



Tarzan of the Apes

Edgar Rice Burroughs

Read by:	Mark F. Smith	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	9 hours 21 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1196
Language:	English	UPC:	0701236969146
Style:	Solo	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Action & Adventure fiction		

The figure of the noble savage has been a stock literary character since the 17th century, symbolizing an ideal outsider uncorrupted by civilization and thus an embodiment of the essential goodness of humanity. The notion was central to the Romantic idea of the fall of the natural man and is often (and erroneously attributed) to Jean-Jacques Rousseau. The figure of Tarzan, first introduced in *Tarzan of the Apes*, is probably the best known and most enduring example of the last 100 years. He is John Clayton, Viscount Greystroke, the son of a British lord and lady who died while marooned on the coast of West Africa. The boy is adopted and raised by a tribe of Great Apes called the Mangani and reverts to a feral state of nature. Twenty years

later he meets and falls in love with a young American woman, Jane Porter, who is identically marooned. The relationship awakens his human characteristics and begins his path back to civilization, which he experiences with mixed feelings. Contrary to the primitive character depicted in the twelve Johnny Weismuller films of the 1930's and 1940's, the original Tarzan combines the best of both worlds: he is athletic, attractive, emotionally intelligent, ethical, generous and gracious. The story was immensely popular when it first appeared in *All-Story Magazine* in 1912 and spawned 25 sequels by Burroughs as well as numerous adaptations, most recently the 2016 film *The Legend of Tarzan*.

Edgar Rice Burroughs (September 1, 1875 – March 19, 1950) was an American writer famous for his two series of novels featuring the noble savage Tarzan and the Mars explorer John Carter. A native of Chicago, Illinois, he was educated at Phillips Andover Academy and the Michigan Military Academy and enlisted in the cavalry after graduation. A heart problem forced his discharge in 1897, and after marriage to his childhood sweetheart in 1900 he worked odd jobs and read pulp fiction magazines, concluding that he could probably write stories as well or better in spite his lack of experience. He produced two novels in short order, *Under the Moons of Mars* and *Tarzan of the Apes*, each of which was published successfully and enabled him to write full time. According to Rudyard Kipling, who admired Tarzan, he was reported to have said "he wanted to find out how bad a book he could write and 'get away' with". Get away with it he did - he went on to produce almost 80 books in various genres, including westerns and historical romances in addition to adventure and science fiction. In 1923 established his own company, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc., to publish his work. He purchased a ranch north of Los Angeles in the late 1910's which he named Tarzana and which was incorporated as a community in 1927. He was inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2003.