



A Son of the Sun: The Adventures of Captain David Grief

Jack London

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Entertaining, atmospheric, and action-filled--yet difficult to obtain until now--the eight short stories in Jack London's A Son of the Sun center on the thrilling exploits of Captain David Grief in the dangerous and exotic South Seas.

Captain Grief encounters the adventurers, scoundrels, pirates, and opportunists who followed the example of their colonial predecessors and exploited the islands and their resources early in the twentieth century. Inspired by London's own voyage through the South Seas on board his self-made yacht, the Snark, these stories paint a colorful--and at times horrifying--picture of the remote South Pacific.

Thomas R. Tietze and Gary J. Riedl provide concise and illuminating introductions to each story as well as informative notes. The volume is enlivened by reproductions of London's own photographs and maps, and by the illustrations that accompanied each story when first published.

A Son of the Sun: The Adventures of Captain David Grief Details

Date : Published December 15th 2001 by University of Oklahoma Press (first published 1912)

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Author : Jack London

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From Reader Review A Son of the Sun: The Adventures of Captain David Grief for online ebook

Debbie Zapata says

Wonderful stories.

Ashy Khaira says

David Grief is an interesting character to read. He is a captain and travels and with his wit and charm manages to escape from even the trickiest situations he finds himself in. It's interesting to read of his adventures, how he goes about them, with a bit of humor and lots of entertainment. Just didn't exactly like the writing style. Overall was an interesting book, and fun to read. Also a fast and easy read.

Matthew says

Captain David Grief is a hero of the old school. Through courage and wits he defeats his rivals one after another, be they pirates, opportunists, debtors, storms, card sharps or braggarts. He is an expert sailor, wildly successful businessman, expert tactician, moderate drinker, and socialite. He possesses no perceptible defects, which is one of the few flaws in these tales of high seas adventures. Perhaps it is a post-modern bias, but I expect my heroes to have a dark past, internal conflicts, or fatal flaws, at least some bad habits, but Grief possesses none of these. The stories are clever and interesting and while the reader is pretty sure of the outcome after one or two of them, they complement each other nicely. The use of south-seas and sailor's jargon adds a certain flair and the other minor characters are nicely developed and make up for Grief's one-dimensional personality.

My knowledge of Jack London was limited to White Fang and other tales of the Yukon, but I was pleasantly surprised to find a fair number of writing set in the Pacific for a post-grad trip to Honolulu (all free on Kindle). Reading these stories out on the veranda with a cigar was one of the highlights of the trip.

Trounin says

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(c) Trounin

Al Capwned says

A collection of short stories taking place in the South Pacific. Nothing so special if you ask me but it's always interesting to see how an American author of that era depicts (and perceives?) colonialism and the relations between the white man and the indigenous peoples of the South Seas.

Jim says

Jack London does not disappoint. While his obvious admiration of calm, strong, self-collected men is omnipresent, he tells a good story and one with a punch to it. This is a collection of stories set in the South Seas, starring a millionaire merchant adventurer by the name of Captain David Grief. A paragraph from the Prologue contains an excellent description of the man:

At least forty years of age, he looked no more than thirty. Yet beachcombers remembered his advent among the islands a score of years before. Unlike other white men in the tropics, he was there because he liked it. His protective skin pigmentation was excellent. He had been born to the sun. One he was in ten thousand in the matter of sun-resistance. The invisible and high-velocity light waves failed to bore into him. Other white men were pervious. The sun drove through their skins, ripping and smashing tissues and nerves, till they became sick in mind and body, tossed most of the Decalogue overboard, went to pieces, drank themselves into quick graves, or survived so savagely that war vessels were sometimes sent to curb their license.

With this for starters, how can the rest be bad? This one is a quick read and a good example of its author's Darwinian proclivities.

Evrpidis Gousiaris says

3.5 για την ακρ?βεια.

Μικρ?ς ιστορ?ες ?που πρωταγωνιστε? η ηρωικ? φιγο?ρα του Ντ?ιβιντ Γκρηφ, τοποθετημ?νες στις ακτ?ς του Ν?τιου Ειρηνικο? στις αρχ?ς του 20ου αι?να. Ευχ?ριστο αλλ? ?χι τ?ποτα ιδια?τερο...

Miro Nguyen says

Some of the stories are very good, but most of them are similar to a pirate movie. I don't find this type of writing or adventure interesting but a lot of people might. I adore Jack London for his forward thinking though, the fight against racism was put up ever since 1900s

Matthew Howard says

Some of these stories appear in other Jack London collections, but until this well-researched edition came out there was nowhere to get them all in one book. These David Grief stories are a pleasure to read: a truly heroic hero, exotic settings, well-crafted characters, language at once crisp and descriptive where every word

defines a character, furthers the action, or draws the reader into the narrative.

The footnotes illuminate the historical and geographical references in the stories, but even on their own these stories encapsulate cultural views, historical settings, and philosophies with London's personal twist. Modern readers may cringe when London describes the original islanders in terms of monkeys; but as soon as you think London is racist for doing so, he takes island characters and portrays them heroically and sensitively - often in the same story.

If you want the best of the best of London this is indispensable. If you appreciate craft and literary substance in your action, romance, and adventure stories, this is a great collection in every way.

Frederik says

I was sitting by the Caribbean sea in some wicked nice Lagoons while I read this, and the book is written about a sailor sailing mostly in those waters, so I was torn away from reality into a simlliar reality
