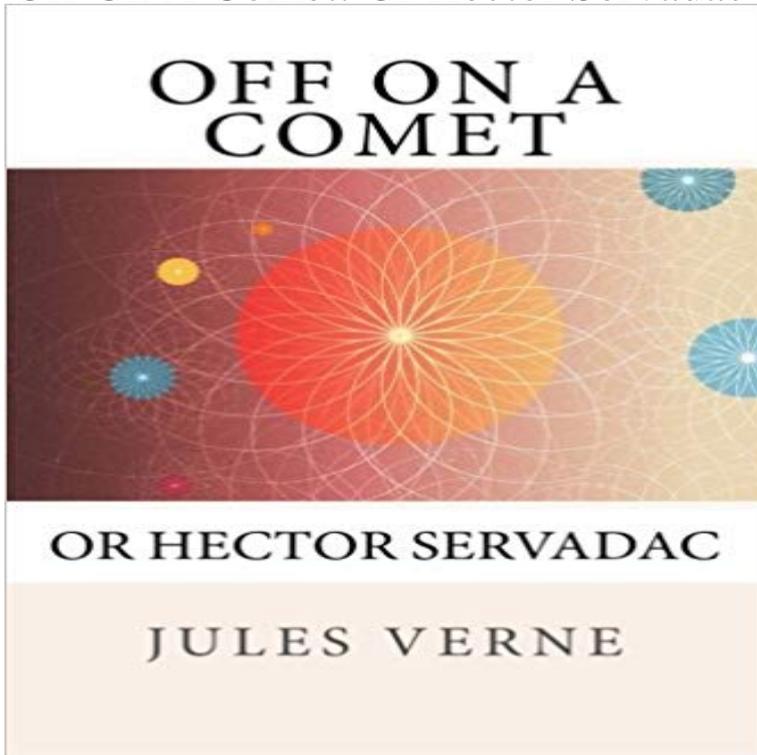


## Off On A Comet: Or Hector Servadac



Although time has obscured this book, Jules Verne's *Off on a Comet* is a remarkable work. Verne takes his characters on a journey that makes his *Trip to the Moon* but a short hop. He brings us to the depths of infinite space, to present what astronomers of that time really knew of outer space. To tell this story, Verne forsakes his usual scrupulously scientific attitude, and asks us to accept the impossible: the earth and a comet strike glancing blows without anyone being the wiser! And that's just for starters. The book is also replete with the casual religious, racial and nationalistic prejudices of its day. That said, however, *Off on a Comet* is a fascinating tale of a small band of random travelers roaming the reaches of space, encountering planets, exploring the comet, and creating their own society. So put aside contemporary sensibilities and suspend disbelief for a bit to join Jules Verne and his characters on the comet *Gallia* on their marvelous voyage through the universe. Remarkable the genius of Jules Verne, the first-named being that which has last appeared, for in the author we have a science teacher of a new kind. He has forsaken the beaten track, but acknowledging in him a traveled Frenchman with a keen eye and vivid imagination and no slight knowledge of the elements of science we do not see how he could have more usefully employed his talents. -*Nature*, Volume 17, November, 1877 That prince of story-tellers. -*London Times* The heroes of this story were carried away through space on the Comet *Gallia*, and their adventures are recorded with all Jules Verne's characteristic spirit. -*Bookseller*, Volumes 5-8; Volumes 10-12, January 4, 1877

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