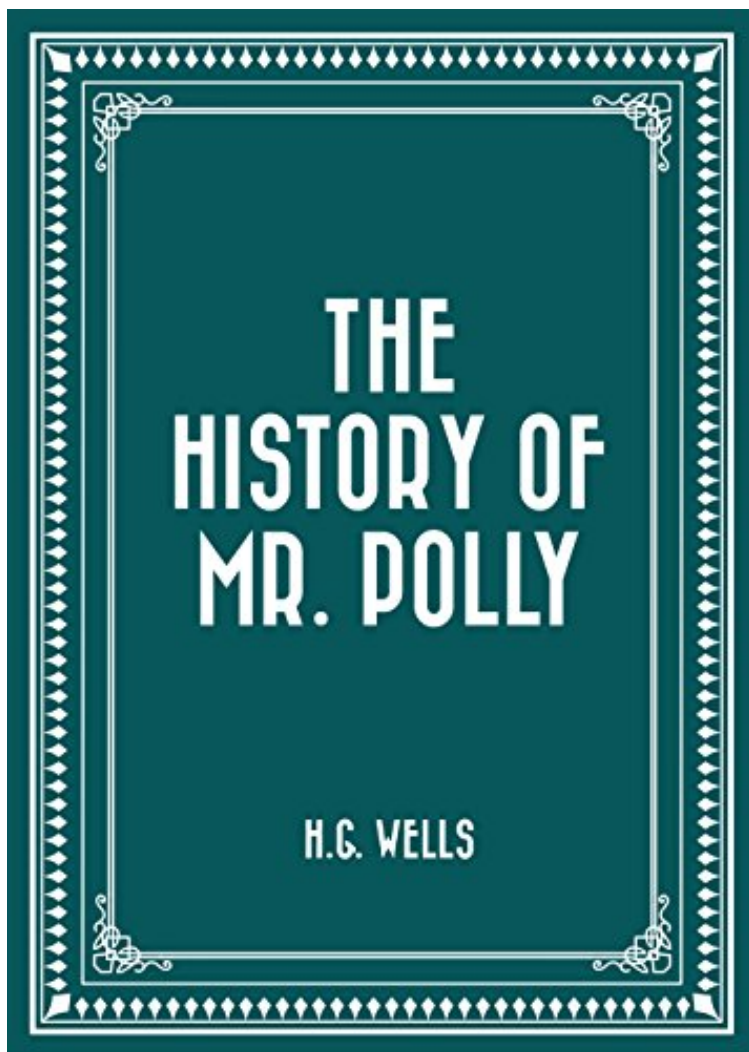


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The History of Mr. Polly (English Edition)



Par H.G. Wells

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Description : Description du produitMr. Wells brings the reader to meet Mr. Polly in this brilliant novel. As in all of H.G. Wells' works, the History of Mr. Polly is an enchanting tale with memorable characters brought to life.

Prsentation de l'diteurH.G. Wells was an English author best known as a sci-fi writer, though he was also a prolific writer in many other genres, including contemporary novels, history, politics and social commentary, and even writing text books and rules for war games. Together with Jules Verne and Hugo Gernsback, Wells has been referred to as The Father of Science Fiction, and his best known works are The Invisible Man, The Time Machine, and The War of the Worlds. .comFans of H.G. Wells's famous, genre-spawning science fiction novels may be startled to read his less-remembered but once bestselling The History of Mr. Polly. Its comically romping narrative voice is worlds away from the stern, melancholy tone of The Time Machine. Wells won fame for his apocalyptic, preachy books about the history of the future, but this history is strictly, as Mr. Polly would put it in his creatively cracked version of English, a series of

"little accidentulous misadventures." Mr. Alfred Polly is a dyspeptic, miserably married shopkeeper in what he terms that "Beastly Silly Wheeze of a hole!"--Fishbourne, England. He is inclined to spark arguments and slapstick calamity wherever he goes. Education was lost on him: when he left school at 14, "his mind was in much the same state that you would be in, dear reader, if you were operated upon for appendicitis by a well-meaning, boldly enterprising, but rather overworked and underpaid butcher boy, who was superseded towards the climax of the operation by a left-handed clerk of high principles but intemperate habits the operators had left, so to speak, all their sponges and ligatures in the mangled confusion." Still, Polly's mind burns with eccentric genius, and his thwarted romantic heart beats him senseless. His despair results in the most amusing suicide attempt this side of Lisa Alther's novel *Kinflicks*. We won't spoil the surprise by saying precisely how his scheme misfires--and beware: the introduction gives it away. Note that you can't expect Polly to do anything right, and of course he'll become an inadvertent hero to the whole town. Then he promptly vanishes for further misadventure. Many critics compare Mr. Polly's broad social satire to Dickens, but it smacks of Mark Twain and the dialect humor of Finley Peter Dunne's *Mr. Dooley* too. "I think it is one of my good books," Wells opined. What makes it so is Polly's heroic incompetence, his subversion of Edwardian propriety, and his bewildered unawareness that he is a revolutionary. --Tim Appelo

From AudioFile In addition to his celebrated science fiction, H.G. Wells wrote a number of superb satires, not the least of which is this chronicle of a working-class nebbish who, in bungling his own suicide, finds escape from his humdrum existence. The accomplished Paul Shelley strikes just the right note of irony in this version. However, the unabridged tape goes on a bit too long, detailing for satirical purposes a world that longer exists. Y.R. (c)AudioFile, Portland, Maine