Some Time Never: A Fable for Supermen

Dust-jacket from the first edition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Roald Dahl</th>
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<td>Country</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genre</td>
<td>Fantasy novel, Satire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>Scribner’s (United States)</td>
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<td>Collins (UK)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publication date</td>
<td>1948</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media type</td>
<td>Print (Hardback)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pages</td>
<td>244 pp</td>
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Some Time Never: A Fable for Supermen is a 1948 book by Roald Dahl, his first adult novel. Dahl began writing it after editor Maxwell Perkins expressed an interest in publishing a novel length book if Dahl were to write it. The book was met with predominantly poor reception and was considered to be a failure, although it is historically noteworthy as the first novel about nuclear war to be published in the United States after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The story is a darker take on the same premise as Dahl's first children's novel, The Gremlins.

**Synopsis**

In 1943, RAF pilot Petenip discovers a Gremlin or miniature being, drilling holes on the wing of his aircraft, so he sets off with his squadron to unearth the story behind them. Many years ago gremlins were the rulers of the world, but they were forced underground by the spread of humanity and have spent the time since then planning their revenge. They briefly emerge during the Battle of Britain, but the experience makes them decide that humankind would destroy themselves without their intervention. The gremlins wait until the time is right - after World War III and World War IV decimate the earth, they emerge and take over the world. The story ends with the gremlins, unable to exist in a world without humans, disappearing too; finally, only the worm remains.

**Reception**

Sometime Never was met with mostly negative reviews, but did receive some praise from the Glasgow Herald and The Saturday Review. The work was first published by Scribner's in the United States in 1948 under the title Some Time Never: A Fable for Supermen. The UK edition, entitled simply Sometime Never, was published by Collins in 1949. The final chapter of the UK version was revised slightly to elaborate on the ultimate
disappearance of the Gremlins. As of 2020, the work has never been reprinted in English, although a Dutch translation (Ooit en te nimmer) has run through several editions.

References

Citations

Bibliography

External links
- Roald Dahl (Official Website)

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- The Gremlins (1943)
- James and the Giant Peach (1961)
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (1964)
- The Magic Finger (1966)
- Fantastic Mr Fox (1970)
- Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator (1972)
- Danny, the Champion of the World (1975)
- The Enormous Crocodile (1978)
- The Twits (1980)
- George’s Marvellous Medicine (1981)
- The BFG (1982)
- The Witches (1983)
- The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me (1985)
- Matilda (1988)
- Esio Trot (1990)
- The Vicar of Nibbleswicke (1991)
- The Minpins (1991)

Children’s poetry
- Revolting Rhymes (1982)
- Dirty Beasts (1983)
- Rhyme Stew (1989)

Adult novels
- Some Time Never: A Fable for Supermen (1948)
- My Uncle Oswald (1979)
- Over to You: Ten Stories of Flyers and Flying (1946)
- Someone Like You (1953)
- Lamb to the Slaughter (1953)
- Kiss Kiss (1960)
- Twenty-Nine Kisses from Roald Dahl (1969)
- Switch Bitch (1974)
- The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More (1977)
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- Tales of the Unexpected (1979)
- More Tales of the Unexpected (1980)
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- Two Fables (1986)
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- The Roald Dahl Treasury (1997)
- Skin and Other Stories (2000)
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- Going Solo (1986)
- Memories with Food at Gipsy House (1991)
- My Year (1993)

- 36 Hours (1965)
- Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory (1971)
- Danny, the Champion of the World (1989)
- The BFG (1989)
- Breaking Point (1989)
- The Witches (1990)
- Four Rooms (1995)
- James and the Giant Peach (1996)
- Matilda (1996)
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005)
- Fantastic Mr. Fox (2009)
- Roald Dahl’s Esio Trot (2015)
- The BFG (2016)
- Revolting Rhymes (2016)
- Tom and Jerry: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (2017)
- The Witches (2020)

- The Bells of Hell Go Ting-a-ling-a-ling (1966, unfinished)
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- Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (1968)
- The Night Digger (1971)
- Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory (1971)

- Way Out (1961)
- Tales of the Unexpected (1979–88)
  - episodes
    - The Honeys (1955)
    - Fantastic Mr. Fox (1998)
    - The Witches (2008)

- James and the Giant Peach (2010)
- Matilda (2010)
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2013)
- Fantastic Mr Fox (2016)
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