

tarzan of the apes author

Tarzan of the Apes Author: The Man Behind the Legend

tarzan of the apes author is a name that many adventure and classic literature enthusiasts recognize instantly. When one thinks about the iconic character Tarzan, swinging through the jungle and communicating with animals, it's impossible not to credit the creative genius who brought this story to life. The author behind this legendary tale is Edgar Rice Burroughs, a figure whose influence on adventure fiction and pop culture remains profound even today.

Who Was the Tarzan of the Apes Author?

Edgar Rice Burroughs was more than just the creator of Tarzan; he was a prolific writer who shaped the landscape of early 20th-century popular fiction. Born in 1875 in Chicago, Illinois, Burroughs had a knack for storytelling that blossomed into a career spanning multiple genres, including science fiction, fantasy, and adventure. However, it was his creation of Tarzan in 1912 that catapulted him to worldwide fame.

Burroughs's life was marked by a variety of experiences before he became a successful author. He tried his hand at different professions, including working as a pencil sharpener salesman and a soldier. These varied life experiences contributed to the vividness and realism found in his writing. His ability to weave thrilling narratives with strong, relatable characters made his works timeless.

The Creation of Tarzan of the Apes

Burroughs wrote the first Tarzan story, "Tarzan of the Apes," as a serialized novel for the pulp magazine *The All-Story*. The story was inspired by Burroughs's fascination with adventure and the idea of a man raised by apes in the African jungle. The concept was unique at the time, blending elements of survival, romance, and social commentary.

Inspiration Behind Tarzan

While Burroughs never explicitly stated all his sources of inspiration, it's believed that he drew from various myths, legends, and contemporary interests in the exotic unknown. The late 19th and early 20th centuries were a period when Western audiences were captivated by tales of exploration and "uncivilized" lands. This cultural backdrop provided fertile ground for

Burroughs's imagination.

Tarzan's character symbolizes the tension between nature and civilization, a theme Burroughs explored deeply. The story's enduring popularity partly stems from this universal conflict and the hero's journey of self-discovery.

Edgar Rice Burroughs's Impact on Literature and Pop Culture

The significance of the Tarzan of the Apes author extends beyond the original novels. Burroughs's work essentially created a new archetype—the noble wild man—who would go on to inspire countless books, films, comics, and television shows. His storytelling techniques and imaginative world-building have influenced generations of writers.

Influence on Adventure and Pulp Fiction

Burroughs was a pioneer in the pulp fiction industry, which thrived on fast-paced, thrilling stories accessible to a mass audience. His success demonstrated that serialized adventure stories could capture the public's imagination and sustain commercial appeal. The Tarzan series alone spawned over 20 novels, making it one of the longest-running series of its kind.

Tarzan in Film and Media

The adaptation of Tarzan into films began as early as 1918, and since then, the character has appeared in over 200 films and television shows. These adaptations helped cement Tarzan's place in global popular culture, often shaping public perception of the character more than the original text. The author's creation has transcended literature to become a symbol of adventure and heroism worldwide.

Lesser-Known Facts About the Tarzan of the Apes Author

Many fans of Tarzan may not be aware of some intriguing aspects of Edgar Rice Burroughs's life and career. Here are a few lesser-known facts that shed light on the man behind the legend:

Burroughs's Other Literary Works

While Tarzan is his most famous creation, Burroughs also wrote the *Barsoom* series (featuring John Carter of Mars), which is considered a foundational work in science fiction. His versatility as a writer helped popularize multiple genres and expanded his readership.

Persistence in Publishing

Burroughs initially struggled to find a publisher for Tarzan of the Apes, facing numerous rejections before *The All-Story* accepted it. His persistence is a valuable lesson for aspiring writers about the importance of resilience in the face of setbacks.

Business Acumen

Aside from writing, Burroughs was savvy in managing his intellectual property. He was among the first authors to capitalize extensively on film rights and merchandising, setting precedents for modern authors and creators.

What Made Burroughs's Writing Stand Out?

Understanding why Edgar Rice Burroughs captured readers' imaginations can help writers and fans appreciate the craft behind Tarzan. Several elements contribute to the enduring appeal of his stories:

Vivid Imagery and Setting

Burroughs had a talent for creating immersive environments. His descriptions of jungles, alien planets, and exotic locales are detailed enough to transport readers yet allow room for imagination. This skill is crucial in adventure and fantasy storytelling, where the setting often becomes a character itself.

Strong, Relatable Characters

Tarzan's complexity, being both a wild man and a noble figure, makes him compelling. Burroughs wrote characters with depth, emotions, and growth, which helped readers connect on a personal level.

Fast-Paced Storytelling

Burroughs's narratives maintain a brisk pace, filled with action, suspense, and unexpected twists. This approach keeps readers engaged and eager to follow the story through multiple installments.

Tips for Aspiring Writers Inspired by the Tarzan of the Apes Author

If you're inspired by Edgar Rice Burroughs's work and want to craft your own compelling stories, here are some practical tips drawn from his legacy:

- **Embrace Persistence:** Never give up on your manuscript after rejection. Burroughs's story shows that persistence can lead to eventual success.
- **Create Immersive Worlds:** Take time to develop detailed settings that enrich your narrative and captivate readers.
- **Develop Complex Characters:** Focus on character development to create heroes and villains that feel real and multifaceted.
- **Keep the Story Moving:** Maintain a good pace with well-timed action and plot twists to hold your audience's attention.
- **Explore Universal Themes:** Themes like identity, nature versus civilization, and adventure resonate broadly and add depth to your story.

The Enduring Legacy of the Tarzan of the Apes Author

More than a century after Tarzan first appeared in print, Edgar Rice Burroughs's influence is still palpable. His creation continues to inspire new adaptations, reinterpretations, and discussions about the relationship between humans and nature. Through Tarzan, Burroughs not only entertained millions but also challenged perceptions of civilization, identity, and heroism.

The story of the Tarzan of the Apes author is a testament to the power of imagination and storytelling. It reminds us that a single idea, when nurtured with creativity and determination, can echo through generations and across media, becoming a permanent fixture in the cultural landscape.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the author of 'Tarzan of the Apes'?

'Tarzan of the Apes' was written by Edgar Rice Burroughs.

When was 'Tarzan of the Apes' first published?

'Tarzan of the Apes' was first published in 1912.

What inspired Edgar Rice Burroughs to write 'Tarzan of the Apes'?

Edgar Rice Burroughs was inspired by adventure stories and his interest in exotic locations and the idea of a man raised by apes in the jungle.

Did Edgar Rice Burroughs write other books besides 'Tarzan of the Apes'?

Yes, Edgar Rice Burroughs wrote many other books, including the 'John Carter of Mars' series and multiple sequels to the Tarzan series.

How did Edgar Rice Burroughs' career develop after publishing 'Tarzan of the Apes'?

After publishing 'Tarzan of the Apes', Edgar Rice Burroughs gained significant popularity and became a prolific author, creating a lasting legacy in adventure and science fiction literature.

What is the nationality of Edgar Rice Burroughs, the author of 'Tarzan of the Apes'?

Edgar Rice Burroughs was an American author.

Are there any notable adaptations of Edgar Rice Burroughs' 'Tarzan of the Apes'?

Yes, 'Tarzan of the Apes' has been adapted into numerous films, television series, comics, and radio programs.

Where can I find more works by Edgar Rice Burroughs?

You can find more works by Edgar Rice Burroughs in bookstores, online retailers, and digital libraries such as Project Gutenberg.

Additional Resources

Tarzan of the Apes Author: Exploring the Life and Legacy of Edgar Rice Burroughs

tarzan of the apes author is a name synonymous with adventure literature and one of the most iconic fictional characters of the early 20th century. Edgar Rice Burroughs, the mastermind behind Tarzan, crafted a narrative that transcended pulp fiction to become a cultural phenomenon. This article delves into the life, career, and enduring impact of Burroughs, offering an analytical perspective on the man who brought the jungle hero to life and examining how his work fits within the broader context of American literature and popular culture.

Edgar Rice Burroughs: The Man Behind Tarzan

Edgar Rice Burroughs was born on September 1, 1875, in Chicago, Illinois. Before achieving literary fame, Burroughs led a relatively unremarkable life, holding various jobs including a brief stint in the military and working as a pencil-sharpener wholesaler. It wasn't until his early 30s, during a period of financial difficulty, that he turned to writing as a potential source of income.

The creation of Tarzan of the Apes in 1912 marked a significant turning point. The story was initially serialized in the pulp magazine *The All-Story* before being published as a novel in 1914. Burroughs' depiction of Tarzan, a noble savage raised by apes in the African jungle, captivated readers with its blend of exotic adventure, romance, and the exploration of nature versus civilization.

Literary Style and Influences

Burroughs' writing style is characterized by straightforward prose, fast-paced action, and vivid descriptions of the jungle environment. His ability to create immersive settings helped establish the adventure genre as a staple of early 20th-century popular fiction. Influenced by earlier adventure and speculative fiction writers like H. Rider Haggard and Jules Verne, Burroughs combined elements of fantasy with scientific curiosity, particularly in his other works like the Barsoom series.

While some critics have noted that Burroughs' prose lacks literary sophistication, his storytelling prowess and imaginative world-building have earned him lasting acclaim. The Tarzan series, in particular, showcases his knack for creating enduring characters and mythologies that resonate across generations.

The Creation and Evolution of Tarzan

The character of Tarzan stands out as a complex figure—a man caught between two worlds, embodying both the raw power of nature and the refined qualities of human civilization. Burroughs' portrayal challenges and reinforces early 20th-century attitudes toward race, class, and identity, making it a fertile subject for literary and cultural analysis.

Tarzan's Origins and Character Traits

Tarzan's origin story is compelling: the orphaned son of English aristocrats, raised by a tribe of apes after his parents' death, he grows up to become a formidable figure who bridges the animal and human worlds. This duality allows Burroughs to explore themes of innate nobility, survival instincts, and the critique of modern society.

Tarzan's physical prowess, intelligence, and moral compass set him apart from both the civilized world and the jungle inhabitants. His ability to communicate with animals and his inherent leadership qualities contribute to his mythic status. Over time, the character evolved through numerous sequels, each expanding the jungle mythology and Tarzan's personal journey.

Impact on Popular Culture and Media

The success of *Tarzan of the Apes* spawned a vast multimedia empire, including films, radio shows, comic strips, and merchandise. Burroughs' creation became a template for the "jungle hero" archetype, influencing countless adaptations and reinterpretations.

Hollywood embraced Tarzan early on, with the first silent film adaptation released in 1918. The character's popularity peaked with actors like Johnny Weissmuller, whose athletic portrayal in the 1930s and 1940s cemented Tarzan's place in cinematic history. This widespread media presence contributed significantly to Burroughs' legacy, introducing his stories to global audiences and solidifying the character's iconic status.

Comparing Edgar Rice Burroughs with Contemporary Authors

Within the realm of adventure and speculative fiction, Burroughs stands alongside other genre pioneers such as H. G. Wells and Arthur Conan Doyle. However, his focus on pulpy, serialized storytelling differentiates him from contemporaries who often pursued more literary ambitions.

Unlike Wells' socially conscious science fiction or Doyle's detective mysteries, Burroughs prioritized escapism and entertainment. His works catered to a mass audience hungry for thrilling tales of exploration and heroism. This approach, while sometimes criticized for formulaic plots and dated social perspectives, proved commercially successful and influential.

Strengths and Limitations

Burroughs' strengths lie in his imaginative world-building and ability to sustain long-running series that kept readers engaged. The Tarzan novels' blend of adventure, romance, and fantasy created a compelling formula that appealed across demographics.

Conversely, modern readers and scholars often critique Burroughs for racial and cultural stereotypes present in his depiction of African settings and characters. These problematic aspects reflect the prevailing attitudes of his era but invite necessary reflection on how such works are consumed today.

Legacy and Enduring Appeal

The Tarzan of the Apes author's influence extends beyond literature into broader cultural domains. Tarzan remains a symbol of wilderness and primal strength, continually reinterpreted to reflect contemporary values and sensibilities. Burroughs' narrative innovations helped shape the adventure genre, paving the way for subsequent writers and filmmakers.

In recent decades, renewed interest in Tarzan has spurred new adaptations and scholarly critique, highlighting the character's complexity and Burroughs' role in popularizing adventure storytelling. Despite the controversies surrounding certain portrayals, Edgar Rice Burroughs' contribution to genre fiction remains significant, underscoring the lasting power of mythic heroes in popular imagination.

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