



"T. rex" and the Crater of Doom (Princeton Science Library)

By *Walter Alvarez*



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Sixty-five million years ago, a comet or asteroid larger than Mount Everest slammed into the Earth, inducing an explosion equivalent to the detonation of a hundred million hydrogen bombs. Vaporized detritus blasted through the atmosphere upon impact, falling back to Earth around the globe. Disastrous environmental consequences ensued: a giant tsunami, continent-scale wildfires, darkness, and cold, followed by sweltering greenhouse heat. When conditions returned to normal, half the plant and animal genera on Earth had perished.

This horrific chain of events is now widely accepted as the solution to a great scientific mystery: what caused the extinction of the dinosaurs? Walter Alvarez, one of the Berkeley scientists who discovered evidence of the impact, tells the story behind the development of the initially controversial theory. It is a saga of high adventure in remote locations, of arduous data collection and intellectual struggle, of long periods of frustration ended by sudden breakthroughs, of friendships made and lost, and of the exhilaration of discovery that forever altered our understanding of Earth's geological history.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

One of the great mysteries is what happened to the dinosaurs, and it has taken great detective work to give us an answer. In *T. Rex and the Crater of Doom*, some brilliant, not to mention determined, scientists roam the world and seek out the clues. What they conclude is that the earth withstood a colossal impact with a meteor (or perhaps a comet) 65 million years ago. The resulting cataclysm destroyed half the life on the planet.

Walter Alvarez, a geologist at the University of California at Berkeley, and one of the four scientists who present this theory on the mystery, tells the story in a clear narrative that contains a wealth of scientific material. The book does require an investment of attention, but the presentation is quite readable, and the story itself is fascinating.

From Library Journal

When Nobel prize-winning physicist Louis Alvarez and his geophysicist son Walter announced that they had discovered evidence of a giant meteor that slammed into Earth 65 million years ago, causing the extinction of the dinosaurs, they were met with much fanfare from the popular press and skepticism from the scientific community. The Alvarazes were vindicated in 1991 when a huge impact crater was discovered on the Yucatan Peninsula, and the possible connection with dinosaur extinction is becoming more widely accepted. After a vivid description imagining the global devastation that would be caused by such an impact, Alvarez offers a first-person account of the discovery. It's a nicely told and well-written tale of scientific discovery, and though he occasionally comes across as a bit smug, Alvarez is quite generous in crediting objectors for helping show the direction to improve and refine the theory with further research. This informal, readable book is appropriate for high school readers on up, and the subject has strong popular appeal. Amy Brunvand, Univ. of Utah Lib., Salt Lake City
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From [Booklist](#)

Alvarez, along with four other Berkeley scientists, found the geologic evidence that implicated a cosmic collision in the extinction of the dinosaurs. Imagining that cataclysm, Alvarez opens with the appearance of an approaching comet, growing brighter until it slams into the Yucatan Peninsula, exploding with energy equal to 10 thousand times the world's nuclear arsenal. Having locked in readers with that apocalyptic drama, Alvarez recounts how he can write such a scientifically accurate disaster script. It has two parts: the evaluation of a thin iridium-rich layer of clay found in Italy and the search for an impact crater. Lying between the Cretaceous-Tertiary (KT) boundary in rocks, the clay was mysterious in origin and its iridium source difficult to pin down: a supernova was theorized for a while. Alvarez then clearly describes tell-tale geologic clues that revealed the now-buried crater, rounding out a fascinating proof of a once ridiculed theory. In fitting together the puzzle of dino demise, Alvarez excitingly shapes the story for the widest audience. *Gilbert Taylor*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kathryn Cannon:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important action, like

looking for your favorite book and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled "T. rex" and the Crater of Doom (Princeton Science Library). Try to stumble through book "T. rex" and the Crater of Doom (Princeton Science Library) as your good friend. It means that it can be your friend when you feel alone and beside those of course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated for yourself. The book makes you more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , we need to make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

Bethany Eng:

"T. rex" and the Crater of Doom (Princeton Science Library) can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to get every word into pleasure arrangement in writing "T. rex" and the Crater of Doom (Princeton Science Library) but doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource details that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into new stage of crucial thinking.

April Harry:

This "T. rex" and the Crater of Doom (Princeton Science Library) is great guide for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who also always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it information accurately using great plan word or we can declare no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but challenging core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having "T. rex" and the Crater of Doom (Princeton Science Library) in your hand like getting the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no e-book that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen moment right but this guide already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt this?

Yolanda Harris:

Some individuals said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a book. They are directly felt that when they get a half regions of the book. You can choose often the book "T. rex" and the Crater of Doom (Princeton Science Library) to make your current reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading expertise is developing when you like reading. Try to choose straightforward book to make you enjoy you just read it and mingle the feeling about book and examining especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to available a book and study it. Beside that the publication "T. rex" and the Crater of Doom (Princeton Science Library) can to be a newly purchased friend when you're sense alone and confuse with the information must you're doing of these time.

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