



## Breakfast in the Ruins

*Michael Moorcock*

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Breakfast in the Ruins: A Novel of Inhumanity mixes historical & speculative fiction. It was 1st published in the UK by the New English Library. The novel centres on Karl Glogauer, the protagonist of Moorcock's Nebula Award winning novella, Behold the Man, his homosexual exploits with an unnamed man from Nigeria, & his fantasies of the past & lives he could have led.

## **Breakfast in the Ruins Details**

Date : Published May 28th 1980 by Avon Books (first published 1971)

ISBN : 9780380491483

Author : Michael Moorcock

Format : Mass Market Paperback 176 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Science Fiction

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## From Reader Review Breakfast in the Ruins for online ebook

### Stephen Gracia says

A follow up, of sorts, to Behold the Man, Breakfast in the Ruins, focuses on the past lives of protagonist Karl Glogauer. It certainly doesn't equal Behold the Man, but it is excellent speculative fiction in its own right.

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### James says

Breakfast in the Ruins: A Novel of Inhumanity is a work of historical and speculative fiction. The novel centres on Karl Glogauer, who is also the protagonist of Moorcock's Nebula Award winning novella, Behold the Man, It concerns his homosexual exploits with an unnamed man from Nigeria, and his fantasies of the past and lives that he could have led.

The novel is divided into nineteen chapters, the first of which is set in the 'present' (1971), the next seventeen spaced out at roughly ten year intervals from 1871 through to 1990, with the last chapter set once again in the present. The chapters begin and end in the present, with a short scene involving Glogauer and the man, which vary from philosophical discussion to sex involving dominance and submission. It is unusual but intriguing and further evidence of the wonderful imagination of Michael Moorcock.

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### Isabel (kittiwake) says

In different places and times, we are shown scenes from the life of various incarnations of Karl Glogauer, citizen of the multiverse, growing up in a harsh world. Always at least partially of German Jewish origin, he usually finds himself in the midst of war or revolution. These scenes are linked by the story of an adult Karl in London in 1971 and there are also moral dilemmas (of the Sophie's Choice variety) at the end of each section, which I suppose are meant to make the reader think more carefully about the dilemmas Karl faces in his life/lives.

Karl Glogauer is the protagonist of another Moorcock book, "Behold the Man", which I preferred. I found Breakfast in the Ruins was interesting rather than enjoyable. It is not a book to read if you are feeling down; death stalks Karl throughout the multiverse.

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### The P says

Shocking to tears, to say the least. I thought to detect some mashup technique; a mixture of historical horrors, distress triggers and taboo breakers, dexterously weaved. Definitely would like to read much more of him.

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### Erik Graff says

This is sort of a sequel to a much more successful novel, Behold the Man, as it has the same protagonist and

involves time travel--though here only in the imagination. One gets the impression that Moorcock was fed up with humanity and put these vignettes together to vent his spleen.

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### **MichaelK says**

A series of often grizzly and depressing historical vignettes featuring alternate versions of Karl Glogauer (the protagonist of *Behold the Man*) across time and place, interspersed with a frame narrative about a 1970s Karl Glogauer having a night of sexual adventure with a Nigerian businessman and undergoing a transformative experience.

Bit different.

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### **Shannon Appelcline says**

Another New Wave Moorcock book that I liked more than I expected to. The individual vignettes in this book are powerful early on, though they get to be a bit rudimentary as the book progresses. The conflict between innocence and victimhood is what makes the book particularly intriguing.

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### **Multiple Galerie says**

I've been starting to read this over and over again since about 1985 but get distracted by some or other idea that the text brings up and end up losing my place. If publishers would restore the practice of including a bookmark ribbon this would never have happened.

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### **Christopher says**

Bought used from a local bookstore due to interesting premise and cover. Turns out only the framing story of the one night stand was actually interesting. The vignettes would have been good, but they neither increased in intensity or relevance as they went on, making them more and more of a chore.

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### **Keith says**

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The novel is divided into 19 chapters, the 1st of which is set in '71, the next 17 spaced out at roughly ten year intervals from 1871 thru 1990, with the last chapter set once again in '71. The chapters begin & end in '71, with a

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### **Stuart Young says**

Although I didn't enjoy this as much as a lot Moorcock's other books I still have a certain fondness for it in that it showed me that a writer from a commercial background could still produce challenging work.

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### **Joe Stamber says**

Features the same character as "Behold the Man", but not as good.

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### **Jen says**

I kept waiting for this book to make sense, but it never did.

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### **Rick says**

The entire text is available for free at RevolutionSF.

Link: [<http://www.revolutionsf.com/article.h...>]

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