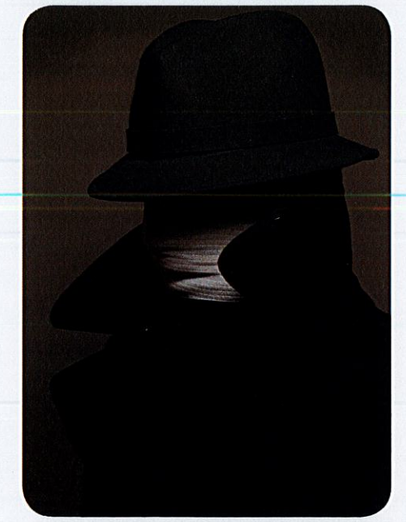
The Invisible Man

by H.G. Wells



The stranger came early in February, one wintry day, through a biting wind and a driving snow, the last snowfall of the year, over the down, walking from Bramblehurst railway station, and carrying a little black portmanteau in his thickly gloved hand.

He was wrapped up from head to foot, and the brim of his soft felt hat hid every inch of his face but the shiny tip of his nose; the snow had piled itself against his shoulders and chest, and added a white crest to the burden he carried. He staggered into the "*Coach and Horses*" more dead than alive, and flung his portmanteau down. "*A fire,*" *he cried, "in the name of human charity! A room and a fire!*" He stamped and shook the snow from off himself in the bar, and followed Mrs. Hall into her guest parlour to strike his bargain. And with that much introduction, that and a

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H.G Wells. Author, 1866 – 1946

couple of sovereigns flung upon the table, he took up his quarters in the inn.

Mrs. Hall lit the fire and left him there while she went to prepare him a meal with her own hands. A guest to stop at Iping in the wintertime was an unheard-of piece of luck, let alone a guest who was no "haggler," and she was resolved to show herself worthy of her good fortune. As soon as the bacon was well under way, and Millie, her lymphatic aid, had been brisked up a bit by a few deftly chosen expressions of contempt, she carried the cloth, plates, and glasses into the parlour and began to lay them with the utmost eclat. Although the fire was burning up briskly, she was surprised to see that her visitor still wore his hat and coat, standing with his back to her and staring out of the window at the falling snow in the yard. His gloved hands were clasped behind him, and he seemed to be lost in thought. She noticed that the melting snow that still sprinkled his shoulders dripped upon her carpet. "*Can I take your hat and coat, sir?*" she said, "*and give them a good dry in the kitchen?*"

"*No,*" he said without turning.

She was not sure she had heard him, and was about to repeat her question.

He turned his head and looked at her over his shoulder. "*I prefer to keep them on,*" he said with emphasis, and she noticed that he wore big blue spectacles with sidelights, and had a bush side-whisker over his coat-collar that completely hid his cheeks and face.

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Retrieval

Feedback

1) Where has the stranger just come from?

2) What is the name of the inn?

3) Why does Mrs Hall think that the stranger's arrival is good fortune? Give two reasons to support your answer.

Vocabulary

5) Look at the second paragraph. Find and copy a word which means the same as **thrown**.

6) *"..to strike his bargain..."* What does the word **strike** mean in this sentence?

Hit | Attack | Uncover | Arrange

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Feedback

7) *"...she was resolved to show herself worthy of her good fortune..."*

What does the word **resolved** mean in this sentence?

Solved | Answered | Decided | Settled

8) *"...the fire was burning up briskly..."* What does the word **briskly** mean in this sentence?

Quickly | Slowly | Noisily

Inference

9) Why was Mrs Hall unsure if she heard the stranger?

9) What impression of the stranger do you get from this extract? Give **two** impressions. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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Classic Text Reading

Explain how H.G. Wells makes the stranger appear interesting and mysterious.

Feedback

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