

**Jack
London
1876 -1916**

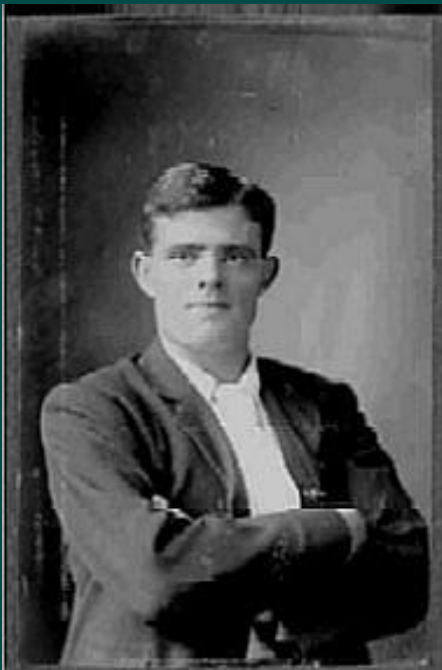


- **Jack London was born in San Francisco. He was deserted by his father, "Professor" William Henry Chaney, an itinerant astrologer, and raised in Oakland by his mother Flora Wellman, a music teacher and spiritualist. London's stepfather John London, whose surname he took, was a failed storekeeper.**





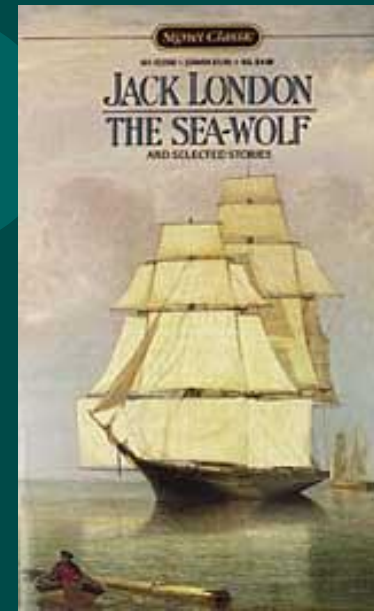
- **London's youth was marked by poverty. At the age of ten he became an avid reader, and borrowed books from the Oakland Public Library, where Ina Coolbirth recommended him the works of Flaubert, Tolstoy and other major novelists.**



- **After leaving school at the age of 14, London worked as a seaman, rode in freight trains as a hobo and adopted socialistic views as a member of the protest armies of the unemployed. In 1894 he was arrested in Niagara Falls and jailed for vagrancy.**



Writing The sea Wolf



- These years made him determined to raise himself out of poverty but they also gave later material for such works as *The Sea-Wolf* (1904), which was partly based on his horrific experiences as a sailor in the Pacific Ocean.

- **Without having much formal education, London spent much time in public libraries reading fiction, philosophy, poetry, political science, and at the age of 19 gained admittance to the University of California in Berkeley. During this period he had already started to write.**

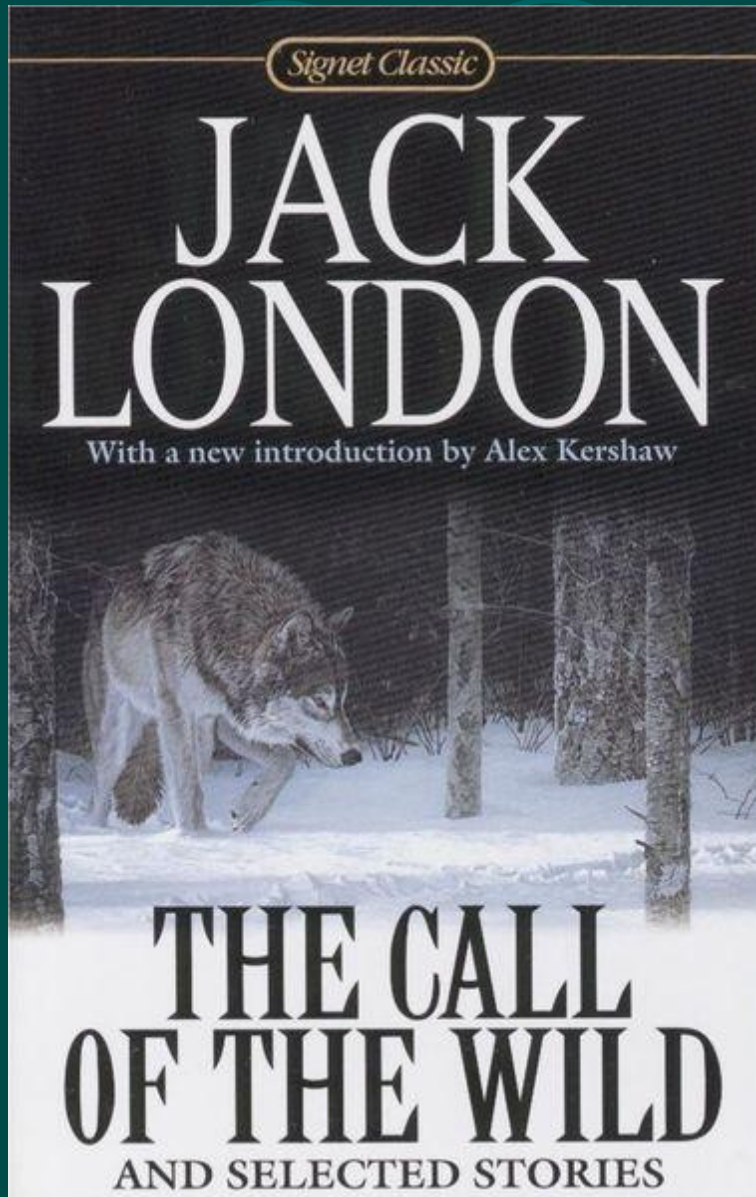




- **London left the school before the year was over and went to seek his fortune in the Klondike gold rush of 1897. His attempt was unsuccessful. London spent the winter near Dawson City, suffering from scurvy. In the spring he returned to San Francisco with his notebook full of plans for stories.**



- For the remainder of 1898 London again tried to earn his living by writing. His early stories appeared in the *Overland Monthly* and *Atlantic Monthly*. In 1900 he married Elisabeth (Bess) Maddern; their home became a battle field between Bess and London's mother Flora. Three years later he left her and their two daughters, eventually to marry Charmian Kittredge, an editor and outdoorswoman. The marriage lasted until London's death. Charmian became the model of London's women characters, such as Paula in *The Little Lady of the Big House* (1916).



- London's first novel, *The Son of the Wolf*, appeared in 1900. By 1904 Jack London was the author of 10 books. *The Son of the Wolf* gained a wide audience as did his other Alaska stories, *The Call of the Wild* (1903), *White Fang* (1906), and *Burning Daylight* (1910).

Jack London

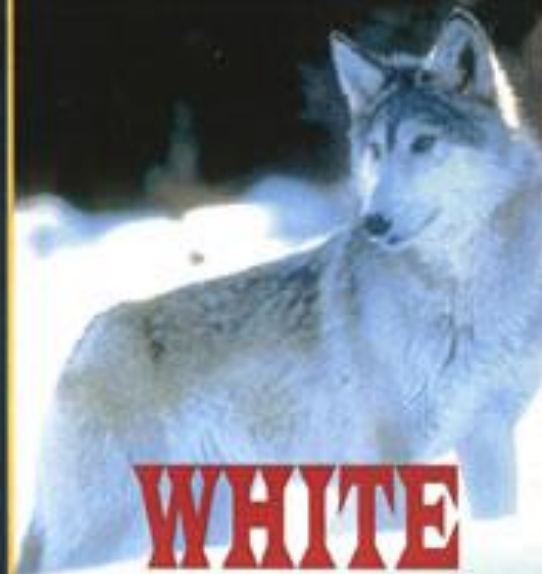
COLT ALB



Books In Motion

Recorded on Six Audiocassette Tapes

Jack London



WHITE FANG

Read by Gene Engene



Jack London's Cottage

TO MARK THE BIRTHPLACE
OF THE NOTED AUTHOR

JACK LONDON

JANUARY 12, 1876

THE ORIGINAL HOME ON THIS
SITE, THEN KNOWN AS 615
THIRD STREET WAS DESTROYED
IN THE FIRE OF APRIL 18, 1906

PLACED BY THE
CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

JANUARY 12, 1953

Marker affixed to a former Wells Fargo Bank Building
on Third, at Brannan streets in San Francisco.



- This is Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon, it was built in 1883 and it went through the 1906 earth quake. The floors inside are slanted from the quake and the walls hold history about Jack London. The building was built with timbers from a old whaling ship. You may want to take a break here and have a beer inside.



- **This is Jack London's old cabin that was built in the Yukon during the gold rush in 1897. The reason they know this was his cabin is because on the ceiling there are notes in Jack London's hand and they were authenticated by a handwriting expert. The cabin had sod with grass on the roof to help hold the heat in. The cabin is located next to the Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon.**