
GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

**THE
INVISIBLE MAN**

H. G. Wells

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Struggling through the Storm

Chapter 1

A Mysterious Bandaged Stranger

It was a snowy February night when a stranger got off the train at Bramblehurst railway station in the southern part of England. A large-brimmed hat and long black coat covered him from head to foot, but they barely protected him from the biting wind and heavy snow that piled up on him and on the small black suitcase he was carrying in his gloved hands.

There were no carriages at the station, and the man was forced to struggle through the storm on foot for several hours to reach his

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destination—the small village of Iping.

Flinging open the door of the Coach and Horses Inn, the exhausted stranger staggered inside, more dead than alive. Keeping his head down on his chest, the man gasped, “A room and a fire! And hurry, please!”

“I’m Mrs. Hall, the innkeeper here,” said a woman coming out from behind the bar. “If you’ll just follow me upstairs, sir, I’ll show you to a room.”

The stranger kept his back to Mrs. Hall as they negotiated a price for his room and meals. Then, after lighting a fire in the fireplace for the man, Mrs. Hall went downstairs to prepare a meal for him.

By the time she returned with a tray of hot food, the fire was burning brightly, making the room warm and comfortable. The stranger, however, still wore his coat, hat, and gloves as he stood at the window, staring out at the storm.

“The snow from your coat and hat is melting



“A Room and a Fire!”