



HG Wells, Secret Agent

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H. G. Wells is a Victorian-era James Bond who must defend England and the world against time travelers, alien incursions and interdimensional threats (if he can learn quickly on the job, and survive the human foes he encounters, that is!)

During his missions, Wells will alternately team up with Anton Chekhov to foil an assassination plot against Prince Nicholas Romanov of Russia, oversee the construction of the giant antenna designed to detect alien invasion fleets (or, as we know it, the Eiffel Tower), rub shoulders with the likes of Arthur Conan Doyle, Marie Curie, Jules Verne and Annie Oakley, and risk everything to encourage cooperation amongst the world's most powerful intelligence agencies.

This humorous steampunk novella is filled with Easter eggs and British pop-culture references, from The Beatles and Ian Fleming to Douglas Adams and Dr. Who.

HG Wells, Secret Agent Details

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Author : Alex Shvartsman

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From Reader Review HG Wells, Secret Agent for online ebook

Shawn says

I wanted to like this book very badly. The premise is very interesting... H.G. Wells and other Victorian era figures of note in an alternative reality where alien artifacts are scrambled for and technology is steampunk meets future tech.

The problem, for me, was that the book was more invested in the humor aspect than in the story. Everywhere were cute little winks to the audience where modern times or knowledge of people from the era were alluded to for a cheap chuckle. I think that the story itself could have still been humorous with fewer deliberate jokes and more build-up. But then, of course, each story would have to have been considerably longer.

Heather says

In Alex Shvartsman's H. G. Wells, Secret Agent, it's an alternate history spy-vs-spy world, where all the truly brilliant inventors work for one government or another. Over the course of three short mysteries we meet a handful of recognizable named characters, hear rumors of alien technology, and even see Freud round up a bunch of children to experiment on.

It's a short, flighty sort of read that would be perfect when you're on a bus or train and need to stay occupied for an hour or two. Here's where I make the 'personality-dependent' argument: it didn't really pull me in, and the humor, while good, wasn't enough to offset that. However, there'll be plenty of people for whom a little light steampunk spy humor would be perfect. There's nothing deep and the characters don't have a lot to them, but again that'll be just what some readers want.

Original review posted on my site: <http://www.errantdreams.com/2015/08/r...>

Docxen says

Need a quick fun book for the summer than this is the one for you my friends. Britian is in need of help so they turn to their famous authors to help save the world. Alien and time travel technology is being seized by the countries in the world and it could lead to trouble. So in steps Wells...H. G. Wells to save the day. Many other great writers from around the globe are guests and everyone in the book named is someone from history from kings to footmen. Read it now thank me later.

John Adkins says

Light and Witty in All the Right Ways

This novella is perhaps the first steampunk, alternate history, humor story. It is filled with pop culture

references and historical figures, and, oh yeah, a heck of a decent adventure yarn.

Dusty Wallace says

H.G. Wells, *Secret Agent* is exactly what you'd expect. But that's not a bad thing. It's a comedic James Bond set in Victorian England complete with steampunk elements. The stars of the book happen to be historical figures like H.G. Wells (of course), Arthur Conan Doyle, and Sigmund Freud. But in this alternate reality they're all involved in secret ministries of various governments that specialize in advanced science, much of which has been gleaned from crashed spaceships and captured time-travelers.

The book is full of easter eggs for the real nerds among us but stands on it's own even if you don't catch all the references. There's lots of action, most of it silly, all of it entertaining.

If I'm being honest, the name-dropping didn't do much for me. I thought the Doyle character had some funny Sherlock references, but the book would have been just as good with all-original characters. Thankfully, the name-dropping isn't all that's on offer and doesn't diminish the enjoyability.

If you're looking for a light read that's well-written you could do much worse. The author's prose is of the work-horse variety. There's nothing long-winded in the book, no reaching for great existential revelations. There's just strong, action-driven sentences that get the job done. Peppered in between are some terrific one-liners that are sure to at least draw a chuckle.

James says

Fun, fast-paced and funny, "H.G. Wells, *Secret Agent*" is the perfect book for readers who don't take their steampunk too seriously -- or their historical figures.

It's sort of a mix of "James Bond," "Torchwood" and "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen," but sprinkled with anachronisms and humor. A tongue-firmly-in-cheek adventure tale.

The three inter-connected short stories can easily be devoured in one sitting. (I know because that's how I read it.)

A perfect summer read. I hope there's more!

Ricky Kimsey says

Super Spy

Writer H.G. Wells is reimagined as a Victorian era spy. Many other historical figures from the late 19th century are here as both allies and enemies of Mr. Wells. It's a brilliant romp that mixes real history with James Bond style action.

Kelly says

This little novella is FULL of real life characters, who have been turned into secret agents and villains. H. G. Wells and Arthur Conan Doyle are two of the main characters, who are agents for Great Britain. The book is also filled with fun allusions to history and pop culture, with my favorite line being a reference to Doctor Who, when Wells says of their yellow submarine, "I was hoping it would turn out to be bigger on the inside." A cute collection of stories in the steampunk genre. I look forward to future episodes.

Tina says

In this book H G Wells is basically a goofier James Bond with a few fun side kicks.

This book is a fun bit of steam punk action with dirigibles, mad scientist lairs, and a yellow submarine. Some of the characters are a bit flat, heavily relying on name recognition to fill out their personalities. There's some great one liners and dozens of geeky pop culture references are scattered throughout the book (there is an appendix of sorts explaining all of these at the end, which seems unnecessary, either the reader will catch the joke or not).
