

ABOUT THE BOOK

Shipwrecked and picked up in the Pacific, Edward Prendick is put ashore on an island where a disgraced physiologist is remaking animals into something like men. The Beast Folk keep a Law they recite aloud, and the Law is the only thing standing between them and what they were.

H. G. Wells published the novel in 1896, at the height of the English argument over vivisection, and it was attacked at the time for its cruelty. It has been read since as one of the first modern arguments about what may be done to living things — and, in its last chapters, about how thin the difference is between the creature that keeps the Law and the man who made it.

The story is framed by a note from Prendick's nephew, and it closes with the narrator back in London, unable to look at a crowd without seeing the island.

ABOUT H. G. WELLS

H. G. Wells (1866–1946) was born at Bromley, Kent, apprenticed to a draper, and won a scholarship to study biology under T. H. Huxley in London. The Time Machine (1895), The Island of Doctor Moreau (1896), The Invisible Man (1897) and The War of the Worlds (1898) established the scientific romance; he went on to comic social novels (Kipps, Tono-Bungay, The History of Mr Polly), histories, and decades of political and futurist writing. He died in London.



BIBLIOMANCER

THE ISLAND OF DOCTOR MOREAU

H. G. WELLS



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The Island of Doctor Moreau

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