

H.G. WELLS THE FIRST MEN IN THE MOON

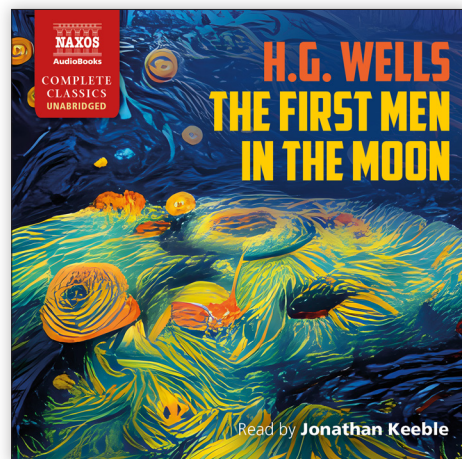
Read by **Jonathan Keeble**

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Published in 1901, *The First Men in the Moon* is one of the earliest science-fiction novels in the English language. An impecunious businessman, Bedford, retreats to the Kent coast where he meets the archetypal absent-minded scientist, Dr Cavor, who is on the point of producing a gravity-defying material. His experiments prove successful, making possible one of man's oldest dreams: a journey to the moon. The two men embark on this fantastic voyage – Bedford motivated by the prospect of wealth, and Cavor by the thirst for knowledge. However, when they arrive, they find a world of freezing nights and sweltering days, and signs of a threatening alien presence, from which they may never escape.

The novel invites obvious comparisons with its predecessor, Jules Verne's *From the Earth to the Moon*, though Wells's approach markedly differs from that of his French counterpart, with Wells being more concerned by the adventure on the moon, even at the expense of scientific plausibility.



Total running time: 7:05:07

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Jonathan Keeble is an award-winning actor who combines his audio work with a busy theatre and TV career. Much in demand, his voice work ranges from the voice of God in the Sistine Chapel to the Angel of Death in the film *Hellboy 2*, with all stops in between. He has featured in over 700 radio plays for the BBC, appearing in everything from Shakespeare to Sherlock Holmes and Dr Who; he also played the evil Owen in *The Archers*. He has recorded over 400 audiobooks, for which he has won multiple awards.

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Edited and mastered by Andrew Riches

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