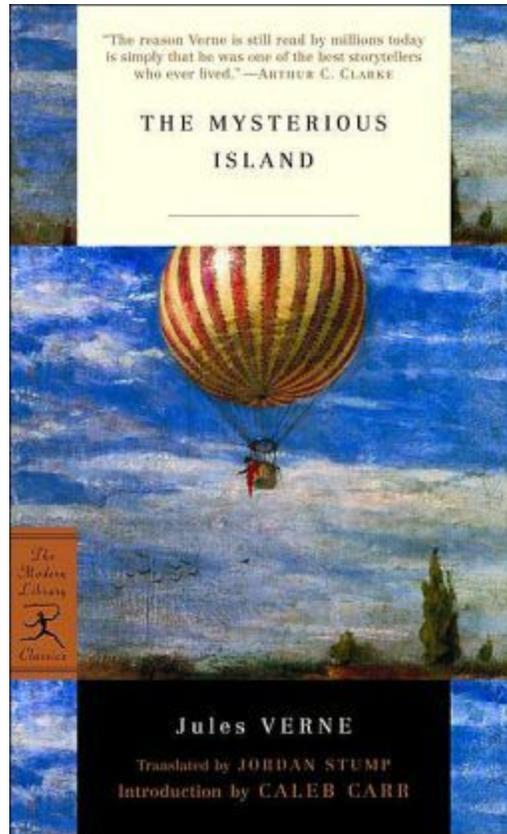


## The Mysterious Island Novel Analysis



Verne, Jules. *The Mysterious Island*. New York: Airmont Publishing Company, Inc. 1965.

By Max Driftmier

## Characters

Cyrus Smith: (Cyrus Harding) Confederate captive escapee, railroad engineer, part of the union army. Cyrus is a smart, well rounded man. He is trustworthy and will not lead his fellow escapees into danger if he can help it. In the book Cyrus is not directly told to be the leader but it strongly implies that he is.

Neb, Confederate captive escapee: Cyrus's man servant, former slave freed by Cyrus. Neb is an African American that started out as a slave, or man servant. He was freed by Cyrus. Neb is quiet and curious. With much respect for Cyrus he will do what he can to prevent bad events from happening.

Bonadventure Pencroft: Confederate captive escapee, sailor, goes by Pencroft, step father of Harbert Brown. He is the co leader of the group and strongly agrees and supports the decisions that Cyrus makes. He has brown hair and is short to medium height. A responsible character he would do anything to protect his step son Harbert Brown.

Harbert Brown: Confederate captive escapee (Herbert) Pencroft's protegee, a young boy, raised by Pencroft after the death of his father who was Pencroft's captain. He is medium tall, with brown hair. He is young in his early adulthood, and is respectful of his step father; Pencroft.

Gedeon: Confederate captive escapee, journalist. He is ambitious. Gedeon takes notes on all the events that take place on the island in hope for a good story. He has black hair and is tall. He enjoys a good story but is not that brave. Gedeon takes orders from nobody or so he thinks, but still listens to Cyrus.

Top: The faithful brown dog of Cyrus. (Confederate co. captive escapee), faithful pet of Cyrus, aided the group in many ways , one including the finding of Cyrus later in the book. He is a brown mutt, a fearless creature strong and brave at least for a dog and will follow his master to the end of the earth.

## Plot

The book starts in Richmond, Virginia, while under attack. The five main characters escape from the prison when the Confederate soldiers get distracted. They escape by hijacking a balloon, then fly over the whole battle but got swept away in a storm. For several days they drift with the strong winds until they get out of the storm. They are over the Pacific ocean thousands of miles from anything. The whole fiasco led to a rip in the balloons fabric. They started to lose altitude. To gain some lift they dump everything from the balloon that wasn't essential. That including the basket itself. Cyrus climbed to patch the hole but fell into the water below. Top jumped out of the boat after Cyrus. Both of them disappeared from sight. The rest of the crew landed in the water when the balloon fell. There is a nearby island that they all swam to. Exhausted and tired the four men slept and chose to look for Cyrus in the morning. Later that night they woke up to the sound of a dog barking. Following the sounds of the barks leading them to Top Cyrus's faithful dog. Then Top led them to Cyrus's body on the beach. He was not injured but rather in confusion to how he got there.

The men asked how he got back to the island because he was more than a mile out from land. He responds with, he didn't get himself to land. He had blacked out in the water and had woken up here. The mysterious occurrence had them to believe that they were not the only people on the island. There must be somebody else not revealing their identity.

The next day the group set out to explore the island and found a cave in the side of the mountain. The cave appears to not be natural, it had walls that looked glassy and almost as if they were melted out of the rock. The cave was where they took refuge for a while, Cyrus and the others decided to name it granite house. For the next few months not much had happened on the island until they went out to explore some more. Later adopting an Orangutan and naming it Jup. This is not the strangest of the occurrences that took place. In the granite house there was a well that had occasionally, let off a glow made strange sounds and the ground shake. They dare not go down the well but where to find answers soon. The next day a box was found on the shore, it had supplies like medicine, guns, ammo, etc... The most strange thing in it is a message that was found in a bottle from another island.

Cyrus thought that there was something strange going on with the island so him and Harbert set out to look for something that might give them answers. Harbert found what looked like an abandoned shack. A savage man than ambushed him. The rest of the crew got to him fast enough after hearing the holler to held him down. His name was

Ayrton, he used to be a pirate but was left stranded on the island.

To all their surprise a strange ship was found in the bay one day, it didn't take long for group to find that it wasn't a trading ship, or for rescue. It was a pirate ship! Ayrton and the others didn't take kindly to this and went to go cut the anchor. Before any of them could come up with a good plan the ship blew up. That just added to the mysterious things that happened at the island while they were there. Six of the crew survived and came to the island like any sensible person. They fired at the men and hitting Harbert, gravely injuring him. On top of that Harbert also got malaria. After all that more medical supplies were found on the table in the granite house. This inevitably save Harberts life. All the pirates were found dead soon after but not from gun shots, no wounds of any kind.

The message that was found turned out to lead them to a secret hiding spot of someone or something. The place that they were sent to was the hiding spot of Captain Nemo. The island turned out not to only be an island but a port for his marvelous vehicle called the Nautilus.

All this was linked to another book of Jules Verne, 20,000 leagues Under the Sea. Upon discovery Nemo is very aged with a long beard and looked as if he wasn't going to last much longer. He was the one that sent the messages, blew up the ship, saved Cyrus, left the supplies and medicine, and killed the pirates with an electric gun explaining the woundless bodies. He confessed to who he was and told his story to Cyrus. He was the lost prince of India. His true name was Pakkar, son of Raja. He and 20 other people left India due to a failed revolt, and got to a deserted island where they started the construction of the Nautilus. His home was the independent territory of, Bundelkhand. Before he died he shouted, "God and my country!" and that the island was going to erupt. Cyrus told the others and that the island was going to erupt. With the Nautilus serving as his tomb the others got to a place that they can be safe. Jup ends up falling in a crack in the ground and dying. On a small piece of land they sat until rescue. The Duncan was the ship that came to get Ayrton but got redirected by a message and led to the group. The book ended in them getting saved and going back home.

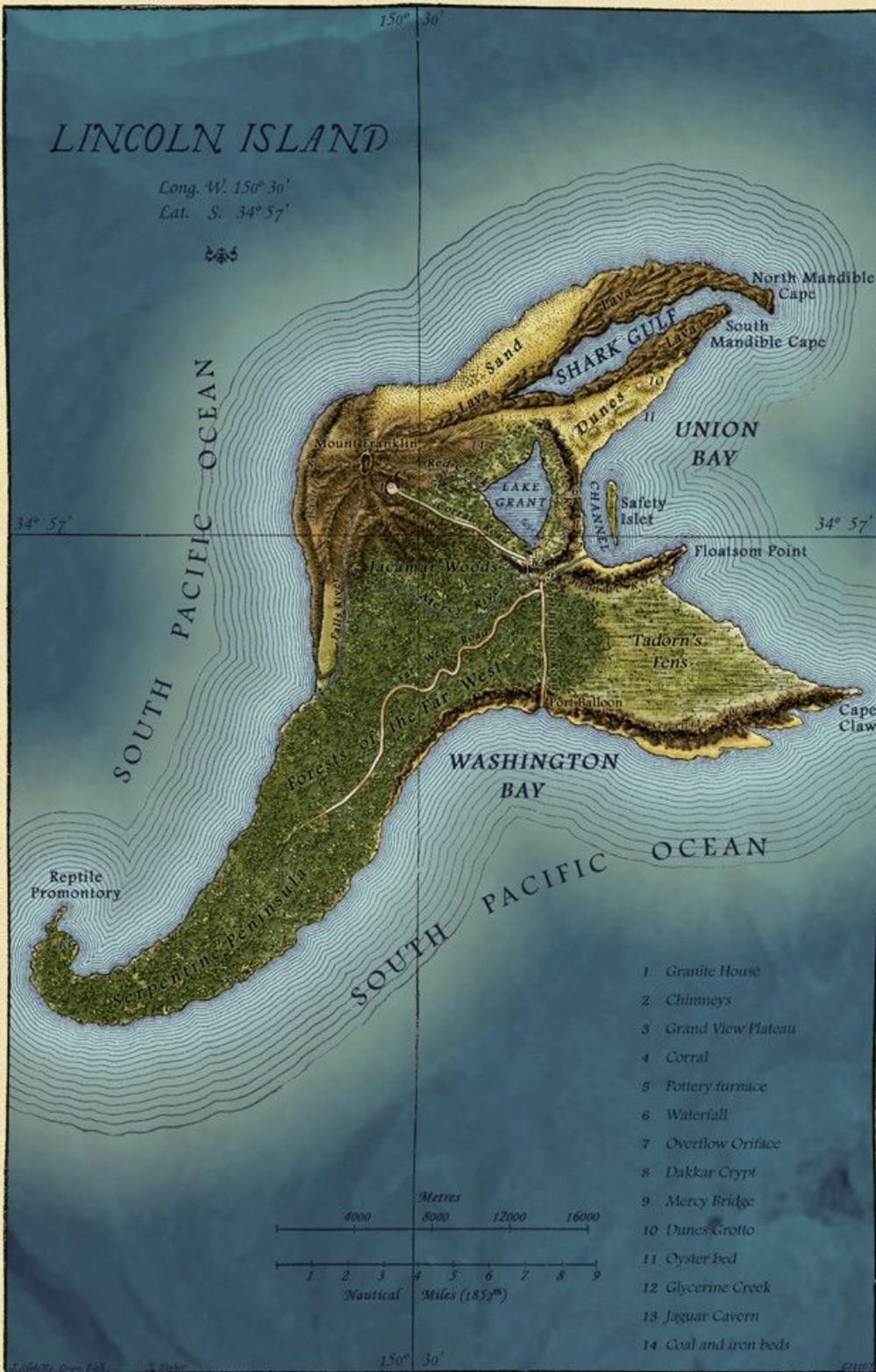
## Passage

A very important passage from the book is near the end of the book actually. It is the part where Captain Nemo reveals his true identity. This is important because it explains and links two very distant books; *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, and *The Mysterious Island*.

“It is useless,” he said; “my hours are numbered.”

Captain Nemo was an Indian, the Prince Dakkar, son of a rajah of the then independent territory of Bundelkund.

-Mysterious Island, Jules Verne, page #383.



<http://i.imgur.com/xXaL6hA.jpg>

The image is about the island that the group got stranded on. The island is actually an active volcano that was going to erupt later in the book. When all the people in the book began to get comfortable with their situation a pirate ship appeared in Union Bay. Granite House is located on the southern tip of Serpentine Peninsula.

In the story I find that one of the characters is very relatable to another character in one of my favorite books. His name is Aragorn II second son of Arathorn. I am comparing him to Cyrus Smith. They are both very strong and brave leaders that would go to all lengths to save their and allies friends.