



The Man Who Fell to Earth

By Walter Tevis

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The basis for a feature film starring David Bowie in his first major role, *The Man Who Fell to Earth* tells the story of Thomas Jerome Newton, an alien disguised as a human who comes to Earth on a mission to save his people. Devastated by nuclear war, his home planet, Anthea, is no longer habitable. Newton lands in Kentucky and starts patenting Anthean technology, amassing the fortune he needs to build a spaceship that will bring the last 300 Anthean survivors to Earth.

But instead of the help he seeks, he finds only self-destruction, sinking into alcoholism, abandoning his spaceship, and can save neither his people nor himself. This is the poignant story of a man fallen to addiction, materialism, and loneliness.

About the Author

Walter Tevis was born in San Francisco in 1928 and lived in the Sunset District, close to Golden Gate Park and the sea, for the first ten years of his life. At the age of ten his parents placed him in the Stanford Children's Convalescent Home for a year, during which time they returned to Kentucky, where the Tevis family had been given an early grant of land in Madison County. Walter traveled across country alone by train at the age of eleven to rejoin his family and felt the shock of entering Appalachian culture when he enrolled in the local school. He made friends with Toby Kavanaugh, a fellow student at the Lexington high school, and learned to shoot pool on the table of the recreation room in the Kavanaugh mansion, and to read science fiction books for the first time in Toby's small library. They remained lifelong friends, and Toby grew up to become the owner of a pool room in Lexington.

At the age of seventeen, Walter became a carpenter's mate in the Navy, serving on board the USS *Hamil* in Okinawa. After his discharge, he studied at the University of Kentucky where he received B.A. and M.A. degrees in English Literature and studied with Abe Guthrie, author of *The Big Sky*. Upon graduation he taught everything from the sciences and English to physical education in small-town Kentucky high schools. At that time he began writing short stories,

which were published in the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Esquire*, *Redbook*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *Playboy*. He wrote his first novel, *The Hustler*, which was published in 1959, and followed that with *The Man Who Fell to Earth*, which was published in 1963. He taught English literature and creative writing at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio for fourteen years, where he was a distinguished professor, and left that post in 1978 to come to New York and resume writing. He wrote four more novels—*Mockingbird*, *The Steps of the Sun*, *The Queen's Gambit* and *The Color of Money*—and a collection of short stories, *Far From Home*. He died of lung cancer in 1984. His books have been translated into French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, Icelandic, Greek, Slovak, Serbo-Croatian, Israeli, Turkish, Japanese, and Thai.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Beautiful science fiction . . . The story of an extraterrestrial visitor from another planet is designed mainly to say something about life on this one."

--The New York Times

"An utterly realistic novel about an alien human on Earth . . . Realistic enough to become a metaphor for something inside us all, some existential loneliness."

--NORMAN SPINRAD

"Those who know The Man Who Fell to Earth only from the film version are missing something. This is one of the finest science fiction novels of its period."

--J.R. DUNN

Author of Full Tide of Night

"Tevis writes . . . with power and poetry and tension."

--The Washington Post Book World

"Terrific . . . The Man Who Fell to Earth can be seen as the story of a very hip, space-age Passion--about a savior who comes to Earth not to save us but his own people, and who is, in effect, crucified dead and buried."

--VINCENT CANBY --*Review*

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From the Inside Flap

T.J. Newton is an extraterrestrial who goes to Earth on a desperate mission of mercy. But instead of aid,

Newton discovers loneliness and despair that ultimately ends in tragedy.

From the Back Cover

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shawna Vaughn:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open as well as read a book entitled The Man Who Fell to Earth? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have additional opinion?

Miguel Willis:

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Ila Robinette:

The publication untitled The Man Who Fell to Earth is the guide that recommended to you you just read. You can see the quality of the reserve content that will be shown to an individual. The language that author use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The copy writer was did a lot of investigation when write the book, to ensure the information that they share to your account is absolutely accurate. You also might get the e-book of The Man Who Fell to Earth from the publisher to make you a lot more enjoy free time.

Ethel Swafford:

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its protect, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this particular!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

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