

H.G.Wells states that the 1895 trials and subsequent imprisonment of Oscar Wilde provided the impetus for *The Island of Dr. Moreau*:

2. From H.G. Wells, "Preface." *The Works of H.G. Wells*. Vol. 2. *The Island of Doctor Moreau, The Sleeper Awakes*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1924. ix-xiii

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There was a scandalous trial... the graceless and piteous downfall of a man of genius, and [my] story was the response of an imaginative mind to the reminder that humanity is but animal, rough-hewn to a reasonable shape and in perpetual internal conflict between instinct and injunction. The story embodies this ideal, but apart from this embodiment has no allegorical quality. It was written just to give the utmost possible vividness to that conception of men as hewn and confused and tormented beasts.³