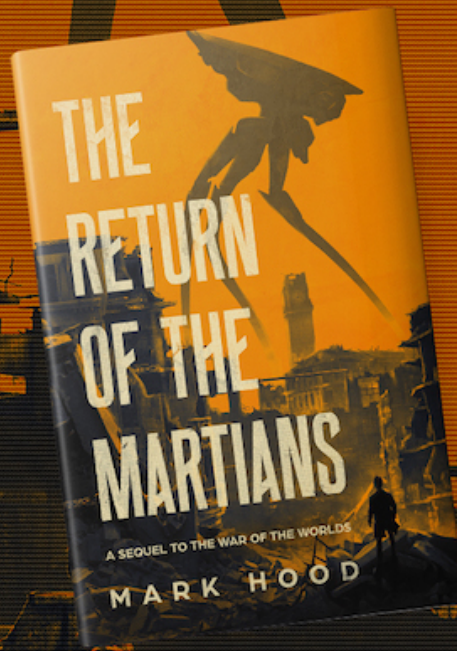


But is it any good?



Hello again, !

Last time we spoke I was deep into the red weeds of editing, something which is now all but finished. The story is a lot stronger for the changes I've made, and I just want to let it sit over the festive period before I go back and do a final check with an eye to releasing it!

In the meantime, I've put my short novella up for beta readers. This is the point in the process where I look for people unfamiliar with the work to read it and comment on what works and what doesn't work for them.

They get a preview of a work-in-progress and a peek behind the scenes, and I get (hopefully) honest feedback on what is good and bad about it.

Sound like fun? You can join the team!

Head over to [StoryOrigin](#) and fill in the little form, and I'll give you access to the draft. It's free, and hopefully you enjoy the process.

If you don't like the sound of that, or prefer to leave the story unspoiled until I release it officially, that's fine too!

Either way, we're getting really close to the launch of the book and the novella, so stay subscribed if you want to be the first to know.



Are we close to finding life on Mars?

Scientists with NASA's Perseverance Mars rover mission have discovered that the bedrock their six-wheeled explorer has been driving on since landing in February likely formed from red-hot magma. The discovery has implications for understanding and accurately dating critical events in the history of Jezero Crater - as well as the rest of the planet.

The team has also concluded that rocks in the crater have interacted with water multiple times over the eons and that some contain organic molecules.

[Read more!](#)

The War of the Worlds Radio Broadcast

We've all heard the story of mass panic when Orson Welles' radio broadcast of the War of the Worlds was taken as a news broadcast by the naive population.

But the reality is that only a very few people were confused by it. The



newspapers, fearing that the new popularity of radio would diminish their influence and profits, spun it into a much bigger story than it truly was.

Nevertheless, the history of the broadcast, and the wider impact of the story as a whole, is examined here in a BookRiot article.

[Check it out!](#)

Did you know I also write Urban Fantasy novels? If that appeals to you, I have a newsletter for that too!

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