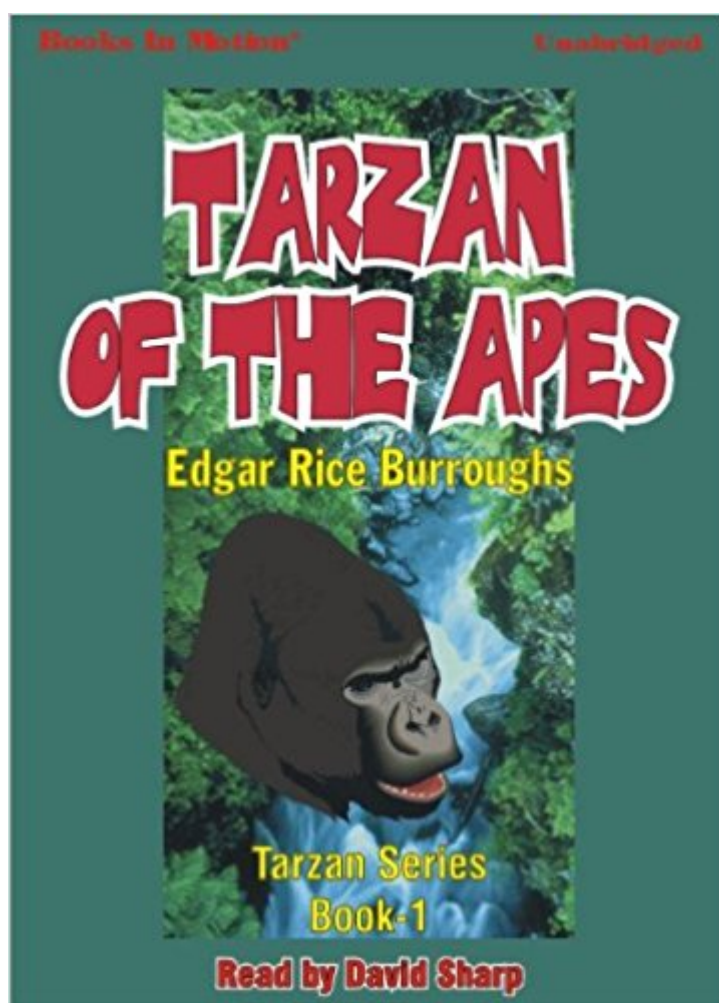




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Synopsis

This is the first story in the Tarzan adventures novels. The legend begins when Tarzan's parents are placed on a jungle shoreline by mutinous seamen. Here they establish a crude residence and survive for a time until attacked and killed by a band of apes. But one female ape rescues the baby, takes it for her own, and raises it among a large socially organized tribe of great apes. The baby grows to be a noble man whose great strength and keen senses complete the world around him to bend to his might according to the "law of the jungle." Read by David Sharp. 8 CD's 9.2 Hrs.

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Customer Reviews

Burroughs has a gift very few writers of any kind possess: he can describe action vividly. Gore Vidal
--Gore Vidal

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Wow...this work has been around for over 100 years now and is still going strong. The Tarzan character created by Burroughs has become an actual cultural icon and it would be difficult to find an individual of any age that does not have at least some idea of who he is/was even if they have never read this or the other books in the series. While I have always been a bigger fan of his John Carter series, I never the less started reading all of the Tarzan books at a pretty early age back in

the mid to late 1950s. I know my father, when he was a lad, read the same books and it was one of the few "literary" discussions I ever had with him. I was always a fanatical reader; he was not. Anyway, this book Tarzan of the Apes and the other books in the series (about 25 I think) and all the comics and movies featuring the big guy, have had a tremendous impact on quite a number of generations of young boys, and to a great extent, young girls also. The modern reader will immediately pick up on the fact that these books are not what we currently consider "politically correct," and as a matter of fact they are downright racist at times....although, after thoroughly researching the life of the author I have become convinced that he was not a racist, per se, but merely a creature of his times. The reader must remember when they were written and the attitude of the times. These books were most certainly pulp fiction and fall into the same category of Doc Savage, Conan, and many others of that era. I personally love pulp fiction and have been hung up on it for decades. I have, in my private collection, copies of almost all of Burroughs' and am always searching for different editions. Anyway, the books were a delight when I was young and now that I am reading them (after numerous reads in the past) I find that I am still delighted. I recently reread the Mars series and the Venus series and the inner earth series, and am now re-enjoying the Tarzan books. (By the way I have always hated the movies made from these books and have yet to see one that did the books justice...that is just me though.)

Once you get past the bombast of the period writing, the story is quite good. Parts of it are, of course, downright ridiculous in whole, and others are only mildly impossible. Our hero is superlative, too smart, learns to read by himself, with no possible reference points, and speaks French in a matter of days. Beside all that, this is a fun book. I just had to remind myself Burroughs was writing for an audience much less sophisticated than the jaded reader of today. I think it is good to occasionally read a book written long ago to experience attitudes and social norms that existed before our current time. This book is certainly one example. Although the author is not unkind in his portrayal of native Africans, or a domestic black slave, I still experienced a feeling of discomfort as I read these sections of the book. That it was not only acceptable, but perfectly normal to consider people of other races as less than the "white man" is hard to reconcile with modern thinking. And that the female lead was portrayed as the weak, fainting violet made me laugh as well. Remember what you are reading when you dive into this book, and sit back and enjoy.

Well written book and story - I'm surprised it took me this long to get around to reading the book - I

was even more surprised by the story and how it all unfolded. It's been quite a while since I read a book that captured my imagination and kept me on edge as to where things were going and the fact that they didn't necessarily go where you thought them to be going. I didn't want to put it down and then went on to read two more of the Tarzan books. I highly recommend you read it.

More violent than any Tarzan version I've seen on the movies, this original one is quite a ride. It's quite impressive that Burroughs is able to write such a story without having visited Africa. Although he doesn't include descriptions of any specific known place in Africa, he is very detailed and poetic. Burroughs demonstrates his skill in using figurative language to describe the setting of this story and in establishing the mood or the atmosphere of it. It is precisely the poetic elements of the story, the use of figurative language which keeps this story's dynamic tempo. I mentioned before that this story is pretty violent. There are moments when the writer demands from its audience great leaps of faith when we read about the great amount of damage Tarzan suffers in his struggle with other apes. In one of his fights he loses a piece of his scalp. One interesting aspect is that Tarzan has no misgivings in his killings. He does this as a normal condition of his existence. The author has no misgivings in telling readers the many instances in which Tarzan uses a rope to kill natives to instill fear in them and obtain food and weapons from them. Violence in a chaotic world is also a motif the author uses in this story to establish a proper atmosphere. There is disorder and chaos from the beginning when a crew rebels against its captain for unfair treatment, and likewise, we see also the chaos produced by Kerchak among his own apes. In the first seventeen chapters, Tarzan learns to read and write without anyone's help. This requires a great leap of faith. In a message he leaves on the cabin's door for Europeans to see, Tarzan shows great command of the use of the apostrophe for the possessive, a very difficult skill. He also learns how to use the knife. He can also learn through modeling: he learns how to hunt by watching a native how to use the bow and arrow. Eventually, he develops fighting skills that help him defeat Kerchak, Tublat, and Terkoz. By the time Clayton and Jane Porter arrive he has become an undisputable leader of the apes. After chapter eighteen, the story begins to lose some rhythm. The characters of Mr. Porter and his friend are quite ridiculous. I know that Burroughs intended humor here, but it seems to feel annoying to hear the character saying "Tut, tut!" or repeat "remarkable" all the time. The story loses its poetic strength that had made the first part of the book an extraordinary piece of action. In the later chapters it seems to us that author was rushing through this story and he couldn't exploit the conflict of Jane's love for Tarzan and her duty toward Clayton. This, which promised to be the most exciting part, was handled superficially. Anyhow, it was a good read overall, and one gets to know the true and violent

story of Tarzan.

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