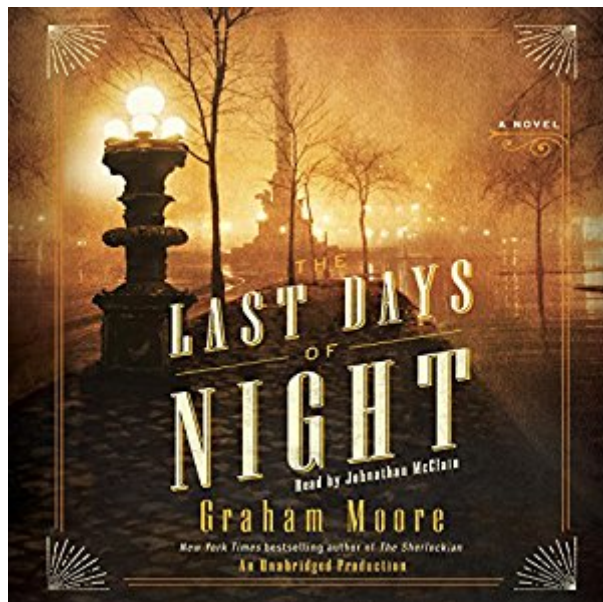


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# The Last Days Of Night: A Novel



## Synopsis

From Graham Moore, the Oscar-winning screenwriter of *The Imitation Game* and New York Times best-selling author of *The Sherlockian*, comes a thrilling novel - based on actual events - about the nature of genius, the cost of ambition, and the battle to electrify America. New York, 1888. Gas lamps still flicker in the city streets, but the miracle of electric light is in its infancy. The person who controls the means to turn night into day will make history - and a vast fortune. A young untested lawyer named Paul Cravath, fresh out of Columbia Law School, takes a case that seems impossible to win. Paul's client, George Westinghouse, has been sued by Thomas Edison over a billion-dollar question: Who invented the lightbulb and holds the right to power the country? The case affords Paul entry to the heady world of high society - the glittering parties in Gramercy Park mansions and the more insidious dealings done behind closed doors. The task facing him is beyond daunting. Edison is a wily, dangerous opponent with vast resources at his disposal - private spies, newspapers in his pocket, and the backing of J. P. Morgan himself. Yet this unknown lawyer shares with his famous adversary a compulsion to win at all costs. How will he do it? In obsessive pursuit of victory, Paul crosses paths with Nikola Tesla, an eccentric, brilliant inventor who may hold the key to defeating Edison, and with Agnes Huntington, a beautiful opera singer who proves to be a flawless performer onstage and off. As Paul takes greater and greater risks, he'll find that all in his path are playing their own games, and none are quite who they seem.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This novel provides a fascinating portrayal of one of the most exciting times in world history, at least when it comes to scientific invention and the birth of technology. It was enjoyable to read, to get to know the real-life characters, and at the same time learn about these historical events in a non-text-book way. The plot revolves around three main historical characters: Thomas Edison, George Westinghouse, and Nikola Tesla. The inventor, the businessman, and the genius. All three men were primary warriors in what became known as the "current war", i.e. the battle over whether or not A/C or D/C would win out in the end. In the middle of this tripod of giant historical figures is a young 26 year old recently graduated attorney named Paul Cravath, a name not familiar to me when I began reading this book but who I learned became one of the giants of the legal profession, largely due to his involvement in the "current war" and its successful resolution (depending on one's point of view). This is a pretty fast-paced novel with short chapters and a swift narrative style. The facts are well-researched and the author provides a welcome section at the end wherein he separates facts from fiction. There is also a nice little romance sub plot. But where the novel really shines is in how it is capable of transcending the simple facts of the events during the late 1800's when electricity was harnessed and helps us to understand the nature and value of the inventive process. A relatively brief 15 years in our history saw not only many new discoveries related to electricity, but also the birth of new ideas on how we would go about "inventing" in the future. The notion of an eccentric lone inventor working in his personal lab quickly morphs into the business of inventing. Really, it's the beginnings of how technology is advanced today. This was what made me interested to read this book. But in addition, thanks to having Paul Cravath as the protagonist character, I also got to witness the concurrent development of the legal profession, seeing it change quickly from a cottage industry into a legal "factory" with Cravath's introduction of the idea of associate attorneys and building an entire legal firm. Pretty cool. I've read this author's previous novel, "The Sherlockian" and enjoyed it a lot and I've also seen the "The Imitation Game" movie for which he was the screenwriter. Clearly, much like the characters he writes about, Graham Moore is a name to watch in the future. Highly recommended!

This would be highly imaginative fiction were it not mostly factual. Unless you have read a candid biography of Thomas Edison, you will probably be shocked by this description of the character of the man, as well as his "process" of invention. You may also be surprised to learn that the real creator of the science behind the electrification of America was a highly erratic Serbian named

Nikola Tesla and that his genius was essentially dismissed and nearly smothered by Edison. Science aside, it is a wonderful tale that should make a must-see motion picture.

In this book the reader is able to travel back in time ,to hang out with the giants of our modern society. Moore has done this in a way that is informative,interesting and captivating. I thoroughly enjoyed this well written book and would recommend it to anyone who enjoys a good book based on history.

A fascinating book about which I knew nothing. The competition between Westinghouse and Edison was told in a very readable and interesting manner. How did NYC become electrified? My only regret as with all historical fiction, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between fact and fiction. The author's notes are thorough, he did not want to confuse, only make it easier to understand with a bit of added drama.

An excellent book. The research and writing were top notch. I have read about 15 books this summer and it is the best one. Of course, it is coming out as a movie so some other folks agree with me. Fascinating facts about science, history and human nature. A real,page turner.

I did not know some of the history collected in this Historical Novel. Enjoyable and a quick read as told by the lawyer. There is quite a legal fight between George Westinghouse and Thomas Edison. I have recommended it to several friends who also enjoyed this book

Edison, Westinghouse and Tesla (the electric car is named after him) are the characters in the "current war". It was the battle between A/C vs D/C. It is told through Paul Cravath, a young attorney. After thinking Cravath was the character to pull for, he turns out to be a desperate, unethical soul looking only to rise to power, fame and money. Edison is portrayed as someone who tried to kill someone to protect his light bulb patent. Westinghouse is not much better and Tesla a "mad scientist". The history of this time, electricity and the wealth made by such inventors is interesting. But, give me a likeable character.

Loved this book - a fascinating insight into this time and the race to electrify the US. Compellingly written, and I really appreciated the author's going back at the end of the book and saying where he added fictional elements vs. actual events. Read like a mystery novel - hard to put down.

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