Dragon Teeth Discussion Questions

Which of our book club books was your favorite?

Very early in the book we learn that Johnson's mother "would be informed that her firstborn son was dead." What did you think of the author's use of foreshadowing? Did you think that Johnson actually had died? Did you feel cheated or relieved when you found out that he hadn't?

Johnson decided to apply to go on the expedition based on a dare and the need to save face in front of his peers who knew about it. Then he pretended to be a photographer so he could get the job, forcing him to learn photography. Have you ever done something crazy on a dare or faked having a skill to get a job? Did you empathize with the position Johnson was in?

What purpose did the encounter with Robert Louis Stevenson serve in this story?

Little Wind held the belief that "The great spirit will kill us because we disturb the burial ground." Professor Cope said "he may be right." Many people, even the nonreligious, worry about bad effects from disturbing a burial ground. How do you feel about it? Does it make a difference if it's human or nonhuman bones or if they're fossils?

After Johnson wounds a man in a gunfight, Wyatt Earp tells him "You should have killed him. Now you have an enemy for life. You're gonna have to get out of town pronto." What do you think of Earp's advice?

Why do you think Professor Marsh was so paranoid? Do you think his paranoia was justified?

What did you think about the battle of egos between the two professors? Did the competition make them better at what they did? Or did it make them worse?

Wyatt Earp made a deal to guard Johnson and his bones but ended up playing blackjack all night. Do you think he held up his end of the deal?

Have you ever been in the badlands? Did you find them as desolate as the book described?

Have you been in Deadwood, South Dakota?

How did you like the ending of the book?

Have you read any of Michael Crichton's other books? How does this book compare? Did it make you want to read others by him?

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