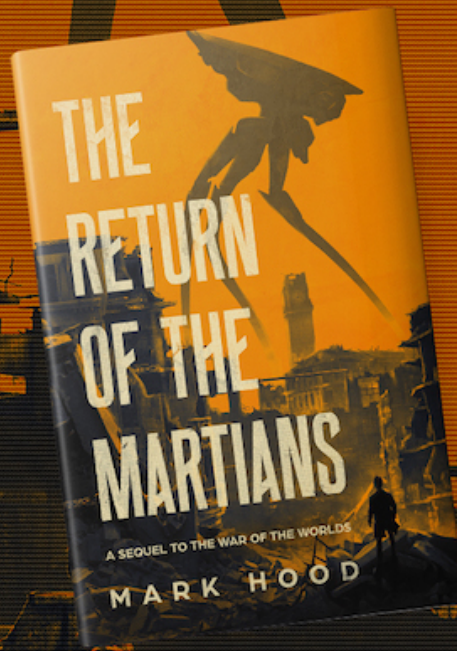


Deep into the (red) weeds



Hello again, !

Editing is that part of writing that some people just flat-out love, and some hate with a passion.

I don't mind it, I love to come back to a first draft and re-read it with fresh eyes. Most of the time I'm pleasantly surprised to find it's better than I imagined! There are always problems, things to fix and polish up, but since a major part of my process seems to be finishing a draft and feeling it's not great, it's always nice to find it's actually pretty good.

I'm currently editing based on Beta reader feedback. Beta readers (like beta testers for software) are the folks who get a look at the unfinished product and see what works, what doesn't and what feels out of place. I had some great readers feeding back on the novel, and their comments on what they loved really helps keep my spirits up when I get to the parts they didn't like as much.

In this case, the ending took a few punches to the stomach. It didn't seem to resonate with the readers as much as the rest of the book, and re-reading it myself I can see why. I had set up some great conflicts and challenges at the start of the book, and they kind of fell by the wayside towards the end. So the final few chapters need a very heavy rewriting!

But that's good, it'll make for a much stronger story. And while I might have loved to get feedback that 'it's perfect, don't change a thing,' finding out there's an actual problem to fix makes the whole process worthwhile.

So this week will involve tearing apart the last five chapters, writing a new outline and then seeing whether any of the bits can be reused. It's tricky, keeping that much story in your head at once, but when it all clicks into place the feeling of satisfaction is like nothing else.

Wish me luck!



How NASA's Curiosity Rover Is Making Mars Safer for Astronauts

Could lava tubes, caves, or subsurface habitats offer safe refuge for future astronauts on Mars? Scientists with NASA's Curiosity Mars rover team are helping explore questions like that with the Radiation Assessment Detector, or [RAD](#).

Unlike Earth, Mars doesn't have a magnetic field to shield it from the high-energy particles whizzing around in space. That radiation can wreak havoc on human health, and it can seriously compromise the life support systems that Mars astronauts will depend on, as well.

[Read more!](#)

War of the Worlds (1953)

For some reason I've never recommended anything directly related to 'War of the Worlds'... what a strange oversight.

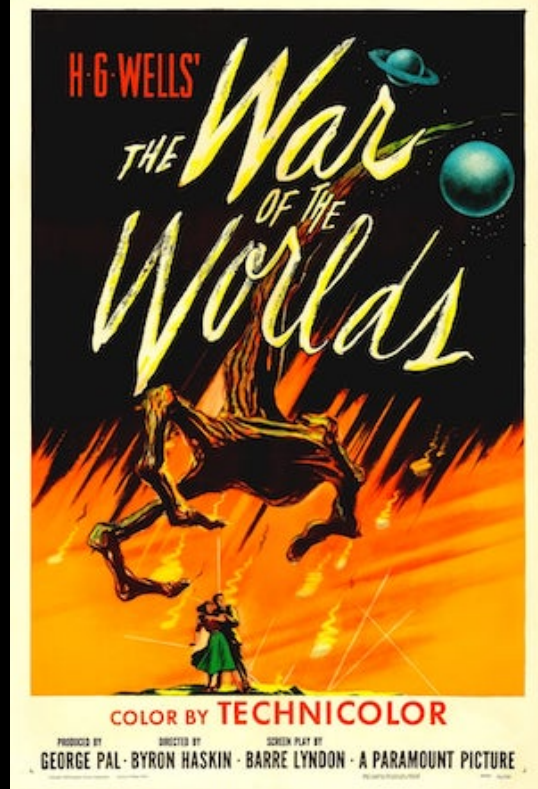
There are a lot of interpretations and adaptations to choose from, but I do

have a soft spot for the 'original' movie.

It was made in 1953, and so naturally the special effects don't really convince us today. Some of the opinions of the time also don't hold up too well either, and to say it departs from the source material would be an understatement (although I'd argue it's still closer than the 2005 Spielberg version).

As a slice of 1950s American SciFi history, though, it's remarkable.

Check it out!



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