



## The Time Machine/The War of the Worlds

*H.G. Wells*

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## The Time Machine/The War of the Worlds H.G. Wells

Science fiction classics--the original tales of time travel and invasion from outer space. Introduction by Isaac Asimov.

## The Time Machine/The War of the Worlds Details

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## From Reader Review The Time Machine/The War of the Worlds for online ebook

### Stephanie E says

In the book there was really only three characters, there were other characters but they didn't have a big role and were barely mentioned in the story.

1) The Time Traveller: 5- This character was described more than another character in the book, "His grey eyes shone and twinkled, and his usually pale face was flushed and animated"(Wells 1). We are never told what his name is because the narrator of the story wants to keep his identity a secret, "Where's ---?" said I, naming our host" (Wells 13). This is really the only description of the Time Traveller that we get except for this following quote, after his journey through time, "He was amazing plight. His coat was dusty and dirty, and smeared with green down the sleeves; his hair disordered, and as it seemed to me greyer-either with dust and dirt or because its color had actually faded. His face was ghastly pale; his chin had a brown cut on it-a cut half healed; his expression was haggard and drawn, as by intense suffering" (Well 13). I really like this character even though there wasn't a lot of information about him the mystery behind him is so intriguing and made me want to keep reading. The Time Traveller is seen as crazy or a liar to some of the unimportant characters but he is extremely intelligent, "The fact is, the Time Traveller was one of those men who are too clever to be believed" (Wells 12). The Time Traveller is somewhat believable, I mean it is a science fiction novel but just the dialogue of this character makes me want to believe every word. The Time Traveller does stay true to himself even when no one believes in him he continues and he ends up successful because he was able to enter that fourth dimension of time.

2) Mr. Hillyer (the narrator): 5- Mr. Hillyer was a dinner guest at the Time Traveller's house. He wasn't really given a description about how he looks. I think he wasn't given a good description because this entire book is really imagination based it just depends on how the reader interprets and imagines the characters. I liked his character because he kept the Time Traveller a mystery this really interested me. I also like the fact that he was the only one who believed in the a Time Traveller because he was still interested in visiting the Time Traveller's house again. At first though Mr. Hillyer admits to not believing but something still made him feel interested in what the Time Traveller had to say, "I think at that time none of us quite believed in the Time Machine. The fact is, the Time Traveller was one of those men who are too clever to be believed: you never felt that you saw all round him" (Well 12). The narrator is a believable character, he just a man whose wildest dreams were brought up by the Time Traveller's invention. Mr. Hillyer stayed true to himself he continued to believe in the Time Traveller and support him even while others opposed him.

3) Weena: 5- Weena is an Eloi. When the Time Traveller takes the the Time Machine to the future he ends up in the Eloi's society. The Time Traveller claims that Weena is a female even though the Eloi don't have a distinct way of telling what gender they are. The description of Weena is the same as the rest of the Eloi's because they all look the same "Their hair, which was uniformly curly, came to a sharp end at the neck and cheek; there was not the faintest suggestion of it on the face, and their ears were singularly minute. The mouths were small, with bright red, rather thin lips, and the little chins ran to a point. The eyes were large and mild" (Wells 24-25). I like this character because she is so small and fragile and kind. The Time Traveller even refers her and the other Eloi's to children because they possess child like qualities. This character isn't believable to me because she is a human who has evolved in the future. I think Weena stayed true to herself till then end.

Setting: 5- the beginning setting isn't as important as to the story as the second where the Time Traveller is in the Eloi's society because this was the Time Traveller's goal to travel into the fourth dimension. The author kind of drags time but also quickly passes over time at parts. The author drags the most important parts and sped through the unimportant parts. The settings in the book are in different places and different times because the Time Traveller travels into the future and past and wanders around different places, "I am afraid I cannot convey the peculiar sensations of time travelling. They are excessively unpleasant. There is a feeling exactly like that one has upon a switchback- of helpless headlong motions! I felt the same horrible

anticipation, too, of an imminent smash. As I put on pace, night followed day like the flapping of a black wing... the sun hopping swiftly across the sky, leaping it every minute" (Wells 19).

Plot: 5- I really liked the plot. The story was told in an unusual way the narrator was talking about the Time Traveller "The Time Traveller (for so it will be convenient to speak of him" (Wells 1). I did not see the ending coming what so ever it really caught me off guard. I can't really talk about because I don't want to spoil it.

Theme: 4- the theme of the story was hard for me figure out. I think there are multiple theme one being the concern of time. I think the story was trying to say to not dwell on the past or dream of the future or else you'll just get lost, rather live in the present. Another theme is man and the natural world, how we see the world to come.

Personal response: I really did like this book it was fun to read and had lots of interesting scenes. The only part I disliked was some of the dialogue was harder to read and would drag on. I would recommend this book to other people because it is a great book and it really allows your mind to take over.

Overall rating: 5

## War of Worlds

-Characters: 4

The characters in the story were not described very well, except for the Martians, "A big greyish rounded bulk, the size, perhaps, of a bear, was rising slowly and painfully out of the cylinder. As it bulged up and caught the light, it glistened like wet leather... Two large dark-colored eyes were regarding me steadfastly. The mass that framed them, the head of the thing, it was rounded and had, one might say, a face. There was a mouth under the eyes, the lipless brim of which quivered and panted, and dropped saliva" (Wells 112). I do like the characters they each have so type of quality that I found amusing, for example, the narrator is very curious, he even goes back to Maybury to see the action unfold, " For my own part, I had been feverishly excited all day. Something very like the war fever that occasionally runs through a civilized community had got into my blood, and in my heart I was not so very sorry that I had to return to Maybury that night" (Wells 136). The human characters are believable except for the narrator in my opinion, because I mean why would you want to go back to war, and even more worse, a war with aliens. I don't think the Martians are very believable characters, but then again October of 1938, a radio station broadcasted an adaption of the story and people thought it was an actual report so they all panicked and fled, so maybe they could be believable. I do think that the main character stayed true to himself because he wanted to go back and he did go back, but he also realized the war was far more dangerous than he had anticipated.

-Setting: 3

I don't think that the setting was important in the story, it takes place in England. At the beginning of the story I felt like time was passing really slow because the narrator was just giving background information "The planet Mars, I scarcely need to remind the reader, revolves about the sun at a mean distance of 140,000,000 miles, and the light and heat it receives from the sun is barely half of that received by this world" (Wells 98). After that time was still slow but it didn't really bother me because there was so much going on in that time. There are two different settings because we get the narrator's thoughts in Maybury and his brother's thoughts in London. If the story took place in another place and/or time the plot would be the same but the outcome could have been different, if it was in place where they didn't have the military power that this story did, the Martians could have easily conquered Earth, but if it was in the future, the Martians would be defenseless to the new technology.

-Plot: 5

The story began with, "No one would have believed that in the last years of the nineteenth century that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than man's and yet as mortal as his own" (Wells 97). So it kind of jumps from the middle to then regular order or events. I did not predict the ending I thought something completely different was going to happen and when it didn't I was very surprised. The entire plot is basically, creature from Mars, Martians, are looking for a new planet to inhabit because theirs is coming to an end. After studying Earth for years they decide it's the perfect place, they invade the Earth and begin a war with the British military (not sure if this happened in other areas or just England, but the story is told in England). I really loved the plot of this book.

-Theme: 5

There are a lot of themes in this story: power, exile, foolishness, community, fear, forgiveness, technology, but the main theme or overall theme is rethinking, because not everything is as it seems. The people in the story didn't think it was possible for Martians to crash into Earth and try to take over, so I think the other is trying to say that we shouldn't assume, because we don't know everything, we are ignorant.

-Personal response:

I really liked this book, I found it interesting and fun to read. If you have seen the movie "War of Worlds" with Tom Cruise, it is not the same as the book. I would recommend this book to other people because it was interesting and it just makes you ask the question, what if?

-Overall rating: 5

my overall rating is a 5 because I really did enjoy this book.

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## **Andrew says**

Okay I am biased I cannot praise this book enough for either story.

I think both have such deep roots in my past - from the first book I was able to convince my English teacher to allow the class to read, the growing up listening to my brother play the musical to death (literally) to all the various images artists through the years have tried to envisage what the Martian war machines would look like.

And then there was the time machine - I can almost word for word repeat the lines from that film (the original although the remake was not too shoddy) and how that machine has now passed in the legends of the genre. Considering how it was described the version from the 1960 film still has massive influence even today with caricatures and impressions still finding their way in to popular culture even today.

Both books I can read and re-read (and have) but for now I wanted to read the time machine again in preparation for the Morlock Nights - so I will not dwell too long here but say I forgot how much I love these two stories.

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## **Lamadia says**

It had been a long time since I'd read The Time Machine and I'd never read War of the Worlds. One of the really good things about both of these stories was the way that Wells didn't try to explain everything. He used the perspective of someone who didn't have all the details and would openly admit that they had no idea what was going on. That way, he could tell the story that he wanted to without worrying about the nitty gritty details.

Something I didn't expect in War of the Worlds is that it isn't a story about defeating the invaders. Not only is the first person narrator not a part of the military resistance, and he spends most of his time hiding and running, but the final downfall of the Martians has nothing to do with human efforts at all. In essence, the people of Earth are completely incapable of resisting the invasion at all and they lose the war spectacularly. I don't think this would be allowed in books now. There would have to be a hero and a final satisfying battle. I haven't seen the movies based on this book, but I have a feeling that they added a hero that actively was involved in the defeat of the Martians. I like this different outlook of a truly average man in this situation. Not everybody is the hero no matter how much everybody thinks it would be them. This was about the quest for survival and the effects on all sorts of different people. There are the different reactions of the main

character as well as his brother, the two women that the brother runs into, and the two men that become short time companions of the narrator. They all behave in different extreme ways to the emergency situation and that is the true story. I really enjoyed it much more than I expected.

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## **Beth says**

The Time Machine was really interesting. It cast a picture of what might happen to our species in millions of years, if we're still around that long. The War of the Worlds was kind of silly. It might have seemed probable at the time it was written, but today we're so much more creative about aliens! This is too tame for our day and age.

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## **Todd Stockslager says**

Review Title: Near classic about time and space

The time was the last decade of the 19th century, when progress was both a science and a religion, and the infinite perfectibility of man through science was not just still possible, it was assumed. The space was England, still the great Empire whose people were preeminent and whose technology was mighty, metal, and moving; the great cathedrals were Brunel's railway stations, the idols they housed massive moving steam engines. Henry Adams writing of the time compared Mont St. Michelle and Chartres to the electric generating dynamo. This was no steampunk; power was God.

This high school textbook edition combines H. G. Wells' best-known short novels in the science fiction genre he created out of that time and place. The Time machine was the first effort and too slight to be a classic. But you can read the spark between the lines, like a child with a newly learned skill rejoicing in the application of it and wondering what more it can do in his hands. It was as if Wells, fully imbibing the progressive religion of the era saw how much further beyond the limits of his day technology could go--and then he saw just where that technology could take us, and it wasn't always upwards on a sure path of progress.

And then he hit his stride with War of the Worlds, an almost shocking revelation to read in the original, because unlike the most well-known adaptations (the famously disturbing 1938 radio play and the 2005 Hollywood blockbuster) the original is set in Wells' time and space. While 50 and 100 years later we would know that technology could be regressive and even destructive, space travel (including the presumption of and search for extraterrestrial life) would be a reality, laser weapons and biological warfare would be prime examples of the destructive side of technology, psychological concepts of alienation and mass crowd hysteria would be common man-on-the-street ideas, at that time these modern cliches were new fresh horrifying ideas. Science fiction, indeed!: his contemporary readers could have had little idea how far beyond Wells' fertile imagination science would go, and how painfully possible his fiction would become.

And the space plays as well. The Martians of War first land in the town of Woking about a 20 minute train ride southwest of London. I know this because I have been working on a project in the UK at the time I read this, alternating between sites in London and . . . Woking. I had picked this book up for \$1 at a used book store and brought it along because I thought it would be interesting reading and disposable when I was done to make room for other books while I was away (I read; a lot); I had no idea of the setting, as the radio play and movie are set in the US, which is a huge mistake and subtraction from the understanding of the impact and the intent of Wells (who lived in Woking when he wrote the book). Because it was in the towns and villages of England, supported by the Imperial metropolis of London, where the presumption of perfectibility

and order in nature, and the assumption of progress and man's dominion over all of creation, which Wells so brilliantly extended forward into the future and far out into space, had taken root, not just as an academic idea but as a subconscious culture. So a big part of both of these stories is seeing the subconscious made conscious as Wells shocks his readers into considering these new never before imagined possibilities.

Included in this textbook edition are the script of the radio play, and a couple of modern science fiction short stories that build on the concepts that Wells planted in the new modern mind that could never again see with the innocence of the very near past. Take a few minutes to step back and try to see that world in light of ours. It will shine a new light on things you think you are sure of.

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### **Ashley says**

If you're going to read either of these two books, get this edition. It has a really nifty introduction by Isaac Asimov that details the history of science fiction and H.G. Wells's enormous contribution thereto. Ha, I just used "thereto."

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### **Valerie says**

I love these two stories. Reading them is a lot more rewarding than watching them as movies, only because of the visions others have sometimes don't gel with mine. The recent War of the Worlds came close to the way the planet ended up looking like in my mind. I love creating the picture and scene myself. That is in a good book. The Time Machine is one of my favorites and I have had many a child I tutored read it also! War of the Worlds too, though it is pretty gruesome the way Wells wrote it!

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### **Leo . says**

I know I keep barking on about these classics but, it is where imagination blooms. The time machine film with Rod Taylor was brilliant and the old 1950's film the War Of The Worlds too. The remakes not so much. The album by Jeff Wayne narrated by Richard Burton...Timeless.??

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### **Sable says**

I read a combined edition of these two books for the SF Masterworks Reading Challenge and the Science Fiction Masterworks Book Club here on Goodreads.

### **The Time Machine**

Read for the Need to Reread Challenge.

I have, of course, read most of H.G. Wells before. He was one of my early introductions to science fiction. After we did the radio play The Invisible Man in school (I was eight or nine) I asked my school librarian about that novel. We didn't have The Invisible Man, but we did have The Time Machine, and he was only too happy to point me that way. And I, of course, devoured it.

From a retrospective, the Time Machine suffers from many of the problems that 19th century novels often do. The art form was new then, so no one really had an idea of how to do it, and thus, things that we would consider signs of poor writing now were a part of the landscape then. In particular, Wells uses long words and paragraphs when short ones would do, and he does not fully develop his one female character as anything more than a childlike figure that he must take care of. However, the book is action-packed and powerful, and it keeps you turning pages.

And obviously its images stay with you a long time. I remembered the Eloi and the Morlocks vividly (though I still have no idea where the Time Traveler learned their names). Strangely, I did not remember his brief sojourn to the end of the Earth at all. Perhaps that was just too big for me to grasp at such a young age. As an adult, it was both moving and terrifying. I see now that this book is, in part, an extended meditation on the futility of civilization and our efforts to immortalize ourselves. There was an extended scene in a museum that had gone to seed in the world of the Eloi that also drove home this message. Powerful stuff, and of course, a must read for every fan of science fiction, if not everyone in our culture, period.

## **The War of the Worlds**

Read for the Need to Reread Challenge.

I've read this before, of course. It was one of my first introductions to the magical world of science fiction, and it helped to make me a lifelong convert. A lot of its images stayed in my mind, reinforced by the numerous adaptations in film and stage.

Rereading this as an adult was an experience I highly recommend for so many reasons!

First, it's just damn good writing. I had forgotten (or maybe never appreciated, when I was about nine or so) what a masterful writer Wells was. I noticed vast improvements even between War of the Worlds (1898) and The Time Machine (1895). In those three years he managed to abandon a lot of the conventions of early novels that modern readers find bothersome and regard as bad writing. His sense of dramatic timing is outstanding. He gives us cutaways, leaving us in suspense about the fate of his protagonist while describing what his protagonist's brother is experiencing in London. His pacing relaxes not in the least; it's an excellent action piece, even by a modern standard! He writes the first real example that I know about of great disaster fiction. His imagining of the disaster of the Martian invasion is reminiscent of World War I, which, as you will recall, is still almost twenty years away.

Which is also interesting. His "Black Smoke" looks a lot like mustard gas in its effect, the difference being that the Black Smoke of the Martians was black, while mustard gas is a sickly puke yellow. I understand that mustard gas had indeed been used in a few small conflicts at this point, and he must have been one of the first to visualize its deadly and horrific effects when used on a civilian population.

And his turns of phrase and choice of words are truly outstanding. I was struck in particular by this example. He described how "the stars mustered" at twilight, which directly preceded the first Martian attack. It was an elegantly chosen phrase for its subtle foreshadowing. That's good writing.

Finally, I know this line of critique has been advanced, and challenged, before, but it seems clear to me that Wells was doing what a good science fiction writer is supposed to do. He was looking at an aspect of technology, and another of sociology, that others may not have considered, and examining it in metaphor to a logical, if extreme, conclusion; asking us to confront "what if?" And one of the "what if's?" I think he was asking was "what if England were on the receiving end of colonial warfare? How do you think we'd like it?"

I think it stands up pretty well to the test of time. There were only a couple of things that might create issues

for the modern reader. Aside from the obvious anachronism of the idea of life on Mars, one more stood out to me. That was that the description of the Earth from a distance as "green and grey." It struck me, because of course, no one would ever describe Earth that way, now that we've seen it as the "pale blue dot."

And I have to ask: why do we have yet to experience a screen adaptation of this story that actually sets it in the original time period? Because, seriously, the idea of fighting an advanced technological alien civilization with *horse-drawn cannons* is just frickken *cool*.

I think it's important that everyone read this book just because of the cultural influence that it's had on us. For instance, it's remarkable to me that Wells has the Martians land in an English village, and it's largely ignored by the military for a whole day. We've all seen enough movies now, probably sparked by the famous radio play of this story in the thirties that caused such a panic, that if something like that happened in the modern world, the local National Guard or other militia force would have it surrounded, and, hopefully, contained, within thirty minutes. We've all taken note of this cautionary tale. And as Stephen King observed in *Danse Macabre*, the many movies on the theme that were used to encourage anti-Communist propaganda in the Cold War, have reinforced it.

But, read it just because it's a damn good book too.

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## Sam Villaron says

Science Fiction fans are not to be put-down or teased. We know what we want; stellar beings attacking the big cities, dense clouds of chemicals that make every cell and atom inside ooze out through all the holes of your body... and of course, baffle-making advanced technology such as heat/laser death rays.

In the great country of England, the country side of London becomes an evil layer for the Martians who begin to attack with heat rays. "Running", for the humans, loses its sense of being an option and becomes but a mere necessity for survival. Even losing your mind is inevitable. Here, "cylinders", thought of at first as fallen stars, are a threat to the citizens of London.

"No one would have believed in the last years of the nineteenth century that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than man's and yet as mortal as his own; that as men busied themselves about their various concerns they were scrutinised and studied, perhaps almost as narrowly as a man with a microscope might scrutinise the transient creatures that swarm and multiply in a drop of water." (p.97) The unnamed determined narrator endures a journey with a strong grip on reality and will to survive; the quick thinking of this man and good judgment, powers through the tragedy unlike the rest. All way too in short, without any spoilers, this book is a must read classic. The plot is a bit lengthy so in a few sentences; the narrator is one of the first to find out about the Martians and quick on his feet to send his wife away to safety. Going to back home, he bumps into three characters that contribute to the story and help the narrator cope with the mayhem; which are the Artilleryman, the curate and his brother. Towards the end, the narrator comes close to insanity and... you just have to read it!

This novel will have anyone's imagination running again, at a young or old age, everyone should give it a chance. The description on the novel has you looking under your bed to make sure nothing came out of the book to attack you while you sleep. Make sure to keep a mental list of the events, people and places due to lengthy descriptions, brief confusing parts and some vocabulary not really used today. Without making the detail so lengthy, H.G. Wells attacks the scientific part of it awakening our imagination with the construction of the advanced technology that the Martians brought to Earth.

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## Stephen Heiner says

I had read The Time Machine some years ago and found it just as enjoyable on a second read.

The War of the Worlds is my favorite between these two stories. It's science-fiction set in our past, rather than our future, and as such presents all sorts of interesting asymmetries (the Victorian era didn't have firepower that could compete with the Martians' firepower, etc.). But more than that, Wells simply tells us a good story against the backdrop of bellicose planetary neighbors, fired at us by some giant gun. It's a classic with good reason.

"At the time there was a strong feeling in the streets that the authorities were to blame for their incapacity to dispose of the invaders without all this inconvenience." (p. 87)

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## James says

Finally heard the original. Wish I had read it decades ago. The book is so much better than the films that have attempted to bring this classic to life. Mr. Wells' social commentary is definitely lost in the screen adaptations. A must read/listen.

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## Diana says

I often wonder if HG Wells really did have a time machine. It is astounding that he wrote such great science fiction in the 1800s that you'd expect to read in the pulp fiction popularization of the 1960s! Mentions of things like lasers (though not named as such) are impressive.

Moreover Wells's works are just great reads and the opening to The War of the Worlds is second to none! So chilling - I recommend listening to an audiobook version where these lines are read out:

"...across the gulf of space, minds that are to our minds as ours are to those of the beasts that perish, intellects vast and cool and unsympathetic, regarded this earth with envious eyes, and slowly and surely drew their plans against us."

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## Andy Miller says

I liked it. I felt like it could have been fleshed out a bit more. There are bigger concepts that could have been weaved into the storyline. Maybe he didn't want to go that route and instead just stick on the science fiction path story without going into social commentary or what it all could mean.

I thought the plot played out in an interesting way, how the wave of hysteria began to spread. Feelings of disbelief to terror over the course of a day. I felt a bit let down by the ending, I mean it was a bit different way of ending it than I expected. I'm glad it wasn't a guns blazing sort of thing. What happened back at his house? Too Hollywood happy ending for me too. I actually felt instead of ending the book where he did he

could have written just as many pages about what happened with the aliens here and in control. But the plot that was there I really enjoyed and wanted to know what was going to happen.

I actually thought for a book published in 1898, the technology in the book was quite forward thinking. I guess that's what makes good science fiction. I'm sure at that time fear of alien beings from Mars coming was pretty powerful. That's not to say it wouldn't be scary now. But I think one could make the jump in modern day to technology we create wiping us out or enslaving us (as in super intelligent AI). I think the concept is the same, we are used to ruling the roost and this book touches on that fact. He compared their plight to what the "beasts" must feel towards us at times. In the same way we without much thought or effort kick over an anthill, some other beings may be able to do the same to us. They "kick over" London or New York while we scream for our lives and trample each other to blindly escape.

The more I think about the book the more I like it. Maybe he just laid the groundwork for getting the reader thinking and left it to us to ponder the social issues or our place in this universe and didn't want to feed us the answers or his take.

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## Stephen says

I am quite a fan of Victorian science fiction in general and of HG Wells in particular. In this volume we have two shorter novels - the Time Machine and War of the Worlds. Both of these novels have been made into extremely good films, and it these films that provide the base line against which we weigh the novels.

The novel of the Time Machine is quite different to the 1960 film starring Rod Taylor. The film gives us a love interest, whereas there is none in the book. The film also provides a lens that links the science fiction of the Victorian novel with the state of the world in 1960. This ex post view is lacking in the novel simply because HG Wells did not attempt to anticipate it. Instead, we have a view of humankind that is hundreds of thousands of years apart. Wells sees the Eloi and the Morlocks as the culmination of the class war anticipated in late Victorian Britain. It is an interesting twist that, eventually, the poor eat the rich!

The novel of the War of the Worlds is far better than any fictional adaptation of it. It actually fits the times in which it was written. The story is of how Victorian England experiences an invasion of an alien force. In the book it was the Martians who were the invaders. At the time of writing the book, it was assumed that it would be the German Empire that invaded Britain. This novel makes an interesting companion to 'The Battle of Dorking' by CT Chesney. In both cases, the British army is swept aside by superior forces. However, the twist introduced by Wells is masterful - terrestrial microbes are the more efficient weapon against the Martian invaders.

I really enjoyed the stories. I couldn't quite see why the two were contained in a single volume. Perhaps the publisher thought to provide greater value for money? Despite this, they are interesting companion stories - one set in a futuristic present, the other set in a fantastic future that isn't so different to the present. I'm not sure which one I prefer.

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## Charles says

Before I get into my review I'd like to say reading the introduction by Isaac Asimov I learned quite a bit

about how Wells grew up and later in life he was influenced by Verne to write science fiction. I'm not going to lie I love Wells's books as well as Verne's books, I don't think one's better than the other they were both visionary in their writing that have influenced many authors. I still have quite a few more Wells and Verne books to read.

The Time Machine: (4.5/5)

I found some interesting parts in this book like how Wells described in the future that the beings were all vegetarians which I believe might be the case since its the best way to go to have a sustainable environment if we want earth to survive, but that's my opinion. I felt this book was a little dry as far as too little dialog and more descriptions about the future beings and landscape. With The Time Machine Wells was ahead of his 'time' (hahaha) with being the first to coin the phrase 'time machine' with this book.

The War of the Worlds: (4.8/5)

When I was reading this book I was thinking about Holst's Mars: Bringer of War and Half Life 2's Strider (about half of Wells version of a tripod). I couldn't imagine reading this book when it came out 100-ish years ago when they didn't have TV/Movies to watch alien invasions on a screen. Wells was the first to write about a alien invasion that started the standard for science fiction to come later on (with a little influence from Jules Verne ^.^). I don't know what I would do if one day pods crashed into earth and started to come alive as large tripods 100' high with heat-ray that can destroy everything in its path! I gave this a 4.8 out of 5 because of some of the plot, mainly when the narrator's brother was being talked about was confusing at parts. If you want to read how the alien invasion all started read this book It's a true masterpiece that was way ahead of its time.

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## **Kyle Smith says**

A great two in one science novel. The Time Machine is the best time travel story I've ever read, plus it leaves few to none headaches. The War of the Worlds is the first alien invasion story, and is the finest of the era. If you haven't read either of those I would highly recommend it. H.G Wells is one of the best science fiction authors out there. So if you are wary of science fiction dispel those woes, H.G Wells is the best writer to start reading science fiction from.

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## **Joy says**

First of all, I really enjoyed the introduction that was in this edition. It gave such an interesting background of HG Wells and the beginnings of Sci-Fi writing. I think it actually, truly, added to my experience reading these books.

The Time Machine. I really enjoyed the first part of this book. I loved the part about him building the time machine and telling his visitors about it. It got a little slower for me when he was actually time travelling. Overall, it was a good read but probably not as good as I wanted it to be.

The War of the Worlds. It's funny to me that this book caused people who heard it on the radio go into a panic. It was an entertaining read. The Martians came to earth and attacked the English for two weeks. Wells did an excellent job of describing the chaos that ensued when the people were trying to escape the martians. The reader got to follow around a man who was nearer to the Martians and see how the martians lived and worked. It was also a good comparison of how some people handle the stresses in live and others panic and

lose their minds. In the end, of course, Earth was unable to save itself. The only salvation for Earth was the bacteria that we harbor. The Martians were killed by the bacteria of Earth since Mars has none. I actually kind of liked the fact that it wasn't some smart hero who came in and discovered a way to kill the Martians, like one would expect to see in a movie. The War of the Worlds was a simple, entertaining read.

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## Jay says

I really enjoyed The Time Machine. In a way, it was a very simple story. Wells didn't batshit around with science, he just went in, said 'he built a time machine', and you dealt with it. Don't worry about how, *it just happened*. I wish this happened more with modern sci-fi writers, but unfortunately, most nerdy people (unlike myself) don't like that. They want to know how the time machine was built. To hell with gamma rays, they don't do zip!

The War of the Worlds was similar. The narrator admitted he didn't know what was going on the black smoke, or how the Martians flew, or what the deal with the Heat Ray was. And at the end, the scientists didn't really know, either. There was a bit more sci in the sci-fi, but it was still easy to read.

Unfortunately, I didn't enjoy The War of the Worlds as much as The Time Machine. It dragged in places and at points I just wasn't sure what Wells was going on about. But still an easy, fun read.

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## Jenny says

I love this book. I love the story, the way it's told, and its ending. My only complaint is that I wish it were longer. But then, if it were, maybe its added length would ruin it.

I'm glad I read A Modern Utopia before I read this; many of the ideas in The Time Machine are more fleshed out in Wells's utopia. The narrator of TTM actually uses the term "utopia" several times, and I wondered while reading if his own book made Wells want to explore his own ideas further.

I highly recommend this book. And don't let its classification as "science fiction" keep you away. It's early sci fi, and it's not really a genre-d story. It's about science, love, humanity, progress, and mankind's future. I think those are all categories everyone can identify with and understand.

Oh, and the introduction by Asimov is a must-read. It reads more like a story than an introduction. Asimov's passion for science fiction and for Wells's work makes his own writing so compelling.

My classification of Wells (updated):

1. The Time Machine
2. The Island of Doctor Moreau
3. A Modern Utopia
4. The War of the Worlds

\*\*\*\*\*Commentary on film, viewed 12/30/17 and 1/2/18\*\*\*\*\*

I watched the 1960 film version of *The Time Machine* with Rod Taylor as "the time traveler," dubbed in the movie "H. George Wells" and referred to as George (clever, isn't it?).

I wanted to add to this review because I don't have a place where I review movies though there are some that I would love to write about. Since this is the film version of a book, I thought I'd add it here by way of comparison.

What I really liked about the movie was how the beginning was handled. Wells wrote the book in 1894, but the movie is set at the fin-de-siècle, which contributes to the tension of the time travelling and of what George discovers through his travels. It's fascinating that he leaves for his journey through time "on the eve" of the turn and comes back after the New Year has commenced. I also like the way that, because the movie

was made in the 60s, George travels forward slowly at first and sees the results of both World Wars. There is also a strange predictive scene obviously not in the book where George visits 1966, and London is decimated by a nuclear bomb. I understand why the screenwriters imagined a nuclear bomb drop in the near future, but they only gave themselves six years before it happened! That blew me away (pun somewhat intended). I also liked Rod Taylor's portrayal of George. He was a handsome actor with great facial reactions and expressions. He had a charisma about him that worked well with this character, who was willing to take risks and to fight for what he believed in. He's very believable in this role.

What was most interesting was the portrayal of the Eloi and the over simplification of the degeneration of the human race. The Eloi are all young, pretty blond people in the movie, which I understand--it's an artistic vision of what a leisure class would eventually look like. I found it, as a brown person, slightly offensive but also indicative of 1960s beauty culture. In the novel, the Eloi are the descendants of the upper classes, who become so complacent about life due to their reliance on the lower classes for all their needs, that they turn into beings who only care about leisure. They have no capacity for intellectual or analytical thought. The lower classes, whom the bourgeoisie formerly tyrannized, have become the Morlocks, the people who live underground, taking all their technological innovations and discovered power with them. They've learned over time that the upper classes would be nothing without them. In other words, Wells shows what will happen if the class system intensifies and pushes itself to its furthest extensions. Degeneration in every way. In the movie, however, there's a brief mention through talking rings of a war between "the east" and "the west" and of how some people chose to live above ground, and some people chose to "take their chances" underground, and that's it. It doesn't explain anything, and it minimizes Wells' socio-economic moral.

The movie won an Oscar for special effects, and I can understand why. They're very well done, particularly the speeding forward and backward through time, where landscapes change before George's eyes, buildings appear and disappear, and the passing of time is made all too clear. The effects of the nuclear bomb falling on London are terribly done, but everything else is quality--much better than CGI, that's for sure. Overall, the book is better, but the movie isn't bad. With a little more explanation of the degeneration of man and a better handling of the differences between the Morlocks and the Eloi, an emphasis on the inherit humanity in *both* types of people, the movie would have been great. But you can't beat good acting and the special effects of the 60s, one of my favorite time periods for effects in movies. Read the book then see the movie. They're both worth it.

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