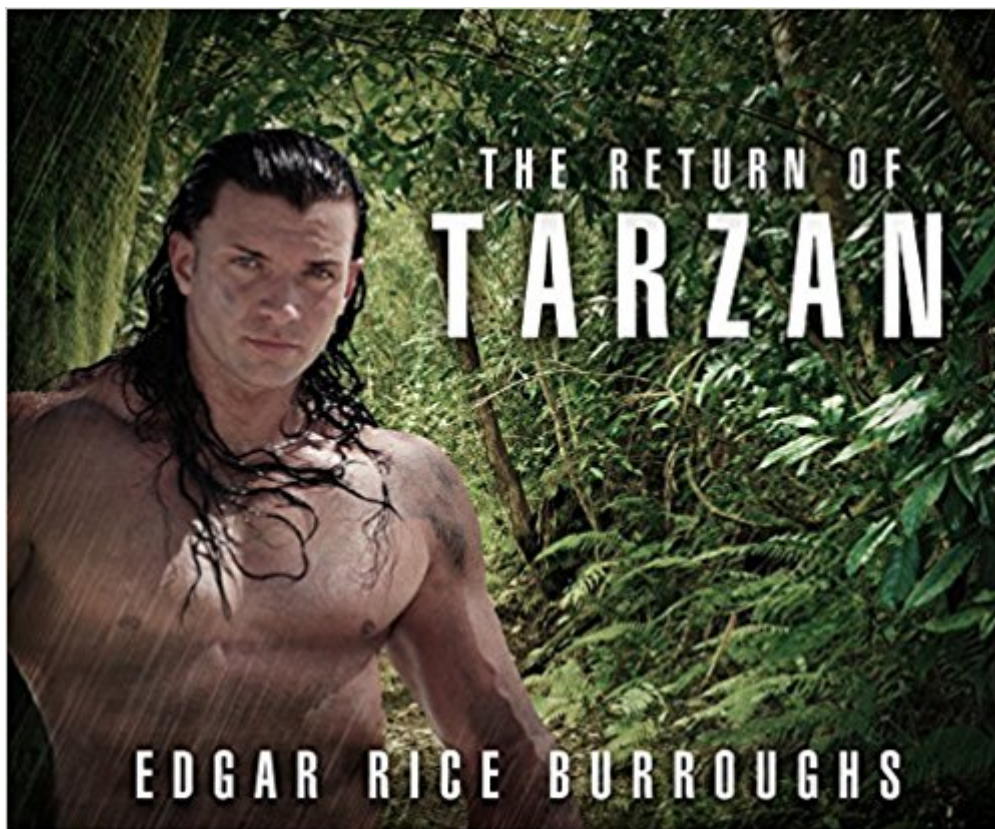


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The Return Of Tarzan



Synopsis

In this second addition to Edgar Rice Burroughs's epic adventures of Tarzan, listeners will find the jungle man leaving America to visit old friends in Europe. Through spirals of action, disaster, and shipwreck, we find Tarzan and a group of travelers, including his first love Jane and his new archenemy Rokoff, back in the jungle where he was raised. Encountering even more hardship in the harsh jungle, Tarzan again fights wild animals and savage tribes in the ultimate search for secret buried treasure. This sequel to Tarzan of the Apes sheds even more light on the beloved jungle hero's life, loves, and struggles fitting into human society.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tarzan loves Jane, but she has promised to marry another. Heartsick and lonely, Tarzan sails to Paris to learn the ways of civilization from his friend D'Arnot. On board ship--and later in the cafes and streets of Paris--he learns that the jungle is not the only place where savage beasts dwell. Before setting foot on French soil, Tarzan is caught up in a whirlwind of blackmail, attempted murder, kidnapping, and the intrigues of desperate men and beautiful women. When a secret mission takes him back to Africa, he struggles with a decision: Can he stay in the world of the woman he has loved and lost? Or does destiny call him back to his original African home? --From the Publisher --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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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 coincidentally 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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