

Jack London

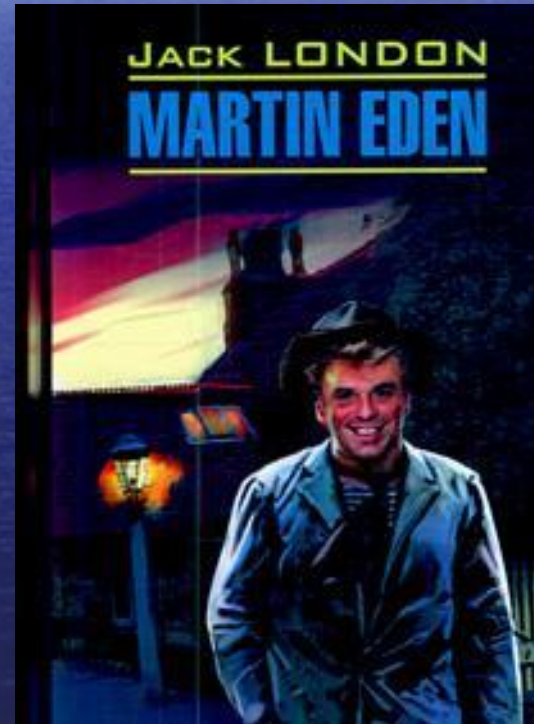


A Short Biography

- Jack London (born Jan. 12, 1876, died Nov. 22, 1916) is best known for his books *The Call of the Wild*, *White Fang*, and *The Sea-Wolf*, and a few short stories, such as "To Build a Fire" and "The White Silence." In fact, he was a prolific writer whose fiction explored several regions and their cultures: the Yukon, California, Hawaii, and the Solomon Islands. He experimented with many literary forms, from conventional love stories and dystopias to science fantasy. His noted journalism included war correspondence, boxing stories, and the life of Molokai lepers. A committed socialist, he insisted against editorial pressures to write political essays and insert social criticism in his fiction. He was among the most influential figures of his day, who understood how to create a public persona and use the media to market his self-created image of poor-boy-turned-success. London's great passion was agriculture, and he was well on the way of creating a new model for ranching through his Beauty Ranch when he died of kidney disease at age 40. He left over fifty books of novels, stories, journalism, and essays, many of which have been translated and continue to be read around the world.

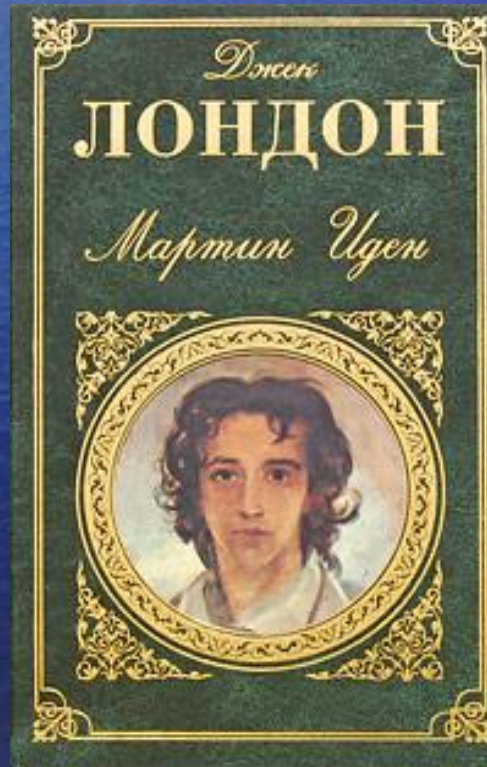
«Martin Eden» (1909)

- is a novel by American author Jack London, about a struggling young writer. It was first serialized in the *Pacific Monthly* magazine from September 1908 to September 1909, and subsequently published in book form by The Macmillan Company in September 1909. This book is a favorite among writers.



In a note to Upton Sinclair, Jack London wrote:

"One of my motifs, in this book, was an attack on individualism (in the person of the hero). I must have bungled, for not a single reviewer has discovered it."



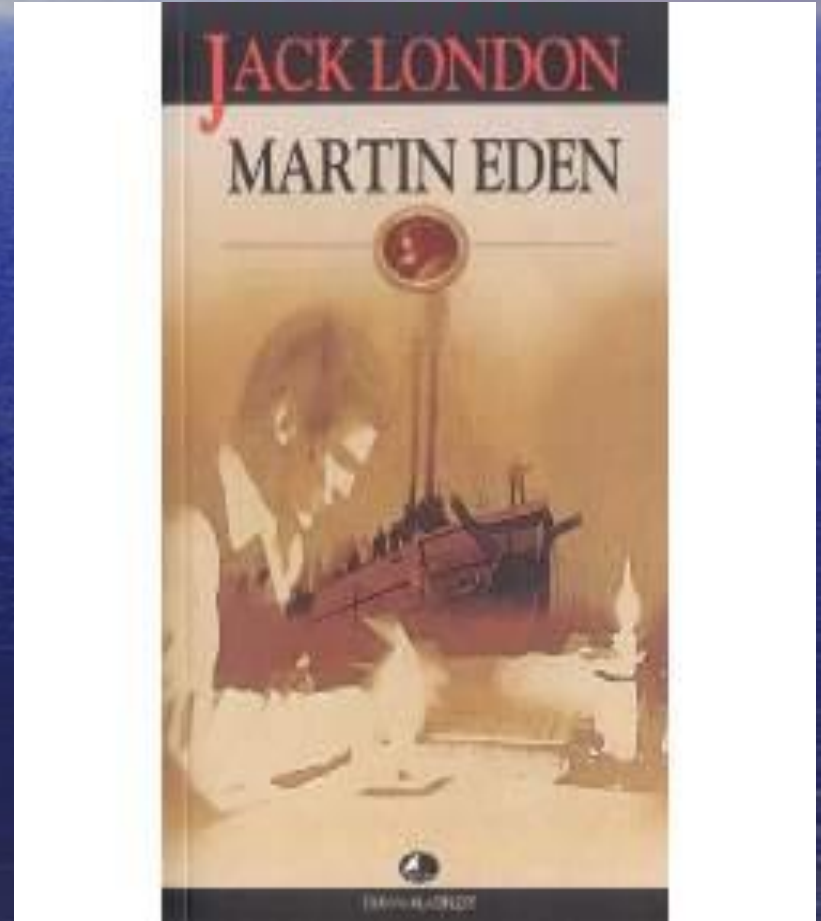
Main characters

- *Martin Eden*
- *Ruth Morse*
- *Lizzie Connolly*
- *Joe Dawson*
- *Russ Brissenden*



Major themes

- *Social Class*
- *Machinery*
- *Individualism Versus Socialism*



Plot summary

- Living in Oakland at the dawn of the 20th century, Martin Eden struggles to rise far above his destitute circumstances through an intense and passionate pursuit of self-education in order to achieve a coveted place among the literary elite. The main driving force behind Martin Eden's efforts is his love for Ruth Morse. Because Eden is a sailor from a working class background, and the Morses are a bourgeois family, a union between them would be impossible until he reaches their level of wealth and perceived cultural, intellectual refinement.
- Just before the literary establishment discovers Eden's talents as a writer and lavishes him with the fame and fortune that he had incessantly promised Ruth (for the last two years) would come, she loses her patience and rejects him in a wistful letter: "if only you had settled down...and attempted to make something of yourself." When the publishers and the bourgeois - the very ones who shunned him - are finally at his feet, Martin has already begrudged them and become jaded by unrequited toil and love. Instead of enjoying his success, Eden retreats into a quiet indifference, only interrupted to mentally rail against the genteelness of bourgeois society or to donate his new wealth to working class friends and family.
- The novel ends with Martin Eden committing suicide by drowning, a detail which undoubtedly contributed to what researcher Clarice Stasz calls the 'biographical myth' that Jack London's own death was a suicide.

Resources

- www.imhonet.ru
- www.london.sonoma.edu
- www.jlondon.ru
- www.wikipedia.org