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The Call Of The Wild (Wisehouse Classics - With Original Illustrations)



Synopsis

Published now in the Wisehouse Classics series, The Call of the Wild is a short adventure novel by Jack London published in 1903 and set in Yukon, Canada during the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush, when strong sled dogs were in high demand. The central character is a dog named Buck. The story opens at a ranch in the Santa Clara Valley of California when Buck is stolen from his home and sold into service as a sled dog in Alaska. He progressively reverts to a wild state in the harsh climate, where he is forced to fight to dominate other dogs. By the end, he sheds the veneer of civilization and relies on primordial instinct and learned experience to emerge as a leader in the wild. London spent almost a year in the Yukon collecting material for the book. The story was serialized in the Saturday Evening Post in the summer of 1903; it was published a month later in book form. The book's great popularity and success made a reputation for London. Much of its appeal derives from its simplicity as a tale of survival. As early as 1923, the story was adapted to film, and it has since seen several more cinematic adaptations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have never actually read this book until today. I never had to read it for school, and I never thought that it would be something I was terribly interested in reading for myself. However, today, I just had a random urge to read this book, so I downloaded it from and read it. It is a very quick read. It did not take me much more than an hour to read it, and it is probably way beneath my "reading level", if a grown-ass woman can be said to have a "reading level", but still, despite its brevity and the fact that it is youth-oriented, I really enjoyed this book. I have read books written from the perspective of

animals before, of course, but this one was particularly well done. It caught my attention fairly early on... I can't give you the exact page or chapter or scene that reeled me in, but I was interested pretty much from the get-go. I absolutely fell in love with Buck. I am a cat person, myself, but even I want a dog like Buck. One of the later chapters, "For the Love of a Man" I think it was entitled, just warmed my heart. My animals love me, as I love them, but I have known very few HUMANS who are as fiercely loyal and protective and adoring as Buck. I also love the picture that London paints of Alaska and the type of people who were buying sled dogs to help them find gold. I was not there, of course, so I can't say how accurate his descriptions were, but I can honestly say that I can't imagine them being far off the mark. Some of them were really good people, and some of them were really bad people, but mostly, they were all just people. People driven by ambitions that colored every decision and choice they made -- sometimes to their advantage, and sometimes to their detriment. I really, really liked this book.

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