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Dramatic Publishing

The Invisible Man

An Alien Voices Production

Adapted by
JOHN de LANCIE

From a script by
NAT SEGALOFF and JOHN de LANCIE

– Manuscript Version –

Original story by
H.G. WELLS



Dramatic Publishing

Woodstock, Illinois • England • Australia • New Zealand

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Radio Play Manuscript)

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The Invisible Man

A Radio Play

For a flexible cast

(playing multiple roles, if desired)

VOICES (in order of speaking)

Mayor
Bartender
Peter
Woman
Inspector/Narrator
Kemp
Harding
Taylor
Rebecca
Griffin
Academic Dean
Security Guard
Mrs. Hall
Teddy
Cuss
Bunting
Constable Jaffers
Drinker #1
Marvel
Mother
Father
Flannery

The Invisible Man

Adapted by John de Lancie
From a Script by Nat Segaloff and John de Lancie
An Alien Voices Production
Original story by H.G. Wells

MUSIC: *Signature theme music.*

INT. JOLLY CRICKETEERS BAR— LATE AFTERNOON 1

SOUND: *Shoe pounding on a table.*

WALLA: *Crowd of 10 or 15 people settles down...*

MAYOR

Quiet down, everyone. Quiet down.

BARTENDER

Mr. Mayor, who's going to pay for my damages?

MAYOR

We'll get to that, Simon.

BARTENDER

When...?

PETER

What I want to know is why he came to our town?

CROWD

Yes, yes. (Etc.)

MAYOR

Good question, Peter, and, hopefully, the Inspector will be able to answer it.

WOMAN

He was in my bedroom...I just know it.

BARTENDER

Wishful thinking, Agnes.

WOMAN

Oh, what a wicked thing to say!

MAYOR

All right, enough...that's quite enough! Inspector Adye is here to answer all your questions. Go ahead, Inspector.

INSPECTOR

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. As you all know, I've been on the case from the moment the Stranger arrived in Port Stowe, and the best I've been able to piece together in these last few days is this: he was a very promising medical student, seemed destined for a brilliant future, but apparently, six months ago, around the time of his school graduation, things took a bit of a turn.

INT. UNIVERSITY BALLROOM— NIGHT

2

MUSIC: *A polka, perhaps; something a university fraternity party might play.*

WALLA: *Messy and a little raucous, then...*

SOUND: *Tapping on a wine glass and...*

KEMP

Your attention. Ladies and gentlemen, may I please have your attention?

WALLA: *Everyone going "shhh" "shhh" and quieting to a murmur.*

HARDING

(whispering)

It's Professor Kemp.

WALLA: *Ad lib "It's Kemp"..."Quiet down, etc."*

TAYLOR
 (sloppy drunk; too loud)
 Shhh! Shhh! Settle down! The great
 arrogator is about to speak!

REBECCA
 Quiet! Taylor, behave yourself.

WALLA: General "Shhhh."

KEMP
 As chairman of the department, I
 happily exercise the privilege of
 offering a toast! As you prepare for
 your journey on life's adventure,
 remember to make our medical school
 proud...and to make the 1880s the
 decade of discovery! So I ask you now
 to raise your cups to: "The Class of
 Seventy-nine!"

WALLA: Everybody lifts his glass and toasts:

EVERYBODY
 "The Class of Seventy-nine!"

SOUND: Lots of glasses CLINK.

WALLA: CHEERING (Hip-hip-hooray, etc.)

MUSIC: Polka (bouncy) begins.

TAYLOR
 (still too loud)
 Well, that ranks as the shortest speech
 old Kemp has ever given.

REBECCA
 Taylor! You're going to get us all in
 trouble!

TAYLOR
 Where's Griffin? Wasn't he supposed to
 be here an hour ago?

REBECCA
(not pleased)
Yes, he was.

TAYLOR
He's a servant to science, our class
Frankenstein! God only knows where he's
meddling now.

HARDING
Nonsense! There's a good explanation
for his absence, he's...

REBECCA
Doing research.

HARDING
Doing research.

REBECCA and HARDING
(laugh)

HARDING
I guess we know him too well, but he is
brilliant! Professor Kemp says...

REBECCA
Oh, it's always Kemp, isn't it? Kemp,
the arrogant...

HARDING
The *Grand* Arrogator.

REBECCA and HARDING
(both laugh again)

REBECCA
Sounds funny, doesn't it, but do you
ever wonder if it's true?

HARDING
Who's to tell? All I know is, I keep my
research to myself. And so should
Griffin.

GRIFFIN

That I will! Tonight is a very special night. Rebecca, will you dance with me?

REBECCA

What? Dance? You?

GRIFFIN

(grandly)

Of course! It's a party, isn't it?

REBECCA

This is a first! Have you been drinking?

GRIFFIN

I love you, Rebecca.

REBECCA

That's nice.

GRIFFIN

No, I mean it.

(Uneasy)

All right...this...this might not be the perfect place, but it is the perfect time...

REBECCA

Yes?

GRIFFIN

...to talk about our future. I've had a breakthrough, Rebecca!

REBECCA

(confused)

What?

GRIFFIN

You know that up until now my greatest obstacle has been the physical nature of tissue...

REBECCA

Oh, Herbert!

GRIFFIN

(ignoring her)

...just listen...for a moment. And you know that the hospital wards are filled with people who've been injured in accidents...horribly disfigured...shunned by society.

REBECCA

Could we not discuss your research just this once?

GRIFFIN

Imagine what it would be like, Rebecca, if we could look at those poor wretches without noticing the injury, without seeing the disfigurement...what a blessing!

REBECCA

What are you talking about?

GRIFFIN

(plainly)

I made a discovery tonight that could render physical deformities invisible!

REBECCA

How?

GRIFFIN

In a way, I have Professor Kemp to thank. He paid me a visit this afternoon and that's when it happened...

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

MUSIC:

INT. GRIFFIN'S LABORATORY— EARLIER

3

SOUND: Knock on door.

SOUND: Bubbling test tubes.

GRIFFIN

(preoccupied)

Yes? Yes? Who is it?

KEMP

(o.s.)

It's Doctor Kemp.

GRIFFIN

Oh, Doctor Kemp, just a moment...

SOUND: Bunsen burner breathing; glassware scraping; lab door opening.

Do come in.

SOUND: Sliding glassware, equipment, etc.

I'm afraid I don't keep a very tidy laboratory.

KEMP

As long as you keep orderly notes.

GRIFFIN

That I do: in these journals.

SOUND: Tapping journals (hardbound diaries).

KEMP

Good. Griffin, I've come to discuss something that's been on my mind for quite a while.

GRIFFIN

(with trepidation)

Yes?

KEMP

It's been a good year for you, wouldn't you agree?

GRIFFIN

Um, oh, well, yes...

KEMP

Still, I'm sure you would hate to see all your fine work come to an end just because it's time to graduate...time to leave.

GRIFFIN

I agree.

KEMP

So, what would you say to being my assistant— for the long term? Your research would be uninterrupted and we could...collaborate.

GRIFFIN

Collaborate?

KEMP

Yes, think about it. You'll be at the festivities night, I trust?

GRIFFIN

Uh— yes, yes, I will.

KEMP

Good. See you then.

GRIFFIN

Thank you, Doctor Kemp! Thank you... so much.

SOUND: Door opens.

KEMP

Mind you, I won't take "no" for an answer.

SOUND: Door closes. Bubbling increases.

TRANSITION: The background music returns and we're back on the balcony as before.

GRIFFIN

Needless to say, I was flabbergasted,
(MORE)

and when I thought again of my experiment, I had a near disaster on my hands.

REBECCA

What? What happened?

GRIFFIN

You see, at the precise moment when Kemp walked in, I was in the process of staining a microbial specimen. The procedure called for gently heating the mixture to set the stain. But, having been distracted by Kemp, the solution was now boiling. I was about to throw out the entire sample when, from an inspiration known only to Providence, I applied the overheated mixture to a batch of fresh microbes. To my utter amazement the microbes began to disappear!

REBECCA

You mean, they dissolved?

GRIFFIN

No, they disappeared...they vanished! Yet I had an inkling there might still be something there, but I had no easy way to prove it. So I decided to experiment on something larger, something I could easily see and touch: an earthworm.

REBECCA

This is all too fantastic.

GRIFFIN

— and then a flower.

REBECCA

The flower you gave...? Oh, Herbert, it's gone. It must have fallen off.

GRIFFIN

(giddy)
Not at all. Give me your hand. Can't
you feel the petals?

REBECCA

(amazed)
Yes!

GRIFFIN

And it still has its fragrance.

REBECCA

Oh, Herbert, this is remarkable!

MUSIC: The dance ends (o.s.).

SOUND: Applause (o.s.).

**SOUND: From o.s. balcony, a few footsteps lead in, as
from out of the shadows...**

KEMP

Yes, remarkable indeed! Your friend,
Griffin, has a marvelous opportunity. I
hope he has the presence of mind to
take advantage of it.

GRIFFIN

(lying)
We- we- were just discussing it,
Professor Kemp.

KEMP

I'll see you in my office in the
morning and we'll discuss your
appointment. This is a breakthrough for
you, Griffin. Congratulations.

SOUND: Kemp walks away.

MUSIC: Starts up again (o.s.).