



Jack London - Burning Daylight (Illustrated)

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By Linda Linguvic HALL OF FAMEVINE VOICE on March 20, 2011

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This novel which was serialized in the New York Herald in 1910 is a most enjoyable read. It's larger than life and set in a landscape of courageous deeds and a wide variety of dangers. It is also a tender love story and a lesson on what really matters in a world gone crazy with a lust for money and power. Jack London truly got it right and this book, which was the best selling of his works in his lifetime, is certainly worth revisiting.

In starts in the Yukon when our hero, nicknamed "Burning Daylight" loses what seems a small fortune in a poker game. To make up for his loses, he bets on a mail route he can create during the long winter months. He and his partner are then subject to cold and storm and lack of food during Alaska's dark months. But he does win his bet and that very same day goes looking for a gold mine. I shuddered at the depravations and near starvation he had to go through. And I identified with him and hoped he would win his goal. He does this. But the story is just beginning. He then goes on to move to California, where he takes other kind of chances and is soon worth millions of dollars. Life seems good for him as the years go by and he soon falls in love with his secretary. But she rejects him over and over again.

How this all plays out is the stuff of legend. It takes place in a time and a place when men took huge risks, both with body and soul. And it introduces a woman who, actually, can relate to the modern women of today.

I loved this book. It introduced a time and a place that is no more and is certainly exaggerated in true Jack London style. But I literally couldn't put it down and related to the hero as well as the woman he loved. Hooray of the author for creating a book which has indeed stood the test of time.



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