

book the man who would be king

Book The Man Who Would Be King: An In-Depth Exploration of Kipling's Classic Adventure Tale

Introduction to The Man Who Would Be King

"Book the Man Who Would Be King" is a phrase that immediately evokes images of adventure, ambition, and daring exploits. It draws from Rudyard Kipling's renowned novella *The Man Who Would Be King*, first published in 1888, which has since become a staple of adventure literature. This compelling story explores themes of imperialism, hubris, cultural encounters, and the perilous pursuit of power. Whether you're a literary enthusiast, a student of colonial history, or an adventure story aficionado, understanding this work offers rich insights into human nature and the complexities of colonialism.

In this article, we will delve into the plot, themes, historical context, and the enduring legacy of Kipling's *The Man Who Would Be King*, providing a comprehensive guide to this timeless adventure.

Overview of The Man Who Would Be King

The Plot Summary

The Man Who Would Be King narrates the story of two British adventurers, Daniel Dravot and Peachey Carnehan, who dream of establishing their own kingdom in remote Afghanistan. Disenchanted with their life as minor soldiers and explorers, they hatch a daring plan to travel into uncharted territories and claim sovereignty.

Key plot points include:

- The duo's journey into the Kafiristan region, a mysterious and largely unknown land.
- Their successful establishment of a local following, aided by their perceived divine status.
- Dravot's aspirations grow as he crowns himself king, believing himself to be invincible.
- The eventual downfall when their hubris leads to misjudgment, causing them to be betrayed and attacked by the local tribes.
- Dravot's death and Carnehan's escape, leaving behind a cautionary tale about overreach and ambition.

Major Characters

- Daniel Dravot: The ambitious and charismatic leader who seeks to become king.
- Peachey Carnehan: Dravot's loyal companion and narrator, pragmatic yet equally daring.
- Local Kafir tribesmen: The inhabitants of Kafiristan, whose beliefs and reactions ultimately determine the story's outcome.

Themes and Analysis

Imperialism and Colonial Attitudes

Kipling's novella is often interpreted as a reflection on colonialism. It depicts British explorers venturing into foreign lands with a sense of entitlement and a desire to carve out their own empires. The story critiques the arrogance and hubris often associated with imperial ambitions, illustrating how cultural misunderstandings and overconfidence can lead to disaster.

Power, Hubris, and Downfall

The narrative emphasizes the dangers of unchecked ambition. Dravot's belief in his divine right and invincibility blinds him to the reality of local customs and the limits of his power. His downfall serves as a cautionary tale about the perils of overestimating oneself and underestimating others.

Cultural Encounters and Misunderstandings

Kipling's portrayal of Kafiristan and its inhabitants highlights the complexities of cross-cultural interactions. The story underscores that assumptions about superiority or infallibility can have tragic consequences when confronting unfamiliar customs and beliefs.

The Notion of Myth and Reality

The novella blurs the lines between myth and reality, portraying the protagonists as modern-day adventurers caught in a world where legend and fact collide. Dravot's self-deification echoes historical figures who sought divine status, adding layers of commentary on myth-making.

Historical Context of The Man Who Would Be King

Kipling's Colonial Perspective

Written during the height of the British Empire, Kipling's work reflects contemporary attitudes towards imperialism. While the story contains critique, it also romanticizes exploration and adventure, capturing the spirit of British expansionism.

The Setting: Afghanistan and Kafiristan

The story is set in a remote region of Afghanistan, known historically as Kafiristan, a land inhabited by tribes with distinct customs and beliefs. Kipling's depiction is based on reports and stories from explorers of the era, though it takes dramatic liberties.

Inspiration and Real-World Parallels

The story echoes historical figures like Alexander the Great, who ventured into Central Asia and faced similar challenges. Kipling may also have been inspired by contemporary explorers and adventurers who sought personal glory through exploration.

Literary Significance and Adaptations

Influence on Adventure Literature

The Man Who Would Be King has influenced countless adventure stories, emphasizing themes of exploration, betrayal, and the limits of human ambition. Its narrative structure and themes continue to resonate in modern storytelling.

Adaptations in Film and Media

The novella has been adapted into various forms, most notably the 1975 film *The Man Who Would Be King*, directed by John Huston and starring Sean Connery and Michael Caine. The film expands upon the novella's themes, bringing Kipling's story to a broader audience.

Critical Reception

While celebrated as an adventure classic, some critics analyze the work for its imperialist undertones. Modern interpretations often view it as a nuanced critique of colonial hubris wrapped in an engaging adventure narrative.

Why Read *The Man Who Would Be King* Today?

Lessons on Ambition and Humility

The story serves as a timeless reminder of the dangers of unchecked ambition and the importance of humility, especially when dealing with unfamiliar cultures or territories.

Cultural and Historical Insight

Understanding Kipling's novella offers a window into late 19th-century imperial attitudes and the fascination with exploration that characterized the era.

Literary Appreciation

Kipling's storytelling craftsmanship, vivid descriptions, and layered themes make the novella a compelling read for literature enthusiasts.

How to Approach Reading *The Man Who Would Be King*

Consider the Historical Context

Recognize that the story reflects the attitudes and perspectives of its time. Approach it with an understanding of colonial history and its complexities.

Reflect on Themes

As you read, think about the universal themes of ambition, cultural interaction, and the myth versus

reality dichotomy.

Engage with Adaptations

Watching the film adaptation can enrich your understanding, providing visual and narrative interpretations of Kipling's work.

Conclusion

The Man Who Would Be King remains a captivating exploration of adventure, ambition, and cultural encounters. Its enduring relevance lies in its ability to entertain while prompting reflection on human nature and the perils of overreach. Whether approached as a piece of colonial literature or a thrilling adventure story, Kipling's novella offers valuable insights and timeless lessons.

If you're interested in exploring classic adventure tales that combine rich storytelling with profound themes, securing a copy of The Man Who Would Be King is highly recommended. Dive into Kipling's world and discover why this timeless story continues to inspire readers and filmmakers alike.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of 'The Man Who Would Be King'?

The story explores themes of ambition, adventure, imperialism, and the dangers of overconfidence as two adventurers seek to become kings in a remote part of Afghanistan.

Who are the main characters in 'The Man Who Would Be King'?

The main characters are Daniel Dravot and Peachey Carnehan, two former soldiers and adventurers who set out to become kings in Kafiristan.

Is 'The Man Who Would Be King' a novel or a short story?

It is a short story written by Rudyard Kipling, first published in 1888.

What inspired Rudyard Kipling to write 'The Man Who Would Be King'?

Kipling was inspired by British imperial adventures and the stories of explorers and soldiers in remote regions, reflecting on the perils of imperialism and hubris.

Has 'The Man Who Would Be King' been adapted into other

media?

Yes, it was adapted into a film in 1975 directed by John Huston, starring Sean Connery and Michael Caine.

What is the setting of 'The Man Who Would Be King'?

The story is set in the rugged, remote regions of Kafiristan (now part of Afghanistan) during the British colonial era.

What lesson does 'The Man Who Would Be King' impart about imperialism?

The story highlights the dangers and moral pitfalls of imperialism, hubris, and the recklessness of trying to impose oneself on foreign lands.

How does 'The Man Who Would Be King' reflect Kipling's views on adventure and exploration?

It portrays adventure as thrilling but also fraught with danger, emphasizing the risks of overestimating oneself and underestimating local realities.

What is the significance of the story's ending in 'The Man Who Would Be King'?

The ending underscores the consequences of greed and hubris, as Dravot and Carnehan face downfall and tragedy because of their overreach.

Why is 'The Man Who Would Be King' considered a classic in British literature?

It is regarded as a timeless tale of adventure, imperialism, and human folly, showcasing Kipling's mastery of storytelling and social commentary.

Additional Resources

The Man Who Would Be King: An In-Depth Review and Analysis

Introduction

"The Man Who Would Be King" is a novella penned by Rudyard Kipling, first published in 1888. This compelling tale explores themes of adventure, hubris, imperialism, and the perilous allure of power through the gripping journey of two ambitious adventurers. Its enduring relevance and captivating narrative have cemented its status as a classic of colonial literature and adventure storytelling. This review aims to dissect the novella's themes, characters, narrative style, and cultural significance, providing a comprehensive understanding of why the story continues to resonate with readers over a

century after its publication.

Overview of the Plot

The Narrative Arc

"The Man Who Would Be King" follows the daring exploits of two British adventurers, Daniel Dravot and Peachey Carnehan, who set out from British India with dreams of establishing a kingdom in a remote part of Afghanistan. Their journey is motivated by a desire for fame, fortune, and a sense of adventure that transcends colonial boundaries.

Key Plot Points

1. The Ambition: Dravot and Carnehan, inspired by stories of kings and legends, decide to carve out their own empire in Kafiristan, a mysterious land shrouded in myth and isolation.
2. The Conquest: Using cunning and their knowledge of local customs, they manage to gain the trust of the native tribes. Dravot, claiming to be a divine figure, is crowned king, and Carnehan becomes his loyal confidant.
3. The Rise and Fall: Their rule appears successful at first, but hubris and cultural misunderstandings lead to tragedy. Dravot's claim to divine status is challenged when he is wounded, revealing his mortality and human frailty.
4. The Escape: The adventurers' downfall culminates in their expulsion from the land, with Dravot meeting a fatal end. Carnehan survives, returning to British India with a sobering lesson about the perils of imperial hubris.

Character Analysis

Daniel Dravot

- Portrayed as charismatic, ambitious, and daring, Dravot embodies the archetype of the adventurer who seeks to transcend ordinary life through conquest.
- His desire to be revered as a divine ruler reflects themes of power and the human craving for immortality through legacy.
- His downfall underscores Kipling's critique of imperial arrogance and the dangers of overreach.

Peachey Carnehan

- Loyal and pragmatic, Carnehan serves as the story's narrator and moral compass.
- His perspective provides insight into the internal conflicts faced by the adventurers, balancing

their dreams against the harsh realities of their actions.

- His survival and return to Britain symbolize a return to reality and the limits of human hubris.

The Native Characters

- The local tribes and the king's courtiers are portrayed with complexity, often embodying the mystique and danger of unfamiliar cultures.
- Kipling's depiction reflects colonial attitudes of the era but also hints at the universality of human aspirations and fears.

Thematic Exploration

Imperialism and Colonial Attitudes

- The novella critically examines Victorian-era imperialism, highlighting both the adventurous spirit and the hubris that can accompany colonial ambitions.
- Kipling explores the idea that imperial ventures are driven by a mix of greed, curiosity, and a sense of racial superiority, which often leads to disastrous consequences.

Hubris and Human Limitations

- Dravot's overconfidence and belief in his divine status serve as a cautionary tale about the dangers of hubris.
- The story underscores that regardless of ambition, humans are inherently mortal and vulnerable to their own flaws.

Cultural Misunderstandings

- The narrative showcases the tragic consequences of misinterpreting or dismissing local customs and beliefs.
- Dravot's attempt to portray himself as a divine figure backfires when his mortality is exposed, emphasizing the importance of humility and cultural sensitivity.

Adventure and the Human Spirit

- At its core, the story celebrates the adventurous spirit—the desire to explore, conquer, and leave a lasting mark.
- Kipling captures the thrill of discovery contrasted with the harsh realities and moral lessons learned along the way.

Narrative Style and Literary Devices

Narrative Voice

- The story is narrated by Carnehan, whose first-person perspective adds intimacy, immediacy, and a sense of authenticity.
- His reflective tone invites readers to consider the moral lessons embedded within the adventure.

Use of Irony

- Kipling employs irony masterfully, especially in the downfall of Dravot, whose hubris ultimately leads to his demise.
- The contrast between the grandeur of their ambitions and the tragic ending underscores the story's moral.

Symbolism

- The title itself, referring to a man who seeks to be king, symbolizes the universal human desire for power and recognition.
- The land of Kafiristan represents the unknown and the dangers inherent in venturing beyond familiar borders.

Language and Style

- Kipling's prose combines vivid imagery with colloquial dialogue, creating a balance between adventure storytelling and moral reflection.
- The use of local dialects and idioms adds authenticity and immerses readers in the setting.

Cultural and Historical Significance

Colonial Context

- Written during the British Empire's height, the novella reflects contemporary attitudes towards colonization, exploration, and racial superiority.
- While it offers a critique of imperial arrogance, it also echoes the imperialist mindset prevalent at the time.

Literary Influence

- "The Man Who Would Be King" has influenced countless adventure stories, films, and adaptations, including the 1975 film directed by John Huston starring Sean Connery and Michael Caine.
- Its themes of ambition, hubris, and cultural clash continue to resonate in modern narratives.

Themes of Power and Morality

- The novella raises questions about the morality of imperial conquest and the ethical limits of adventure.
- It prompts readers to reflect on the consequences of unchecked ambition and the importance of humility.

Critical Reception and Legacy

Initial Reception

- Upon publication, the novella was praised for its vivid storytelling, humor, and moral depth.
- Critics appreciated Kipling's ability to blend adventure with social critique.

Modern Interpretations

- Contemporary readers and scholars often analyze the story through post-colonial lenses, examining its portrayal of cultural encounters and imperial attitudes.
- Some critique its colonial perspective, while others praise its nuanced depiction of human folly.

Adaptations and Cultural References

- The story has been adapted into films, radio plays, and stage productions.
- Its memorable characters and themes continue to inspire writers and filmmakers.

Conclusion: Why "The Man Who Would Be King" Endures

"The Man Who Would Be King" remains a timeless exploration of human ambition and the perils of imperial hubris. Its compelling characters, layered themes, and masterful storytelling make it a rich text for analysis and enjoyment. Kipling's sharp critique of colonial arrogance, coupled with a thrilling adventure narrative, ensures its enduring relevance. Whether viewed as an adventure story, a moral allegory, or a reflection of its colonial era, the novella offers invaluable insights into human nature and the timeless quest for power and recognition.

Final Thoughts

For readers interested in adventure, history, or literary analysis, "The Man Who Would Be King" offers a captivating journey into the complexities of ambition, cultural encounter, and moral humility. Its lessons remain pertinent today, reminding us of the thin line between daring pursuit and dangerous overreach. Kipling's storytelling prowess ensures that this novella continues to enchant, provoke, and inform for generations to come.

[Book The Man Who Would Be King](#)

book the man who would be king: The Man Who Would Be King Ben Macintyre,

2008-10-28 The untold story of the nineteenth-century American Quaker who tried to build a kingdom in Afghanistan: "A thrilling real-life yarn." —Booklist In the year 1838, a young adventurer, surrounded by his native troops and mounted on an elephant, raised the American flag on the summit of the Hindu Kush in the mountainous wilds of Afghanistan. He declared himself Prince of Ghor, Lord of the Hazarahs, spiritual and military heir to Alexander the Great. The true story of Josiah Harlan, a Pennsylvania Quaker and the first American ever to enter Afghanistan, has never been told before, yet the life and writings of this extraordinary man echo down the centuries. This "riveting, scrupulously researched" book reveals the full history behind the renowned Rudyard Kipling short story and John Huston's film classic (The New York Times Book Review). "One of the most remarkable discoveries in the history of biography." —The New York Review of Books "Macintyre recounts Harlan's travels with dispatch, and draws on unpublished journals to let his subject's voice seep through." —The New Yorker "Here is a writer who seems as taken as I am with crackpottery, delusion, grandiosity, chicanery, and impersonation, but who manages to write about it all with amused restraint, without, that is, the air of the ogler." —The Boston Globe "Macintyre gives readers both Harlan's story and a thought-provoking perspective on the history of superpower intervention in Afghanistan . . . Harlan's story alone is fascinating, but its resonance with modern-day struggles—Harlan urging the British to try 'fiscal diplomacy' (i.e., gold) instead of 'invading and subjugating an unoffending people'—makes it compelling." —Publishers Weekly

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book the man who would be king: The Man Who Would Be King: Rudyard Kipling's Adventure of Ambition Rudyard Kipling, 2024-02-28 Embark on a journey of adventure and ambition with Rudyard Kipling's riveting narrative in the captivating story, The Man Who Would Be King. Immerse yourself in a tale where the boundaries between dreams and reality blur, creating a narrative that will leave you both inspired and contemplative. As Kipling's adventurous narrative unfolds, follow the characters through the pursuit of greatness and the consequences of unchecked ambition, unraveling the complexities of human dreams and the price of unrestrained ambition. The evocative prose and adventurous depth will transport you to a world where the boundaries between ambition and consequence are explored, and the consequences of reaching for greatness are felt with intensity. But here's the question that will linger in the echoes of ambition: What if the story of The Man Who Would Be King is not just an adventurous tale but a mirror reflecting the intricacies of human ambition and the transformative power of pursuing one's dreams? Explore the adventurous details of this captivating story, where each chapter unveils the pursuit of greatness and reflections surrounding the characters. The blend of evocative prose and adventurous insights creates a reading

experience that will leave you inspired while contemplating the highs and lows of chasing ambitious dreams. Are you prepared to chase your dreams within *The Man Who Would Be King* and reflect on the transformative power of pursuing greatness? Indulge in short, adventurous paragraphs that guide you through the ambitious landscapes of dreams and consequences. The evocative prose and adventurous reflections will make you feel like a participant in the characters' quest for greatness, experiencing the exhilarating moments and challenges of unrestrained ambition. Here's your chance to not just read but to experience the inspiration within *The Man Who Would Be King*. This is more than a story; it's a celebration of the transformative power of pursuing dreams. Will you dare to chase your ambitions in this riveting narrative? Seize the opportunity to own a piece of adventurous literature. Purchase *The Man Who Would Be King* now, and let the inspiring narrative and thematic depth within its pages resonate in your contemplative thoughts.

book the man who would be king: *The Man Who Would Be King* Rudyard RUDYARD KIPLING, 2020-10-18 RUDYARD KIPLING

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book the man who would be king: *The Man Who Would Be King (Classic Reprint)* Rudyard Kipling, 2017-09-17 Excerpt from *The Man Who Would Be King Intermediate*, which is Eurasian, or native, which for a long night journey is nasty, or Loafer, which is amusing though intoxicated. Intermediates do not buy from refreshment-rooms. They carry their food in bundles and pots, and buy sweets from the native. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

book the man who would be king: *The Jew Who Would Be King* Adam Laurence Rovner, 2025 *The Jew Who Would Be King* tells the improbable story of one of the nineteenth-century's most intrepid and controversial explorers, Nathaniel Isaacs, a British Jew who helped the legendary King Shaka establish the Zulu nation, but who later became a ruthless warlord and slave holder in Sierra Leone. Isaacs was an English merchant, adventurer, and author who published a celebrated account of his shipwreck and survival among the Zulu in *Travels and Adventures in Eastern Africa* (1836). His desperate scramble for fame, wealth, power, and love opens a new vista on to the way individuals experienced the upheavals of early globalization and the rise of Empire. *The Jew Who Would Be King* weaves together private lives and public history to offer a nuanced perspective on the mechanics of colonialism--

book the man who would be king: *The Complete Works of Rudyard Kipling* Rudyard Kipling, 2023-12-28 *The Complete Works of Rudyard Kipling* offers an exhaustive collection of one of the foremost literary figures of the late Victorian and Edwardian eras. Spanning poetry, short stories, and novels, Kipling's oeuvre navigates complex themes such as imperialism, colonialism, and the human condition with a blend of vivid imagery and captivating narratives. His use of rich

vernacular and varied stylistic devices showcases not only his mastery of language but also his keen observation of social dynamics within both the British Empire and its colonies. The anthology also invites critical reflection on the moral ambiguities embedded in Kipling's worldview, allowing readers to grapple with the distinctive cultural contexts of his time. Rudyard Kipling, born in 1865 in India, was profoundly influenced by the British imperial experience and his childhood in India. As a writer for various British publications, he gained early recognition for works like *The Jungle Book* and *'ÁúKim.' His upbringing amidst diverse cultures fueled his literary imagination and inspired his characteristic blend of adventure, romance, and realism. Kipling's experiences lend an authenticity and urgency to his exploration of identity and belonging. This comprehensive anthology is not merely a collection; it is a portal into the complexities of the 19th and early 20th centuries. I recommend *The Complete Works of Rudyard Kipling* to scholars, students, and general readers alike, as it provides invaluable insights into the mind of a writer whose influence continues to resonate today. In this enriched edition, we have carefully created added value for your reading experience: - A comprehensive Introduction outlines these selected works' unifying features, themes, or stylistic evolutions. - The Author Biography highlights personal milestones and literary influences that shape the entire body of writing. - A Historical Context section situates the works in their broader era—social currents, cultural trends, and key events that underpin their creation. - A concise Synopsis (Selection) offers an accessible overview of the included texts, helping readers navigate plotlines and main ideas without revealing critical twists. - A unified Analysis examines recurring motifs and stylistic hallmarks across the collection, tying the stories together while spotlighting the different work's strengths. - Reflection questions inspire deeper contemplation of the author's overarching message, inviting readers to draw connections among different texts and relate them to modern contexts. - Lastly, our hand-picked Memorable Quotes distill pivotal lines and turning points, serving as touchstones for the collection's central themes.*

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subcontinent has produced. Julese Verne Rudyard Kipling Flora Annie Steel Hon. J.W. Best Jim Corbett Khushwant Singh Ruskin Bond Manoj Das Intizar Husain Satyajit Ray Bill Aitkin R.K. Laxman Victor Banerjee Manojit Mitra.

book the man who would be king: *The Scandal of Adaptation* Thomas Leitch, 2023-04-21 The essays in this volume seek to expose the scandals of adaptation. Some of them focus on specific adaptations that have been considered scandalous because they portray characters acting in ways that give scandal, because they are thought to betray the values enshrined in the texts they adapt, because their composition or reception raises scandalous possibilities those adapted texts had repressed, or because they challenge their audiences in ways those texts had never thought to do. Others consider more general questions arising from the proposition that all adaptation is a scandalous practice that confronts audiences with provocative questions about bowdlerizing, ethics, censorship, contagion, screenwriting, and history. The collection offers a challenge to the continued marginalization of adaptations and adaptation studies and an invitation to change their position by embracing rather than downplaying their ability to scandalize the institutions they affront.

book the man who would be king: RUDYARD KIPLING PREMIUM COLLECTION: His Greatest Works in One Volume (Illustrated): The Jungle Book, The Man Who Would Be King, Just So Stories, Kim, The Light That Failed, Captain Courageous, Plain Tales from the Hills Rudyard Kipling, 2015-08-27 This carefully crafted ebook: RUDYARD KIPLING PREMIUM COLLECTION: His Greatest Works in One Volume (Illustrated) is formatted for your eReader with a functional and detailed table of contents. The Jungle Book is a collection of stories and fables, using animals in an anthropomorphic manner to give moral lessons. The verses of The Law of the Jungle, for example, lay down rules for the safety of individuals, families and communities. The best-known of them are the three stories revolving around the adventures of an abandoned man cub Mowgli who is raised by wolves in the Indian jungle. The most famous of the other four stories are probably Rikki-Tikki-Tavi and Toomai of the Elephants. The Second Jungle Book is a sequel which features five stories about Mowgli and three unrelated stories, all but one set in India, most of which Kipling wrote while living in Vermont. The Man Who Would Be King is a novella about two British adventurers in British India who become kings of Kafiristan, a remote part of Afghanistan. The story was inspired by the exploits of James Brooke, an Englishman who became the first White Rajah of Sarawak in Borneo. Kim is and adventure novel about the orphaned son of an Irish soldier and a poor Irish mother who have both died in poverty. Living a vagabond existence in India under British rule in the late 19th century, Kim earns his living by begging and running small errands on the streets of Lahore. The Just So Stories are a highly fantasized origin stories, especially for differences among animals, they are among Kipling's best known works. The Light That Failed Captain Courageous Plain Tales from the Hills Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) was an English short-story writer, poet, and novelist. He wrote tales and poems of British soldiers in India and stories for children. He is regarded as a major innovator in the art of the short story; his children's books are classics of children's literature.

book the man who would be king: Rudyard Kipling For Children - 7 Books in One Edition (Illustrated Edition) Rudyard Kipling, 2017-11-15 The Jungle Book is a collection of stories and fables, using animals in an anthropomorphic manner to give moral lessons. The verses of The Law of the Jungle, for example, lay down rules for the safety of individuals, families and communities. The best-known of them are the three stories revolving around the adventures of an abandoned man cub Mowgli who is raised by wolves in the Indian jungle. The most famous of the other four stories are probably Rikki-Tikki-Tavi and Toomai of the Elephants. The Second Jungle Book is a sequel which features five stories about Mowgli and three unrelated stories, all but one set in India, most of which Kipling wrote while living in Vermont. The Man Who Would Be King is a novella about two British adventurers in British India who become kings of Kafiristan, a remote part of Afghanistan. The story was inspired by the exploits of James Brooke, an Englishman who became the first White Rajah of Sarawak in Borneo. Kim is and adventure novel about the orphaned son of an Irish soldier and a poor Irish mother who have both died in poverty. Living a vagabond existence in India under British rule in the late 19th century, Kim earns his living by begging and running

small errands on the streets of Lahore. The Just So Stories are a highly fantasized origin stories, especially for differences among animals, they are among Kipling's best known works. The Light That Failed Captain Courageous Plain Tales from the Hills Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936) was an English short-story writer, poet, and novelist. He wrote tales and poems of British soldiers in India and stories for children. He is regarded as a major innovator in the art of the short story; his children's books are classics of children's literature.

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