of these prehistoric people, providing a window into a world largely unknown to modern audiences. The story's foundation lies in the intersection of two distinct hominin species, a narrative choice that enriches the novel's thematic depth.

The author's extensive research is evident in her detailed descriptions of flora, fauna, tools, and customs, grounding the story in plausible historical realities. Such dedication to authenticity has earned the book acclaim not only from literary critics but also from paleoanthropologists and historians, who appreciate its respectful and educated depiction of ancient life.

The Significance of the Neanderthal Clan Depiction

One of the most notable aspects of Jean Auel's *Clan of the Cave Bear* is the nuanced portrayal of Neanderthals. Rather than resorting to the stereotypical image of brutish cavemen, Auel presents them as intelligent, culturally rich beings with complex social norms and spiritual beliefs. The clan's rituals, language, and interpersonal dynamics are explored in depth, challenging popular misconceptions.

This representation contributes to ongoing discussions about Neanderthal cognition and behavior, reflecting evolving scientific perspectives from the late 20th century onward. By humanizing the clan members, Auel invites readers to reconsider preconceived notions about our evolutionary relatives, fostering empathy and a broader understanding of human ancestry.

Literary Style and Narrative Techniques

Jean Auel's narrative approach in *Clan of the Cave Bear* combines vivid descriptive passages with immersive storytelling. The prose often delves into sensory details, painting a tangible picture of the prehistoric environment. This technique enables readers to experience the harshness and beauty of Ice Age Europe firsthand.

The novel employs a third-person limited perspective, primarily focused on Ayla, which allows for intimate insight into her emotions and development while maintaining a broader view of the clan's culture. This balance between character-driven narrative and anthropological exposition is a hallmark of Auel's style.

Additionally, the incorporation of reconstructed languages and the depiction of non-verbal communication add layers of authenticity and complexity. These elements enhance the immersive quality of the novel and demonstrate the author's commitment to portraying prehistoric life as realistically as possible.

Character Development and Thematic Exploration

Ayla's journey from an outcast to a respected member of the clan serves as the emotional core of the book. Her struggles with identity, acceptance, and survival resonate universally, transcending the prehistoric setting. Themes of resilience, adaptability, and the search for belonging are woven throughout the narrative.

Moreover, the novel explores gender roles within the clan, highlighting the division of labor and the societal expectations placed on men and women. Ayla's unique skills and perspectives often clash with the clan's traditions, prompting reflections on cultural relativism and the evolution of social norms.

Impact and Legacy of Clan of the Cave Bear

Jean Auel's *Clan of the Cave Bear* has left an indelible mark on both literature and popular culture. Its success spawned a series of sequels, collectively known as the *Earth's Children* series, which further delve into prehistoric life and human evolution. The novel also inspired adaptations, including a 1986 film, which, despite mixed reviews, introduced the story to a broader audience.

From an educational standpoint, the book has been praised for sparking interest in archaeology, paleontology, and anthropology among readers of all ages. Its blend of fiction and factual content serves as a gateway to scientific inquiry about early humans and their environments.

Pros and Cons from a Critical Perspective

- **Pros:** Meticulous research, engaging storytelling, strong character development, and a respectful portrayal of Neanderthals.
- **Cons:** Some critics note occasional pacing issues, romanticized elements that may stray from strict scientific accuracy, and a writing style that may feel dated to contemporary readers.

Despite these critiques, the novel's contributions to historical fiction and prehistoric narrative remain significant.

SEO Keywords Integration: Enhancing Visibility and Relevance

When discussing Jean Auel's *Clan of the Cave Bear*, integrating relevant keywords such as "prehistoric fiction," "Neanderthal portrayal," "Ayla character analysis," and "Earth's Children series" naturally within content enhances search engine optimization. This ensures the article reaches audiences interested in both literary analysis and anthropological studies.

Additionally, referencing related topics like "Ice Age Europe," "human evolution fiction," and "historical novel research" broadens the scope, capturing diverse reader interests. Such strategic keyword placement, when done organically, maintains the professional tone and readability of the article.

The continued popularity of "jean auel clan of the cave bear" in online searches reflects the enduring fascination with prehistoric narratives and their role in understanding human heritage.

The novel's vivid depiction of early human life, combined with a compelling emotional journey, secures its place as a seminal work in historical fiction. Jean Auel's dedication to authenticity and storytelling craftsmanship invites readers to explore the distant past with renewed curiosity and empathy, ensuring that *Clan of the Cave Bear* remains a touchstone for both literary enthusiasts and

scholars.

Jean Auel Clan Of The Cave Bear

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jean auel clan of the cave bear: The Clan of the Cave Bear (Enhanced Edition) Jean M. Auel, 2011-02-22 This enhanced eBook includes: • Eight never-before-seen video interviews with Jean M. Auel where she discusses The Clan of the Cave Bear and the Earth's Children® series: "You Must Be Able to Change in Order to Survive," "Jondalar and Ayla," "On Language," "Cro-Magnons and Neanderthals: The Crossbreeding Question," "On Research (and Glaciers)," "The Domestication of Horses and Wolves," "The Painted Caves," and "What Is It Like Finishing a Series?" • An excerpt from The Land of Painted Caves • An Earth's Children® series sampler • A text Q&A with Jean M. Auel • The full text of the novel This novel of awesome beauty and power is a moving saga about people, relationships, and the boundaries of love. Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's The Great American Read Through Jean M. Auel's magnificent storytelling we are taken back to the dawn of modern humans, and with a girl named Ayla we are swept up in the harsh and beautiful Ice Age world they shared with the ones who called themselves The Clan of the Cave Bear. A natural disaster leaves the young girl wandering alone in an unfamiliar and dangerous land until she is found by a woman of the Clan, people very different from her own kind. To them, blond, blue-eyed Ayla looks peculiar and ugly—she is one of the Others, those who have moved into their ancient homeland; but Iza cannot leave the girl to die and takes her with them. Iza and Creb, the old Mog-ur, grow to love her, and as Ayla learns the ways of the Clan and Iza's way of healing, most come to accept her. But the brutal and proud youth who is destined to become their next leader sees her differences as a threat to his authority. He develops a deep and abiding hatred for the strange girl of the Others who lives in their midst, and is determined to get his revenge.

jean auel clan of the cave bear: The Clan of the Cave Bear Jean M. Auel, 2002-06-25 This novel of awesome beauty and power is a moving saga about people, relationships, and the boundaries of love. Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's The Great American Read Through Jean M. Auel's magnificent storytelling we are taken back to the dawn of modern humans, and with a girl named Ayla we are swept up in the harsh and beautiful Ice Age world they shared with the ones who called themselves the Clan of the Cave Bear. A natural disaster leaves the young girl wandering alone in an unfamiliar and dangerous land until she is found by a woman of the Clan, people very different from her own kind. To them, blond, blue-eyed Ayla looks peculiar and ugly—she is one of the Others, those who have moved into their ancient homeland; but Iza cannot leave the girl to die and takes her with them. Iza and Creb, the old Mog-ur, grow to love her, and as Ayla learns the ways of the Clan and Iza's way of healing, most come to accept her. But the brutal and proud youth who is destined to become their next leader sees her differences as a threat to his authority. He develops a deep and abiding hatred for the strange girl of the Others who lives in their midst, and is determined to get his revenge.

jean auel clan of the cave bear: Earth's Children Jean M. Auel, 2011 This novel of awesome beauty and power is a moving saga about people, relationships, and the boundaries of love. Through Jean M. Auel's magnificent storytelling we are taken back to the dawn of modern humans, and with a girl named Ayla we are swept up in the harsh and beautiful Ice Age world they shared with the one

who called themselves the Clan of the Caved bear. A natural disaster leaves the young girl wandering alone in an unfamiliar and dangerous land until she is found by a woman of the Clan, people very different from her own kind. To them, blond, blue-eyed Ayla looks peculiar and ugly—she is one of the Others, those who have moved into their ancient homeland; but Iza cannot leave the girl to die and takes her with them. Iza and Creb, the old Mog-ur, grow to love her, and as Ayla learns the way of the Clan and Iza's way of healing, most come to accept her. But the brutal and proud youth who is destined to become their leader sees her differences as a threat to his authority. He develops a deep and abiding hatred for the strange girl of the Others who lives in their midst, and is determined to get his revenge. (Source : 4ème de couverture).

jean auel clan of the cave bear: The Clan of the Cave Bear Jean M. Auel, 2002-06-25 This novel of awesome beauty and power is a moving saga about people, relationships, and the boundaries of love. Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's The Great American Read Through Jean M. Auel's magnificent storytelling we are taken back to the dawn of modern humans, and with a girl named Ayla we are swept up in the harsh and beautiful Ice Age world they shared with the ones who called themselves the Clan of the Cave Bear. A natural disaster leaves the young girl wandering alone in an unfamiliar and dangerous land until she is found by a woman of the Clan, people very different from her own kind. To them, blond, blue-eyed Ayla looks peculiar and ugly—she is one of the Others, those who have moved into their ancient homeland; but Iza cannot leave the girl to die and takes her with them. Iza and Creb, the old Mog-ur, grow to love her, and as Ayla learns the ways of the Clan and Iza's way of healing, most come to accept her. But the brutal and proud youth who is destined to become their next leader sees her differences as a threat to his authority. He develops a deep and abiding hatred for the strange girl of the Others who lives in their midst, and is determined to get his revenge.

jean auel clan of the cave bear: The Clan of the Cave Bear Jean M. Auel, 1994

jean auel clan of the cave bear: The Earth's Children Series 6-Book Bundle Jean M. Auel, 2013-02-18 A literary phenomenon, Jean M. Auel's prehistoric odyssey is one of the best-loved sagas of our time. Employing meticulous research and the consummate artistry of a master storyteller, Auel paints a vivid panorama of the dawn of modern humans. Through Ayla, an orphaned girl who grows into a beautiful and courageous young woman, we are swept up in the harsh and beautiful Ice Age world, home to the Clan of the Cave Bear. Now, for the first time, all six novels in the Earth's Children® series are available in one convenient eBook bundle: THE CLAN OF THE CAVE BEAR THE VALLEY OF HORSES THE MAMMOTH HUNTERS THE PLAINS OF PASSAGE THE SHELTERS OF STONE THE LAND OF PAINTED CAVES A natural disaster leaves a young girl wandering alone in an unfamiliar and dangerous land until she is found by a woman of the Clan, people very different from her own kind. To them, blond, blue-eyed Ayla looks peculiar and ugly—she is one of the Others, those who have moved into their ancient homeland; but Iza cannot leave the girl to die and takes her with them. Iza and Creb, the old Mog-ur, grow to love her, and as Ayla learns the ways of the Clan and Iza's way of healing, most come to accept her. But the brutal and proud youth who is destined to become the Clan's next leader sees Ayla's differences as a threat to his authority. He develops a deep and abiding hatred for the strange girl of the Others who lives in their midst, and is determined to get his revenge. Praise for the Earth's Children® series "Auel is a highly imaginative writer. She humanizes prehistory and gives it immediacy and clarity."—The New York Times Book Review "Storytelling in the grand tradition . . . From the violent panorama of spring on the steppes to musicians jamming on a mammoth-bone marimba, Auel's books are a stunning example of world building. They join the short list of books, like James Clavell's Shogun and Frank Herbert's Dune, that depict exotic societies so vividly that readers almost regard them as 'survival manuals.'"—Vogue "Jean Auel has established herself as one of our premier storytellers. . . . Her narrative skill is supreme."—Chicago Tribune "Pure entertainment at its sublime, wholly exhilarating best."—Los Angeles Times "Readers who fell in love with little Ayla will no doubt revel in her prehistoric womanhood."—People "Lively and interesting, enhanced greatly by the vividly colored backdrop of early humanity . . . Auel is a prodigious researcher."—The Washington Post Book World

"Among modern epic spinners, Auel has few peers. . . . She deftly creates a whole world, giving a sense of the origins of class, ethnic, and cultural differences that alternately divide and fascinate us today."—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

jean auel clan of the cave bear: *The Clan of the Cave Bear Proof* Jean M. Auel, 2010-10-01

jean auel clan of the cave bear: A Study Guide for Jean M. Auel's "The Clan of the Cave Bear" Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016-06-29 A Study Guide for Jean M. Auel's *The Clan of the Cave Bear*, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Novels for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Novels for Students* for all of your research needs.

jean auel clan of the cave bear: The Shelters of Stone Jean M. Auel, 2004-04-27 *The Shelters of Stone* opens as Ayla and Jondalar, along with their animal friends, Wolf, Whinney, and Racer, complete their epic journey across Europe and are greeted by Jondalar's people: the Zelandonii. The people of the Ninth Cave of the Zelandonii fascinate Ayla. Their clothes, customs, artifacts, even their homes—formed in great cliffs of vertical limestone—are a source of wonder to her. And in the woman Zelandoni, the spiritual leader of the Ninth Cave (and the one who initiated Jondalar into the Gift of Pleasure), she meets a fellow healer with whom to share her knowledge and skills. But as Ayla and Jondalar prepare for the formal mating at the Summer Meeting, there are difficulties. Not all the Zelandonii are welcoming. Some fear Ayla's unfamiliar ways and abhor her relationship with those they call flatheads and she calls Clan. Some even oppose her mating with Jondalar, and make their displeasure known. Ayla has to call on all her skills, intelligence, knowledge, and instincts to find her way in this complicated society, to prepare for the birth of her child, and to decide whether she will accept new challenges and play a significant role in the destiny of the Zelandonii. Jean Auel is at her very best in this superbly textured creation of a prehistoric society. *The Shelters of Stone* is a sweeping story of love and danger, with all the wonderful detail—based on meticulous research—that makes her novels unique. It is a triumphant continuation of the *Earth's Children®* saga that began with *The Clan of the Cave Bear*. And it includes an amazing rhythmic poem that describes the birth of *Earth's Children®* and plays its own role in the narrative of *The Shelters of Stone*.

jean auel clan of the cave bear: The Land of Painted Caves Jean M. Auel, 2011-11-22 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER In this, the extraordinary conclusion of the ice-age epic series, *Earth's Children®*, Ayla, Jondalar, and their infant daughter, Jonayla, are living with the Zelandonii in the Ninth Cave. Ayla has been chosen as an acolyte to a spiritual leader and begins arduous training tasks. Whatever obstacles she faces, Ayla finds inventive ways to lessen the difficulties of daily life, searching for wild edibles to make meals and experimenting with techniques to ease the long journeys the Zelandonii must take while honing her skills as a healer and a leader. And there are the Sacred Caves that Ayla's mentor takes her to see. They are filled with remarkable paintings of mammoths, lions, and bears, and their mystical aura at times overwhelms Ayla. But all the time Ayla has spent in training rituals has caused Jondalar to drift away from her. The rituals themselves bring her close to death, but through them Ayla gains A Gift of Knowledge so important that it will change her world. Sixth in the acclaimed *Earth's Children®* series

jean auel clan of the cave bear: The Plains of Passage Jean M. Auel, 2002-06-25 Jean M. Auel's enthralling *Earth's Children®* series has become a literary phenomenon, beloved by readers around the world. In a brilliant novel as vividly authentic and entertaining as those that came before, Jean M. Auel returns us to the earliest days of humankind and to the captivating adventures of the courageous woman called Ayla. With her companion, Jondalar, Ayla sets out on her most dangerous and daring journey—away from the welcoming hearths of the Mammoth Hunters and into the unknown. Their odyssey spans a beautiful but sparsely populated and treacherous continent, the windswept grasslands of Ice Age Europe, casting the pair among strangers. Some will be intrigued by Ayla and Jondalar, with their many innovative skills, including the taming of wild horses and a wolf; others will avoid them, threatened by what they cannot understand; and some will threaten

them. But Ayla, with no memory of her own people, and Jondalar, with a hunger to return to his, are impelled by their own deep drives to continue their trek across the spectacular heart of an unmapped world to find that place they can both call home.

jean auel clan of the cave bear: *The Valley of Horses* Jean M. Auel, 1984-11-01 This unforgettable odyssey into the distant past carries us back to the awesome mysteries of the exotic, primeval world of The Clan of the Cave Bear, and to Ayla, now grown into a beautiful and courageous young woman. Cruelly cast out by the new leader of the ancient Clan that adopted her as a child, Ayla leaves those she loves behind and travels alone through a stark, open land filled with dangerous animals but few people, searching for the Others, tall and fair like herself. The short summer gives her little time to look, and when she finds a sheltered valley with a herd of hardy steppe horses, she decides to stay and prepare for the long glacial winter ahead. Living with the Clan has taught Ayla many skills but not real hunting. She finally knows she can survive when she traps a horse, which gives her meat and a warm pelt for the winter, but fate has bestowed a greater gift, an orphaned foal with whom she develops a unique kinship. One winter extends to more; she discovers a way to make fire more quickly and a wounded cave lion cub joins her unusual family, but her beloved animals don't fulfill her restless need for human companionship. Then she hears the sound of a man screaming in pain. She saves tall, handsome Jondalar, who brings her a language to speak and an awakening of love and desire, but Ayla is torn between her fear of leaving her valley and her hope of living with her own kind.

jean auel clan of the cave bear: *The Complete Jean M. Auel Earth's Children Series Six Book Set [Clan of the Cave Bear, Valley of the Horses, Mammoth Hunters, Plains of Passage, Shelters of Stone, and Land of Painted Caves]* Jean M. Auel, 2011-11-22

jean auel clan of the cave bear: *The Mammoth Hunters (with Bonus Content)* Jean M. Auel, 2010-10-06 Set in the challenging terrain of Ice Age Europe that millions of Jean Auel's readers have come to treasure, *The Mammoth Hunters* is an epic novel of love, knowledge, jealousy, and hard choices—a novel certain to garner Jean Auel even greater acclaim as a master storyteller of the dawn of humanity. Ayla, the independent heroine of *The Clan of the Cave Bear* and *The Valley of Horses*, sets out from the valley on Whinney, the horse she tamed. With her is Jondalar, the tall, handsome, yellow-haired man she nursed back to health and came to love. Together they meet the Mamutoi—the Mammoth Hunters—people like Ayla. But to Ayla, who was raised by the Clan of the Cave Bear, they are “the Others.” She approaches them with mixed feelings of fear and curiosity. Talut, a powerful bear of a man with bright red hair, a booming laugh, and a gentle heart, and his tall, dark-haired sister, Tulie, are the leaders of the Lion Camp of the Mamutoi. It is here that Ayla finds her first women friends, but some among the Mamutoi dislike Ayla because she was raised by “flatheads,” their name for the people of the Clan. Ayla is haunted by her memories of the Clan because Rydag, a child of mixed parentage living with the Mamutoi, bears so strong a resemblance to her own son, Durc. It is the Mamutoi master carver of ivory—dark-skinned Ranec, flirtatious, artistic, magnetic—who fascinates Ayla. She finds herself drawn to him. Because of her uncanny control over animals, her healing skills, and the magic firestone she discovered, Ayla is adopted into the Mammoth Hearth by Mamut, the ancient shaman of the Great Earth Mother. Ayla finds herself torn between her strong feelings for Ranec and her powerful love for the wildly jealous and unsure Jondalar. It is not until after the great mammoth hunt, when Ayla's life is threatened, that a fateful decision is made. This eBook includes the full text of the novel plus the following additional content:

- An Earth's Children® series sampler including free chapters from the other books in Jean M. Auel's bestselling series
- A Q&A with the author about the Earth's Children® series

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