



Tarzan: The Lost Adventure

Edgar Rice Burroughs , Joe R. Lansdale

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For nearly fifty years, Edgar Rice Burroughs's last Tarzan manuscript lay untouched and unfinished, locked away in a vault. It was the stuff of legend until, finally, the magnificent tale was completed with the help of award-winning author Joe R. Lansdale.

Once again the roar of Tarzan resounds through Africa as the Lord of the Jungle battles the savage creatures of the wild and helps a beautiful woman search for ancient Ur, lost city of gold. But Tarzan discovers they aren't alone in their quest. For evil follows in his path, and terror awaits him and his fierce lion Jad-bal-ja in Ur, where incredible treasures lie and horrors even more awesome hunger to destroy the mighty hero.

Tarzan: The Lost Adventure Details

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Author : Edgar Rice Burroughs , Joe R. Lansdale

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From Reader Review Tarzan: The Lost Adventure for online ebook

Garett Drake says

It would be much higher except for the fact that some dumb comic book reader finished the book and changed the rules that Mr. Burroughs set up. Ed couldn't finish it due to his death, so some nut comes along and finishes it and ruined it. So, Edgar's part gets a 4, and the dope gets a -3 which equals up to a score of 1.

Rob Roy says

Twenty years after Burroughs' death, a manuscript, basically an outline, for another Tarzan novel was found. This was taken, and fleshed out by another author, Joe Lansdale. The classic structure is Burroughs, but Lansdale has totally missed who Tarzan is. Much of the classic humor is gone, and replaced by a blood thirsty ape man. For all who love the Tarzan series, please don't inflict this on yourselves.

Dale says

A truly marvelous final novel partially written by ERB!

When Edgar Rice Burroughs passed away he left an eighty-three page typed manuscript; a final story about his hero Tarzan of the Apes. The manuscript was untitled and in all actuality little more than an idea and notes. Many people wanted to have the honor of completing Burrough's newly discovered manuscript. In the end, writer Joe R Lansdale was selected for the role.

The story originally appeared in a four part faux pulp magazine published by Dark Horse Comics. I also have a copy of the mass market paperback that was published later. This beautiful hardback copy of that story was published in 1995. It features a very pulp-like front cover and is illustrated throughout with art from the original Dark Horse Comic version.

It is my opinion that the prose flows very much like ERB's novels and short stories featuring Tarzan. I could easily see this as being completely written by the creator of Tarzan. I have found this to be a great pleasure to read!

Tarzan runs into an explorer and his daughter who are in search of the lost city of Ur. Four deserters from the French Foreign Legion are also in the area and have stolen the pair's entire safari. Meanwhile, the second half of the team has become lost while trying to rejoin the exploration.

The action is fast and furious as the bad guys are defeated once only to regroup and take over again. There is a terrific storm that rips through the jungle, tearing trees up by the roots and further confusing the matter. There are a thousand and one dangers to be faced, overcome, and traded for new problems.

Eventually, all parties are reunited in the lost city of Ur, some as prisoners, some having wandered there, and a few by following an ancient map. The city is ruled by a mad king who keeps lions as pets and practices human sacrifices to the evil God of Ur. The god of Ur is a horror known as Epoba, The Stick That Walks!

Such masterful writing has to be acknowledged, and I give the book five stars!

Quoth the Raven...

Michael says

I thoroughly enjoyed this tale. My main comments have to do with the ending, which works on two levels. If you view this as Burroughs' 25th and final Tarzan novel, the ending is a perfect finish to Tarzan's adventures. If you view this as simply another entry in a continuing series, it is a good cliffhanger that begs for a resolution. With the Tarzan series currently continuing, maybe someone could write the next part of this story and fill in the gap.

Conan Tigard says

When Edgar Rice Burroughs died in the 1960's, a manuscript for his next Tarzan novel was found locked away. Now, over thirty years later, acclaimed horror novel Joe R. Lansdale has finished the uncompleted 83-page manuscript. Originally marketed as a 4-part miniseries by Dark Horse Comics, the story now appears in book format. It is hard to define where this Tarzan book takes place in the Tarzan timeline. During the ERB part of the book, no mention is really made about his previous time, except for the fact that he has been too long out of the jungle, presumable with Jane in England. Other references by Mr. Lansdale refer to Pellucidar and Jane, but nothing about their son. So, is this book 25? I cannot say.

I found it quite enjoyable to sit down with the first writer that I truly fell in love with. Being familiar with every ERB Tarzan book, along with his John Carter of Mars, Pellucidar, Carson of Venus, and probably every book that he has ever written, I was not disappointed with the beginning of Tarzan: The Lost Adventure.

When Lansdale takes over the writing, I can not exactly tell, but I did notice the change. Not to say that it is a bad thing, it is just a different style of writing. For all of the ERB fans out there, the main difference that I noticed was this: the violence. One of the minor "good" characters dies and Tarzan is a little more ruthless than he normally is. I found that to be very un-ERB-like. Also, some of the dialog is a little too modern. But, this is still a good story and shouldn't be missed if you love Tarzan.

Since most of the foundation of Tarzan: The Lost Adventure was laid by ERB, I wonder how he intended for this story to end. But that is a question that can never be answered.

I rated this book an 8 out of 10.

Joanne says

the end of a most wonderful series, loved it but not so good to end on this one!!!

Kevin Findley says

4.5 stars, but I'm rounding up.

A very good adaptation by Joe R. Lansdale of ERB's final Tarzan story. The only thing missing was Tarzan's sense of humor. I could easily see where the author could have inserted grabbing one of the Legion deserters from their camp and hanging him upside down farther down the trail. Covered in monkey-thrown fruit of course. This Lord of the Jungle was simply too morose.

In every other aspect, it was a good Tarzan story. Beautiful women, lost civilizations, otherworldly creatures, and truly evil men and women of every race. Accompanying our hero were Jad-bal-ja and Nkima, the two characters who appeared nearly as often as Lady Jane in the original novels.

Small spoilers ahead!

At the end of the tale, Tarzan decides to abandon this world and live in Pellucidar. While I would have preferred him to return to Jane and bring her back to Africa, this was a solid way to end the book and bring a nice close to the character, yet leave the Lord of the Jungle in a world where he can truly be himself, forever.

Find it! Buy it! Read it!

Craig Childs says

This was a satisfying finale to the Tarzan oeuvre. Joe R. Lansdale was given the (thankless) task of fleshing out Edgar Rice Burroughs' final 83-page outline, the last unfinished Tarzan novel before his death.

Lansdale created (or, at least, augmented) a vintage Tarzan plot. This was Burrough's imagined Africa: an unexplored dark continent of hidden kingdoms, savage cannibals, and lost treasure. It was a compelling, exciting adventure yarn. Lansdale brought back many secondary series characters for a final swan song, including Jad-bal-ja, the golden lion, and Nkima, the braggart monkey. Even the fictional underground world of Pellucidar plays a prominent role.

Judging from other online reviews, I don't think this book ever found its natural audience. Lansdale wrote his novel in a contemporary voice that reflected the 1990's, instead of the 1940's when the other Tarzan novels were published. Hardcore ERB fans weren't satisfied; they wanted Burrough's signature, but decidedly outdated, prose. They didn't appreciate Lansdale's signature violence or the sometimes sarcastic dialogue. They also complained that Lansdale's Tarzan didn't seem to care when he was separated from his wife, Jane.

But other than simply mimicking an old style of fiction, this was as much of an homage to Burroughs as any writer could provide. Lansdale created a fun, entertaining story from ERB's outline, making the story and characters his own, while at the same time honoring the traditions of the series and the essence of the characters.

Ira Livingston says

It was good to see that another story ERB was working on, but the other author totally missed the feel of the previous books in the series. I guess bottom line is I wished they would have never have found. Please stop at #24 instead of reading this book.

Pat Landers says

Not bad.

Timo says

Ei musta taida olla viidakon kuninkaan ystäväksi vaikka Lansdalen kirjoista olenkin kovasti pitänyt.

Michael says

I bought this sometime ago and only now got around to reading it. I have Copy #67 of 1000 signed hardcover collectible editions of this book. It was done as a graphic novel as well which I never read. The best Tarzan (to me) novels were Tarzan of the Apes, The Return of Tarzan, The Beasts of Tarzan, Tarzan the Untamed, and Tarzan the Terrible, with honorable mention for The Son of Tarzan and Tarzan and the Golden Lion. The others to me were somewhat 2-3 stars in comparison, and I expected the same in the first half of this book. By the last half and especially the last third of the story it became something special. Hats off to Joe R Lansdale for taking the 83 page unfinished manuscript by ERB for what started as a mediocre Tarzan novel and making it truly memorable.

Charles says

This book is supposedly an expansion of an 83 page Tarzan partial found in ERB's papers after his death. Joe Lansdale was selected to finish it.

Now, I love Joe Lansdale's work, and I love ERB's work, but I didn't find this posthumous collaboration to work very well. I just don't think the writing style of these two writers is compatible.

The book was mainly of interest to Burroughsphiles, I think.

Patty says

I have the original 4-part version that Dark Horse Comics did of this series, it was a great re-introduction to fans of ERB's books or bringing in new fans.
