

The Invisible Man

H. G. Wells

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This classic written in 1897, during the reign of Queen Victoria, by Herbert George Wells is a work of fiction. As the title suggests, this novel is about an albino man who becomes invisible due to an experiment that he did on himself and his cat.

The story begins with "a stranger" entering a small inn in a town called Iping. The "stranger" is covered in clothes, and not one inch of skin is showing, but it is normal because he came during a snowy winter day. As Mrs. Hall, who runs the tavern comes to serve dinner to the "stranger" in his room, she notices that the stranger is covered in bandages except for his bright, shiny pink nose. She talks about this with a worker in the inn and they conclude that the stranger must have been a victim of a horrible accident. A few days later, the stranger's luggage arrives, and the townspeople can't help but notice that the stranger has many books and glass bottles. The stranger spends most of his time in his room, doing experiments and swearing. The townspeople notice that the stranger seems to have issues with anger management, and has broken many things. Rumors start to spread about him, and strange things begin to happen. First, people notice that someone is stealing their money. Then, Mrs. Hall witnesses the clothes in the stranger's room move around, and she gets pushed out of the room by an invisible force.

After the incident, Mrs. Hall avoids the stranger's room until he comes downstairs and asks her forcefully why he isn't getting his food. Mrs. Hall, who knows that the stranger hasn't paid her yet, tells him that he has to pay first. The stranger loses his temper and starts to take off his clothes in front of everyone. The townspeople see nothing. After he took off everything, he was nothing, and no one could see where he was. The stranger goes on a rampage and attacks the men that are trying to restrain him.

The rumor about the "Invisible Man" spreads across cities and towns, and reaches the ears of Doctor Kemp. At first he doesn't believe it, but after the invisible man breaks into the house, Kemp realizes that he is real. Then, the invisible man turns out to be one of Kemp's classmates in college, and they talk about what the invisible man has done to become invisible and what to do to prevent him from getting caught. As Kemp listens to the invisible man's story of violence, he decides to betray him for the safety of the world. However, the invisible man notices, and runs away. Kemp, though, is able to spread the word about the invisible man and what the people have to do to protect themselves. The end of the book is Kemp trying to protect himself from the angry invisible man.

I liked how this book narration is written in modern English, even though it is a classic. However, the dialogue sometimes is in old casual English, which is not the same as modern English. It is clever how the peasants and the people of Iping talk in old English to show their lack of proper education, while Doctor Kemp and the invisible man speak in proper modern English. I would recommend this book for high school students because the content is violent, and the words used are not very simple. I would not recommend this book as a gift because it is fairly challenging to read.

I would recommend books that are dark fiction, such Sherlock Holmes books, and *The War of the Worlds* by H. G. Wells.