

tarzan of the apes

Tarzan of the Apes is a timeless literary character who has captivated readers and audiences worldwide for over a century. Created by Edgar Rice Burroughs, Tarzan symbolizes the primal connection between humans and nature, embodying themes of survival, identity, and adventure. This article explores the origins of Tarzan, his cultural impact, adaptations across media, and his enduring legacy.

Origins of Tarzan of the Apes

The Creation by Edgar Rice Burroughs

Tarzan was introduced to the world in 1912 through Edgar Rice Burroughs' novel titled *Tarzan of the Apes*. Burroughs, an American author, envisioned a story of a young boy raised by apes in the jungle of Africa. The character's full name is John Clayton, Lord Greystoke, but he is famously known as Tarzan, which means "white skin" or "earth-born" in a language of the fictional jungle tribes.

Burroughs crafted Tarzan as a symbol of the wilderness's power and the innate nobility of humanity. His stories blend adventure, romance, and exploration, making them a staple of early 20th-century pulp fiction.

The Plot and Setting

The original novel narrates the life of Tarzan, who is orphaned as a baby when his parents, members of a British noble family, are stranded in Africa. The apes find and raise him, and he grows up learning their ways. As he matures, Tarzan becomes adept at survival, learning to communicate with animals, and mastering the jungle environment.

Throughout the series, Tarzan encounters various explorers, native tribes, wild animals, and villains, often defending his jungle home from threats. His story is set predominantly in the dense, mysterious African jungle, which becomes both his sanctuary and battleground.

Cultural Impact and Significance

Symbol of the Wilderness and Humanity

Tarzan represents the idea that humanity's true nature is close to the

natural world. His character challenges the notion that civilization is the only measure of morality and strength. Instead, Tarzan embodies the purity, resilience, and adaptability found in the wilderness.

Influence on Popular Culture

The character of Tarzan has become an archetype for the jungle hero. His image, characterized by his muscular physique, loincloth, and mastery over the jungle, has influenced countless fictional characters and stories. Tarzan has also popularized phrases like "Me Tarzan, you Jane," which, despite being a misrepresentation of the character's intelligence, became a cultural catchphrase.

Furthermore, Tarzan has inspired a broad range of adaptations, including movies, television series, comic books, and animated features, solidifying his place in global popular culture.

Representation in Literature and Media

The success of Burroughs' novels led to numerous sequels and spin-offs. These stories expanded Tarzan's universe and explored his relationships with other characters, such as Jane Porter, his love interest, and his friends and allies in the jungle.

The character's enduring appeal has also led to adaptations by other writers and creators, ensuring Tarzan remains relevant across generations.

Adaptations and Media Presence

Films and Television

Tarzan has been adapted into numerous movies since the silent film era. Notable portrayals include:

- Johnny Weissmuller (1932–1948): Possibly the most iconic Tarzan, Weissmuller's portrayal helped define the character's visual and personality traits.
- Lex Barker and Gordon Scott: Continued the film legacy in the 1950s and 1960s.
- Recent adaptations: Films like Disney's Tarzan (1999), which introduced the story to a new generation through animation, and other modern reimaginings.

Television series such as Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle and Tarzan: The Epic Adventures further expanded his reach.

Comics and Graphic Novels

Tarzan has been a prominent figure in comic books since the mid-20th century. Various publishers, including Dell Comics and Dark Horse, have produced comic series that depict Tarzan's adventures, often blending elements from the original novels with new storylines.

Literature and Parodies

Beyond Burroughs' original works, many authors have written new stories featuring Tarzan. Additionally, the character has been parodied and referenced in numerous books, films, and shows, reflecting his prominence in popular culture.

Legacy and Modern Relevance

Environmental and Conservation Themes

In contemporary times, Tarzan's story resonates with themes of environmental conservation. His deep connection with nature highlights the importance of preserving wild habitats and respecting indigenous cultures.

Influence on Adventure and Action Genres

Tarzan's archetype as a jungle hero inspired countless adventure stories and action films. His character paved the way for other wilderness explorers, jungle adventure narratives, and hero archetypes rooted in nature.

Continuing Popularity

Despite being over a century old, Tarzan remains a popular character. New adaptations, merchandise, and scholarly analyses continue to keep his story alive, illustrating his timeless appeal.

Conclusion

Tarzan of the Apes stands as a symbol of the primal human spirit and the enduring allure of the jungle adventure genre. From Edgar Rice Burroughs' original novels to a multitude of film, television, and comic adaptations,

Tarzan's story continues to inspire and entertain audiences around the world. His legacy underscores themes of resilience, harmony with nature, and the quest for identity—universal concepts that ensure his place in cultural history for generations to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of 'Tarzan of the Apes'?

'Tarzan of the Apes' follows the story of a boy named Tarzan who is raised by apes in the jungle after being orphaned, and his subsequent adventures as he learns about his human identity and confronts various challenges.

Who is the author of 'Tarzan of the Apes'?

The novel was written by Edgar Rice Burroughs and first published in 1912.

How has 'Tarzan of the Apes' influenced popular culture?

'Tarzan of the Apes' has significantly impacted popular culture, inspiring numerous films, television series, comic strips, and adaptations, and popularizing the archetype of the jungle hero.

What are some themes explored in 'Tarzan of the Apes'?

The novel explores themes such as nature versus nurture, identity, civilization versus the wilderness, and the innate human connection to nature.

Has 'Tarzan of the Apes' faced any modern criticism?

Yes, modern critics have examined the book's portrayal of race, gender, and colonial attitudes, leading to discussions about its cultural sensitivity and relevance today.

Are there any recent adaptations of 'Tarzan of the Apes'?

Yes, there have been recent adaptations including movies, animated series, and graphic novels that reimagine Tarzan's story for contemporary audiences, often with updated themes and diverse perspectives.

Additional Resources

Tarzan of the Apes: The Iconic Jungle Hero's Journey from Fiction to Cultural Phenomenon

Introduction

Tarzan of the Apes stands as one of the most enduring figures in literary and popular culture. Created by American author Edgar Rice Burroughs in 1912, the character has captivated readers for over a century with his wild upbringing, heroic deeds, and complex identity. From the pages of pulp fiction to blockbuster movies and countless adaptations, Tarzan's story embodies themes of nature versus nurture, civilization versus savagery, and the universal quest for belonging. This article delves into the origins, character development, cultural impact, and enduring legacy of Tarzan of the Apes, offering a comprehensive exploration of this legendary figure.

Origins and Literary Background

The Birth of Tarzan

The character of Tarzan was introduced by Edgar Rice Burroughs in the novel *Tarzan of the Apes*, published in 1912. Burroughs, a prolific writer of adventure stories, drew inspiration from earlier adventure tales and pulp fiction, but he crafted a unique protagonist who embodied the raw, untamed spirit of the jungle.

Inspiration and Creation

Burroughs reportedly conceived Tarzan after pondering the idea of a man raised by apes—an archetype rooted in myth and storytelling traditions across cultures. His aim was to combine thrilling adventure with profound themes of identity, evolution, and civilization. Burroughs developed the narrative of a European nobleman's son, orphaned in Africa, who is adopted by a tribe of great apes and grows into a mighty, intelligent, and morally upright figure.

Literary Significance and Series Development

The original novel was part of a series that expanded Tarzan's adventures across numerous books, totaling over two dozen titles. These stories not only entertained but also reflected early 20th-century fascination with exploration and the mysteries of the jungle. Burroughs' vivid descriptions and fast-paced storytelling established Tarzan as a staple of pulp fiction.

Character Profile: Tarzan's Traits and Evolution

The Man Behind the Legend

Tarzan, whose name means “white skin” in the language of the apes, is depicted as:

- A physically formidable individual, with exceptional strength, agility, and senses
- Highly intelligent, capable of learning multiple languages and understanding complex concepts
- Noble-hearted, embodying virtues such as courage, loyalty, and justice
- Multilingual and well-educated, especially after exposure to Western civilization

Origins and Key Traits

Tarzan’s backstory is central to his character:

- Born John Clayton, Lord Greystoke, in England
- Orphaned after his parents’ death in Africa
- Raised by a tribe of great apes called the Mangani
- Learns to survive in the jungle, mastering skills like climbing, hunting, and communication with animals

The Dual Identity

A defining aspect of Tarzan’s character is his struggle with identity:

- The “civilized” aristocrat versus the “savage” jungle dweller
- His internal conflict reflects broader themes of nature versus nurture
- His ability to navigate both worlds makes him a complex hero

Evolution Over Time

While the early stories emphasize Tarzan’s primal instincts, later adaptations explore his intellectual development, relationships with humans, and moral dilemmas, adding depth to his character.

Cultural Impact and Adaptations

Literary Legacy

Tarzan’s popularity spawned numerous sequels, spin-offs, and adaptations, transforming him into a cultural icon. The character influenced the adventure genre and inspired countless writers and filmmakers.

Films and Television

The first Tarzan film was released in 1918, but it was the 1932 movie starring Johnny Weissmuller that cemented Tarzan’s place in Hollywood. Weissmuller’s portrayal popularized Tarzan’s iconic yell and swinging through the trees.

Subsequent adaptations include:

- Classic movies from the 1930s to the 1960s
- Animated series and TV shows
- Modern reboots and reinterpretations, including Disney's Tarzan (1999), which emphasized his human side and environmental themes

Influence on Popular Culture

Tarzan has become a symbol of:

- Wilderness survival and adventure
- Romanticized notions of primal strength and nobility
- Environmental conservation, especially in modern interpretations emphasizing harmony with nature

His image appears in comic strips, merchandise, and even as a mascot for various organizations.

Themes and Symbolism

Nature Versus Nurture

Tarzan embodies the debate over whether humans are inherently savage or civilized. His upbringing by apes suggests innate goodness and strength, yet his exposure to human society introduces moral complexities.

Civilization and Its Discontents

The stories often explore the tension between the "savagery" of the jungle and the "refinement" of civilization. Tarzan's interactions with both worlds highlight the strengths and flaws of each.

Humanity's Connection to Nature

Tarzan's deep bond with the jungle and its creatures underscores themes of environmental respect and the importance of preserving natural habitats.

Identity and Self-Discovery

His journey reflects a universal quest for understanding oneself beyond societal labels, making Tarzan a relatable and enduring hero.

Tarzan's Legacy and Modern Reinterpretations

Enduring Popularity

Over a century after his debut, Tarzan remains a beloved character, inspiring new generations through books, films, and other media. His story resonates because of its timeless themes and adventurous spirit.

Critical Perspectives

While celebrated, Tarzan's portrayal has also faced criticism:

- Stereotypes of African tribes and indigenous peoples
- Romanticized notions of the "noble savage"
- Cultural appropriation concerns in some adaptations

Contemporary creators often seek to reinterpret Tarzan with greater cultural sensitivity and ecological awareness.

Recent and Future Adaptations

Innovative adaptations continue to explore Tarzan's character in diverse contexts:

- Reimagined stories emphasizing environmental activism
- Diverse casting and storytelling perspectives
- Integration into modern superhero and adventure franchises

The character's flexibility ensures his relevance in a rapidly changing cultural landscape.

Conclusion: The Enduring Myth of Tarzan

Tarzan of the Apes is more than just a fictional adventure hero; he is a symbol of humanity's complex relationship with nature, identity, and civilization. Edgar Rice Burroughs crafted a character who embodies primal strength, moral integrity, and the eternal search for belonging. Over the decades, Tarzan has transcended his literary origins to become a cultural icon, inspiring countless adaptations and continuing to captivate audiences worldwide.

As environmental concerns grow and stories of self-discovery remain universal, Tarzan's legacy persists—reminding us of the wild, noble, and enduring spirit within us all. Whether swinging through the jungle or navigating the intricacies of modern life, Tarzan's story endures as a testament to the timeless allure of adventure and the human desire to find one's place in the world.

[Tarzan Of The Apes](#)

tarzan of the apes: *Tarzan of the Apes* Edgar Rice Burroughs, 1990-10-01 The classic novel of a boy raised by Apes in the African jungle, now the basis for a major motion picture, *The Legend of Tarzan*, starring Alexander Skarsgård, Margot Robbie, Samuel L. Jackson, and Djimon Hounsou. Originally published in 1914, Burroughs's *Tarzan*, the ideal image of pure animalistic power at odds with the civilized world, appealed to readers from his very inception and became one of the most enduring icons of popular culture. In this classic tale, the struggle between the wild and the civilized is played out deep in the savage African jungle. The infant Tarzan is raised by apes and grows into manhood, learning to survive as the animals survive. When an expedition of white men brings the beautiful and cultured Jane Porter to the jungle, Tarzan enters civilization to win her love. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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tarzan of the apes: *Tarzan of the Apes* Edgar Rice Burroughs, 2021-04-07 *Tarzan of the Apes* is a novel by American writer Edgar Rice Burroughs, the first in a series of books about the title character Tarzan. The story follows Tarzan's adventures, from his childhood being raised by apes in the jungle, to his eventual encounters with other humans and Western society. So popular was the character that Burroughs continued the series into the 1940s with two dozen sequels. The novel tells the story of John Clayton, born in the western coastal jungles of equatorial Africa to a marooned couple from England, John and Alice (Rutherford) Clayton, Lord and Lady Greystoke. Adopted as an infant by the she-ape Kala after his parents died (his father is killed by the savage king ape Kerchak), Clayton is named Tarzan (White Skin in the ape language) and raised in ignorance of his human heritage.

tarzan of the apes: Tarzan of the Apes Edgar Rice Burroughs, Harold Woods, Geraldine Woods, 1982 When Tarzan is orphaned as a baby deep in the African jungle, the apes adopt him and raise him as their own. By the time the boy is ten, he can swing through the trees and talk to the animals. By the time he is eighteen, he has the strength of a lion and rules the apes as their king. But Tarzan knows he's different. Will he ever discover his true identity?

tarzan of the apes: *Tarzan of the Apes Novel by Edgar Rice Burroughs (Fantasy & Adventure Fiction) "The Annotated Edition"* Edgar Burroughs, 2020-08-12 *Tarzan of the Apes* is a novel written by Edgar Rice Burroughs, the first in a series of books about the title character Tarzan. It was first published in the pulp magazine *All-Story Magazine* in October 1912. So popular was the character that Burroughs continued the series into the 1940s with two dozen sequels. For the novel's centennial anniversary, Library of America published a hardcover edition based on the original book in April 2012 with an introduction by Thomas Mallon. The novel tells the story of John Clayton III. John and Alice (Rutherford) Clayton II, Lord and Lady Greystoke of England, are marooned in the western coastal jungles of equatorial Africa in 1888. In September 1889 their son John Clayton III is born. At one year old his mother dies, and soon thereafter his father is killed by the savage king ape Kerchak. The infant is then adopted by the she-ape Kala. Clayton is named Tarzan (White Skin in the

ape language) and raised in ignorance of his human heritage. As a boy, feeling alienated from his peers due to their physical differences, he discovers his true parents' cabin, where he first learns of others like himself in their books. Using basic primers with pictures, over many years he teaches himself to read English, but having never heard it, cannot speak it. Upon his return from one visit to the cabin, he is attacked by a huge gorilla which he manages to kill with his father's knife, although he is terribly wounded in the struggle. As he grows up, Tarzan becomes a skilled hunter.

tarzan of the apes: Tarzan of the Apes: Original Classics and Annotated Edgar Rice Burroughs, 2021-03-30 *Tarzan of the Apes* (1912) is a classic novel by American author Edgar Rice Burroughs. The novel tells the story of the boy Tarzan being raised by apes in the African jungle. The novel is the first in a series of two dozen books about Tarzan. As a man, he encounters humans again when an expedition of white men comes into the jungle. In 1888, John Clayton II and his wife Alice get marooned in a jungle on the coast of West Africa. After a mutiny on the ship, they put ashore with all their possessions, along with some food and tools. The young English couple holds the title of Lord and Lady Greystoke. In September of 1889, their son John Clayton III is born. When the baby boy turns one, he loses both his parents. First, his mother dies. Next, his father gets killed by Kerchak, the king of the apes. A female ape named Kala adopts the infant boy and raises him as her son. Tarzan helps Kala to replace her own dead baby. Kala names him Tarzan, which means white skin in the language of the apes. The baby boy is raised as an ape. He learns their language, gains a strong sense of family, and understands the ways of the apes. He becomes a skilled hunter. The strongest among the apes are at the top of the hierarchy. At first, Tarzan does not know about his human parents. He recognizes that he is physically different from his ape peers. His differences make him feel alienated. Tarzan thinks his differences prevent him from being fully accepted by his peers. As a boy, he discovers the cabin where he lived with parents. In the cabin, he finds books with pictures of humans. He realizes that there are others like him. Over many years, Tarzan manages to teach himself how to read English so that he can understand the books. He creates primers with pictures. Through his reading, he learns more about the world of humans through the books. Even once he is able to read, he is unable to speak English as he has no memories of hearing it as a baby. One time, as he is returning home after visiting the cabin, he gets attacked by a huge gorilla. He uses his father's knife to kill the attacking gorilla. Tarzan survives but is wounded in the battle. Later in the novel, a tribe of Africans moves into the area where Tarzan lives. Tarzan's ape mother, Kala, gets killed by a member of the tribe on a hunt. Kala's death angers Tarzan. To avenge her death, he steals weapons from the tribe during raids. He also plays cruel pranks on them. The tribe believes that an evil spirit is attacking them. Kerchak, the ape leader, has become jealous of Tarzan. Tarzan has a good reputation among the apes as a skilled hunter. He also gains attention for how he manages to steal from the African tribe. Kerchak attacks him, but Tarzan prevails and becomes the new king of the apes. Tarzan is not the only human marooned on the coast of West Africa. When he is 20, Tarzan meets humans for the first time when another boat is marooned off the coast. The group includes Jane Porter, the daughter of an American professor. Tarzan is excited to see Jane--the first white woman Tarzan has ever seen. Also on the boat is William Cecil Clayton, who is Tarzan's cousin. William inherited the Clayton family ancestral estate in England. The party also includes Paul D'Arnot, a French naval officer. After spying on the group of humans, Tarzan helps them and tries to keep them safe. He rescues D'Arnot from the local African tribe. As Tarzan is rescuing him, a boat has come to save the rest of the castaways. Jane begs the boat to wait for D'Arnot and Tarzan but it leaves without them. As a form of gratitude, D'Arnot teaches Tarzan how to behave like a man and speak French. D'Arnot learns that Tarzan has fallen for Jane and misses her. He offers to take Tarzan on a journey to the land of the white men. Along the way, Tarzan learns how to behave among civilized people and how to speak English. On the journey, Tarzan brings information from his parent's...

tarzan of the apes: *Tarzan Of The Apes* Edgar Burroughs, 2014-04-03 *Tarzan of the Apes* is Edgar Rice Burroughs' exciting, if improbable, story of an English lord, left by the death of his stranded parents in the hands of a motherly African ape who raises him as her own. Although he is

aware that he is different from the apes of his tribe, who are neither white nor hairless, he nevertheless regards them as his people. When older, larger, stronger apes decide that he is undesirable to be killed or expelled from the tribe, it is fortunate that Tarzan has learned the use of primitive weapons. Although small and weak by ape standards, Tarzan is a human of god-like strength and agility to men who discover him. By studying these people, he gradually decides he is not an ape at all, but human. And when he meets Jane, a beautiful American girl marooned with her father and friends on the hostile coast of Africa, Tarzan conceives love for her. When they are unexpectedly rescued before Tarzan can find a way to reveal his feelings to Jane, he determines to become civilized and follow her into the world of people - to find her and wed her, though he must cross continents and oceans, and compete with two other suitors for her hand.

tarzan of the apes: Tarzan Edgar Rice Burroughs, 2007-06 After being shipwrecked on the coast of Africa and separated from his parents an infant English aristocrat is raised in the jungle by a female ape. There he becomes more animal than human-learning to survive in the wild, communicate with jungle creatures and fight against dangerous predators. He is Tarzan of the Apes. In strength and courage Tarzan is the equal of any ape, but his greater intelligence eventually promises the leadership of his tribe and dominion over the jungle. Then other pale skinned creatures like him enter his world, bringing with them the savage ways of men-and the only pale skinned woman he has ever seen. In the second novel, The Return of Tarzan, our hero returns to the jungle after a time in the world of men. Here he learns of the fabulous Opar, city of gold. Ignoring the dangers, Tarzan and a band of warriors set out for Opar, and a further round of adventures that could only have been imagined by the inimitable Edgar Rice Burroughs begins.

tarzan of the apes: Tarzan of the Apes Edgar Rice Burroughs, 2016-04-10 Tarzan of the Apes is a novel written by Edgar Rice Burroughs, the first in a series of books about the title character Tarzan. It was first published in the pulp magazine All-Story Magazine in October, 1912. The character was so popular that Burroughs continued the series into the 1940s with two dozen sequels. The novel tells the story of John Clayton, born in the western coastal jungles of equatorial Africa to a marooned couple from England, John and Alice (Rutherford) Clayton, Lord and Lady Greystoke. Adopted as an infant by the she-ape Kala after his parents die (his mother dies of natural causes on Tarzan's first birthday, and his father is killed by the savage king ape Kerchak), Clayton is named Tarzan (White Skin in the ape language) and raised in ignorance of his human heritage. Burroughs' novel has been the basis of several movies. The last one is: The Legend of Tarzan (2016)

tarzan of the apes: Tarzan of the Apes Illustrated Edgar Rice Burroughs, 2020-11-10 Tarzan of the Apes is a 1912 novel by American writer Edgar Rice Burroughs, the first in a series of twenty-four books about the title character Tarzan. The story follows Tarzan's adventures, from his childhood being raised by apes in the jungle to his eventual encounters with other humans and Western society. So popular was the character that Burroughs continued the series into the 1940s with two dozen sequels. John and Alice (Rutherford) Clayton, Viscount and Lady Greystoke from England, are marooned in the western coastal jungles of equatorial Africa in 1888. Some time later, their son John Clayton II is born. When he is one year old his mother dies, and soon thereafter his father is killed by the savage king ape Kerchak. The infant is then adopted by the she-ape Kala.

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original book in April 2012 with an introduction by Thomas Mallon

tarzan of the apes: Tarzan of the Apes Edgar Rice Burroughs, 2017-09-30 *Tarzan of the Apes* By Edgar Rice Burroughs Having failed in a number of occupations as a young man, Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875-1950) found his niche as a writer with *Tarzan of the Apes*, first published in 1914. Highly imaginative, exotic and suspenseful, the story tells of an infant - the son of an aristocratic English couple - abandoned when his parents die in the jungles of Africa. Rescued and reared by apes, he learns to speak their language and imitate their ability to travel swiftly through the treetops. Eventually, his courage, immense strength and exceptional intelligence earn him the respect and admiration not only of the apes, but of all the creatures of the jungle. The ape-man's story is told here in this classic, fast-paced novel, packed with riveting adventures as Tarzan avenges the killing of Kala, his ape-mother, subdues man-eating beasts of the jungle, meets and falls in love with the beautiful Jane Porter, vanquishes greedy pirate-adventurers, and deals with assorted other threats. Although Burroughs followed this story with many Tarzan sequels, it is doubtful if any ever equaled this novel for its originality, readability and sheer storytelling power. In this inexpensive edition, complete and unabridged, it will thrill a new generation with the legendary exploits of the Lord of the Apes.

tarzan of the apes: *Tarzan of the Apes - Large Print Edition* Edgar Burroughs, 2013-11-29 John Clayton is orphaned in the jungle, and raised by apes as Tarzan (meaning white skin in the ape's language). He knows he's different from the apes, so when he discovers his parents' cabin, he begins to learn of his heritage. Enter Jane Porter, the first white woman, Tarzan has ever seen. He must know more, but there are many obstacles in his path. This is the first of the books about Tarzan, and the character quickly grew into a pop culture phenomenon. This Large Print Edition is presented in easy-to-read 16 point type.

tarzan of the apes: *Tarzan of the Apes and the Return of Tarzan* Edgar Rice Burroughs, 2017-09-13 *Tarzan of the Apes* tells the story of John Clayton III. John and Alice (Rutherford) Clayton II, Lord and Lady Greystoke of England, are marooned in the western coastal jungles of equatorial Africa in 1888. In September 1889 their son John Clayton III is born. At one year old his mother dies, and soon thereafter his father is killed by the savage king ape Kerchak. The infant is then adopted by the she-ape Kala. Clayton is named Tarzan (White Skin in the ape language) and raised in ignorance of his human heritage. Upon his return from one visit to the cabin, he is attacked by a huge gorilla which he manages to kill with his father's knife, although he is terribly wounded in the struggle. As he grows up, Tarzan becomes a skilled hunter, exciting the jealousy of Kerchak, the ape leader, who finally attacks him. Tarzan kills Kerchak and takes his place as king of the apes. *The Return of Tarzan* is the story of a young man who, although born of a woman, was left by a succession of untoward circumstances to be reared in an African jungle by a she-ape, the only mother he ever knew. Tarzan was drawn from the jungle by love for a young American girl whom chance threw in his way. Disappointment in love, in this new volume, results in his return to the jungle where he has many strange adventures and whence he is again led forth by love, this time happy love.

tarzan of the apes: *Tarzan of the Apes (Tarzan, #1)* Edgar Rice Burroughs, 2017-05-25 *Tarzan of the Apes* is a novel written by Edgar Rice Burroughs. The novel tells the story of John Clayton, born in the western coastal jungles of equatorial Africa to a marooned couple from England, John and Alice (Rutherford) Clayton, Lord and Lady Greystoke. Adopted as an infant by the she-ape Kala after his parents die (his mother dies of natural causes on Tarzan's first birthday, and his father is killed by the savage king ape Kerchak), Clayton is named Tarzan (White Skin in the ape language) and raised in ignorance of his human heritage.

tarzan of the apes: *Tarzan of the Apes and the Return of Tarzan* Edgar Rice Burroughs, Finn J D John, 2017-01-01 In the wild, unexplored coastal jungles of West Africa lives a wild human boy named Tarzan, the adopted son of a tribe of fierce almost-human anthropoid apes - but in reality the unknown heir of a wealthy and titled English noble family. Then one day, a small party of American treasure-seekers is marooned on Tarzan's beach, including a lovely Baltimore belle named Jane Porter. When she leaves, Tarzan quits his jungle life and learns the ways of civilized man, so

that he can follow her. But after he arrives, he finds he must choose between his noble birthright and her future happiness ... The two books in this duology were the world's introduction to Tarzan of the Apes - possibly the most widely recognized character in fiction. Over the century since he was introduced to us, he has starred in hundreds of books, comics, and films, and thousands of derivative bits of pop culture such as bubble-gum cards and lunch pails. Only Bram Stoker's Dracula has starred in more movies. Yet the Tarzan most people think they know is far different from the original Tarzan - the Tarzan you'll meet in these pages. The Tarzan most of us know is a crude, powerful, primitive man, who speaks in monosyllables (Me Tarzan. You Jane. Where boy?) . The original Tarzan was altogether different - fluent in at least four languages (Ape, French, English and Arabic, in that order) and equally comfortable in the smoking-room of a great ocean liner as he was in the savage jungle. This Pulp-Lit Annotated Edition of Burroughs' first two Tarzan books tells the story of the ape-man's origins, from his childhood adventures to his triumphant arrival as Lord Greystoke.

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2017-07-21 Having failed in a number of occupations as a young man, Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875-1950) found his niche as a writer with *Tarzan of the Apes*, first published in 1914. Highly imaginative, exotic and suspenseful, the story tells of an infant - the son of an aristocratic English couple - abandoned when his parents die in the jungles of Africa. Rescued and reared by apes, he learns to speak their language and imitate their ability to travel swiftly through the treetops. Eventually, his courage, immense strength and exceptional intelligence earn him the respect and admiration not only of the apes, but of all the creatures of the jungle. The ape-man's story is told here in this classic, fast-paced novel, packed with riveting adventures as Tarzan avenges the killing of Kala, his ape-mother, subdues man-eating beasts of the jungle, meets and falls in love with the beautiful Jane Porter, vanquishes greedy pirate-adventurers, and deals with assorted other threats. Although Burroughs followed this story with many Tarzan sequels, it is doubtful if any ever equaled this novel for its originality, readability and sheer storytelling power. In this inexpensive edition, complete and unabridged, it will thrill a new generation with the legendary exploits of the Lord of the Apes.

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