

jean m auel clan of the cave bear

Jean M Auel Clan of the Cave Bear: Exploring a Prehistoric Masterpiece

jean m auel clan of the cave bear is more than just a book title; it represents a fascinating journey into the prehistoric world, brilliantly crafted by author Jean M. Auel. This novel, the first in a beloved series known as the Earth's Children saga, has captured the imaginations of readers worldwide by blending meticulous research with vivid storytelling. If you've ever been curious about life during the Ice Age or the interactions between early humans and Neanderthals, "Clan of the Cave Bear" offers a compelling window into that distant past.

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

When Jean M. Auel published "Clan of the Cave Bear" in 1980, it was the beginning of a literary journey that would span decades and inspire millions. Auel, who spent years researching Paleolithic culture, archaeology, and anthropology, created a narrative that goes beyond fiction. The novel tells the story of Ayla, a young Cro-Magnon girl raised by a Neanderthal clan after her family is killed in an earthquake.

The novel's unique appeal lies in its combination of speculative fiction with scientific accuracy. Auel's dedication to portraying the daily lives, survival strategies, and social structures of prehistoric people gives readers an immersive experience rarely found in historical fiction.

Why Clan of the Cave Bear Stands Out

Unlike many novels set in prehistoric times, Jean M Auel's work stands out because of:

- **Extensive Research:** Auel consulted with archaeologists, paleontologists, and experts to ensure accuracy.
- **Rich Worldbuilding:** The detailed descriptions of clothing, tools, food gathering, and rituals create a believable prehistoric world.
- **Complex Characters:** The emotional depth of Ayla and her interactions with the Clan explore themes of identity, belonging, and cultural conflict.
- **Cultural Anthropology:** The book delves into the differences between Neanderthals and Cro-Magnon humans, highlighting both conflict and cooperation.

Understanding the Setting and Historical Context

The setting of "Clan of the Cave Bear" is Europe during the Upper Paleolithic period,

roughly 30,000 years ago. This was a time when Neanderthals were still present but eventually gave way to anatomically modern humans. Auel's depiction of this era is not just about survival against nature but also about the evolving relationship between different human species.

The Neanderthal Clan

The Clan in the title refers to a group of Neanderthals who have their own customs, language, and social hierarchy. They are portrayed as strong, intelligent beings with a deep connection to their environment, yet fundamentally different from Ayla's Cro-Magnon heritage. This contrast forms the core tension in the story, as Ayla tries to fit into a society that views her with suspicion.

Cro-Magnon Culture Through Ayla's Eyes

Ayla represents the emerging Cro-Magnon humans, who are more adaptable and innovative. Her character's journey highlights the early development of technology, such as advanced tool-making and the use of fire, as well as the beginnings of art and symbolic thought. Through Ayla's perspective, readers witness the slow but profound shift in human evolution.

The Impact of Clan of the Cave Bear on Popular Culture

Since its release, "Clan of the Cave Bear" has influenced not just literature but also other forms of media and popular perceptions of prehistoric life.

Literary Influence and Series Continuation

The success of Jean M Auel's first novel led to a series of sequels, including "The Valley of Horses," "The Mammoth Hunters," "The Plains of Passage," and "The Shelters of Stone." Each book expands the story and explores different aspects of prehistoric life, maintaining a balance between adventure and anthropological insight.

Film Adaptation and Visual Storytelling

In 1986, "Clan of the Cave Bear" was adapted into a feature film starring Daryl Hannah as Ayla. While the movie received mixed reviews, it brought more attention to the story and its themes, inspiring viewers to explore the books and the prehistoric era further.

Educational Value and Archaeological Interest

Teachers and educators often use the book to introduce students to Ice Age history and anthropology in an engaging way. The novel's rich descriptions of cave paintings, hunting methods, and early human societies make it a valuable resource for understanding prehistoric culture beyond dry textbooks.

Exploring Key Themes in Jean M Auel's Work

"Clan of the Cave Bear" is more than a survival story; it addresses profound themes that resonate with readers across time.

Identity and Belonging

Ayla's struggle to find her place in the Clan despite her differences is a universal story of acceptance and self-discovery. It prompts readers to consider how culture shapes identity and the challenges of being an outsider.

Gender Roles and Strength

Auel challenges traditional gender roles by portraying Ayla as a strong, resourceful female protagonist who defies the expectations of her Clan. This progressive portrayal adds depth to the narrative and encourages readers to rethink assumptions about prehistoric gender dynamics.

Human Evolution and Cooperation

The novel suggests that cooperation and communication between different human groups were key to survival and progress. The interactions between Neanderthals and Cro-Magnons reflect early forms of cultural exchange and adaptation.

Tips for New Readers of Clan of the Cave Bear

If you're planning to dive into Jean M Auel's prehistoric saga, here are some tips to enhance your reading experience:

- **Patience with Detail:** The novel is rich in detailed descriptions of prehistoric life, which might seem slow at first but add authenticity.

- **Research Complement:** Consider reading about Paleolithic archaeology to better appreciate the historical background.
- **Series Commitment:** The story continues across multiple books, so be prepared for a long but rewarding journey.
- **Discussion and Community:** Engage with fan groups or online forums to share insights and interpretations.

Why Jean M Auel's Clan of the Cave Bear Remains Relevant Today

Decades after its publication, "Clan of the Cave Bear" continues to captivate readers because it bridges the gap between science and storytelling. In an era fascinated by human origins, this novel offers a narrative that is both educational and emotionally compelling.

Jean M. Auel's ability to humanize prehistoric people, presenting their fears, hopes, and innovations, encourages readers to reflect on what it means to be human. It reminds us that, despite the vast gulf of time, the quest for belonging and understanding remains timeless.

For anyone curious about prehistoric life, human evolution, or powerful storytelling, the Clan of the Cave Bear is a remarkable starting point that continues to inspire and inform generations of readers.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Jean M. Auel?

Jean M. Auel is an American author best known for her Earth's Children series, which includes the novel 'The Clan of the Cave Bear.'

What is 'The Clan of the Cave Bear' about?

'The Clan of the Cave Bear' is a prehistoric fiction novel that follows Ayla, a young Cro-Magnon girl raised by a group of Neanderthals, exploring themes of survival, culture, and human evolution.

When was 'The Clan of the Cave Bear' first published?

The novel was first published in 1980.

Is 'The Clan of the Cave Bear' based on historical facts?

While the story is fictional, it is based on extensive research into prehistoric times, Neanderthals, and early human life, blending fact with imaginative storytelling.

How many books are in Jean M. Auel's Earth's Children series?

There are six books in the Earth's Children series, starting with 'The Clan of the Cave Bear' and concluding with 'The Land of Painted Caves.'

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

The novel explores themes such as survival, cultural differences, gender roles, acceptance, and the relationship between humans and nature.

Has 'The Clan of the Cave Bear' been adapted into other media?

Yes, it was adapted into a feature film in 1986 and has inspired discussions about potential TV series adaptations.

What is significant about the character Ayla in 'The Clan of the Cave Bear'?

Ayla is significant as a strong, intelligent female protagonist who challenges the norms of the Neanderthal clan and represents the Cro-Magnon species' evolution.

Why is 'The Clan of the Cave Bear' considered a classic in prehistoric fiction?

It is considered a classic due to its detailed research, compelling storytelling, and pioneering depiction of early human life, influencing the genre of prehistoric fiction.

Additional Resources

Jean M Auel Clan of the Cave Bear: An In-Depth Exploration of Prehistoric Fiction Mastery

jean m auel clan of the cave bear stands as a monumental work within the realm of prehistoric fiction, blending meticulous research with compelling storytelling. Since its publication in 1980, this novel has captivated readers with its vivid portrayal of early human life and the complex interactions between Cro-Magnon and Neanderthal peoples. Jean M. Auel's imaginative reconstruction of Ice Age society not only broke new ground in historical fiction but also sparked enduring interest in paleolithic culture and anthropology.

The Genesis and Context of Clan of the Cave Bear

Jean M. Auel's debut novel, *Clan of the Cave Bear*, emerged after more than a decade of exhaustive research into Ice Age archaeology, paleontology, and ethnography. The book inaugurates the *Earth's Children* series, which traces the life of Ayla, a young Cro-Magnon girl orphaned and raised by a Neanderthal clan. Auel's narrative is informed by scientific findings available in the late 20th century, but she also takes creative liberties to fill the gaps in prehistoric knowledge. This blend of factual grounding and imaginative speculation gives the novel a unique authenticity and narrative depth.

The setting—approximately 30,000 years ago during the Upper Paleolithic period—provides fertile ground for exploring themes of survival, cultural difference, and human evolution. The novel's detailed descriptions of flora, fauna, and early human technology showcase Auel's commitment to creating an immersive prehistoric world. The depiction of the Neanderthal clan's social structure, rituals, and daily challenges allows readers insight into a society often misunderstood or marginalized in popular culture.

Scientific Accuracy and Creative Interpretation

One of the distinguishing features of Jean M Auel's *Clan of the Cave Bear* is its dedication to scientific accuracy while embracing narrative creativity. Auel consulted numerous experts and incorporated archaeological evidence concerning Ice Age tools, clothing, and shelter. However, since much of prehistory remains speculative, she extrapolates behaviors and cultural norms to construct a believable societal framework.

For example, the portrayal of the Neanderthals as physically robust but intellectually distinct from Cro-Magnons aligns with prevailing anthropological theories of the time. Yet, Auel challenges stereotypes by attributing complex emotions, social bonds, and spiritual beliefs to the clan members. This nuanced characterization invites readers to reassess simplistic notions of "primitive" humans and consider the diversity of early hominid experiences.

Characterization and Thematic Depth

At the center of *Clan of the Cave Bear* is Ayla, whose journey from orphaned outsider to integral clan member encapsulates the novel's exploration of identity, resilience, and cultural conflict. Auel's rich character development underscores the tension between individualism and communal loyalty, a dynamic essential to understanding prehistoric societies.

Ayla as a Symbol of Human Adaptability

Ayla's character embodies adaptability and innovation—traits critical to human survival and evolution. Her Cro-Magnon lineage grants her cognitive and physical abilities distinct

from the Neanderthal clan, such as advanced tool-making and symbolic thought. Through Ayla's eyes, readers witness the challenges faced by early modern humans in a harsh environment, including the necessity to learn from and sometimes clash with other hominid groups.

Moreover, Ayla's struggles with acceptance and belonging highlight broader themes of prejudice and cultural misunderstanding. Her perseverance in overcoming clan biases and asserting her individuality offers a compelling narrative about the human capacity for growth and empathy.

Social Structure and Gender Roles

The novel provides an insightful examination of Neanderthal social organization, particularly regarding clan hierarchy and gender roles. Women in the clan are depicted primarily as caregivers and gatherers, while men undertake hunting and tool-making. However, Auel complicates these roles by illustrating variations and exceptions, such as Ayla's proficiency in traditionally male tasks.

This treatment prompts readers to question rigid assumptions about prehistoric gender dynamics and consider the fluidity and adaptability of social roles in response to environmental and cultural pressures.

Impact and Legacy in Prehistoric Fiction

Jean M Auel's *Clan of the Cave Bear* significantly influenced the genre of prehistoric fiction, setting a high standard for research-based storytelling. Its success paved the way for subsequent works that explore human origins through a blend of science and narrative artistry.

Comparisons with Contemporary Works

When compared with other prehistoric novels, *Clan of the Cave Bear* stands out for its comprehensive scope and character-driven plot. While some works focus heavily on adventure or speculative fantasy, Auel's novel balances action with anthropological insight. This equilibrium appeals to both academic audiences and general readers interested in human history.

Critiques and Controversies

Despite its acclaim, the novel has faced criticism regarding certain scientific interpretations and portrayals of Neanderthals. Some scholars argue that Auel's depiction romanticizes or oversimplifies complex evolutionary relationships. Additionally, the novel's extensive detail and descriptive passages have been perceived by some as occasionally

slowing narrative momentum.

Nevertheless, these critiques do not diminish the novel's overall contribution to public understanding of prehistoric life or its role in popularizing archaeological themes in literature.

Key Features and Reader Appeal

Jean M Auel's writing style combines lyrical prose with vivid imagery, drawing readers deeply into the Ice Age world. The novel's meticulous attention to detail regarding diet, tools, rituals, and environment enriches the reading experience, making it both educational and entertaining.

Some prominent features include:

- **Rich Environmental Descriptions:** Detailed portrayals of the Ice Age landscape, seasons, and wildlife.
- **Interpersonal Dynamics:** Complex relationships within the clan, including kinship, conflict, and cooperation.
- **Cultural Practices:** Insight into Neanderthal spirituality, art, and survival strategies.
- **Evolutionary Themes:** Exploration of human origins, adaptation, and species interaction.

These elements collectively contribute to the novel's enduring popularity among readers who seek immersive historical narratives grounded in scientific research.

Jean M Auel's *Clan of the Cave Bear* remains a seminal work that bridges the gap between anthropology and fiction. Its portrayal of prehistoric life continues to inspire curiosity about human ancestry and the diverse paths of evolution. As a foundational text in Earth's Children series, it invites readers to ponder the complexities of identity, culture, and survival in humanity's distant past.

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jean m 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.

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

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

jean m 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 m 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 m 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 m auel clan of the cave bear: *The Clan of the Cave Bear* Jean M. Auel, 1980-01 An injured and orphaned infant carries within her the seed and hope of mankind in this epic of survival and destiny set at the dawn of prehistory

jean m auel clan of the cave bear: *NOVELS FOR STUDENTS* CENGAGE LEARNING. GALE, 2016

jean m 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 m 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 m 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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seen—from almost certain death. Torn between her desire for human companionship and her fear of the unknown Others, she struggles against her deep attraction to the handsome Jondalar. It is Jondalar who teaches her the meaning of true friendship and love. Once again, Jean M. Auel uses her powerful storytelling talents and her thorough understanding of human nature to take us on an amazing journey into the primordial past, re-creating the prehistoric world as it truly might have been in this compelling and timeless new epic of the dawn of civilization.

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