



**Red Nails**

*Robert E. Howard (1906 - 1936)*

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Read by:	Phil Chenevert	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	3 hours 48 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1205
Language:	English	UPC:	070123696238
Style:	Solo	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Fantasy Fiction, Science Fiction		

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*Red Nails* was the last of the Conan stories published in *Weird Tales*. Set in the jungles far from human habitation in the mythic Hyborian Age, Conan and Valeria of the Red Brotherhood are set upon and defeat a dragon. They then stumble upon the lost city of Xuchotil, a twilight world made from a single block of jade by a people that had been slaughtered by a band of degenerate conquerors led by two brothers. Conan and Valeria arrive at the end of a deadly feud caused by one brother stealing the bride of the other. Our warriors help decide the matter in favor of Olmec, who then tries to double-cross Conan and seduce Valeria, only to be outdone by the stolen bride, a sorceress. A final bloody showdown leaves everyone dead except, of course, for

Conan and Valeria. *Red Nails* refers to the scarlet heads of copper nails driven into an ebony tree trunk to keep count of the slain enemy soldiers. Grim, deadly and decadent, *Red Nails* is considered one of the best tales in the Conan canon.

**Robert Ervin Howard** (January 22, 1906 – June 11, 1936) was an American pulp fiction author best known for his character Conan the Barbarian and considered the father of the “sword and sorcery” fantasy fiction subgenre. Born and raised in Texas, his father was a country doctor who had a penchant for get-rich-quick schemes. The resulting financial problems led to marital difficulties and frequent moves. His mother, who suffered from tuberculosis his entire life, felt she had married beneath her station. As a child Howard dreamed of becoming an author of adventure fiction and achieved his first success at age 23. His writings were published in a wide selection of magazines, journals, and newspapers in several genres. The main outlet for his stories was the Depression-era pulp magazine *Weird Tales*, which featured Conan the Barbarian, a character whose cultural impact has been compared to that of such icons as Batman, Count Dracula, James Bond, Sherlock Holmes, and Tarzan. Howard remains a popular author, with his best works still continuously in print. His suicide at the age of 30 led to speculation about his mental health: when he learned that his mother had entered a permanent coma, he walked out to his car and shot himself in the head.