



Tarzan the Terrible

Edgar Rice Burroughs , Boris Vallejo (Cover Artist)

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In the previous volume, the Lord of the Jungle discovered the burnt corpse of his wife, Jane, after a visit to his African home by German soldiers. (One suspects that Burroughs never did like Jane; this sort of thing happened to her a lot.) In this volume, Tarzan learns that Jane was not murdered by the Germans but kidnaped -- and sets off in pursuit. As the novel begins, Tarzan has spent two months tracking his mate to Pal-ul-don ("Land of Men"), a hidden valley in Zaire, where he finds a land dinosaurs and men even stranger -- humanoids with tails. Ta-den is a hairless, white-skinned, Ho-don warrior; O-mat is a hairy, black skinned, Waz-don, chief of the tribe of Kor-ul-ja. In this new world Tarzan becomes a captive -- but he impresses his captors so well that they name him Tarzan-Jad-Guru ("Tarzan the Terrible"). Meanwhile, a second visitor has come to Pal-ul-don -- wearing only a loin cloth and carrying an Enfield rifle along and a long knife. Pal-ul-don is where Jane is being held captive, of course. . . .

Tarzan the Terrible Details

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Author : Edgar Rice Burroughs , Boris Vallejo (Cover Artist)

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From Reader Review Tarzan the Terrible for online ebook

Skjam! says

I liked how not just Tarzan, but all the good guy characters (including Jane!) are pretty darn awesome.

I felt Burroughs got a little too cutesy with concealing the identity of the man with the rifle until the end; people who have read the rest of the series will know who it is immediately, first-timers won't get it at all.

For more adventure reviews, see <http://www.skjam.com/tag/adventure/>

Greg Strom says

Well it took me to #8 to decide my adventures with Tarzan had reached their end. I am as willing to suspend disbelief as the next guy, but this particular tale required a scorecard to keep track of the tribes, titles and locales. For example, " Ko-tan now appears to accept the stranger as Dor-ul-Otho. Ko-tan resumes the business of the court. He presides over a dispute involving Ja-don, the Lion Man, father of his friend Ta-den." Since I was listening to what appears to be the last audio recording of the 24 volume Tarzan series (Libravox and any other source it seems as next book, Tarzan and the Golden Lion is not on audio. Wonder why there isn't a box set of all, but then maybe folks got to this book and said they are all set:). Here is an example of the place names, perhaps not confusing to some but to listener all was too much.

Places

Pal-ul-don - "Land of Men" hidden valley in Zaire

Jad Pele ul Jad-ben-otho (the Valley of the Great God) central valley of Pal-ul-don

Kor-ul-gryf "Gorge of Gryfs"

Kor-ul-ja "Gorge of Lions" inhabited by the Waz-don tribe

Kor-ul-lul "Gorge of Water" inhabited by a Waz-don tribe

Jad-bal-lul - "The Golden Water" lake of Pal-ul-don

Jad-ben-lul - "The Great Water" central lake

Jad-in-lul - "The Dark Water" lake on which the city of Tu-lur was built

Tu-lur "Bright City" ruled by Mo-sar

A-lur "City of Light" capital city of the Ho-don, cut from limestone hills

Bu-lur - "Moon City" cliff village of Waz-ho-don

So not only was it unclear who the good guys are and where they came from, but the bad guys (except for the German, was pretty clear who he was) were a dime a dozen and seemed to come from everywhere. Nice he figured out how to tame Gryf, though I can live a long time without hearing the Libravox narrator do his "wheee-oooh" impression again. Cool also that Jane got a chance to be free and independent, and a woman no less, Go Jane! Really had some catching up to do and wouldn't you know it, for the bazillionth time they get captured, tied up with thongs and sentenced to their doom. I guess you figured out they don't die since there are 16 more of these adventures to slog through. I will try to actually read one to see if that improves my comprehension of who is who and what is what, and I did enjoy much of the trip, now is time to head home, like Tarzan to await next one.

Theresa says

The more books I read in this series, the less I enjoy them. The last few books have all had the same basic plot. In this book, many of the places and characters even have similar names adding confusion and thus making the book less interesting. It's also odd the role Tarzan and Jane's son plays in this book. It's as though Burroughs believes his audience has read enough books to forget such a large detail only to bring him back in what he thinks is a surprise.

Eric Evans says

Started off slow and I almost lost interest. Glad I kept on going I ended up really enjoying the story. It's amazing the control of all jungle creatures Tarzan has. Only problem I had was how fast they learned. The language of the natives in order to speak it fluently.

José Antonio says

Creo que tan importante como reseñar las cosas buenas es hacerlo con las malas, sobre todo cuando el concepto "clásicos" oculta el hecho de que también entre los clásicos hay cosas prescindibles.

Tarzan el Terrible, como la inmensa mayoría de obras E. R. Burroughs es, sin paliativos, un enorme cagarro (creo que lo único que se salva es la primera novela de Tarzan, Tarzan de los Monos)

Siempre se ha dicho que Burroughs, si bien fallaba a la hora de crear sus personajes, ya que estos son, sin excepción, totalmente planos, era un mago a la hora de crear la sensación de la maravilla y retratar escenarios increíbles. Sobre el papel este libro cumpliría esa premisa, ya que Tarzan se internará ni más ni menos que en un valle aislado del mundo exterior donde la evolución a seguido un rumbo ajeno al del resto del planeta y los dinosaurios, los tigres dientes de sable y los pitecantropos han seguido su propia historia. Con semejante escenario a mano ¿qué podría salir mal?

Todo. Porque en vez de aprovechar las posibilidades del mundo perdido, como sí hizo Conan Doyle en la novela del mismo nombre, Burroughs se limita a escribir el sobadísimo esquema de todas y cada una de sus novelas: chica secuestrada, conflicto, persecuciones, intrigas, trampas mortales y final feliz. Y con todos los tópicos al uso: guerreros valerosos y nobles que enseguida se hacen amigos del protagonista, salvajes supersticiosos sin personalidad y malvados tan patéticos en su maldad que uno se pregunta como han llegado a viejos dado que no son capaces ni de mirar de frente sin que la villanía y la cobardía afloren a sus ojos. EL argumento de esta novela podría trasladarse sin la más mínima dificultad al escenario de Barsoon, cambiando a tarzan por John Carter, y no notaríamos la diferencia.

Y es que, si el conjunto de los personajes de Burroughs es gris y sin personalidad, sus héroes no se salvan. Tarzán, como Carter de Marte o Carson de Venus, es tan perfecto, es tal el cúmulo de virtudes físicas, intelectuales y estéticas que derrama sobre él el autor, párrafo tras párrafo, que se le coge asco antes de que acabe el capítulo segundo. Y Jane no da menos asco que su depilado marido, uno no deja de imaginársela en la selva perfectamente peinada, sin un solo cabello fuera de sitio y con unas uñas ideales aunque esté tallando una lanza de piedra.

Como anécdota, ésta es la segunda novela de Burroughs ambientada en la I Guerra Mundial, y el autor no deja de soltar perlas sobre los enemigos de Gran Bretaña. Lo más suave que le dedica al teniente Obergatz, vil secuestrador de Jane (y cobarde, despreciable, lerdo, brutal, borracho, demente... como todos los enemigos de Tarzán) es el apelativo "tudesco de cara de cerdo".

LO único realmente reseñable de esta obra es la invencion de Pal_ull_Don, el mundo prehistórico, no por el nulo provecho que le sacaría Burroughs, sino por que los autores que trasladaron las aventuras de tarzan al comic sí supieron aprovecharlo, y muy en especial el genial Russ Manning, que convirtió la tierra de los dinosaurios en el escenario de las aventuras trepidantes que su creador fue incapaz de desarrollar. Si alguien quiere conocer a Tarzán sin llevarse una enorme desilusión, más le vale empezar por ahí.

Y si, pese a todo, os animáis a leer Tarzán al Terrible, pues no será porque yo no haya avisado, pero oye, hay gente para todo

dragonhelmuk says

Kindled for free: Tarzan goes to meet some tailed cryptoid Pithecanthropoi and is given the nickname "the terrible" because he is so much more hardcore than them. Another classic. Not as quotable as some of the others, but still good elemental writing. Three quotes:

{Burrough's vision of humanity}

So rapt had Tarzan been in the scene below him that he had given no thought to escape, for he realized that for him and Pan-at-lee time had in these brief moments turned back countless ages to spread before their eyes a page of the dim and distant past. They two had looked upon the first man and his primitive beasts of burden. And now the ridden gryf halted and looked up at them, bellowing. It was sufficient. The creature had warned its master of their presence. Instantly the Tor-o-don urged the beast close beneath the tree which held them, at the same time leaping to his feet upon the horny back. Tarzan saw the bestial face, the great fangs, the mighty muscles. From the loins of such had sprung the human race—and only from such could it have sprung, for only such as this might have survived the horrid dangers of the age that was theirs. The Tor-o-don beat upon his breast and growled horribly—hideous, uncouth, beastly. Tarzan rose to his full height upon a swaying branch—straight and beautiful as a demigod—unspoiled by the taint of civilization—a perfect specimen of what the human race might have been had the laws of man not interfered with the laws of nature.

{A very unusual passage for Burroughs, filled with emotion. This is the first time Tarzan and Jane find each other after about a year (2 books) apart, in which she was kidnapped – very spoilerific.}

Before the rude shelter built among the branches he paused listening. From within there came to his sensitive nostrils the same delicate aroma that had arrested his eager attention at the little stream a mile away. He crouched upon the branch close to the little door. "Jane," he called, "heart of my heart, it is I." The only answer from within was as the sudden indrawing of a breath that was half gasp and half sigh, and the sound of a body falling to the floor. Hurriedly Tarzan sought to release the thongs which held the door but they were fastened from the inside, and at last, impatient with further delay, he seized the frail barrier in one giant hand and with a single effort tore it completely away. And then he entered to find the seemingly lifeless body of his mate stretched upon the floor. He gathered her in his arms; her heart beat; she still breathed, and presently he realized that she had but swooned. When Jane Clayton regained consciousness it was to find herself held tightly in two strong arms, her head pillowed upon the broad shoulder where so often before her

fears had been soothed and her sorrows comforted. At first she was not sure but that it was all a dream. Timidly her hand stole to his cheek. "John," she murmured, "tell me, is it really you?" In reply he drew her more closely to him. "It is I," he replied. "But there is something in my throat," he said haltingly, "that makes it hard for me to speak." She smiled and snuggled closer to him. "God has been good to us, Tarzan of the Apes," she said. For some time neither spoke. It was enough that they were reunited and that each knew that the other was alive and safe. But at last they found their voices and when the sun rose they were still talking, so much had each to tell the other; so many questions there were to be asked and answered.

{Indulgent Tarzan and the woman}

"You came just in time," replied Pan-at-lee; "but who are you and how did you know that I was here and what do you know of Om-at and where did you come from and what did you mean by calling Om-at, gund?" "Wait, wait," cried Tarzan; "one at a time. My, but you are all alike—the shes of the tribe of Kerchak, the ladies of England, and their sisters of Pal-ul-don. Have patience and I will try to answer you!"

Jon Martin says

I honestly can't stand Don W Jenkins' voice

Ezra says

Eight books in, the series feels like the same story over and over. Someone gets captured. Tarzan must overcome obstacles. He has many near misses and only when all hope is lost does he win. Some are interesting, so that is all right. This one was mostly boring from start to finish.

Kreg says

Jane kidnapped. Tarzan follow Jane. Tarzan captured, Tarzan escape. Tarzan find Jane. The end. Pretty much every one of the books after #4 has followed the same pattern, just changing locations and occasionally changing the order a bit.

Darryl Walker says

Tarzan visits lost cities in uncharted Africa in half of the 24 authorized Burroughs novels and, on occasion, he revisits the same place. Unless I've missed one, he goes to Opar four times, always a party in the ape man's loincloth vis-à-vis La's repeated schemes. Twice he swings by Cathne and Athne, the Cities of Gold and Ivory respectively, where another lonely queen/priestess/empress entertains designs to compromise Tarzan's determined Victorian values. Other exciting ports of call on the lord of the jungle's map include sister cities Castra Sanginarius and Castrum Mare; Xuja, in the valley of Luna; the ant men's civilization within a thorn barrier; and other bizarre locales.

Opar is an absolute blast however my hands-down favorite party town in Africa has to be Pal-ul-don, where our hero spends most of his time in *TARZAN THE TERRIBLE* [Tarzan-jad-guru in the lingua franca of Pal-ul-don]. Refreshingly absent from the cast in this book is the female ruler lusting after Lady Greystoke's hubbie. Out of all the time-lost civilizations Tarzan stumbles upon, Pal-ul-don is the closest Burroughs came to transplanting a Martian city on the African continent. Pal-ul-don doesn't have origins on Mars but it might as well, everything about it is fantasy: cliff-dwelling colorfully-skinned tailed humans and equally multi-hued dinosaurs.

By the time this book was published Burroughs had been a professional writer for seven or eight years, still full of fire and very much on top of his narrative game. *TARZAN THE TERRIBLE* is one of the very best Tarzan novels, lodged second in the finest story arc Burroughs ever imagined for the ape man. That arc stretches over four books and in every one Tarzan travels to a lost city: Xuja in *Tarzan the Untamed*, Pal-ul-don in *TARZAN THE TERRIBLE*, Opar in *Tarzan & the Golden Lion* and the ant colonies in *Tarzan & the Ant Men*. Like the first four Tarzan novels, these four books can be read as one long story because they are so closely interrelated.

The lost city device in *TARZAN THE TERRIBLE* wasn't too formulaic in Burroughs' Tarzan series (not at that point anyway) as the arc is depicted in earlier novels, the seventh through tenth. Lost cities remained a staple but captivating formula when Burroughs again relied on it in the eleventh and twelfth Tarzan volumes. After besting so many lions and bull apes a jungle lord must look for new challenges and this applies especially to his creator as well; lost cities run riot with them. In the thirteenth Tarzan novel Burroughs basically reused the device once more by taking Lord Greystoke to Pellucidar, a lost land but not a lost city in Africa.

No worries, it's as solid a fictional vehicle when employed by ERB as it was when, more than a decade later, Robert E. Howard took Conan to numerous lost cities in the pulps.

Kenneth says

Tarzan, at the end of the previous Tarzan book, "*Tarzan the Untamed*", discovered that Jane is still alive, so off he goes to rescue her. In so doing, he enters the Lost Land of Pal-ul-don, with its races of humans with tails and a triceratops-like dinosaur, among other prehistoric creatures. Action packed and as good as the later Tarzan novels get.

Ailish says

By the time I finished this book I began to ask myself just how many times Jane can be kidnapped. This is number 8 in the series and I haven't read past 2, but it appears that a lot of water has passed under the bridge in the intervening books. Tarzan finds himself in a prehistoric corner of the jungle where triceratops roam free and people have highly organised societies and intelligence and look just like Tarzan except for their thumbs and toes and the fact that they have long tails. And some are covered with fur like seal-skin. Quite entertaining.

Ed says

#8 in the Tarzan series. An interesting adventure with Tarzan encountering black and white, tailed, hominids. Also in this hidden land is a monstrous gryf, which Tarzan explains is known to paleontologists as a triceratops, except we know it as a herbivorous creature rather than the vicious, meat-eater he encounters. Written in 1921, Burroughs still has ill feelings towards the Germans and his misogyny would not go over too well today - Jane refers to Tarzan as her Lord and Master, and swoons when he makes a surprise appearance. A fun, if dated, read.

Tarzan series - Tarzan the Terrible continues the adventure begun in Tarzan the Untamed (1920) -- in that volume, the Lord of the Jungle discovered the burnt corpse of his wife, Jane, after a visit to his African home by German soldiers in 1914. In this volume, Tarzan learns that Jane was not murdered by the Germans but kidnapped-- and sets off in pursuit. Tarzan has tracked his mate to Pal-ul-don, a hidden valley in where he finds a land of dinosaurs and men even stranger-- humanoids with tails. In this new world Tarzan becomes a captive-- but he impresses his captors so well that they name him Tarzan-Jad-Guru ("Tarzan the Terrible"). Meanwhile, a second visitor has come to Pal-ul-don-- wearing only a loin cloth and carrying an Enfield rifle along and a long knife. Pal-ul-don is where Jane is being held captive.

Quentin Wallace says

This was one of the more confusing Tarzan books to me. You end up with Tarzan caught between two ancient civilizations, which seems to happen a lot to him. There sure were a lot of lost civilizations in Africa around 100 years ago. Anyway, we have a prehistoric race complete with tails. Also, we have dinosaurs! Triceratops show up, but these are meat eaters. At first, I thought it was just bad science, but it was something Burroughs called attention to a few times. He was either saying the scientists got it wrong, or the dinosaurs had become meat eaters as time passed. I almost got the sense he scoffed at the idea of a vegetarian dinosaur, but that's conjecture.

Next we have Jane, still captured by the German Soldier as she was in the last book. We also have a surprise character who is tracking Tarzan down that I won't spoil here, but it wasn't that hard to guess.

Overall, as I mentioned earlier, it was slightly confusing because the names were all complicated, most of them with dashes. Obi-jobi, hoota-toota, ooo-la-la, and such. (OK I made those up but you get the idea.) Of course, some of Tolkein's names confused me as well, so it could just be me. The storyline itself got a little convoluted too, but that's par for the course with Tarzan.

Overall, it's another entry in the Tarzan series. Not better than the rest, but not really the worst either. You probably already know if you'll like this one or not.

Neil Aring says

Not one of my favorites from the series. The use of multi-hyphenated names starting mostly with "J" for everything and everyone in the strange land Tarzan found himself got to be annoying. Also a little too much political intrigue in between head banging. Tarzan is his usual godly self though and Jane is strong and independent. And carnivorous triceratops - Yikes!

Stephen Gallup says

A fairly typical day in the life of Tarzan seems to go like this: (1) Scale a cliff with some new friends in search of a girl who recently fled an attacker; (2) fight and kill a lion that had menaced that girl. (3) fight single-handedly against 20 enemy warriors, taking out several before finally being dropped by a blow from behind; (4) awake as a prisoner, kill the guard, and escape; (5) finally locate the above girl just in time for another hand-to-hand battle with a loathsome subhuman creature that had been molesting her. Then it's time to catch a few winks on the floor of a cave before the crises resume.

In short, the story can be seen as a vehicle for moving our hero from one extreme situation to the next. Generally, Tarzan prevails through a combination of his cleverness and his astonishing strength. Occasionally, however, a deus ex machina is needed to get him out of a particularly difficult situation, and when that's the case, Edgar Rice Burroughs comes through just in time. Realism this is not.

That doesn't mean I don't find it enjoyable. I've always been impressed by the inventive scenarios in this and all Burroughs' books. I've always liked the way he can make me burn through the pages to find out what will happen next. His occasional flourishes of somewhat overdone prose can be annoying when I'm in that mode, but I suppose the idea is to draw out the suspense.

Burroughs tends to overuse certain words, to the point where they become obvious. For young readers, that can be good. I remember first encountering the verb "wrest" in *Tarzan of the Apes* and pondering the fact that it means almost the opposite of "rest." Initially, that made for a little confusion in a sentence like "*they lay down upon their blankets to wrest, through sleep, a brief respite of forgetfulness.*" Anyway, "wrest" is one of his words that would be more effective if used less often. "Soliloquize" (as a synonym for "muse") is another. I suspect most readers fascinated with the story don't notice. Unfortunately, someone who makes a living with word choices cannot avoid noticing, even when indulging in a little escapist reading.

Hard to say how many stars this should have. Of course, as a kid, I would have given it five. It's not great literature. On the other hand, without first thoroughly enjoying books like this, I might never have found my way to literature. And here I am choosing to pick it up again even today. So let's go with four.

Climber Girl says

Tarzan the Terrible was a great book. I read it without knowing it was in a series, but it still made sense. It had many different twists and turns that I never predicted. The story line is interesting because while Tarzan is in search of his wife Jane, he meets many different races of civilized people. He helps them fight battles and solves some of their problems then moves on.

The beginning was a little slow but it is action packed at the end. It also had a very high vocabulary. A good book, but not for young readers.

Theresa says

Still early WW1 and Tarzan is searching Africa for Jane who has been kidnapped by the Germans. In this

book he heads into a region where he finds previously unknown cultures living amongst dinosaurs!

As the last pages got fewer and fewer I began to wonder if some of it was going to be continued in the next book. But the final battle and the reunion were great reading. I especially like Jane's time alone in the jungle.

Fave scenes: Pan-at-lee finding and cleaning up the old cave, the stranger crossing the swamp & lake, Tarzan in the forbidden garden, Jane's spear and the stranger's timely arrival.

Benjamin Thomas says

The eighth novel in the Tarzan series is really best read as part two of the previous novel, Tarzan the Untamed. It was first published as a serial in the pulp magazine *Argosy All-Story Weekly* in the February and March issues of 1921. The first book edition was published in June 1921.

Tarzan is hot on the trail of Jane who we found out at the end of the previous novel, survived her ordeal with her German kidnappers. His journey takes him to another lost city in a hidden corner of Africa, a plot device that will be more and more relied upon as Tarzan's adventures continue.

Pal-ul-don is one of the more fleshed out of these lost civilizations and Burroughs even includes a glossary of their language at the end of the book as well as instructions on how it developed. Pal-ul-don is a strange place filled with dinosaurs, (including an omnivorous version of Triceratops) and is also home to two different human-like creatures: the hairless and white skinned Ho-don who live in cities and the furry black-skinned Waz-don who live in the hills. These two groups are adversaries and this forms the main plot of the story.

There are a couple of surprises in store but fans of the series will most certainly recognize the identity of one mysterious character who is trailing after Tarzan. There are a few too many characters with weird names (Ja-Don, Ko-tan, Om-At, Es-sat, Mo-sar, and many more) as well as similar place names (Kor-ul-gryf, Kor-ul-ja, Kor-ul-lul, etc.) and that makes this story a bit harder to absorb than most. But if the reader references the glossary, the names do make logical sense and that makes it easier.

Next up: Tarzan and the Golden Lion.

Andrew says

Last one I've read, Burroughs' writing style was getting boring.
