

## Fun Facts about the making of Extinction Island

⇒ The idea for this series came to me several years ago when I was still publishing the Earth Hunters series. That gave me time to let it percolate in the back of my head so when I sat down to write, the first draft was finished in just a few months (very fast for me).



Parasaurolophus

⇒ My favorite dinosaur is called Parasaurolophus (not featured in book 1). I've always loved it because of its long swoosh of a head crest, but since it's an herbivore, it's not particularly fearsome.

⇒ I gave Oakley the job of Reptile Expert and Tour Guide at the Lazy Lizard because I loved a swamp tour we took while living in Louisiana. I was amazed at how the alligators glided effortlessly through the water. Plus, they let me hold a baby one.



Me with a baby alligator!

⇒ When I first started pursuing my geology degree, I wanted to be a paleontologist (fossil hunter), but I quickly realized what a difficult life those professionals lead. Dusty dig sites all summer, writing technical papers all winter. It wasn't the life for me.

⇒ Oakley's name is a nod to our time living near Baton Rouge, Louisiana. We lived in Oak Alley Estates subdivision for two years.



The Pita Pit Raptor

⇒ One of my favorite restaurants in our area is Pita Pit where they have a photogenic *Velociraptor* (get it, a wrap-tor) outside.

## FUN FACTS ABOUT THE MAKING OF EXTINCTION ISLAND (CONT)

- ⇒ When our family visited Maui on vacation, we went to a luau where one of the performers (a fire dancer) was named Kaleo. I knew immediately it was the perfect name for the gang leader.
- ⇒ Auburn (Oakley's twin) was originally named Autumn, but I was watching the NCAA basketball tournament with my husband and needed Auburn to win over Kentucky for my bracket. I made a deal with God (wink, wink) that I would name Oakley's sister Auburn if he would let them win. So I had to hold up my end of the deal. P.S. I topped the bracket for our family that year!



Cody (our Vizsla) in his favorite position

- ⇒ Cody, the *Coelophysis*, was named after Cody, our Vizsla (he looks fierce lying in his favorite bed, right?). Both of them are great pets and stick to their people like glue.

- ⇒ The astounding abilities I gave to the various dinosaurs were based on the real-life superpowers of animals (see secret Jurassic Judgment Junkie page for more on this). And since no one knows what these reptiles were capable of, perhaps this novel is not so far from reality.