

GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

**THE WAR OF
THE WORLDS**

H.G Wells

adapted by
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Unnoticed by Most Readers

CHAPTER 1

Mysterious Bursts of Flame

The little note in the London *Daily Telegraph* on the 13th of August, 1894, went almost unnoticed by most readers:

Flaming Gas Bursts From Mars

Reports from the island of Java indicate the sighting of a mass of flaming hydrogen gas bursting out from the surface of Mars about midnight on the 12th. This flaming gas appeared to be moving with enormous speed towards Earth, but within fifteen minutes, it became invisible.

THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

I myself had missed the article, so I was completely ignorant of what would soon become one of the greatest dangers to the human race. And I might have stayed ignorant until it was too late had I not met my old friend Ogilvy, a well-known astronomer, while out for a stroll.

“I say there, Wells,” he exclaimed upon seeing me, “what do you think of the news from Mars?”

“News?” I asked, puzzled. “What news could there be from a planet 40 million miles from here?”

“An exciting and unusual happening,” cried Ogilvy. “A great light—a blaze almost—has burst from the surface of Mars.”

I looked at him quizzically, not quite certain that I could share his excitement.

Guessing my thoughts, Ogilvy suggested, “Why not come up to my observatory tonight? We can study the heavens together.”

“Why not?” I thought, so I agreed to go.

That night at midnight, I was taking my



Wells Meets His Old Friend, Ogilvy.