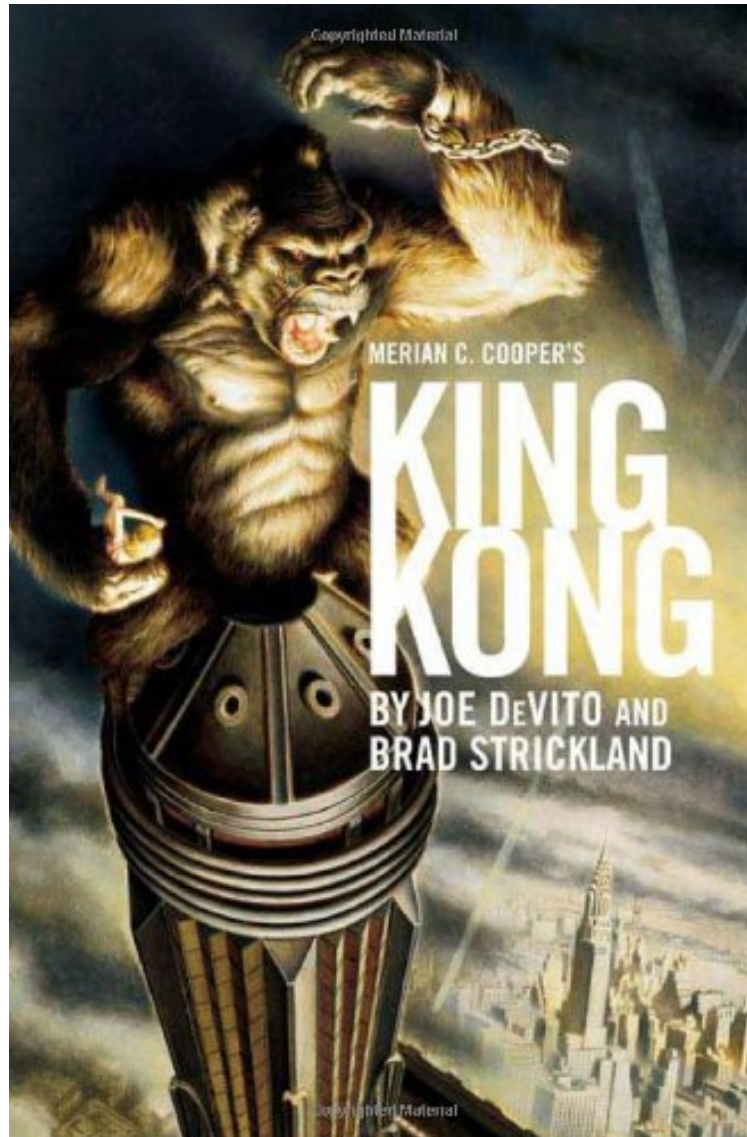


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## Merian C. Cooper's King Kong: A Novel

*Joe Devito, Brad Strickland*  
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**Joe Devito, Brad Strickland : Merian C. Cooper's King Kong: A Novel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Merian C. Cooper's King Kong: A Novel:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerVery good story based on the original King Kong movie.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Kindle CustomerIt's amazing how faithful the original movie is to this book. A very good read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy PJ Farbotkoit is interesting

Since its release in 1933, Merian C. Cooper's film King Kong has shocked and delighted generations of movie fans, setting the standard against which all such movies have been judged ever since. In December, 2005, Peter Jackson - whose films of the Lord of the Rings won critical acclaim and set box office records around the world - will release his version of this classic film, bringing King Kong back to the forefront of the popular imagination. Fully authorized by the estate of Merian C. Cooper, Joe DeVito and Brad Strickland's novel is a full rewrite of the original 1932 novel, bringing Cooper's original vision of King Kong back to readers and fans alike. Set in the early 1930's, it is a classic story of exploration and adventure, at the center of which is the "eighth wonder of the world" himself - Kong.

From Publishers Weekly DeVito and Strickland (*Kong: King of Skull Island*) deliver a fast-paced rewrite of Cooper's landmark 1932 adventure novel. Filmmaker Carl Denham is desperate for a starlet for his new project, but it's hard to locate a dame willing to board a ship bound for a secret destination with a cargo full of gas bombs. But find Ann Darrow he does, and the ship sails for the West Indies. The journey and arrival chapters are pretty boilerplate (Ann and first mate Jack Driscoll start falling for each other; the West Indian natives of Skull Island are stereotypically savage). But DeVito and Strickland do a bang-up job after the natives kidnap Ann from the ship and Denham and Driscoll must enter the island jungle and fight off deadly dinosaurs in search of Kong and the damsel in distress. The familiar scenes after Denham captures Kong and bring him back to Manhattan are thankfully succinct, and overall the authors do a fine job of respecting Cooper's pre-WWII idioms while picking up the pace for a contemporary audience. The result is a book that seems genuine and uncontrived, even as it's timed to coincide with another cinematic remake (Peter Jackson's movie hits theaters in December) of the King Kong story. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From School Library Journal Grade 4 Up -King Kong (St. Martin's Press, 2005) is a giant gorilla who needs no introduction. Joe DeVito and Brad Strickland have used the 1932 novelization of Merian C. Cooper's classic movie to create an authentic Depression-era story. The adventure begins with filmmaker Carl Denham desperately seeking an actress for his new project. He meets plucky, but broke, Ann Darrow who signs on for a mysterious journey to an uncharted island. Even ship's Captain Englehorn and First Mate Jack Driscoll are in the dark about their final destination when they ship out with a hold full of gas bombs and a huge steel cage. Things heat up when Denham finally steers everyone into the middle of a ceremony where a young woman is about to be sacrificed to an unseen creature behind a high stockade fence. Interrupting the proceedings, the interlopers retreat when the witch doctor spots Ann's blonde hair. That night the natives kidnap Ann, and First Mate Driscoll leads a party to find the woman he's grown to love. The search of the skull-shaped island brings the crew face-to-face with King Kong who now has Ann in his grip. Though the giant beast is willing to fight for his fair-haired prize, he is also gentle with her. Rescuing Ann isn't enough for Denham who brings King Kong back to New York. There the story closes with the gorilla's demise on the Empire State Building. The largely male cast delivers solid performances with narrator and leads all well chosen. Well-placed sound effects add just the right touch. With the 2005 release of the latest King Kong movie, this recording will be a popular addition for school and public library collections. -Barbara Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill, CT Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Joe DeVito is a lifelong Kong fanatic, as well as the co-writer and illustrator of the recently released graphic novel, *Kong: King of Skull Island*. He lives in Chalfont, Pennsylvania. Co-writer BRAD STRICKLAND is best known for his Young Adult science fiction and fantasy work as well as co-writing *Kong: King of Skull Island*. He is a professor of English at Gainesville College and lives in Oakwood, Georgia.