

**The “Murdering Twinmaker”:
Putting Into Context an Overlooked Icon of Science Fiction**

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Abstract

Putting Into Context an Overlooked Icon of Science Fiction

The concept of instantaneous travel by imaginary technologies has been a key trope in science fiction from the late nineteenth century to the present day, made iconic by *Star Trek's* imperative 'Beam me up, Scotty' but under-examined in critical literature. This exegesis examines the rise (and fall) of the matter transmitter as a motif and metaphor in British and American science fiction, and its implications for reflecting upon social, scientific and technological change. The exegesis concludes with an analysis of my past and present usage of the trope, putting into context the creative component of this thesis.

Making and Remaking Iteration 113

A post-scarcity world transformed by free, instantaneous travel should be paradise, but nothing is entirely as it seems. Clair Hill uses Improvement, a meme promising physical transformation for the better by little more than wishing for it. In doing so she brings into being an artificial mind, Q, designed to shepherd her through a sinister process of remaking that will ultimately turn them both into entirely different people.

Statement of Originality

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree of diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge of belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

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