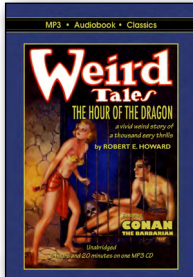


Fantasy Fiction - Conan the Barbarian



The Hour of the Dragon

Author: Robert E. Howard
 Read by: Mark Nelson
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 8 hours and 20 minutes
 Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Science Fiction

The Hour of the Dragon, also known as *Conan the Conqueror*, is the longest and one of the last of the Robert E. Howard fantasy novels featuring Conan the Cimmerian, also known as Conan the Barbarian. In many ways it is a distillation of the motifs and themes common to the Conan canon. We begin with a middle-aged Conan reigning as King of Aquilonia and prey to a group of conspirators who seek to depose him and restore the throne to Valerius, heir of his predecessor,

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 UPC: 0701236969214
 MSLP: \$9.99

Numedides. With the aid of the ancient sorcerer Xaltotun they overcome the Aquilonian army and capture Conan. While he awaits execution a sympathetic slave girl, Zenobia, risks her life to set him free. He sets out on an arduous quest to defeat the wizard and regain his throne, vowing to make Zenobia his queen. The story was serialized in five issues of pulp magazine *Weird Tales* from December 1936 – April 1936 before appearing in book form in 1950. Critic Groff Conklin praised the book as “a sanguinary combination of sorcery, skulduggery, and swordplay.”

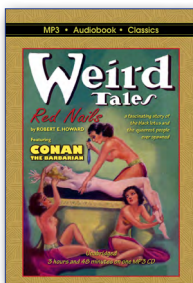


The People of the Black Circle

Author: Robert E. Howard
 Read by: Phil Chenevert
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 3 hours and 49 minutes
 Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Science Fiction

The People of the Black Circle (1934) is the eleventh of the Conan stories published by *Weird Tales*. Set in the mythical Hyborian Age in the Asian regions of Vendhya and Ghulistan (India-Pakistan and Afghanistan), the story centers around Conan's kidnapping of princess Devi Yasmina of Vendhya and thwarting an attempt at world domination by the Black Seers of Yimsha. The action begins when Conan, chief of a tribe of hillmen, sets out to rescue seven of his men that have been captured and held by the princess to force him into killing her enemies. Conan instead kidnaps the princess, but the two are set upon by Kerim Shah, agent of the King of Turan, intent upon invading Vendhya. They escape into the mountains, followed by Kemsha, who catches up with them just as he is attacked by Rakhshas from Yimsha, who kill him and capture Devi. Enter a group of Irakzai, who team up with Conan to rescue the princess. All are eventually rescued by the Vendhyan army and join forces to defeat the Turanians. The inevitable attraction between Conan and the princess smolders but never catches fire as forces inexorably draw them apart. The story is considered one of the finest in the Conan canon due to its epic sweep and insights into magical powers.

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 UPC: 0701236969221
 MSLP: \$9.99



Red Nails

Author: Robert E. Howard
 Read by: Phil Chenevert
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 3 hours and 48 minutes
 Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Sword & Sorcery

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

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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.



Queen of the Black Coast

Author: Robert E. Howard
 Read by: Phil Chenevert
 Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
 Length: 1 hour and 28 minutes
 Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Science Fiction

We begin as the ever just Conan has refused to betray a friend to a fascist magistrate in the port city of Argos, emphasizing his point by killing the man. Conan forces his way onto a sailing barge and soon finds himself set upon by a gang of pirates led by Belit, the Queen of the Black Coast. His mates on the Argus are no match for the pirates, and Conan jumps ship and is spared by Belit, who admires his ferocity and other manly virtues. She asks him to be her mate. Together they plunder and terrorize the Black Coast, eventually sailing up river to find a lost treasure,

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skulking hyenas and a winged monster among ancient ruins. Amidst various horrors they carry on a deep theological dialog intermixed with intense romance until Belit acquires a cursed jeweled necklace that renders her mad and leads to her demise. Conan fights his way out with the help of her spirit, avenges her death and sends her off with a Viking funeral. First published in *Weird Tales* in May 1934, the epic sweep and intense (and atypical) romance mark *Queen of the Black Coast* as one of the favorites of Conan aficionados.



"He heard Yasmina scream."

The People of the Black Circle

By ROBERT E. HOWARD



"Strike, I command you! Strike!"

Fantasy Fiction - Conan the Barbarian



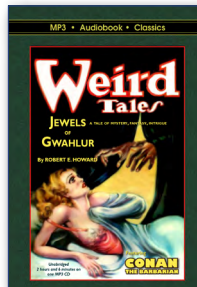
A Witch Shall Be Born

Author: Robert E. Howard
Read by: Phil Chenevert
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 2 hours and 5 minutes
Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Sword & Sorcery

Written in a few days in the spring of 1934 and published by *Weird Tales* that same year, *A Witch Shall Be Born* by Robert E. Howard tells the story of a witch, Salome, who replaces her twin sister, Queen Taramis of the city-state Khauran, as queen and her resulting conflict with Conan, the captain of the deposed queen's guard. Themes of paranoia, the good and evil reflected in the duality of the sisters, and the conflict of civilization and barbarism are prominent. There is a strong undertone of Christianity as well. A prophecy by Salome makes

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clear she is an early incarnation of the Salome of the New Testament. The second chapter, "The Tree of Death," is noted for the scene of Conan's crucifixion, a variation of which was included in the 1982 film *Conan the Barbarian* featuring Arnold Schwarzenegger as Conan.



Jewels of Gwahlur

Author: Robert E. Howard
Read by: Phil Chenevert
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 2 hours and 6 minutes
Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Sword & Sorcery

The *Teeth of Gwahlur* are the legendary jewels kept in the abandoned city of Alkmeenon in the mythical African country of Keshan during the ancient Hyborian Age. No fewer than four factions vie to take possession of the jewels: the native Keshans, the neighboring country of Punt, another neighboring country, Zembabwei, and a band of Pelishti. Conan has learned of the treasure and journeyed to Keshan to lead the Keshan army, where he learns from the high priest,

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Gorulg, that all depends on the guidance of Yelaya, a mummified oracle. One faction hires a slave girl to impersonate the oracle but Conan soon unmasks the fraud. Another, Pelishti leader Bit-Yakin, something of a using ventriloquist, turns out to have delivered false prophecies behind the curtain all along. Things come to a head, of course, and Conan is forced choose between making off with the treasure of saving the slave girl. Originally titled "The Servants of Bit-Yakin", *Jewels of Gwahlur* was first published in *Weird Tales* in March, 1935.

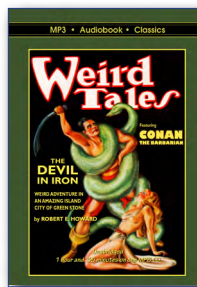


Shadows in Zamboula

Author: Robert E. Howard
Read by: Phil Chenevert
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 1 hour and 27 minutes
Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Sword & Sorcery

Originally titled *The Man-Eaters of Zamboula*, *Shadows in Zamboula* is one of the original Conan stories written by Robert E. Howard and published in *Weird Tales* in November, 1935. Set in the desert city of Zamboula, the story takes place over the course of an evening as cannibals who prey only on travelers roam the street. Conan has taken a room in a cheap tavern run by a proprietor who allows the cannibals to capture his guest while he confiscates their property. Conan, of course, gets the better of his adversary and takes to the streets, where he rescues a naked woman and her deranged woman, who turn out to be the satrap Jungir Khan and his mistress Nafertari. They promise him wealth and prestige in return for his help. Conan extracts revenge on the innkeeper and skips town with gold and a magic ring stolen from the satrap.

Catalog: DB-1209
UPC: 0701236969276
MSLP: \$9.99



The Devil in Iron

Author: Robert E. Howard
Read by: Phil Chenevert
Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 1 hour and 35 minutes
Genre: Fantasy Fiction, Sword & Sorcery

The Devil in Iron is one of the original Conan stories written by Robert E. Howard and published in *Weird Tales* in August 1934. We begin with greedy fisherman awakening an ancient demon, Khosatral Khel, on the remote island of Xapur. The demon then resurrects the island's dormant ancient fortress and its long-dead citizens, giant pythons, and labyrinthine ramparts. Conan, engaged in leading the Vilayet kozaks, is tricked by Jehungir Agha, the nefarious governor of Turan, and lured to the island in pursuit of the ravishing Octavia. The awakening of the demon and the resurrection thwart the governor's plot. Conan arrives alive and kicking and defeats the forces of the Agha, a giant python, and the demon Khosatral Khel itself.

Catalog: DB-1208
UPC: 0701236969269
MSLP: \$9.99



"Her like figure shimmered
torture beneath the moon."

