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## The Midwich Cuckoos

*John Wyndham*

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**John Wyndham : The Midwich Cuckoos** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Midwich Cuckoos:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Classic but Harder to Read than it Should BeBy RexI really wanted to love this book. The original Village of the Damned (1960) is one of my favorite movies of all time, and Wyndham's The Midwich Cuckoos has been on my mental to-read list for decades.I have to admit I was disappointed. I was expecting a book with the more shocking, horrific flavor of the film. (I don't actually take the 1990's remake into consideration; it wasn't very good.) Instead I got a smattering of wonderful tension-filled scenes, but mostly long

discourses on evolution, nature vs. nurture, power, fate, man's place in the universe and all sorts of other esoteric topics. One of the main characters, Mr. Zellaby, even admits he is supremely long-winded and has lots and lots of "words" to share with people. At least Wyndham acknowledged what he was doing in the novel. The man had opinion after opinion on just about everything - and lectured anyone within earshot ad infinitum...and yes, he even used Latin phrases from time to time. This book is also very, very British. As an American, I often found myself not quite understanding some of the references or idioms. It took me a while to realize that a "bullseye" is a candy, and this is actually a rather critical part of the plot toward the end of the novel. There were numerous other examples where I either had to look up words or try to figure them out in context. It tends to pull you out of the story - and in my case it caused some of my interest to wane. Have you ever heard the word "ricks" used to describe the size of something? Like a spaceship perhaps? Also, it's not clear completely from the book what the title means. I became aware of the unique manner in which cuckoo birds take advantage of other species' nests prior to reading the book and thought the title very clever. But Wyndham hardly elaborates on this in the book and certainly fails to make the important comparison to what is going on in this quiet English village of Midwich to this special evolutionary adaptation. Or if he did, he hid it well within one of Zellaby's lengthy discourses. I'm glad I finally got around to reading this. I expected more action, excitement - even more mystery - than I got. But just as I marveled at the story-line in the 1960s, I still found it unique and intriguing in the source material. I still consider John Wyndham one of my favorite classic science fiction authors and intend to one day work my way through his entire oeuvre - a word Wyndham most definitely would have put in Zellaby's vocabulary!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Invasion from within! By JJCEO

The sleepy town of Midwich England is a place where not much ever happens. Suddenly one day every person and animal simply falls down asleep for over a day. Everyone sent in to rescue them or who happens to cross an invisible boarder simply does the same thing. It doesn't matter whether they walk, drive or fly into this zone. Observations indicate that a fairly large silver craft has landed in the town and perhaps caused the problem. Suddenly the craft disappears and most of the people and animals quickly recover without issue but a few have died by accident or fire. Very quickly the villagers realize that something is wrong. All of the women of childbearing age are pregnant. This includes even those young girls who are still virgins. A total of 61 children are born all with golden eyes. As they mature the village realizes that the children all have powerful vast mental powers and intellect including mind control over man and animals. The villagers realize that they have to do something but who has the will to kill a child that you gave birth to?

This book is one of the classics of Science Fiction. It is a well written book that is at times a slow moving story told in tremendous detail in more of a British style of writing than in the American style of get to the point now. The book was written at a high intellectual level in tremendous detail that makes the story well-written but at times almost lethargic and boring. I still liked the story but many people will not care for the style in which it was written. This book was made into several movies and radio broadcasts. John Carpenter's Village of the Damned was one of the best and most recent. The reasons I gave the book 4 stars was primarily based on the number of typographical errors and spelling errors that exist in the text. The book was obviously scanned via OCR and many errors exist and they were not corrected or proof checked. The story is also very slow to develop with tremendous detail that at times makes the book seem sluggish. It is still a good story but you have to remember that it was published in 1957 when British writing had a different style than today. It is a good book and you should read it if you love Sci-Fi.

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. My rating of this book is not for the story ... By Michael Watson

My rating of this book is not for the story itself--which is a minor classic of science fiction--but for the appalling number of typographical errors. I think there were dozens. the word "kittens" came out as "Uttar". Very frequently indeed, the word "I" was run together with the word that followed, i.e., ""Inow" rather than "I now", "Ithink" rather than "I think"! etc. I find it difficult to believe that anyone proofread this edition before submitting it. There is simply no excuse for this.

Cuckoos lay eggs in other birds' nests. The clutch that was fathered on the quiet little village of Midwich, one night in September, proved to possess a monstrous will of its own. It promised to make the human race look as dated as the dinosaur.

\* Clyde gives an excellent performance. Publishing News \* Jeremy Clyde's reading cannot be faulted. audiobooksreview.co.uk \* Listening to it now in our age of ambitious genetic experimentation, it packs even more of a punch, The Times

About the Author

Also well-known for his popular titles *The Day of the Triffids* and *The Kraken Wakes*, John Wyndham (1903-69) has achieved the seemingly impossible by bringing 'cult' science fiction titles into the forefront of the public literary consciousness.