

Ellie Adder, Private Investigator

The Case of the Journey Beyond Reason



In the year 1955, the United States government conducted tests of nuclear weapons in the Nevada desert. During those tests, they exploded a total of fourteen atomic bombs. At the same time, school children were taught to duck under their desks to survive the coming inferno of Mutual Assured Destruction. Ellie Adder travels into a case that's almost "too hot to handle."

Link to the story: [The Case of the Journey Beyond Reason](#)

After listening to the story, what are your reactions to it? Did you see any interesting historical, social or political themes in the story. Write your replies below.

Here are several questions for you to answer. Please use any library or digital resource available to you to research your answers.

1. The atomic bomb was developed during World War Two. The United States dropped two of them on Japan in 1945. In the ensuing years, other countries developed atomic bombs, most significantly the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (now Russia and other independent countries). In the 1950's, many people were concerned that another world war might start and the use of atomic bombs would bring all of civilization to an end. Identify the countries that **today** hold arsenals of atomic weapons and locate an example of how countries have attempted to limit the use of atomic weapons in a coming war.
2. As if worrying about atomic wars was not enough, during the 1950's people were also concerned about the possibility of people from other planets visiting earth with benign or hostile intentions. Locate information about what people are doing **today** in regard to the possibility of visitors from space.

Discuss your answers. Further, the Ellie Adder stories are set in time periods in America that are quite different from today's world. Are there any ethical or stereotypical issues that the story raised for you?

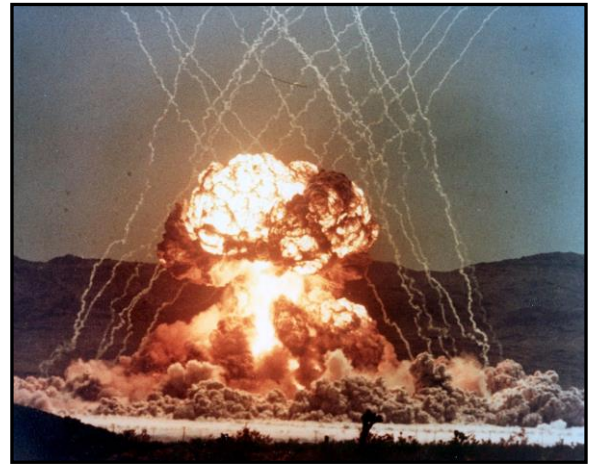
Resources

Atom Bomb Tests

Operation Teapot, Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Teapot

https://www.dtra.mil/Portals/61/Documents/NTPR/1-Fact_Sheets/16_TEAPOT.pdf

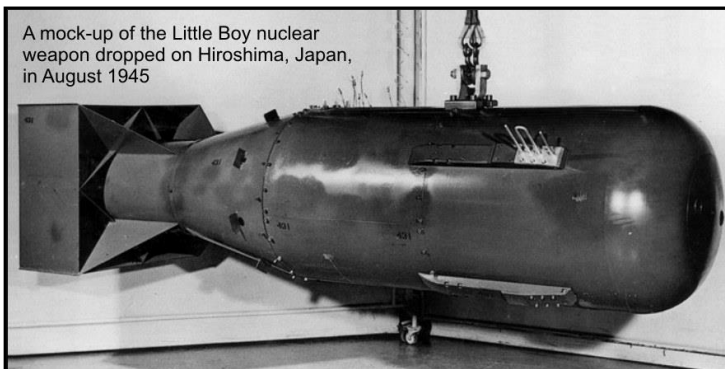


Mutual assured destruction, Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mutual_assured_destruction

The Atomic Café, Wikipedia. A documentary film about the cold war era dealing with the possibilities of nuclear war.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Atomic_Cafe



A mock-up of the Little Boy nuclear weapon dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, in August 1945



Duck and Cover drill in schools (See photo)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duck_and_Cover_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duck_and_Cover_(film))

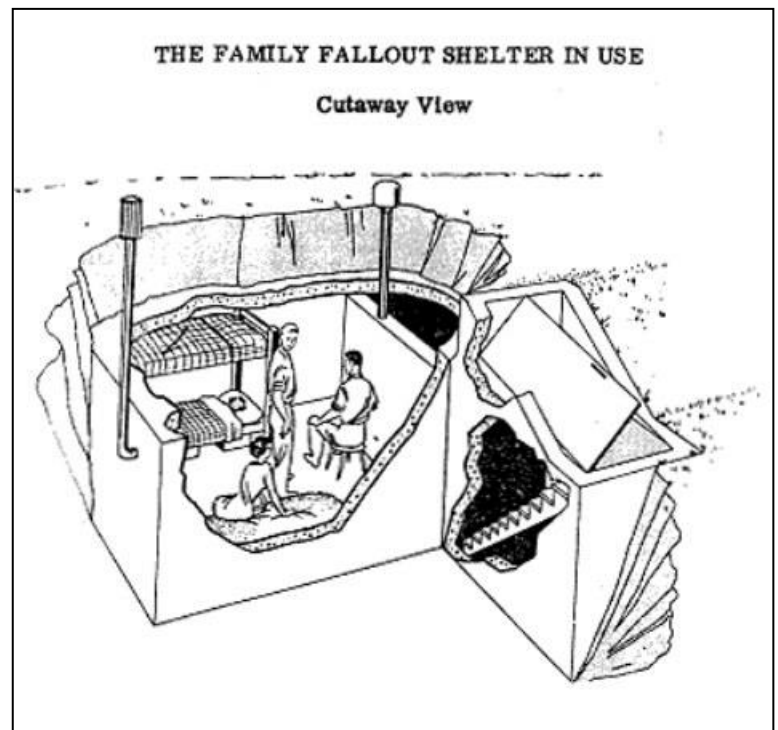
Bomb Shelters

Target Austin: How To Survive a Nuclear Attack.

<https://austinot.com/target-austin-how-to-survive-a-nuclear-attack>

Blast from the past: Inside a Cold War-era fallout shelter in Austin, KXAN.

<https://www.kxan.com/news/blast-from-the-past-inside-a-cold-war-era-fallout-shelter-in-austin>



Some Notes on Howard's Ideas

None of Howard's ideas actually appear to be possible but some fictional accounts are available to stimulate the imagination.

Crossing to Another Dimension

The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension. Banzai uses a land speed record car to accelerate fast enough to transition through dimensions using the "oscillation overthruster."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Adventures_of_Buckaroo_Banzai_Across_the_8th_Dimension

Farnham's Freehold. Novel by Robert A. Heinlein (1964). People taking shelter in a bomb shelter during WWII are blasted into another dimension.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farnham%27s_Freehold

People Replaced by Aliens

Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1956). Aliens are replacing people by coming to earth as seeds and growing into big pods that replicate the human body with an alien mind.

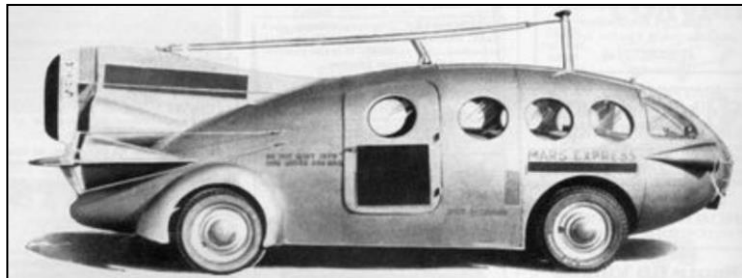
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invasion_of_the_Body_Snatchers



Buck Rogers' Ray Gun



Prototype for Howard's Rocket Ship (Jet Car from the 1930's)



<https://www.flyingcarsandfoodpills.com/pan-am-s-rocket-car>