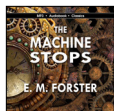


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The Machine Stops

E. M. Forster (1809 - 1852)

Read by: Elizabeth Klett
Length: 1 hour 21 minutes
Genre: Science Fiction
Language: English
Style: Solo

Product Formats and Options

Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	DVD case	DB-1308	0686175923162	\$9.99
MP3 CD	CD jacket	CJ-1308	0686175923179	\$8.99
MP3 CD	Security sleeve	CD-1308	NA	\$4.99
MP3 download	Zip file	DL-1308	NA	\$4.99

The Machine Stops is a science fiction short story that depicts a future world in which most of humanity has been driven from the surface of the earth and lives underground, each person in an isolated standard room. All physical and spiritual needs are provided by an all-powerful global Machine. People spend their time sharing ideas by means of video conferencing and instant messaging. The story centers on two characters who live on opposite sides of the world: Vashti, a woman content with the status quo, and her son, Kuno, a rebel who convinces her to travel to his room. There he confesses that he is disenchanted with the sterile underground world and that has visited the surface and discovered others living outside the Machine, only to be recaptured and threatened with expulsion and probable death through “Homelessness”. In the meantime, Technopoly, a kind of Machine

worship religion, is re-established, and the life support needed to visit the outer world is abolished. The Mending Apparatus, which repairs defects in the Machine, also fails, but is disregarded as a whim of the omnipotent Machine. Since knowledge of how to repair the Machine has been lost, the situation continues to deteriorate until civilization collapses. The story initially appeared in the November 1909 issue of *The Oxford and Cambridge Review* and was included in Forster’s 1928 collection *The Eternal Moment and Other Stories*. It has been voted one of the best novels of all time and was included in *The Science Fiction Hall of Fame, Volume Two* in 1973.

Edward Morgan (E. M.) Forster (January 1, 1879 – June 7, 1970) was an English author known best for his ironic novels examining class and hypocrisy in early 20th-century British society. He was born in London the only child of a middle class Anglo-Irish and Welsh family. His father died when he was a toddler. He inherited a substantial sum at age 8 that gave him enough to survive and become a writer. He attended King’s College, Cambridge and belonged to the Apostles discussion group, whose membership included many who would belong to the Bloomsbury Group. After university he traveled widely in Europe, Egypt, and India. He volunteered with the Red Cross in Egypt during the First World War. In the 1920’s he served as private secretary to the Maharajah of Dewas, and wrote *A Passage to India* (1924) upon his return to England, winning the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for fiction. In the 1930’s and 1940’s he became a successful broadcaster with the BBC.

Forster was a lifelong bachelor and an unapologetic homosexual, open to friends such as Benjamin Britten and Christopher Isherwood, but closeted in his public life. His novel *Maurice*, a gay love story written before the First World War, caused a stir when it was published shortly after his death.