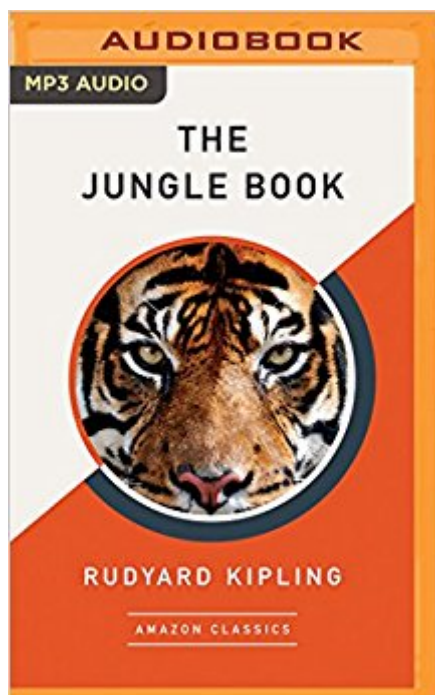


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The Jungle Book (Classics Edition)



Synopsis

Orphaned as a baby, human-boy Mowgli is adopted by wolves, befriended by Baloo the bear, and educated in the wonders and dangers of the Indian jungle. But the adventures of The Jungle Book don't end with the young man-cub and his unusual new family. Through tales of Kotick the White Seal, Rikki-tikki-tavi the mongoose, and others, readers learn about courage and survival, rules and order, principles and morals, coming-of-age, and the thrill of self-discovery. Rudyard Kipling's fables reflect both his childhood in India and his vivid imagination, while exploring the relationship between civilization and the wild. Classics brings you timeless works from the masters of storytelling. Ideal for anyone who wants to read a great work for the first time or rediscover an old favorite, these new editions open the door to literature's most unforgettable characters and beloved worlds. Revised edition: Previously published as The Jungle Book, this edition of The Jungle Book (Classics Edition) includes editorial revisions.

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Customer Reviews

Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936) was an English author best known for fables set in the Indian jungles, including the tales in The Jungle Book. Much of the imagery in Kipling's work draws on his early years in India. After his education in England, Kipling returned to India, where he penned dozens of stories and poems for magazines while working at a daily newspaper in Lahore. He later traveled throughout the United States, landing in a secluded Vermont town where he produced two Jungle Book collections, the novel Captains Courageous, and a poetry collection, Barrack-Room Ballads, which contained his famous poems "Mandalay" and "Gunga Din." Kipling was

recognized as an innovator of the short-story form, and his children's books were popular in their time and remain so today. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1907. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This is a magical collection of stories by Rudyard Kipling. It is one of the greatest children's books ever written. It is not poetry in the sense that its lines scan, but its imagery is poetic and its plot has allegorical features. It contains some of the finest literary adventures to come to us from the British colonial period. Set in a jungle in India, it is an hypnotic tale that reflects some Victorian values kindred to those found in Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan novels, although in *The Jungle Book* all such values had to have been carefully screened as they passed through the wise and circumspect Kipling filter. Somehow they do not seem entirely strange and alien today, although they may bear traces of the British writer's experience of regimental life in India and his many travels elsewhere. The author, a friend both of Theodore Roosevelt and American history and lore, was conscious of the drift by rival European powers and the surges of continental militarism. Somehow, perhaps, he allows his values to be colored by this awareness, yet he does not miss a single beat in relating the jungle adventure. The book is unique; no writer other than Kipling could have created it. It tells the story of Mowgli, a boy raised by wolves and the other beasts of the jungle. The behavior of the wolves that accept the boy in their family is as convincing as is the story of the great apes that accept Tarzan in theirs. Kipling is revealing more than that of which he speaks. Mowgli's adventure is a wondrous story, also about the life of every youngster with imagination and the force that is the will to be within him. The author is talking to readers about how to cope with tough problems, and he acknowledges even the hidden dangers that appear from time to time while growing up. He talks about fear and courage, predator and prey. He talks about the struggle to live and to understand. He hints at the problems of being an Englishman in India. But Mowgli is a jungle boy. Sometimes, although Kipling does not say he is, he may be talking about colonial activities. He never says that he sometimes thinks of a colonialist in an occupied country. That is not the story he narrates; he tells, instead, of the threats posed by great carnivores that hunt and kill, such as the tiger, Mowgli's greatest enemy; the panther is there, and of course the wolf, the snake, birds and all the animals of the jungle. As a wolf-boy, Mowgli may not be a direct symbol for colonial power, but several famous historical power-figures were said to have been raised by wolves, including Cyrus, the founder of the ancient Persian empire (who was father of Cambyses, father of Cyrus the Great); there were others, too, such as the traditionally celebrated founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus, who were believed to have been raised by wolves. Mowgli meets the challenges of the jungle's awful threats

without the dangerous false pride some humans are believed to feel. The dreadful beasts that are the boy's enemies and the kindly ones who are his friends all communicate in a human language, and some of them have eccentricities that make them much too human (at least for some who apply special critical standards, of course, but the game being played in this is intended to produce an understandable if fictional account of a life that is in a dangerous and frightening process of developing). Mowgli adjusts to his world in a way that must be the equivalent of growing up and becoming civilized for people who have never been to the jungle. Mowgli survives and grows amid strange and dangerous beings and wild adventure. The plot and Mowgli's passage through terrifying events of jungle existence can be interpreted as somehow akin to what every child experiences while acculturating within mysterious and apparently dangerous surroundings. Most of us read the stories in this book as very satisfying adventures, but some more imaginative readers may view the Mowgli adventure as a tale of survival that each child faces in the process of gaining footing in a huge, dangerous world. Every child must learn to adjust to the society around him, and in Mowgli's case, that society is described as consisting of violent predators and prey animals. Like another character that thrives in some of these stories -- the mongoose Rikki-tikki-tavi -- Mowgli faces and overcomes enormous challenges. The depth of character, involving resilience and awareness, is what defines Mowgli; it grows with each moment of his adventure. This truly is one of the greatest of all children's books.

as my kids were growing up, we read the Disney versions of "The jungle book" and there was a fan morality. However, it was not until I read the Kindle version of the book and began to see and hear my kindergarten teacher reading "rickki tickki tavi, that I had a true memory of the stories in this book. Now outdated, and in sometimes cases politically incorrect, there is a richness here that crosses the barriers of time and culture that carries the reader into old worlds that have become New again.

You might know the jungle book by the Disney version, but have you ever wondered where that story came from? Well Rudy Kipling's tale is where the story begins. The book is not the Disney version, I repeat it is NOT the Disney version. This book is a collection of stories written by Rudy taking place in India. I very much enjoy this collection and also own the hard copy in addition to the Kindle version. As soon as I downloaded this list last night I couldn't help but dive in and re-read a classic. So if you like short stories, grab your cat, dog, or teddy bear (whatever is the most snugly) and curl up for an entertaining read.

'The Jungle Book' by Rudyard Kipling is a book of delightful short stories and poem-songs about talking animals. Five of the stories follow Mowgli, who as a human toddler was separated from his parents after Shere Khan, the tiger, tried to attack the family in the jungles of India. Instead of ending up as a meal for Shere Khan, Mowgli is raised eventually by two wolves who see him as one of their cubs. But first, a meeting was called and the ethics of adopting a manchild were debated by the pack. The matter is settled when Baloo, the bear, agrees to accept Mowgli as a student to teach him the Law of the Jungle; and Bagheera, the black panther, agrees to take the pack to a newly killed bull in exchange for Mowgli's acceptance into the pack. The wolf pack take the deal, but Shere Khan becomes Mowgli's mortal enemy. Mowgli has a number of adventures which are not all entirely pleasant, but I have this strong feeling it was on the whole fun to be a feral child! Other talking animal stories are included which showcase a variety of wild and domesticated animals who find Mankind and Nature directs them towards certain choices and troubles. Their personalities and inclinations direct their fates somewhat, but, gentle reader, I found them all to be wonderful creatures. However, I admit to favoring Rikki Tikki Tavi, the mongoose, most of all! Mature children will adore this book, especially if they are able to get an edition with illustrations, but if you are familiar with the Disney movie version only, I must emphasize the unabridged book version has animal deaths, by hunting.

This is my first time to read this classic story and I was pleasantly surprised at how much I liked it. The first few chapters do remind you of the Disney movie and I thought it had a fun appeal for kids and adults alike. However, when we read the chapter "White Seal", I was confused. It seemed odd to jump from the jungle with Mowgli to a story about Kotick, the white seal. Even after reading the entire chapter, I have no idea why this was put into the book....a word of warning if you are reading with your kids (which I was), it does describe the beating of seals and skinning for their coats. Pretty harsh if you are not expecting it. I've still got about 45% of the story to go, so I hope we end up going back to the jungle for more adventures with Mowgli and Bagheera.

One of my favorites of all time. Right next to Kipling's KIM in my list of read and re-reads over the years. Most of Kipling is better than most of the tripe they write these days, Was surprised that I liked the movie.....not much like the story.....but it was so beautiful as a screen image. Disney's saturated colors for the Jungle and the animals is so great that the story doesn't matter so much. I felt as if I could touch Bageera's nose from my seat (something I dreamed of doing when I was a

little girl reading the book

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