fallout

Jim Ottaviani, Janine Johnston, Steve Lieber, Vince Locke, Bernie Mireault, and Jeff Parker with Chris Kemple, Eddy Newell, and Robin Thompson
other books about scientists from G.T. Labs

SAFECRACKER: A TWO-FISTED SCIENCE COMIC
TWO-FISTED SCIENCE
WILD PERSON IN THE WOODS
DIGNIFYING SCIENCE
“TALKING” ORANGUTANS IN BORNEO
Though not a work of history, this book isn’t entirely fiction either. We’ve fabricated some details in service of the story, but the characters said and did (most of) the things you’ll read. And as the notes and references will indicate, many of the quotes and incidents that you’ll think most likely to be made up are the best documented facts.
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the artists
prologue
(1996)
I made the great mistake of feeling relieved of my responsibility ... the chance to show the world that science can stop a terrible war without killing a single person was lost.

DEE IN THE CASE OF STROKE, WE ALWAYS BRING A TEST.
HE REGULAR BEAUTY.

LISTEN, I UNDERSTAND ALL
THAT, BUT WHY IS IT ALMOST
ME THAT ENDS UP HAVING TO DO THIS?

TELL YOU WHAT, IF YOU ASK, I'LL
BUY LUNCH.

HMPH.
EXCUSE ME, SIR? SORRY TO WAKE YOU, BUT WE HAVE TO ASK SOME STANDARD QUESTIONS. FOR UM, WELL YOU KNOW... WE ASK STROKE PATIENTS?

STROKE?

YES, UM, WELL... LET'S START, UM, WITH...

UM... 1...

ARE YOU THE FAMOUS EDWARD TELLER?

NO, I AM THE INFAMOUS EDWARD TELLER.
A FEW MORE QUESTIONS DR. MY NAME IS NOT STRANGELOVE.

I WASN'T I DON'T KNOW ABOUT STRANGELOVE.

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN STRANGELOVE.

I SEE.

ope 2100
15:10 TEMP SY5 MEAN DIA
124 55

ope 2100
15:10 TEMP SY5 MEAN DIA
124 55
birth
(1932-1939)
Zerstöre nicht, was Du nicht erschaffen kannst.
—Zehn Gebote von Leo Szilard, 30. Oktober 1940
[Do not destroy what you cannot create.
—Ten Commandments by Leo Szilard, 30 October 1940]
The World Set Free

PRELUDE

THE SUN SNARERS

Section I.

The history of mankind is the history of the attainment of external power.

From the outset of his terrestrial career we find him supplementing the natural strength and bodily weapons of a beast by the heat of burning and the rough implement of stone. So he passed beyond the ape. From that he expands.

He complicated his social relationships and increased his efficiency by the division of labour. He began to store up knowledge. Contrivance followed contrivance, each making it possible for a man to do more.
So slowly, by human standards, did humanity gather itself together out of the dim intimations of the beast.

And that first glimmering of speculation, that first story of achievement, that story-teller bright-eyed and flushed under his matted hair.

It doomed the mammoths and it began the setting of that snare that shall catch the sun.

So slowly, by human standards, did humanity gather itself together out of the dim intimations of the beast.
ERR... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT DR. SZILARD?

YES YES, QUITE FINE, THANK YOU.

WELL...

...IT'S JUST THAT YOU'VE BEEN IN THERE FOR, WELL...

THREE HOURS.

IS IT NOON ALREADY?!

I WILL BE LATE FOR AN APPOINTMENT!

THANK YOU SO KINDLY FOR INTERRUPTING ME -- I WILL BE OUT IN A MOMENT.
OUR COLLEAGUES SCHLESINGER AND MARSHAK SUGGESTED WE SPEAK FURTHER ABOUT FORMING A REFUGEE SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE HERE.

"...AND I KNOW ON THE FIRST-HAND THE DIFFICULTIES AND DANGERS INVOLVED."

"NOT ONLY WHEN CROSSING THE BORDER IS CONCERNED..."

"...WHICH IS OF COURSE QUITE HARROWING. I WAS ONLY A SINGLE DAY AHEAD OF THE FIRST MAJOR CRACKDOWN.

YOUR SPECIAL INTEREST IN THIS IS WHAT, EXACTLY?"

"WELL, SIR BEVERIDGE, I HAVE MYSELF RECENTLY EMIGRATED..."
"MY TRAIN WAS NEARLY EMPTY AND I HAD THE MEANS TO TRAVEL FIRST CLASS. I CORRECTLY ASSUMED THE NAZIS WOULD TAKE LESS CARE WHEN CHECKING THOSE PASSENGERS."

"I WAS FORTUNATE—I HAD ALREADY PACKED MY BAGS AND COULD LEAVE AT ONE MOMENT’S NOTICE."

"THE VERY NEXT DAY THE TRAINS WERE FULL WHEN THE LEFT GERMANY, BUT NEARLY EMPTY WHEN THEY ARRIVED IN VIENNA."

"SINCE MY ARRIVAL I HAVE TALKED WITH NIELS BOHR AND MANY OTHERS THEY AGREE REGARDING THE SPIRIT OF THE WORK..."

"AND WOULD GLADLY COOPERATE IN SETTING UP AN ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE COUNCIL IF FUNDS WERE AVAILABLE."

"HERmann PROFESSOR I ONLY WANT TO KNOW THE FACTS OF PHYSICS, I’LL MAKE UP THE THEORIES MYSELF."

"I AM JUST ONE SCIENTIST ONE WHO LEFT HUNGARY FOR GERMANY TO WORK WITH THE BEST PHYSICISTS OF OUR TIME..."
"...AND THEN LEFT GERMANY AND THE CONTINENT TO ESCAPE THE WORST POLITICAL SITUATION ONE CAN IMAGINE.

"THERE WILL BE MANY MORE LIKE ME, AND THEY WILL NEED MORE THAN JUST ESCAPE. THEY WILL NEED A PLACE--AND THE MEANS--TO STAY.

"IN FACT, I MYSELF AM CURRENTLY BETWEEN POSITIONS."

"REGARDLESS, AND THOUGH I AM ALSO A JEW, I DISAGREE WITH PROFESSOR EINSTEIN'S SUGGESTION THAT WE FORM A REFUGEE JEWISH UNIVERSITY HERE IN ENGLAND."
When we talked in Vienna you mentioned others shared his view, though.

Yes, Einstein and others would either raise money for the Palestine University or for an emigrants' university to be founded somewhere in Europe.

Both, I think are too limited.

We need something broader. A war will come and it won't be just Jewish professors who need aid.

That's... a bit premature. The prime minister assures us that Germany will not rearm.

I also don't see where we'll have much success raising funds in these rather trying economic times.

As for being premature, of that I am often accused. But in matters such as these it is better to be a bit early than a bit late.
REGARDING OUR PROSPECT FOR SUCCESS. I WOULD SAY THIS:
WHEN A CHILD I READ A BOOK CALLED THE TRAGEDY OF MAN.
FROM IT I LEARNED VERY LITTLE...

BUT I DID LEARN THIS:
IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO SUCCEED IN ORDER TO
PERSEVERE.

IF SCIENCE CANNOT YET SAVE THE WORLD, PERHAPS WE
SCIENTISTS CAN SAVE SOME OF IT.

I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT, SIR WILLIAM, AND WILL
LEAVE THE MATTER IN YOUR HANDS.

NOW I AM AFRAID. I MUST TAKE MY LEAVE--I VISIT LORD RUTHERFORD IN
CAMBRIDGE TOMORROW AND HAVE TO MEET A COLLEAGUE THIS EVENING BEFORE I GO.

Rutherford ran the world-renowned Cavendish Laboratory in
Cambridge, where James Chadwick discovered the neutron.
FALL, 1933: LONDON

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

BREAKING DOWN THE ATOM

THE NEUTRON NOVEL TRANSFORMATIONS

What, Lord Rutherford asked in conclusion, were the prospects 20 or 30 years ahead? Transformations might be effected with 30,000 or 70,000 volts, and we should be able to transform all the elements ultimately. We need not despair these processes.

RUTHERFORD IS AN EXPERT IN NUCLEAR PHYSICS

AND AN EXPERT IS A MAN WHO KNOWS WHAT CANNOT BE DONE.