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The People Of The Mist



Synopsis

Henry Rider was a British Victorian writer known for his adventure novels set in exotic places. His writings are sympathetic to the natives. He often portrayed Africans as heroic in his stories, even though the main characters are usually European. This "lost race" novel begins as an exciting African adventure. Leonard Outram is a British adventurer who is in Africa seeking his fortune. He becomes part of the rescue of a Portuguese woman from a large slave camp. Leonard, his companion Otter, and the girl set off and find the people of the mist. They then impersonate gods and priests with the hope of getting the people's hoard of jewels.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The People of the Mist" is a novel by Henry Rider Haggard that was first published in 1894. It is now classified as a public domain work and is available free via Kindle download. The book is 248 pages in length.*GENERAL THEME SPOILER*This story begins in England and tells of two brothers who have just found out that their recently dead father has lost the family fortune, and they are now, basically destitute. They make a pact between them to leave England and not return until they've become rich enough to reacquire the family estate. What ensues is a trek into the heart of Africa in search of gold and precious gems, but instead of a quick and easy payday the two brothers struggle to eke out an existence. One brother, Tom, falls ill and dies leaving his brother Leonard on his own, with only his man-servant Otter as a companion. The rest of the tale is a series of breathtaking adventures that require our heroes to use all their wits and resources just to stay alive,

sometimes against staggering odds.*END SOILER*This book has a definitive 19th century flavor...a writing style which most readers will recognize from books by Dickens or Thomas Hardy. My only complaints (minor) would be that most of the time our adventurers had an unusual (almost uncanny) amount of good luck...when things looked bleakest, something would occur or someone would appear that would help salvage a rather tricky situation. Also, each chapter of the book was given a title and unfortunately this title usually gave away the main action or event that was about to occur in the ensuing section...this technique had a significant spoiler effect. Conclusion: A thoroughly enjoyable 19th century adventure featuring almost non-stop action. A story of unbelievable daring-do that will keep you interested from start to finish. A solid 4 1/2 Stars. Ray Nicholson

As with most authors, some of their works are better than others. I believe People of the Mist ranks with King Solomon's Mines and Allan Quartermain as a well written adventure tale. With the right director it could be turned into an Indiana Jones type of movie. The plot concerns a young Englishman in East Africa attempting to restore his family's fortunes. While rescuing a young White girl from slave traders, he learns of an isolated tribe who possess a fortune in gems. Along with the girl and an African servant, he sets out to gain the fortune. The story has enough plot twists and turns to keep anyone guessing.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading The People of the Mist, especially as I am always keen to take advantage of free books on the Kindle. (I think I've downloaded and read enough of the classics that the Kindle has just about paid for itself in saving me trips to the library or buying these books). In this book, you'll recognize many of the types of characters that make for a great story - the ill-fortuned hero, the comic side-kick, the beautiful love interest, the dastardly villain, and the assorted host of supporting characters. What you will also find are some racial stereotypes and word usage that would not be acceptable for a book published in the present day and age, and you absolutely must go into reading this book with an open mind and understanding of the changes in what is socially acceptable. Appreciate the book for the time capsule type reflection of a bygone era, and you'll appreciate the action, adventure and romance that weave throughout this delightful story.

This book relates to a disenfranchised English nobleman who goes to Africa to reestablish his wealth. The tale is written in the style of the era in which the book takes place. That makes for very stilted reading at times. There are also, intermittently injected, words in Afrikaans, which are not obvious in the context as to meaning making smooth reading obscured by MIST. That require Bing

or other translation. The story is a romantic fancy and is very predictable as to what will occur in the forthcoming segment. All in all, worth a read as the author takes a relatively unique approach to the delivery of his tale.

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