

tarzan of the apes edgar rice burroughs

Tarzan of the Apes Edgar Rice Burroughs: The Legend Behind the Jungle Hero

tarzan of the apes edgar rice burroughs is a name and story that has captivated readers and audiences for over a century. This iconic character, created by Edgar Rice Burroughs, first appeared in the early 20th century and quickly became one of the most enduring figures in adventure literature. The tale of Tarzan—a man raised by apes in the African jungle—combines elements of survival, identity, and the clash between civilization and nature, making it a timeless narrative that continues to inspire books, films, comics, and more.

The Origins of Tarzan of the Apes Edgar Rice Burroughs

Edgar Rice Burroughs introduced Tarzan to the world in 1912 with the publication of "Tarzan of the Apes" in the pulp magazine **The All-Story**. Burroughs, already an aspiring writer with a passion for adventure stories, crafted a character who was both noble and wild, a man torn between two worlds. Tarzan's real name is John Clayton, Lord Greystoke, a British nobleman orphaned and left to survive in the jungle as a child.

Burroughs' inspiration for Tarzan came from a mix of literary influences, including Rudyard Kipling's **The Jungle Book** and the romanticized view of the noble savage that was popular at the time. What set Tarzan apart, however, was the rich backstory and the complex character arc that Burroughs developed over multiple novels. The character was not just an animalistic figure; he was intelligent, resourceful, and capable of navigating both the wild and human society.

Edgar Rice Burroughs: The Man Behind the Myth

Understanding the author behind Tarzan adds depth to the story. Edgar Rice Burroughs was born in 1875 and had a varied career before becoming a successful writer. His early jobs included working as a soldier, a salesman, and even a pencil sharpener manufacturer. Burroughs began writing seriously in the early 1900s, and his breakthrough came with Tarzan.

His ability to create immersive worlds and compelling characters made him one of the most popular pulp fiction authors of his time. Burroughs continued writing Tarzan stories for decades, expanding the character's universe and introducing new adventures, allies, and enemies.

The Storyline and Themes of Tarzan of the Apes

At its core, **Tarzan of the Apes** tells the story of a boy who grows up among apes in the jungle after his aristocratic parents are killed. Raised by a she-ape named Kala, Tarzan learns to survive in the wild, developing extraordinary strength, agility, and a primal connection to nature. The story explores themes of identity, nature versus nurture, and the contrast between civilization and the wild.

Identity and Duality

One of the most compelling aspects of Tarzan's story is his struggle with identity. Despite being raised by apes, Tarzan discovers his human lineage and is faced with the choice of embracing his noble heritage or remaining in the jungle. This duality resonates with readers as it reflects the universal human experience of belonging and self-discovery.

Nature Versus Civilization

Burroughs uses Tarzan to explore the tension between the natural world and human society. Tarzan is at home in the jungle but also capable of mastering the tools and customs of the civilized world. This theme remains relevant today, as modern readers consider humanity's relationship with nature and the environment.

The Impact and Legacy of Tarzan of the Apes **Edgar Rice Burroughs**

The success of **Tarzan of the Apes** led to a franchise that includes over two dozen novels, countless comic strips, movies, radio dramas, and television shows. Tarzan became a cultural phenomenon, influencing adventure storytelling and popular culture worldwide.

Tarzan in Film and Media

The character's transition from page to screen began early, with silent films in the 1910s and 1920s. The most famous portrayal came in the 1930s with actor Johnny Weissmuller, whose athleticism and charisma helped define Tarzan for generations. Since then, Tarzan has appeared in animated films, TV series, and recent reboots that reinterpret the story for modern audiences.

Influence on Adventure and Jungle Fiction

Burroughs' creation paved the way for many jungle adventure stories and heroic characters who straddle the line between civilization and nature. Tarzan's archetype—a hero with primal strength and moral integrity—has inspired countless writers and filmmakers.

Exploring Tarzan's World: Characters and Settings

The richness of the Tarzan saga comes not only from its protagonist but also from its vibrant cast of supporting characters and evocative jungle settings.

Key Characters in Tarzan's Story

- **Kala:** The she-ape who raises Tarzan, symbolizing maternal love and protection.
- **Jane Porter:** Tarzan's love interest and a representation of the civilized world.
- **Kerchak:** The ape leader who initially rejects Tarzan but ultimately respects him.
- **Clayton:** Tarzan's human father, whose legacy influences Tarzan's identity.

The African Jungle as a Character

Burroughs portrays the jungle not just as a backdrop but as a living, breathing entity. The lush landscapes, dangerous animals, and tribal cultures create an immersive world that is both beautiful and perilous. This vivid setting plays a crucial role in shaping Tarzan's adventures and challenges.

Why Tarzan of the Apes Edgar Rice Burroughs Still Matters Today

More than a century after its creation, *Tarzan of the Apes* remains relevant

for several reasons. It explores timeless themes that continue to resonate, such as identity, belonging, and humanity's connection to nature. Moreover, Tarzan's story encourages readers to think critically about the balance between modern life and the natural environment.

For those interested in classic literature, adventure tales, or the evolution of popular culture, diving into Tarzan's world offers both entertainment and insight. The enduring legacy of Edgar Rice Burroughs' creation reminds us that stories about the wild, the unknown, and the human spirit will always find an audience ready to swing from the vines alongside their jungle hero.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Edgar Rice Burroughs in relation to Tarzan of the Apes?

Edgar Rice Burroughs is the author who created the character Tarzan and wrote the novel Tarzan of the Apes, first published in 1912.

What is the plot of Tarzan of the Apes by Edgar Rice Burroughs?

Tarzan of the Apes tells the story of a boy named John Clayton, who is orphaned in the African jungle and raised by apes, eventually discovering his human heritage and navigating between the wild and civilization.

How has Tarzan of the Apes influenced popular culture?

Tarzan of the Apes has become an iconic character in literature and media, inspiring numerous adaptations in films, comics, television, and merchandise, and influencing the jungle adventure genre.

What themes are explored in Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan of the Apes?

The novel explores themes such as nature versus nurture, civilization versus savagery, identity, and the clash between modern society and primal instincts.

Are there any modern adaptations of Tarzan of the Apes by Edgar Rice Burroughs?

Yes, Tarzan has been adapted into various modern films, animated series, and books, including Disney's 1999 animated movie Tarzan and more recent

reimaginings in literature and media.

Additional Resources

Tarzan of the Apes Edgar Rice Burroughs: A Literary and Cultural Examination

tarzan of the apes edgar rice burroughs stands as one of the most iconic and enduring creations in early 20th-century literature. Since its initial publication in 1912, the story of Tarzan has captivated audiences worldwide, influencing not only the genre of adventure fiction but also shaping perceptions of nature, civilization, and humanity's primal instincts. Edgar Rice Burroughs, the author behind this legendary character, crafted a narrative that transcends its pulp fiction origins, inviting a deeper exploration of its themes, characters, and cultural significance.

The Genesis of Tarzan: Edgar Rice Burroughs' Vision

Edgar Rice Burroughs, an American writer born in 1875, introduced Tarzan in a serialized format before the story was published as a full novel. "Tarzan of the Apes" was initially featured in the pulp magazine All-Story Magazine in 1912. Burroughs' creation drew on popular adventure tales of the time but distinguished itself through its complex protagonist—John Clayton, Lord Greystoke—who is raised by apes in the African jungle after being orphaned.

Burroughs' narrative combines elements of the "noble savage" trope with a critique of modern civilization. Tarzan embodies a paradox: he is both a product of nature and the aristocratic human lineage. This dual identity allows Burroughs to explore themes of identity, survival, and the conflict between nature and nurture.

Literary Context and Influences

The early 1900s saw a surge in adventure and exploration fiction, with writers like H. Rider Haggard setting precedents for jungle tales and lost civilizations. However, Burroughs diverged by focusing on a character who is not an explorer but a native of the jungle, albeit one of human descent. The blend of fantasy and realism in "Tarzan of the Apes" reflects the era's fascination with Darwinian evolution and the mysteries of the African continent.

Burroughs' prose style is straightforward and action-driven, catering to pulp readers but also embedding subtle social commentary. The novel's exploration of class, race, and civilization reflects early 20th-century attitudes, which modern readers may find problematic. Nonetheless, the story's adventurous

spirit and vivid imagery have ensured its lasting appeal.

Character Analysis: Tarzan as a Cultural Archetype

At its core, "Tarzan of the Apes" presents a protagonist who is both hero and outsider. Tarzan's upbringing by the Mangani, a fictional species of great apes, places him outside human society, yet his noble lineage and intelligence distinguish him from the animals. This duality creates a compelling tension that drives the narrative.

The character's physical prowess, survival skills, and moral code reflect Burroughs' idealization of a natural man uncorrupted by modern decadence. Tarzan's ability to master both the jungle and human society symbolizes a bridge between two worlds, embodying themes of adaptability and resilience.

Supporting Characters and Their Roles

Jane Porter, Tarzan's love interest, serves as a narrative foil, representing the civilized world Tarzan is both drawn to and alienated from. Their relationship highlights the clash between natural instinct and social convention.

Other characters, such as the villainous Clayton and various jungle creatures, reinforce the novel's exploration of good versus evil, civilization versus wilderness. These figures contribute to the novel's dynamic tension and underscore the protagonist's heroic journey.

Impact and Legacy of Tarzan of the Apes

The influence of "tarzan of the apes edgar rice burroughs" extends beyond literature into film, television, comics, and merchandise. Tarzan became a cultural icon synonymous with adventure and the exotic wilderness.

Adaptations and Media Presence

Since the 1918 silent film adaptation, Tarzan has appeared in over 200 films and numerous television series. The character's portrayal has evolved, from the feral child to a more complex and sometimes introspective hero.

The Disney animated film (1999) introduced Tarzan to a new generation, emphasizing themes of family and belonging while maintaining the core

adventure elements. This adaptation also sparked renewed interest in Burroughs' original novels.

Comparative Analysis with Similar Literary Works

When compared to contemporaneous works like H. Rider Haggard's "She" or Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness," "Tarzan of the Apes" offers a more optimistic view of the human-nature relationship. While Conrad's work delves into the darkness of colonialism and human psyche, Burroughs' narrative celebrates the potential for harmony between man and nature, albeit through a romanticized lens.

Critiques and Modern Perspectives

Despite its popularity, "Tarzan of the Apes" by Edgar Rice Burroughs has faced criticism, particularly regarding its portrayal of race, gender roles, and colonial attitudes. Modern readers and scholars analyze Tarzan within the context of imperialism and the exoticization of Africa.

Issues of Race and Colonialism

The depiction of African landscapes and peoples often reflects early 20th-century stereotypes. The Mangani apes, while fictional, serve as a metaphor for the 'primitive' world Tarzan inhabits, raising questions about Burroughs' implicit assumptions.

Gender Dynamics

Jane Porter's character, while pivotal, embodies the era's conventional gender roles. Her reliance on Tarzan's protection and limited agency can be seen as reinforcing patriarchal norms.

Enduring Appeal Despite Controversies

Nevertheless, Tarzan's story continues to resonate due to its universal themes of identity, survival, and the quest for belonging. The character's adaptability has allowed reinterpretations that address earlier criticisms and modern sensibilities.

Why Tarzan Remains Relevant Today

The ongoing fascination with "tarzan of the apes edgar rice burroughs" can be attributed to the story's exploration of fundamental human questions. In an age of technological advancement and urbanization, Tarzan represents a connection to nature and a simpler, more instinctual way of life.

Environmental themes implicit in the narrative, such as respect for wildlife and the dangers of disrupting natural habitats, align with contemporary ecological concerns. Moreover, Tarzan's hybrid identity encourages discussions about cultural hybridity and identity formation in a globalized world.

In terms of literary heritage, Edgar Rice Burroughs' creation paved the way for numerous adventure and fantasy narratives, influencing authors and filmmakers alike. The blend of action, romance, and speculative elements remains a template for genre storytelling.

Overall, the legacy of "tarzan of the apes edgar rice burroughs" reflects both the strengths and limitations of its time, offering a rich subject for ongoing study and reinterpretation within literary and cultural discourse.

[Tarzan Of The Apes Edgar Rice Burroughs](#)

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western coastal jungles of equatorial Africa to a marooned couple from England, John and Alice Clayton, Lord and Lady Greystoke. Adopted as an infant by the she-ape Kala after his parents are killed by the savage king ape Kerchak, Clayton is renamed Tarzan ("White Skin" in the ape language) and raised in ignorance of his human heritage.

tarzan of the apes edgar rice burroughs: *Tarzan of The Apes* Edgar Rice Burroughs, 2023-10-01 Experience the thrilling adventures of Tarzan of The Apes by Edgar Rice Burroughs. Follow the legendary tale of Tarzan, raised by apes in the African jungle, as he navigates the challenges of his dual identity and discovers his place in the world. In *Tarzan of The Apes*, Burroughs creates an iconic hero who embodies the spirit of adventure and survival. Tarzan's journey from jungle orphan to nobleman explores themes of identity, belonging, and the clash between civilization and the wild. Burroughs' vivid descriptions and fast-paced narrative capture the imagination, immersing readers in a world of danger and discovery. Themes such as courage, loyalty, and the power of the human spirit are explored with depth and excitement, making it a beloved classic in adventure literature. The overall tone of *Tarzan of The Apes* is both thrilling and introspective, reflecting Burroughs' fascination with the untamed wilderness and the allure of primal instincts. His dynamic storytelling and memorable characters make this novel an enduring favorite among readers of all ages. Since its publication, *Tarzan of The Apes* has captivated audiences with its thrilling narrative and timeless themes. It remains an essential read for anyone seeking an exhilarating adventure and a deeper understanding of human nature. As you delve into *Tarzan of The Apes*, you'll be swept away by Tarzan's epic journey of self-discovery and heroism. Burroughs' iconic creation continues to inspire readers with its portrayal of courage, resilience, and the boundless possibilities of the human spirit. In conclusion, *Tarzan of The Apes* is more than just a jungle adventure—it's a timeless exploration of identity and survival. Whether you're a fan of Edgar Rice Burroughs, a lover of adventure stories, or simply seeking an unforgettable read, prepare to be enthralled by this remarkable tale. Don't miss your chance to experience the thrill of *Tarzan of The Apes*. Let this classic adventure sweep you into a world of discovery and heroism. Grab your copy now and join the countless readers who have been captivated by Tarzan's legendary saga.

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tarzan of the apes edgar rice burroughs: Tarzan of the Apes Edgar Rice Burroughs, 2007-08 Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875-1950) was an American author, best known for his creation of the jungle hero Tarzan, although he also produced works in many genres. His first story *Under the Moons of Mars* was serialised in *All-Story* magazine in 1912. Burroughs soon took up writing full-time and by the time the run of *Under the Moons of Mars* had finished he had completed two novels, including *Tarzan of the Apes*, which was published from October 1912 and went on to become his most successful brand. Burroughs also wrote popular science fiction/fantasy stories involving earthly adventurers transported to various planets, lost islands, and into the interior of the hollow earth in his *Pellucidar* stories (1915), as well as westerns and historical romances. Along with *All-Story*, many of his stories were published in the *Argosy Magazine*. Among his most famous works are: *A Princess of Mars* (1912), *The Return of Tarzan* (1913), *The Gods of Mars* (1913), *The Warlord of Mars* (1913-14), *The Beasts of Tarzan* (1914), *At the Earth's Core* (1914) and *The Land that Time Forgot* (1918).

tarzan of the apes edgar rice burroughs: Tarzan Of The Apes Edgar Rice Burroughs, 2019-09 This unabridged Edition of the classic adventure novel from 1914 tells of an aristocratic English infant, abandoned in the African jungle upon the death of his shipwrecked parents, who is reared by apes. Given the name Tarzan, meaning white-skin in the language of the apes, Tarzan is raised without knowledge of his own kind, until the beautiful socialite Jane Porter sets foot into his secluded life. Soon, Tarzan is forced to question his place in the world, and ultimately decide between the world he knows, and the world of his kind.

tarzan of the apes edgar rice burroughs: 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.

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tarzan of the apes edgar rice burroughs: 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 edgar rice burroughs: 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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tarzan of the apes edgar rice burroughs: **Tarzan of the Apes Illustrated** Edgar Rice Burroughs, 2020-12-30 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. It was first published in the pulp magazine The All-Story in October 1912.[1] 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.[2] For the novel's centennial anniversary, Library of America published a hardcover edition based on the original book with an introduction by Thomas Mallon in April 2012 (ISBN 978-1-59853-164-0). Scholars have noted several important themes in the novel: the impact of heredity on behavior; racial superiority; civilization, especially as Tarzan struggles with his identity as a human; sexuality; and escapism. Set amid the vibrant colors and sounds of the African jungle, this classic work, rich in suspense and action, has beckoned generations of readers on a glorious journey to romance and pure adventure. This is the story of the ape-man Tarzan, raised in the wild by the great ape Kala, and how he learns the secrets of the jungle to survive-how to talk with the animals, swing through the trees, and fight the great predators. As Tarzan grows up, he makes many friends, including Tantor the elephant and Numa the lion. When this paradise is invaded by white men, Tarzan's life changes, for in this group is Jane, the most beautiful woman he has ever seen. Speaking directly to our childhood fantasies, this exhilarating work takes us to that faraway place in our minds where dreams prevail, and where we too can be masters of our own domain.

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