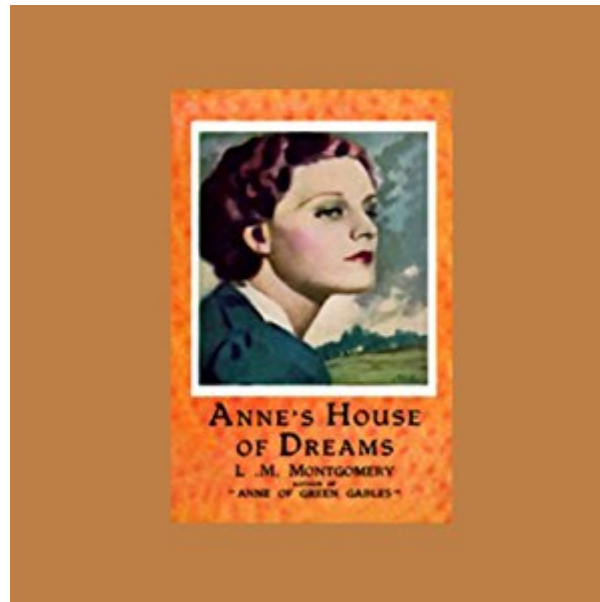




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Anne's House Of Dreams



Synopsis

"Thanks be, I'm done with geometry, learning or teaching it," said Anne Shirley, a trifle vindictively, as she thumped a somewhat battered volume of Euclid into a big chest of books, banged the lid in triumph, and sat down upon it, looking at Diana Wright across the Green Gables garret, with gray eyes that were like a morning sky. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an interesting read, and a good book for about 80% of it. It chooses a particularly gruesome vehicle to explore humanity and that takes a lot of strength to stomach. Clearly that was the intention. It raises a number of questions about who we are, what makes a human, what separates us from the animals, and what the transition might look like between us. On the other hand, it's not a very even read. It has periods where it's a page turner, you can't really wait to see what happens. And periods where I found it hard to slog through. To be honest, some of it was the old language used, and many analogies that aren't understood by someone not from 19th century London. Yet my difficulties aren't solely there. The story seems carefully crafted to get to the premise, reasonably crafted once it arrives, and then not so carefully thought out to the end. And hence, when the end arrives, it feels unsatisfying. But this is, in many ways a classic, and as the title of this review states, it was SciFi before SciFi was cool. Should probably be on the list of every well read SciFi reader.

H.G. Wells is a great author. I've grown up hearing about him and hearing about his books

becoming iconic movies, but having picked up a couple of his books for the heck of it, I haven't been able to put him down. I think the primary reason I never read any of his material is because of forced educational summer time reading. I don't like books forced on me and then have to make up or interpret "hidden meanings" and other BS so I can get an A. "What do you think the author was trying to say?" I don't care what he was trying to say! Can't I just read it and enjoy being somewhere else? So I read it. Yeah, there may be some stuff Wells is trying to say, but if you just read the book and let it talk to you, it's pretty dang good. I blazed through the last three chapters trying to figure out what was going on. So much fun! In short, read it because it's good.

Some dark themes in this shortish novel by H.G. Wells. It's concisely written and does move along at a fast pace. Couldn't say with all honesty that I liked or empathised with any of the characters. For a novel written so long ago I found the descriptions of the treatment meted out to the animals confronting. It's not a novel that I'd read again, don't consider it the best work by the author.

This isn't an easy to read book, due to when it was written, but it is a good book. Some might think of it as sci fi, but I thought it more a philosophical study, and one of ethics. The story itself was interesting so I long as one suspends current scientific knowledge and read it from the point of view of its time. I really enjoyed the book and would read another by H.G. Wells in the future.

This classic from 1896 is thrilling from the very first page. It begins with three men afloat aboard a dingy after the sinking of their ship. One is the narrator, Edward Prendick, who eventually finds himself on another ship sailing to a nameless and isolated island. The island is populated by strange creatures and an enigmatic leader who he finds to be Dr. Moreau. This name is known to him as a scientist of ill repute run out of London years prior. Prendick soon learns of Moreau's more recent experiments and the island's animal-turned human population. Wells' imagination provides a terrifying but engrossing menagerie including the Leopard Man, the Hyena-Swine, the Swine Folk, the Ape Man, Bull Men, Horse-Rhinoceros, Wolf-Bear, Ocelot Man, Dog Man and the Monkey Man. It is at this point that the book finds its meaning as Prendick is introduced to the Law governing the behavior of these beings: "Not to go on all-fours; that is the Law. Are we not Men? Not to suck up Drink; that is the Law. Are we not Men? Not to eat Fish or Flesh; that is the Law. Are we not Men? Not to claw the Bark of Trees; that is the Law. Are we not Men? Not to chase other Men; that is the Law. Are we not Men?" This intonation creepily delivered by the beast-people raises the moral and ethical question that Moreau never considered, "Should we manipulate science, genetics, and

biology?". All Moreau is interested in is 'can we?' without full entertaining the implications and impact of his efforts. In addition to this theme of progressive science, Wells raises the differences between man and animal, class distinctions, and religion as central organizing principle of a society. This is what makes it a great read. It can be consumed for its thrills and chills or one can analyze it much deeper (or in my case, both). I am glad I finally got around to reading it and believe it would make for a great book club discussion.

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