



The Call of the Wild

Jack London (1876 - 1916)

Read by:	Mark F. Smith	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	3 hours 23 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1054
Language:	English	UPC:	0684758936462
Style:	Solo	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Action & Adventure Fiction		

The hero of *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London is a large St. Bernard-Scotch Collie named Buck, who is stolen from his home in California and shipped first to Seattle, then to the Klondike region of Canada. He learns to survive the cold winter nights and the vagaries of the pack society of dogs, at one point battling to the death with a rival dog named Spitz. He suffers a series of abusive and inept owners before being adopted by an experienced outdoorsman named John Thornton. The two become devoted and inseparable, with Buck saving Thornton from drowning, winning tests of strength and courage, and eventually avenging Thornton's death at the hands of natives. Told in the simplest manner, the tale combines a chronicle of a reversion to

the primitive struggle of the survival of the fittest with a theme of love and redemption.

The story is set in the Klondike during the Gold Rush of the 1890's and was enormously popular when it was released in 1903, first serialized in *The Saturday Evening Post* and then in book form a month later. It has been adapted for the screen several times: as a silent film in 1923, as a talkie featuring Clark Gable and Loretta Young in 1935, and again in 1972 featuring Charlton Heston.

John Griffith "Jack" London (January 12, 1876 – November 22, 1916) was an American writer and journalist best known for his novels "The Call of the Wild" and "White Fang" set in the Klondike Gold Rush. He was an early comer to the world of commercial magazine fiction and made a large fortune and gained worldwide celebrity from his work.

Born out of wedlock, London was raised in the San Francisco area by his mother Flora Wellman and stepfather John London. He went to work in a cannery at age 13, then became an oyster pirate before signing on to a sealer bound for Japan at age 17. Returning during the Panic of 1893 he became a tramp and did 30 days for vagrancy in Buffalo, NY. He returned to Oakland, finished high school and attended the University of California at Berkeley with the financial aid of bartender John Heinhold, the owner of Heinhold's First and Last Chance saloon, London's refuge and study hall. Financial difficulties forced him to withdraw and he left for the Klondike in 1897, where he developed scurvy and gained the experiences that inspired his earliest work. Having socialist leanings, he was convinced conventional work was a trap and resolved to escape by "selling his brains" through writing. His ambition coincided with the rise of popular magazines and he prospered. His penchant for adventure never abandoned him, propelling him through two marriages, journalistic assignments in the Far East and in Hawaii, and as the proprietor of the Beauty Ranch in Sonoma County, California, where died at age 40 of a combination of ailments.