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Broadcast Hysteria: Orson Welles's War of the Worlds and the Art of Fake News (Paperback)

By A Brad Schwartz

Hill Wang, United States, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book. On the evening of October 30, 1938, radio listeners across the United States heard a startling report of a meteor strike in the New Jersey countryside. With sirens blaring in the background, announcers in the field described mysterious creatures, terrifying war machines, and thick clouds of poison gas moving toward New York City. As the invading force approached Manhattan, some listeners sat transfixed, while others ran to alert neighbors or to call the police. Some even fled their homes. But the hair-raising broadcast was not a real news bulletin-it was Orson Welles's adaptation of the H. G. Wells classic *The War of the Worlds*. In *Broadcast Hysteria*, A. Brad Schwartz boldly retells the story of Welles's famed radio play and its impact. Did it really spawn a wave of mass hysteria, as *The New York Times* reported? Schwartz is the first to examine the hundreds of letters sent to Orson Welles himself in the days after the broadcast, and his findings challenge the conventional wisdom. Few listeners believed an actual attack was under way. But even so, Schwartz shows that Welles's broadcast...



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