

[PDF] The War With The Newts (Illustrated Edition)

David Wyllie, Karel Apek - pdf download free book



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Description:

Best known as the inventor of the modern word "robot," Karel Čapek was a Czech writer who dabbled in detective stories and fairy tales before making his name as a playwright and the author of this singular science-fiction satire. In this thinly entertaining and thinly veiled rumination on fascism and colonialism, an enslaved race of fast-evolving newts grows a collective consciousness that results in their forming a "Salamander Syndicate" that declares war on humanity. --Jason Kirk --This

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From Library Journal Issued to celebrate the centennial of Capek's birth, these three volumes testify to the versatility and timeless appeal of one of the first Czech writers to achieve world acclaim. *Toward the Radical Center* contains, in new or revised translations, a selection of Capek's charming short stories, essays, and travel sketches, as well as four of his major plays, including *R.U.R.*, a brilliant drama about the destruction of humankind by artificial people, Rossum's *Universal Robots*. The dangers of runaway technology, militarism, and greed are further explored in Capek's hilarious satire, *War with the Newts*. When Captain van Toch discovers giant, intelligent newts on a remote island off Sumatra, he teaches them to use knives to find food, fight off sharks, and collect pearls for him. When he dies, his partners turn his friendly venture into a huge international business with the newts (rapidly growing in numbers) and with the tools and supplies for them. The newts are taught to read, to build massive underwater projects, and to protect the shores of the countries that bought them. They become an essential and powerful part of the industrial machine, and thus warnings about their potential danger to humankind go unheeded. In the end the newts start to blow up continents to create new shores for themselves, while governments argue impotently. Issued in a new, vibrant translation, this immensely entertaining novel has lost none of its relevance and spark. Considered Capek's masterpiece, the trilogy *Three Novels* explores the plurality of a man and his life, the impossibility of understanding all facets of truth. In *Hordubal*, events leading to the murder of a brooding, solitary farmer in a small Carpathian village are presented from the perspective of the victim, the villagers, and the police. Although Hordubal's wife and her lover are convicted, their motives and actions, as well as Hordubal's, remain partly mysterious. *Meteor* concerns an unknown, unconscious man brought into a hospital after a plane crash and attempts by a nurse, poet, and clairvoyant to penetrate the mystery of his life. The stories they derive are convincing and at points they converge, yet the real truth cannot be known. In *An Ordinary Life*, a retired railway official's attempt to examine his life reveals powerful and complex aspects of his personality that have shaped his seemingly ordinary life. If you must choose, select *War with the Newts*, but all three volumes are recommended.

- Marie Bednar, *Pennsylvania State Univ. Libs., University Park*

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