



## White Fang

*Jack London (1876 - 1916)*

Read by:	Mark F. Smith	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case, jewel case, paper sleeve
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Genre:	Action & Adventure Fiction		

*White Fang* is a sequel and companion novel to *The Call of Wild* and in many ways a thematic mirror. Where the first book dealt with a domesticated dog embracing his wildness, here White Fang, a hybrid wolf-dog born, gradually overcomes the harsh “survival of the fittest” circumstances in the wilds of the Yukon Territory during the Klondike Gold Rush and becomes domesticated. Much of the story is told from White Fang’s perspective. He is the only survivor in his litter of five; the others die from hunger. His father, One Eye, is killed trying to steal food from a lynx for the cub. His mother, Kiche, kills the lynx but is seriously injured. The two meet a Native American, Grey Beaver, who recognizes Kiche as his brother’s vagrant wolf dog and adopts the two,

but White Fang is persecuted by the other dogs and his mother is sold off. He grows up a callous, savage, solitary, and deadly fighter. At age five a drunken Grey Beaver sells him to an evil dog-fighter, where he defeats all comers until he is nearly brought down by a bulldog. He is rescued by a rich, young gold-hunter, who slowly tames him and brings him home to California from the Yukon, where he performs a heroic feat and settles into a tranquil existence. The book was an immediate worldwide success on release in 1906 and has been popular ever since, especially with younger readers. It has been translated into 89 languages and often adapted for film and television.

**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.