



Klondike Tales

Jack London , Gary Kinder (Introduction)

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As a young man in the summer of 1897, Jack London joined the Klondike gold rush. From that seminal experience emerged these gripping, inimitable wilderness tales, which have endured as some of London's best and most defining work. With remarkable insight and unflinching realism, London describes the punishing adversity that awaited men in the brutal, frozen expanses of the Yukon, and the extreme tactics these adventurers and travelers adopted to survive.

This edition features twenty-three carefully chosen stories from London's three collected Northland volumes and his later Klondike tales. It also includes two maps of the region, and notes on the text.

Klondike Tales Details

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Alexis says

Jack London was a racist lunatic but I still love him.

William Graney says

Some stories were very good, some were repetitious. In retrospect I'm having trouble distinguishing one story from another but they were written by Jack London so it's good reading.

Hamish says

London doesn't hit every single time here, but his batting average is pretty damn high. Love of Life has got to be one of the best short stories I've ever read (there's also a story called The Apostate, is Michael Gira a fan?). Talented craftsman (think Flannery O'Connor), unique and original subject matter.

Brian Page says

Jack London needs no introduction. Nor do his tales need any review. Having read THE CALL OF THE WILD and WHITE FANG as a kid, I wanted to read some more tales of the north. KLONDIKE TALES filled that desire admirably. However, if you have the misfortune to pick up "The Modern Library" edition, absolutely do not read the introduction by Gary Kinder. Instead of analyzing London's writing style, his influences, or London's life & times, Kinder summarizes a few of the stories. Complete spoilers. What a jerk! Has Kinder never read an introduction? Didn't an editor send him a polite rejection notice? Google reports that Kinder authored "the true crime classic." His introduction to KLONDIKE TALES is a crime in itself.

Isabel says

The rampant and completely unexamined white supremacy in this book entirely drowns out any glimmer of critical value

Kiyan says

Jack London writes brutal, naturalist fiction with themes of race, the amorality of nature, and the law of survival. There are stories of people just dying from cold, - total black metal, heh heh. People never get me when I say that some of the most horrific things I've read come from Jack London, but there ya go, they've

just read Call of the Wild.

Examples -->

Like in the story "Wisdom of the Trail", Sitka absorbs the values of the White Race. He is in love with Mrs. Eppingwell. He executes two of his Indian race for stealing a mouthful of flour, even as they were starving while taking care of the incapable Mr. Eppingwell. As Sitka shoots them, he hears Mrs. Eppingwell shooting another of the Indian guides. Hell!

In The Gods of His Fathers, Baptiste the Red hates the Church for indirectly killing his wife and daughter. He had lived among the whites but recently returned to his people. When Hay Stockard and his wife set camp nearby, Baptiste warns them to leave. Things get worse when a missionary joins them. Renounce the church and you can pass freely, says Baptiste. The missionary cowardly follows this directive, but Hay says he cannot renounce the God of the White Man, the God of His Fathers, and so sacrifices himself to their spears.

There is bullshit racial supremacy stuff, too, in my opinion. In The Son of the Wolf, Scruff, aka the Wolf, wants to take Zarinska from her tribe, and the tribe oppose this because the whites are taking all their good women. The Wolf wins in a knife duel, and kills a shaman who interferes. The theme seems to be 'don't mess with the White Man, for his race is supreme.' Whatever.

In a Far Country is freaking hilarious: the two main characters are declared "incapable" by their party and left alone in a cabin in the dead of Winter. They go crazy and kill one another. Who needs Sartre's No Exit when you've got a story like this?

Lara Corona says

Oh, Jack, such pretty prose but so much sexist and racist crap wrapped in it for any kind enjoyment. Particularly gross and baffling are the instances of women of color marrying white men in these stories because white men treat them better (???) than any man they knew ever did. Okay, sure. If only you stuck to the dogs.

Jake says

So far so good. I've read some of these and remain impressed with Jack London's writing. If you've liked his novels, this is a great collection of shorter pieces. For me, Jack London provides a chance to head north to places I've never been. Here is life out on a harsh, frozen frontier. Make up some hot chocolate, lean back in a comfortable chair, and enjoy.

Linda says

Forgot how much I enjoyed London and why. Also forgot how brutal and morbid he is.

