



The Man Who Remembered The Moon

David Hull

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He says it's gone. They say it never existed.

"A superb story... an ongoing series of surprising revelations/suppositions — surprising, yet satisfying within the rollercoaster logic of its world." - advance praise from Matthew Sharpe, author of *The Sleeping Father*, *You Were Wrong*, and *Jamestown*

When the moon disappears, Daniel Hale is shocked to find that he's the only person who remembers it. He is quickly committed. As he struggles to understand what might have happened to the moon - and to himself - only his doctor, the tenacious Marvin Pallister, holds out hope that Daniel might be cured of his condition - now known as Hale-Pallister's Lunacy.

A vanishing act, a puzzle in die-cut pieces - and ultimately a meditation on longing and loss, *The Man Who Remembered the Moon* is a cerebral yet witty study for fans of Paul Auster, Italo Calvino, David Mitchell and others who skirt the borders of fictional reality.

The Man Who Remembered The Moon Details

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Author : David Hull

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From Reader Review The Man Who Remembered The Moon for online ebook

Ventsi Dimitrov says

This review is also available on the blog Codices, where I'm a contributor.

I was approached by an emerging Canadian publisher by the name of Dumagrad Books. The name of the press by the way comes from Bulgarian (my native language) and means “*word city*” or “*city of words*”. So they just published author David Hull’s first book in ebook format. “*The Man Who Remembered the Moon*” will also see a print edition on the 21st of September. I was fascinated by the idea of this little novella and so couldn’t say no to reviewing it. Interested in what the book is about and what I think about it? Read on!

What would happen if one day the Moon suddenly disappeared? More over, what would happen if only one man realized that it did and all other people on Earth claim there’s never been such thing as *a moon*? That’s exactly what David Hull’s novella “The Man Who Remembered the Moon” is about. Although it’s about a bunch of other things, too, like family, love, passion, and even existence. Between the pages of this book one will find what’s the meaning of desperation, but also what’s it like to believe in something so strongly, that nothing, nothing can stand in a person’s way.

The protagonist, Daniel, from which’s point of view we experience the story, realizes one evening that the Moon is not present on the night sky. He is baffled to understand nobody else remembers our natural satellite ever existed in the first place and he is committed in a mental institution for treatment by one Doctor Marvin Pallister. The two of them cannot seem to agree whether Daniel is crazy or if someone (or *something*) has erased the Moon from every place it’s been referred to in the past. The reader will be pointed to interesting conclusions and theories by Daniel himself which sound so probable, one could start believing in them – whether the Moon has become, or always was, something that cannot be described – like *love* – and is yet to manifest in man’s thoughts. But why has Daniel known about it his whole life then?

Questions like these permeate throughout the novella. “The Man Who Remembered the Moon” is not your normal everyday read. The author may think it’s just a story, but it’s rather something more – a philosophical read about man; about his desire to know more, to understand the world around him, and what other people perceive.

Things start to look really bizarre when toward the end of the story Dr. Pallister, starts looking deeply into what the protagonist has gathered as research. Daniel has gathered notes on the Moon, it’s oddly lacking mentions in history and so on, and gives them to the doctor. That leads to one of the best plot twists I have recently read in a book or whatever. I don’t have any intention to spoil it for you – read and enjoy it for yourself.

Final thoughts? “The Man Who Remembered the Moon” is a brilliant novella from a promising new author. David Hull gives a prominent nod to other magical realism and contemporary fiction authors before him, and also promises to show us more of what he’s got with his first novel due out next year. It’s just a matter of time to see if he can deliver. I sincerely hope he does.

Dawn says

Is something only true when enough people agree that it is?

Carla says

They say it never existed. But he remembers. The big circle in the sky, the moon. He saw it, and then it wasn't there any longer. And, as he starts asking questions, asking if anyone remembers, he finds out that everything is gone. No one knows what he's talking about, all known references are gone. And everyone thinks he's delusional. Still, he knows. But how much is that knowledge worth when he is alone and no one believes him?

One of the most interesting aspects of this book is the fact that, despite its brevity, it presents a vast journey through the complexities of human mind. The possible theories that explain the main character's delusions – if they can be described as such – the loneliness of believing in something that everyone else thinks absurd, the effects of our troubles on those we love most. There's a whole lot of important questions in this relatively short story – and that is one of the reasons that make it so enthralling.

There's also a strange proximity with the main character. It's easy to feel what he feels, to share his confusion with what he knows but no one else remembers. And, by using his voice to tell his story, the author gives a larger impact to this book, because it makes want to know what happened to the moon – and what happened to Daniel. And, at the same time, it makes understand how he feels.

As for the explanations, it's interesting to notice the various theories Daniel makes up to explain his alleged condition. His research, his questions, his continued belief, all of it makes him more human, and more complex. And, at the same time, the mystery of the disappearance of the moon keeps us intrigued. That will also expand the impact of the final revelations, which end in a brilliant – and very surprising – conclusion. This means that, although being a short book, *The Man Who Remembered the Moon* is, in all the relevant aspects, a huge story. Captivating, surprising, intense – and with a brilliant finale – it can never be less than memorable. And impressive in all of its aspects.

**I won this book in one of the Goodreads First Reads giveaways

Grumpus says

This short story sounded so promising--the moon disappears and only one person remembers it. What could have happened? Why is it that only Daniel remembers it? All references to it EVERYWHERE are gone. Is he crazy? Don't ask me, this is yet another of those "Field of Dreams" books (like the movie) in which I didn't get it. In fact, I'm going to create a new shelf with that name because I am encountering these with more frequency. Am I crazy? Likely.

Daphne says

This was a near perfect short story. I was captivated from the first page, and stayed that way throughout. Didn't even stop to refill my coffee. Experimental in the best sense, and original completely.

Literary Relish says

The philosophical meanderings of this slim little volume, exploring the historical, scientific and sociological significance of the moon add up to one lovely, symbolic, rather melancholy whole. In a world where the psychologist himself begins to doubt his own sanity, 'moon' is an archaic, intangible concept used to symbolise, much like Daniel's imagined object, a whole range of human emotion.

Once I got over Daniel's rather unbelievable, seemingly unjust hospitalisation (I mean, who cares if he's made something up? There are far crazier people out there ... or is that just in Manchester?) I could begin to really enjoy the challenging questions obliquely posed by this story. What is reality? What is memory? Whose perspective of the world is the correct one?

This is a remarkably well-considered, touching piece of work written in a strong voice that is, most excitingly, all but unknown. Most strikingly of all are Hull's ideas. His 'Hidden Track' at the end of the book is a pre-existing short story (which you can read in full [here](#)) which I enjoyed so much it outshone even the poignant title tale. In a mere handful of pages Hull creates an atmosphere of tension to rival the greatest short story writers out there. Sat in a bar one night, our protagonist meets a curious character; a J G Ballard aficionado. Intrigued, he accepts an invitation to go to his flat to see some of his memorabilia, only to discover that things aren't quite as ordinary as they might seem...

Short story writing is clearly an art, one that arguably requires the crispest of prose and strongest of ideas to really pull the reader in. David Hull writes with both and I really can't wait to see what he has in store next.

Maggie Gordon says

The first thing that struck me about *The Man Who Remembered The Moon* is that the book design is super cool. It's a tiny novella with rounded corners and a striking cover. Inside are two interesting stories as well! The main novella is about a man who remembers the moon when no one else does. The book follows him receiving psychological treatment about his delusions as he tries to scientifically and philosophically prove that the moon does exist. It's a fascinating thought experiment.

There's also a short story at the end about two fans of an author that devolved quickly into something quite terrible. It's quite an unnerving read with a bloody ending.

Neither story is particularly fast-paced as these are literary speculative fiction pieces. The drama comes from the ideas being explored and the atmosphere that develops from these intellectual concepts as they play out in the plot. Definitely worth a read!

Tanya says

He suffers a first-order false belief: the belief that there was once a thing called a moon, which disappeared and sucked the evidence that it had ever existed into the black hole of its absence [loc. 518]

This is an odd novella, deceptively simple: the premise is that the moon no longer exists, has never existed, and Daniel Hale is the only person who remembers the world where there was a moon.

This plays out logically: first Daniel, and later his doctor (Marvin Pallister), examine all the inconsistencies, possibilities, misapprehensions et cetera that follow from such a premise. Hale, desperate to prove himself sane, looks in poetry books; notes that the other planets now have satellites, rather than moons; rants at the local newspaper for leaving moon phases out of the astronomy column. Pallister takes a certain relish in the more nonsensical of his patient's pronouncements: "Let me get this straight. Everyone knew about it. It was huge. And nobody noticed if it was there or not." [loc. 46]

Then, one afternoon, Daniel sits down with the book that Pallister has written about his case.

I had to reread the last few pages several times to appreciate their full weight. (My first thought was that they made a nonsense of the rest of the story: later, I understood it better.) The last page, in particular, is carefully crafted: punctuation, paragraph breaks, repetition all precise.

Brief, thought-provoking and oddly humorous. It's a story, I suppose, about mental illness, about whether a problem is internal or external, about fighting to hold onto a belief: but one would not wish for Marvin Pallister as a therapist.

I'll look out for more of Hull's fiction.

kai jiang says

The book was fast paced, it held me there, demanding that I finish it. The whole concept of the story was very unusual and I had never seen anything like it. I have to say the only part that slightly threw me off was the ending, I had a hard time figuring out what was happening even though I reread it many times, I found it hard to comprehend that scene. I wish we had found out more about the moon's disappearance, though perhaps the author threw in a few hints and I simply didn't catch them. Overall this book was well written I definitely see talent in this author's work, the book was eye catching and a good read overall I just didn't find the end very satisfying. The setting probably could be a little more fleshed out but the author did an amazing job with this book.

- Cassidy

Lesley says

beautiful reasoning

Al says

The premise: the moon disappears (along with all evidence it ever existed) and only one man, Daniel, remembers.

Once you buy into the premise, this is an interesting story that works as just a story. You wonder where it will go and how it will resolve itself. Since everyone who reads this knows the moon exists, we're on Daniel's side. (Unless something has changed and no one other than me believes this anymore. If that's the case, please don't comment and tell me.) But if you're prone to seeing more in a story than the actual story, this one might send your mind off in all kinds of directions. Maybe considering the concepts of normality, sanity, and madness. Possibly differences in perception from person to person. One of my conclusions is that, assuming I'm currently sane, I doubt I still would be after going through Daniel's experience.

****Originally written for "Books and Pals" book blog. May have received a free review copy. ****

Victoria says

Kinda weird (I usually like weird but this wasn't a good kinda weird) and the narrative was just boring.

Patrick Murtha says

David Hull's teasing literary fable, *The Man Who Remembered the Moon*, opens with a gambit that could be considered either Kafkaesque or Twilight Zone-ish - and come to think of it, don't those have something in common? Hull's protagonist no longer sees the moon in the sky, and can't convince anyone that it was once there. They don't know what he's talking about.

Now, you are probably already thinking - what about moon references in literature? What about the word "lunar"? What about the tides? Wouldn't it be a lot darker at night? The author is ahead of you.

It is not just the absence of the moon that renders the world that Hull describes in this novella unfamiliar. That is often true with Kafka and Rod Serling, too - the worlds in which their possibly delusional protagonists are situated are not quite right anyway.

Two peculiarities in the world of Hull's story stood out to me. One, the delusion sufferer is institutionalized over it, and for a long time. We must admit, this could not be our contemporary world. Delusions sometimes used to get you locked up; no longer. We shut down the asylums and made the world the asylum. It saves money, anyway.

Two, strongly related to one, the man who remembers the moon insists on trying to bring everyone around, instead of letting the point be. I suppose that would make him more of an institutional candidate. Think about this. Couldn't you make honest statements that would have others looking askance at your good sense, even possibly your sanity? I know I could; I assume that most people could. We just learn to keep quiet about it, or at the very least to pick our audiences carefully.

Hull's protagonist has no self-preservational filter; by golly, everyone must be made to understand that there was a moon. Which is more problematic, falling prey to a (possible) delusion, or demanding that the world agrees with your perception of it? The latter is certainly more dangerous.

Naturally, I do not want to say how this all plays out in the story, which I recommend to your attention. It is a quick read, and a rewarding one. Hull has a full-length novel announced for a year from now, and I will definitely be reading that book when it appears. It will be interesting to see if it extends the cool, thoughtful tone of *The Man Who Remembered the Moon*, or goes in a different stylistic direction altogether.

Al says

Rather fab. One day, Daniel notices the moon has disappeared. This in itself is weird but then it takes on monumental moreweird when he discovers no-one but him remembers it. There is no evidence anywhere that it ever existed.

Have you ever been very convinced of something ? Tried to convince others? But the more you try, the more they recede and eventually you are the one who seems/is delusional. Yeah, I've done that. It's frustrating as hell.

Once my niece told me there is a fairy with wings who lives in her bedroom. At first I gave her the usual adult crap but then I be- thought self, and now I wait in the hope the fairy will also visit me. Humans, we are an impatient lot who don't listen or see.

What is reality??? What is real??

Fab

Victor Davis says

The quintessence of science fiction. As a reader who has never placed a high value on space ships, aliens, futurology, and made-up words, I have a muddled relationship with science fiction. I choose to qualify my taste as "social" science fiction (think *Atlas Shrugged*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Flowers for Algernon*), implying that a) all those elements are forgivable only if they advance a social commentary, and b) that at the opposite polar extreme are works of "cheap" or "formulaic" science fiction. David Hull accomplishes the feat of contributing to the body of work of the former. *The Man Who Remembered The Moon* is an exquisite piece of short social science fiction, answering the beautifully simple prompt of: imagine the moon disappeared tomorrow, but you were the only one who ever remembered it was there to begin with. He opens with a bang on page one, and takes the reader through many stages of frustration and insanity with a doctor-patient mental hospital plot. While I am sure there are no political intentions here, he does an excellent job placing the reader in the shoes of a mentally afflicted person. This surreal advancement of empathy immediately cries attention upon different forms of therapy. Can the patient be led out of the fog of delusion by logical argument? By appeal to family love? By letting the delusion "play out"? Etc. Hull is also a learned man,

enriching his prose with references to astronomy, physics, medicine, and literature. I am very glad to have discovered this writer, and look forward to following his work.

I received a free copy from the author in exchange for an honest review.
