

**NAXOS**  
AudioBooks

Jack London  
**The Call of the Wild**

Read by **Garrick Hagon**

**CLASSIC  
FICTION**



NA206412D

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1	Into the primitive	8:01
2	The law of club and fang	13:38
3	Toiling in the traces	8:10
4	The dominant primordial beast	7:28
5	'Dat Buck two devils'	10:21
6	The feud grows	10:47
7	Who has won to mastership	8:38
8	New masters	8:44
9	'Mush on, poor sore feets'	2:44
10	The toil of trace and trail	9:26
11	Underfed and worn out	8:48
12	The Yukon strains to break the ice	7:51
13	For the love of a man	15:44
14	The thousand dollar bet	10:37
15	The sounding of the call	10:57
16	The blood longing	8:06
17	The last tie broken	6:16
18	The long, mournful howl	1:10

**Total time: 2:37:44**

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# Jack London

## The Call of the Wild

Jack London was born on 12th January, 1876 in San Francisco. His mother was Flora Wellman, a spiritualist, and his father – her common-law husband, William Henry Chaney – was a travelling astrologer. In September 1876, Flora married John London and Jack took his name.

Jack London grew up in poverty. The family moved to Oakland in 1878, travelling on to Alameda in 1881, and two farms, before ending up back in Oakland in 1886. Here, London's mother ran a boarding house and he himself helped out by working as a newspaper boy, in a bowling alley and on an ice-wagon. At this time, thanks to the Oakland Public Library, he became an avid reader.

After leaving school, London worked in a cannery, as an oyster pirate in San Francisco Bay, as a deputy patrolman for the California Fish Patrol, and as an able-bodied seaman on a ship to Hawaii, Japan and the Bering Sea. Following this voyage, he worked in a jute mill for 10 cents an hour.

In 1893 London's story, *Story of a Typhoon off the Coast of Japan* won first prize in a competition for young writers

sponsored by the *San Francisco Morning Call*.

In 1894 London joined 'Kelly's Army', (the Western part of 'Coxey's Industrial Army of the Unemployed') which was marching on Washington D.C. After this, London was arrested in Buffalo, New York, for vagrancy and spent 30 days in jail. On his release, he returned to Oakland via Canada.

In 1896, London joined the Socialist Labour Party. Later that year he entered the University of California at Berkeley, but in 1897 he joined the Klondike Gold Rush. He married in 1900.

When *The Call of the Wild* was published in 1903 it was an immediate success, and it has been translated into nearly ninety languages.

Unlike the eponymous hero of *White Fang* (1906) which shows the brute under control, Buck, the dog hero of *The Call of the Wild*, shows a retrogression to a state in which all the qualities of the noble savage are realised. Buck goes from civilisation to wildness. He leaves his easy Californian life behind and becomes a sledge dog. When rescued by Thornton, rather than going back

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to being pampered, he sets about proving his physical, canine qualities by saving his master from drowning. But he cannot ignore a deep-felt 'call of the wild'.

Jack London's fiction was clearly the product of the life he led – his upbringing and his beliefs are apparent in all his works.

As a boy, he bought a sloop and, with some friends, raided the oyster beds around San Francisco bay, as he later described in *The Cruise of the Dazzler* (1902) and *Tales of the Fish Patrol* (1905).

Then, having lived in the East End of London in 1902, he wrote *The People of the Abyss* (1903), based on his experiences there.

Besides several collections of short stories, including *Love of Life* (1907) and *On the Makaloa Mat* (1919), giving a sense of rugged life close to nature, his longer fiction also showed a deep concern with physical energy, and an abiding fascination with a breed of Nietzschean supermen engaged in violent struggles of all sorts. *The Sea Wolf* (1904) is about a powerful, ruthless captain of a sailing ship; *The Game* (1905), the story of a prizefighter; *Before Adam* (1906) is concerned with the life of prehistoric savages; *Martin Eden* (1909), a semi-autobiographical novel about a writer's struggles; *Burning Daylight* (1910) is the

story of Daylight, a man of tremendous energy who wrests a fortune from the Klondike, then idealistically renounces his hard-won wealth; *Smoke Bellew* (1912) is about a journalist's strenuous adventures in the Yukon; *John Barleycorn* (1913), a memoir written as temperance propaganda; and *Jerry of the Islands* (1917) is the story of an Irish setter pup in the South Seas.

London also wrote novels dealing with class struggle, such as *The Iron Heel* (1908), prophesying a fascist revolution to be followed by an egalitarian golden age, and *The Valley of the Moon* (1913), in which the economic problem is solved by a return to the land.

Jack London's personal life was as colourful as his writing: he left his wife in 1903 and had a passionate affair with the author, Anna Strunsky, before marrying Charmain Kittredge in 1905. His success and fame grew over the years and he became very wealthy. Yet in spite of it all, Jack London was an unhappy man, whose experiences of the world, at times so cruel, had touched him forever and left him unable to come to terms with his success. He died at the age of forty in 1916 – many suspected suicide.

**Notes by Lesley Young**

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**The music on this recording is taken  
from the MARCO POLO catalogue**

<b>RUBINSTEIN</b> SYMPHONY NO. 2	8.220449
Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra, Bratislava/Gunzenhauser	
<b>RUBINSTEIN</b> DMITRI DONSKY	8.223320
George Enescu State Philharmonic Orchestra/Andreescu	

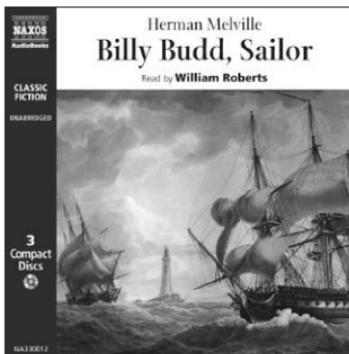
Cover picture: "Call of the Wild" by Paul Branson  
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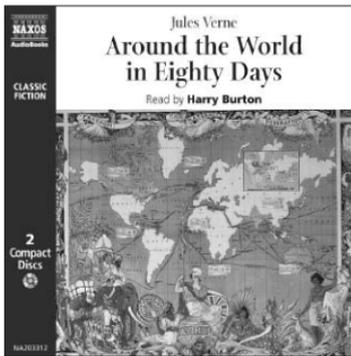
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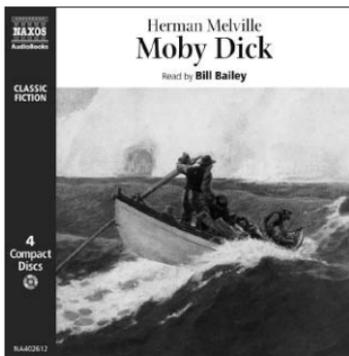
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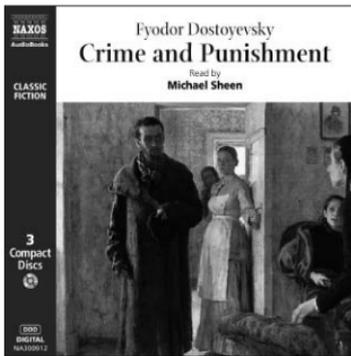
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# Jack London

# The Call of the Wild

Read by **Garrick Hagon**

Buck is living the good life in the soft South, when he is snatched and transported to the savagery of the Northland, where the Klondike gold rush has brought out rough basic instincts of survival in men – and dogs. He adjusts to the gruelling regime of a sled dog, which almost kills him, but he survives to find a new and fulfilling way of life. *The Call of the Wild* is not only a classic 'ripping yarn', but also an enduring masterpiece of the inescapable laws of nature.



**Garrick Hagon** has appeared in many films including *Batman*, *Star Wars*, *Cry Freedom*, *Anthony and Cleopatra* and *Fatherland*. His television credits include *A Perfect Spy*, *The Nightmare Years*, *Henry V*, *The Chief* and *Love Hurts*. On London's West End he played Chris Keller in *All My Sons* and he is a frequent story reader for the BBC. He also reads *White Fang* and *The Sea-Wolf* for Naxos AudioBooks.

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Total time  
2:37:44