



The Island of Doctor Moreau

H. G. Wells (1866 - 1946)

Read by:	Bob Neufeld	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	4 hours 57 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1075
Language:	English	UPC:	0684758936547
Style:	Solo	MSLP:	\$11.99
Genre:	Science Fiction		

Edward Prendick, the narrator of *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896) by H. G. Wells, is shipwrecked in the Pacific and rescued by a ship bound for the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) with a cargo of wild animals and revived by a passenger named Montgomery. En route they approach a small island to discharge Montgomery and his strange companion M'ling, at which time the captain insists on discharging Prendick, who is cast adrift in a dinghy after offloading the cargo and passengers. Montgomery again comes to the rescue and puts him up in a compound on the island belonging to a certain Doctor Moreau. Prendick, who is trained in the sciences, recalls the public outcry in London occasioned by the exposure of Moreau's experiments in vivisection, and soon discovers the island is populated by humans with marked bestial characteristics. He stumbles

across Moreau and a humanoid figure in his operating room and flees, fearing he is next in line. Moreau apprehends him and explains his mission is to humanize animals, not the reverse, and that efforts were progressing but marred by an unfortunate tendency of the subjects to revert to animal form. This is made evident when the Leopard-Man and Hyena-Swine break the prohibition against eating meat. Eventually a subject breaks free and attempts to kill the good doctor. Both are killed in the conflict, and shortly thereafter the compound is destroyed. The animals revert to nature, and Prendick manages to escape when a boat drifts onto the beach. His account of the story is greeted as the ravings of a lunatic. Upon his return to civilization he sees many of his fellow men reverting to an animal state and retires to a reclusive life in the country to study astronomy and chemistry.

Herbert George "H. G." Wells (September 21, 1866 – August 13, 1946) was an English author best known for his science fiction novels; along with Jules Verne, he is sometimes called the father of science fiction. He was born the youngest of four in Bromley, Kent to a father who was a professional cricketer and shopkeeper with a small private income; his mother had been a domestic servant. He became an avid reader at age 8 when a broken leg left him bedridden and likely set him on a path of intensive self-education. At age 11 he was taken from school and apprenticed to a draper after his father's fractured thigh drastically reduced the family income. Family connections later helped him secure a position as a pupil-teacher at Midhurst Grammar School, which enabled him to win a scholarship to the Normal School of Science. There he studied biology under the tutelage of the noted Thomas Henry Huxley and co-founded the Science School Journal, where an early version of the Time Machine appeared. He obtained a teaching certificate and taught at Henley House School. He married his first cousin Isabel in 1891; they separated in 1894 and Wells married Amy Catherine Robbins, later called Jane, in 1895. At that time he published his four great novels called scientific romances in rapid succession: *The Time Machine* (1895), *The Island of Doctor Moreau* (1896), *The Invisible Man* (1897) and *The War of the Worlds* (1898). These books invented the classic scientific themes, made his name and gave him the resources to build a substantial home near Folkestone. He turned to non-fiction in the early 1900's, addressing subjects of history, politics, and social commentary in addition to science. *The Outline of History* in 1920 was an immensely popular and commercial success. This and other works, many concerning utopian notions of social organization, made him enormously influential, to the degree that critic Malcolm Cowley stated "his influence was greater than any other living writer."