

# The Last Science Fiction Story

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At one point, someone wondered, what's beyond the next hill?

No one had been there. No one had worked up the nerve to go there.

So, someone asked, "What if we went?"

A story got told.

And as time went on, and people went beyond that hill, it happened again.

"What is it like on the other side of the river?"

A story got told.

"What is it like past those distant mountains?"

A story got told.

"What would happen if we crossed the sea?"

"What would happen if we circled the world?"

"What would happen if we went to the Moon?"

"To Mars?"

"To some other solar system?"

There were always stories.

And then we had outposts across the sky, so many of them that it was impossible to say, in the midst of everything, which of those bright lights we had come from.

And some people lived among billions.

And some people lived in less crowded places.

And some people lived far, far away, farther than any our kind had ever been.

And if you went to the farthest of those places, with all of the human race behind you, and nothing but darkness and the unknown in front of you, you would find some questioning spirit standing outside in the chill of night, looking to places where none have ever been.

And you would hear the question,

“Yes, yes, that’s all well and good . . . but what’s out there?”