



The Day the World Ended

Sax Rohmer

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'From high above my head came a rhythmic whirring; not that of a flight of birds nor that of an airplane propeller: rather the amplified hum of a mosquito. I stood still and stared upwards.

'Descending with a hawklike motion was a gigantic bat!

'It had a sort of vague luminosity. The incredibly long body was of a gleaming purplish-gray color. The wing span was no less than four yards, the legless body was close upon six feet!'

Such was the start of an adventure in suspense, super-science, and sheer devilry such as only Sax Rohmer could pen. The story of the plot to destroy all life on Earth is a page-by-page thriller you won't be able to put down.

The Day the World Ended Details

Date : Published 1964 by Ace Books (first published 1929)

ISBN : 9780441062836

Author : Sax Rohmer

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Genre : Fiction, Science Fiction, Adventure

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From Reader Review The Day the World Ended for online ebook

Stuart Dean says

Brian Woodville is an adventure journalist who has investigated odd stories from all over the world, most recently the deep Amazon. He is assigned a strange story in the Black Forest of Germany involving mysterious deaths and giant bats. He sets out to discover the truth about these apparent vampiric attacks in the bucolic village of Baden-Baden. He encounters reticent locals, strange foreigners, and a beautiful noble woman. And a voice from nowhere tells him that he has three days to leave Baden-Baden, with the implied threat of personal peril.

This book is divided into two parts. The first follows Woodville as he tries to unravel the mysterious of the supposed vampires. He makes the acquaintance of a gorgeous Polish woman and her odd American companion and a boisterous Frenchman, but discovers little else other than seeing a giant bat at a haunted cemetery and discovering an abandoned castle. Then the story changes drastically. I will not go into detail but suddenly Woodville finds he is not alone in his investigation and the fate of the world hangs in the balance.

The first part of the book is so strange that I was starting to believe that I was reading a horror story with magic and the supernatural. Gaston Max does not appear for a good 100 pages. When he does he brings few answers, choosing instead to mention that he has many theories as to what is going on which he will reveal later, but by the time he provides his explanations most of it has already been revealed. He is still entertaining and supremely skilled in his own peculiar ways, especially that of disguise.

Sax Rohmer's works are always good due to his mastery of language. His descriptive powers are amazing. His proclivity for using the same characters with different names not so much. And, as usual, the ending is sudden, unlikely, and basically unsatisfying. But that's what you get with Rohmer.

Neil says

A wonderfully over the top story from Sax Rohmer, probably the best novel of his I've read. The story gets off to a flying start and keeps up the pace until around the last quarter, which is something of a let down, the story would have probably been better if the supernatural elements had been real, the conclusion is overly hurried and unsatisfying, and the villain no match for Fu Manchu. But all the same for at least most of the book this is Sax Rohmer at the top of his game, even if not up to the earlier sections the last part of the book is better than whole novels of his.

Ronald says

read some time in 1987

Erik Graff says

After reading one of the Fu-Manchu novels--novels I associated with my grandmother--and not being very

impressed, I decided to try one of his non-Fu-Manchu books. It was better.

Richard Gombert says

Pretty typical Rohmer.

Kenneth says

Basically a mad scientist story, a plot to destroy all life on earth.
