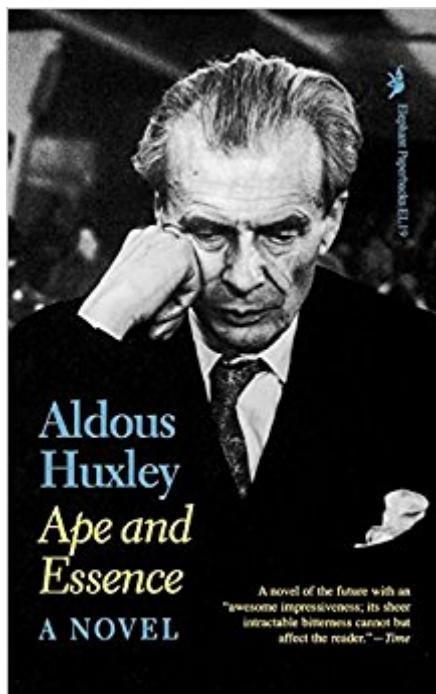


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Ape And Essence



Synopsis

When Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* first appeared in 1932, it presented in terms of purest fantasy a society bent on self-destruction. Few of its outraged critics anticipated the onset of another world war with its Holocaust and atomic ruin. In 1948, seeing that the probable shape of his anti-utopia had been altered inevitably by the facts of history, Huxley wrote *Ape and Essence*. In this savage novel, using the form of a film scenario, he transports us to the year 2108. The setting is Los Angeles where a "rediscovery expedition" from New Zealand is trying to make sense of what is left. From chief botanist Alfred Poole we learn, to our dismay, about the twenty-second-century way of life. "It was inevitable that Mr. Huxley should have written this book: one could almost have seen it since Hiroshima is the necessary sequel to *Brave New World*."¹ Alfred Kazin. "The book has a certain awesome impressiveness; its sheer intractable bitterness cannot but affect the reader."² Time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The ultimate horror vision -- but one not without humor" Los Angeles Times "Ape and Essence leaves us in mingled respect of the author's intelligence and disgust for the world he had created" Independent "Clever, brutal, thoughtful, original...a nauseating vision of a still-possible future" -- Anthony Burgess "Powerfully moving" Times Literary Supplement "Painfully and majestically vivid; it is a great piece of work" Guardian --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Aldous Huxley (1894–1963), one of the most important English novelists of the twentieth century, is best known for *Brave New World*, *Point Counter Point*, *Crome Yellow*, and other novels, as well as his *Collected Short Stories*, also published by Ivan R. Dee.

I recommend everyone read all of Huxley's books. But especially read this one. This is a post-apocalyptic story about a doctor who gets taken prisoner by a tribe of savages, and is shown by the tribe's chief the primordial darkness of humanity. It is a short read, only about 120 pages, quick and easy, and just as impacting as *Brave New World*. One of my favorite books by Aldous Huxley. After reading this read *Island* and *Brave New World*. If you feel you are a little beyond these titles and want something more advanced I'd say get *The Perennial Philosophy*. That book was words from the gods translated for man.

Ape and Essence is a lesser known work by Aldous Huxley, but ranks up there with "Brave New World" as a brilliant, prescient and critical view of modern human culture. A MUST-READ for those who hunger for the truth. One of my all-time favorite novels that I've read many times. I'd lost my old copy and was thrilled to find it on .

Huxley is a modern day prophet. His insights about nationalism and progress speak volumes to our current society. "But they preferred to amuse themselves with power politics, and what were the consequences?" "Worse malnutrition for more people. More political unrest. Resulting in more aggressive nationalism and imperialism." It appears the more we learn the less we know since we are controlled still by our Ape self rather than by our true Essence. Our true human Essence produces fruits of the spirit such as Love, Joy and Peace.

Very interesting book. Definitely not my favorite by Huxley but well worth the short read. As an amateur filmmaker I was interested in the script style writing, tho couldn't picture the long descriptions being in a film. Parts were confusing but overall enjoyable and very Huxley-esque.

Huxley's denunciation of mankind! Well-written and well-conceived. In this novel humankind's most precious institutions are torn asunder and revealed as the perversions of the natural world that they are. I thoroughly enjoyed this work. The novel never takes itself too seriously and never becomes preachy or pedantic.

Aldous Huxley. What else need be said?

Written in 1948, this less-known Huxley novel could easily have been written this year. A very enjoyable read.

A good read, but at times felt uninspired. Similar to *Brave New World*, so if you enjoyed Huxley's other offering, this may quench your thirst for defying an assimilated and tyrannized society.

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