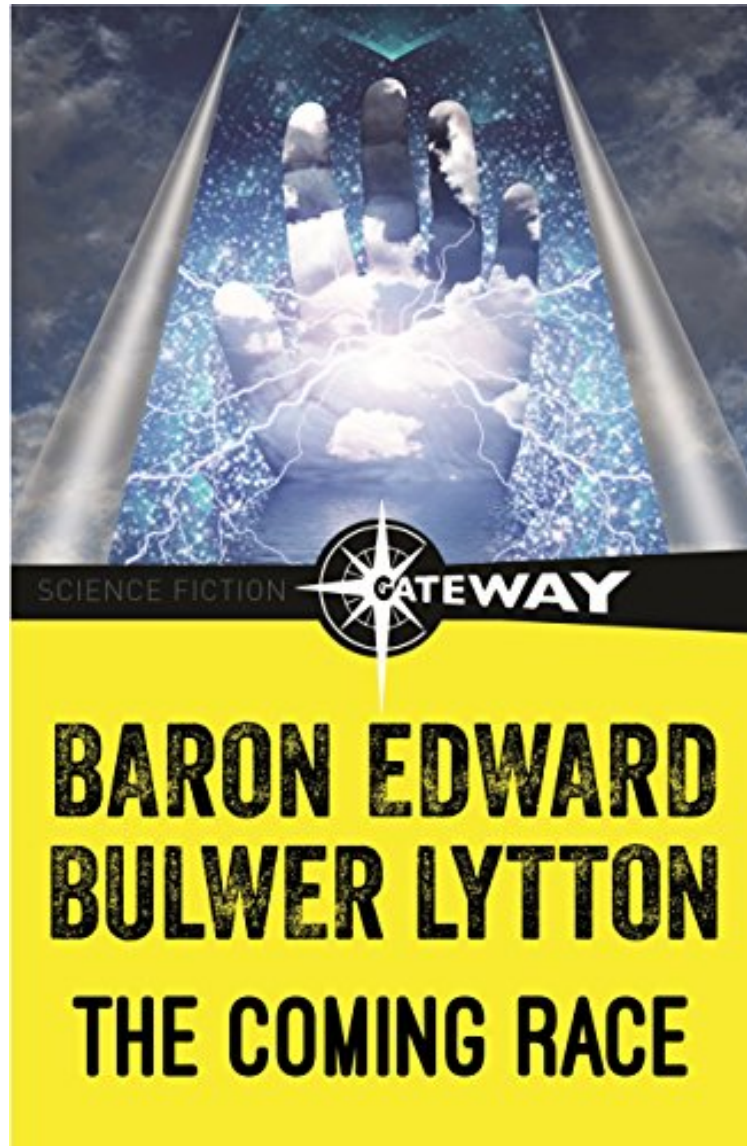


[Free pdf] The Coming Race (English Edition)

The Coming Race (English Edition)

Von Edward Bulwer-Lytton
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Von Edward Bulwer-Lytton : The Coming Race (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Coming Race (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Jules Verne meets H.G. Wells in Lytton's Dystopic NarrativeVon N.Higgins can be contacted at alan.higgins@lineone.netWritten in 1871 The Coming Race was one of the last books ever written by the author, he died two years later. The story begins when an American civil engineer falls into an underground world. There he

discovers a subterranean paradise inhabited by a race called the Vril-ya. These Vril-ya tell the narrator that they are descended from ancestors who escaped the 'upper world' as a result of a deluge which covered the earth. Their evolution has taken a certain course mainly because of the discovery of an energy source, similar to electricity. This energy, from which they also take their name, is called Vril. Lytton's narrative, published in the same year as *The Descent of Man*, is one of the first truly post-Darwinian novels. It incorporates many of the scientific ideas of the period, and the subsequent fears of degeneration and devolution. The narrator soon discovers that this subterranean paradise is not all that it seems. Lurking in an unlit region of this underground world are a race of primitive savages, who like Wells's Morlocks, represent the flipside of evolution. Without Vril the savages have not progressed, they live in darkness, eat meat and resemble animals. In contrast, the Vril-ya live perfect lives, they are physically beautiful and have developed the ability to fly with the help of Vril. The narrator appears to have stumbled into a paradise where a race of angels live in perfect harmony, without conflict, without envy and where all men are considered equal. The one thing that this future paradise cannot overcome is boredom. The narrator concludes that although mankind dreams of perfectibility it is a pleasure that we are not meant to enjoy, at least not in this lifetime. Worth a read, especially if you are interested in the history of Science Fiction.

Kurzbeschreibung The Coming Race draws upon ideas of Darwinism to describe a near-future world characterized by female dominance, physical perfection, and vast technological progress. **Pressestimmen** "The Coming Race is arguably one of the most important science fiction novels in the English language. Impressive in its breadth, this edition represents a very valuable teaching aid in both undergraduate and graduate courses on fantasy and science fiction." -- Nicholas Ruddick, author of *Ultimate Island: On the Nature of British Science Fiction* "First published in 1871, *The Coming Race* represents a curious hybrid. Its premise is unflinchingly futuristic: the inevitable displacement of today's humanity by a more evolved 'race.' But the story unfolds in perhaps the last unexplored place on earth--the 'hollow' interior of the planet..."--Gerald Jonas, *The New York Times Book Review* "Seed offers a comprehensive and useful critical edition of Bulwer-Lytton's early science fiction novel ... [that] illuminates the meaning and importance of this work to both writers who were Bulwer-Lytton's contemporaries and to science fiction and fantasy writers who followed him. Summing up: Highly recommended."--P.J. Kurtz, *Choice*
Kurzbeschreibung The Coming Race draws upon ideas of Darwinism to describe a near-future world characterized by female dominance, physical perfection, and vast technological progress.