



Concrete Island: A Novel

By J. G. Ballard

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On a day in April, just after three o'clock in the afternoon, Robert Maitland's car crashes over the concrete parapet of a high-speed highway onto the island below, where he is injured and, finally, trapped. What begins as an almost ludicrous predicament soon turns into horror as Maitland—a wickedly modern Robinson Crusoe—realizes that, despite evidence of other inhabitants, this doomed terrain has become a mirror of his own mind. Seeking the dark outer rim of the everyday, Ballard weaves private catastrophe into an intensely specular allegory.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Visionary of both style and substance . . . the literary equivalent of Salvador Dalí or Max Ernst.” *The Washington Post Book World*

“Ballard's novels are complex, obsessive, frequently poetic, and always disquieting chronicles of nature rebelling against humans, of the survival of barbarism in a world of mechanical efficiency, of entropy, anomie, breakdown, ruin . . . The blasted landscapes that his characters inhabit are both external settings and states of mind.” *Luc Sante*

About the Author

J. G. Ballard is the author of numerous books, including *Empire of the Sun*, the underground classic *Crash*, and *The Kindness of Women*. He is revered as one of the most important writers of fiction to address the consequences of twentieth-century technology. His latest book is *Super-Cannes*. He died in 2009.

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