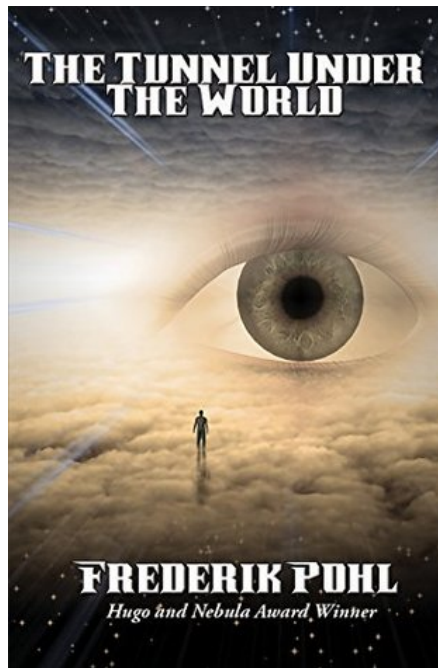




The Tunnel Under The World: With linked Table of Contents

Frederik Pohl

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Guy Burckhardt wakes up screaming, but can't remember the nightmare that caused his fright. Slowly over the next couple of days he comes to realize he's been reliving the same day over and over. And things only get stranger and more frightening from there. One of the true classics of science fiction.

The Tunnel Under The World: With linked Table of Contents Details

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From Reader Review The Tunnel Under The World: With linked Table of Contents for online ebook

Sidharth Vardhan says

Like in case of many HG Wells' books, the many themes of this book have since been heavily overused by movie makers which means there may not be a lot to learn in it. The 4 star ratings just show how perfectly the story is told retaining reader's curiosity by bringing in different sci-fi elements like:

1. The tunnel mentioned in title.
2. The dreams of explosion.
3. The frequent mention of advertising techniques.
4. The robots.
5. The fact that protagonist finds some of details in his house changed impossibly.
6. The fact that protagonist seems to be living the same day over and over again.

I was like how all this would connect in such short space but it is managed really well.

Patrick DiJusto says

imagine the plot of the movie Groundhog's Day. even though this was written 20 years before Groundhog's Day. combine it with the plot of the scariest Twilight Zone you've ever seen. Even though this was written five years before Twilight Zone ever premiered. in Groundhog's Day there was no explanation as to why the days repeated. In this story there is an explanation and it's malevolent.

Mimi says

Very clever short story, a mind-blowing must read.

Karl says

Frederik Pohl's first published work, written in 1937, is a poem called, "Elegy to a Dead Planet: Luna". This short story "Tunnel Under The World" first appeared in 'Galaxy Science Fiction Magazine', January of 1955.

"Tunnel Under The World" anticipates the movie "The Truman Show" by a half-century, with a bit of 'Groundhog Day' peppered into the mix. Perhaps now we know where movie makers get some of their ideas.

Born in New York City, Pohl grew up in Brooklyn during the Great Depression. His father was often unemployed, and his family moved frequently, with Pohl attending school only intermittently until he was eight. In his memoir "The Way the Future Was" (1978), Pohl recalls the homeless and destitute people he encountered as a child, and some critics have speculated that such experiences have profoundly influenced his fiction.

In the story, Guy Burckhardt wakes up screaming, but can't remember the nightmare that caused his fright. Slowly over the next couple of days he comes to realize he's been reliving the same day over and over. And things only get stranger and more frightening for him from there.

The story is free in both e-format, Youtube, Project Gutenberg, and various audio formats all over the interweb and is quite easy to find. I purchased this paperback version of the story, which is also available in hardcover format for about fifteen bucks (The cover is the original Galaxy magazine cover), so if interested, it's easy to find.

Denis says

A true 'post golden age' classic and one of Pohl's greatest works. This is and perhaps, "The Space Merchants" (aka "The Gravy Planet" 1952 Galaxy Magazine, with Cyril Kornbluth) what you read first to get a gist of what he is all about.

Adhoc says

A fun read....something I might have seen on the twilight zone.

Barbara Krasnoff says

I recently reread this story by Frederik Pohl, which is one of the classics of 1950s science fiction. It is the tale of a supposedly ordinary man in a small town who one day realizes that he is living the same day over and over again. But whereas a lesser author would have left it at that, Pohl unfolds layers of increasingly horrific revelations that makes the story riveting. But at the core, this is a satire of the advertising culture that dominated the 1950s U.S., making it a completely satisfactory piece.

Jon Ureña says

[technology and marketing, of all things (hide spoiler)]

Norm Davis says

The Tunnel Under the World, by Fredrick Pohl, Galaxy Science Fiction, January 1955

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I'm a bit stumped by the title, "The Tunnel Under the World". Don't know what I expected but it wasn't this story... which, by the way, is excellent. It's a 59 year old story but with a tweak here and there, then add a little polish, and you have a ready to go story or movie adaptation for 2014.

This is not a novel, maybe a novelette or long short story. It isn't obviously science fiction like most 6 decade old science fiction is/was. No blasters, ray guns, rocket ships, and the other hallucinations of what life would be like in 2015. In fact most the descriptions of daily life were probably very close to 1955. I mean, screw in fuses? Don't see those much anymore. And what would a 50's story be without cigarettes? This one hyped Chesterfield at one point.. which was a popular brand in the 50s.

After the first paragraph of chapter two I had to flip back to chapter one. At that point I easily realize I'm in (view spoiler). This really peaked my interest and is why I gave it 4 stars instead of the normal 3 for this era of science fiction story. I wanted to know what would happen next. But unlike (view spoiler) things were decidedly different in this story. Another tweak to my curiosity.

By this time you know there is something terribly wrong. You're pretty attached to the protagonist, Guy Burckhardt who has pieced together pieces of the mystery but it still isn't making sense to him. At that point of the story figuring things out becomes paramount and why the pages are burning by.

By the end of the story you're certain it is a science fiction story. Even more so than you suspect. If you're like, me you might think the ending was similar to (view spoiler), except the 'reveal' isn't supernatural, rather science fiction.

Bodhi says

You owe it to yourself to read this story if you are curious about some of the early themes in Science Fiction writing. My review is probably biased by the fact that this was my first taste of SciFi from this era. The time was embodied by cigarette stands, cellophane dresses, Martians, and American values.

Without revealing much, I will say that the story is an ideal length. The action and reveals don't let up. Some of the ideas are kind of quaint in the 21st century, but there was a suspicion that everything about the modern American family was manufactured a little too perfectly. Every day is JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER except the corporations come out with one more type of cigarette or a new freezer to buy your wife, making you stay late at the office.

All of this provides the undercurrent for a reality that starts to show a false veneer for "Guy" one day. The story has some stylistic high-contrast, explosive pictures to boot. You might catch a whiff of 1984 in some scenes. Altogether, there are a number of twists and a great amount of suspense before you get to the end.

I'll bet you can't guess every detail of the author's conclusion, which makes you wonder... Is it realistic?

Richard says

This is a very fine example of the type of science fiction in which the idea is the main source of interest. The characters are really simply conduits for the development of that overarching concept. This story was published in "Galaxy" in 1954 and remains not only quite enjoyable but relevant and disturbing. The idea has been seen in various forms in some quite good science fiction films since but it would be quite wrong to give any spoilers which might lessen its initial impact.

Suffice it to say that I read this story when it first appeared and I never forgot it. What makes this particular edition especially useful is the supplementary material which accompanies it--a feature of all of the stories in

"The Galaxy Project" series.

If you are subscribed to Kindle Unlimited then this and all of the stories in that series may be read free of charge.

Joseph Inzirillo says

A short novella by Pohl. The fourth star is for the second twist. Did not see that second one coming at all. Well done sir.

Elena B. says

[- somehow it kept reminding me of 'Westworld' (hide spoiler)]

Jakk Makk says

[They Live, Groundhog's Day, Scanners, Twilight Zone episodes etc. (hide spoiler)]

Algernon says

In the middle of reading Replay by Ken Grimwood, I become obsessed with tracking down a short story I read 30 years ago in a science-fiction almanac. Couldn't remember the title, as I read it initially in Romanian translation, but a search with "time loop" as the key word came up a winner. So here it is:

On the morning of June 15th, Guy Burckhardt woke up screaming.

What follows is his routine day of breakfast, going to work, job stress, lunch, going home in the evening. But something is slightly out of whack: little details that don't ring true, like unknown brands of cigarettes and drinks, people missing from work, gadgets not working properly in the house.

Things only get weirder from here, as the next day:

On the morning of June 15th, Guy Burckhardt woke up screaming.

I will stop here, in order to avoid spoilers and let you discover for yourself what happens. The comparison with **Groundhog Day** and **Replay** is inevitable, and I think the main difference is that Frederick Pohl wrote a science story, focused on facts and logic while the other two are more speculative in content, "what if" fantasies that put the accent on morality plays and character introspection. Pohl also introduces a strong social commentary element, in the advertising mishaps that are central to the plot.

This short story made a strong impression on my 16 years old fresh mind, but re-reading it now, it is a little too short and underdeveloped. The author had a good idea, put it fast on paper wrapped in a thriller form,

then went to tackle the next interesting idea. I'm not really complaining, but it's not quite top ten or Hugo material.
