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Tarzan Of The Apes



Synopsis

This classic story encompasses the life of John Clayton, the son of English aristocrats, who was abandoned in the jungle as an infant after the untimely death of his parents. He is adopted by the caring ape Kala and is raised in her tribe of gorillas led by the intimidating Kerchak. Growing up an outsider among his peers, Tarzan gradually earns the respect of his ape tribe through physical feats and his hunting abilities. This sparks jealousy in Kerchak, which forces Tarzan into the fight of his life. Follow Tarzan on his wild jungle adventures and his search for his true identity as he discovers what the world is like outside of the jungle.

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Customer Reviews

Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875-1950) was a prodigy of imagination. He started his writer career quite late; his first work was published in 1912. From that point on a ceaseless flow of imaginary worlds & heroes poured from his pen: John Carter of Mars, Carson Napier of Venus, David Innes and Abner Perry on Pellucidar at Earth's center and the most famous of them all Tarzan of the Apes. Tarzan's world is Africa. But an extraordinary Africa populated with apes more intelligent than any known ones and in later adventures with a plethora "lost cities", "ant-men" or whatever suit ERB in order to deliver a fast paced adventure. As other reviewers, of this same book in other editions, point out do not expect "politically correct" tales, they are the product of a society still torn by racial prejudices. Another assumption that closely follows this is: "superior traits" are inherited directly and a Lord will always be a Lord no matter what the circumstances. The reader may assume all this adventures occurs in an "alternate reality" that have some common traits with our world such as the

ones depicted by Guy Gavriel Kay for example. Now you'll be ready to enjoy the original story of Tarzan as it was delivered by ERB, free from Hollywood changes or comic's stereotypes. A couple of English nobles are abandoned by a mutinous crew in the coast of Africa where they barely survive. Adversity proves to be more than what they may endure and both die leaving an infant that is miraculously adopted by Kala an anthropoid that has lost her baby-ape. Protected by her, Tarzan starts a life struggle to conquer a space among the over towering brutes.

It's hard to imagine a time when no one had ever heard of Tarzan, when the ape man hadn't swung his way across countless B movie screens and Disney features. When I saw Edgar Rice Burroughs' 1912 novel Tarzan of the Apes listed among the public domain texts easily downloaded to the Kindle for free, I was curious to see what the original Tarzan looked like, before his cartoonification. It was worth the download. The outline of the story told in Tarzan of the Apes--the first of what would be 24 Tarzan novels written by Burroughs--will be familiar. It begins with the story of Tarzan's parents, who were generously put ashore by a mutinous crew rather than killed, abandoned on an island that was inhabited only by wild beasts and cannibals. John Clayton is an Englishman's Englishman, brawny and brave and possessed of an innate nobility. His pregnant wife Alice strives to be a suitable companion to such a man. They survive in the jungle for a time, until their son is a year old, and then they both die from separate causes. Tarzan is adopted into a family of apes, where he eventually thrives because he is able to compensate for his physical shortcomings (compared to apes; compared to your average man he is a god) by employing his intellect. Tarzan teaches himself to read from the books he finds among his dead parents' possessions, and so he is able to communicate when the island is finally visited by Europeans, Jane Porter and her bumbling father, who've been marooned themselves. A romance ensues, which leads Tarzan to civilize himself and follow Jane to America. One can complain that Tarzan is sexist and racist.

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