

OUR NEW ZEALAND TRIP--PART TWO: PRIMEVAL

As anyone who reads these updates--or has heard me speak, or has spent more than five minutes with me--knows, I've been a teensy bit obsessed with PRIMEVAL over the last couple of seasons. (In case you don't know, PRIMEVAL is this great British TV series about dinosaur-hunters in modern-day London which stars Andrew-Lee Potts. It just wrapped up its fifth and probably last season, but there's going to be a Canadian spin-off called PRIMEVAL: NEW WORLD, and Andrew-Lee Potts is going to be in the first episode.)

I think my husband hoped our New Zealand trip would get my mind off PRIMEVAL for a couple of weeks, but alas, it was not to be. For one thing, our daughter Cordelia's as obsessed as I am, if not more so, and for another, the entire series could have been shot in New Zealand in all the places where they didn't shoot LORD OF THE RINGS.

There were forests full of tree ferns that looked like they were straight out of the Cretaceous and rocky beaches just like the one Connor went through to rescue Abby from the mer-creatures. There were also caves that could have held the Wyrn (Season 4, Episode 5), steep cliffs like the one Helen fell off of (Season 3, Episode 10), and

lakes like the one the mosasaur came out of (Season 1, Episode 3.)

And there were creatures! Giant moas--okay, statues of giant moas--that looked just like the



terror birds in Season 3, Episode 5 There were takahes which looked just like dodos (Season 1, Episode 4), only they're bright blue and giant sand flies whose bit is almost as bad as a T-rex's. Plus lots of dodo bones and dinosaur skeletons at Te Papa.



Okay, so maybe things got a little out of hand. Courtney didn't say anything when we started taking pictures of the container port in Napier because that

was where the kaprosuchus chased Duncan (Season 4, Episode 2) or of the dart board in the pub at Punikaiki because a dart was what Connor challenged the knight with in Season 3, Episode 7. But when we started taking pictures of the ducks outside the tearoom on lake Wakitipu because Andrew-Lee Potts, who plays Connor, also played Hatter in Syfy's ALICE and said, "Hello, Duck!" to one of the other characters, and when we started snapping photos of the minibar in our hotel room



because in Episode 1 of the series, when Cutter meets Claudia Brown and asks her if she wants to join them in looking for the monster, she says, "I suppose I owe it to the taxpayers to do more than sit in my room and suck the minibar dry," Courtney decided things were getting a little out of hand and forbade us to watch any more episodes on his laptop.

So we went back to watching LORD OF THE RINGS and listening to FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING: THE MUSICAL in the car. But he couldn't stop us from

pointing out a giant pine tree just like the one Connor and Abby hid from the raptor behind or speculating about just when a spinosaurus--or a jabberwocky--would appear.

Go, PRIMEVAL!

