

Jack London - A Son Of The Sun (Illustrated)

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By Richard ulaky on August 12, 2013

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I've read these tales many times. To me, they define "High Adventure." The descriptions vividly capture the locales, the dialogues delineate the wild characters. Men play to the death for fortunes and the fun of it. I've picked up some other collections of South Sea tales by some worthy writers, but London's stories have an edge in focus, and a certain literary rhythm needed to tell a good action tale.

Most of these stories are not politically correct, perhaps not even by the standards of the age that they were written. It doesn't bother me and i wouldn't change a single word.

In some collections I've seen, the first story, "A Son of the Son", has been cut out, and only the middle part of it, telling of Grief's origin and coming to the Pacific included as a preface. The whole first story is intact in this collection.

My favorite, "The Pearls of Parlay", has been included in some of "Best of London" collections, It features one of London's excellent hurricane depictions, a cackling madman, and a scene involving hara-kiri. I love all the tales. As with most adventure, it is a wild mixture of fair play, morality, and capitalistic greed, and nihilism.

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