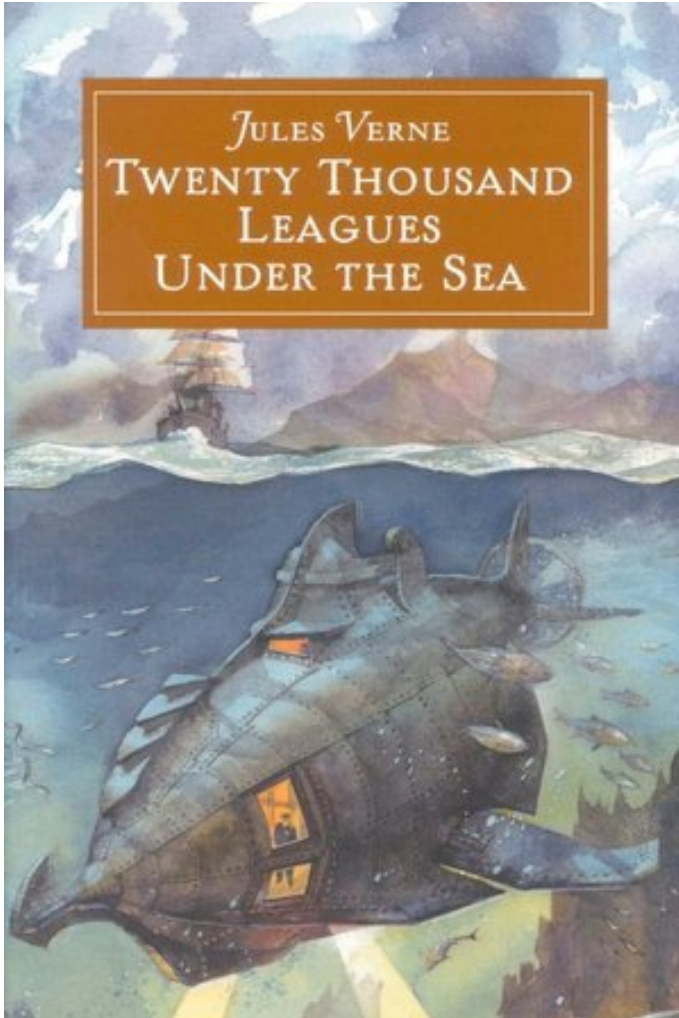


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## Jules Verne

### Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea (Captain Nemo #1)



Title: Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea (Captain Nemo #1)

Author: Jules Verne

Format: Hardcover

Language: English

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## Description

French naturalist Dr. Aronnax embarks on an expedition to hunt down a sea monster, only to discover instead the *Nautilus*, a remarkable submarine built by the enigmatic Captain Nemo. Together Nemo and Aronnax explore the underwater marvels, undergo a transcendent experience amongst the ruins of Atlantis, and plant a black flag at the South Pole. But Nemo's mission is one of revenge-and his methods coldly efficient.

## Insightful reviews

Crystal Starr Light: Professor Pierre Arronax and his assistant, Conseil, join the crew of the Abraham Lincoln to chase down this strange ocean mammal that has been destroying ships. The duo, along with harpooner Ned Land, end up overboard and rescued by what is revealed to be a submarine, not a mammal. This submarine is captained by Nemo, a mysterious man who has eschewed the land in preference to roaming the open seas. Nemo takes the trio twenty thousand leagues across the seas - from the Pacific to the Indian to the Mediterranean to the Atlantic. Along the way, Arronax uncovers bits and pieces about his captain and catalogs the various fish he sees.

Jules Verne is basically the Father of Science Fiction. His novels - such as "Twenty Thousand Leagues" - were groundbreaking for their time. I'd go so far to say that if it weren't for him, we wouldn't have the science fiction genre at all.

That said, this book was supremely dry and dull most of the time. Yes, it is "hard science fiction" with lots of attention to detail to the mechanics of underwater "sailing" (some of which is incredibly on the mark; others, such as the lamp lighting the way of the Nautilus, laughable and out-dated), but there comes a point when enough is enough. This is particularly prevalent when Arronax/Verne spends multiple pages describing the flora and fauna of the sea in intricate detail ("cataloging fish" into their species and genus) or having long conversations with other characters about irrelevant history (such as the electric cable stretching from the Americas to Ireland).

Again, I greatly appreciate the attention to detail and the thought Verne put into the operation of the Nautilus. That isn't my problem. And I don't mind some detail about the sights Arronax sees while traveling. But the latter in particular "sinks" the story. And when the story is as diluted and sparse as it is here, that is nearly a death warrant.

The majority of this novel reads as a travelogue, Google Maps directions, an account of someone's rather dull vacation. While there are a few scenes that are particularly interesting (the journey to the Antarctic and nearly being trapped underwater, a way too short squid attack, and some walking underwater scenes), by far most of the book is cataloging fish or boring "and on Mar 21st, we sailed from X in Y direction to Z". Yawn. What makes this is even more ridiculous is that Arronax, Ned Land, and Conseil are supposedly held prisoner aboard the Nautilus, so they do not leave and divulge its secrets elsewhere, but no one seems to care about being held against their will until suddenly they are. I'd say "Stockholm Syndrome", only

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they give a half-hearted struggle when Captain Nemo tells them they are stuck on the ship. Based on how it is written and how little concern these characters have to their captivity, I don't know why Verne didn't just have Captain Nemo invite Arronax to journey with him and maybe decide that he didn't WANT them to leave.

The only (and by far the best) character in this book is Captain Nemo. Sure, there is Arronax, Conseil, and Ned Land, but calling them "characters" is a stretch, unless you are using the most generous of definitions of "character". Arronax is probably the best of the trio. He has some moments of humor (as a side note, there is quite a bit of humor, and it is well applied and a good break from the blandness of most of the text) and has a complicated relationship with Nemo. Ned Land would be next. His sole character trait is wanting to kill anything that moves - whales, kangaroo, tigers, you name it. Pretty much any time he appears in the story, it's to talk about wanting to kill something or escape (and honestly, he doesn't even CONSIDER escape until the last 75% of the novel). The absolute worst character, in my opinion, is Conseil. The guy makes Saltine Crackers look like they aren't bland. If you want a cold, blindly loyal servant, this is your man.

But I hesitate to blame this lack of characterization on Verne's skill as an author or the standard "But it's hard scifi, not a character study!", particularly when you have the complex character of Captain Nemo. What the other characters aren't, Captain Nemo is. Apparently, something bad happened to his wife and his children - something bad enough to make him abandon the land all together and sail in his boat, enacting revenge on passing ships. But he isn't a cold blooded killer - he stays Ned Land's hand, when Ned wants to harpoon a bunch of whales for the hell of it. (Of course, not more than a couple of paragraphs later, Nemo then slaughters a bunch of "sperm whales", so calling the guy a hypocrite is definitely in order.)

So the story is meh, the characters are meh, and the descriptions are overboard. Part of that is just me not really being that hot on the book (my dad, a retired Navy submariner, and my sister both ADORE this book and think I am mad for not). That's only a small part of "Twenty Thousand Leagues". The more important part - and the reason I think that any fan of scifi should read this book - is its influence on the genre. This is the great-great-great-great grandfather of novels like "Ender's Game" and "2001: A Space Odyssey". So in that regard, this book is priceless - it gives me a better respect for the genre I love.

Quinn Slobodian: It's an amazing book but weirdly difficult to get through because of all the pseudo-scientific jargon he packs into it, which I seem to remember reading later Verne admitted to totally making up. So just when you're getting interested by Nemo, thinking what the hell ethnicity is this guy anyway? or what is this energy he can produce? you get swamped by thirty pages on the architecture of urchin skeletons. I'm tempted to make the rare call that the movie might be better, definitely more easily readable as a critique of colonialism.

Werner: Verne's works are difficult for an English-speaking reader to evaluate fairly, because he wasn't well-served by the English translations of his day --which are still the standard ones in print, which most people read. The translators changed plots and characters' names in some cases, excised passages they considered "boring," and generally took a very free hand with the text; so you never know how much of the plodding pacing, bathetic dialogue, and stylistic faults

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(for instance, what passes for "description" here is usually simply long lists of marine species whose appearance most readers have no idea of) to blame on them and how much on Verne. In any case, those characteristics are fully in view in the translation of this novel that I read, in addition to the basic 19th-century diction which will be off-putting to many modern readers anyway (my wife chose not to finish the book). The success of the book when it was written, in my opinion, owed much more to the novelty of the premise than to the execution of the finished product; and today, where submarines and undersea travel are commonplace, that factor doesn't operate. (This is a pity, because Captain Nemo is actually one of Verne's more complex and memorable characters, and deserves a better literary medium for his story!)

Chad Bearden: you cannot be a significant science-fiction reader with no delving just a little into the genre's roots. To therapy an embarrassing loss of any Jules Verne on my analyzing list, final yr I learn "Journey to the guts of the Earth". i will be able to see the right way to a tender reader, it'd be an rapid classic. it is a lovely ripping event whole with hidden underground worlds and dinosaurs and gleefully wrong-headed theories approximately geology. what is to not love? Maybe i used to be a bit disappointed? i used to be hoping for greater than only a corny event story. There wasn't much there ship me looking the cabinets for an additional Jules Verne novel. But, alas, "20,000 Leagues less than the Sea" sat there anyway, patiently watching for me be curious adequate to crack it open. Its clients were not too hot, however it did have something enjoying to its advantage, and that something was: Alan Moore. You see, Alan Moore had written a number of years ago, a Victorian period literary experience comedian referred to as "The League of striking Gentlemen." In it, he collects literary characters from numerous eras and sends them off to save lots of the world. For its base of operations, the workforce used The Nautilus, the otherworldly submarine of Captain Nemo. Moore's model of Nemo was once a couple of million miles clear of the James Mason model within the vintage Disney movie, which used to be much nearer in tone to the goofy peril invoked in "Journey to the guts of the Earth". Moore made Nemo darkish and brooding and ambiguous and cryptic. There wasn't whatever corny approximately it. Okay then...what the heck. I gave Verne one other chance, and plucked the radical off the shelve and had a look. Unexpectedly, the very first thing I learn was once a short introductory essay via Ray Bradbury evaluating "20,000 Leagues" to "Moby Dick", laying out a powerful arguement for a way Nemo and Ahab are contrary aspects of an analogous coin: Ahab evil in his pursuit to beat the good Whale and the sea, Nemo evil in his pursuit to develop into one with it. Now Ray Bradbury has consistently been a little a starry-eyed dreamer (which isn't really a nasty thing), so it wasn't too a long way fetched to imagine he was once interpreting this Verne novel via rose-colored lenses, yet fairly frankly, not anything in "Center of the Earth" fairly lent itself to being in comparison heavily to any nice American Novels, so maybe i would be facing anything diversified this time out. built with a little optimism, it used to be time to permit the booklet converse for itself. And the unconventional spoke for itself. the place "Center of the Earth" used to be a slick popcorn motion story, "20,000 Leagues" is darkish and gritty and real. instead of cartwheeling via flashy action-set-pieces, the tale of health practitioner Arronax and harpooner Ned Land's imprisonment by way of Nemo is a crawling, cryptic one. It strikes very slowly and deliberately, taking its time to supply lavish descriptions not just of the expansive vistas of the world's oceans, but additionally of the Nautilus, the grand undersea palace developed by way of Nemo in his self-imposed exile from society. Some of the descriptions of sea existence are virtually tedious (okay, 'almost' nothing, they are surely tedious). As our narrator is a marine biologist, we're graced with a number of encyclopedic descriptions of each

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attainable creature you may locate within the depths. Slowly, however, you start to gain how a lot in love with the sea Arronax is, and the entire unending cataloguing of sea-life are particularly the doctor's love poems to the sea. And through Arronax's nice passion, Nemo slowly turns into much less of a villain. How villainous is it precisely to provide an awe-struck marine biologist a chance to spend the remainder of existence learning issues no different scientist may well even dream existed. Which paves the way in which for Ned Land, the stressed harpooner who retains popping his grizzled nostril into the room and reminding each person that Nemo is a megalomaniac bastard. that is essentially true, yet honestly, I in simple terms begrudgingly approved Nemo because the undesirable guy, possibly simply because I, like Arronax, am a scientist at heart. Anyhow, the ethical ambiguity of Nemo, the starry-eyed ask yourself of Arronax, the tough-as-nails grit of Ned (I truthfully imagine Verne used to be picturing Kirk Douglas whilst he created Ned) offers the reader a bunch of characters with whom to get deeply invested. mixed with the problematic and plush descriptions of the area less than the ocean, "20,000 Leagues" is a significantly assorted kind of event than "Center of the Earth". Much to my shock and delight, it truly is excess of a schlocky romp round the ocean. it might no longer be on the similar point as "Moby Dick", however it certainly reads as a piece of good literature.

Ahmed Ramadan: ?? ????? 1869 ? ??? ????? ?????? ??????? " ?????? ??? ?????? ??? ?????? " ? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????????? ?????? ??? ??? ??????? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ??????? ? ?????????? ??????? ??? ?????? ??? ?????? ?????????? .. ??????? ?? ??? ?????? ?? ?????? ?????????? ? ?? ??? ??? - ??? ?????? ?????? - ?????? ?????????? .. ??????? ?? ?????? ?????? ?? ?????? ??? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?? ??????? ?????????? ? ?????????? ?????? ??? ?????? ?? ?????? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????????? ??????? .. ?????????????????????? ?????? ??????? .. ?????? ??? ?????? ??? ?????? ?? ??? ?????????? .. ?????? ?????? ? ??? ?????? ?????? ??? ?????????? ??? ??? ?????? ?????? ??? ??? ?????? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? .. ?????????? ?????? ??? ?????? ??? ?? ??? ?????????? ?????????? ? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? .. ?????????? ?????? ??? ?????? ??? ?? ??? ?????????? ?????????? ??????? ?? ?????? ????????

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