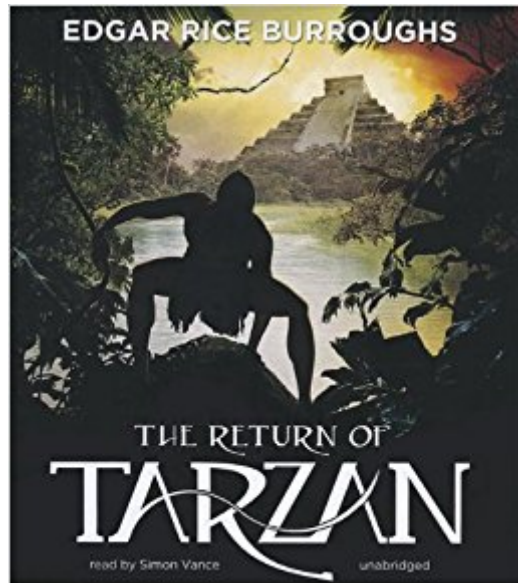


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The Return Of Tarzan (Tarzan Series, Book 2)



Synopsis

[Read by Simon Vance] Even more thrilling than Tarzan of the Apes is the sequel, The Return of Tarzan. Combine the uncanny mystery of Conan Doyle, the vivid imagination of H. G. Wells, and the thrill of Rider Haggard's stories and you'll know why Tarzan has proved to be one of the most sensational figures in fiction. Tarzan had renounced his right to the woman he loved, and civilization held no pleasure for him. After a brief and harrowing period among men, he had turned back to the African jungle where he had grown to manhood -- a world he understood. It was there that he first heard of Opar, the city of gold, a relic of the fabled Atlantis. It was a city of hideous men and of beautiful, savage women, a city ruled by La, high priestess of the Flaming God. Its altars were stained with the blood of many sacrifices. Heedless of the dangers, Tarzan led a band of savage warriors toward the ancient crypts -- and even more ancient evil -- of Opar.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This is a wonderful story that binds Tarzan eternally with Jane Porter and introduces the fabled city of Opar. [Simon Vance's] reading is nearly perfect, giving the story an air that is gallantly Victorian while intensely exciting." --AudioFile
"Crowded with impossibilities as the tale is, Mr. Burroughs has told it so well, and has so succeeded in carrying his readers with him, that there are few who will not look forward eagerly to the promised sequel." --New York Times, May 1915

EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS (1875-1950), born in Chicago, was educated at Michigan Military

Academy and served briefly in the US Cavalry. He began writing while working as a pencil-sharpener salesman, publishing his first piece in 1911 to great success. He authored numerous science fiction and fantasy series but is most famous for his Tarzan books. The suburb of Los Angeles where he lived eventually became known as Tarzana.

I enjoy ERB's writing. He keeps the story moving, puts the characters into seeming inescapable situation, then rescues them. Of course, the rescues defy timing, logic, and often human possibility, but it's fun. And that's the only reason one reads a Burroughs book. I was a fan of the 1930-40's movies long before I read one of the books. When I was a boy, one of the three TV stations (before cable), had "Jungle Theater" each Saturday afternoon, and Tarzan movies were the usual fare. When I finally discovered the books, I was surprised to find the movies have little to do with the books. But I've enjoyed both. Books 1 & 2 are satisfying, absorbing escape adventures. I listened to the audio version of book 2 on a trip. The reading and recording quality are excellent--highly recommended.

Some of the old writers like ERB have reached the status of writing classics because what they write is that good. Even though this book was published well over a century ago it reads as well now as the day it was written. A good story is just that. And that's why it's a classic.

A Must read after first book Tazan of the Apes. Fast pace, put my projects on hold until I could finish it. Anyone reading this needs to read book one first. It has been 40 years since I read this the first time.

These tales never lose their magic. I have read the stories of Tarzan many times over the last 50 years. I received my first Tarzan book for my sixth birthday and I've been hooked ever since.

The text of this book was not printed correctly, which led to great frustration in trying to read it. Sentences were incomplete, and some lines (sentences) of the book had only one word in them.....leading you to the next sentence, which may or may not have been complete. Had to return this purchase to :-(

While I reviewed Tarzan of the Apes by Edgar Rice Burroughs, I compared the novel to my favorite Disney movie, Tarzan. I found myself enjoying the Tarzan story created by Disney rather than the

original Tarzan story by Burroughs. While reading *The Return of Tarzan*, the sequel of *Tarzan of the Apes*, I had neither expectations of the plot nor visuals to match the descriptions. For this reason, I enjoyed *The Return of Tarzan* immensely more than *Tarzan of the Apes*, especially the further character development of Tarzan. In *The Return of Tarzan*, Tarzan is attempting to create a new life in the world of men while dealing with Jane's decision to marry Tarzan's cousin, William Cecil Clayton. On his voyage back to France, his interference in a villainous plot makes him the enemy of Nikolas Rokoff, his archrival throughout the Tarzan series. As a reward for his chivalrous behavior, he is offered a job for the ministry of war in Algeria, where his adventures with the local Arabs results in his abandonment in the same jungle he called home. While there, he becomes chief of a local African tribe, finds the lost city of Opar, and attains a golden treasure. In an unbelievable sequence of events, Jane, her father, and Clayton are again shipwrecked onto the same jungle as Tarzan. Fortunately for the King of the Apes, the gods will this time favor Tarzan instead of Clayton. Most Tarzan adaptations focus on his ascent from the savage jungle into the civilized world of men as well as his first meeting of Jane Porter. *The Return of Tarzan* is intriguing because it explores the type of man Tarzan becomes while interacting with other humans. Although I found Jane to be annoyingly perfect, her eventual reunion with Tarzan was satisfying.

'Tarzan the Ape Man' ended in a Wisconsin train station with Tarzan now capable of speaking fluent French and English and apparently how to drive a car. Not exactly a stellar conclusion for the King of the Jungle. *'The Return of Tarzan'* finds the jungle hero sailing to Paris drinking absinthe and smoking cigarettes. Not an encouraging start. Tarzan ends up crossing paths with a pair of thugs named Nikolas Rokoff and Alexis Paulvitch who are continually harassing a count and countess, also passengers on the ship. The first half of the book is nothing more than continual encounters between Tarzan and Rokoff in Paris and on the sea and it is dull and silly. Tarzan continues to threaten Rokoff and Rokoff continues to try and kill Tarzan. I cannot stress enough how cartoonish this is. One of the big complaints about the series is how Burroughs fills the stories with absurd coincidences to move the plot forward. About halfway through the book Rokoff and Paulvitch pitch Tarzan over the side of a ship and he manages to swim until he inexplicably comes across a wrecked ship out in the ocean which gives him the means to paddle all the way to the African coast and glory be he manages to land in the exact spot where he grew up. I'm not even sure why Burroughs chose to add this since he could have landed elsewhere in Africa without harming the plot. That is perhaps the most egregious coincidence but only slightly. Tarzan also just happened to

run into Jane Porters best friend Hazel Strong on the ship before he was sent over the side. Lest there be any misunderstanding let me state that the first half of the book is a dud. The second half is like a completely different book. Tarzan becomes chief of an African tribe (naturally) which although more than a tad racist is an improvement for Burroughs as Tarzan actually gets along with the blacks even laughing with them and looking poorly on the whites with which he has spent some time. For Tarzan, the African natives are more his brothers than the refined whites. The rest of the book features a lost city of gold, beautiful women, misshapen brutes and human sacrifice. Yeah, this is what I wanted from Tarzan not that dull as dishwater first half. The second half is silly but at least it's silly in an entertaining way. I was so happy when Tarzan finally returned to his simian brethren as Burroughs tends to do well in writing these encounters although my possibly faulty memory seemed to be that the language of the apes was somewhat limited whereas in this book they appear to have a complete and sophisticated language which adds a bit more silliness to the book. The absurdity of the coincidence really do hurt the story. Not only do Tarzan and Jane BOTH find themselves in the exact same area of Africa where Tarzan grew up but by the end of the book even Philippe D'Arnot coincidently shows up as he just happened to be sailing around the same section of Africa. Add to this the amount of times Tarzan saves Jane at the last second and this becomes a book that simply cannot be taken very seriously which is a shame because the first book started with tremendous potential. I did have to laugh when Tarzan 'smelled' the whites from a few miles away which led him to the distressed Jane Porter. Let me add that Rokoff is little more than a lowlife thug and it's sad we have to see him again in the next book. This book, I would classify as middling as it is neither very good nor very bad. The second half is considerably better than the first half which is a shame because the ape man in polite society has tremendous potential but it's spoiled by the fact that Tarzan is written as indistinguishable from a proper English gentleman except for the times he launches into a rage when pushed into a fight. For a much better interpretation see the 1984 movie 'Greystoke' where Tarzan was actually portrayed as a fish out of water. Hopefully Burroughs will keep Tarzan in Africa for most of the remainder of the very long series.

This is one of the best books that I have ever read. You cannot find books written like this anymore.

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