

## ***Extinction Island (Jurassic Judgment Book 1)***

### Discussion Questions

1. Are you a dinosaur lover? If so, how early did the love start for you? If not, what was your favorite animal growing up? Sometimes, our favorite animal can speak to how we try to live our lives. Is this the case for you?
2. Throughout the novel, Oakley struggles to see herself as a convict and a murderer. Have you ever denied part of your identity or struggled to accept a part of you?
3. If you could walk up to and pet a dinosaur (safely, of course), which one would it be? Is that one your favorite dinosaur? (Author's note: my favorite dinosaur is *Parasaurolophus* because of the fun swooshing head crest, but if I could safely pet one, it would be an *Utahraptor* because of its fearsome claws and teeth).
4. Have you ever visited Costa Rica? If so, what did you like or not dislike about it? If not, would you visit there or is there someplace else you'd rather go instead?
5. Many of the inmates have done horrible things to be sent to Extinction Island. Are there certain crimes that make people irredeemable? Do you think people can change? Or are they destined to repeat their hurtful acts?
6. What character did you identify with most? Why? Did this person commit a crime? If so, how did you feel about what he/she did?
7. Oakley is a smaller than average woman. When she discovers her power, she's both afraid to hurt people and emboldened to protect herself. Would that kind of power give you courage or terrify you? If you could chose a different power, what would it be?
8. Cane tells Oakley that many people spend their lives looking for something that will ultimately disappoint them (their meadow of wildflowers). Do you think that's true? What kinds of pursuits do you find fulfilling? Which ones have disappointed you?
9. When Violet came after Oakley, she threatened Cane and Kaleo. Oakley killed her for it. Do you think it was justified or could she have found another way?
10. Oakley is afraid of the evil surrounding her, along with the possible evil inside of her. Do you believe in evil? Is it something that lives inside you or around you? How can you tell?

11. After Hazel becomes obsessive, Kaleo understands how dangerous someone's devotion can be. What are you devoted to? What things do you do because of that devotion? Has it ever led you to do something out of character?
12. Cane mentions the importance of a spiritual compass to direct a person's actions. What set of principles do you use to guide your life? Do you consider these spiritual? How often do you reevaluate these principles?
13. A mother is supposed to protect her child, but Oakley's mother tried to kill her because of what she will become. How far would you go to protect your child? To protect others from your child? For example, if Daric's mother saw the signs that he would kill women, should she have done more to protect others?
14. Oakley is attracted to the goodness in both Cane and Kaleo. Which one would you choose and why?
15. Extinction Island is not the ideal place for an adventure, given all of the claws and teeth, but we all need an escape once in a while. Where have you always wanted to have an adventure? Why?
16. I had so much fun taking the real life abilities of animals and using them to create the abilities found in the characters and dinosaurs. This isn't a question, but more of a bonus challenge: Create your own genetically modified dinosaur. Describe it in detail, maybe even draw it, and share it with someone. I'd also love to see it, so feel free to email it to me at [janice@janiceboekhoff.com](mailto:janice@janiceboekhoff.com).