



The Tarzan Twins

Edgar Rice Burroughs

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Two schoolboys, Dick and Doc, are cousins who resemble each other because their mothers are twins. As Dick is also related to Tarzan through his father, they become known as the Tarzan Twins. Invited to visit Tarzan's African estate, they become lost in the jungle and are imprisoned by cannibals, from whom they escape. They are then reunited with their host, who introduces them to his pet lion, Jad-bal-ja. Subsequently, they become involved in an adventure involving exiles from the lost city of Opar, who have kidnapped Gretchen von Harben, the daughter of a missionary. The Tarzan Twins, like all well-behaved twins, were born on the same day and, although they were not as -alike as two peas, - still they resembled one another quite closely enough to fulfill that particular requirement of twinship; but even there they commenced breaking the rules that have been governing twins during the past several millions of years, for Dick had a shock of the blackest sort of black hair, while Doc's hair was the sunny hue of molasses candy. Their noses were alike, their blue eyes were alike; alike were their chins and their mouths. Perhaps Doc's eyes twinkled more and his mouth smiled more than Dick's for Dick did much of his twinkling and smiling inside and inside the boys were very much alike, indeed. It is simply staggering to discover what a boy can accomplish if he makes up his mind to it and so it was not long before Dick and Doc did excel in nearly all athletic sports and when it came to climbing trees -- well, Tarzan himself would have had no reason to be ashamed of them. Though their scholastic standing may have suffered a little in the following months of athletic effort, their muscles did not, and as vacation time approached, Dick and Doc had become as hard as nails and as active as a couple of manus, which you will know, if your education has not been neglected, is the ape-word for monkeys. Then it was that the big surprise came in a letter that Dick received from his mother. Tarzan of the Apes had invited them all to visit him and spend two months on his great African estate! The boys were so excited that they talked until three o'clock the next morning and flunked in all their classes that day.

The Tarzan Twins Details

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From Reader Review The Tarzan Twins for online ebook

Sarah says

This book is hilarious! The Tarzan Twins are first cousins and were born on the same day, and one of them is a distant relative of Lord Greystoke, thus their friends called them "Tarzan Twins". They wanted to live up to the name, so became very physically active. Plus they are clever. So when they are invited to visit Tarzan in Africa, the 14 year old boys jump at the chance. Enter a train derailment, walk into the jungle, and many adventures. I loved this book.

Addyson Huneke says

This one was a lot shorter and had a lot less Tarzan, but was still good. I finished in in an hour or less.

Norman Cook says

This novella was written by Edgar Rice Burroughs for younger readers. It was originally published in October 1927. It is far from Burroughs' best writing. I don't think Burroughs was a racist, but this story has more racial stereotypes in it than just about any of his other works. The story itself plods along in a very predictable fashion.

Charles says

This is an attempt by Burroughs to write a juvenile book and it really didn't work. I didn't care for it at all. The edition I have is from Wildside Press. Someone who is collecting ERB and wants to have a complete run of the Tarzan stories might want it.

Becky says

I'm about 90% sure I never read this one and I wasn't missing much. This was written just a few years before the appearance of the first comic book sidekick, Robin the Boy Wonder, and it was probably meant to serve the same purpose. Sidekicks like Robin were introduced to comic books to give a younger audience a character they could identify with. It was thought that kids would be more interested in comics if there was a kid in the comic and it would bring younger readers in. (A similar thought process led to the inclusion of Captain Stubing's daughter, Vickie, on the Love Boat. If you don't know what I'm talking about, ask your parents - or grandparents.)

In this case, two first cousins are called the Tarzan twins for rather tortured reasons. It seems their mothers were twin sisters and one married an American and stayed in the States while the other one married a distant cousin of Lord Greystoke and settled in England. The sisters had sons on the same day but on different continents. One is blond and one is dark and one is named Doc and the other is Dick but don't ask me which is which. They're pretty interchangeable.

When they go to school together their schoolmates dub them the Tarzan twins due to the distant connection to Tarzan and their resemblance to one another. To try to live up to the name they learn to climb trees and participate in athletics to make themselves strong and fit. When the chance comes to travel to Africa to visit the Greystokes at the age of 14, they jump at it. Of course they get lost in the jungle and are captured by cannibals.

There isn't anything new or particularly memorable about this one other than the introduction of mini Tarzans, something we never asked for and didn't need. We already have a much better example with Korak - Son of Tarzan - and I found these boys annoying to the extreme. It's nice and short at least, but there's another one coming up behind it so I'm not quite done with these two, unfortunately. I have to give this one 3 stars just because Tarzan appears, but it's really a 2 star book at best.

Ailish says

In this very short novel Edgar Rice Burroughs takes an incident that appears in many of his stories and turns it into a short stand-alone novel, cashing in on Tarzan's popularity although Tarzan barely appears. Two schoolboys, one from England, the other from the United States, are invited to spend their holidays in Africa with their distant uncle Tarzan. They get lost on the way, narrowly escape a lion, and are captured by cannibals. While being fattened up for the big village feast, the boys quickly learn the language, outwit the cannibals with schoolboy magic tricks, and plan a daring escape. Tarzan makes a cameo appearance at the end with his faithful Waziri, to rescue the boys and commend them for their bravery.

Cecil says

Although the story was OK, I doubt that I would want my children reading it because of the racial stereotyping in the book.

LadyCalico says

This was a cute kiddie-tale in which two boys en route to visit the cousin of one of them, Tarzan, get very lost in the jungle and encounter a series of life threatening adventures, including, surprise, cannibals! This book would probably make Tarzan purists very upset since, presented as a Tarzan book, Tarzan is given but a few passing mentions and only appears at the very end. Even so, if you are determined to finish the Tarzan series, this one will provide a fun, adventurous, and humorous way to kill a few hours and a few brain cells.

Skyelr says

I liked this book. I would have loved it when I was younger. I can't wait to read it with my son.
