



The Time Machine

H. G. Wells (1866 - 1946)

Read by:	Mark Nelson	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	3 hours 38 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1077
Language:	English	UPC:	0684758936530
Style:	Solo	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Science Fiction		

The Time Machine by H.G. Wells is a science fiction novel published in 1895 that postulated the notion of a “time machine” that enables its operator to travel forward and backward in time at will. The principle character is an English scientist and inventor known only as the Time Traveller, who begins by explaining to dinner guests that time is simply a fourth dimension and demonstrating a tabletop version of his machines that disappears into the future before their eyes. A week later he returns to tell an extraordinary tale of a journey hundreds of thousands of years into the future, where he encounters a passive race of humans called the Eloi and a brutish parallel race of Morlocks, who live underground and feed on the Eloi. His machine is discovered and impounded by the Morlocks, and the story revolves on his efforts to

get it back and escape. After recounting this tale he embarks on a second journey and disappears. Along the way we are treated to descriptions and speculations on how and why the race has degenerated and the earth is dying, views that reflect Wells’ views on life and social relations.

The idea had its origins in his 1888 story “The Chronic Argonauts” and was written as a serial novel that ran in *The New Review* from January to May of 1895. It has been adapted repeatedly for radio, film and television, most notably in the 1960 film, which won the Academy Award for its time-lapse photographic effects.

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.”