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The Mad King



Synopsis

Edgar Rice Burroughs (September 1, 1875 – March 19, 1950) was an American writer best known for his creations of the jungle hero Tarzan and the heroic Mars adventurer John Carter, although he produced works in many genres.

Book Information

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Authors, A-Z > (B) > Burroughs, Edgar Rice #42636 in Books > Books on CD > Literature &

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Customer Reviews

This is a little different from most of the ERB stories I've read. The hero is a young American on vacation in his mother's home country of Lutha. He hopes to find some good game hunting. Instead, he is mistaken for an escaped king who has been deemed crazy by his wicked uncle who is serving as the Regent. Entertaining folly pursues as he is captured and locked up instead of the missing king. As in many of ERB's stories, the hero is strong and virtuous and a hardy fighter who falls in love with a beautiful and worthy maiden. The story is very charming and adventurous with many surprises. I know it is hard to believe, but not only is this story a page turner, but there is no foul language and the hero always acts in an honorable fashion. Today's authors could learn from ERB.

As the master of getting readers to suspend disbelief, ERB takes it to the extreme in The Mad King. In spite of the fantastic implausibilities and severely questionable character motivations, I devoured this book to the very end and was rewarded with a truly gripping yarn. Set in the early 20th century, it's a study of contradictions. Car or horse? Sword or firearm? It's never really clear why the superior technology is suddenly unavailable. Maybe that was a reality of the time, just as future readers of early 21st century works will marvel at plot complications easily resolvable with a single text

message. Here we have cloaks, daggers, little round bombs with lit fuses and are better off for it. Any other author would have me flinging the book across the room in disgust after 20 pages (well, casually deleting it from my Kindle, these days), but ERB keeps me coming back for more.

Edgar Rice Burroughs' works are all fun to read. This book was surprising because it did not take place in a science-fiction setting. However, it did include the usual story of a man falling in love with a woman and rescuing her more than once and getting captured and having incredible luck to escape impossible situations. Even when I could predict what was going to happen, it was still fun to watch the story unfold. I appreciate Burroughs' high standards of honor and morality and responsibility and poetic justice. I really enjoyed the book and stayed up way too late reading it.

Fast paced enjoyed the story very much. Followed the old movie of this same story. Mr. Burroughs new how to make a hero.

Typical ERB fare. The main character will be in an impossible position from which to escape at the top of one page, and by the bottom of the following page, he is well on his way to another adventure. I'm looking forward to reading the Mars and Venus series again, this time on Kindle. I have noticed that on the Kindle edition of this book, occasionally a word will appear wrong. It makes me think the words are being translated from another language. However I haven't gone to the trouble to look at an original copy to verify, besides, the overall reading enjoyment is not compromised.

I've always liked the Tarzan series of books by Edgar Rice Burroughs, and while this is not technically a Tarzan book, it does link the Tarzan series to this story, as well as "The Eternal Savage/The Eternal Lover".

I have always been a fan of Egdar Rice Burroughs and have read many of his series, but I had never run across this one. Since it was a Kindle Freebie, I decided to give it a try. It turned out to be very enjoyable. This novel is set somewhere in a small kingdom in Europe, where an American is confused with a King that has just escaped from an insane asylum. This has all of the main things one would look for in a pulp novel; romance, action, battles, intrigue, and a nearly perfect hero that gets into and out of some very sticky situations. This is not great literature, but makes for fun, light reading. Highly recommended.

A great adventure with lots of action. If you like Burroughs you'll love this book. It's really two books in one with the same characters. I read the first part and then came back for the second half and read that. A fun and enjoyable read no matter how you do it.

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